

# “Blessed are you...”



Watercolor by Monica Welch

Church of St. Mary of the Harbor  
January 29, 2023  
Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

Where the land, the sea and the sacred meet

## Welcome to the Church of St. Mary of the Harbor

*A warm welcome to you! Here at St. Mary's, we welcome you with open arms and open hearts, to share with you the love with which Christ has welcomed us. Whoever you are, wherever you may be in life, there is a place for you here. In this beautiful place, you will find sojourners like yourself who are searching for truth, meaning, and purpose. And we invite you to explore and experience the gift of God's love in this place where the land, the sea, and the sacred meet.*

### Worship Guidance

Everything you need to guide you through today's service will be found in this leaflet, or in the hymnals in the chair just in front of you. You are invited to join in prayers and responses when the words are in **bold-faced** print in the leaflet. Most hymns may be found in *The Hymnal 1982*, the large blue hymnal. Occasionally hymns may be drawn from the green hymnal *Wonder, Love, and Praise* (abbreviated WLP in your leaflet), or from *Lift Every Voice and Sing* (abbreviated LEVAS).

### Holy Communion

Our worship is centered in the sharing of Communion, and no matter what your background, you are welcome to receive the Bread and Wine at this Table. For health reasons you may wish to receive only the Bread. Please be assured that you have made your full communion whether you receive the Bread only, or if you receive both the Bread and the Wine. Eager to do all we can to protect one another's well-being, we entrust you to take whatever health precautions seem best to you. Masks continue to be preferred throughout our worship services.

### Hospitality after Sunday Services

There will be hospitality immediately after today's service in Nicholson Hall. New hosts for future Sundays are welcome, and may sign up on the kitchen pass-through counter. Hosts are needed for February 19 and 26.

### Stewardship Update

We are grateful to all of you who have already sent in your pledge for 2023. As of Wednesday, we have received 63 pledges. This means we are 84% of the way towards our goal of 75 pledges. If you are still reflecting about your pledge for this year, we would welcome your pledge as soon as possible.

### In Case of Need

If pastoral needs should arise, please contact the Reverend William W. Rich, Interim Rector, at 774-383-1236 or [WWRich53@protonmail.com](mailto:WWRich53@protonmail.com). Please make us aware of any needs for a pastoral conversation or visit.

### Winter Lunches

Winter lunches for our hungry neighbors are being offered here at St. Mary's on Saturdays in January and February. Your help is welcome. A sign-up sheet is on the pass-through counter between the kitchen and the parish hall. You may also call the parish office (508-487-2622) to make known your desire to help.

### Supporting Our Neighbors – First Sunday Food Focus

Next Sunday is the first Sunday of February. As a visual reminder of the needs of our neighbors, on the first Sunday of each month we will be carrying to the altar the basket of donations that you make to the "Little Free Pantry," hosted by our friends at the Unitarian Universalist Meeting House. That pantry provides non-perishable grocery and toiletry items for anyone in need. Please consider picking up an extra item or two when you shop. Items may be left in the basket by the baptismal font at any time. Please, no perishables, no glass containers and *please check expiration dates*. The Pantry cannot use expired items.

## Upcoming Weeks at St. Mary's

**Saturday, February 4 – 8:30 am**

### **Strength for the Journey**

An online lay-led service of contemplation and healing. Contact Gerri Spinella ([gerri.spinella@gmail.com](mailto:gerri.spinella@gmail.com)) if you'd like to be included in the email invitation to each week's service.

**Saturday, February 4 – 12 noon**

### **Winter Lunches**

**Sunday, February 5 – 10 am**

### **Holy Eucharist for the Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany**

## **The Church of St. Mary of the Harbor**

517 Commercial Street, Provincetown, MA 02657 Phone: 508-487-2622

stmaryoftheharbor.org [smothoffice@gmail.com](mailto:smothoffice@gmail.com)

Office Hours: Tuesday (9-12), Wednesday (1-5), & Friday (9-5)

Julia Perry, Office Manager – [smothoffice@gmail.com](mailto:smothoffice@gmail.com)

## **This Sunday's Leadership**

Interim Rector, Preacher, and Celebrant – *The Reverend William W. Rich*

Deacon for the Gospel and Intercessions – *The Reverend Bruce Mason*

Organist – *Bill Carlson*

Crucifer – *Andrea Sawyer*

Lector – *Harry Ellsworth*

Healer – *Maghi Geary*

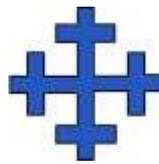
Ushers – *Peter Falconer and Harry Ellsworth*

Altar Guild – *Priscilla Jackett*

Hospitality – *Pat and Phil Penza*

Livestream – *John Carroll-Yagel*

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## **Vestry Officers**

Pat Penza, Senior Warden

Tim Brown, Junior Warden

John Loftin, Treasurer

Gerri Spinella, Clerk

## **Vestry Members**

Harry Ellsworth

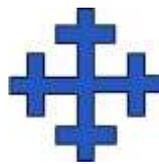
Andrea Sawyer

David Griffiths

Michael Sutila

Anita McGahan

John Carroll-Yagel



## **Search Committee**

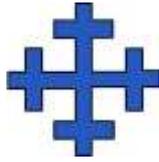
Bill Glass, Chair

Sharon Inger

Joan Gibbons

Julia Perry

The Search Committee may be contacted via email: [smothsearch@gmail.com](mailto:smothsearch@gmail.com)



## **Search Committee Report - January 22, 2023**

The Search Committee has been busy since we last communicated with you about the parish survey back in October. Since then, we have used the information you provided in the survey and small group meetings to fill out the required Diocesan forms and develop a Parish Profile, or description of the church. The forms have now been filed and accepted and the profile has been written and published.

That means that as of the announcement this past Sunday, we are entering the next phase of the search process, which is receiving applications for the position of rector. For the next six weeks, until March 5, we will accept applications.

When the applications are in, the Search Committee will evaluate the candidates with the ultimate goal of recommending one to the Vestry to be called as St. Mary's next rector. The timing for that is hard to estimate since it depends on the number of applications, scheduling interviews, arranging to listen to sermons, checking references, and not least, coming to a consensus as a Search Committee. We can assure you that the Search Committee will proceed as expeditiously as possible, while keeping in mind that the right decision is better than the quick decision.

This part of the process is strictly confidential. We are making decisions that could affect people's careers and some candidates will not want people at their current position to know they are looking elsewhere. Though you are unlikely to hear from the Search Committee again until we have completed our task, there are things you can do to join with us and help out.

- First, continue with the Search Prayer in the Prayers of the People. Maybe it has gotten a little repetitive by now. Give it some oomph! We need to attract the attention of the Holy Spirit and it is uplifting and reassuring to the members of the Search Committee to hear all of you pray together for the search process.
- Second, read the Profile. This is the public face of the search and contains the information you provided in the small group meetings and the parish survey, including the complete results of the survey. The Profile may be accessed via the Parish Profile button on St. Mary's home page. Look especially at the section entitled Expectations. This is where we list what you told us to look for in a new rector and, in return, what you told us to offer a new rector on your behalf.
- Third, spread the word. We have been told to expect fewer applications than in the past because there is a shortage of priests so we want the availability of the position to be known as widely as possible. If you know a priest or know someone who might know a priest who could be interested, ask them to read the Profile and if they think there might be a match, to apply.
- Fourth, please pray and ask the Holy Spirit to prod and motivate the right priest to be the next rector of St. Mary's to send in an application...by March 5<sup>th</sup>!
- Fifth, and finally, while you're at it, please ask the Holy Spirit to give your Search Committee the guidance and the wisdom to recognize and select that priest.

### ***The Search Committee***

Bill Glass, Chair  
Joan Gibbons  
Sharon Inger  
Julia Perry