



The Correspondent

Monthly Newsletter of Saint Ann's Episcopal Church, Sayville, New York

Volume XXI
Issue 11

December 2014

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WEEKEND SERVICES

Saturday 5:00 PM – Holy Eucharist–Rite II
 Sunday 8:00 AM – Holy Eucharist–Rite II
 Sunday 10:00 AM – Holy Eucharist–Rite II
 Sunday 11:30 AM – Holy Eucharist–Rite I

WEEKDAY SERVICES IN THE CHAPEL

Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday
 9:00 AM Holy Eucharist

SPECIAL UPCOMING EVENTS

Dec. 7—Second Sunday of Advent
 Dec. 7—Lessons & Carols – 3:00 PM
 Dec. 9---Senior Luncheon – 12:00 PM
 Dec. 14--Third Sunday of Advent
 Dec. 21—Fourth Sunday of Advent
 Dec. 24—Christmas Eve
 Dec. 25—Christmas Day
 Dec. 31—New Year's Eve

MISSION STATEMENT

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



The holy season of Christmas is upon us, and we will once again gather to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Please join us at Saint Ann's for one of the following services:

CHRISTMAS EVE, WEDNESDAY, DEC. 24

4:00 PM Holy Eucharist with Children's Christmas Pageant

7:00 PM Family Eucharist with Soloists

9:00 PM Choral Eucharist with Brass Trio and Choir

11:00 PM Traditional Choral Midnight Mass with Brass Trio and Choir

CHRISTMAS DAY, THURSDAY, DEC. 25

10:00 AM Holy Eucharist with Christmas Carols



FROM THE EDITOR



He knows what you've been singing
 He knows about the tree
 He saw you eating cookies
 So, sing along with me:
 You better wait up,
 you better hold back
 Don't jump that gun or
 he'll give you flack,
 Advent Claus is coming to town.



Episcopal Church Memes

My guess is that you've never seen a Santa dressed in purple like the one on the left. Episcopalians often find themselves at odds this time of year with the explosions of Christmas cheer all around us. Of course we want to join in with the luncheons, the Christmas shows, the tree decorations, the carols (which already began on the radio in November). Christmas is fun, Christmas is a celebration! But Christmas doesn't officially begin until December 25th.

What we have to remember is that, according to the church calendar, we are now in the season of Advent. Purple. Wreaths with candles. Advent Calendars. Slower, more solemn hymns. Yes, the last seven days of December are Christmas, but we have four weeks previous to that which we have to focus on first. Advent is more of a reflective season, but it's that contrast that helps us realize the joy of Christmas that much more. It's a time of preparation—mentally and spiritually more so than putting up decorations and shopping (although that's part of the preparation too—especially in our outreach). And truthfully, I find it exhausting to be "merry" for two entire months!

When I was a teenager my favorite Christmas hymn was "O Come. O Come, Emmanuel." Only later did I discover it was an Advent hymn. I still love it and the beautiful Advent music which we will be singing in church in December—and especially at the Advent Service of Lessons and Carols on December 7th. So have a Merry Christmas, but leave room for Advent first!

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The Correspondent

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2014 Saint Ann's Episcopal Church

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The Reverend John Jeffrey Purchal, Assisting Priest, Ext. 14
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December Deadline
 Thursday, December 18

Saint Ann's Staff

Minister of Music	Kathy Senese	589-6522 (Ext. 11)
Parish Administrator	Linda R. Hay	589-6522 (Ext. 10)
Treasurer	Tom Munkelwitz	589-6522
Bookkeeper	Barbara Lapinski	589-6522
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 COME TO SHOP
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THE RECTOR'S CORNER



PREPARING FOR CHRISTMAS

Dear Parish Family,

The holidays are here and that means preparing for the Christmas season is in full swing. There are gifts to buy, dinners to plan, parties to attend and many are looking forward to the arrival of family and friends with whom to celebrate Christmas. It is a time of great joy and it can also be a time of great stress as well.

This year, I invite you to take some time to focus on what we are truly celebrating in this most sacred season. We celebrate an event that changed the world, and us forever. We celebrate the sacred night when a wondrous gift was given to us as heaven and earth blended as one. And in the form of an innocent infant the incarnation happened and God the Creator became God the Created and came to dwell among us in human flesh.

So, if the secular craziness of the season begins to overwhelm you, focus on what the real meaning of Christmas is, and take comfort in the fact that the ultimate gift has already been given.

Blessings,

Mother Diane+

A Christmas Challenge

In many countries, December 26 is Boxing Day. The name might come from the alms boxes set out in churches to collect money for the needy, especially on St. Stephen's Day, which is December 26. The name also likely comes from the old British custom of employers giving "Christmas boxes" to servants or tradesmen the day after Christmas. The boxes might include money, presents and leftovers from a Christmas feast. Because servants and others would have worked on Christmas, they were given the day after as a holiday to spend with their own family.

In 1994, the year apartheid ended in South Africa, the country renamed December 26 "Day of Goodwill." Writes Martie Coetser at HubPages (2013): "Just a day after Christmas, when friends and relatives exchange gifts of all sorts and Christians celebrate the gift of ... Jesus Christ, the Day of Goodwill comes like a challenge. ...



What are you willing to give not in order to get rid of the things you don't want, or to kill your feelings of guilt, but to show goodwill coming from the depth of your heart?

Vestry Visions

I have had so many happy memories of this season throughout my life, most of them revolving around time spent with family and friends. One of my most precious memories, one which I'd like to share with you, still brings calm to my soul as I get caught up in the energy and excitement, as well as the exhaustion that can come at this time of year. My dad has always had a beautiful voice, and is very gifted as a self-taught musician. He became famous among our family and friends, when I was growing up, for his rendition of Harry Belafonte's song "Mary's Boy Child", which he would sing while accompanying himself on the guitar, whenever we requested it, but most especially during this season. It tells the Christmas story in beautiful song, and its message is expressed in these simple words – "that man will live forevermore, because of Christmas Day". (If you are not familiar with this song, I strongly encourage you to Google it and enjoy it!). The story is so simple, and yet filled with such promise, and as a child, hearing that song just equated to happiness for me, and a feeling of warmth and peace. As an adult, it now means so much more.

When I enter the doors of St. Ann's, that very same feeling of happiness instantly overpowers me. St. Ann's is such a special place, filled with very special people. Over the past year or so, we have seen many changes occur here on our wonderful, holy grounds. Along with physical changes which we can see, there are less tangible, but very powerful differences. There is a wonderful feeling of excitement and promise in the air, as we are enjoying an increase in new members and are blessed with many enthusiastic young members in this sacred place. These changes bring with them much promise. There is a new vitality here at St. Ann's, one which our parish family can feel, and one which was even felt and acknowledged by the bishop during a recent visit to our parish.

Our parish family is filled with talented people who have many gifts to share. We would love to see your talents blossom here surrounded by your church family. We have so many different opportunities here for you to "shine", whether it is behind the scenes or in front of us all during our worship services. As you find a quiet moment to sit and think about the many blessings in your life, remember St. Ann's, and with the New Year approaching, please make a resolution to yourself to "let your little light shine" right here at St. Ann's.

*"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works,
and glorify your Father, which is in heaven." Matthew 5:16*

Prayerfully yours,

Jill Hughes for the Vestry

Give the Gift of Life This Holiday Season!

SAINT ANN'S 2ND ANNUAL BLOOD DRIVE

- Wednesday, January 21, 2015, between 2:00 PM and 8:00 PM
- In the Parish Hall
- Any person, ages 16-75, weighing at least 110 pounds, who is in good health and who has not donated blood in the past six weeks
- Sixteen-year olds must have an official Blood Drive Permission slip signed by a parent. Adults over the age of 76 must have a note from their physician that they are able to donate blood.
- All donors must provide photo ID



SAINT ANN'S HISTORICAL SOCIETY



People needed Wednesday mornings 10:00 AM to Noon

St. Ann's History Room, Littlejohn Bldg. - 1st floor

To identify people in photos that are mostly in the 80s, 90s and later.

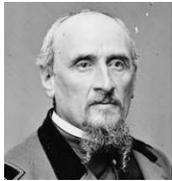
There are also filing jobs, and there will be typing jobs.

We will be working with artifacts in the near future.

WISH LIST: Pictures taken of and at St. Ann's.

Artifacts, documents, letters, maps, books, anything that pertains to our Church and the people who have called it home.

We particularly want pictures of those buried in our Garden of the Unforgotten. (There will be additional times added after the holidays, so if you can help us out, please call the Church office or Connie Currie at 589-2700.



INFORMATION:

There is an excellent Pod-Cast about General DeTrobian who is buried in our cemetery. A must for Civil War Buffs.

<http://longislandhistoryproject.wordpress.com>

 FINANCIAL HEALTH	Actual YTD Oct. 2014	Budget to Date	Difference	Variance	 Tom Munkelwitz Treasurer
INCOME					
Plate	4,254.49	8,333.33	(4,078.84)	51%	
Regular Giving	141,140.54	166,666.67	(25,526.13)	85%	
All Other Income	308,629.26	144,156.77	164,472.49	214%	
TOTAL INCOME	454,024.29	319,156.77	134,867.52	142%	
TOTAL EXPENSES	474,633.86	485,788.49	11,154.63	98%	
SURPLUS/DEFICIT	(20,609.57)	(166,631.72)	146,022.15	12%	

Christmas Traditions Around the Globe

Although Americans celebrate the holiday with candlelight services, piles of gifts, large feasts, lights, and trees, people in other countries mark Jesus' birth in many interesting ways:

- Instead of decorating trees, Italians place fruit on small wooden pyramids.
- On Christmas Eve, the streets of Caracas, Venezuela, are blocked off so people can roller-skate to church.
- Ukrainian Christmas trees often feature an artificial spider and web. According to a folk tale, a poor woman who couldn't afford decorations awoke one Christmas morning to find that spiders had "trimmed" her children's trees with delicate webs.
- In Brazil, the gift-bringer is known as Papai Noel (Father Noel), who lives in Greenland, according to legend. When he arrives in Brazil, he wears silk clothing because of the summer heat.



ASSOCIATE'S COLUMN

Father Jae Chung



Caroling for Peace

“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors.” (Luke 2: 14)

Angels praised and sang this song when Jesus was born. We also celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ in Joy and Peace with a lot of carols every Christmas as well. However, there is always shade when light shines. While most of people are joyful about Christmas, there are always some people who feel lonely much more than any other season. If we can embrace them in this Christmas season, we may have true joy and peace in the name of Christ.

So, our amazing Youth Group decided to step forward in the name of Christ with the coordination of Ms. Lynne Abrams. They will be caroling for elderly patients at Brookhaven Health Facility to share the joy of Christmas on Wednesday, December 17th at 6:30 PM.

Those in the Youth Group have already expressed the joy of Christmas by making and selling Christmas ornaments for the Christmas Fair. They are now so excited not only about singing carols for Christmas, but also to share the Christmas spirit with our neighbors at Brookhaven. Our Youth Group will bring Peace that confirms this: these patients are also “whom God favors.” If you are interested in joining with us, please feel free. You will be most welcome! (RSVP: fatherjae@saint-anns.org.)

Thank you and Merry Christmas!

In God's peace, *Jae+*



A PRAYER
Perhaps someone among us is lonely today, or sad, or scared. May their needs be made known to those of us, the church, who can meet them with God's Christmas love. Amen.

Outreach



Thanksgiving Baskets

Thanks to all who donated, sorted, wrapped, and otherwise helped with our Thanksgiving outreach. There were 17 grateful families (80 individuals) who received a food basket from Saint Ann's. —**Lynette Schultz**

Towel Sunday

We asked, and you delivered! Our 2nd annual Towel Sunday brought in this fantastic pile of 100 new towels and toiletries for Mercy Center Ministries. These items will go to homeless teenage girls who have a haven at Mercy Center where they are learning life skills. Many of them are caring for their own babies. This is such a blessing to be able to support these girls.



The Giving Tree

Thanks to all. Every tag was taken!

All gifts are being wrapped and will be delivered to the various groups we are supporting—the Long Island Diocese, Mercy Center Ministries, Little Flower Children's Center, and Adopt-a-Family.

—**Jackie Gandolfo**



Saint Ann's Christmas Tree Ministry

The trees arrived, were unloaded and sorted, and are now available for sale. Thanks to all the folks who came down to help. The more hands we have, the quicker it goes!

But it's not over yet! We need volunteers on all shifts to sell trees. The sale is only for about two weeks—but it's a very intense two weeks! This is one of our merriest ministries. Enjoy helping to match trees with their new owners. These beautiful, healthy Pennsylvania grown trees sell themselves. So please, **SIGN UP TO SELL TREES!** Everyone that participates has a great time.



The Tree Wise Men this year are Tom Honey and Ed Neale. Thanks, and God bless!



SAVE THE DATE!

Tuesday, December 9th

Seniors' Luncheon On Tuesday, December 9th Saint Ann's will host another Senior Luncheon in the Parish Hall. The first Senior Luncheon in October was very successful, and we hope to see many seniors returning as well as some new faces! There will be good food and fellowship for all. The luncheon will start at 12:00 Noon. In 2015 the plan is to have these luncheons monthly, so save space on your calendars!

Watch the bulletin board in the Parish Hall for a sign-up sheet.



[Photo: Laura Sanchez]

Long Island Episcopal Convention November 14-15

The Long Island Diocesan Convention was held last month in Melville. Mother Diane, Father Jae, Delegates Connie Currie, Laura Sanchez, Ken Smyrk, and Youth Delegates Alexandra Reksten and Mary Clark attended. The report was they had two very good days at Convention. They met and shared with a number of people from other churches and touched bases with Father Bryan and Father Farrell. They learned a lot about the different outreach programs of the Diocese and heard a very positive report from Bishop Lawrence Provenzano and Assistant Bishop Chilton Knudsen..



That Was the Fair That Was!

Thanks to all who participated in baking and making and selling and buying and serving and helping. Our Annual Christmas Fair is an important tradition at Saint Ann's in fellowship, working together, and bringing in a significant source of income to our annual budget. Special thanks to Nancy Koinoglou, Warden and Fair Chairman, for pulling it all together!



VIEW FROM BEHIND THE POLE

Thanks to all who came out caroling
on November 29th!



All bundled up and wearing our Victorian hats, we strolled the downtown area of Sayville from 11:00 to 1:30 PM and surprised many shop-keepers when we popped in and out, singing Christmas carols. We had some appreciative audiences, and many people got caught up in the spirit of the season.



Dear Friends from the St. Ann's Choir,
We thank you so much for your participation in our
September 11th Memorial Service.

Since our Common Ground Park was conceived as
a result of this difficult event, we feel a special need
to commemorate the day every year, as hard as it
may be. It is our hope that doing this will console
those who lost a loved one and those who just feel
the need to gather as a community at such a time.

We appreciate your performance so much.

Sincerely, **Suzanne Robilotta, Corresponding
Secretary, The Common Ground**

ADVENT SERVICE OF LESSONS & CAROLS

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7TH AT 3:00 PM



We hope you will join us for the annual Advent
Service of Lessons and Carols. A highlight of the
Choir's singing year, this traditional service should
be on your list of holiday plans!



The service will be followed by a festive reception
in the Parish Hall.



O music ... thou hast taught us to see with our ears and hear with our hearts. —Kahlil Gibran



The contractors who worked on the Littlejohn renovation have been so helpful and generous to us. We want them to know how much we appreciate them, and we hope you will remember them when you have need of their services.

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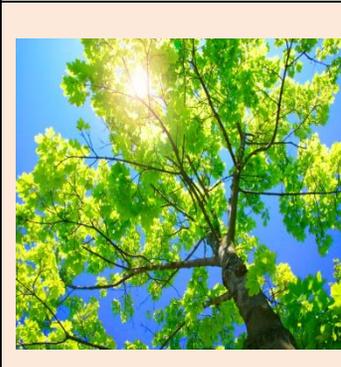
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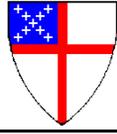
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Job!



NOTES

EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN

A big thank you to all who contributed to the Lad and Lassie table at the annual fair. Another big thank you to all who took a tag from the Christmas giving tree and donated a gift to Adopt-a-Family. The wrapping of these gifts will be on Tuesday morning, December 2nd at 9:30 in the lower Parish Hall. All help is welcome!

GIVING RECOGNITION TREE



A reminder: When you want to give a donation to St. Ann's to honor loved ones--living or deceased, your gift of \$500 may be acknowledged on a leaf on our Giving Recognition Tree in the Chapel lobby. Other options for larger donations are available. This is a wonderful way to commemorate or celebrate important people or events in your life. Contact the Church office for further information.

OUR DAILY BREAD



Looking for ideas for the Food Pantry? For a change of pace, here are some items seen listed on the Internet that people might not have thought about since they are not your ordinary staples; but they could be very much appreciated!

Spices * Socks * Chocolate * Feminine Products * Toiletries * Crackers/Tortillas * Canned Meats/Jerky * Soup Packets * Canned Fruit Other Than Pineapple

And remember! We love cash donations because it allows us to buy whatever is needed!

Food Pantry hours are Monday & Thursday, from 10:00 AM -12:00 Noon.

YOGA IS MOVING! (TO THURSDAYS) in 2015



We will still be meeting in the Parish Hall at 1:30 PM, but starting **January 8th** we will start the new year by having our Yoga sessions on Thursdays. If your New Year's Resolution is to get more exercise, come on down. The class begins at 1:30 and ends a little before 3:00 PM. All ages, both women and men, are welcome. Bring a non-skid mat and join us.

ATTENTION, CEMETERY VISITORS!



Please be aware that when it snows only the main road of the cemetery is plowed. In years past, we have had a few people whose cars became stuck in the snow because they went off the main road. Do not drive on any of the other roads even if you think the snow isn't very deep. We are sorry for any inconvenience this may cause, but Spring will be here before you know it!

—Janet Croce, Cemetery Manager



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IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS
REGARDING THE BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES LIST,
PLEASE CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE AT
631-589-6522.



WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

6	Sal & Kathy Senese	17	Albert & Mary Dechen	26	John & Barbara Stahlberg
7	Robert & Barbara Gaito		Michael & Lauren Rascona	27	Louis & Lily Dadabo
11	Brian & Maureen Rockwood	18	Richard & Bettye Chant	28	John O'Neil & Richard Mugno
		22	Lars & Jill Gustafson		

BIRTHDAYS

1	Kyle Burke	6	John O'Neil	13	Marian Winter-Bartsch	23	Ronin Kashdan
	Richard Williams III	7	Sophie Fisher		Scott Leuly	24	Wendy Schmittzeh
2	Rick Kaiser		Robert Hindla	14	Ava Gustafson	27	Bettye Chant
4	Brett Krakaur	9	Daniel Miller	15	James Bosse		Jordan Stankovich
	Linda Munkelwitz		Nancy Miller	16	Leann Barone	29	Ethan Schneider
5	Jack Adam	10	Jonathan Grenci	20	Valerie Meinsen		Lydia Thompson
	Anne Savage		Nicholas Grenci	21	John Stahlberg	30	Robert Belfield
	John Stankovich		Ryan Hughes		Mark Schmittzeh		Mary Funaro
6	Joseph Garafolo	12	Carolann Gaites	23	William Fridrich	31	Kimberly Rodriguez-
	Richard Magnani		Parker Cole		Jill Gustafson		Cerillo

JESUS' BIRTHDAY



A joyous welcome to all who celebrate the birth of our Lord! However dark or cold it may be out in the world, wherever Christ is present and praised, there is the warmth of heavenly light and glad tidings for all! Let us, therefore, draw near to one another as friends and families to share in the glorious Good News of Christ's birth.



Let man infer from [Christmas] how much God cares for him. The humanity of God shows the greatness of his kindness. —Bernard of Clairvaux (1090-1153)

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Our Church History



By Connie Currie

❖ The Garden of the Unforgotten ❖

MARIE FIALA & ANTON FIALA

SECTION 16—LOT 6

Mrs. Marie Fiala, wife of Anton Fiala, passed away in late October of 1939 at her home at 42 Tariff Street, Sayville, after a short illness. Mrs. Fiala, who was 79 years old, was born in Czechoslovakia and had been in the United States for 63 years. Before coming to Sayville, she and Mr. Fiala, who celebrated their 59th wedding anniversary on October 3, had lived in Riverhead, Bohemia and upstate New York.

Besides her husband, Mrs. Fiala was survived by four sons, Alois, of Madison, N.J., William of Cayuta, N.Y., V.F. Fiala, of Mineola, and Joseph of Sayville; three daughters, Mrs. Anna Bales of Cayuta, N.Y., Mrs. Neil DeGraff of Sayville, and Mrs. Christopher Mehling of Massapequa Park; twelve grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren, and a sister, Mrs. James King of West Sayville.

The Rev. Joseph H. Bond officiated at the funeral services and at the graveside in St. Ann's Cemetery.



Mr. Anton Fiala died in mid-May of 1949, at the age of 87 at his home at 42 Tariff Street, Sayville, after a long illness. He was born in Czechoslovakia, but came to this country some 70 years before his death. He lived in Sayville for many years,

From 1903 to 1918, Mr. Fiala was proprietor of Fiala's Hotel on the corner of Greene Avenue, and prior to his retirement several years ago, he was janitor in the public schools. He was a member of Court Bayside, Foresters of America, and many years ago he was very active in the Fire Department.

Mrs. Fiala died some ten years ago. Mr. Fiala was survived by three sons--Alois of Madison, N.J., V.F. Fiala of Mineola and William of Cayuta, N.Y., by three daughters, Mrs. Charles R. Schaefer of Sayville, Mrs. Christopher Mehling of Freeport, and Mrs. Larry Masin of Lindenhurst, one sister, Mrs. Joseph Winter of Sayville, 12 grandchildren, 21 great-grandchildren, and one great-great grandchild.

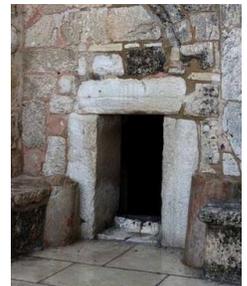
The Rev. Mr. Joseph Bond conducted the services in the chapel and at the graveside in St. Ann's cemetery.

With Humble Hearts

Bethlehem's Church of the Nativity, which marks the likely spot of Jesus' birth, has a four-foot-high entrance. Throughout the centuries, the height of the entrance has been lowered twice: once to prevent looting and once to keep out camel- and horse-riders.

Because visitors must bow as they enter, this has become known as the Door of Humility. It's a reminder of the reverent, submissive posture our hearts should take as we approach our newborn Lord and Savior. It's also a reminder that Jesus is the narrow door (Luke 13:24) — the path to eternal life.

As you worship this Christmas season, whether or not you're physically able to kneel, enter Jesus' presence with a humble and thankful heart.



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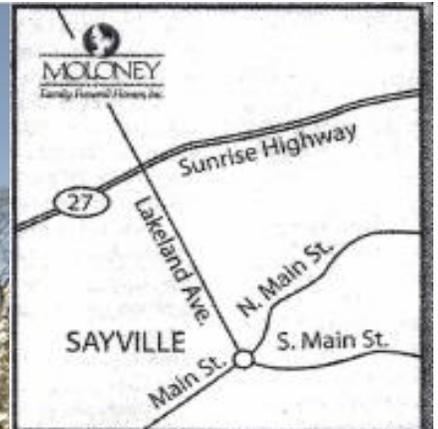
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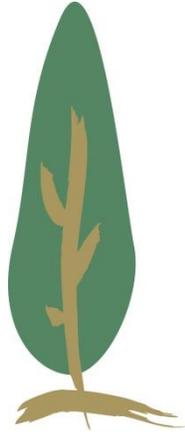
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Cedar Tree

A species of evergreen used to decorate for Christmas, the tall cedar tree symbolizes Christ's majesty year-round. Cedars of Lebanon, which have grown to 130 feet, were known to Old Testament people. "The trees of the LORD are well watered, the cedars of Lebanon that he planted" (Psalm 104:16, NIV). David's palace and both Solomon's palace and temple were built of cedar wood. The word cedar is found 75 times in the Bible. Due to its evergreen nature and longevity, this tree is associated with eternal life and thus sometimes used in cemetery landscaping.

AROUND SAINT ANN'S Monthly Schedule

See Correspondent pages and Bulletin for changes/cancellations.
Check out the website at www.saint-anns.org

Sundays

7:00 PM—AA Meeting

Mondays

6:30 PM—EfM in the Littlejohn Building
7:00 PM—AA Meeting
7:00 PM—Vestry Meeting—December 8

Tuesdays

8:00 AM---Men's Group
1:30-2:30 PM---Yoga Class
6:00 PM Children's Choir Rehearsal
7:15 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal.

Wednesdays

7:00 PM—Youth Program in Littlejohn Bldg.

Thursdays

10:00 AM—AA Meeting
7:00 PM—AA Meeting

Friday

Saturday

ST. BARNABAS' BUDDIES

Whether you need help or can give help, call Gerry Hoek at 631-868-7278 for further information.

- (1) Prepare a meal for someone recovering from a recent illness or fall.
- (2) Drive someone to a doctor's appointment and bring them home.
- (3) Bring someone to church (perhaps once a month) if they are unable to drive.
- (4) Make a phone call to someone homebound just to let them know they are not forgotten.



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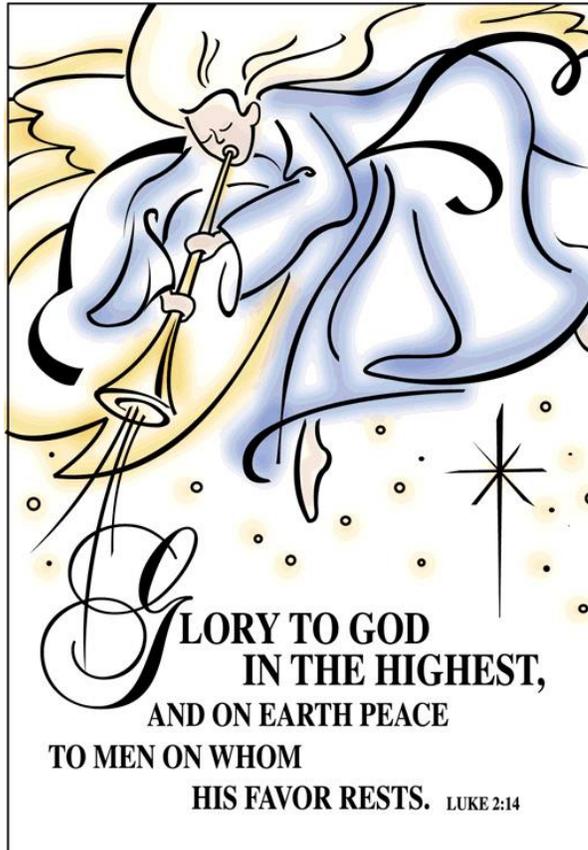
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