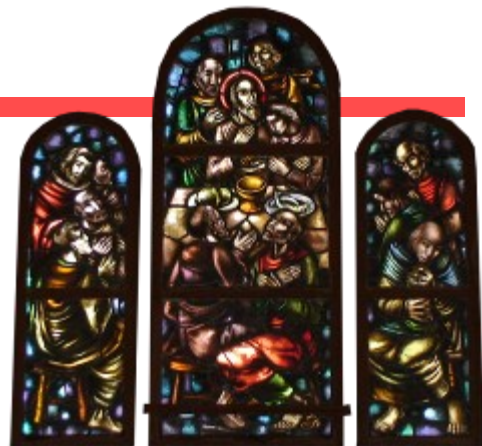




The Journey

St. Mary's Episcopal Church

An Online Monthly Pictorial News Record



April 2021

Let us this month

- * Praise the risen Lord
- * Attend online class with the priest Wednesdays at 6pm
- * Attend Good Friday Service
- * Remember our baptismal Covenants
- * Not forget our daily devotion reading
- * Remember you **can** be a blessing to others- just do it

New Key Holder



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Milestone

He Is Risen



Photo by Graham White

Reflections

by Fr. Charles A. Browning II
Priest in Charge

WHICH SAINT MARY?

I've been operating this past year under an assumption. I suspect it's an assumption that is shared by everyone else here at this parish. That assumption has to do with the saint from which we derive our parochial name.

In other words, I assume that the Saint Mary of Saint Mary's here in Mo'ili'ili-McCully is *the* Saint Mary—the so-called Queen of Heaven, the Blessed Virgin, the *Theotokos* (the bearer-of-God), the Mother of the Church, the mother of our Lord Jesus. This is an obvious assumption to make, but there's a bit of a wrinkle to it.

You see, when we read the wonderful history of Saint Mary's put together by our late brother Shurei Hirozawa we learn the following:

"The mission came to be known as St. Mary's at the request of Miss Maroni, whose late sister was named Mary."

You see, our story begins in motion. We don't begin at the well-spring, but instead our story enters into an already-flowing river. Miss Madge Maroni was a public school teacher who had long been voluntarily teaching a Sunday School to the Chinese students that attended the public school in Mo'ili'ili. She was advancing in age and made a request of the newly arrived Bishop Henry Restarick to find a successor to continue and further develop this ministry. Bishop Restarick was agreeable and he appointed the Rev. Kong Yin Tet (serving then at Saint Peter's) for this work. The Sunday School quickly developed into something more, including sewing classes, and so the ministry was seen as the beginnings of a full-fledged mission endeavor. As is the custom of the Episcopal Church, a formalized ministry needs a name and Miss Maroni made the request that it be given a name in honor of her late sister.

So, as far as we know, the only connection that our parish has with the woman often referred to as "Our Lady," is that she shares a name with a beloved sister. This begs the question of *which* Mary we are honoring

Indeed, the name Mary was extremely common in the first century—the various gospels note that around three or four women named Mary are present at the crucifixion and burial (one of which gets the unfortunate designation as "the other Mary," as seen in Matthew 27:61). Mary was like the name Ashley of my generation (my graduating class in high school had at least five women with this name). And let's not get into all the saints named "Mary" in the Roman Catholic tradition...

The point is that there has been no shortage of saints with the name Mary. The Bible, however,

notes two key Marys (apart from the “Queen of Heaven,” that is).

First, we know of Mary from the region of Magdala. She’s been often called “Mary Magdalene” as if that was her first and last name, but this is not accurate. She’s the only Mary that all the gospels note to be present at the cross. There is a tradition, going back to at least the Middle Ages, where she is conflated with another Mary (who will be discussed in a bit) as well as with the unnamed “woman-caught-in-adultery” from a controversial passage from John’s gospel. But Saint Mary the Magdalene is presented in the gospels as a dedicated disciple of Jesus, as well as a benefactor of His ministry. She carries the distinction of being the first person to both witness and declare the resurrection of Jesus on Easter day, which has led to her receiving the title “Apostle to the Apostles” over the centuries.

Next, we read of Mary of Bethany. As mentioned above, there is a medieval tradition of merging Mary of Bethany together with Mary of Magdala (along with the aforementioned adulterous woman, as well as a number of unnamed sex-workers mentioned in the gospels). Mary of Bethany is, along with her sister Martha and brother Lazarus, a close friend of Jesus. They provide lodging for Him when he’s in the area and Mary in particular prefers to sit at Jesus’ feet and hear His teaching. Which makes her a dedicated disciple in her own right.

So, the title “Saint Mary” could just as easily refer to these women as it could to the Blessed Virgin. What does that mean for us? Am I remiss in referring to “the Blessed Virgin Mary, our matron” in the liturgy?

Perhaps there is a deeper wisdom that the Holy Spirit was working through Miss Maroni back in 1902 in inspiring this name? By opting for a name “in memory” rather than attaching it to any particular saint perhaps means that we are named for *all* of these saints named “Mary?”

This leads us to the cliché question “what’s in a name?” Why does any of this matter?

Well, churches are named after particular saints because it is believed that the ministry of the so-named parish is shaped by the example and work of that saint. A church named after Jesus’ mother is saying that their primary ministry is to bear Christ to the world. Which is what we do.

But we are also careful disciples in the spirit of Mary of Bethany.

We are also called to be passionate proclaimers of the good news in the spirit of Mary of Magdala.

We are called to be at the tomb like “the other Mary.”

We are called to be a beloved family member like Mary Maroni, inspiring the instruction of God’s children.

Saint Mary’s Episcopal Church in Mo’ili’ili, then, is not named for any particular “Saint Mary.” And, as a result, this means we are named after *every* “Saint Mary.”

Again, the gospels depict a variety of women named Mary at the cross, at the tomb, and proclaiming the resurrection. As we are now on the other side of Easter, this is an important thing to consider. Being an Easter-shaped people is to be *a* Saint Mary—no matter which one.

Road Map

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Vestry Meeting

10:15am
April 18



Sunday Worship Service 9:00am

In-Person and Live Streamed
on YouTube & FaceBook

Kitchen Closed Until Further Notice
Gathering Room Closed: April 1-5

Office Closed
April 2



Special Services

Maundy Thursday

April 1 * 6:30pm

Good Friday

April 2 * Noon

Service of Lights

April 3 * 7:00pm

Easter Sunday

April 4 * 9:00am

Prayer Ministry

8:15am
Sundays in
Soldier Chapel

Christian Formation Classes

Wednesdays: April 14, 21 & 28 at 6pm
Live Stream on YouTube

April Birthdays

6-Nancy Yoshioka
13-Isamu Yoshioka
20-Amy Chong
22-Eugenia Park
23-Jeanne Liu