

Rector's Report- November 17- December 16, 2021

Worship Online and In Person

In person/views		
Nov 21	61/98	The Reign of Christ/ end of Year B in the lectionary
Nov 28	43/88	1 st Sunday in Advent; Beginning of Year C in the lectionary (Sunday after Thanksgiving (traditionally a low Sunday)
Dec 4	5	The 505 returns after 21 months! We had a visitor too!
Dec 5	57/74	2 nd Sunday in Advent
Dec 11	10	Rev Shug presiding
Dec 12	66/64	3 rd Sunday in Advent; Rev. Shug presiding and preaching

Other worship/offices:

December 5: Burial for Evie La Rock at 12:30 pm; 18 in attendance

DAILY OFFICE (Compline)

Moving back to two services of compline a week in October—looking for more volunteers who are willing to support this lovely, brief service.

	Views	Celebrant
Nov 20	41	GS
Nov 24	49	LG
Nov 27	29	GS
Dec 1	35	LG
Dec 4	46	GS
Dec 7	48	LG
Dec 11	44	GS
Dec 15	19	LG

OVERVIEW: Worship numbers continue to climb in person, especially now that the 505 is back, which is so encouraging.

We restarted the 505 near the Second Sunday in Advent due to the previous week being Thanksgiving weekend. We are planning a very busy Christmas week introducing a new “Blue Christmas” service called “Out of Darkness” on Dec 21 at 7 pm, the night of the winter solstice, the “Longest Night” of the year.

Worship:

Restarted the 505!

With the rapidly changing situation regarding COVID, we will continue in person as we safely can, but we still need more volunteers as acolytes, ushers, greeters, readers etc.

Looking forward:

- Annual Giving Ingathering on November 21
- Committal of Evie LaRock, December 5 after the 10:30 worship service.
- Restart of 505 on December 4 (Advent 2)
- Return of Blue Christmas Service, December 21, 7 pm

Christmas at St. Martin's will be a full week with something for everyone. Here's the schedule:

- Sun., Dec 19, 11:45 am—the Greening of the Church

- Tues., Dec 21, 7:00 pm—Out of Darkness “Blue Christmas” service, acknowledging complex emotions and grief ties to holidays—or just the need for quiet. Thanks to Denise and the choir for being willing to add some beautiful music to this new service. It was publicized in the Diocesan iSeek this week.
- Fri., Dec 24, 7:00 pm: Christmas Eve Choral Eucharist, complete with strings, handbells, and choir
- Sat., Dec. 25, 10:30 am: Christmas Day Holy Eucharist
- Sun., Dec. 26: Morning Prayer service for the First Sunday after Christmas

Administrative/ Programming:

Communications: Debra Matthews continues to a great job with the Beacon, and I am grateful for her help! Becky McCoy has joined our volunteer communications team taking point on the Beacon. Bill Scoopmire is working with Active Campaign about those who are not receiving the Beacon.

Page also is an absolute blessing with all the bulletins, especially for all of these funerals and special services.

Still working on trying to get sexton help for this parish. In the meantime, we are looking for people to volunteer to handle the coffee duties each week—most other parishes without a full time sexton handle this among parishioners, so I am hopeful people will step up.

STEWARDSHIP*/ ANNUAL GIVING

Annual Giving campaign began on Sunday, October 24 and we are now in mop-up mode. Thank you SO MUCH to all of you who have reached out to parishioners who had yet to return their giving estimate cards.

Remember our terminology that we utilize. We are using the term **“Annual Giving Campaign”** in lieu of “Stewardship Campaign” and **“Giving Estimate”** (in lieu of “pledge”) to help our members understand that they can make an estimate, and revise it upward at any time (the converse is also true). This should help people commit without reservation. We also will continue to talk about budgets as being targets (COVID certainly taught us that lesson abundantly) and also—and this is crucial—that **the budget is a statement of our mission and priorities as a parish**, and a very revealing one, at that. This understanding will take time to develop, but the message needs to be consistent.

If any of you are concerned about not being able to reach people using your cell phones, please feel free to use a phone here at St. Martin’s. If several of you would like to gather and make calls from the offices, I would be happy to spring for refreshments! Let me know.

Formation:

Adult Forum during Advent was a study on African American spirituals based on the book *Mary Had a Baby*; Rev. Shug is leading except for December 5, when she was gone for her brother-in-law’s funeral. Grateful to Denise and the choir for presenting each spiritual for the week as the closing hymn in worship right before adult forum meets. Attendance has been between 7-20 for adult forum since the restart. We will take a break at Christmas and return in the New Year.

Monday morning adult Bible study is resuming in person in the Library Grateful for John Lange's resumption of this wonderful program—we do need to make sure all re3gathering protocols are being followed without fail.

Outreach/ Garden/ etc:

Fourth Laundry Love was Tuesday. So grateful for all who volunteer and contribute, and for Anne Fischer's leadership along side the Outreach Committee!

Outreach is also asking that people consider donations to Circle of Concern or other groups that help people around the holidays as we are not doing the Giving Tree this year yet.

Pastoral Care:

It's coming up on flu season, there's the omicron variant, and we have several members who are dealing with surgeries, recoveries and long-term illnesses. Please encourage everyone to get their shingles and flu shots as well as their boosters.

Self-Care:

Enjoyed my time in California—even with what they called “cold” temps. Will be taking the week off after Christmas. Still have unused retreat time.

Diocesan:

At Diocesan Convention I was named Missioner for Indigenous Ministry, and Rev. Shug was named Missioner for Racial Reconciliation. St. Martin's leadership in social justice is strong! All new diocesan missioners (I think there are six in all) met today with Bishop Deon via Zoom. The new missions are:

Racial Reconciliation, Creation Care, Jubilee Ministries, Rural Ministry, Indigenous Ministry, and Hispanic Ministry

Today, I was also asked to join the Diocesan Gathering Space Task Force, and I have accepted.

Building and Grounds:

Nothing unusual going on.... May that continue.

Appreciation:

Thank you to Becky McCoy for helping lead on the Beacon!

Thank you to Rev. Shug for her work on adult forum!

Thank you to Gina and Loretta for keeping compline so fresh twice a week.

Thank you to Bill for his work wrestling out broadcast into being each week, and Scott for keeping the websirte and registration for services updated.

Thank you to Loretta and Mike Kelly for being an ever-willing acolyte, esp. for special services.

Thank you to Page for her expertise as treasurer!

Thank you to Mike Kelly and all who have stepped for the annual giving campaign (see above).