



# The Correspondent

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

Volume XXVI  
Issue 2

February 2019

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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

## WEEKDAY SERVICES IN THE CHAPEL

Tuesday  
 9:00 AM Holy Eucharist

## SPECIAL UPCOMING EVENTS

Feb. 3 – Souper Bowl Sunday  
 Feb. 14 - Valentine's Day  
 Feb. 18 – Presidents Day / Office closed



## MISSION STATEMENT

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

February is



Health Month

**WHO:** You!

**WHAT:** Collecting FROZEN vegetables and fruits

**WHEN:** The month of February

**WHERE:** St. Ann's Food Pantry

**WHY:** To provide heart healthy food to our customers

During the month of February, the food pantry will be asking for donations of heart healthy FROZEN vegetables & fruits. Please leave donations in the Parish Hall freezer or during the week in the kitchen freezer of the Littlejohn building.



**FEBRUARY 3<sup>RD</sup>**



St. Ann's will be celebrating the SOUPER BOWL of CARING by collecting

**\*SOUP & CRACKERS\***

to share with our food pantry guests. **Donations will be collected Jan 26 - Feb 10, look for the giant soup pots!** Thank you for your generous support.

FROM THE EDITOR

*In these chaotic times, it is important to remember that we should give all other people respect. As Christians, we are called to love our neighbor, even if we can't like them. It's a decision we make time after time every day of our lives. -Editor*

Neighborly Love

As an ordained minister, Fred Rogers harnessed the power of television to tell children they were loved — and to show them how to love others. In *You Are Special*, he writes, “When we love a person, we accept him or her exactly as is: the lovely with the unlovely, the strong along with the fearful, the true mixed in with the façade, and of course, the only way we can do it is by accepting ourselves that way.”



In a review of the touching documentary *Won't You Be My Neighbor?* a writer for *Variety* notes: “Rogers’ real secret was ... that the call to love your neighbor as yourself isn’t a slogan to hang in your kitchen with flowers around it — it’s a decision you make at every moment, to view every man, woman and child on earth as your neighbor. If you don’t see and feel that, and act on it, then you’re just another narcissist with a kitchen slogan.”

Last October, when a synagogue shooting shattered the peace of Rogers’ real-life former neighborhood, residents of all religions embraced one another as neighbors. Afterward, the Fred Rogers Center stated, “We long for a day when there is no more tragedy born from hatred.” (*from the Newsletter Newsletter*)

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2016 Saint Ann’s Episcopal Church

March Deadline

Thursday, February 21

**Clergy Staff**

The Reverend Hugh James, Interim Rector, Ext. 12  
[fatherhughjames@saint-anns.org](mailto:fatherhughjames@saint-anns.org)

The Reverend Brian Barry, Assistant to the Rector, Ext. 13  
[fatherbrian@saint-anns.org](mailto:fatherbrian@saint-anns.org)

**Saint Ann’s Staff**

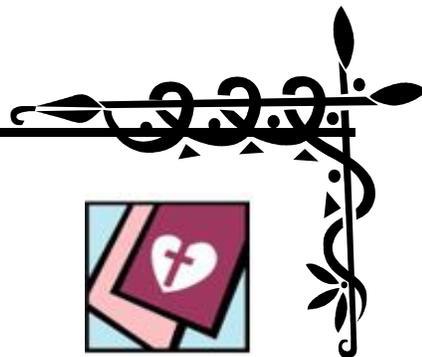
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COME TO DONATE  
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**WE OFTEN FORGET THAT BENEATH COLD WINTER GROUND, NEW LIFE ALREADY STIRS. REMIND US, LORD, THAT YOU ARE TENDING NEW DREAMS, PLANS, GROWTH AND FAITH DEEP WITHIN OUR SOULS.**



## A Word from The Interim Rector Father Hugh James



Dear Friends,

John is a friend of mine whose father died a few years ago. He went home for the funeral and stayed with his mother, Jane. One day she told him that she could not picture her husband clearly, and she felt terribly guilty.



A few days earlier she had met a childhood friend, whose father had died. Even though she had not seen him for over 40 years, Jane could picture him clearly. She saw him as she had, throughout her childhood, dressed in a butcher's apron, standing at the counter offering customers cuts of meat. Why, she asked, could she picture that man so clearly, but could not visualize her own husband?

John realized that the only picture she had ever formed of her friend's father was that of the butcher; whereas she knew her husband as her lover, her friend, and the father of her children. She knew him when he was young and when he was old. She knew him when he was happy and when he was angry. She knew him in his Sunday best and in his gardening clothes. In fact, she had hundreds, if not thousands of pictures, and John suggested that they merged together leaving a bit of a blur.

It's like that when we know someone well. It is not easy to form clear-cut images of them. We know they are only caricatures of the real person.

I am convinced that the same is true about God. When I hear people talk about God in simplistic, clear-cut and dogmatic ways, I question how well they really know him. Or is it her?

With all best wishes,

*Hugh James+*



### Calling All Who Would Like to Serve



We are looking for more volunteers to be

**USHERS \* ACOLYTES \* LECTORS**

If you have considered serving in this capacity at St. Ann's, or would like to learn more about it, please contact either Father Hugh or Father Brian.

#### TRAINING

In conjunction with this, we are hosting a training (and re-training) session for all potential and current ushers, lectors, and acolytes. For those who would like to serve at the 8:00 AM service, this will occur after the 8:00 AM service on Sunday, February 24<sup>th</sup>.

For those who would like to serve at the 10:00 AM service, this will occur after the 10:00 AM service on Sunday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>.

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# Vestry Visions

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The January Vestry meeting met but due to illnesses and family obligations, we did not have a Quorum. Stay tuned for what should be a busy February meeting.

Though no motions were voted on, we went through the agenda to discuss any pressing matters. Once again, the issue of how to get people involved and engaged outside of the Sunday services came up. We have a congregation full of energy and willingness to step up when called upon, but how can we keep that energy flowing? St. Ann's has many ministries that are suffering for lack of participation. A parish of our size cannot be sustained through the efforts of the same few parishioners.

A few months ago, we held a ministry fair hoping to inform and encourage parishioners to sign up where they felt called to. It is very sad to say that our efforts went unchallenged though we even stooped to bribery by handing out chocolate.

Everyone enjoys the events of fellowship such as Coffee Hour, the Christmas Fair, St. Barnabas Day, Paint Night, etc., but those events need volunteers to make them happen. The Buildings and Grounds committee cannot survive with a group of four people. If you like to "meet and greet", we encourage you to sign up to usher at one of the services. The Thrift Shop and Food Pantry are excellent opportunities for outreach and they only ask for a few hours of your time. You will leave feeling that you made a difference in lives of others. Take a moment after reading through the Correspondent and consider where you might have a calling to serve.

Father Hugh's Introduction took place the evening of January 16<sup>th</sup>. If you attended his presentation you learned all there is to know about him, and some interesting facts about Wales, and the churches that he has served in. Having a never-ending dessert table was a great addition to the evening!

The Annual Meeting took place on January 20<sup>th</sup> where food was the main attraction. Don Hester along with Vestry members and the young people of our parish served up a delicious brunch featuring Don's famous crepes and toppings. During the brunch, we reviewed the state of the church and swore in Tom Honey as Warden, Jackie Gandolfo, Jill Hughes, Ken Smyrk, and Nicole LaFontaine as members of the vestry.

The Annual Blood Drive has been postponed until the spring due to scheduling conflicts. Please continue to give the Gift of Life by finding a donation center nearby. We will be posting the details of our drive soon as they are confirmed.

The Search Committee for a new rector is being formed and you will be kept up to date with details as they develop.

You can always get up-to-date information through the St. Ann's website or following us on Facebook.

If you ever have any questions or concerns, you can always jot them down and deposit them in the "Ask The Vestry" box located in the Parish Hall. All questions and concerns are addressed at the monthly Vestry meetings. If you feel your concern or question is urgent, please feel free to reach out to our clergy or any Vestry member.

Best Wishes for a Happy and Healthy 2019,

*Jackie Gandolfo* for the Vestry



Left to right: Ken Smyrk (2021); Tom Honey, Warden (2012); Jill Hughes, Jackie Gandolfo, and Nicole LaFountaine (all 2022) with Fr. Hugh. Connie Currie (pictured in inset) was commissioned *in absentia*, (2022).

Ken had been appointed to fill an unexpired term and was officially installed for a 2-year term; all wardens serve 2-year terms; the other members were elected for a 3-year term.

### VESTRY MEMBERS COMMISSIONED



**Wardens:** 2020 Nancy Koinoglou 2021 Thomas Honey

<b>Vestry:</b>	2020	Donald Hester	Diane Miller-Magnani
		Patricia Osarchuk	John O'Neil
	2021	Ken Smyrk	Carol Ann St. Lawrence
		Wendy Schmittzeh	John Smith
	2022	Jackie Gandolfo	Jill Hughes
		Nicole LaFountaine	Constance Currie

## SENIOR LUNCHEON

Tuesday, February 26, 2019 at 12:00 Noon  
Lunch followed by a a Speaker from Wild Birds in Oakdale



### OPERATION HOPE

Continuing in February, the Daughters of the King will be collecting items for Hope House ministries in Port Jefferson and the Friary. Particular needs are:

**twin-size sheets & pillow cases, and twin-size blankets**

**bath towels, wash cloths**

The blue collection box in the Parish Hall is for donations.  
Thank you for your help!





## Thoughts from the Front Porch

### Father Brian Barry



While winter has been inhibiting time spent on the front porch (particularly with that cold snap last week, which made me wonder if I'd drifted back to South Dakota without knowing it), the newest member of my family, Bear, has also been quite demanding of my time. When you have a new dog, it is tough to just go outside on your own while leaving him inside. And that is not even considering how often he needs a walk. He is certainly giving Holly and me a work out. But in the few moments I have to myself on the front porch, some of my thoughts have been turning to calling. In particular, our individual callings as Christians.

My favorite dismissal on a Sunday is "Go in peace to love and serve the Lord," which, to me, covers all the bases. We depart from the worship service, carrying Christ's peace with us into the community around us. That is actually the origin of the word "Mass." It means "sending" in Latin. So, when we celebrate the Mass on Sunday, it is all about coming together to be in communion with Christ, so we can carry Christ out into the world with us. We are sent, like the Apostles (which, by the way, also means "one sent," in Greek), out of our comfort zone to bear the Good News of the Gospel. That is one reason why the Mass is so important. The Eucharist is our spiritual food and fuel for the mission (again, another word for sending) of the Gospel. It is time for Christians to gather together, to remind ourselves *why* we are called to spread the Gospel, and to seek comfort from our fellow travelers on the road.

In terms of the Mass, we are looking for people to serve on Sundays, particularly as acolytes. Please take a moment to ask yourself if God is calling you to this ministry. The reason why we as a Church seek out people to serve in this capacity is because we don't believe that serving during worship is something that is specifically reserved for clergy. There have been times and places in Church history, for instance, where the lay people were severely underrepresented at the altar, particularly women. Now, what we hope for on a Sunday is for a cross-section of the parish that is visible to the world, serving at the altar. When we are called to be an acolyte, we are called to represent our community in order to paint a picture at the altar of what the Kingdom of God looks like: people of different ages, sexes, orientations, races, and ethnicities serving and praising our heavenly Father. And, in serving in that capacity, we are working together to make sure that other parishioners who attend Mass on Sunday are able to experience Christ's love and peace, before carrying him out into the world. I hope you will take a moment to consider joining us at the altar, where we can represent our community in serving and praising God together.

### STUCK ON REPEAT?

In *Groundhog Day*, Bill Murray is doomed to repeat the same day over and over. For Christians, the "sin cycle" is similar: mess up, repent, resolve to do better — and fail yet again, often in the exact same ways. That movie is really about grace, contends Mark Lockard. "We fail in small ways ... and in tragic ways," he writes on MinistryMatters.com. "Sometimes I think it would be nice to be able to hit repeat and try again the next day, to aim for perfection, to be the saintly Phil Connors we see at movie's end. But that takes away the spontaneity of the new day, the challenge of being more Christ-like despite a brand-new set of circumstances."

On earth, the "chill" of sin keeps biting, but we can "face the stark winter day wrapped warmly in the knowing that it's okay to get it wrong," Lockard writes. "That's part of figuring out who we are as a beloved child of God. That's what grace is all about."

# Bus Trip to St. John the Divine

SUFFOLK EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN

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## St. John the Divine Cathedral , NYC

**SATURDAY APRIL 6, 2019**



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The bus will depart NYC at 3 pm.

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**BUS PICKUPS:** 8:00 AM - LIE EXIT 63 Park & Ride, N. Ocean Ave., Farmingville  
8:30 AM - LIE Exit 49N Park & Ride, Pinelawn Rd., Rte. 110. Huntington  
9:15 AM - Cathedral of the Incarnation, Garden City

For further information contact Debbie Richberg, 631-816-1717

To contact someone the morning of the trip for any reason: Angie Morris, cell: 631-626-9012

**RESERVATIONS: Deadline March 23, 2019 – Reserve Early!** Make checks payable to: Suffolk ECW.

Please CUT this bottom portion and mail it along with payment to:

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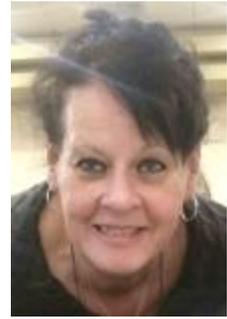
Check your PICK-UP: LIE EXIT 63  LIE EXIT 49   
CATHEDRAL OF THE INCARNATION

## Reservation Deadline: March 23



## PEANUT BUTTER AND JELLY MINISTRY

By Mary Mattarella (631-745-3745)  
[stbarnabus@yahoo.com](mailto:stbarnabus@yahoo.com)



Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

January brought us extremely cold weather, very tough on the poor and homeless. Although it was very cold this mission trip to NYC, a lot of warm hearts and hardworking souls, met at 6:00 AM, to bring six carts



of your love and generosity onto the train. Paddy, Rodney, Taylor, and I met up with our team from Zion Church at 8:30 AM. You should all be especially proud of Taylor-- not your average teen. Instead of sleeping in or choosing a day at the mall, this young lady with a great attitude, chose to feed the hungry and give warmth to the cold. Our friends from Zion Episcopal Church, are ever so faithful to this mission, bringing hundreds of sandwiches and clothes.

Right here in Suffolk County, your generous donations are also going to work. Late Sunday night, I was privileged to follow a friend to a small homeless "tent city", to assist

several people living in the woods. The purpose was to help them pack their belongings, and to wait with them for several other volunteers to bring them to a predetermined shelter. I also gave each person a bag of hygiene items, socks, and warm sweaters or shirts. Without your generous donations, none of this is possible.

Blankets, Cup O' Soup, tuna packs and coats are truly in demand. Please consider joining us on one of our trips to NYC (last Saturday of each month), and plans are being made for daytime mission events right here in Suffolk County.



In February, I will be meeting with our clergy, to discuss my plans. I will definitely keep you all posted. Thank you for all your support and donations!

Thank you! Love, *The Very Festive Mary*

**Note:** We are thankful for all the clothing donations we receive in the Thrift Shop and for the PBJ Ministry. St. Ann's is always very generous. We do ask, however, that when you donate an item of clothing (or blankets, towels, etc.) that it either be new or gently used and washed. We've received a number of items recently that could not be used, and it would save our volunteers a lot of time if we donated only items that we ourselves would be fine wearing or using. Thank you for your generosity and caring.

**WE CAN'T KNOW THE CARES OF EVERYONE NEARBY, BUT YOU DO, GOD. I PRAY THAT EACH WILL KNOW YOUR LOVE AND RECEIVE THE BLESSING THEY NEED FOR TODAY. AMEN.**

# VIEW FROM BEHIND THE POLE

## SHROVE TUESDAY

### PANCAKE SUPPER

TUESDAY, March 5th



5:00 PM



to 7:00 PM

In the Parish Hall

*Free Will Offering*

### PLAY AN INSTRUMENT? SHARE YOUR MUSICAL GIFT WITH ST. ANN'S!

The Music Ministry would like to invite advanced musicians to share their talent at our services. Adding different types of instrumental music gives us a broader appreciation for the variety instruments provide and enhances our choir's singing. This would not be every week—just an occasional appearance with the choir—but we'd love to have high school or any age musicians join us to make beautiful music! We are also looking for instruments to enhance our Taizé service at 5:00 PM on Saturday.

Please contact Kathy at the church office or stop by the organ after church on a Saturday or Sunday.



We are looking for violins, clarinets, flutes, guitars, and any instrumental talent that you may want to share.

*"After silence, that which comes nearest to expressing the inexpressible is music."* — Aldous Huxley



*"Music is the literature of the heart; it commences where speech ends."*  
— Alphonse de Lamartine

## WE NEED VOLUNTEERS TO HOST COFFEE HOUR



If you enjoy coffee and cake—or whatever your specialty is—after the service, please sign up to host a coffee hour. Coffee is made for you. You just have to supply the food before 9:00 AM, when the 8:00 service lets out, and clean up after the 10:00 service. It can be simple or fancy—a theme or just coffee cake. There is a signup sheet (and list of easy instructions) in the Parish Hall. If we all took one or two coffee hours, we could finish out the whole year!



### COFFEE HOUR

On the last Sunday of January, Mary Mat and Doreen Greci

decorated the Coffee Hour in a special Valentine theme! We all enjoy coffee hour—the big splashy ones, the simple Dunkin' Donuts and coffee ones, and the exotic ones with foreign breakfast foods. The best part though, is seeing people we get to see only once a week, catching up, and passing on information. Coffee Hour earns its place as “the 8<sup>th</sup> sacrament!”

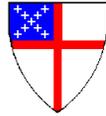


### Got Love?

*Love asks nothing in return but seeks those who need it. And who needs our love more than those who are consumed with hatred and are utterly devoid of love?*

-- Dietrich Bonhoeffer





# NOTES

## CHRISTMAS GIVING

A big thank you to all who so generously supported the Adopt a Family appeal this year! Three large bags of gifts for the family of seven and five bags of toys for the children's party at St. John's hospital in Far Rockaway were taken to St. Peters for distribution.

--Ellen Stoll



## OUR DAILY BREAD

**Monday & Thursday, from 10:00 AM -12:00 Noon**

The food pantry is especially in need of these supplies.

**Canned Meats \* Soup \* Chili \* Eggs \* Shelf Stable Milk  
Frozen Vegetables**

**SOUP & CRACKERS for Souper Bowl**

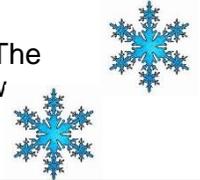
Of course, cash donations allow us to shop for needed items.



## Attention Cemetery Plot Owners:

Please be aware that when it snows only the Main Asphalt Road gets plowed. The other gravel/dirt roads will be plowed only if needed to conduct service for a new burial. We are sorry for any inconvenience this may cause.

--Janet Croce



**Women Sharing Art inc**  
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Presenting a Multi-Media Art Exhibit Feb 1-24  
**"Small Works by Members at Large"**  
at the BAFFA Art Gallery, 47 Gillette Avenue, Sayville  
• Tuesday, Thursday & Friday -- 10am-1pm  
• Saturday & Sunday -- 12-4 pm

### February 2, 2019,

Artist Reception & 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Student Scholarship Fundraiser

### February 23, 2019, 6 pm

Scholarships will be awarded to graduating high school girls who are planning to study Fine Arts.

--Lisa Castelli



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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

3	James & Jeannette Hayes	16	David & Angelica Russell	17	Robert & Carole Sheppard
5	Thomas & Linda Munkelwitz	17	John Cerillo & Kimberly Schaum-Rodriguez	18	Robert & Sandra Immoor
11	Randy & Susanne Schultz		Kevin & Brooke Mattimore		



1	Madison DaSilva	7	Susan Conklin	13	Dorothy Lamens	17	Patricia MacDonell
2	Michael Dowling	9	Honey Weiner		Garrett Leuly	20	Debora Schneider
	Ryan Schaum-Rodriguez	10	Kara Felton		Mark Leuly	21	Thomas Rascona
3	Karen Tampellini		Kyle Wolfe		Jane Vander Borgh		Theresa Smith
4	Angelica Russell	11	Sadie Hynes	14	Nancy Koinoglou		Chelsea Whitehouse
5	William Streek	12	Joseph Chase	15	Lara Espinoza	23	Jenna Jacques
6	Heather Johnson		Donald MacKenzie		Paul Stoehrer	26	Valerie Field
7	Natalie Bosse	13	Alexandra Barone	17	James Hayes	27	Ryan Mattimore

These names are offered each month as an opportunity to extend to our brothers and sisters the love of Christ on these special days and to express our thanks for the gift of their presence in our midst. They are also offered as an opportunity to pray for each one of these individuals and couples on these significant days in their lives.

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God of love, as we share valentines this month, remind us also to share practical expressions of your love for all: food, shelter, clean water, acceptance of differences, a helping hand.

## Our Church History



By Connie Currie

### ❖ The Garden of the Unforgotten

**GEORGE ADAM HILLENBRAND  
KATHERINE HILLENBRAND**  
Section 19 – Lot 8

**George Adam Hillenbrand**, for 44 years a resident of Bayport, died in the Veterans' Memorial Hospital in Northport, in mid-June of 1953. He was 76 years old. Mr. Hillenbrand, who was a native of New York, made his home at McConnell Avenue, Bayport.

A veteran of the Spanish-American War, he was a retired carriage painter by trade. He was a member of the Junior Order of Mechanics and of the Spanish American War Veterans Camp of Patchogue.

Surviving him were his widow, Mrs. Katherine Haberman Hillenbrand; a son, Otto Hillenbrand of Bayport; two stepsons, Jacob and Edward Densing of Patchogue; a brother Otto of Jamaica; a sister, Mrs. August Schreiber, Jr. of Tappan, NY; 16 grandchildren and several great grandchildren.

Services for Mr. Hillenbrand were held in the Isaacson Funeral Home, with the Rev. Mr. Joseph H. Bond officiating. Interment was in St. Ann's Cemetery.

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**Katherine Haberman Hillenbrand**, widow of Spanish American War veteran, George A. Hillenbrand, died in the first week of July 1956. She was a member of the Spanish American War Auxiliary of Patchogue. Born in New York, she moved first to Holbrook, then to Bayport, where she lived for 63 years.

She was survived by three sons, Jacob and Edward Densing of Patchogue and Otto Hillenbrand of Bayport; one sister, Mrs. Amanda Roubal of Brentwood; 18 grandchildren and 27 great grandchildren.

Funeral services were held in Isaacson's Funeral Home, with the Rev. Mr. Joseph H. Bond officiating. Burial followed in St. Ann's Cemetery, Sayville.

BE THOU  
FAITHFUL UNTO  
DEATH, AND I  
WILL GIVE THEE  
THE CROWN OF  
LIFE.

*Revelation 2:10*  
RemembranceQuotes.com

He who has gone, so we but cherish his memory, abides with us, more potent, nay, more present than the living man.

--*Antoine St. Exupéry*

Ancient Egyptians believed that upon death they would be asked two questions, and their answers would determine whether they could continue their journey in the afterlife. The first question was, "Did you bring joy?" The second was "Did you find joy?" --*Leo Buscaglia*



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## +Christian Symbol+



### The Chi Rho

"Chi" and "rho" are the first two letters in the Greek spelling for Christ (*XPICTOC*, pronounced "Christos"). The blending of these two letters into one symbol formed a "sacred monogram." Early Christians created many such symbols as codes to indicate their discipleship while avoiding detection by Roman persecutors. Many variations of the Chi Rho symbol exist, incorporating a cross, a shepherd's crook, the Greek letters alpha and omega, an anchor and other images.' (The word "Xmas" is one modern-day word where this symbol survives).

## AROUND SAINT ANN'S Monthly Schedule

See Correspondent pages and Bulletin for changes/cancellations.

Check out the website at: [www.saint-anns.org](http://www.saint-anns.org)

### Sundays

8:00 AM—Holy Eucharist  
9:00 AM---Sunday School  
10:00 AM—Holy Eucharist  
7:30 PM—AA Meeting

### Mondays

10:00AM—12:00 PM Food Pantry  
6:00 PM—Vestry Meeting—Feb. 11  
6:30 PM—Mission & Outreach—Feb. 25  
8:00 PM—AA Meeting

### Tuesdays

8:00 AM—Men's Group  
9:00 AM—Holy Eucharist  
6:00 PM—Children's Choir  
7:00 PM—Adult Choir

### Wednesdays

9:30 AM—12:00 PM Operation Hope  
10:00 AM-3:00 PM—Thrift Shop Open  
7:00 PM—Youth Group

### Thursdays

10:00 AM—AA Meeting  
10:00 AM—12:00 PM Food Pantry  
10:00 AM-3:00 PM—Thrift Shop Open  
1:00 PM----Christian Yoga Class  
8:00 PM—AA Meeting

### Saturday

5:00 PM—Holy Eucharist  
10:00 AM-3:00 PM—Thrift Shop Open



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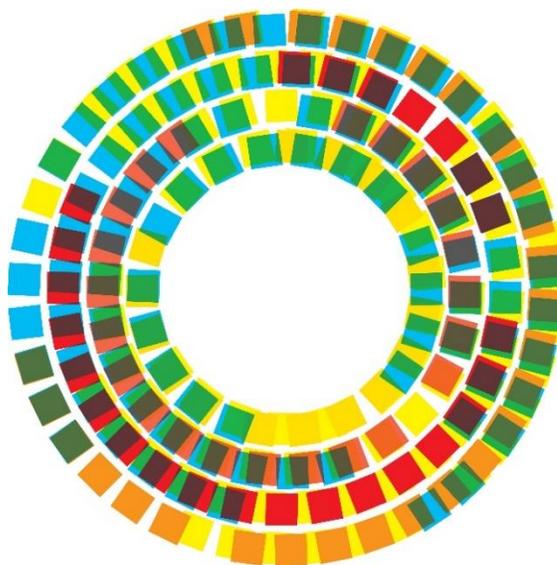
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## The Church as Mosaic

A mosaic consists of thousands of little stones. Some are blue, some are green, some are yellow, some are gold. When we bring our faces close to the mosaic, we can admire the beauty of each stone. But as we step back from it, we can see that all these little stones reveal to us a beautiful picture, telling a story none of these stones can tell by itself.

That is what our life in [the church] is about. Each of us is like a little stone, but together we reveal the face of God to the world. Nobody can say: "I make God visible." But others who see us together can say: "They make God visible." [Christian] community is where humility and glory touch. —**Henri J.M. Nouwen**