

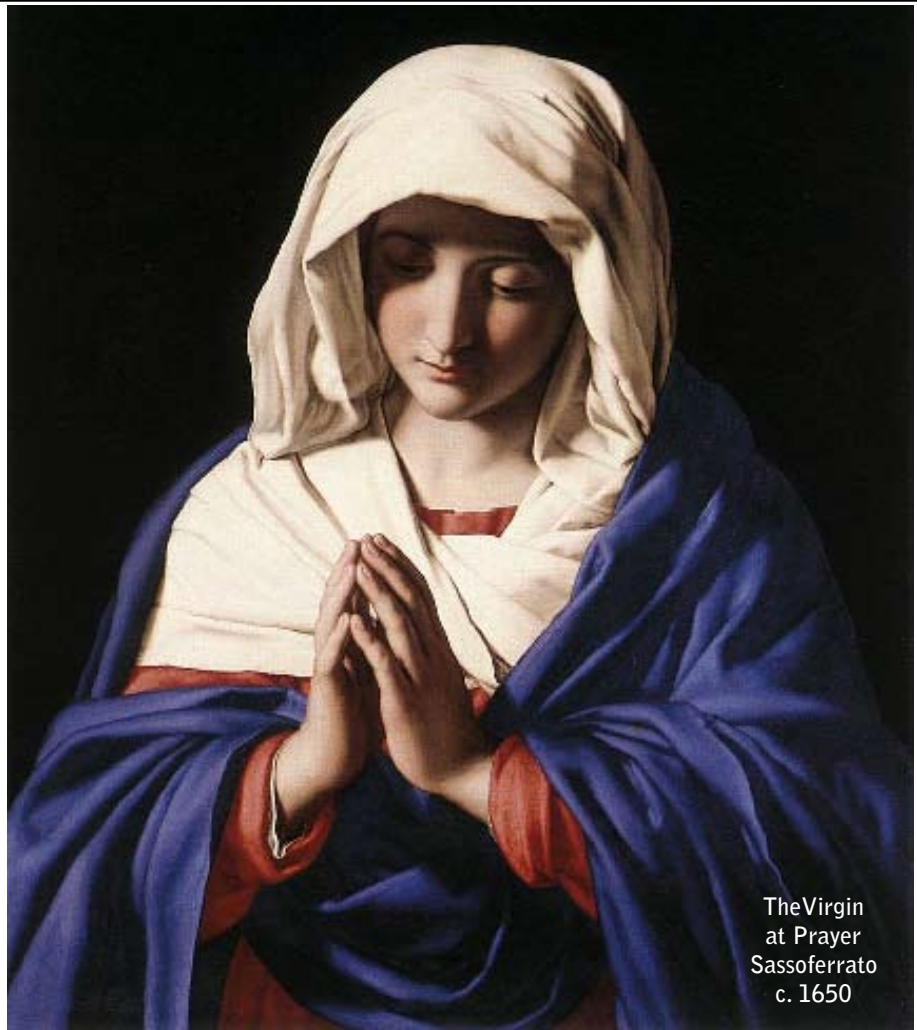


The Magnificat

Newsletter of
St. Mary's Episcopal Church
El Dorado, Arkansas
December 2017

And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has regarded the low estate of his handmaiden. For behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed; for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name."

Luke 1:46-49



The Virgin at Prayer
Sassoferrato
c. 1650

Christmas Schedule

- Dec. 20 or 27 **NO** Wednesday Children's Christian Formation
Dec. 24 9:00 am - Advent 4 Service, Rite I (one service only)
Following Service - Decorate Church for Christmas Service *
5:30 pm - Family Liturgy, Rite II (Incense will be used) Nursery provided
11:00 pm - Festival Choral Holy Eucharist, Rite I (Incense will be used)
Dec. 26 Church Office Closed
Dec. 31 10:00 am - Lessons & Carols, Church

* All Altar Guild and Flower Guild please come to the Church after the Dec. 24, 9 am service to help set up for Christmas Eve services. Any parishioner who might spare some time to help, would be greatly appreciated. We are in a bind this year with Advent 4 falling on the same day as Christmas Eve. The church cannot be decorated until Advent 4 is over so the more hands we have, the less time it will take. If you are entertaining company, bring them with you so they might experience the team spirit of St. Mary's! PLEASE give just a little of your time for this ministry!

**Sunday Readings for December
Year B
Revised Common Lectionary (RCL)**

Sunday	Psalm	Readings
December 3 Advent 1	Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18	Isaiah 64:1-9 1 Corinthians 1:3-9 Mark 13:24-37
December 10 Advent 2	Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13	Isaiah 40:1-11 2 Peter 3:8-15a Mark 1:1-8
December 17 Advent 3	Psalm 126	Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 John 1:6-8, 19-28
December 24 Advent 4 - 9 am	Canticle 3	2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16 Romans 16:25-27 Luke 1:26-38
December 24 Christmas Eve-5:30	Psalm 96	Isaiah 9:2-7 Titus 2:11-14 Luke 2:1-14, 15-20
December 24 Christmas Eve-10:30	Psalm 98	Isaiah 52:7-10 Hebrews 1:1-4,(5-12) John 1:1-14
December 31 Lessons & Carols	Psalm 147:13-21	Isaiah 61:10-62:3 Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7 John 1:1-18

December Birthdays

- 4 Jon Tarver
Charlotte Phillips
Julia Slaughter
Brandy Black
- 9 Cynthia Reyna
- 10 Andrew Arnold
- 13 Michael Peace
- 15 Jeanne Baumgardner
Larry Johnston
- 16 Diane Murfee
- 17 Jenny Williams
Kip Alewine
- 18 Lucie Giller
- 20 Diana Hunt
- 22 Margy Ann Richardson
- 24 Richard Alewine
- 29 Lark Tommey
- 30 Robin Deal
- 31 Charlene Frisby

If your birthday has been omitted or listed incorrectly, please call the Parish Office.



The Daughters of the King will pray for every family in the Parish during the course of the year.

December Prayer List:

- Melinda, Richard, and Kip Alewine
Fr. Bob Allen
- Mary Pat & Aubra Anthony
Evelyn Arnaud
- Ashley, Greg, and Andrew Arnold
Vicki Badgley
- Mollie & Michael Balfe and
Madeline and Oliver George
Shirley Ballard
Jack Barker
- Laura, Austin, Max,
and Olivia Barrow

The Staff and Volunteers Wish You a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Holy Days in December

- 1 Bl Nicholas Ferrar, Deacon, 1637
- 2 Bl Channing Moore Williams, Bishop in China & Japan, 1910
- 4 St. John of Damascus, Priest, c. 760
- 5 St. Clement of Alexandria, Priest, c. 210
- 6 St. Nicholas, Bishop of Myra, c. 342
- 7 St. Ambrose, Bishop of Milan, 397
- 21 St. Thomas, Apostle**
- 25 The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ**
- 26 St. Stephen, Deacon and Martyr**
- 27 St. John, Apostle and Evangelist**
- 28 The Holy Innocents**
- 29 St. Thomas Becket, 1170

**New Creations Life Center Christmas Day Lunch and Activities
for the Homeless Hosted by St. Mary's
Your Assistance is Welcome**

New Creations Life Center is an organization in El Dorado dedicated to ministering to the homeless of Union County, with the ultimate goal of opening a homeless shelter in El Dorado.

For several years New Creations has had a Christmas Day event for the homeless, and this year it will again take place at St. Mary's. Scheduled for 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., it will include a luncheon, Christmas gifts for everyone, entertainment, and the reading of the Christmas story. Last year they served 150 homeless people from this area.

Helpers are needed for a variety of needs, including food preparation (at home or in the parish kitchen), setup, serving, and cleanup. Monetary donations are needed to purchase meat, dressing, and rolls.

If you would like to help in any way please contact the parish office. Thank you for your interest in helping these most needy of our sisters and brothers.

Memorials to IHS

Interfaith Help Services has a supply of honorarium and memorial cards if you would wish to contribute to IHS as a memorial or to honor a friend or family member. These cards may be picked up in the IHS office Monday through Thursday 10 am to noon and 1 to 3 pm.

Epiphany Pageant

Wednesday, January 10

The 2018 Epiphany Pageant is scheduled for Wednesday, January 10, at 5:30 p.m. followed by a spaghetti supper prepared by our vestry members and helpers. Children will have snacks at 3:30 before practice. EYC members are asked to come at 4:00 p.m. for practice. Parents, please help! Other adult helpers welcome. All parish children and youth, from age 3 up to 12th grade are invited and encouraged to participate.

Interested in Joining a Tai Chi Class at St. Mary's?

Connie Toepel, a certified instructor and member of St. Mary's, has expressed an interest in teaching a class in Tai Chi as a ministry to our church. If you would be interested in learning this exercise, please call the church office at 870.863.7064 and let us know if you prefer a noon or 5:30 pm class and what days you could come. If we have enough interest, Connie can start the class in January.

Tai chi has also been called the Perfect Exercise. It's accessible to everyone, regardless of age or fitness level. The injury rate is low while the health and fitness benefits are high.

Originating in ancient China, tai chi is one of the most effective exercises for health of mind and body. Although an art with great depth of knowledge and skill, it can be easy to learn and soon delivers its health benefits. For many, it continues as a lifetime journey.

Numerous studies have shown tai chi improves muscular strength, flexibility, fitness, improves immunity, relieves pain, and improves quality of life. Muscle strength is important for supporting and protecting joints and is essential for normal physical function. Flexibility exercises enable people to move more easily, and facilitate circulation of body fluid and blood, which enhance healing. Fitness is important for overall functioning of the heart, lungs, and muscles. In addition to these components, tai chi movements emphasize weight transference to improve balance and prevent falls.

Special Christ Mass Offerings

Please find envelopes enclosed for your Christ Mass Offerings. They may be mailed to the Church or placed in the offering plate at a service. Please return envelopes with your information CLEARLY PRINTED to the Church Office no later than Sunday, December 18.

Warm Accessories Needed for Homeless

St. Mary's is hosting the New Creations Life Center's Christmas Day Lunch for the homeless. We want to involve the parish in this event. Other than the opportunities listed in the above article, we also want to give the people who come some warm things to wear such as gloves, mittens, knit caps or hats, scarves, and socks. Also needed are games, stuffed animals, etc. for the children. If you are willing to donate items, please place them in baskets located in the Narthex and office. Men's, women's, and children's sizes needed.

ECW Holiday Luncheon Welcomes All St. Mary's Women

A luncheon hosted by the ECW will be held at the home of Virginia Ray Ellzey, 1925 N. Calion Rd. on Tuesday, December 12 at 11:30 am. All women of St. Mary's are encouraged to come and enjoy the fellowship and a great lunch. Lunch will be served at noon.

Daughters of the King December Meeting

The Daughters of the King will have their regular December meeting at 5:30 on December 14 at the home of Doll Elliott, 2206 Pathway. The meeting will begin with a devotional, followed by a short business meeting and food & fellowship. DOK members are asked to bring birthday and Christmas gifts for the residents of Grace Point Nursing Home.



St. Mary's Episcopal Church
512 Champagnolle Road
El Dorado, AR 71730

(870) 863-7064 www.episcopaleldorado.org

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*The Episcopal Church for El Dorado
and Union County since 1849
The Rt. Rev. Larry Benfield, Bishop*

MEMORIALS

Frances Wharton: Sylvia Henley

Edwin Alderson: Sylvia Henley

John Scott Meadows: Sylvia Henley

Albert Hanna: Sylvia Henley

Betty Jo Ratcliff: Sylvia Henley



Merry Christmas

Worship Schedule

Sunday

8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II

9:00 am Adult Sunday School
Children's Sun. School

10:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I

Wednesday 5:30 pm

Evening Prayer

Monday-Friday 8:30 am Matins

Contact Information

Parish Office: (870) 863-7064

Fax: (870) 863-3713

Office Hours

Mon.-Thur., 9:00am-4:30pm

Fri. 9:00am-Noon

Website

episcopaleldorado.org

Email

episcopaleldorado@att.net

Staff

Fr. Michael Millard

Supply Priest Plus

Becky Choate

Administrative Assistant

Anita Ash Johnson

Administrative Professional

Walter Hale

Parish Minister of Music

Bob Lolley

Sexton

Robin Deal

Nursery

Vestry Members

Bubba Robertson,
Sr. Warden

Gary Harrell, Jr. Warden

Virginia Ray Ellzey

Jennifer Parks

Donnie Clayton

Glenn Holmes

Don Williams

Larry Frisby

Alexandra Bell

Martin Machen

Dominick Marino

Scott Simpson

Other officers:

Heather McGarity, Treas.

Becky Choate, Asst. Treas.

Sandra Pugh, Clerk

**St. Mary's Web Address:
episcopaleldorado.org**

Remember that the first Sunday of the month is Discretionary Fund Sunday

**Interfaith Help Services
Financial Statement October 2017**

Beginning Bank Balance	\$36,346
Total Income	<u>2,002</u>
Expenses Administration	188
Program Services:	
Program Equipment	0
Groceries	1,943
Dental	453
Eyeglasses	0
Medicine	0
Gasoline/Bus	550
Assistance with utilities:	
Electricity	3,200
Water	207
Natural gas & Propane	934
Total Program Services:	7,287
Total expenses:	<u>7,475</u>
Ending Bank Balance	\$30,873

**Interfaith Help Services
Activity Report October 2017**

Prescriptions	1
Dental	9
Utilities	
Entergy	67
Water	10
Gas	10
Propane	1
Gasoline	22
Bus Fare	1
Food	
People Served	425
Total Clients Seen	246
First Time Clients	38

