

St. Mary's Messenger

November - December 2026

St. Mary's Episcopal Church

St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Dousman, Wisconsin

Christmas at St. Mary's

Mark your calendar and plan to attend these special Christmas services:

Sunday, December 20



10 a.m. Christmas Pageant in the Church



4 p.m. Longest Night Service in the Chapel

Christmas Eve, *Thursday, December 24*



4 p.m. Christmas Eve Service in the Chapel

9 p.m. Christmas Eve Service in the Church

Christmas Day, *Friday, December 25*



10 a.m. Christmas Service in the Church

Sunday, December 27



9 a.m. Lessons & Carols in the Church

Thank You to our Vestry Members!

At our annual meeting in September, we elected some new Vestry members and thanked those whose terms are expiring at the end of the year.

A big thank you to **Diane Olsen, John Wolf and Jim Lemerand** for all your work as your terms end in December.

Our new Senior Warden will be **Megan Stangler**, our new Junior Warden will be **Mary-Beth Esser** and **Russ Jordan** will also join the Vestry. Thank you for taking on these new responsibilities!



Time To Change Your Clock!

Remember that Daylight Saving Time ends on **Sunday, November 1**. So, make sure to set your clocks **BACK one hour** before you go to bed on Saturday night (October 31) or you will be an hour early for the 8 a.m. or 10 a.m. service at church on Sunday.



Prayers & Thanksgivings

Pray for:

† **Amanda**, Chuck & Linda Mulligan's daughter
† **Linda Mulligan** as she recovers from surgery
† **Carrie Arndorfer** as she recovers from shoulder surgery
† **Judy Zember**
† **Mary Poppens** as she recovers from a fall
† **Tina**, Pat Godfrey's niece and Kathy Mitchell's cousin

We Give Thanks for:

† A successful and joyful Consecration Sunday
† St. Mary's outreach
† **Jordan**, our postulant
† Warm coats and winter clothing to the Hope Center
† Thanksgiving groceries to local families
† Christmas gifts for the Safe Families children
† The teachers and staff at Lad Lake
† The most generous and loving parish!

We Remember Our Veterans



On **Sunday, November 15**, we will list names of remembrance in the bulletin in honor of Veterans Day, which is Wednesday, November 11. As part of our remembrance, we will honor all who are currently serving or who have served in the military. We will also recall the others in our lives that we have lost and are missing. We are promised that we will see them again, and yet, we still need time to remember, grieve and hope as a community.

Please send names of family and friends who have served, or are currently serving to Lynn, by **Monday, November 9**, at stmarys@milwpc.com

Happy Birthdays to:

November

05 – Chuck Mulligan
07 – Laura Lewandowski
08 – Kelly Noles
10 – John Wolf
11 – Mary-Beth Esser
15 – Alex Krauska
22 – Carol Schmitt
24 – Suzanne Diesness
25 – Mason Zember
29 – Barb Jordan

December

10 – Holly Melloch
24 – Jim Lemerand
31 – Brian Stanger



Collection for Thanksgiving Baskets

As is our tradition, we will be buying groceries for Thanksgiving dinner for six local families. We receive the names from Dousman Elementary and we will go shopping on **Sunday, November 22**. In addition to buying food for Thanksgiving, we are often also able to give the families a Pick 'N Save gift card.


Thanksgiving Baskets

If you are able to donate funds to the cause, we'll have a donation box in the Narthex on **Sunday, November 1, 8, 15 and 22.** And if you are able to help with the shopping, please talk to **Mother Pippa**. It's nice to have one cart per family, and one shopper per cart.

Meet Us In the Chapel on Thanksgiving

Join us on Thanksgiving at 9 a.m. in the Chapel. Our service will include Holy Eucharist (which itself means giving thanks). And we will celebrate all that we are thankful for before going off to cook, watch sports and eat!

A free-will offering will be collected during the service for the **Kettle Moraine Area Food Pantry**.



The Rector's Corner



The church calendar includes two preparatory seasons: Advent and Lent. Advent runs the four Sundays before Christmas, so the actual length of Advent varies from 22 days at the shortest to 28 days at the longest. This year Christmas falls on Friday, so we will have an Advent on the longer side of the spectrum. While Advent can seem extra busy, I hope you will take some time to prepare your heart and soul for Jesus' coming.

Advent was first marked in the fifth century as a preparatory time before the celebration of the Incarnation. However, during Advent we also prepare for Jesus' second coming. As such, the readings during Advent prepare us for both the arrival of a baby in a manger, and also for the return of our God and king.

Jesus begins the season by making a callback to the prophet Daniel: ***"Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven."*** On Advent II we start at the beginning of Mark: ***"The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God."*** Advent III or Rejoice Sunday moves to the Gospel of John with John the Baptist confessing that he is not the Messiah, but the one sent ahead to prepare the way. Finally, on Advent IV we hear Luke's account of the Annunciation – when the Angel Gabriel brings Mary this universe-changing news, and she says her courageous "yes" to God.

During this coming season of Advent I hope you prepare to receive Jesus into the world, both as an infant and as a victorious king. Because he is both. He is fully God who became fully human that we might make our way back to God. God extends an incredible invitation to each and every one of us and asks us to accept that gift of love and let it change our lives. We are not promised that it will be nice or easy. But we are promised a God who loves us, who walks with us, and who calls each one of us by name.

May your Advent be filled with discernment and reflection.

Prayers and Blessings,
Mother Pippa



Sabbatical Plans

I am going on Sabbatical in 2027 from April to May. My contract gives me one week for each year I've been at St. Mary's, and, as hard as that is to believe, next year marks eight years! Easter is March 28, so I will be with you for Easter, but I will miss Pentecost (which falls on May 16). However, ***I've found an excellent supply priest for while I'm away - Canon Scott Leannah****. Canon Scott will be with you all on Sunday mornings.*

So, what am I doing on Sabbatical? I went through my bookshelves at St. Mary's and found that I have 50+ books that I've purchased to read for formation, liturgy, theology or pastoral care, and have not yet been able to read them. My plan is to take the books home with me and read them all! (Or, at least enough of each book to see if it's useful).



I will return in June, ready for our 40th Strawberry Fest!

Please hold me in prayer while I'm away, I certainly will be praying for you all.

Prayers and Blessings,
Mother Pippa



Advent Activities

Sunday Morning Advent Study

Advent begins on Sunday, November 29. Join our Bible Study exploring the **Gospel of Mark at 9 a.m. in the Library** on these Sunday mornings. Feel free to attend any or all of them!

- *11/29 – The Good News Begins (Mark 1-4)*
- *12/06 – Restoring Purity and Wholeness (Mark 5-7)*
- *12/13 – Sacrifice, Ransom, Prophet, Messiah (Mark 8-10)*



Advent Retreat at Emmanuel UCC

All are invited to a retreat on **November 21 at Emmanuel UCC from 10 a.m. to Noon.** We'll gather together and pray before having quiet time for crafts, a labyrinth, and a guided meditation. This is a great way to prepare for Advent.

Wednesday Morning Advent Study Planned

The Wednesday morning study group will again have sessions from the *Living Well through Advent Living Compass* series.

The topic is *Practicing Patience with all Your Heart, Soul, Strength & Mind.* **We will meet from 9 a.m. – Noon in the Chapel on December 2, 9, 16, and 23.**

If you cannot attend the group sessions, you can follow the daily readings by picking up a *Living Compass* booklet from the table in the church Narthex. It has great daily readings and questions that explore your faith during this Advent season.

Stay for Advent Crafts

St. Mary's is hosting crafts for the whole family after church on **December 6 at 11 a.m.** Assemble some Advent crafts as we prepare for Jesus' incarnation and second coming.

Advent Outreach to Safe Families Program

We are adopting specific children, families and adults from the **Safe Families For Children Program**.

We will have a tree with tags with specific gift requests on each tag. Please do not spend more than $35 per individual gift.



Wrapped presents need to be brought to St. Mary's by **Sunday, December 13**.

Donations for Christmas Flowers

The donation forms for Christmas flowers will be in the Church Narthex beginning in Advent.



Please return this form along with your check payable to St. Mary's. You can either place your form in the offering box in the church narthex, mail it to the parish office, or email your information to the parish office.

Due to a printing deadline, any memorials received after **Sunday, December 13** will be listed in the January 3 bulletin.

Help Decorate Inside the Church

On **Saturday, December 12 at 10 a.m.**, we will need help to decorate the Nave of the church for Christmas.



We will also need a couple strong people to lug the tree inside and set it up.

We appreciate and thank you for your help.

Christmas Collection Recipients Announced



It has been the practice of St. Mary's to give the Christmas monetary offering to those who are in need. This year the offering is being split between two worthy recipients.

Half will go to the **Program at Lad Lake.** We are not buying specific gifts for the program this year, but we wanted to make sure that we continued to support the ministry and youth at Lad Lake.

The other half has been designated to **St. Mary's Discretionary Fund.** Mother Pippa uses these funds to help local people in need of emergency help. The majority is spent on buying $25 Kwik Trip cards and $50 Metro Market cards. People are eligible to receive help once a month.

Thank you for your generosity!



What is "Lessons and Carols?"

Join us for a festive Lessons and Carols Service at **9 a.m. on Sunday, December 27**. (We will only have one service on this day.)



It is a service of Scripture and song that dates to the late 19th century. In this service, we listen to nine Scripture lessons which recount the Fall, the promise of a Messiah, the Incarnation, and the Great Commission to preach the Good News. Each lesson is followed by a carol or other song that reflects on the lesson's message and a brief prayer.

This is a specifically Anglican tradition which started at King's College in England.

St. Mary's Annual Christmas Caroling

Parish Music Director **Carrie Arndorfer** invites parish members and friends to join the choir for Christmas caroling. We will carol at Three Pillars on **Sunday, December 20,** time to be announced.



This is a great way to share some Advent/Christmas joy. The presence, music and warmth are always appreciated and are such wonderful gifts. We always have fun and the residents really enjoy singing along with us too. Hope you can make it! Kids are most welcome!

Cookie Sale Fundraiser to Update Kitchen

St. Mary's is holding a Cookie Sale on **Saturday, November 28, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.** to raise money to update the kitchen.

We need Bakers! Please bake at least 2 dozen Christmas Cookies. Mini quick breads, cut bars and candy are welcome too. Please label your cookies with your name and the type of cookie (and any potential allergens). Drop off cookies on **Friday, November 27** (or contact **Jane Pennycuff and Kim Smith**).

Cookies will be sold by weight at $10/pound. We will sell quick breads and candy separately.

We also need Christmas Elves (volunteers) to help on **Saturday, November 28.**

Sign up sheets for bakers and volunteers can be found in the Parish Hall. Thank you for your help!



Join Us for All Saints Sunday

Join us on **Sunday, November 1**, when we will commemorate the saints of God – living and dead during both services. At the same time, we recognize that we too are saints of God, and

Regional Gathering with the Bishop

Come and see the Bishop during Kettle Moraine Region's Bishop's Week.



Currently only one event is scheduled. Zion Church in Oconomowoc is hosting a Regional Gathering with the Bishop on **Saturday, December 5, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

We'll discuss the Bishop's transition process.



Wanna Play Bingo (& Eat Delicious Chili)?

We have Bingo coming up on **November 14 from 4-6 p.m**. followed by **Craig Beckman's Awesome Chili!**

Bingo prizes will be a white elephant exchange, so bring a wrapped gift as a prize.

Please sign up in the Parish Hall so Craig knows how much chili to make.

Learn About the Eucharist

Each year **Mother Pippa** offers an Instructed Eucharist. This means that instead of a sermon on the readings, she instead talks about why we do what we do on Sunday. Why do the colors change? How do we pick the prayers? What is the history and theology behind washing the priest's hands or adding water to the wine?



Learn about all this and more over two Sundays: **November 8, 15**. If you have a question about the service, please ask Mother Pippa to include it in her teaching.

Longest Night Service is December 20

Join us in the Chapel for a Longest Night Service on **Sunday, December 20 at 4 p.m.**

In the long, dark winter nights, memories of past experiences and the pain of present situations can become overwhelming. For some, the Christmas season is very difficult.



The Longest Night Service invites people to listen, pray and sing if they are able. During this service we offer our experiences and feelings to the Christ-child.

We pray that you will find hope and comfort in knowing that you are not alone. We'll also honor in a special way loved ones who've gone before us. All are welcome.

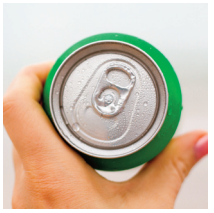
Watch The Chosen with Us!



We will continue watching ***The Chosen*** on Tuesdays at 10 a.m. in the parish hal. This series is a historical drama based on the life of Jesus and those who knew him. Set against the backdrop of Roman oppression in first-century Israel, the series shares an authentic look at Jesus' revolutionary life and teachings.

Pop Top Tabs for a Cause

Please continue to save your pop top tabs from beverage cans and bring them to church to help support our local Ronald McDonald House.



The tabs are taken to a recycling center in exchange for funds that support operating costs at the Ronald McDonald House. A collection container is in the parish hall on the table by the door.

Reconsider the Rush

The Christmas rush leads to stress for many people. But author Burton Hills viewed the madness from another perspective:

"Eventually, the hour comes when the rushing ends and the race against the calendar mercifully comes to a close. It is only now, perhaps, that we truly recognize the spirit of Christmas. It is not a matter of days or weeks, but of centuries — [more than] twenty of them now since that holy night in Bethlehem. Regarded in this manner, the pre-Christmas rush may do us greater service than we realize. With all its temporal confusion, it may just help us to see that by contrast, Christmas itself is eternal."

About Our Prayer Shawls...

St. Mary's Prayer Shawl group has been making Prayer Shawls to give away for many years. We gather on the second Sunday of the month, at 11 a.m., during Coffee Hour, in the Parish Hall to work on our shawls.



When we have several completed, we put them on the altar rail in church to be blessed during a Sunday Service. Then they are put in the cedar chest in the Narthex. Anyone can take one for a friend or family member who is ill or going through something where a shawl could be a comfort. We just ask that you write your name in our little book, along with as much as you would like to tell us about who the shawl is for. (It can be as little as "for a sick friend" or more info if you would like to share it.)

New members are always welcome! If you don't know how to knit or crochet - we will teach you. Stop by our table and visit with us.

If you have questions or are interested in joining this group, talk to any of us, or contact **Kathy Mitchell** at klmitchell301@gmail.com or

A Reason to Give Thanks

After Eddie Rickenbacker and his companions were rescued after more than three weeks adrift in life rafts in the Pacific, he was asked what lesson he had learned from the ordeal.

He answered that anyone with plenty of fresh water to drink and enough food to eat should never complain.

His words still speak clearly today. Many blessings can become so familiar that we barely notice them. This Thanksgiving, pause to give thanks for clean water, nourishing food, a safe place to rest and the people God has placed in your life. Let gratitude continue long after the holiday table is cleared.

12 Christmas PRAYERS

1.Expectation
Fill us with hope, knowing that God kept his promise to send his Son to earth. *(See Isaiah 9:6-7.)*

2.Wonder
Just as the angel's message left Mary in awe, remind us of the joyful news of Jesus' coming. *(See Luke 1:31-33.)*

3.Humility
Like Joseph, make us willing to trust God and humbly care for others. *(See Matthew 1:20-21.)*

4.Obedience
On our earthly journey, teach us to follow your commands, just as Joseph and Mary obediently traveled to Bethlehem.*(See Luke 2:4-5.)*

5.Provision
Thank you for meeting all our needs, as you provided a stable and manger bed for Baby Jesus. *(See Luke 2:6-7.)*

6.Peace
Fill us with your perfect peace, which the angels proclaimed when Jesus was born. *(See Luke 2:13-14.)*

7.Praising
Remind us to follow the shepherds' example of celebrating and sharing the good news of Jesus' birth. *(See Luke 2:16-18.)*

8.Grateful
Keep us thankful for God's greatest gift, which Mary treasured on the first Christmas. *(See Luke 2:19.)*

9.Saved
May Jesus' precious name remind us of his power to save us from our sins. *(See Matthew 1:21.)*

10.Fulfilled
Give us content hearts, just as Simeon and Anna found fulfillment in the promised Savior.*(See Luke 2:28-32.)*

11.Worshipful
Like the gift-giving Magi, equip us to give Jesus our very best. *(See Matthew 2:10-11.)*

12.Wisdom
Help us seek your guidance as we follow and grow with Jesus. *(See Luke 2:49-52.)*



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St. Mary's Calendar Highlights

Eucharist/Holy Communion

Sundays at 8 a.m. & 10 a.m.

Wednesdays at 9 a.m.

Saturdays at 5 p.m.

Healing Prayer

After Dismissal first Sunday of the Month

Contemplative (Centering) Prayer

Tuesdays at 4 p.m. in the Chapel

Morning Prayer & Eucharist

Wednesdays at 9 a.m. in the Chapel

Choir Rehearsal

Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. in the Church

November



01 – Potluck Coffee Hour
01 – Daylight Saving Ends
03 – Election Day
08 – 11 a.m. Prayer Shawl Meeting
11 – 7 p.m. Homebrewed Faith: Apocalypse at Johnny Pizzas
14 – 4 p.m. Bingo & Craig's Awesome Chili Bring a White Elephant gift
21 – 10 a.m. – Noon Homebrewed Faith Retreat at Emmanuel UCC
22 – Christ the King Sunday
22 – 10 a.m. Emmanuel UCC joining us
26 – 9 a.m. Thanksgiving Service in the Chapel
28 – 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Cookie Sale
29 – 9 a.m. Advent Bible Study Begins in the Library

December



05 – 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. Bishop Election Discussion at St. Aiden's OR Zion Oconomowoc?
06 – Potluck Coffee Hour
06 – 11 a.m. Advent Crafts
06 – 4 p.m. Santa Comes to Dousman
12 – 10 a.m. Decorate the Nave for Christmas
13 – 11 a.m. Prayer Shawl Meeting
13 – Deadline to bring gifts for Safe Families Program to church
20 – 10 a.m. Christmas Pageant
20 – Christmas Caroling at Three Pillars
20 – Longest Night at 4 p.m. in the Chapel
24 – 4 p.m. Christmas Eve Service in the Chapel
24 – 9 p.m. Christmas Eve Service in the Church
25 – 10 a.m. Christmas Service in the Church
27 – 9 a.m. Lessons and Carols Service in the church

January 2027

03 – Potluck Coffee Hour
06 – 9:30 a.m. Wednesday Morning Class resumes
10 – 11 a.m. Prayer Shawl Meeting
24 – 9 a.m. Outreach Meeting



February 2027

07 – Pancake Coffee Hour

10 – Ash Wednesday:
9 a.m. & 7 p.m. Ash Wednesday Services



St. Mary's Contact Information

Staff

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Vestry - 2026

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Social Media

Website: www.stmarys-dousman.com

Facebook www.facebook.com/St-Marys-Episcopal-Church-670614162955490

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