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## 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 in Loving Memory of Bertha Lasek by Dave and Nelly Lasek.**

**Perpetual Light is given in Loving Memory of Ken Kunkel, a family friend of Anthony Jones who for over 40 years dedicated his talent to the glory of God as organist at St. Luke Lutheran Church in Olney, Texas.**

**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: 196**

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## SUNDAY SERVICES

	<b>December 10<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>December 17<sup>th</sup></b>
	<b>10:00 AM</b>	<b>10:00 AM</b>
<b>MC</b>	Al Szigethy	Earl Matchett
<b>LEM</b>	Noelle DeLorenzo	Linda Eherenshaft
<b>Acolytes</b>	Stephanie Wickey Pete Minichello Jennifer Low Anna Wickey Timmy Kusterbeck Walter Kusterbeck Wade Holden	Emma Cahill Luke Cahill Carleigh Tracy Colby Tracy Jacob Goldbaum Wade Holden Thalia Tosetti
<b>Lectors</b>	MK Brennan Jennifer Low	MK Brennan Thalia Tosetti

## TODAY'S HYMNS

<b>Processional Hymn 76</b>	On Jordan's bank	<i>Winchester New</i>
<b>Gradual Hymn 56 (v. 5-6)</b>	O come, O come, Emmanuel	<i>Veni, veni, Emmanuel</i>
<b>Offertory Anthem</b>	Something's Happening	<i>George Moss, singer-songwriter</i>
<b>Communion Hymn (Insert)</b>	O Lord Hear My Prayer	<i>Taizé</i>
<b>Recessional Hymn LEVAS 210</b>	Down by the Riverside	<i>Negro Spiritual</i>

## THE CHALICE

The weekly Sunday Bulletin of St. John's Episcopal Church

December 10, 2017

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*Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken" (Isaiah 40:1-5).*

You will notice an echo in the Old and New Testament readings today. Mark's Gospel says, "the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight" (Mark 1:2-3). The voice of God cries out through the prophets and through the Gospel. I believe that these words are significant. "Prepare the way of the Lord." Advent is the time of the year that we prepare for the coming of the Lord. The words are particularly meaningful to a people such as Israel that had spent time in the wilderness. They were just about to be released from exile in Babylon and allowed to resume their culture and religion. They would now be ruled by Persia, but with a much more tolerant ruler named Cyrus. It is the hope of something better to come that marks this time in history. The hope is that a messiah will soon be coming. A messiah that will rid God's people of this terrible shame they feel.

In Mark's Gospel, John the Baptist tells the people that the Lord is coming and that they must prepare the way. The people must repent, receive forgiveness of sins, and be baptized to prepare for the Lord. In baptism you were initiated into a new life in Christ. The echo that we hear is that God loves us, we are forgiven, and that God is coming to make things right. God calls each of us to this new way of life. You were baptized with the Holy Spirit into new life and all your sins are forgiven. The Good News is that we do not have to feel the shame of the wilderness and can wait for the coming of Christ in glory. The difficult part for people is that we still have a long way to go to walk to a new way of life. The world is far from the place that God would like it to be. We still have a ways to go to prepare the way of the Lord, but we are headed in the right direction. Let us be steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love.

We have two really big events coming up for our children. We will hold our Christmas pageant on December 17th at 10:00am and our Family Christmas Eve Eucharist on December 24th at 4:00pm. Because our children are our treasure at St. John's, both services will feature our talented children and youth singing your favorite Christmas Songs. The Christmas Eve 4:00pm service will also feature a string quartet. They will begin the prelude at 3:45. Please have acolytes and performers arrive before 3:45. Alex also asks that you arrive early at 3:45 for good seats and to hear the string quartet. Please invite family and friends to join you. Cindy will hold the rehearsal for the pageant on December 16th at 9:00am. We still have parts to hand out. Please join us to decorate the church following our pageant rehearsal.

Christ's love,

Fr. Duncan

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## 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.

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## MORNING PRAYER

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

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## BIBLE STUDY

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

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## TAIZÉ SERVICE

**Join us on Sunday, January 7<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 PM for our next Taizé Service.**

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## 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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## ADVENT SERIES

**All are welcome to attend our Tuesday Advent Series on December 12<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>:** 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.

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## 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.

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## 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

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## ECW MEETING

**There will be an ECW meeting in the Guild Room following the 10:00 AM service today, December 10<sup>th</sup>.** They will be voting on their annual giving.

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## ST. HILDA'S GUILD MINI FAIR

**On Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>, following the 10 AM service, St. Hilda' Guild will be having a mini fair to sell Christmas crafts.** Find a Christmas gift to give or a little something for yourself.

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## HIHI

**HiHi at St. John's is Friday, December 15<sup>th</sup>. 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.

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## SING NOËL - SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17<sup>TH</sup> 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](mailto:leslieval@aol.com).

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

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## SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

**There will be a Christmas Pageant rehearsal on Saturday, December 16<sup>th</sup> 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 17<sup>th</sup>.** Invite your friends and family to this special event.

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## NEW YEAR'S DAY SERVICE & BRUNCH

**Please join us on Monday, January 1<sup>st</sup> at 10:00 AM for our annual New Year's Day Service and Brunch immediately following the service.** Fr. John Morrison will be here to celebrate with us.

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## FIRST HOLY COMMUNION & CONFIRMATION

**Confirmation Classes will begin on Sunday, January 21<sup>st</sup> at 5:30 PM. First Holy Communion classes will begin on Wednesday, January 31<sup>st</sup> at 5:00 PM.** If you are interested in having your child participate in either Confirmation or First Holy Communion, please review the class schedule and complete a form which can be found at the back of the church or on our website.

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