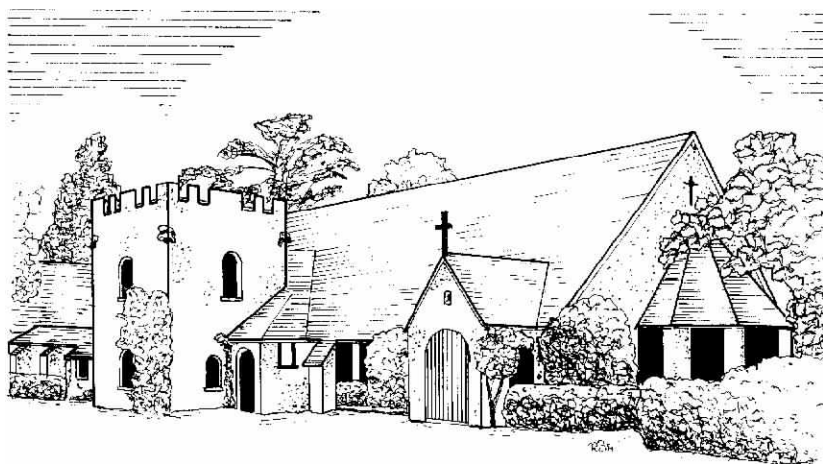


**A Newcomer's Guide to
The Church of St. Mary
and the Episcopal Church in general**



Revised October, 2026

Welcome!

We warmly welcome you to **Saint Mary's Parish**, and we are delighted to have you worship with us today!

At Saint Mary's, we are a faith community centered on the **Sunday celebration of Holy Communion**. Strengthened by God's Word and nourished by the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood, we are sent forth to live our faith and serve others in His Name.

I invite you to participate fully in our Liturgy and discover the many opportunities Saint Mary's offers for **ministry, community service, fellowship, and faith formation**. We have an active Sunday School for children, as well as opportunities for adults to grow in faith through Bible study and other faith-formation groups.

If you would like us to pray for you or a loved one, please let one of our ushers know. We will be happy to include your prayer request on our parish prayer list.

May God bless your journey of faith and fill your time with us today with His grace and peace.

Faithfully yours in Christ,

Father Justin Falciani

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About St. Mary's

The Church of St. Mary is a spiritually and socially active Christian community that celebrates our faith and welcomes newcomers with enthusiasm and friendship.

- Prayer, the sacraments, and the liturgy play a central role in our lives.
- Spiritual leadership is provided by the clergy and by the laity: The priesthood of all believers is a foundation stone of the church.
- St. Mary's has a strong, well-supported Christian education program for children through high school.
- Music is central to our worship: our choir sings every Sunday, with special music provided by instrumentalists.
- We place emphasis on stewardship, active and broad-based participation in parish events, and effective communication.

We recognize the need to continue to grow and to continue to be a loving and Christ-like congregation. We look forward to welcoming you to our church community.

History

The Reverend Samuel Centennial Fish of St. John's, Southampton, conducted the first service in Hampton Bays in the home of Earl B. Squires on March 26th, 1912. Services were held in the Ponquogue Chapel of The Silver Link Sewing Society building, just south of the property, until 1920 when the Rt. Rev. Frederic Burgess, Bishop of Long Island, consecrated the newly built church which was made possible through the foresight and generosity of Virginia Taylor Hardy.

Mrs. Hardy purchased our baptismal font from an Italian prince and the Skinner organ was donated by Safford Delano in 1921. Its twin is in the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C.

In 1926 Mrs. Hardy once again graced St. Mary's with yet another generous gift, this time in the form of our rectory

Two years later Rev. Fish retired as priest-in-charge and was succeeded by The Rev. William St. John Blackshear for six months. The Rev. William H. Cumpston followed him in December of 1928.

Then in 1931 Mrs. Hardy gave Guild Hall, now called the Fireside Room, which was furnished by Mr. & Mrs. Thomas LeClaire Jacques.

The Mothers' Garden was dedicated on Mothers' Day in 1933 by Rev. Cumpston who served as priest-in-charge until his retirement in 1942.

In 1943 The Rev. Frank North arrived at St. Mary's followed by The Rev. Hubert Buckingham from June of 1945 to July of 1947.

Father Gerald M. Gardner began his 28 year ministry in 1948, first as priest-in-charge and finally as our first rector in 1966. Robert Larsen began serving as "temporary" organist in 1956. During Fr. Gardner's tenure, the parish hall was built through the generosity of Marjorie Kent Kilpatrick. The organ was rebuilt in 1968 and our carillon was installed in 1977. Fr. Gardner said goodbye in 1978 and enjoyed a long retirement until he went home to our Lord in 1996.

Fr. Daniel S. Harris served as rector from 1978-1985. During Fr. Dan's ministry our parish became actively involved in the Episcopal Cursillo movement and a chapter of The Brotherhood of St. Andrew was formed. In 1981 our nursery school opened its doors under the direction of Peg Allen and Dee Harris.

The Rev. Warren E. Haynes was installed as rector in 1986 and served until his retirement in 1998. Under Fr. Haynes our cursillo community grew and we introduced a "praise" music Eucharist

once a month. We became involved with prison ministry, Midnight Run and the Angel Tree and ABATE holiday gift programs. Our youth group made numerous trips to New York City and beyond. And through the generosity of Virginia & Joseph Marotta, our outdoor columbarium, The Garden of Remembrance, was built.

Mother Bernadette Sullivan came to us in 2000. During her tenure we sponsored youth missionary trips to Guatemala and the Cursillo community continued to grow. Summer beach Eucharists were introduced as well as monthly healing services. St. Mary's became the first parish to volunteer for the Maureen's Haven ministry to the homeless of eastern Long Island. Bishop Provenzano. celebrated a special Eucharist with us for our 100th anniversary in 2012

In 2014 Father Philip Hubbard was called to be our rector having served most recently in Kansas City, MO. Under his leadership we expanded all of our outreach programs and held beach Eucharists and weekly Healing Eucharists. Several major projects were completed including re-paving our parking lots and driveways, painting the exterior of the Church and rectory and completing the sidewalks in front of the Church. Our Chapel in the Woods was began as an Eagle Scout project. Fr. Hubard left us in 2022.

Governance

Our Rector

The Reverend Justin Falciani was called to serve as Rector in April 2024, becoming the sixth Rector in the parish's history. Prior to coming to St. Mary's, Father Justin served for more than thirteen years as Rector of Christ Episcopal Church in Somers Point, New Jersey. Father Justin received his Master of Divinity from Virginia Theological Seminary in Alexandria, Virginia, and his Master of Arts in Theology from Union Theological Seminary in New York City.

His ministry reflects a deep commitment to the life of the Church, pastoral care, and building meaningful relationships within the wider community.

Since arriving at St. Mary's, Father Justin has helped expand the parish's ministry and outreach in new and meaningful ways. For the first time in its history, St. Mary's has established an active Hispanic Ministry and outreach, as well as a Native American Task Force. He has also encouraged the growth of a Young Families Group and serves as chaplain to the parish's Daughters of the King. And many of our services are now Livestreamed and archived on our Facebook page.

Father Justin believes that the ministry of the Church extends beyond its walls and into the wider community. In keeping with this vision, he serves on the Safe in Southampton Coalition, a community organization in the Town of Southampton that connects individuals and families with behavioral health resources, treatment information, and crisis support services.

He is also part of a group of community partners working to support the continued development and availability of the HALI Mobile Shower Unit (MSU) on the East End, helping provide essential services and dignity to individuals experiencing homelessness.

Through his ministry at St. Mary's and his involvement in the wider community, he seeks to help the parish live out its calling to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ through worship, service, hospitality, and love of neighbor

Our Vestry

The governing body of an Episcopal parish is called a Vestry, which, at St. Mary's, is comprised of two co-wardens and six members elected for three-year alternating terms. Our vestry meets on the second Tuesday of each month.

Annual Meeting & Election Process

St. Mary's holds its annual meeting in January. At the meeting, the rector, vestry, and various committees present their reports. The nominating committee presents a slate of nominees for the vestry and wardens, on which the members vote. The treasurer presents the annual budget for the upcoming year, which the vestry has approved in advance, and answers any questions parishioners may have.

Diocesan Support

St. Mary's is one of 138 parishes in the Diocese of Long Island, which, in turn, is one of 110 dioceses in the larger Episcopal Church USA. (ECUSA) We receive support from the Diocese in ministry, Christian education, spiritual formation, and financial governance. In return, St. Mary's contributes a portion of its budget every year to support the Diocese and its programs, including Camp DeWolfe, Episcopal Health Services, along with ongoing support for the George Mercer Jr. Memorial School of Theology and other pastoral training. St. Mary's operating budget is wholly independent from that of the Diocese, save our annual assessment, or contribution, to the Diocese. We do not receive direct funding from the Diocese for our own programs or regular expenses; those monies come from pledges and gifts by our members, as well as fundraising support and facility rental income.

Fellowship & Outreach

A coffee hour is held following the 9:00 AM Eucharist each Sunday. All are welcome. Throughout the year our parish family comes together for a variety of social activities, which have included a progressive dinner, picnics and barbecues as well as a wine tasting party. On the third Tuesday of each month, the ladies of St. Mary's enjoy fellowship at a different member's home.

Brotherhood of St. Andrew

Dedicated to the spread of Christ's Kingdom among men and youth, the St. Mary's chapter was formed in 1983. Among our many service projects are assisting with the annual ABATE motorcycle rally and preparing and delivering Christmas presents and holiday food baskets to the needy.

Daughters of the King

Founded in 1885, the Daughters of the King is an international organization of women and girls dedicated to prayer, service and evangelism. Our chapter has become reinvigorated and meets monthly. Most recently we organized and staffed a St. Mary's table at the annual Pow-Wow on the Shinnecock Reservation.

Cursillo

Many parishioners have made a Cursillo weekend over the years. Sadly, the Long Island Cursillo movement suffered a serious setback during the Pandemic. It is our hope and prayer that, with God's help, this once-vibrant program will be reinvigorated.

St. Mary's in the Community

Our parish family gives back to the local community in many ways. We stock two Blessing Boxes in the community as well as one on-site with non-perishable foods. In addition, we donate non-food items to the central food pantry at St. Rosalie's. Various organizations utilize our facilities for their meetings. During the winter months we provide refuge for the homeless in conjunction with Peconic Community Council's Maureen's Haven ministry. We alternate in hosting the Ecumenical Thanksgiving service.

Hispanic Ministry and Outreach

Not long after his arrival, Fr. Justin reached out to the Hispanic community in Hampton Bays. We offer a Spanish language Mass on Sunday evenings, citizen preparation courses and a variety of programs to our brothers and sisters in Christ from Central and South America.

Native American Task Force

Our task force seeks to strengthen our relationship with and support the local Shinnecock Nation through food assistance, hosting an annual parish celebration and participating in the annual Pow Wow. We also celebrate the Native American saints recognized by the Church calendar

Stewardship & Fundraising

In our liturgy we are reminded that God is the ultimate giver of all things: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Christian stewardship encompasses all of these things—time, talent, and treasure—and at St. Mary's, we encourage participation in all areas of stewardship, whether it's volunteering for the semi-annual clean-up days, serving on the altar, or pledging regular financial support during the fall pledge drive.

Through stewardship in all its forms, we seek to share the gifts God has given us with others. We recognize especially the need to maintain a financially healthy parish so that we can continue to provide outreach and support to others, in Hampton Bays, in the greater Long Island community, and throughout the world. Our annual fall pledge drive, part of our stewardship program, invites our parishioners and friends to pledge a portion of their income toward the work and upkeep of the parish. We encourage all members to make a pledge and to contribute regularly to our offering plates.

Why pledge?

- To answer God's call
- To maintain God's house
- To enrich our faith through education, and to educate our children in the faith
- To enter into a closer relationship with Jesus Christ
- To nurture and grow our church family
- To support the clergy and other church servants
- To teach, heal, house, feed, and comfort strangers
- To be an example of giving for our children

We also encourage members and friends to consider St. Mary's in their estate plans. For more information on including St. Mary's in your will or trust, or for information on gifts of stock or other shares, please contact our wardens.

Capital Campaign

To address several long-deferred maintenance issues, St. Mary's undertook a three-year capital campaign in 2025. The campaign has been hugely successful thus far. We've completed major projects in an effort to preserve our historic facility.

Christian Education & Service

At St. Mary's we believe that we are all continually striving to learn and understand our faith and our relationship with God more fully. Formal education of our children, from nursery through high school, uses a variety of curricula. Our Sunday school calendar generally follows that of the public school. However, newcomers are welcome to enroll at any time. Classes begin at 8:45 AM with the children generally entering the Church prior to the Offertory.

Adult Education

Adult education is available throughout the year, through group study, fellowship and outreach opportunities, and formal and

informal instruction. Our rector holds periodic Bible studies for adults, examining Biblical texts through the lens of critical interpretation and making connections to our daily lives.

Intercessory Prayer

Prayer is a fundamental part of our Christian community. An intercessory prayer list is maintained each week. Worshippers are encouraged to add their petitions and thanksgivings to the Prayers of the People during the Eucharist either silently or aloud.

Eucharistic Ministers, Altar Guild and Ushers

A dedicated corps of Eucharistic Ministers assists at the altar. A small group of extremely dedicated women prepares the altar for worship and decorates the Church for holidays. Likewise, a group of men and women serve as ushers. Volunteers are always welcome so please make your interest known to the rector or wardens.

A Practical Guide to Services at St. Mary's or, *When Am I Supposed to Kneel?*

A typical order of service at St. M

Prelude

*Processional Hymn **

We stand.

The Word of God

Opening Acclamation and
Response

Hymn of Praise

The Collect of the Day

The First Lesson

Psalm

The Second Lesson

Sequence Hymn

The Gospel

The Sermon

The Nicene Creed

The Prayers of the People

The Confession of Sin

The Peace

Announcements

*We remain standing from the
opening response through the
collects.*

Sung or said together

Said together

*We sit for the reading of the
lessons.*

*We stand through the Gospel
reading*

We sit for the sermon.

We stand.

*We stand or kneel for the
prayers and confession.*

*The rector makes
announcements and says
special prayers over those
celebrating birthdays or
anniversaries*

The Holy Communion

Offertory Sentence

Offertory Hymn

Doxology

The Great Thanksgiving

Holy, Holy, Holy

The Lord's Prayer
The Breaking of the Bread
The Fraction Anthem
The Sharing of Holy
Communion
Communion Music
The Post-Communion Prayer
The Blessing
Recessional Hymn
Postlude

*We stand for the offertory,
doxology and The Great
Thanksgiving.*

We stand or kneel afterwards

See below.

We sit or kneel

*We stand through the
recessional*

It is our tradition at St. Mary's to omit music from the Rite I service whenever celebrated

A word about Communion

All baptized persons are welcome to share in the banquet of the Lord's Supper. We usually kneel or stand at the rail to receive. (Please let an usher know if you are unable to walk to the rail and Communion will be brought to you.) Extend your up-turned hands to receive the bread. Receive the wine that follows either by drinking from the chalice or intincting (dipping) the wafer into the chalice yourself. If you are not receiving, you may cross your arms over your chest and receive a blessing. Small children are welcome to receive Communion or a blessing, as their parents or guardians desire.

About the Episcopal Church

The Episcopal Church today is made up of more than 1.5 million worshippers in over 7,500 congregations across the United States and elsewhere, including Europe, South America, and the Caribbean. Nearly one quarter of the U.S. Presidents worshipped as Episcopalians. We organize ourselves into geographic groupings of congregations called dioceses. Haiti is the largest of our 110 dioceses. We Episcopalians also call ourselves Anglicans, to describe our roots in the Church of England.

Our congregations range from thousands gathering to worship in venerable cathedrals to small groups worshipping in storefronts. We pray with and for each other. We welcome all who come looking for God and a community of love. We work together to make our congregations strong for those who will come after us.

The church's complete name, the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society of the Protestant Episcopal Church of the United States of America, describes our work together. We make Christ's mission our own by working in and sponsoring such ministries as food pantries, homeless shelters, hospitals, nursing homes, mission trips, parish nursing programs, vacation bible schools, church camps, retreat centers, and after-school mentoring programs.

What We Believe

Our ways of worshipping are as varied as our ways of doing mission. Some of us always use incense and/or bells; others never do. Some of us sing only from *The Hymnal 1982* (the *blue* book.) Others use music from many sources. Most of us have Holy Eucharist every Sunday, while some have Eucharist less often.

The Book of Common Prayer (the *red* book) grounds us all. It explains Christianity, describes the main beliefs of the Episcopal Church, outlines the requirements for the sacraments, gives the patterns of our worship together and serves as the main guideline

of the Episcopal life. Just as we hold these prayers and rites in common, we also hold some common beliefs. We look back to the beginnings of the Christian church for statements of those beliefs and we find the Apostles' Creed (formed in the very early years of the church) and the Nicene Creed (written during fourth-century gatherings of church leaders). Both creeds describe the God whom we experience in three ways: as the one who creates us, the one who redeems us, and the one who continually guides us toward holiness.

We sometimes interpret the Bible differently, yet we find common ground in our belief that Holy Scripture is the Word of God. Using the text of the Bible itself and the tradition of what Christians have taught us about it through the ages, Episcopalians believe we must come to an understanding of it as it relates to our own lives. To do this work we use our reason—that is, our God-given intelligence and our experiences. Some people refer to our three-legged stool of Scripture, tradition, and reason.

History

The Episcopal Church began in England in the 1500s, during the reign of King Henry VIII. The old story goes that the Church began because Henry wanted a divorce, but the truth is more complicated. Through prior centuries of war and turmoil, the church in Rome worked to preserve European civilization. It enforced rules of conduct, appointed rulers, and controlled the economy. A monk named Martin Luther and others protested what they saw as the church's excesses and interference with people's faith.

Henry didn't like Luther's reform movement, but he wanted more control of the church in England. He, like many political leaders of his time, wanted his people's undivided loyalty, and he had other uses for the English money that supported the church in Rome. Henry broke from Rome, and England suffered as Roman Catholics and Protestants battled for control of the church and the government.

Henry's daughter, Queen Elizabeth I, devised religious and political arrangements, including the third version of *The Book of Common Prayer* (BCP) in 1559, that left the English church with both Roman Catholic and Protestant characteristics. Walking this middle way between the traditions makes us a sacramental church that promotes thoughtful debate about what God is calling us to do and to be as followers of Christ.

Thus we began with a question: Could a church change its loyalties in this world and still be loyal to Jesus? The Reformation's answer was yes. It showed that we learn more about God when we ask our questions and listen for answers in prayer and in the words of others in our communities. We began in disagreement and our history tells us that the church survives disagreements when it stays focused on the importance of coming together to give thanks to God and to do God's reconciling work.

Governance

Diocese of Long

Our diocese is comprised of Kings (Brooklyn,) Queens, Nassau and Suffolk counties. We are shepherded by Bishop Adam Shoemaker. The Cathedral of the Incarnation is located in Garden City.

General Episcopal Church

"Episcopal" means "bishop" in Greek, and the Episcopal Church is governed in part by its bishops. The Episcopal Church USA, having its roots in the Church of England, is also an Anglican Church. Like all Anglican churches, the Episcopal Church is distinguished by its standing in both Protestant and Catholic traditions, its insistence that people be able to worship in their first language, its use of the Book of Common Prayer, and its reliance on scripture, tradition, and reason in interpreting God's Word.

Resources

The Episcopal Church USA www.episcopalchurch.org
Most Reverend Sean Rowe, Presiding Bishop
815 Second Avenue, New York, NY 10017

Diocese of Long Island www.dioceselongisland.org
The Reverend Adam Shoemaker, Diocesan Bishop
36 Cathedral Avenue, Garden City, NY 11530

The George T. Mercer Memorial School of Theology
www.mercerschool.org

Other regional dioceses

Connecticut:	www.episcopalct.org
Newark	www.dioceseofnewark.org
New Jersey	www.dioceseofnj.org
New York	www.diocesenyny.org
Rhode Island	www.episcopalri.org

“A History of the Episcopal Church” by Robert W. Prichard.
Morehouse Group, 1999.

“Anglican Identities” by Rowan Williams, Archbishop of
Canterbury. Cowley Publications, 2004.

Information in this section was taken from the ECUSA’s “Grow In
Understanding” series of bulletin inserts, published by the
Episcopal News Service.

An Episcopal Glossary

Anglican Communion: a worldwide confederation of autonomous churches in relationship with the Church of England. The Episcopal Church is part of that communion.

Apostolic Succession: Episcopalians, along with other Anglicans, Roman Catholics, and Orthodox, trace their bishop's heritage in an unbroken line back to the first apostles of Jesus.

Bishop: the chief pastor in the Episcopal Church serving a diocese consisting of a number of local parishes.

Book of Common Prayer: the primary guide for worship and prayer in the Episcopal Church.

Chancel: St. Mary's chancel includes the choir area and lecterns.

Curate: an assistant to the priest

Deacon: an ordained minister like the bishop and priest. A deacon's ministry is to serve the local congregation and minister to the poor, the needy, and the sick.

Diocese: a diocese is made up of several congregations with a bishop as the chief pastor.

Diocesan Convention: the local legislative body of a diocese which meets once a year and is made up of laity and clergy. A parish's representation is determined by the number of people attending the church.

Episcopal: an adjective from the Greek word *episkopos* meaning overseer or bishop. We are a church guided and united through our bishops. "Episcopalian" is the noun.

General Convention: This convention, which takes place every three years, is the highest legislative body of the church. It is made

up of the House of Bishops and the House of Deputies which is half laypersons and half clergy.

Narthex: the entrance hall of a church.

Nave: the pew area of the church.

Presiding Bishop: the Pastor and Primate of the Episcopal Church of the United States of America. The Presiding Bishop is elected by the General Convention every nine years.

Priest: the chief pastor in the local congregation.

Rector: the priest in charge of the parish. The rector is elected by the Vestry and approved by the Bishop.

Rite I: a celebration of the Eucharist using more traditional language and generally no music, as opposed to Rite II.

Rood screen: the ornate structure dividing the chancel and nave.

Sanctuary: the area enclosed by the altar rail. Some use the word to mean the entire worship space: nave, chancel, and sanctuary.

Suffragan Bishop: depending on the number of people/parishes in a diocese, the Diocesan Convention may vote to elect a Suffragan Bishop to assist the Diocesan Bishop in ministry.

Vestry: a body of laypersons elected by the parish at its annual meeting. The rector chairs the meetings of the vestry, which oversees parish business matters and serves as advisors to the rector.

Important Names and Numbers

The Church of St. Mary

Office: 631-728-0776 Website: www.stmaryshb.org

Fax: 631-728-0794 Email: office@stmaryshb.org

Rector: The Reverend Justin A. Falciani

Parish Administrator: Jennifer Estrada

Organist & Choirmaster: James Tartaglia

Co-Wardens: Adrian Drake & Karen Lucas

Christian Education: Adrian Drake, Julia Distenfeld &
Karen Lucas

Brotherhood of St. Andrew: Tim Rumph

Daughters of The King: Deborah Kraus

Acknowledgement

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