

**55<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL PARISH MEETING  
THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. MARY  
HAMPTON BAYS, NY**

**January 26, 2025 – 10:30am**

Call to Order

Opening Prayer and Thanksgiving

Approval of last year's Minutes

Introduction of Vestry Candidates

Voting

Presentation of New Vestry Members

Rectors Report (Presented during Sermon)

Treasurer's Report

Wardens Report

Reports of Church Groups, Committees, and Outreach

Presentation of Capital Campaign at Parish Level by Peter Saros

Closing Prayer

**Eligible Voters:**

Persons of full age (18) belonging the Parish, who have been baptized and are regular attendants at its worship and contributors to its support for at least twelve months prior to such election...shall be qualified voters at any such election or special meeting, (NY State Religious Corp. Law).



**The Episcopal Church of St. Mary**  
**165 Ponquogue Ave**  
**Hampton Bays, Ny 11946**  
**Minutes of the Annual Meeting - January 28, 2024**

**Members Present:** Co-Wardens: Mary Castro, Sue Rumph  
Vestry: Richard Brown, Elaine Curry, Adrian Drake, Janet Hanks, Karen Lucas, Pat McCrave and Russell Rose

**Also Present:** 35 Parishioners total

**Call to Order: 10:24am**

The meeting opened with prayer.

**Discussion points included:**

**Elections:**

Vestry Member - Elaine Curry - Re-election for 2<sup>nd</sup> three-year term

Vacant Vestry Position - Kevin Sullivan - Election for remaining 2 years of the prior Vestry member.

- No floor nominations
- Mary moved to close nominations and elect by acclamation.
- Motion made by Al Sparrow. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Craig Curry
- Unanimous support for all 2 to be elected.

**2023 Parish Budget - Treasurer Russell Rose**

- See Enclosed
- Discussion to inform the congregation that Vestry is looking into the possibility of selling part St. Mary's land.

**Reports of Ministry Leaders**

- See Attached
- Pat discussed rates for renting the Parish Hall & Fireside room. Encouraged parishioners to spread the word to get the space rented as much as possible.

**Warden's Report- Mary Castro & Sue Rumph**

- Mary expressed "We are a team, and we are going to work together."
- Current 2024 pledges - 25. Usually have about 30-35 by now.
- Sue thanked Russell for serving on the Vestry.

**The meeting concluded at 10:57am with prayer.**

Respectfully submitted,

*Aimee Brown*

Aimee Brown  
Vestry Clerk

***Rector's Report to the Parish Annual Meeting***  
**Sunday, January 26, 2025**  
**Saint Mary's Church, Hampton Bays, NY**

***Renewal 2025***

*"But seek the kingdom of God, and all these things shall be added to you." (Luke 12:31)*

*"For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he:" (Proverbs 23:7, KJV)*

*"And whatever things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive. " (Matthew 21:22)*

**Renewal** at Saint Mary's is the vision for 2025! Our parish has a strong grounding in spirituality, a relationship with God in Jesus and the gifts of the Holy Spirit. This is reflected in our discipleship through prayer, worship, music, and service to others for the past several decades. This year of Renewal is the strengthening of the foundations we already have and through our leadership, by the guidance of the Holy Spirit, organize and expand our ministries and outreach in the Hampton Bays area.

**Expansion through Social Media:** over the past 10 months our parish has obtained a new website, Facebook page and added an Instagram account, in addition to a weekly digital newsletter. We now have a parish app where people have the option to obtain important church information. In the weeks ahead our Services will be livestreamed, available through our website and Facebook page in order to reach shut-ins, parishioners that are away and new people.

**Expansion through presence in the Community:** Ashes to Go will continue with strong organization through connection with local business owners, cooperation with law enforcement in setting stations on Ash Wednesday around Hampton Bays. Parishioners that volunteer will receive a commissioning at church on Ash Wednesday before being sent out to the community with ashes and literature in English and Spanish on Lent and an introduction about our Parish.

We will also look into the possibility to use Ashes to Go as a paradigm for other important Feasts as well, i.e. "Palms to Go", etc.

**Expansion through Faith Forums and Parish Retreats:** Faith forums began in the fall of last year, with much success in participation in learning and discussion. The forums were held both in the Fireside Room and at the Rectory. I will be offering Parish Retreats this year with a special emphasis on the use of Prayer.

**For Renewal to be most effective we will continue to strengthen and expand committees and task forces for this year, I will appoint committees after the election of our new vestry.**

## Committees and Task Forces for 2025

1. **Property Committee: Care for buildings and grounds**
2. **Finance Committee: Organize Financial Records of the Church, Investment recommendations to the vestry**
3. **Stewardship Committee: Lead an annual stewardship program**
4. **Youth/Sunday School: To provide Christian Education for children, offer instruction for Confirmation, provide opportunities for trips and socials**
5. **Community Outreach: To organize our service to the community, fundraisers, recommend to vestry gifts for charity**
6. **Greeters: To welcome visitors at our services and provide them with directions to facilities, parish hall, etc.**
7. **Hispanic Task Force: To welcome and introduce our parish to the Latin American community in Hampton Bays, provide Sacraments and Services in Spanish, work with Rural and Migrant Ministries**
8. **Young Families Task Force: This group has already had a meeting in planning activities for young families in the parish.**

In assisting our evangelization of the Gospel and Sacraments to the community, it is necessary we provide the stewardship and finances to care for our building and grounds so to maintain a safe and attractive venue for God's work. One example is the need to repair the roof above the sanctuary in the church. For at least the last two decades, members of the altar guild must lay out trash bags on the credence table to prevent damage around the altar area when it rains. In the fall, water damage happened in the sacristy, a leak from the rain caused water to soak some of the altar linens and chalice veils. To address these needs the vestry voted to launch a Capital Campaign for this year with details being provided in the upcoming weeks.

I want to personally thank our Wardens, Vestry Members, leaders in all ministries and the entire parish for your prayers and support in my initial year as Rector. Renewal is a building up through faith, love, and mutual support in our ministries. I am enthusiastic with being part of Saint Mary's and working with you, my brothers and sisters in Christ!

Faithfully yours,

Father Justin

Christ has no body but yours, no hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes with which he looks compassionately on this world.

Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good.

Yours are the hands, with which he blesses all the world.

Yours are the hands. Yours are the feet. Yours are the eyes.

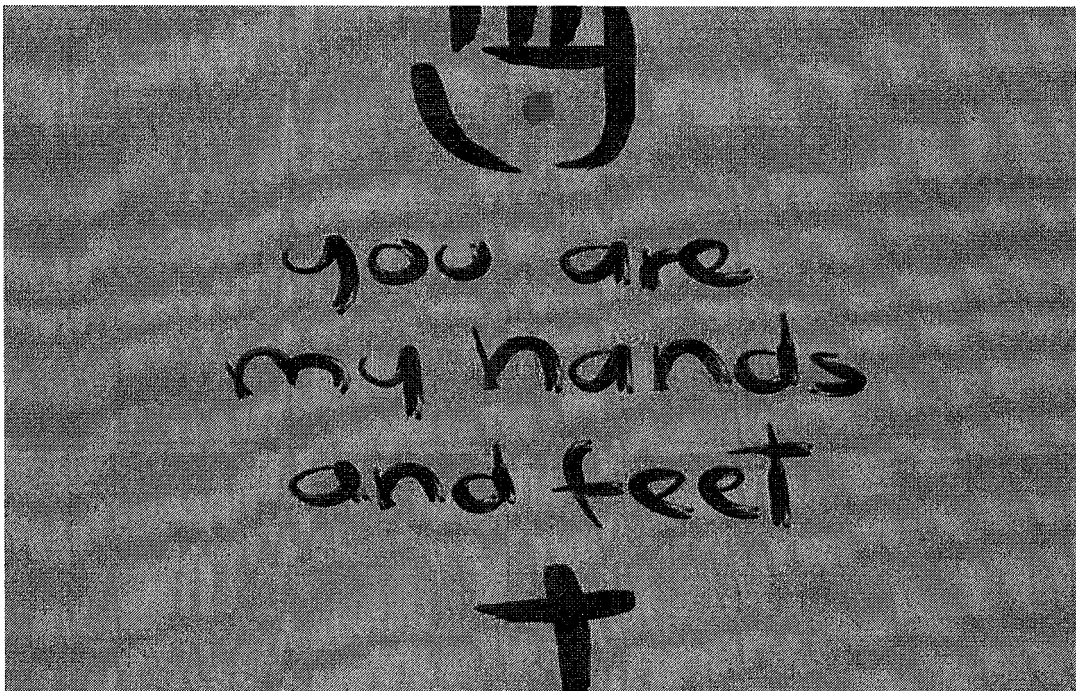
You are his body.

Christ has no body now but yours, no hands, no feet on earth **but** yours. Yours are the eyes with which he looks compassionately on this world.

Christ has no body now on earth but yours.

Amen.

- *Saint Theresa of Avila (1515-1582)*



EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. MARY  
ANNUAL MEETING - JANUARY 2025  
Report from the Wardens

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2024 began as busily as 2023 ended — searching for our next Rector. After numerous interviews both in person and on Zoom and after much prayer and discernment, we were blessed to have Fr. Justin Falciani accept our call as Rector of St. Mary's. He celebrated our first Eucharist on Sunday, April 7, 2024, and since then has shown his dedication and commitment to our spiritual and communal growth.

As a parish, we've had our fair share of joy and sorrows. Through it all, we've held each other up and continued forward with God's help. Although not expecting it as early as it occurred, we saw the departure of Jennifer Phillips, our longtime Parish Administrator. Certainly, just as surprising, we were soon blessed with Ana Alarcon as our new Parish Administrator. In her capable hands, she has re-organized daily office tasks and works seamlessly with both the vestry and with Fr. Justin. Another new face on the scene was Jim Tartaglia as Music Director. His energy, experience, and enthusiasm drew more people to join the choir. We are indeed making a joyful noise!

It was with mixed feelings that Don Sherwood turned over the reins of his ABATE and Angel Tree ministry to me and to Susan. It takes nearly a dozen of us to do the work that dear Don has been doing for 30 years. Beginning with the ABATE Motorcycle Run in early November 2024 and moving non-stop into December for his Angel Tree ministry, we worked hard to make him proud. He was always on hand to make sure that needy families did not slip through the cracks. And we know he's never far away when we'll need his advice in future. Thank you, Don.

Betty Sparrow had announced earlier in the year that she was bringing her tenure as Altar Guild head to a close. Working diligently behind the scenes for every Sunday service and notably on the front lines for the high holy days, she would always let us know that the Altar Guild was "setting the Lord's table." Such a humble way of putting it and so true to heart. Thank you, Betty.

As we close out 2024 and prepare ourselves for 2025, we can appreciate how strong a parish we are. The reports from each ministry will highlight our accomplishments. It is an honor for this vestry to serve St. Mary's with love and pride.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Castro and Susan Rumph  
Wardens

SAINT MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
 Statement of Financial Position - Cash Basis  
 (Vestry & Parishers Use Only)  
 As of December 31, 2024 and 2023

	December 31,	
	2024	2023
<b>ASSETS:</b>		
Cash in Bank	\$ 95,537.99	54,835.81
Investments	460,136.71	415,648.30
Property and equipment	6,055,090.00	6,055,090.00
Total Assets	\$ 6,610,764.70	\$ 6,525,574.11
 <b>NET ASSETS</b>		
Without restrictions	6,506,827.85	6,421,733.72
With restrictions	103,936.85	103,840.39
Total net Assets	\$ 6,610,764.70	\$ 6,525,574.11



SAINT MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
Statement of Activities  
(Vestry & Parishers Use Only)  
Years Ended December 31, 2024 and 2023

	December 31,		Budget
	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2026</u>
<b>SUPPORT AND REVENUES</b>			
Contributions			
Regular	\$ 192,589.18	\$ 187,543.37	\$ 227,500.00
Seasonal	11,930.50	3,994.00	8,050.00
Deficit Reduction	27,600.00		
	<u>232,119.68</u>	<u>191,537.37</u>	<u>235,550.00</u>
Fundraising	18,869.17	22,689.77	29,800.00
Parish Rentals	12,040.00	3,700.00	14,550.00
Alter Guild	(70.44)	2.50	100.00
Miscellaneous	8,814.82	3,947.95	1,400.00
Total revenue and support	<u>271,773.23</u>	<u>221,877.59</u>	<u>281,400.00</u>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Rector	98,552.96	70,664.23	113,600.00
Buildings and grounds	54,762.27	66,917.79	47,750.00
Administration	70,622.05	52,638.08	79,974.00
Music	16,746.86	7,373.21	22,170.00
Rector search and relocation	12,850.99	3,527.28	
Miscellaneous	68,785.35	62,486.07	76,411.00
Support Programs	868.65	(282.55)	
Total expenses	<u>323,189.13</u>	<u>263,324.11</u>	<u>339,905.00</u>
<b>Change in assets from normal operations</b>	<b>(51,415.90)</b>	<b>(41,446.52)</b>	<b>(58,505.00)</b>
<b>Capital Projects</b>			
Capital Improvement Contributions	124,618.31		10,000.00
Capital Improvement Expenditures	<u>(34,737.00)</u>	<u>(4,883.42)</u>	<u>(95,881.00)</u>
<b>Change in assets from capital improvements</b>	<b>38,465.41</b>	<b>(4,883.42)</b>	<b>(85,881.00)</b>
<b>Other Income</b>			
Diocesan Trust Accounts	2,236.77	2,066.53	2,250.00
Investment return Bernstein, net	<u>44,488.41</u>	<u>(9,460.77)</u>	<u>37,728.00</u>
Change in net assets	85,190.59	(55,790.71)	<u>\$ (104,408.00)</u>
<b>Net assets, beginning of year</b>	<u>6,525,574.11</u>	<u>6,581,364.82</u>	
<b>Net assets, end of year</b>	<u>\$ 6,610,764.70</u>	<u>6,525,574.11</u>	



**SAINT MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH SUPPORTING EXPENSE SCHEDULES**

(Vestry & Parishers Use Only)

Years Ended December 31, 2024 and 2023

	December 31, <b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>	Budget <b>2025</b>
<b>RECTOR</b>			
Compensation	\$ 54,114.19	\$ 27,421.73	\$ 70,188.00
Insurance	16,250.00	17,054.00	17,976.00
Utilities	2,688.13	8,612.85	4,750.00
Substitute Priest	6,807.51	8,875.00	1,950.00
Pension	18,066.29	6,722.97	17,736.00
Other	626.84	1,977.68	1,000.00
	<u>\$ 98,552.96</u>	<u>\$ 70,664.23</u>	<u>\$ 113,600.00</u>
<b>BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS</b>			
Compensation	\$ 14,005.43	\$ 16,333.95	\$ 10,400.00
Utilities	11,977.14	19,166.08	17,250.00
Repairs and maintenance	27,057.15	18,342.16	18,750.00
Legal		11,004.91	
Other	1,722.55	2,070.69	1,350.00
	<u>\$ 54,762.27</u>	<u>\$ 66,917.79</u>	<u>\$ 47,750.00</u>
<b>ADMINISTRATION</b>			
Compensation	\$ 38,950.74	\$ 36,949.71	\$ 41,682.00
Insurance	10,843.00	3,374.00	22,848.00
Pension	3,900.18	1,668.24	1,594.00
Cablevision	5,121.89	2,732.70	3,800.00
Copier Lease	3,192.00	3,192.00	4,000.00
Computer and Technology	2,334.21	471.41	1,500.00
Office supplies and postage	6,280.03	4,250.02	4,550.00
	<u>\$ 70,622.05</u>	<u>\$ 52,638.08</u>	<u>\$ 79,974.00</u>
<b>MUSIC</b>			
Compensation	\$ 11,497.78	\$ 5,086.46	\$ 19,770.00
Substitute Organist	3,000.00	1,300.00	1,000.00
Other	2,249.08	986.75	1,400.00
	<u>\$ 16,746.86</u>	<u>\$ 7,373.21</u>	<u>\$ 22,170.00</u>
<b>RECTOR SEARCH AND RELOCATION</b>			
Search Process	\$ 3,338.00	\$ 3,527.38	\$
Moving	9,512.99		

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\$	<b>12,850.99</b>	\$	<b>3,527.38</b>	\$
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**MISCELLANEOUS**

Diocesan Assessment and Convention	\$	<b>24,984.35</b>	\$	<b>24,227.79</b>	\$	<b>24,723.00</b>
Outreach and missions		<b>4,650.00</b>		<b>756.78</b>		<b>5,000.00</b>
Insurance		<b>30,245.14</b>		<b>33,737.86</b>		<b>40,608.00</b>
Other		<b>8,905.86</b>		<b>3,763.64</b>		<b>6,080.00</b>
	\$	<b>68,785.35</b>		<b>62,486.07</b>		<b>76,411.00</b>

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# Sunday School Annual Report for 2024

## Status

Sunday school remains a tight knit group of kids and parents. We currently have 7 kids attending regularly. At times during the different seasons the 7 kids that attend Sunday school have other commitments with activities such as sports, cheer and Scouts. Despite rarely having full attendance each week, the Sunday School as a whole shows up for important events such as the Christmas Pageant, Installation of Father Justin, and has made the church proud for retaining youth involvement. We feel the obstacles to gaining new families are time, fear of commitment, unfamiliarity with religion, being over scheduled with other activities, and parents that work full time. In addition to the 7 kids, we have others from the community come for events such as the Christmas Pageant and ABATE Toy and Food Drive.

## Content

Our weekly lessons are activities that support the word of the gospel. We have creative lessons with Arts and Crafts, as well as thought-provoking discussions on faith. We provide the kids with education on The Episcopal Religion including the sacraments, the prayers, Bible Stories and this year have included lessons from the Virginia Theological Seminary Website introduced to us by Father Justin. Our lessons take place in both the Sunday School Room as well as the outdoor chapel. Use of the Outdoor Chapel has brought a very fresh dynamic to the Sunday school in the Fall and Spring that is appreciated by the teachers and students.

The Sunday school serves in church as acolytes approximately 1 x month throughout the year. Community Service and giving back to the community have increased this year. These ministries are important to the kids, their families as well as the church- as they have supported our efforts wholeheartedly.

## Happenings

Our Annual Lenten Project of supporting Heifer International with our Bake Sale in 2024 was the most successful to date. We had generous donations of both baked goods and purchasing the baked goods from the congregation. We also had donations made by the Church Ladies and The Brotherhood of St. Andrew. A total of \$1200 was raised, allowing the Sunday School to pick out the animals they wanted to purchase and send the communities that have food insecurity.

We have done 2 walks from the church to the Blessing Boxes, filling the box with non-perishable food items. (May 12, 2024 and October 27, 2024)

The Sunday school assisted with ABATE Food and Toy Drive by making welcome signs, greeting ABATE and unloading toy and food from the trucks.

Sunday school had representation with a table at Christmas Fair benefiting Maureen's Haven.

The kids raised \$245 to buy supplies such a long Sleeve t- shirts as well as hats and gloves for the Guests of Maureen's Haven that come to St. Mary's

We had one of our most successful Christmas Eve Pageants- a traditional nativity.

The pageant had a Narrator that went deeper into the History of the Birth of Jesus. We had Mary, Joseph, a Shepherd, 3 Angels, and three wise men. Traditionally we open the pageant up to children that are related to the parishioners, even though they don't attend Sunday school regularly, this inclusiveness only enhances our pageant as well as brings opportunities to share our faith and hopefully continue to grow the church.

Julia Distenfeld

Adrian Drake

## ALTAR GUILD ANNUAL REPORT 2025

Altar Guild is blessed to have 15 active and dedicated women. Teams of 3 or 4 are assigned on a regular basis to one week each month to set up for all church services. Months where there are five weeks the two chair people take the responsibility. We are a cohesive group who readily support and fill in for each other.

Altar Guild is responsible for preparing the altar for each church service, including baptisms, weddings, funerals and any special services. We are responsible for the care of linens, vestments, silver and brass. We prepare and decorate the church for Advent, Christmas, Lent, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter. We support Fr. Justin in whatever special requests are needed for worship.

This year an unusual storm caused water damage in some of the sacristy storage drawers. As a result, some altar coverings were damaged. Thanks to a donation given in 2023 we were able to replace the damaged items. The new items will be dedicated in memory of Theresa Sullivan, who was a dedicated member of the Altar Guild. The Hilbert family donated new altar linens in thanksgiving for St. Mary's support of John's Eagles Scout Project which was the start of creating our Chapel in the Woods. In December a three-hundred-dollar donation was also received.

After 16 years of leading Altar Guild Barbara Nordlund and I are passing the torch of leadership to Irene Blydenbugh and Freddie Hughes. It has been a blessing to serve St. Mary's in this capacity.

Respectfully Submitted,

Betty Sparrow

## Buildings and Grounds Committee

2024 was an active year for your Buildings & Ground Committee with both a number of problems and projects addressed, the groundwork laid for significant improvements, and a few put off pending funding.

Problems resolved include:

- Repairing the failed furnace and laundry sink in the Rectory
- Replacing the failed hot water heater at the Church
- Repairing the failed cold water supply line to the Parish Hall men's bathroom. This was a larger and more costly project than might be expected due to the water pipes being laid into the concrete floor.
- The a/c unit in the Church Office was repaired, so that the condensate now drains properly outside the building.

Improvements made:

- The tan and brown "St Mary's" sign at our main entrance was repainted, new "Dark Sky" compliant LED lighting installed and a new small sign with Fr Justin's name installed. The post lamps were re-bulbed to match.
- A Service Contract was signed with Weber & Graham to service and maintain all HVAC equipment in the Church and Rectory.
- The chimney in the fireside room was thoroughly inspected in preparation for installing a gas log set and was found to be in very good condition.
- Thanks to several generous donors, the initial groundwork was laid to enable St Mary's to provide on-line Sunday services to the parish and community. This included upgrading our Wi-Fi capability. This work is being completed this month.

Works in progress:

- Again through generous, anonymous gifts, St Mary's has embarked on a major project which includes replacing the Parish Hall roof with a state-of-the art GAF membrane-type roof and the addition of an array of solar panels. In addition to solving long-term problems with the Parish Hall roof, the solar installation is projected to eliminate our electric bill for the Church complex, thus returning our investment in 8 years. Contracts have been signed with Sunation Energy and their subcontractor A-1 roofing. All necessary paperwork has been completed and submitted to the various entities involved. Work should begin shortly.
- 15 new deer-resistant "false holly" plants have been acquired to replace the deer-damaged yews in the Remembrance Garden.

Work deferred due to funding:

- Several desirable projects have been placed on "hold" due to a shortage of available funding.

- The asphalt-paved driveways and parking areas need to be re-sealed and possibly striped. We have estimates for this work.
- The exterior doors at each end of the Sunday-School room and their surrounding trim and frames have become rotted due to many-years exposure to water. These need to be replaced and gutter installed above them to prevent the recurrence of this problem. We have estimates for this work.
- Improved lighting is needed in the main parking area, for both personal safety and security. Lighting has been investigated but no estimates yet obtained. There is a possibility of getting Federal Grant money for this project.

## **Space Use/Rentals**

For 2024 we had 6 events in the Parish Hall which totaled \$4,200.00

We also have monthly rentals from two AA groups, Salsa dance group, yoga, and some annual meetings held here by different groups.

This rental totaled \$8,000.00 for the year 2024.

Future rentals of our spaces look very promising.



**Brotherhood of St. Andrew**  
**Episcopal Church of St. Mary's Chapter**  
**2025 Report of Annual Meeting**  
**January 26, 2025**

St. Mary's Chapter is chartered member of the National Brother of St. Andrew.

At this time, we have ten active members that meet on the fourth Tuesday of each month for dinner, fellowship, reading of Scripture and Bible Study. We are all encouraged to share our Christian Walk with others as we strive "to know Christ and to make him known".

We don't meet in August during the summer months.

All of our members are active participants in the life our parish from Outreach, Christian Education, support for Maureen's Haven, Abate, Fundraising, etc. Several of our members are leaders in the spiritual life of our parish from ushering, scripture reading, assisting the priest at the altar, etc.

We all share in the various responsibilities of the evening which include opening prayer, cook for the evening, dessert of the evening, beverage selection/snacks and Bible Study leader.

Our vision is to grow our chapter and continue to be a vital part of the life of this wonderful parish.

Our new Rector, Father Justin Falciani, is a contributing member of our Brotherhood meeting and offers us spiritual insight along with Father Frederick.

All men of our parish are invited to join our organization. The date and time of meetings are listed in the weekly bulletin. There are friendly email reminders of up-and-coming meetings and events.

In peace with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ and Brother St. Andrew.

Respectfully submitted, Timothy Rumph, Chapter Director

## Daughters of the King

The Daughter's of the King have met 3 times in 2024. We had an initial planning meeting where we laid out a plan for the next several months. We have had approximately 5 - 10 women in attendance at each meeting. All members are current on their dues.

We open each meeting with prayer and then address old and new business. We have revitalized the Teddy Bear Ministry, led by The Daughter/s of the King but open to anyone who would like to participate.

We are currently working on a Bible study called Fierce - Women of the Bible. The conversations have been engaging and prayerful.

We meet monthly on the first Tuesday of the month for our meetings and come together again for the Teddy Bear Ministry on Thursday mornings. There is beautiful fellowship and spirituality among the women. We close our meetings with prayer.

We look forward to the new year and hope to possibly add a Junior Daughter's program in the future.

Prayerfully submitted by,

Deborah Krauss

## MAUREEN'S HAVEN

2024 was another year of hosting and providing the venue for the other churches in Hampton Bays to offer a helping hand to those experiencing homelessness in the winter months who would otherwise be sleeping in cars, along the train tracks or in the woods.

We partner with three other churches in Hampton Bays : St. Rosalies, the Assembly of God, and the Methodist Church. Our team has been able to serve up to 35 guests on any given evening from November to April.

St Mary's provides:

- \* The facilities (the Community Room, the Fireside Room and associated restrooms)
- \* The bedding air mattresses, pillows, blankets and the linen. Every week Russell and/or Claudia Rose brings the linens to The Laundry Room in Southampton every week where they are washed folded at no charge.
- \* The use of the kitchen for the volunteers to create delicious and nourishing meals.

**There are many volunteers that participate when St. Mary's plays the role of host:**

Set up: Barbara Anderson has been doing the set up for when St Mary's or St Rosalie's play the role of host. She and her team, including Holly Anderson, Todd Anderson, Jr and youth volunteers she employs work very hard to create a welcoming environment for the arriving guests to experience.

Meals: The Sunday school children, the Church Ladies, The Brotherhood, and Potunk #1071 (Masonic) Lodge members from Riverhead have played a major role.

Bagged Lunches: Claudia Rose teams with several of our church members (Pat McCrave, Diane Sherwood, Irene and Doris Fernandez) put together sandwiches, drinks, fruit chips cookies for the guests to take with them as they leave.

Overnight hosts: At the start of the tax season, we have had help from Doris Fernandez and Sue and Tim Rumph play the role of shepherds to ensure peaceful evenings.

A special shout out goes to Emily Hilbert for offering her sewing talents to guests with holes that needed patching or seams that needed restitching.

The Sunday School raised \$200 at the Christmas Fair to provide needed apparel for the winter months.

John and Carol Mitchell found a site on Amazon that offers packages of gloves, socks and hats from which they donated to the program. Several parishioners Rachel Copt, Diane Sherwood and others have dropped off clothing and blankets which are also greatly appreciated.

We are blessed to have the support of our congregation and other volunteers in the community who join us as well.

## Church Ladies 2024

The “Church Ladies” of St Mary’s Episcopal Church met 12 times in 2024 to socialize with other women from our Church family with the idea to donate “kitty” money back to the church or community.

Our hostesses for 2024 were:

Peg Allen, January

Pat McCrave February and November

Freddie Hughes March and December

Mary Castro April

Sue Rumpf May,

Betty Sparrow June

Barbara Sirois July

Elaine Curry August

Doris Rose September

Carol Mitchell October.

A good time is always had by all. Our attendance is usually anywhere from 12-20 depending on the weather and previous commitments.

We ask for a donation for the “Kitty” and in return have donated the money back to the community.

We have donated in conjunction with St Mary’s for a Full-page ad for the HBHS production of Grease

We gave the Sunday School \$100 so they could make dinner for Maureen’s Haven

In April, we gave the Sunday School \$125 for their Heifer Fund.

In May, we gave \$300 to a Plaque on one of the Outside Altar Benches

In August we gave the Backpack Ministry \$250 toward backpacks for kids that could not afford them.

In November \$100 for Breakfast for Maureen’s Haven, thank you Kathy Luce for Helping

In December we gave the Angel Tree ministry \$300 and \$300 went to Heart of the Hamptons Polar Bear plunge

We meet monthly on the third Tuesday at 6pm. We announce where the meeting will take place on Sundays prior to the meeting.

We ask participants to bring an appetizer or dessert and what they are drinking to the meeting.

Suggested donation to the “Kitty” is \$5 per month.

We look forward to this new year and to giving back to our Church and community.

## **ABATE**

Helping and serving others is what makes St. Mary's a spiritual and loving community. On Sunday, November 3rd, our church hosted over 200 hungry people and 150 motorcyclists. ABATE brought 100's of toys to be dispersed among our community along with 25 boxes of canned foods. Due to the hard work and collection of donations from our ABATE friends by our Sunday School students, their teachers and some very enthusiastic parishioners, ABATE wrote St. Mary's a check for \$6000.00! This money along with donations from the Masonic Lodge, our Ladies Night group, Serenity Nails and employees of Southampton Hospital's outpatient medical records department, allowed St. Mary's to disburse over \$7000.00 worth of gift cards for our needy families both near and far. The organizations that we serviced include Hampton Bays school district, our ABATE families, our Angel Tree families related to prisoners, the Retreat, the Shinnecock Nation, Family Service League, Eastern Farm Workers, Nana's House and Centro's gift giving program.

St. Mary's parishioners should be proud of their efforts in cooking chili, donating hot dogs, buns and cookies, cleaning the kitchen, setting up and taking down tables and chairs, organizing toys and food, packing 25 boxes, calling families and organizations, delivering extra items and so much more! Our congregation is AWESOME!

*"Then they will reply, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison and didn't do anything to help you?' 'Then he will answer, 'I assure you that when you haven't done it for one of the least of these, you haven't done it for me.'"*

Matthew 25: 44-45

Susan Rumph, Mary Castro and the Outreach Committee

## **Non-Food Pantry**

In the past year we delivered carloads of non-food items to the St. Rosalie's community pantry.

We had \$1500 from our church plus many donations from our congregation.

Some of the items were toilet paper, tissues, soap, toothpaste, deodorant, and much more.

Also, late summer we had our 2<sup>nd</sup> backpack drive. We collected 53 backpacks and 28 Target Gift cards that we donated to the food pantry.

They were then handed out to families in need.

St. Rosalie is very grateful for our continued support to this mission and the Committee would like to thank all our wonderful parishioners that helped make that possible.

## **Blessings Box Report 2024**

It's hard to believe that this is our fourth year servicing the local Blessings Boxes here in Hampton Bays just off Montauk Hwy. on the path leading to Good Ground Park, and at the public library on Ponquogue Ave.

Our volunteers here at St. Mary's share the responsibility of filling the two boxes on a daily basis along with volunteers from Assembly of God Church, and St Rosalies RC Church of Hampton Bays. Each parish is given a 2 week rotation ( 1-15, and 16-30/31), and alternate between the 2 boxes throughout the month.

Since the inception of these two boxes, and the rising costs in the economy, we continue to see more and more need in the community for supplemental food for individuals, and families alike. Currently, the greater portion of our stock is stored at St Rosalies Parish Resource Center, where we go monthly to pick up items needed to replenish our cabinet here at St. Mary's. All of the foods collected for Blessing Boxes is done so by donations from each individual parish, through food drives, parishioner donations, and grants from the state and county.

Our biggest supporter is the Hampton Bays Rotary who sponsors this program that allows us to be able to do what we do, and the Committee for the Common Good, whose idea it was to have these boxes in place in our community. BOMBAS sock company also donates hundreds of pairs of sock for us to distribute along with our food sources at the Blessing Boxes.

Many, many thanks go out to our incredible volunteers here at St. Mary's who take the time to serve others in need, and to you, our parishioners who donate and help to keep our own cabinet filled throughout the year.

This past year our Sunday School children joined in on several occasions to help fill our Blessing Box at the public library as part of their contribution to this ministry. We are so blessed that St. Mary's is able to be a part of this great ministry in our community.

Respectfully submitted,

Irene Blydenburgh

Matthew 25:35 - for I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in.