
ALTAR GUILD CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

This Christmas remember your Loved Ones, or offer Special Thanksgivings, by making a donation for this year's Christmas Poinsettias. Order forms can be found in the back of the church, as well as on our website. Order forms and payment are due Monday, December 11th.

PRAYER CONCERNS FOR ST. JOHN'S

For the sick: Sue Burns, Lynn Hansen, Muriel DiGiorgio, Cheryl Hairr, Liz Scott, John Morowski, Regina Warnock, Louise Spellman, Don Nidrie, Phillip Wulfken, Jim Evans, Irene Evans, Arthur Goldbaum, Janet Campbell, Autumn Highsmith, Howard, Caroline, Bill, Amy, Kate, Catherine Perry, Theresa, John, Artie, Benjamin Owusu, Mark Bellissemo, Roger Giacomini, Jean Giacomini, Tom, Joseph Canga, George Nelson, Ian, Jen, Lucy, Ana Rodrigues, Laura, Assisting Bishop Daniel Allotey, Rev. Peter Lai, Giovanna LaPaglia

Perpetual Light is given this week in loving memory of Oswald Burnett by Janice Burnett and Andria Wetsell.

We pray for the unemployed and the under employed.

We pray for all our men and women serving in the armed services and all first responders. May God keep them safe and return them home to their loved ones.

Last Sunday's Attendance: 165

SUNDAY SERVICES

	December 3rd 10:00 AM	December 10th 10:00 AM
MC	Earl Matchett	Al Szigethy
LEM	Denise Hernandez	Noelle DeLorenzo
Acolytes	Ty Ellenbogen Anna Wickey Stephanie Wickey Akiko Mastriciano Reiko Mastriciano Jennifer Low James Conolly	Stephanie Wickey Anna Wickey Pete Minichello Jennifer Low Timmy Kusterbeck Walter Kusterbeck Wade Holden
Lectors	Janice Burnett Ty Ellenbogen	MK Brennan Jennifer Low

TODAY'S HYMNS

Processional Hymn 401	The God of Abraham praise	<i>Leoni</i>
Gradual Hymn 56 (v. 1-2)	O come, O come, Emmanuel	<i>Veni, veni, Emmanuel</i>
Offertory Anthem	Matthew Butterfield, trumpet	<i>Telemann</i>
Communion Hymn (Insert)	Wait for the Lord	<i>Taizé</i>
Recessional Hymn 74	Blest be the King whose coming	<i>Valet will ich dir geben</i>

THE CHALICE

The weekly Sunday Bulletin of St. John's Episcopal Church
December 3, 2017

**O come, O come, Emmanuel
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear
Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel**

**O come, Thou Rod of Jesse, free
Thine own from Satan's tyranny
From depths of Hell Thy people save
And give them victory o'er the grave
Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, o Israel**

For me, Advent is a joyful time of waiting for the incarnation of our Lord. Incarnation affirms that the eternal God took flesh from his human mother and was born both fully human and fully divine. We get a sense of today's lesson from Isaiah, "Oh that you would tear open the heavens and come down." Isaiah helps us understand what was happening during the sixth century. The people of Israel started off in the best of times, but were taken over by the Babylonians and scattered throughout Babylon. The people prayed that God would come down from heaven and show them the way as he did at Mt. Sinai. When Cyrus conquered Babylonia in 538, he allowed the people to return and worship God in Jerusalem again. Their prayers were again answered in 517 when they rebuilt the temple. Now fast forward to the Gospel of Mark, when the temple was once again destroyed. The world seems to be fading away like the grass again as they hear the words of Jesus tell them that He will return again one day. In the meantime, Jesus asks us to keep awake. As we enter into the Advent season, we should open our eyes and hearts to the coming of Jesus Christ. God's gift to humanity, Jesus Christ, is a sign of God's love for each of us. Advent is the beginning of a new season in the Church. The word Advent comes from the Latin word *Adventus*: "Coming." Advent is a time of preparation and awareness of the coming of Christ. Though the trees may look barren and the grass has withered, we do not lose hope because we know that we are in the loving hands of God. Our hope is that our Redeemer will make whole those things that are broken. God's love is always waiting for us. Shouldn't we be waiting expectantly for that love? Advent is a season of faithful action, as we wait in joyful expectation for the coming of Christ in the world.

I invite you to a special Taizé service this evening, December 3rd at 6:00 pm. Rev. Michael F. Delaney, Liturgical Coordinator of the Diocese of Long Island, will be leading our worship. After the service, join us for a reception and sharing of the Taizé approach to worship.

In Christ's love,

Fr. Duncan

VISITORS AND NEWCOMERS WELCOME!

We welcome you to **St. John's Episcopal Church**. Established in 1745, this historic church opens its doors to all who seek to deepen their faith and provides warm hospitality to all. We are blessed by your presence and invite you to fill out a Visitor's Card on the back table of the church.

MORNING PRAYER

Start your morning in prayer. **Please join us for Morning Prayer at 9:00 AM** every Monday and Tuesday in the church.

BIBLE STUDY

Please join us for Bible Study which meets Tuesdays at 11:00 AM. We are studying the Gospel of Mark.

TAIZÉ SERVICES

Join us this evening, Sunday, December 3rd at 6:00 PM for a special Taizé Service. We will be joined by the Rev. Michael F. Delaney, Liturgical Coordinator of the Diocese of Long Island. Following the service, there will be a reception where he will be sharing with us his expertise on the Taizé approach to prayer and worship.

STEWARDSHIP

Thank you for your generosity and continued support of the ministry of St. John's.

- **Please turn in your 2018 pledge card if you have not done so already.**
 - **Please make sure your 2017 pledge is up to date.**
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SING NOËL - SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17TH AT 7:30 PM

Sing Noël is our most anticipated concert of the year and is attended not only by members of our parish, but by many friends and acquaintances in our community. Your help is needed to share the joy of this Christmas tradition here at St. John's. For the reception, we need finger food donations (savory and sweet) and beverages (wine, cider and seltzer), and help setting up and cleaning up. We also need help selling tickets and raffles, for our many baskets. Perhaps you could get a poster or two from Alex and hang them in a local business you frequent. But, most of all, please join us for some Christmas music and stories and to share a cup of cheer! Please see Leslie Valentine to offer your help or email leslieval@aol.com.

For advanced sale tickets, see Alex after the 10:00 AM service or contact the Parish Office at (631) 427-1752.

ADVENT RETREAT & CELTIC SERVICE

SJSG Advent retreat and Celtic Service will be on Saturday, December 9th. Join us for Breakfast at 9 AM breakfast; the Program at 10 AM and a Celtic Service at noon. Canon Charles "Charlie" McCarron will be presenting "Giving Birth to the Word: Spiritual Motherhood and the Advent Season." All are welcome. A suggested donation of \$20 is requested. Please RSVP to either Heather Kress at (631) 549-1586, hkress@optonline.net or Patti Aliperti at (631) 385-1410, silverymoon33@yahoo.com.

ADVENT SERIES

All are welcome to attend our Tuesday Advent Series on December 5th, 12th & 19th: Evening Prayer at 6:00 PM; Soup & Salad Dinner at 6:20 PM; Program at 7:00 PM with Fr. John Morrison. Join us as we look at some short poetry, a few carols, several pieces of prose and a cartoon or two in order to discover how Advent offers a ray of light in this present darkness.

YOUTH GROUP CHRISTMAS WREATH SALE

The annual wreath, poinsettia, roping, and Christmas cactus sale PICK UP is TODAY, December 3rd between or after the services until 12 noon.
Thanks for supporting the St. John's Youth Group.

HIHI

Volunteers are needed on Friday, December 8th to prepare food to bring to the Methodist Church on West Neck Rd. We will meet in the kitchen at 4:00 PM. Please see Fr. Duncan if you would like to help.

HiHi at St. John's is Friday, December 15th. the Youth Group will be preparing dinner beginning at 4:00 PM in the kitchen. Dinner will begin at 6:00 PM in the Great Hall. Please see Fr. Duncan or Ford Spilsbury with any questions.

FAMILY ADVENT WREATH MAKING

Everyone is invited to join us TODAY, Sunday, December 3rd at 11:30 AM as we continue the tradition of **Advent Wreath making.** We will provide greens, wire wreaths, candles and music. Please join us and bring a friend! This is a perfect opportunity to invite your family and friends to visit St. John's. If you saved your wire wreath frame from last year, please bring it with you!

ECW ADOPT-A-FAMILY

The ECW will be participating in the St. John's Episcopal Hospital's Adopt-A-Family Program this Christmas. All purchased gifts should be gift wrapped and have the individual tag attached to the gift. **All gifts need to be dropped off TODAY, Sunday, December 3rd.** Any questions, please contact Linda Ehrenshaft at (631) 863-1118.

CHRISTMAS AT ST. JOHN'S

Join us as we Celebrate Christmas here at St. John's!

Christmas Eve: 4 PM-Family Holy Eucharist with string quartet;
8 PM-Candlelit Choral Eucharist
11 PM-Candlelit Holy Eucharist with incense.

Christmas Day: 10 AM-Holy Eucharist with music.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

There will be a Christmas Pageant rehearsal on Saturday, December 16th from 9:00 AM to noon. Please contact Cindy Ellenbogen at (631) 261-5753 for more information on how to be a part of this pageant. **The Christmas pageant will be presented at the 10:00 AM service on Sunday, December 17th.** Invite your friends and family to this special event.
