

**The Second Sunday of Advent  
& Commemoration of Sankta Lucia**  
8:00 9:00 & 11:00 a.m., Sunday, December 8, 2024

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*Newcomers and visitors, we welcome you warmly.  
May you find here, by the grace of God, that which feeds your soul.  
May you leave here with a heart prepared to serve.*



*Photo from the Sankta Lucia Procession in  
December 2023*

*If this is your first time here, we invite you to fill out a Welcome Card  
found in the pews and on the Welcome Table in the courtyard.*

# The Word of God

*Our worship time together begins with a musical prelude.  
Thank you for observing a prayerful silence as we feel God's presence among us.*

## **Voluntary (9:00 & 11:00 a.m.)**

*12 Choral-Préludes sur des Chants Grégoriens: Rorate Caeli  
Drop down, ye heavens*

Jeanne Demessieux (1921-1968)

## **Hymn At The Procession (9:00 & 11:00 a.m.)**

*Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding  
The people stand.*

Hymnal, #59

## **Opening Acclamation**

*Blessed are you, holy and living One.  
You come to your people and set them free.*

## **Lighting Of The Advent Wreath**

*God of Light and our salvation, in your name we light these candles. Fill us with your joy and help us shine as a light to the world. Amen.*

## **Collect For Purity**

*Minister and people, together*

*Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

## **Trisagion (8:00 a.m.)**

*Holy God,  
Holy and Mighty,  
Holy Immortal One,  
Have mercy upon us.*

**Trisagion (9:00 & 11:00 a.m.)**

*The following is sung three times.*

Ho - ly God, Ho - ly and Might - y,

Ho - ly Im - mor - tal One, Have mer - cy up - on us.

The musical score is written in G minor (one flat) and 4/4 time. The first system consists of two staves: a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The vocal line has lyrics: "Ho - ly God, Ho - ly and Might - y,". The piano accompaniment consists of a bass line and a treble line. The second system also consists of two staves: a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The vocal line has lyrics: "Ho - ly Im - mor - tal One, Have mer - cy up - on us." The piano accompaniment continues with a bass line and a treble line. The score ends with a double bar line.

**The Collect Of The Day**

God be with you.

*And also with you.*

Let us pray.

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

**Collect for The Feast of Sankta Lucia (9:00 a.m.)**

Loving God, for the salvation of all you gave Jesus Christ as light to a world in darkness: Illumine us, as you did your daughter Lucia, with the light of Christ, that by the merits of his passion, we may be led to eternal life; through the same Jesus Christ, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

**First Lesson**

Malachi 3:1-4

*The people are seated.*

A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Malachi.

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight-- indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

The Word of the Lord.

*Thanks be to God.*

*The 9:00 a.m. service continues on page 5 with the Sequence Hymn.*

**Gradual Psalm (8:00 & 11:00 a.m.)**

Luke 1: 68-79

*at 8:00 a.m. said responsively by half verse.*

*at 11:00 a.m. Congregation sings antiphon, choir chants Canticle, congregation repeats antiphon*

*Antiphon*

Gau-de, gau-de, E - man - u - el na-sce-tur pro te Is - ra - el.

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; \*  
he has come to his people and set them free.

He has raised up for us a mighty savior, \*  
born of the house of his servant David.

Through his holy prophets he promised of old,  
that he would save us from our enemies, \*  
from the hands of all who hate us.

He promised to show mercy to our fathers \*  
and to remember his holy covenant.

This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, \*  
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

Free to worship him without fear, \*  
holy and righteous in his sight  
all the days of our life.

You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, \*  
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,

To give his people knowledge of salvation \*  
by the forgiveness of their sins.

In the tender compassion of our God \*  
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, \*  
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \*  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

**Second Lesson (8:00 & 11:00 a.m.)**

Philippians 1:3-11

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Philippians.

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

The Word of the Lord.

*Thanks be to God.*

**Sequence Hymn (9:00 & 11:00 a.m.)**

Hymnal, #76

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

*The people stand.*

## Gospel Reading

Luke 3:1-6

The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Luke.

*Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.

Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God."

The Gospel of our Savior.

*Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

## Sankta Lucia Procession (9:00 a.m.)

Sankta Lucia

Trad. Neapolitan

*Stella Hossain, soloist*

*The people are seated.*

Night comes with heavy steps through our land, calling.

Sunlight, the earth forgets; shadows are falling.

However dark the night, rising with candles bright,

Santa Lucia! Santa Lucia!

Though long may be the night, hope, she is bringing,

Hear now, the maid in white, silently winging,

Hushed wonder in the air, Lights glowing in her hair,

Santa Lucia! Santa Lucia!

"The darkness soon shall flee valleys in shadow,

Sunlight I can foresee, over over the meadows,

The sun will come again! Rise in the sky to reign!"

Santa Lucia! Santa Lucia!

-Tr. Tamsyn Spackman

**The Homily (8:00 & 11:00 a.m.)**

*The people are seated.*

The Rev. Kathy Guin

**The Nicene Creed**

*The people stand.*

We believe in one God,

the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,

the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation

he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary  
and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,

and the life of the world to come. Amen.

## **Prayers Of The People**

Our hearts have been broken open to be filled with God's grace. Let us offer prayers on behalf of one another and all creation.

We offer our thanksgiving, O God, for your prophets and messengers, who have prepared the way for our salvation. Grant us ears to hear and eyes to see.

*May your Church bring light to every corner of the earth.*

Stir up your power, O God, and with great might come among the leaders of our nation and all in authority. May they be arbiters of peace.

*May we further your work of reconciliation and compassion in the world.*

We ask you to defend the needy, comfort the poor, and bring freedom to those imprisoned. We pray for those who suffer in body, mind or spirit, including (N.) and for others you may now name. Be a wellspring of strength for them.

*May their sorrow and sighing flee away.*

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom. We give you thanks, O God, for the whole creation. Help us to heal the planet.

*May you grant us wisdom to faithfully steward this earth and its creatures.*

Things that were hidden are being revealed, and all things are being made new. We pray for those who have died, and those who grieve, including (N.) and others you may now name. Comfort all who mourn.

*May we be granted glimpses of your eternal embrace.*

We wait in awe for Christ's coming and offer our gratitude for our own blessings and the spaciousness of grace that surrounds us. Bless your people with grace.

*May we be awake to your presence in our daily lives.*

*The Celebrant ends the prayer with the following.*

God our hope and salvation, whose mercy is like a refining fire: by the loving-kindness of Jesus, heal us and those for whom we pray, that being renewed by you, we may witness your wholeness in our broken world; through Jesus Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit. *Amen.*

## **Confession Of Sin**

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*The people kneel, as able.*

*Ministers and People, together*

Most merciful God,  
we confess that we have sinned against you  
in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done,



and by what we have left undone.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.  
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
have mercy on us and forgive us;  
that we may delight in your will,  
and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your Name. Amen.

*The Celebrant stands and says*

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ,  
strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.  
*Amen.*

### **The Peace**

*The people stand.*

The peace of Christ be always with you.

*And also with you.*

*The Ministers and the People share the peace of Christ with one another.*

### **Greeting And Announcements**

*The people are seated.*

## The Holy Communion

### **Offertory Sentence**

*The Celebrant says*

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

*Ephesians 5:2*

**Anthem At The Offertory (11:00 a.m.)**

Conditor Alme Siderum

*Sung by St. Mary's Parish Choir*

Tomás Luis de Victoria (1548-1611)

Creator of the stars of night,  
Thy people's everlasting light,  
O Christ, thou savior of us all,  
We pray thee, hear us when we call.  
To thee the travail deep was known  
That made the whole creation groan  
Til thou, Redeemer, shouldst free  
Thine own in glorious liberty.  
When the old world drew on toward night,  
Thou camest, not in splendor bright  
As monarch, but the humble child  
Of Mary, blameless mother mild.  
At thy great name, O Jesu, now  
All knees must bend, all hearts must bow;  
And things celestial thee shall own,  
And things terrestrial, Lord alone.  
Come in thy holy might, we pray;  
Redeem us for eternal day  
From every power of darkness, when  
Thou judgest all the sons of men.  
To God the Father, God the Son,  
And God the Spirit, Three in One,  
Laud, honor, might, and glory be  
From age to age eternally.

-7th century Vespers hymn

**Hymn at the Presentation (9:00 & 11:00 a.m.)**

There's a Voice in the Wilderness Crying

*The people stand.*

Hymnal, #75



est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the  
 Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

*The people stand or kneel.*

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God.

Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love. Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said:

“Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again, he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said: “Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice.

Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made.

In the fullness of time bring us, with the ever-blessed Virgin Mary, and all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world. Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. *AMEN.*

### The Lord's Prayer

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

*People and Celebrant*

Our Father, who art in heaven,  
 hallowed be thy Name,  
 thy kingdom come,  
 thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses,  
 as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation,  
 but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,  
 and the power, and the glory,  
 forever and ever. Amen.

### The Breaking of the Bread

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

*Therefore let us keep the feast.*

### Agnus Dei (9:00 & 11:00 a.m.)

*8va bassa* ----- Lamb of God, you take a -

way the sins of the world: have mer-cy on us.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the

world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, —  
 — you take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace.

Setting: Calvin Hampton (1938–1984).  
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### Invitation

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

*All who desire to know God are invited to receive the consecrated Bread and Wine.*

*Gluten free wafers are available upon request. If you prefer to receive a blessing, please simply cross your arms over your chest.*

*The people are seated.*

### Communion Music (9:00 & 11:00 a.m.)

*at 9:00 a.m. the following is sung.*

Lento  $\text{♩} = 48$   
*p*

Wait for the Lord, his day is near.

Wait for the Lord; be strong, take heart!

*At 11:00 a.m.*

Alma Redemptoris Mater  
*Sung by St. Mary's Parish Choir*

Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina (c.1525-1954)

Loving Mother of the Redeemer, who remains the gate by which we mortals enter heaven,  
and star of the sea, help your fallen people who strive to rise:  
You who gave birth, amazing nature, to your sacred Creator:  
Virgin prior and following, taking from the mouth of Gabriel that Hail! have mercy on our  
sins.

-Marian Antiphon appointed for use from Advent through Candlemas

### **Sending Of The Eucharistic Visitor (When Needed)**

In the name of this parish family, we send you forth bearing these holy gifts. Together we  
share in the body and blood of Christ.

*Though we are many, we are one body, because we all share one bread and one cup.*

### **Post-Communion Prayer**

Let us pray.

*Celebrant and People, standing*

Eternal God,  
you have graciously accepted us as living members  
of our Savior Jesus Christ,  
and you have fed us with spiritual food  
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.  
Send us now into the world in peace,  
and grant us strength and courage  
to love and serve you  
with gladness and singleness of heart;  
through Christ our Savior. Amen.

### **Blessing**

**Closing Hymn (9:00 & 11:00 a.m.)**

Hymnal, #68

Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers

*At 9:00 a.m.: Verses 1-2 are sung before the homily; verse 3 after.*

*At 9:00 a.m., children attending Sunday School process out after the choir.*

**The Homily (9:00 a.m.)**

The Rev. Kathy Guin

*The people are seated.*

**Dismissal**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

*Thanks be to God.*

**Voluntary (9:00 & 11:00 a.m.)**

Herr Christ, der ein'ge Gottes-Sohn BWV 601

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

*Lord Christ, the only Son of God*



# Announcements at St. Mary the Virgin

## *Welcome Visitors And Guests*

December 8, 2024

Thank you for wrapping your prayer with ours today. We welcome all that seek the Holy. St. Mary's prays, celebrates, and serves our community and our neighbors as we strive to live as the body of Christ in the world. Check out the announcements at the back of the service bulletin for more ways to connect with us or email [office@smvsf.org](mailto:office@smvsf.org) and we will stay in touch with you. We look forward to traveling this journey of faith with you.

### **Rev. Kathy Guin Returns!**

We are happy to welcome back Rev. Kathy Guin who will be the preacher at all three services today. Please join us in giving her a warm welcome back!

### **Caroling on Union Street Saturday, December 14**

Join the fun of singing Christmas carols together! ALL are invited — bring friends and neighbors!

Song books are provided. We will gather in the courtyard at 1:30 for welcome and warm up. We will walk up and back along Union street singing joyfully and spreading Christmas cheer. Cookies and hot cider will be served upon return in the courtyard.

For more information  
contact [jessicametoyer.smv@gmail.com](mailto:jessicametoyer.smv@gmail.com)

### **A Festival of Advent Lessons and Carols Sunday, December 15**

Grounded in the rich Anglican heritage of music and a much-loved service at St. Mary's, A Festival of Advent Lessons and Carols, will be offered on Sunday, December 17 at 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. Advent Lessons and Carols is resplendent with magnificent song and

moving Scripture readings offering time for reflection, meditation, and peace with emphasis on hope, anticipation and renewal of self in preparation for the coming of the Chosen One.

Lessons and Carols is a non-Eucharist service. A Eucharist service will be offered at 8:00 a.m. on December 15 marking the Third Sunday of Advent.

### **Save The Date:**

### **Young Professional Gift Exchange Sunday, December 15**

The Young Professionals (20s & 30s) will gather at Heather Coyne's apartment in Twin Peaks at 6 p.m. on Sunday evening, December 15<sup>th</sup> for a holiday gift exchange, food and festivities. RSVP to Heather at [heatherannecoyne@gmail.com](mailto:heatherannecoyne@gmail.com) for the address!

### **Blue Christmas Service Monday, December 16**

As we approach the Winter Solstice, which marks the shortest day and longest night of the year in the Northern Hemisphere, St. Mary's Blue Christmas service on Monday, December 16 recognizes that this season is not "the most wonderful time of the year" for many and can be a struggle. Through

liturgy, music and silent prayer, the December 16, 7:00 p.m. non-Eucharist service conducted inside the church, is a time for us to meet the sad and “blue” feelings we may encounter around Christmas time, provides a comforting place to recognize our pain and sorrow, receive God’s deep and abiding peace and remind us that even the longest night does not last forever.

### **Winter Shelter Meal Wednesday, December 18**

On December 18th in the evening a group of happy, helpful parishioners will gather to prepare and serve a hot meal and provide a gift of clothing to 80 guests who are currently experiencing homelessness. The shelter is organized by the SF Interfaith Council and will be held at the Cathedral of St. Mary of the Assumption. We will fill bellies before our guests retire and spread good cheer to all! To join, contact Aubrey at [aubreyhargis@gmail.com](mailto:aubreyhargis@gmail.com) for the details.

### **Youth Group Adventure Night**

Youth Group Bowling Adventure Night! All 6th-12th graders are invited to come bowling at Presidio Bowl from 5:30-7:30. Bring \$10 to defray costs, and other money for snacks/dinner. Friends are always welcome to participate! A special prize goes to anyone who can beat Mike’s score (Mike is not a particularly good bowler)! See you there!

### **Sunday School Update**

The Sankta Lucia pageant is clearly the focus of this Sunday. We’ll forgo regular Sunday school classes but we will gather in the upstairs Vestry Room at the usual time for a snack and a few short Advent themed activities.

### **Giving Tree for The Gubbio Project**

Our beloved Giving Tree for the Gubbio Project is ready and waiting in the Fowler Hall entryway! Adorned with "ornaments" that represent gift requests, the tree invites you to share kindness this season. Needed items include peanut butter, new or gently used blankets, hygiene products, and socks. You’re welcome to drop off your unwrapped gifts in the narthex or near the Giving Tree through January 5th. These thoughtful contributions will bring warmth and comfort to unhoused and vulnerable individuals who seek “sacred sleep” and vital support at St. John’s Episcopal Church in the Mission District. Thank you for spreading hope during this often chilly and rainy winter season!

### **Tidings of Comfort & Joy**

This holiday season, join St. Mary’s Outreach in supporting Episcopal Community Services San Francisco (ECS), a vital organization helping homeless and low-income individuals secure housing, jobs, and essential services. Last year alone, ECS served over 13,000 people, providing housing, shelter, meals, and job training.

You can contribute as a benefactor at [smvsf.org/tidings-benefactor-2024/](http://smvsf.org/tidings-benefactor-2024/) or

participate in the St. Mary the Virgin Holiday Bazaar & Pantry all morning on Sunday, December 15. Bazaar item submission & volunteer forms are available at [smvsf.org/pantry-form/](http://smvsf.org/pantry-form/).

Let's embody the spirit of Christmas by supporting this critical cause. Thank you for your generosity and commitment!

**Christmas Flowers  
Donation Deadline  
Thursday, December 19**

If you would like to help decorate the church in celebration of Christ's coming at Christmas, please consider making a donation toward the Christmas flowers. Donations may be made in honor or memory of someone dear to you.

You may make your donation online by visiting [smvsf.org/donate](http://smvsf.org/donate) or you can make a check payable to "The Episcopal Church of St. Mary the Virgin," (with a note in the memo section "CHRISTMAS FLOWERS") either in the Sunday collection basket or by delivering to the church office by Thursday, December 19. Please email Ashley at [ashley@smvsf.org](mailto:ashley@smvsf.org) stating who your donation is in honor or memory of. Donations received after December 19 cannot appear in the printed Christmas service program. Thank you!

**Call for Christmas Pageant Cast  
& Volunteers**

Step into the magical world of Christmas and be a part of something truly special! We're thrilled to invite your participation in our upcoming Christmas Pageant

on Tuesday, December 24th, at 3 p.m..

**CASTING CALL:**

We're seeking participants of all ages (adults, don't be shy!) to bring to life the story of Jesus' birth to our audience. There are an abundance of supporting roles, complete with costume, for ages 5 and above, so invite friends and other family who might be visiting. A short rehearsal will be held that Sunday at 1:30 p.m. before the petting zoo starts at 2 p.m., and all speaking roles can be "on book." There is also an opportunity for children to be part of a flash mob of costumed angels and shepherds who will be joining the cast right before the pageant begins! Just show up around 2:30 p.m. that day for costuming and simple instructions.

**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:**

Not interested in the spotlight but still want to be a part of the magic? We're also looking for enthusiastic volunteers to assist with various aspects, including directing, helping with costumes, setting up and cleaning up, and herding mini angels and shepherds. Experience the joy of the holiday season, make new friends while being part of a creative community, and create lasting memories for our congregation.

To participate, please contact Rev'd Kira at [kira@smvsf.org](mailto:kira@smvsf.org) by December 19th. Let's come together to create a Christmas celebration that will warm hearts and spread cheer throughout the community. Join us in making this holiday season truly magical!

### **Please Wear Your Name Tags!**

With so many newcomers in our midst, we kindly invite you to wear your name tag at church so that we all may get to know each other better. Thank you! If you don't have a nametag, please email Ashley Ryan at [Ashley@smvsf.org](mailto:Ashley@smvsf.org) to receive one. New nametags can be found on the welcome table in the courtyard after request. Name tags may be stored in the name tag boxes as you exit the courtyard after church.

### **Note from the Finance Office:**

#### **Please Use Memo Line on All Checks**

Please use the memo line on all checks to St. Mary's to indicate if your donation is for 2024 Pledge, 2025 Pledge, Christmas offering, Altar flowers, or Candlelight Concerts. Thank you kindly for all your donations!

### **Nominations for New Vestry Members**

Nominations for New Vestry Members  
Do you feel called to serve God at a leadership level? Consider putting your talents to use on St. Mary's Vestry. The Vestry functions as the board of directors of St. Mary the Virgin, is responsible for the overall discernment of God's vision for St. Mary's, and exercises corporate and budgetary authority. The Vestry oversees the wide range of ministries, programs, and events at St. Mary's. Every year the Vestry thanks four graduating members for their service and nominates four new candidates for the slate. Each term is three years. Ask a former/current Vestry member about their experience, and consider nominating yourself or others.

To nominate someone for the Vestry please send your nomination to [office@smvsf.org](mailto:office@smvsf.org).

### **Abundant Grace, Abundant Giving!**

#### **St. Mary's 2025 Annual Appeal**

*"And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work."*

*2 Corinthians 9:8*

St. Mary's is blessed to be a place of abundance. We are not simply surviving, we are thriving! The abundance of ministry, community, and hope is palpable in our midst.

One of the most abundant ways that we can participate in at St. Mary's is through a financial pledge. This is a giving estimate of the level of financial support you intend to give for the upcoming year. One of St. Mary's great strengths is the grace-filled and abundant people who give meaningfully of their financial means to make all that happens at St. Mary's possible.

To learn more about making a pledge, or to make a pledge online please visit our pledge page at [smvsf.org/pledge-blurb](http://smvsf.org/pledge-blurb). Should you have questions about pledging, or St. Mary's in general, please contact Rev. David at [david@smvsf.org](mailto:david@smvsf.org)

Pledge Units: 120

Total Pledged: \$600,419

Pledge Goal: \$950,000

## **Advent Resources & Devotionals Available**

Advent, the liturgical season of preparation for Christmas, begins on Sunday, December 1st! To help prepare our hearts and souls for the gift of the incarnation, you are invited to pick up an Advent devotional booklet from Living Compass to follow along with during the season and/or a coloring calendar that invites us to Slow Down! Quiet! It's Advent! You can also receive the Advent devotionals electronically by signing up at this link: <https://www.livingcompass.org/advent>

## **Ongoing Weekly Offerings**

### **\*Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m. in the Chapel**

Please join us Tuesdays at 10 a.m. in the Chapel for a time to time to breathe, center yourself, and feel God's presence while silently being one in community. For those unfamiliar with Centering Prayer, our time will include a Breathing Meditation, 15-20 minutes of silent prayer, followed by an opportunity for prayer requests and thanksgivings, and close with the Lord's Prayer. Those who wish may remain for a time of sharing. Please feel free to contact Debbie Veatch at [veatchdl@gmail.com](mailto:veatchdl@gmail.com) or 415-244-3515 with any questions.

### **\* Sundays at 10:00 a.m. in Fowler Hall**

Join laypeople Eden Gallanter, Mike Stafford, and David Hargis for a discussion-based class about Matthew's Gospel on Sundays at 10 a.m. in the front room in Fowler Hall (right above the fountain). Each chapter of Matthew will be covered over two weeks. In the first week, we'll read and gather questions, and in the

second week, we'll work on answering them. The leaders will guide conversations and ensure everyone has a chance to participate. Everyone is welcome, regardless of knowledge or beliefs. Regular attendance is encouraged, but drop-ins are welcome. No homework required, but Eden prepares materials and handouts. Interested but can't attend?

Email [edengallanter@gmail.com](mailto:edengallanter@gmail.com) to receive chapter handouts and class Q&A summaries.

# *We Pray For...*

## ***PARISHIONERS, RELATIVES and FRIENDS***

Mary  
Jim & Ruth Harvey  
Lisa Brown-Kinsella  
Martin Ash  
Dave Holmes-Kinsella  
Marlis Branaka  
Adam Grover  
Ken Rainforth  
Roxana Flores  
David Zink  
Eli & Ellie Purpura-Pontoniere  
Sandy Briggs  
Tom Herman

## ***IN DISCERNMENT***

Michael Stafford

## ***RECENTLY DECEASED***

Harry Copeland  
Carl Campbell  
Janet Zaragoza  
Anne Richmond  
Anthony Hansford

## ***CONTINUING PRAYERS***

*Please remember these individuals who have ongoing concerns in your personal prayers this week.*

Deborah  
Gordon Bellis  
June  
Kevin Teeney  
The Community at the Heritage & St. Francis  
Jane  
Quinn Charles Fay  
Erich  
Simon  
Phyllis Shepherd  
Shirlee Martin  
Will Driscoll  
David Schade  
Bill  
Dani May  
Sarah Ellwein  
Valerie Schneider  
Divine Anthony and family  
Francis Kalani  
Jeanne Lacy  
Marilyn Hala



# *Advent & Christmas Season Happenings*

## **Second Sunday of Advent, Sunday December 8**

9:00 a.m. Procession for Sankta Lucia

## **Third Sunday of Advent, Sunday December 15**

9:00/11:00 a.m. A Festival of Lessons and Carols for Advent

## **Blue Christmas, Monday December 16**

7:00 p.m. Blue Christmas Service

## **Fourth Sunday of Advent, Sunday December 22**

8/9/11:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Services for the Fourth Sunday of Advent

## **Christmas Eve, Tuesday December 24**

2:00 p.m. Christmas Petting Zoo in the Courtyard

3:00 p.m. Family Nativity Pageant

5:00 p.m. Festival Eucharist for Christmas Eve

9:00 p.m. Festival Choral Eucharist

## **Christmas Day, Wednesday December 25**

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist with Parish Choir

## **First Sunday after Christmas, Sunday December 29**

10:00 a.m. A Festival of Lessons and Carols for Christmas,  
with Eucharist

## **Feast of the Epiphany, Sunday January 5**

9:00/11:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist & Procession of the Magi



*The Episcopal Church of St. Mary the Virgin*

Tel. (415) 921-3665 2325 Union Street, San Francisco, California www.smvsf.org

*Church Office Hours:*

Tuesday through Friday

9:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

*Vestry*

**Russell Fudge**, *Senior Warden*

**Linda Woodworth**, *Junior Warden*

**Barbara Bernard, Elizabeth Falcon, Rick Darwin, Lynne Dombrowski,**

**Nicole Elliott, Whitney Gough, Jim Griffith, Amy Nachman,**

**Georgia Burke Lu, and Sandy Stadtfeld**

**email: vestry @smvsf.org**

*St. Mary's Staff Directory*

All phone extensions are for 415.921.3665

**The Rev. David L. Erickson**

*Rector david@smvsf.org x306*

**The Rev. Kira Austin-Young**

*Associate Rector kira@smvsf.org x314*

**The Rev. Tim Smith**

*Deacon tim@smvsf.org*

**The Rev. Nancy Bryan**

*Deacon nhbsf@me.com*

**Natalie Hala**

*Parish Verger & Liturgist*

**natalie@smvsf.org x300**

**Eric Choate**

*Director of Music*

**eric@smvsf.org x310**

**Marla Perkins**

*Music Associate*

**marla@smvsf.org x310**

**Nancy Clark**

*Sunday School Director*

**nancyclark1628@gmail.com**

**Hailey Cristobal**

*Nursery Director*

**hailey@smvsf.org**

**Mike Stafford**

*Youth Minister*

**mike@smvsf.org**

**Nancy Svendsen**

*Events Coordinator*

**nancys@smvsf.org, 415.205.6787**

**Ashley Ryan**

*Parish Administrator*

**ashley@smvsf.org x 302**

**Vicki Turk**

*Accountant finance@smvsf.org x316*

**Alex Lei**

*Sunday Morning Sexton*

**Manny Gabiana**

*Building and Grounds Consultant*



# Thank you for Joining Us at St. Mary the Virgin



To visit our website you may visit [smvsf.org](http://smvsf.org),  
or you can open your camera app on your phone  
and hover over the QR code shown below.



## LITURGICAL STAFF

**The Rev. David Erickson**  
Rector

**The Rev. Kira Austin-Young**  
Associate Rector

**The Rev. Kathy Guin**  
*Visiting Priest*

**Natalie Hala**  
Verger & Liturgist  
**Eric Choate**  
Director of Music

**Marla Perkins**  
Music Associate  
**The Rev. Tim Smith**  
Deacon



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