

Spirit of S·T. M·A·R·Y'·S

December 2010 Volume 65 No. 12

The Rev. Marilyn Omernick, Priest-in-Charge
 The Rev. Floyd "Butch" Gamarra, Assistant Priest
 The Rev. Jimmy H. Shiode, Deacon

The Rev. Canon Richard Van Horn, Priest Assisting
 Larry Higa, Senior Warden
 Gayle Kawahara, Junior Warden

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 Carlos Guzman Ramirez, Sexton

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"Diverse and unafraid, with open hearts."

December 2010

Special Dates

Saturday, December 4

9:00am Christmas Boutique workshop

Sunday, December 5

8:15am Finance Committee meeting
 11am-2pm Christmas Boutique
 6:00pm JEMS program (at JA Theater)

Sunday, December 12

8:15am Discernment committee meeting
 11:15am Vestry meeting

Sunday, December 19

9:45am Christmas Pageant/Festival
 1:00pm Caroling at Good Samaritan

Wednesday, December 22

7:30pm Christmas Eve service (Spanish)

Friday, December 24

9:00pm Choral Prelude
 9:30pm Christmas Eve service

Saturday, December 25

9:00am Choral Prelude
 9:00am Christmas Day service

Regular/Ongoing Events

Every Sunday

7:30 am Holy Eucharist
 8:30 am Choir Practice
 9:45 am Holy Eucharist
 9:45 am Sunday School/Nursery
 11:45 am Holy Eucharist (Spanish)

Every Wednesday

11:15 am ESL Reception
 11:30 am Noonday prayer
 6:30 pm Spanish Service/Christian Formation, Bible Study/Children's Program

Every Saturday

Morning Altar Guild

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St. Mary's Episcopal Church
 961 S. Mariposa Ave.
 Los Angeles, CA 90006

DATED MATERIAL



Clergy Corner . . .

On Sunday, November 14, St. Mary's had a joint bi-lingual service followed by a parish forum discussion of the new parish profile. Fr. Van Horn preached the following sermon (the third in a series of reflections about St. Mary's future)

ST. MARY'S NOVEMBER 14 - ISAIAH 65:17

“For I am about to create new heavens and a new earth...be glad and rejoice forever in what I am creating; for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy, and its people as a delight.”

God's promise in this verse from Isaiah is to breathe new life into the people. They are coming back from exile and have been somewhat dispirited. But God is proclaiming in this third section of Isaiah a new age and a new way of being.

My friends, we too are standing on the threshold of a new time for St. Mary's: and let's think of St Mary's as our Jerusalem. I know we have been talking about this for a long time now. It is two years ago this month that Mother Alix died and I realize that the frustration level has grown. But I remember one of the things Fr. John taught me about the Japanese psyche: “It seems to take forever to get Japanese to make a decision. You have to drink at least a gallon of ocha (green tea). But then, when the decision is finally made, people really move ahead and accomplish all they set out to do.” Let's hope that is the position in which we now find ourselves.



Through the questionnaires and the focus groups and individual interviews, there is considerable clarity about what we, as a part of God's kingdom, want to be in our “new Jerusalem”. Let me quote a few sentences from the profile: “St. Mary's is seeking a rector who will help us grow, move forward, and define our role in the local community, while respecting and appreciating the Japanese culture and the rich Japanese-American heritage. We seek someone with the wisdom to appreciate St Mary's rich history, the understanding to recognize and call out our gifts and talents, the leadership to engage others and bring us together as we do God's work, and the vision to help us define our path to the future.”

So... today is the first day of our new life. You will note that we are all together this morning: 7:30 folk, the 9:45 bunch and the 11:45 newer members. We are entering the process of becoming a unified community that can rejoice in its diversity and capitalize on the strengths that brings. We are becoming a new community that can bring a special kind of life to our neighborhood.

Thank You . . .

OCT/NOV THANK YOUS

Memorials:

ROSE MASUOKA

Masuoka family

MAY SAHARA

Yasu Momii

EMIKO KIRIU

Nobutaka Kiriu

DOROTHY OKU

Mark/Nancy Yamazaki

Endowment Fund:

FLORENCE HATTORI

Ruri Miura

Japanese Convocation:

Marian Kubota

Men of St. Mary's

LeRoy/Faith Ichida

Ruri Miura

Building fund:

Ron & Helen Matsunaga

Yo Guzman

Fr. Van Horn Discretionary Fund:

Masuoka family

OCT ALTAR GUILD

Flowers in loving memory of:

GEORGE SATO

Donna & Frank Sato

REV. H. ALIX EVANS

Anne Evans

SUYE IWATAKI

Kuwa Iwataki

Alice Ishibashi

Candles in loving memory of:

AIJURO KURASAKI

Marian Kubota

GEORGE SATO

Mary Sato & family

EUGENE SUGIYAMA

Sanae Sugiyama & family

EDNA SHIGEKAWA

BARBARA YAMAZAKI

Satsuki Shigekawa

KOMEYO OSHITA

MAGOROKU OSHITA

George Oshita

CAROL KONISHI

M/M Clarence Yamamoto

Altar Guild Memorial Fund:

FRED YABUKI

M/M Stan Furuta

THE REV. H. ALIX EVANS

Altar Guild

GEORGE SATO

Mary Sato & family

Donna & Frank Sato

GEORGE FURUTA

M/M Stan Furuta

M/M George Furuta

M/M Doug Furuta

Thanksgiving/Celebration for:

St. Francis Day – Ayako Takano

Grace's Cancer Free Diagnosis

M/M Rex Ogawa



A Collect for Guidance (adapted from the BCP p. 100)

O Gracious God, in you we live and move and have our being: We humbly pray you so to guide and govern us by your Holy Spirit, that in all the cares and occupations of our life, especially during this transitional time at St. Mary's, we may not forget you, but may remember that we are ever walking in your sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

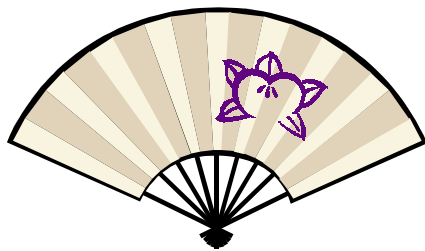
THIS COULD BE YOUR BIG BREAK!! OPEN CASTING CALL!

St. Mary's Sunday School is looking for a few good kids – to play key roles in the annual St. Mary's Christmas Pageant!

Just bring your child or grandchild to St. Mary's before 9:00am on Sunday, December 19, and the Sunday School teachers will put them into "wardrobe" and a quick rehearsal, and they could have a starring role in our Annual Pageant!



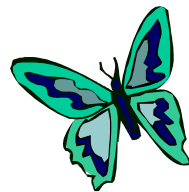
About our members . . .



JEMS CHRISTMAS PROGRAM – DECEMBER 5

The JEMS Christmas program will be on Sunday, December 5, 6:00 pm at the Japan America Theater. St. Mary's members CARRIE KUBOTA YOKOYAMA, KENDYL SAYURI YOKOYAMA, JORDYN MASAE YOKOYAMA, JACLYN KEIMI FUJII, KENDALL KELLY YUKARI MIYATAKE-KURUMA, KIARA

EMI KUBOTA STROMBERG and other members of the Azuma Kotobuki Kai will be performing. Tickets are \$12 each and proceeds go to fund scholarships for seminary students. For more information and to purchase tickets, call Carolyn Morinishi at (636) 484-2803.



INTO ETERNAL LIFE

DOROTHY OKU passed away on October 31, 2010. She was interred next to her beloved husband, James. She is survived by her son Richard; daughter Linda and many nieces and nephews. Family requests no koden. Donations may be made in her memory to the charity of your choice.

*"May she rest in Peace and may
Light Perpetual shine upon her ..."*

Isaiah told the Israelis that they had a new role in the world: a special place in his heart. Likewise, we are told in the New Testament that God is making all things new (Revelation 21:7?). The process we undertake is, with God's help, to remake ourselves in a re-creation of our original image. I am not meaning to say that we, ourselves, created our original image. We are being led by the same God who led our fathers and mothers to create the St. Mary's of old.

Now let me say a few words to the newer members: We, who have been here for generations, need you to make the new life grow. It is you who, with ongoing support from all of us, will make the new St. Mary's. To reference another Bible passage, this is rather like the end of Exodus. Moses is not allowed to cross into the Promised Land. Rather, Joshua makes the crossing of the Jordan and plants the people who will become Israel in the new land. It is described as a "land filled with milk and honey". I am not pretending that our neighborhood is currently anything like a land of "milk and honey" – but it can become that for a new generation if we but work to make that the new reality.



It will not be people my age and older who will make this happen. It belongs to the next generation. Moses was called to the Lord before the crossing, and that is what will happen to me and my generation, but you – our Sanseis, third generation and Yonseis, fourth generation and new neighborhood members are the inheritors of a great tradition. Receive it and treat it well. The future is in your hands.

This is a very short sermon, but that is intentional. You and I will be in a dialogue after the service as we discuss the parish profile which is being handed out to the congregation today. It becomes our blueprint for the future and the basis on which we select new leadership. So let us come together and begin the dialogue and the conversations and the work that will take us across the Jordan and into the Promised Land.

■ *Fr. Richard Van Horn*

STAFF VACATIONS FOR DECEMBER

- Emma: 12/27-12/31
- Fr. Butch: 12/23 - 1/6/2011
- Carlos: 12/14-12/15 & 12/20-12/31

CHOIR CAROLLING AT GOOD SAMARITAN HOSPITAL

Join the St. Mary's choir as they go caroling at Good Samaritan Hospital on Sunday, December 19, 2010. We will leave at 1:00pm after the Christmas Festival. All are welcome!

Upcoming Events . . .

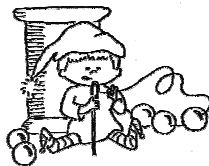
CHRISTMAS BOUTIQUE SET UP WORKSHOP – DECEMBER 4

The Women of St. Mary's will hold the final Christmas Boutique set up workshop on Saturday, December 4. As always, we will share a delicious potluck lunch!

CHRISTMAS BOUTIQUE – DECEMBER 5

mark your calendars for the Women of St. Mary's annual ...

Christmas Boutique



Sunday, December 5, 2010

11:00 am to 2:00 pm

St. Mary's Episcopal Church Parish Hall

crafts and gifts made by local artisans, craftspeople and Women of St. Mary's members

Light lunch will be served

Keiro Nursing Homes, Little Tokyo Service Center,

Hillsides Home for Children and the LA Episcopal Mission Fund

HILLSIDES WISH LIST TOY COLLECTION DEADLINE – DECEMBER 12

In keeping with a popular tradition, St. Mary's will again support the Hillsides Home for Children in its Christmas gift and toy drive. Hillsides has provided names of children who have specific gift requests. If you would like to participate, please claim your names at the Sunday services. We are asking that all gifts are received at St. Mary's, unwrapped, no later than Sunday, December 12, 2010 with the name of the child/recipient taped to the gift. Please contact Kay Shishima for more information.



SOUTH BAY BIBLE STUDY – TBA

The date for the South Bay Bible Study for December is TBA.

CHRISTMAS DAY/EVE SERVICES – DECEMBER 22, 24, 25

There will be a Christmas Eve service in Spanish on Wednesday, December 22 at 7:30pm; and in English on Friday, December 24 at 9:30pm (with 9:00pm Choral Prelude). On Christmas Day, there will be a service at 9:30am (with 9:00am Choral Prelude).

Parish News . . .

2011 STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

As of November 14, Loyalty Sunday, we have 75 pledge cards returned to St. Mary's with approximately 50 households still discerning their 2011 pledge amount. We ask that everyone return their card to church. This aids in our 2011 budget process since the vestry must approve a budget before the Annual Meeting in January. Your continued financial support of St. Mary's also shows the new rector that St. Mary's is valued by its members.

OUR PARISH PROFILE – is now posted on the St. Mary's website: www.stmarys-la.org

VESTRY SUMMARY – OCTOBER 17, 2010

Reports: 9/10 minutes: approved w/ minor corrections M/S/A, 2 abstentions; August/Sept financial reports: approved M/S/A.

Celtic Cross: Mariposa house is vacant, demolition permits are pending. Glenn met with Bishop Bruno to discuss property options; final decision falls to Celtic Cross and St. Mary's

Finance Committee: Ask vestry for 100% participation in "Close the Gap" campaign; consider recommending using Arigato fund for Discernment committee; committee asks Mo. Marilyn to research origin of restricted funds (from whom, how much, for what reason)

Building/Grounds: Finance committee will research using rental monies for building and grounds improvements. Faith will research a commercial stair chairlift for going upstairs.

Vestry personnel: Retaining current vestry for continuity would require changing the bylaws at the annual meeting & approval by Diocesan Standing Committee in Spring 2011. Filling Jake Ohara's position will wait until annual meeting (M/S/A 8 for, 1 opp., 1 abst)

Rector search update: M/S/A that St. Mary's conduct a National search. Diocesan and St. Peters San Pedro info distributed. 2010 profile update presented to parish 11/14, Discernment committee (search committee): Fr. Van Horn (consultant), Karen Yokoyama, Shennifer Aldana, Bruce Hoffman, Faith Ichida, Kathryn Nishibayashi, Madeline Lee-Heithe and Erik Suzuki. List of candidates M/S/A. Bruce recommended as chairperson, pending acceptance.

Mutual Ministry Review 10/31: Bishop Bruce requested to attend with Canon Satorius.

EAM: National meeting 10/26-29, parish presentation 11/7. Gayle has received donations for the Japanese Convocation to keep it going.

Phone tree: Gwendolyn volunteered to enter email addresses for future announcements.

Calendar dates: Loyalty Sunday 11/14, no Thanksgiving Day service, office closed for Veteran's Day, Christmas pageant/festival/caroling 12/19, Vestry meeting 11/21, 12/12