



The Correspondent

Monthly Newsletter / December 2025

WEEKLY CHURCH SERVICES*

Wednesdays: 11 am (Chapel)
 Saturdays: 5 pm (Church - live streaming on Facebook)
 Sundays: 8 am (Church)
 10 am (Church - live streaming on Facebook)

WEEKLY CAMPUS SCHEDULE*

Grief Group: Following Wednesday Mass
Food Pantry: Mondays & Wednesdays 10-12
Thrift Shop: Wednesdays, Thursdays,
 Saturdays 10 am-2 pm
AA meetings: Mondays 7 pm
 Thursdays 10 am & 7 pm
 Sundays 7:30 pm
Choir Practice 1st Tuesday 1 pm
 All other Tuesdays 6:45 pm
Men's Group Tuesdays 8 am Breakfast

MONTHLY SCHEDULE*

Family Service First Sunday (Oct-June)
Senior Lunch November 18th
Vestry Meeting Second Monday
Pizza Supper Third Saturday

**check our website for details, changes, and updates www.saint-anns.org*

Saint Ann's Vestry

Wardens

Randy Schultz (2027)
 Roma Busch (2026)

Members

Ray Busch (2028)
 Joe Castelli (2027)
 Laurin Clemens (2028)
 Kaitlyn Crevoiserat (2026)
 Don Hester (2026)
 Pat Osarchuk (2026)
 Rich Maddox (2027)
 Carol Ann St. Lawrence (2027)
 Laura Sanchez (2026)

Linda Maddox, clerk of the Vestry

Christmas Worship Services



Christmas Eve - December 24 *

4:00 PM Family Service with Pageant

8:00 PM Holy Eucharist Rite II with Choir & Brass *

10:00 PM Holy Eucharist Rite II with Choir & Brass

Christmas Day - December 25 *

One service 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist Rite II

Other important Dates:

Family Film Night (Polar Express) 12/5 at 7 pm

Lessons & Carols Saturday 12/6 at 5 PM

An Advent service of scriptural readings and carols to prepare us for the miracle of Christmas (no eucharist).

Family Service Sunday 12/7 at 10 am *

Blood Drive Tuesday 12/9 from 1 PM to 7 PM

CM Performing Arts - Behold...the Moment 12/13 at 4:30 pm

Senior Luncheon Tuesday 12/16 11:15 am

Service in the Chapel followed by lunch

Blue Christmas Wednesday 12/17 at 6 PM *

An evening prayer service to honor people who have lost loved ones and are experiencing grief and/or hardships during the Christmas Season

160th Annual Meeting of Saint Ann's Parish January 18, 2026

Office closed: 12/23 —1/2/2026

*** Live streaming on Facebook**

SAINT ANN'S OFFICE

251 Middle Road
Sayville NY 11782
Email: office@saint-anns.org
Web: www.saint-anns.org
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Fax: 631-589-6541
Mon-Wed 9:00 am – 3 pm
(Until further notice)
Lynne Robinson
Parish Administrator
Marge Rogers
Office volunteer

CLERGY

The Reverend Dr. Benjamin Brenkert,
Father Ben
Priest-In-Charge
frbenjamin@saint-anns.org
929-445-3781

The Reverend Dcn. Susan Ellinghaus
Deacon Susan
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Eileen Moran, Editor
Liz Madigan, Assistant Editor
Sue Schultz, Roving Reporter

FOOD PANTRY

257 Middle Road
Parish Hall
Sayville NY 11782
Pantry Coordinator:
Lynette Schulz
office@saint-anns.org
631-589-6522
Open Monday 10 am - noon

THRIFT SHOP

268 Middle Road
Sayville NY 11782
Shop Co-Managers:
Cindy Reisert
Linda Maddox
office@saint-anns.org
631-589-6220
Open Wednesday, Thursday, &
Saturday 10 am – 2 pm

CEMETERY

The Garden of the Unforgotten

251 Middle Road
Sayville NY 11782
Cemetery Manager:
Tim Laffin
cemetery@saint-anns.org
631-589-6522
Open 7 am - sundown

SAINT ANN'S STAFF-MEMBERS*

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Parish Administrator
Cemetery Manager
Finance & Bookkeeping

Treasurer
Assistant Treasurer
Webmaster
Facility Manager
Historian
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Companions-in-Christ: A Word from the Priest in Charge



Dear Saint Ann's and Fire Island Ministries Family and Friends,

P.C. Happy Advent and Merry Christmas. Praise the lord. Just before the Feast of Christ the King, the word joy was on my heart, my mind and my lips. I know, Fr. Ben, in November you dealt with cesspools while dressed as Saint Nick, the renovation of the Burgess Building, and hiring a new landscaper to direct more of our Stewardship to community outreach. No, my Christmas message is not about irony. Or Denial. It's about Joy. As Marge said during her reflection about prayer, Jesus, Others, Yourself: Joy!

Joy has been infectious. Somewhat electric: Joy in committing to the renovation of our Historic Tower, relocation of the baptismal font and to replacing the tabernacle in its original setting. Joy in building out our program year budget. Joy in the successes of our social work intern. Joy in feeding countless more from our food pantry. Joy in our Senior lunches. Joy in rebuilding our youth and young adult program. Joy in the People's Arc seeking to be more involved in our community, including the aforementioned senior lunches. Joy in Saint Ann's and Fire Island Ministries growing into the prophetic role of a Community Church. Joy found me as I no longer waited for Willy to come home. Joy in my newest bird settling in with the flock. Genesis, my bird's name, but also the first book of the Bible. Often, the first book of the Bible, Genesis, is given a bad rap. Adam and Eve. Cain and Able. Sodom and Gomorrah, Joseph's family drama, Noah's Ark, the tragic love story of and triangulated relationship between Jacob, Leah and Rachel, and so on. But Genesis is also about joy: Joy develops literarily and spiritually through important themes of divine creativity, purposeful creation and the promise of fulfillment. Faith is a type of joy. Jesus' birth is a joy! Advent and Christmas are joyous.

Life is full of struggles and disappointments, let's not be naïve.

Still, that world order that derives from Genesis is one of fundamental peace, joy and purpose.

I experienced joy in starting a part-time job with NYU Suffolk's Hospice Team. It is refreshing to be fully welcomed into something new, when so many in our world opt for exclusion. I rejoiced at the reopening of the government, though I despaired when SNAP benefits were not fully restored. I also despair at the insipient White Christian Nationalism so pervasive in our country.

As Fr. Rudy Casals, SJ said, "Choose the joy." Being joyful is a choice. Expectant joy at the coming of a favorite holiday: Thanksgiving, yams or sweet potatoes? Cream corn or corn on the cob? White or dark meat? Apple Pie or Key Lime Pie? Hershey's Krackel or Nestle's Crunch? That's a little convention table humor between Deacon Susan, Randy, Roma and me. Notice, I didn't mention politics. Patiently waiting with joy for Advent, and the Christmas music, as Mariah Carey says in her billions viewed commercials, "it's time!"

We heard a lot about joy leading up to Advent and Christmas. From one Collect, joy is understood as an embrace of the blessed hope of everlasting life – given to us in Jesus Christ.

From a reading from Isaiah, there is joy in God creating the new heavens: "Be glad and rejoice forever in what I am creating; for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy, and its people as a delight." No labor pains; the wolf and the lamb shall feed together, the lion shall eat straw like the ox – in this case, well, please find me the joyous-joyful-all-too-happy vegan lion! Even Warner Brothers Cartoons missed that mark!

I am certain some of us have let out belts of joy at the peak of a recently climbed mountain. If not, remember Julie Andrews from 1965's *The Sound of Music*, "The hills are alive with the sound of music, with songs, they

have sung for a thousand years, the hills fill my heart with the sound of music, my heart wants to sing every song it hears, my heart wants to beat like the wings of the birds that rise from the lake to the trees.” Such joy. The most important lesson this Advent Season: joy radiates from endurance in love, that joy is life in Jesus Christ. Jesus tells us to not be led astray by fear or false peace; he tells us to hold fast to your faith even when families and friends turn against you, for through patience you keep your soul—“In your patience possess ye your souls” or “By your endurance you will gain your souls”, emphasis on [Luke 21:19](#). A good Jesuit Spiritual Director will remind his directee: Stay near to Jesus in those days when there is no joy or when a joy is not complete, and let hope in God’s coming kingdom steady your heart. In that instance, don’t make a decision of great importance. There is joy in receiving spiritual direction!

During Advent, I encourage each of us to spend time with Mary, the mother of Jesus, whose intimate association with joy through her faith in God and in the events of her son’s life is profound and exemplary. Mary’s joy lives outward from her inward trust in God’s goodness.

The Seven joys of Mary are:

The Annunciation: Mary joyfully conceives Jesus through the Holy Spirit.

The Visitation: Mary joyfully visits her cousin, Elizabeth.

The Nativity: Mary joyfully brings Jesus into the world.

The Adoration of the Magi: Mary joyfully shows Jesus to the wise men.

Finding Jesus in the Temple: Mary joyfully finds Jesus after he was lost.

The Resurrection: Mary joyfully behold Jesus after his resurrection.

The Assumption: Mary is joyfully received by Jesus into Heaven and crowned Queen.

As I approached Advent, joy was on my mind, my heart and my lips. I couldn’t resist it, and I prayed for the grace to more fully understand what God’s message to me might mean.

Joy, defined as a feeling or state of well-being and contentment. Delight and happiness, two parts of joy - human flourishing, even at baptism - a joy when the baptized are affirmed by the church.

Baptism: Be not afraid, be for the Gospel, do good, accomplish good. As we heard at the Convention, ours is one mission; one diocese, citizens of the kingdom of God. Joy in practicing reconciliation and asking for forgiveness, if I’ve wronged anyone, please forgive me for that trespass.

Synonyms for joy: Glory, felicity, blessedness, cheerfulness, manna, bliss, nirvana, jollity, ambrosia, satisfaction, jubilation, gaiety, solace, fun, jocundity, gladness, jubilation and amusement. Great words to win a scrabble game.

Joy: what is the Church in the 21st Century? Contemplate: What is my outward focus? At Christmas, God focused the world on the birth of His Son, in a tiny manger, from poverty to savior.

At Saint Ann’s and Fire Island Ministries, what is our mission, vision and prayer? Faithfully move forward, together strongest. Let mutual love and mutual respect continue, and dialogue with all our neighbors. Ever growing, life together, all for the greater glory of God.

This Advent and Christmas Season, embrace your Christian citizenship in Jesus Christ. Seek Reformation. Saint Ann’s and Fire Island Ministries is transforming into a Community Church: be not afraid. Be Joy! Better yet, Be Christmas to all. All for the greater glory of God. A.M.D.G.

With gratitude and in prayer,

Fr. Ben



Future Joy for 31 needy families to celebrate Thanksgiving – Turkeys to be added!

Thank you to all who participated!

Some thoughts from your Deacon...

Greetings of the Season,

"For unto us a child is born, unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given... and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace" Isaiah 9:6



As we begin our journey in this penitential season, let's take a moment to reflect on those words from Isaiah. I think everyone who looks upon the face of a newly born baby is struck by the beauty and innocence therein, even if the baby resembles a little gnome! But Isaiah was proclaiming a truth which was to come, not something that was imminent, and for generations people waited in hopeful expectation. That hopeful expectation still resounds in each of us as we prepare to worship our Lord and Savior on the day of his birth. In these days of uncertainty, when the world seems to be going sideways, let us rejoice in the Prince of Peace knowing that he has it all under control.

Much like the wisemen, our journey will be long and at times exhausting, but we know where we are going. We will follow the star, just as they did, and it will lead us to our rightful place. Don't give up. Nourish your souls with prayer, silent meditation, and when you are at wits end, list a few things you are grateful for...little things that are just between you and God! (and it's more than okay to give thanks for a line that moves quickly!)

I'm here with you and for you,
Deacon Susan

DATES to keep in mind!

December Family Film Night

Friday, December 5th -

2nd Annual viewing of "**The Polar Express**" in the Upper Parish Hall at 7 pm. Doors open at 6:30 pm. Wear your comfy clothes, slippers, even PJs! Bring a chair or sleeping bag, blankets encouraged! Hot cocoa and popcorn balls will be served! No one is too young or too old!

December Blood Drive

Tuesday, December 9th from 1:00 to 7:00 in the Parish Hall!

Give the true gift that keeps giving!! You'll be so glad you did!

December Senior Luncheon and Carol Sing-A-Long

Tuesday, December 16th

Come and join us for grilled cheese sandwiches and tomato soup, fellowship, and singing Christmas Carols!! We'll begin with Holy Eucharist in the St. Barnabas Chapel at 11:15. Luncheon is served at noon. Please bring a contribution to the Food Pantry.

December 24th Christmas Pageant

Children and families welcome!

We will practice every Sunday in December after the 10:00 service. We have costumes! No speaking parts! Come and let us sing and rejoice as we welcome the Christ Child as only our children can! If you have little ones who visit during Christmas who would like to participate, just let me know!! ALL are welcome!

The end of the year is almost here, and the months of November and December always seem to fly by as we become consumed by the flurry of activity during the seasons of Thanksgiving and Christmas. This flurry only seems to slow down the day after the big ball drops in Times Square, heralding the beginning of a new year. These holidays are wonderful times to connect with our family and friends – both those that live near to us and those that live far. People we hold dear to our hearts, which have in ways large and small left imprints – imprints which helped shape us into the people we are today. And then once this bustle of the Christmas season slows down and the new year has arrived, we have time to look back and reflect on the past year – what we’ve been able to accomplish, and where we’ve fell short or could have done a better job.

When I look back on the accomplishments of Saint Ann’s over the past year, I see a lot of new and continued activities that are helping us to grow our church. Our partnership with The People’s Ark, our continued support of the community through the Thrift Shop, the Food Pantry and Blessings Box, our Christian Education Program and pastoral outreach, our Correspondent Newsletter, and the many, many, activities the church holds throughout the year. These activities provide in some cases financial support, but in all cases fellowship among our parishioners and the greater community. Although too numerous to mention, I’ll just name a few: The Christmas Fair and Christmas Tree Lot, Saint Barnabas Day and the Fall Festival, the Fish Fry and Art Show, the Senior Lunch-In’s and the Movie Nights. We’re a vibrant church, and for that we should all be thankful.

Finally, when we think about December, most importantly it’s the month we celebrate the birth of Christ and his teachings of love, compassion, and forgiveness – and the importance of making those values part of our everyday lives. He also calls on us to understand that these teachings apply to all of God’s children, and especially to those ‘Others’ – the ones we don’t agree with, the ones who don’t look like us, and ones that worship differently than us. In the end we need to remind ourselves that we are all children of the same God.

To you and your family this holiday season: may you all experience love, peace and joy.

Peace,

Joe Castelli

Communion where you live

If you are unable to attend church,
regardless of the duration, and would like a Lay
Eucharistic visitor to bring communion to you
at home or in a facility,
please call the church office,
Father Ben or Deacon Susan to schedule a visit.

Stewardship

Advent and Stewardship

Together, we approach the expectant, spiritual season of Advent. The four weeks before Christmas are a time to prepare ourselves for the Wonder of the Birth of Christ... And yet, with all the “noise” and negativity in the world around us, this may be hard to do...

As I write this, not fully three days after receiving a right hip replacement at Syosset Hospital, I feel incredibly thankful for the skill and dedication of my doctor, nurses, and physical therapists that allowed me to go home the same day and have blessed me with only minimal discomfort that will become a distant memory as I resume a full and active lifestyle.

I believe we can all recognize “noise” and “negativity” for what it is...and choose to turn our backs on it to embrace true Joy, the love of family, feeling thankful for those blessings we have been given, and remembering that all those blessings flow from Father, Son and Holy Spirit...

May we choose the spirituality of Advent offered at St. Ann’s this season.....Lessons and Carols, Behold the Moment, Blue Christmas, and Christmas Eve Services at 4 PM (Children’s Christmas Pageant) 8 PM, and 10 PM. Recognizing also that some of us have good reasons to forestall offering their stewardship pledge for 2026 until December, there are pledge cards and giving envelopes available in the narthex and the Parish Hall for your convenience.

Thank you, thank you, and thank you! Have a blessed Advent and Christmas season!

Randy Schultz
Stewardship Chair.

St. Ann's Episcopal Church 160th Annual Meeting

Pursuant to the Canons of the Episcopal Diocese of Long Island and the Religious Corporation Laws of the State of New York, notice is hereby given of the Annual Meeting of Saint Ann's Episcopal Church, Sayville New York at 11:15 AM on

Sunday, January 18, 2026



In the News

Parish news and a round-up of items announced in emails and at weekend services.

Send stories and/or photos for *The Correspondent* to correspondent@saint-anns.org by the 3rd Friday of each month.

Please submit announcements to the office by Wednesday each week.

Congratulations to

Jaidan Burling who was baptized on November 1st.

Daisy Mangano who was also baptized on November 1st. She is the daughter of Madison & Joseph.

Isla & Sienna D'Amico were baptized on November 2nd. Nicole & Joseph are the proud parents.

Anthony & Natalie Kastendieck were baptized on November 16. Their parents are Alyssa & Anthony.



Isla & Sienna



Natalie & Anthony



The thrift shop is in need of **winter coats**. All donations are appreciated!

Look for the annual **Christmas Giving Tree** in the parish hall soon. It's an opportunity to spread joy to persons who are in need.

Family Film Night Friday December 5th: Join us at 7PM for the movie The Polar Express. Takes place in the upper Parish Hall, hot cocoa and popcorn will be served. Casual attire, PJ's welcome!

We need individuals and families to sign up for the **Sunday Coffee Hour**. The list is in the Parish Hall. Thanks!

Lou Linbrunner is now our Facility Manager. Lou has served as our Sexton for many years.

The People's Arc is now helping with our **Food Pantry Ministry**. This has enabled us to open an extra day. We are now open on Mondays & Wednesdays from 10 am to noon. Donations placed in the little red wagon in the parish hall are always appreciated.

Our website now has a **calendar of events** to review. Check it out: <https://www.saint-anns.org/>

Wednesday services, at 11 am in our Saint Barnabas Chapel, includes **Anointing of the Sick and Eucharist**. It is followed by the **Grief Group**. Through pastoral counseling, many will receive the graces they need to find God in all things, and to begin to find in others a community of love and mutual support.

The Saint Ann's Tree of Life/Wall of Remembrance, located outside the Chapel, is a great way to acknowledge a loved one, friend, neighbor or colleague. For more information call us at the Parish Administration Offices.

Saint Ann's seeks members for the **Altar Guild** and a **Counter** to join our volunteers who account for our stewardship, tithing: various offerings and plate giving. Please contact Lynne at the Parish Office if you would like to learn more about how to get involved, her email is office@saint-anns.org.

Looking for Social Work Support: Please join us in welcoming Liz Madigan, a BSW Social Work Student from Stony Brook University. Liz will intern with us through May 2026. To request services, contact Fr. Ben at frbenjamin@saint-anns.org or by phone at 631-589-6522.

Lessons & Carols

An Advent Service of Lessons and Carols, celebrating the story of Christ's birth through Scripture and song.

Saturday, **December 6** at the 5pm service.

Followed by a reception in the parish hall.

Bring family & friends, all are welcome!

Did You Know...

Did You Know? Did you know that opposites really do attract, especially when they're just a few miles apart? **Laurin and Jim Clemens'** love story spans both shores of Long Island. Laurin grew up in Sayville/Oakdale on the South Shore, while Jim hails from Northport and Southold on the North Shore. The friendly rivalry between them is alive and well, often surfacing in playful banter and good-natured teasing. Despite their geographic differences, they've built a life engrained in shared values, laughter, and deep affection.

They live in Central Islip. Jim is a Director of Major Litigation Claims and Laurin is a Senior Consultant in Vendor Management for CNA Insurance, in Melville. Laurin was a volunteer member of Community Ambulance Company for 10 years before moving out of the district to Central Islip.

Although they live outside of Sayville, they are still rooted in Sayville. Together for 20 years and married at St. Ann's in November 2024; Laurin and Jim are active members of St. Ann's Episcopal Church. They both serve as Lectors once a month. Laurin serves on the Vestry and as a lay preacher, while Jim lends his talents to the Buildings & Grounds committee.

Their journey to St. Ann's began when Laurin, a prior parishioner, introduced Jim to the church's welcoming, non-judgmental spirit—a place where both found spiritual home and community. Their life is full of joyful rhythms: long weekends and extended trips to Jim's brother Bob's cabin in the Catskills, travels to chilly destinations like Iceland, Greenland, Nova Scotia, Alaska, Newfoundland, and Labrador, and the daily adventures of parenting two energetic Yorkshire Terriers—Myles (13) and Walter (11). Despite Myles' and Walter's age, they keep Laurin and Jim active and laughing.

Jim is also a proud father to three grown children, Jessica (28), married to Tucker (31); Sean (26), soon to be married to fiancée Samantha; and Nicholas (25), still searching. They are spread out across the country. Visits from them are treasured moments, filled with stories, hugs, lots of laughs and reconnection. Did you know that this couple's love is built not just on shared passions, but on mutual respect, spiritual depth, and a whole lot of humor? Whether they're debating which shore is superior or planning their next Arctic escape, Laurin and Jim remind us that love thrives in the details—and in the journey.



Thanks, Laurin for sharing your story with us.



BEHOLD...THE MOMENT!

A CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

BY PETER B. FRANCIS

Presented at SAINT ANN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

in SAYVILLE

257 Middle Road

Sayville, NY, 11782

on SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13 at 4:30PM

For more information,
visit www.CMPAC.com
or call (631) 218 - 2810

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A Letter of Thanksgiving on the 10th Anniversary of Fr. Jae Wook Chung's Passing



This December marks ten years since my husband, Father Jae, left this world. Many of you remember him as a joyful, gentle priest whose “hug wave” could warm an entire sanctuary. His sudden passing shook our community and left me holding the hands of four very young children: a 7-year-old, a 5-year-old, and two 2½-year-old twins whose lives were beginning.

There is something I have carried quietly for a long time. When he died, it was the first time I had ever lost someone so close, so suddenly. Everything felt unfamiliar—the decisions, the rituals, the silence that followed each moment. When people told me, “I’m so sorry for your loss,” my heart felt too full to form the simple word “thank you.” On the outside, I stood as steady as I could for the children, but inside, the ground beneath me had given way, and I was searching for a place to stand again.

During those days, the children revealed a kind of innocence that both comforted and broke me. The night before the funeral Mass, when Jae’s body rested overnight in the sanctuary, our home was filled with my parents and close family who had come to hold us up. Five-year-old Emma looked around at the crowded living room and asked, “Mommy, is Daddy sleeping at the church because there’s no place for him here?” Her small voice—so earnest, so unaware of what had truly happened—captured the tenderness and the ache of that moment more than any adult words ever could.



Life, however, did not pause.

Each day brought small tasks that were somehow both ordinary and monumental.

I cooked meals for the twins and wiped their faces clean.

I knelt on the floor and played with their toys, matching their smiles even when mine felt borrowed.

I checked Ian’s second-grade homework.



I went to Emma's gingerbread house-making day at school, helping her press candy pieces into icing as if nothing in the world had shifted beneath our feet.

I carried all of these moments quietly, grateful for the distraction, aching from the weight, and trying to stitch together a sense of normalcy for four little hearts who depended on mine.

And because of all this, even though so many of you sent meals, letters, gifts, and generosity beyond words, I could not offer the thank-you notes I wished I could have written. I wanted to. My gratitude was genuine. But at that time, the words would not come—and the days slipped quickly into years.

So today, I offer what my heart could not give then.

Thank you.

To Saint Ann's—its clergy, staff, vestry, volunteers, and every soul who fills this sanctuary with love:

Thank you for covering our family with grace when my voice was fragile and my strength was thin.

You lived the Gospel not only in word, but in the way you held us.

My gratitude also reaches to the wider Sayville community—teachers, neighbors, families, and students—whose kindness became a soft place for us to land. Your support helped carry us through days I could not have walked alone.



I also thank Bishop Provenzano, Mother Diane, and the clergy who served at Saint Ann's in the years that followed. Your prayers, your presence, and your steady kindness built a spiritual home where my children could grow in safety and hope, and where I slowly learned to stand again.

Saint Ann's also gave us a physical home through the rectory—a place where laughter returned, where little feet ran up and down hallways, where birthday candles were lit, and where love continued weaving itself quietly into our family story. Those memories exist because of your generosity.

I often imagine the day when we will all stand before God. And on that day, my children and I will be your witnesses. We will remember how this church and this community cared for a grieving family—with gentleness, compassion, and the unmistakable heart of Christ. You lived the Gospel for us.

Now, as my children grow, prepare for college, and step into their futures, I tell them this often: Our story is not a story of tragedy, but of grace. And that grace came—again and again—through all of you.

From the deepest place in my heart, and on behalf of Ian, Emma, Leo, and Lucas:

Thank you.

Thank you for remembering him.

Thank you for remembering us.

And thank you for being the heart of Christ when we needed it most.

With love and gratitude,
Shin and Kids



December 7th, the 10 Year Anniversary Service for Fr. Jae Chung.

The Rt. Rev. Bishop Provenzano will preside at the Service.

Let us continue to pray for the repose of the soul of Fr. Jae and for Shin and their children, Lucas, Leo, Emma and Ian.

Saint Anns Family – Let’s show our thanks to the merchants that supported our fair through patronage!

From Sayville Aegean Café Bagel Delox Blackbirds Grille Brinkmann’s Hardware Brownstones Bunger Sayville Café Joelle Clam Power Claw’s Seafood Market Coco & Ro Cornucopia D’Andrea Family Gary Worrell Drum Studio J & J Spirit Shop Local Burger Madison’s Niche Off the Block Kitchen & Meats Portly Villager Sayville Bait & Tackle Sayville Bean Sayville Chocolatier Sayville Ferry Service Sayville Pizza & Metros on Main Shabby Tabby Suffolk Credit Union The Cull House The Shed Umberto’s Vanity Square Salon Village General	From Patchogue Alternative Approach Aroogas Grille House & Sports Bar Birdies Indoor Golf & Cocktail Bar Bobbique Barbecue Catch Oyster Bar Gino’s Pizza Goldberg’s Bagels Harbor Crab Hot Chicken Mama ITA Kitchen James Joyce Locale Gastro Bar Lombardi’s on the Bay NY Spice & Tea Ruta Oaxaca Mexican Cuisine Shands General Southdown Coffee Spy Coast Kitchen & Cocktails Standard Rec Restaurant Tap Room The Meetball Place TJ’s Hero Shop Toast Coffee & Kitchen Virgola Oyster & Wine Bar Whiskey Neat
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Thank you to ALL who contributed to our festive Christmas Fair!

We raised \$600 for **The Neighborhood House**, a local non-profit that works with families who have experienced traumatic loss.

Thank you to the following parishioners for their generous donations:

THANK YOU!

Carolann St. Lawrence
Deacon Susan & Kathy Senese
Fr. Ben & Deacon Susan
Fr. Ben & Willy Brenkert
Janice & Michael Kennedy
Jim & Laurin Clemens
Kaitlyn & Mike Crevoiserat
Linda & Chris Elton
Linda & Rich Maddox
Lynette Schulz
Niki D'Amico
Peggy Flanagan
Sally Stoll DePompeo
Sandie & Bob Immoor
Steve Birkeland - SMB Photography
St. Ann's Choir
St. Ann's Men's Group
Sue & Jack Conklin
Volunteers of St. Ann's Thrift Shop
Wendy Mangan



THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS:



Barbara Boerjes
 Bob Ellinghaus
 Bob Sheppard
 Brenda Irvine
 Cindy MacDonell
 Cindy Reisert
 Clare Jenkins
 Danielle Dunne
 Deacon Susan
 Ellen Stoll
 Father Ben
 Gary Nappo
 Greg Domoff
 Jackie Liberato
 Joan Siedlecki
 Joe Castrelli
 Joe Garofolo
 John Peckarick
 Kaitlyn Crevoiserat
 Karen Faiella
 Kathy Senese



Laura Sanchez
 Linda & Chris Elton
 Linda & Rich Maddox
 Linda & Tom Munkelwitz
 Liz Madigan
 Lou Linbrunner
 Lynne Ramistella
 Lynne Robinson
 Mary Jean Lap-Bohanick
 Megan DiCristofaro
 Nancy Nolan
 Niki Damico
 Nirry & Nathan Ramsirdar
 Peggi & Bob Flanagan
 Peggy Walsh
 Sharon & Steve VanderBorgh
 Sue & Randy Schultz
 Susan Verneer
 Tim Laffin





PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Alex, Ann, Beth, Bob, Carrie, Cassie, Cathy, Chris, Christine, Colleen, Corrin, Dale, David, Debi, Diana, Ellen, Eileen, Erin, Florence, Gary, Germaine, Gerry, Gladys, Hap, Harry, Heather, Jean, Jerry, Jim, Kathy, Ken, Kyle, Laney, Lauren, Linda, Lissy, Mary, Melanie, Mikaela, Nancy, Paul, Paul, Rev. Robert, Rosemarie, Scott, Sharon, Steven, Sue, Tina and Vicki.

Please submit the name(s) of a loved one going forward to the parish office, text PRAYER to 631-212-2320 to receive a link for making prayer requests, or submit the form on the Saint Anns website - saint-anns.org.

Use this link: <https://form.jotform.com/212086636121146>

December Anniversaries:

- 7 Barbara & Robert Gaito
- 13 Melanie & Christian Hagenlocher
- 26 Barbara & John Stahlberg
- 28 John O'Neil & Richard Mungo



December Birthdays:



- 2 Rick Kaiser
- 4 Brett Krakaur
- 4 Linda Munkelwitz
- 5 Jack Adam
- 5 Anne Savage
- 6 Joseph Garafolo
- 6 Richard Magnani
- 6 John O'Neil
- 10 Jonathan Greci
- 10 Nicholas Greci
- 13 Scott Leuly
- 21 John Stahlberg
- 22 Mark Schmittzeh
- 24 Wendy Schmittzeh
- 26 Melanie Hagenlocher
- 31 Kimberly Rodriguez-Cerillo
- 25 Bob Ellinghaus

“One small act multiplied by 1 billion becomes BIG”

Nothing says Christmas season has arrived quite like setting up a Christmas tree. Whether it is small or large, sits snugly on a table or is displayed in your living room, live or artificial, covered with tinsel or boasts a smattering of the shiny stuff, it all brings the season to life. I particularly love the aroma a live tree brings to the room and the memories that arise when homemade or gift ornaments are hung. I used to look forward to going to my parent’s house at Christmas so I could find where they hung my milk carton partridge that my ten-year-old self had painstakingly created. It brings a huge smile now, when I hang my own children’s past Christmas creations.

I’m hopeful never to see this tradition end. Whether you buy a live tree at our St. Ann’s tree fair or reuse an artificial tree again and again, there are ways to think of our environment when the season is done. For various reasons, Jim and I began to use an artificial tree about five years ago. It comes with the lights already attached which is a time saver for us. We store it in our basement in the off season. It can be set up even if there’s a snow storm going on. If we care for it properly, it will last us for many years to come. If you purchase or cut a tree down to decorate for the holidays, this too can be taken care of when the season ends. If you live in the town of Islip and your taxes include garbage pickup, you can take your undecorated tree to the MacArthur Compost facility by the airport to be composted. No plastic wrappings are accepted and if you used artificial snow spray, that too will make your tree ineligible for composting. When moving your tree to the car, you will want to cover your floor or carpet. A drop cloth, old sheet, or painters’ tarp will do. The Compost facility is open in January on Monday thru Friday from 7am to 2:45pm. Please check before heading over. (MacArthur Compost Facility: [631-467-3343](tel:631-467-3343)) Along the same line of garbage pickup, you may have Winter Unlimited Yard Waste which includes Christmas tree pickup. The sanitation companies will have sent a flyer to your house to announce the days when winter yard pickups occur. Stay tuned for the flyers. If you live near a goat farm, they MAY accept your Christmas tree as this is something goats like to munch on. (I verified this fact with a goat farmer.) If none of the above options are available some extra ideas for those of you who have special tools in your garage are:

- **“Mulch:** Use a [wood chipper](#) to reduce the trunk and branches to [mulch for your landscape](#). You can also place entire branches under trees and shrubs as temporary winter mulch.
- **Christmas Tree Decorations:** Cut pieces of this year’s tree to use as ornaments next year. Dried slices of the trunk create a blank canvas you can decorate and string with a piece of ribbon.
- **Coasters:** Cut, dry, sand, stain and seal discs from the tree trunk to use as coasters.”*

Any action you take that shows our environment some TLC may seem small, but when added together with other people’s actions becomes something BIG. I hope your holidays are special and your tree is bright.

*<https://www.lowes.com/n/how-to/dispose-of-your-Christmas-tree>

Please share your ideas... Joe Castelli at 53jcas@gmail.com subject: Creation Care

Many thanks to **Marie Whipper** who created this page and wrote many thoughtful articles.
The torch has been passed to Joe. Thanks Joe.

Saint Ann's and The People's Arc: A Bi-Vocational Ministry Journey

By Erika Giordano



Volunteering at St. Ann's church's food pantry and thrift shop has been a purposeful and delightful experience for our group. As members of The Peoples Arc, participants with intellectual and developmental disabilities take pride in being active members of their community. Serving others gives us the chance to learn new skills, make friends, and show that everyone has something valuable to contribute. Through teamwork, kindness, and a shared purpose, we have found fulfillment in helping others while also growing in confidence and independence. At the food pantry, we help sort, pack, and organize food donations that are shared with families in need. Each week, we receive boxes of canned goods, and other groceries from local stores and community members. Our group works together to check expiration dates and arrange items neatly on shelves. We also enjoy greeting people who work and come to pick up food and offering a friendly smile. It feels good to know that our work helps families put meals on their tables.



help keep the store tidy. We have learned how to work as a team, follow directions, and take care of our responsibilities. The thrift shop also supports the church's outreach programs, so every sale helps others in the community. It's exciting to know that our work makes a difference in more ways than one. Working together in these programs has helped us build many skills—like communication, organization, and teamwork. Volunteering has also helped us gain confidence and independence.

It gives us a chance to show what we can do and to be recognized for our abilities, not our disabilities. Volunteering at the food pantry and thrift shop has shown us that service brings people together. It has taught us gratitude, compassion, and the joy of giving back. We are proud of the work we do and thankful for the chance to make a difference in our community. Together, we are showing that everyone—no matter their abilities—can help make the world a kinder, more caring place.



Looking for a Ministry Partner

This new section of our newsletter is where people from Saint Ann's or the greater Saint Ann's community can post their needs for help. Readers will have the opportunity to respond and assist the needs of others through corporal and spiritual works of mercy to ease the burden of other human beings. These could be volunteer or paid positions.

Nourish Babylon at Christ Episcopal Church:

Nourish Babylon serves a weekly community meal for the elderly, disabled and disadvantaged guests in a fine-dining restaurant style experience with an atmosphere of kindness and dignity.

They are looking for volunteers to help with meal prep, dining room set up, cooking, serving, cleaning and to Meet & Greet Guests.

Dinner is served every Monday night from 5PM - 6:30PM, located at Christ Episcopal Church 12 Prospect Street in Babylon.

For more information, please contact **Anne Balfour** at **annebalfour.nourishbabylon@gmail.com** or **631-661-5757**

If you or someone you know has a need for help – however small or large, please allow us to post it on this new page. Examples of things we could post: read to me for an hour, play a musical instrument & sing with me, pray with me, give me a ride to church or the store.

Please send your requests for help to Eileen Moran via correspondent@saint-anns.org

Knitters from Saint Ann's have sent 15 hats, 37 scarves and 4 hat and scarf sets to the **Seamen's Church Institute 2025 Christmas at Sea for Mariners program**. If you would like to help with this project, please call the Church Office for patterns and additional information.



NOVEMBER'S SENIOR LUNCHEON



View from Behind the Pole



Thank you to our dedicated Choir Members:

Cathy & Don, Christie, Christine, Eileen, Judy & Don,
Kathy (our wonderful director),
Kaylee, Laura, Linda, Marie, Mary Jean, Michele, Nancy, Rup, & Sandie

Choir practice in the church runs September through June. On the first Tuesday of each month, we practice at 1 pm, all other Tuesdays we practice at 6:45 pm.

If you have any questions, you can call Kathy Senese at the church office or email her at music@saint-anns.org

**Find us on Instagram: [saint_anns_sayville_new_york](#) and Facebook:
St. Ann's Episcopal Church, Sayville, NY**



It's hard to believe Christmas is coming so quickly. The years seem to fly by faster and faster as time goes by. As I write this, tomorrow is Thanksgiving. It's such a wonderful holiday. I'm grateful to have grown up in a large family. I'm gratefully for always having enough to eat and for an excellent education. I'm gratefully for all the people in my life not the least of whom are my husband Ed, and sons Dow & Garret. While there have been deep sorrows in my life, there has also been great joys.

I wish everyone a healthy, happy and Merry Christmas.

Have your kids longed to see their photo or story in The Correspondent? Have you? There is a very easy fix: email me at correspondent@saint-anns.org. I am always looking for kids to feature in our Saint Ann's Stars page and people for our "Did You Know" page.

This is OUR newsletter so let's make it the best we can.

Send your birthday & anniversary dates. Share your good news about births, baptisms, graduations, weddings, new jobs, awards or anything else you think the parish would enjoy reading about. Send a photo. Contribute a poem or short essay. Write your reaction to a sermon or a hymn.

Send ideas for "Creation Corner" to **Joe Castelli** at 53jcas@gmail.com
subject: Creation Care

Everything else should be emailed to correspondent@saint-anns.org.

Documents should be in **Microsoft Word format or as text in the email**.

Photos can take many formats but be sure to send them as "large files" or originals depending on your equipment. These options will produce the best printed photos.

Please observe the deadline which is always the 15th of the previous month. Exceptions may be made for events that happen after the 15th – just ask.

Eileen Moran

Deadline for the next issue:
Friday 12/15/25

Will you help?

We are in need of volunteers to support our **live stream ministry**, which nourishes the spiritual life of our parishioners who cannot make it to the Church for the service.

Please see Joe Castelli or Father Ben to learn more about this important ministry.

We are also looking for more Ushers, Lectors, Acolytes/Crucifers, Singers, Eucharistic Ministers, Coffee Hour hosts and Altar Guild members. Talk to Fr. Ben or Text the word SERVE to 631-212-2320 to sign up.

The Correspondent

MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to spread the gospel of Christ in thought, word, and deed to our community and the world.



www.saint-anns.org

Saint Ann's is a member of the Sayville Chamber of Commerce