

Wednesday Information - December 23, 2020

Dear friends,

On Christmas Eve, beginning at 3:45 pm, there will be a special fifteen minute prelude to our Holy Eucharist, with the following solos: "The Holy Boy" by John Ireland (soloist - Kristin Jones) and "Come Close to the Manger" by Ruth Schram (soloist - Dave Kemper). This prelude and the Holy Eucharist for the Nativity of Our Lord, which follows at 4 pm, can be viewed on our live-streamed Facebook page (link is below).

It will mark the end of our Advent season and the beginning of Christmas, that great and wonderful celebration of our Savior's birth! It is sad to think that, for the first time, the church will not be open for public worship at Christmas. Instead, we will worship remotely and ask God to make us one in a spirit of praise and thanksgiving. Thanks be to God for the technology which enables us to do this! That is the silver lining to the cloud of closed churches.

Another blessing is to know that God is present in our changed circumstances, as he always is - never failing, always faithful God. How blessed we are to be so loved by God! At Christmas, God shares his love in a special way, by becoming one of us. The prophets of old foretold a Savior, and he is here - Emmanuel: "God with us."

At Christmas take time to give thanks for your blessings, and pray for your Christian brothers and sisters around the world who are less fortunate than you. We are members of a large and extensive global family. While Covid has been grabbing all the headlines, the persecution of Christians in China, Pakistan, Nigeria and elsewhere continues to grow. I hope that in 2021 we will be able to hear their cries for assistance more clearly and will be able to do more to help them.

In spite of everything, or perhaps because of it, the human spirit of caring for our neighbor has not diminished. I hope that opportunities for St Martha's to resume its pastoral work and welcome newcomers to the church again will follow the arrival of the vaccinations. Who knows, but 2021 could prove to be an exciting year for the church.

Finally, when you are counting blessings, don't forget the ones who made many of them possible: your wardens and vestry, and the many committee members who give generously of their time and talent to make St Martha's the special place it is.

I wish all of you a peaceful and prayerful Christmas.

Father David

Christmas Service

Thursday December 24. **Holy Eucharist at 4 pm. Note that this will be our one Christmas service for 2020.** The scheduled Eucharist at 7 pm service has been cancelled. Our service at 4 pm will be live-streamed on Facebook and later uploaded to YouTube. See the links below.



[Facebook](#)

[Youtube](#)

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS 2020	
Ann B. Adams	In Memory of: J. Harry Adams
Harry and Dianne Burlew	In Memory of: Harry & Naomi Burlew, Sr., David Burlew and Fred & May Huntington
Mary Davis	In Memory of: My husband, Bob Davis
Alice Anne and Bill Freund	In Memory of: Alice Heald Groverman Ainslie
Marie Hogsten	In Honor of: My children and grandchildren In Memory of: Jim and Our Parents
Kristin Jones	In Honor of: Our Children and Grandchildren In Memory of: The Ancestors
Sharon Korody	In Memory of: Paul A. Korody
Carl and Pat Long	In Honor of: James E. Bryan, Jr. Family, Chris Bryan In Memory of: Ben & Marge Crist, Raymond & Erma Long
Edwina Martens	In Memory of: Loved ones
Lanny and Dave Moore	In Honor of: Max and Milo Moore
Lee and Jim Moore	In Memory of: James Moore III, Susan Nowell Moore, James, Mary & Robert Moore, Howard, Patricia & Dave Oaks, Gwen, Fred, Thomas & Dianne Custance, James Robson and Charles Coberley



The Christmas flower list above includes all those request forms received as of today. We apologize if anyone was omitted due to postal service delays. If we receive any additional forms we will update the list and share again in next week's email.

Please Join Us For Online Worship

Sunday, December 27, 2020 - The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph
9:00 am Holy Eucharist (On YouTube only)

Sunday – January 3, 2021 – The Epiphany of our Lord Jesus Christ
9:00 am - Holy Eucharist

Sunday, January 10, 2021 - The Baptism of our Lord Jesus Christ
9:00 am - Holy Eucharist

This week at St. Martha's

Watch and Pray

Wednesday, **December 23 at 7 pm.** Session Four: "Annunciation" - an evening Advent Course by Zoom. This will be our final session.

Preparing for Christmas

Thursday, **December 24,** 1 - 2 pm. Advent meditations and Bible readings, from the book by Richard Rohr.



MEN'S GROUP

Calling all men. We are initiating a Men's Group. It will meet once a month for fellowship, with morning prayer, a light continental breakfast and a short program of some sort. The first meeting will be on Wednesday, January 13, 2021 at 9:00 in the Parish Hall. The first "program" will be presented by Father David. We will be socially distancing and following our COVID protocols. Those of you who feel comfortable meeting in person, mark your calendars now. Looking forward to seeing you. Please RSVP to Ron Kerchner at thekerchners@msn.com so we know how many to plan for.

ONLINE BIBLE STUDY

Father David will lead an online study of St Paul's Letter to the Philippians. Beginning Wednesday, January 13 at 7:00 PM. For more info, please contact admin@stmarthasbethanybeach.org.

Committee Updates

Outreach

Community Food Pantry, located at Salem United Methodist Church, is looking for volunteers to help with their monthly Friday food preparation and Saturday drive thru distribution. If you can help January 15-16, please contact Joyce Dennis (302-732-6565) or Myra Bare (302-732-9402).

Flower Guild

Just a reminder, if you donate Christmas flowers, they will remain in the church until after the taping for the January 3rd service. They can be delivered to you after that. In addition, it is now time to sign up for altar flower donations for 2021. Please call or email Jaclyn with your chosen dates and notations - 302-539-7444 or admin@stmarthasbethanybeach.org. The suggested amount is \$35, but any amount is appreciated.

Prayer List

In 2021 we are planning to update our current prayer list. If there is someone whom you would like to place on the list, please let Jaclyn in the office know. She will keep a record of that person who will remain on the list for four weeks. At the end of that period, their name will be removed unless we hear that they should remain on. This will make sure our prayer list remains up to date. Thank you.

Please give by mail or website donate button

Please continue to support our mission work by submitting your pledge to St. Martha's Episcopal Church, PO Box 1478, Bethany Beach DE 19930 or give via the donate button on the website where there is a box to note your contribution purpose: <https://www.stmarthasbethanybeach.org/make-donation-or-pledge/>.



The office will be closed Monday, December 28 and Tuesday, December 29th. In addition, Jaclyn has off on Thursday, December 24th. All voicemails and emails will be returned when the office reopens on Wednesday, December 30th. If you have a pastoral emergency, please contact Father David at (302) 468-9062.

Prayer List

Bob Bauer, Ruth Simone, Ron Sutton, Martha, Wayne Argo, Paul Stutts, Justin Bence, James Moore, Jr., Evan Ballard, Cameron Vlassis, Charmaine Zoller, Tara Sprouse, Don Louk, Joey, Sara Suerose, Nancy Moore & family, Bill Ensor, Katherine Hobbs, Joe, Nancy Reed, Leigh Alexander Loeber, Ron Pickup, William L Brintnall, Laura N. Brintnall, Cuthie Family, Janice Fritsch, Kassandra Riddle, Pauline Wise, Becky Warlow, Jean Bunker, Carolyn Clarke, August Goeller, Bev and Jack Shubert, Margaret Duval, Marilyn Hoffman, Clari Hernandez, AJ Evans, Robert Hicks, Noel Tuck, Joanne Grant, Mimi Drew, John Conway, Keith Smith, Jim Lucas, Christine Mains, Lois Allen, Tony Combas, Catherine Jordan, Chris Riccardi, Marie Hogsten, David and Sue Nilsson, Harry Burlaw, Sara Reynolds and Caryn Short

For Our Serving Military: Quinn Barber, HM3 Kevin Murphy, Conner Warlow, Daniel Olnick

Prayer LIST – If you would like to add someone to the Prayer List please contact the office at (302) 539-7444 or email admin@stmarthasbethanybeach.org. The Prayer List is a way to ask for prayer from the whole congregation for a loved one who is dealing with a stressful issue such as chronic illness, job problem, or other personal problem. Only the person's name is listed. Names stay on the list for two months unless and until renewed.

Prayer CIRCLE – These volunteer prayer warriors pray for a person who has asked for urgently needed short-term prayer for a specific purpose like surgery or an upcoming medical test. These requests are confidential. You can email prayercircle@stmarthasbethanybeach.org for Prayer Circle intercessions. You can also contact Jaclyn at admin@stmarthasbethanybeach.org or 539-7444. Voicemail messages are being monitored and you will receive a return call during normal office hours (Monday-Thursday, 9am-1pm).

Pastoral CARE –If you have a pastoral care need, please call Elsa or Carol at (732) 216-6875 or contact the office using the email address or phone number listed above.

Pastoral Care EMERGENCY – Please contact Father David Beresford at (302) 468 9062.

*Loving God, Help us remember the birth of Jesus,
that we may share in the song of the angels,
the gladness of the shepherds,
and worship of the wise men.
Close the door of hate
and open the door of love all over the world.
Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting.
Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings,
and teach us to be merry with clear hearts.
May the Christmas morning make us happy to be Thy children,
and Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful
thoughts, forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake.
Amen.
~Robert Louis Stevenson*

Have a wonderful week!

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Senior Warden Ron Kerchner, 609-424-7281, thekerchners@msn.com
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Secretary John Short, 302-829-1699, johnnyeshort146@gmail.com
David Kemper, Music Director, 267-421-4453, dc.kemper@hotmail.com
Jaclyn Hickman, Administrative Asst., 302-539-7444, admin@stmarthasbethanybeach.org