

# OUTERMOST VOICE

## ST. MARY OF THE HARBOR

WHERE THE LAND, THE SEA, AND THE SACRED MEET

### Vestry News



Accepted the redesigned visitor's brochure created by Anita McGahan.

Authorized Junior Warden to secure estimates for cedar shingle repairs for the rectory.

Approved \$4,340 to replace septic pumps and awarded contract to Robert B. Our Company for the project.

Accepted the Regathering Advisory Team's protocols to reinstate in person worship services.

Authorized Mark Weinress to order beach access signage.

Approved 2020 Budget



### Regathering the Flock

99.9% of the time, I know what a person is about of say whenever they start a sentence with the word *when*. After moving to online worship services in mid March, numerous people have asked *when* in person Sunday worship will resume at St. Mary of the Harbor.

With the recent approval of the protocols developed by St. Mary's Regathering Advisory Team, we are one step closer in the process. We are waiting for a diocesan representative to conduct an onsite walk through. After that, we will petition Bishop Gates to permit us to reinstate in person worship, around mid September or shortly afterward. A notice will be sent in advance to all parishioners once we have a confirmed date.

At this point, our plan is hold worship services outdoors

## Treasurer's Report

As we prepare to regather for in person worship at St. Mary of the Harbor in the next month or so, we are fortunate that the church's finances during both spring and summer have been very stable. As of the end of July 2020 YTD total Plate and Pledge revenues increased \$8,645 compared to last year. This is due to your generous donations and even with lost revenue from the cancellation of Art & Spirit in July. For the same period, expenses were a little bit lower with a decrease of \$5,950. At the end of 7 months the Operating Net Profit is \$1,095, and considering the circumstances, this is exceptional! If income continues as it has throughout the year and expenses kept at a reasonable amount we will end the year on a positive note.

During the Vestry's August meeting the 2020 budget was approved. When Covid struck in March I purposely waited to see how the first 6 months of the year would end. Based on giving and expense history from the last 6 months of 2018 and 2019, I was able to project our finances through the end of 2020. Again, I am confident we will make it through the remainder of 2020 on sound

for a while. This decision is based on parishioner's responses to a survey that was sent to everyone earlier this summer. Fifty people completed the online survey and more than a dozen mailed in their surveys. Mailed in responses mirrored the ones completed by parishioners online. The link to the online survey results can be found here:

[https://5849018c-dbb3-46ee-b0c3-cf373dce2446.filesusr.com/ugd/6341cb\\_d463791d1147493da3954fe231f085b3.pdf](https://5849018c-dbb3-46ee-b0c3-cf373dce2446.filesusr.com/ugd/6341cb_d463791d1147493da3954fe231f085b3.pdf)

With safety a priority, when we do return to in person worship there will be a number of practices that everyone will be required follow in order to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. These will include wearing face coverings, physical distancing, restricted traffic patterns and no congregational singing. A more detailed list of what to expect will be sent in advance to all parishioners and posted on the church's website once a date has been confirmed to resume in person worship.

## In the Gardens of the Lord

Shortly after he arrived from Florida, John Garisto contacted the church office to inquire about volunteer opportunities at St. Mary of the Harbor. Though our summer fundraisers were cancelled, there is always work to be done. You will find John on Tuesday mornings joyfully weeding the flower beds next to the parking lot.





financial footing.

As I mentioned in the June OMV, St. Mary of the Harbor was approved for an emergency loan (\$28,852) in May through the Paycheck Protection Program created by Congress. I have started the process with the lender TD Bank to have the loan forgiven and am confident this will happen. The funds from the PPP loan will make a difference to the bottom line given a potential loss in revenue. We have temporarily suspended assessment payments to the Diocese of Massachusetts and delayed two annual Outreach Commitments until later this year, and will follow-through on paying these commitments.

Also mentioned in the last OMV, during the first quarter of 2020, the church's investments with the Diocesan Investment Trust saw an 8% drop in value. By the end of the second quarter we had seen an increase of 9%. And I expect this to improve again by the end of the fourth quarter 2020.

Last but not least, we will begin our 2021 Stewardship Campaign in the middle of September. Look for your letter in the mail. Of course, our Stewardship Campaign will be much different than in past years due to Covid. A letter asking for your pledge will be sent. I ask you to respond as generously as you are able when you receive the letter and return it to St. Mary's office.

As I have said many times before, we are a financially viable parish because you have demonstrated your love for this church through your generosity. THANK YOU!

Mike Sutula, Treasurer



## Directory Assistance

Please don't forget to email us at [smothoffice@gmail.com](mailto:smothoffice@gmail.com) or call the church office at 508-487-2622 if there is a change to your address or phone number.

Parishioner directories are available upon request.



## New Septic Pumps

The church's septic pumps were replaced in August after the septic alarm alerted us that something was amiss. After an emergency inspection revealed the pumps had failed, bids were obtained from three contractors. Robert B. Our Company was awarded the work based on costs and recommendations from past customers.

## CROP Walk

George Vitek from the First Congregational Church in Wellfleet is organizing a walk to raise funds and awareness to help those who are being impacted by hunger. To learn more or volunteer, please contact George at 413-219-4805 or email him at [gfv@massmed.org](mailto:gfv@massmed.org).

## Church News Sources

**Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts news link:**

<https://www.diomass.org/news-pubs/diocesan-news>

**Episcopal Church News Service link:**

<https://www.episcopalnewsservice.org>