



Joyful Noise

News from the Parish of the Holy Communion

When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy. Matthew 2:10 KJV

January services will be held at Holy Trinity in Glendale Springs.

Wishing You a Blessed and Joyful New Year!



Saint Mary's was bedecked with gorgeous greenery and vibrant poinsettias for Christmas.

Perry's Perspective

Happy New Year! While there is always some apprehension as we face the future, a new year also brings new possibilities and opportunities. Our faith provides us the assurance that whatever the future brings, we are surrounded by God's presence and love. Our faith can help us to frame challenges that await us in a new year as opportunities for us to know more fully the power of God's Spirit at work in our lives and in the life of our community. There is an old saying that is good to remember as we move into this new year: While we may not know what the future holds, we know who holds the future.

In our parish, we will begin the year with newly elected Vestry members and with new Vestry leadership. The Vestry will meet on January 21 to begin its work for the year. We are all grateful for the willingness of those who serve in this significant role in our parish. There are important challenges we know we will need to address moving forward, and many we do

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not know yet. Each week in the weekly update prayer list, members of the Vestry are listed. Thank you for remembering the Vestry and its work regularly in your prayers.

Many folks have been traveling during the winter holidays, so I have missed seeing those who have been away. This is a slower time in our community because the days are short, dark, and cold. Some people head for warmer climates. Others bundle up and try to hibernate! I recently watched a wonderful short [video](#) about how people in far Northern Europe

manage winter. They have a word for embracing these cold days: *friluftsliv*. Don't ask me to pronounce it! This word means "fresh air life" and reflects the Scandinavian love of the outdoors, regardless of the weather. As they say, there is no wrong weather, only wrong clothing! Most of you know that there would be a bit of a disagreement about this in our household, given that one of us is a Floridian!



It is, though, a beautiful season, and I hope we all can make good use spiritually of this time when things are a bit slower and quieter. It is the perfect time for quiet prayer and contemplation! Winter, though, will not last long.

Again, thank you all for your generosity during the Christmas season. For the many ways you have blessed our lives over the last year and particularly during Christmas, Barbara and I are so very grateful. I am also thankful for the ways each of you serves our parish! I honestly cannot say thank you enough! We are grateful God has brought us to this place for this time. And, in that regard, we are filled with expectation for what God is going to do among us in the year ahead.

Perry Hildreth
Priest-in-Charge

January Altar Flowers



Thanks to the parish for supporting the flower guild with your generous Christmas donations. Special thanks to Ann and Glenn Hood for donating the evergreen wreaths for inside the church.



January Flower Schedule

- January 12 - Ellen Pesko
- January 19 - Susan Roath
- January 26 - Anne Reintges

Wishing everyone a Happy and Healthy 2025.

Mary Lou Greer

Help Wanted

No Experience Necessary

Help create the perfect blend—coffee and friends. Volunteer to host a coffee hour. As you can see, we have plenty of open Sundays in January and February. To sign up, please contact Ann Peters at 336-877-7418 or anntp1952@aol.com.



COFFEE HOUR SCHEDULE

- January 5 (St.Mary's) DOK - Ellen Pesko
- January 12 _____
- January 19 _____
- January 26 _____
- February 2 _____
- February 9 _____
- February 16 _____
- February 23 _____

Fresco Docent Ministry Report

We have a winner of last month's trivia contest. Barbara Sears had the winning entry and will receive a \$25 Ingles gift card. Details of the answer will be discussed later in this report. As usual, our visitor numbers are considerably lower as we enter into the winter months.

In December, Saint Mary's was visited by 444 people, while visitors, while Holy Trinity was visited by 590. The states represented are NC, IL, NY, CA, CO, OH, MS, TX, SC, VA, and FL. The countries represented were Honduras, Brazil, Germany, Australia, and Vietnam. Our visitors continue to comment how special the frescoes are, but I think the adjective that best sums up their reactions is, "SPEECHLESS!"



December's Trivia Question

Last month we asked, "What was the significance of Seamus, the dog in *The Last Supper* fresco? The answer is Seamus. The dog belonged to one of the students who was helping Ben Long with the Last Supper Fresco. Father Hodge was not pleased that the dog was coming into the church or that Seamus was "marking his territory" on the clean sand pile used in the fresco process. But, as he worked into the night, Long enjoyed the animal's company. The story goes when the priest was out of town, Seamus was painted in the fresco so he would always have a place in the church.



January's Trivia Question

What was unusual about the depiction of the disciple Thomas, on the far right in *The Last Supper* fresco?

**Ann Peters,
for the Docents**



Episcopal Church Women Meeting

All women of the Parish of The Holy Communion are invited, weather permitting, Sunday, January 12, 2025 for a short ECW meeting at 11:45 AM in the Choir Room at the Mission House to approve the 2025 Budget. There will be another ECW meeting in February (date to be determined) to discuss and establish a planning committee for the 2025 POHC Fall Festival. For questions, please call or text Sue Thompson 404-229-1754.

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