



# The Correspondent

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

Volume XXVIII  
Issue 9

October 2021

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## WEEKEND SERVICES

(In Person and Online)

- Saturday 5:00 PM – Holy Eucharist–Rite II
- Sunday 8:00 AM – Holy Eucharist–Rite II
- Sunday 10:00 AM – Holy Eucharist–Rite II  
(Online Only)
- Nightly 8:00 PM—Compline

## SPECIAL UPCOMING EVENTS

- Blessing of the Animals—Oct 3
- Pet Adoption Event—Oct 3
- Confirmation Class Begins—Oct 13
- Church History—Oct 13
- Scripture – Oct 20
- Book of Common Prayer—Oct 27
- Sacraments—Nov 3
- Instructed Eucharist--17



## MISSION STATEMENT

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



## MOTHER LILO CARR-RIVERA

Celebrates first Holy Eucharist at St. Ann's

September was a busy month, but it started out with the ordination to the priesthood of our curate Mother Lilo, shown here the day after at St. Ann's altar with Fr. Jeff and her son Gabe, who served as acolyte.

The ordination was streamed online from the Cathedral of the Incarnation in Garden City. There are photos from the ordination on page 8 of this issue.

Our deepest congratulations to Mother Lilo, and to Fr. Jeff, who now has a full clergy partner to share the business of running the church (and to provide backup if he needs a Sunday off!).



Autumn is here. There is no doubt. Labor Day (the unofficial end of summer) has come and gone, and even the Autumnal Equinox (September 22 this year) has gone past. The weather is a little bit cooler, the nights are growing longer, school has started, and the leaves are beginning to turn. This is true in the USA, but this is not what all countries experience. Here are a few trivia facts about autumn which might surprise you.

- In the Southern Hemisphere it is now the beginning of spring, so if you hate to see summer go, you can hop on a plane to Australia or Botswana or Peru. Voila! Spring is in the air, and summer is on the way.
- Tempura-battered maple leaves are a seasonal delicacy in Japan. They are salted, fried, and sometimes topped with sesame seeds. Known for its strikingly beautiful fall foliage, Japan might also be the origin of "leaf-peeping." While Americans popularized this tradition, there is evidence as far back as 794 CE (during the Heian Era) that Japan's noble families regularly attended "leaf hunting" excursions. From enjoying the beautiful red hues of falling maple leaves to frying them as a treat, the Japanese know how to celebrate the season.
- Speaking of "leaf peeping" excursions, if you should visit Vermont, please know that it is law there that everyone who serves apple pie must make a "good faith effort" to serve it with ice cream, cold milk, or "a slice of cheddar cheese weighing a minimum of 1/2 ounce."
- In Germany they celebrate Oktoberfest in autumn. This originally began as part of a crown prince's wedding celebration in 1810, and they liked it so much it has continued every year since!

Of course, the harvest and thanks for God's bounty during the growing season has dominated fall celebrations throughout the world. That's no surprise. But in Ireland when they celebrated *Sawain*, not only did they celebrate the harvest, but they believed it was a time when the veil between this life and the afterlife was particularly thin. So, they wore costumes so the ghosts of people who passed wouldn't recognize them. Have a happy fall everyone!

--Rodney Dudley

## Saint Ann's Office

262 Middle Road, Sayville, NY 11782

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2021  
 Saint Ann's Episcopal Church

**October Deadline**  
**Friday, October 22**

## Clergy Staff

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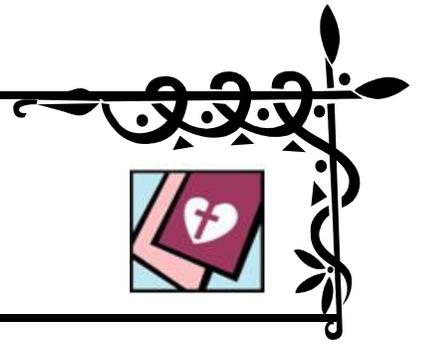
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**Wed, Thu, Sat 10AM to 2PM**



## A Word from the Rector Father Jeffrey Stevenson



*"In the wilderness prepare the way for the LORD;  
make straight in the desert a highway for our God."*

*from Isaiah 40*

Dear Members of St. Ann's,

October feels like the time of "getting-ready-to-be-ready." The holy season of waiting that we call Advent is on our horizon. But it's still October, the time of the year when we see the days get shorter. Even as we plant the bulbs for daffodils and tulips in the promise of spring, we feel the air change and cool. In our own garden, I'm making plans to bring the elephant ears we planted last summer inside for winter. The colder temperatures mean we're all spending a little more time inside. As we move back inside, I can't help but remember last year at this time, we were each of us in our own "inside places" as we weathered the storm of the pandemic. But this year things are better--and if they're not exactly like they used to be--I am grateful for what has improved.

Even as we look forward to our favorite Autumn festivities and remembrances: Halloween, All Souls, Veteran's Day, Thanksgiving, and the annual St Ann's Christmas Tree Lot! We're still ironing out details for what the rest of this year's Advent. Stay tuned for those announcements in the coming weeks. As Autumn sets in, I'm mindful that *this* year we can worship, not only online, but *in-person*. And I am thankful that we can sing *together, be together, and worship together*.

By now you've heard of our Discovery Classes that will begin this month. I hope you will consider joining us for one, some, or all the classes. And you've heard about the RenewalWorks Spiritual Inventory. This is the first step we take towards where we go *next* as a parish family. Tim Laffin & Marge Rogers are spearheading these efforts and for that we are so thankful. As Tim so elegantly said when he explained the spiritual inventory, "We need to find out what we *have* so we can figure out what we *need*." I like to look at these efforts today as our own daffodil and tulip bulbs--good work now for blossoms in the Spring.

Blessings,

*Fr. Jeff+*

### Prayer Request:

If you have a prayer request, please call / Email the office or you can go to the following link.

<https://form.jotform.com/212086636121146> Or you can text the word "prayer" to 631-212-2320.

# Vestry Visions

## Where Is Normal?

Autumn is traditionally the time when schedules “get back to normal” after the more relaxed and unscheduled summer days. Yet this fall it seems like we can’t exactly get back to normal, because “normal” is missing. Most of us are growing tired of the restrictions that are necessary to minimize the spread of Covid and many may be wondering what our definition of “normal” will be in the future. At least, this pandemic has made us creatively face the challenges of offering safe ways to come together in worship and fellowship.

We can now worship in person, albeit with masks, and we can also continue to attend services online. Our outdoor Family Service in September enabled us to not only worship together but to also enjoy seeing so many members of our parish family. The Blessing of the Animals and Pet Adoption on October 3<sup>rd</sup> have been other opportunities for fellowship.

October 13 and through November 17, Father Jeff and Mother Lilo will be presenting “Discovery: Episcopal 101 and Confirmation class.” This is an opportunity for all of us, but especially anyone who wants to prepare for Confirmation, to learn more about what it means to be an Episcopalian. We’re looking forward to other regular and vital activities in our Parish Life in the next few months: our Christmas tree sale, Lessons and Carols, and our Holiday raffle. In early 2022 we’ll formally celebrate Father Jeff’s ministry with his induction as our Rector.

Of course, that’s months off and we’re hoping for our normal Parish life to return as soon as possible. As Vestry members, we oversee the church’s finances, make sure our buildings and grounds are maintained, support our ministries, and so on. Yet the key questions we as Vestry members face now are what “normal” will look like here at St. Ann’s and how can we make it as positive as possible. The results of the Renewal Works survey will provide some answers. Parish members are encouraged to contact us with your questions or suggestions.

With our resolve, creativity, and faith, we can all make our normal life as a Parish the supportive, spiritual, and joyful life we pray for.

For the Vestry,  
*Pat Osarchuk*

## VESTRY ROSTER

	<b>Wardens:</b>	2022 Nancy Koinoglou	2023 Thomas Honey
	<b>Vestry:</b>	2022 Greg Domoff	Jeanne Monasterolo
		Jill Hughes	Nicole LaFontaine
		2023 Donald Hester	Diane Miller-Magnani
		Patricia Osarchuk	Carole Sheppard
		2024 Wendy Schmittzeh	Carol Ann St. Lawrence
		John Smith	Rich Acierno

## The Church Office Has Moved Downstairs

If you haven't stopped in at the church office lately, you'll be surprised at the change. Fr. Jeff and Lauren Merkel have moved downstairs, so they are more readily accessible to visitors. No longer do you enter an empty building. You'll still have to climb the stairs if you're looking for Kathy Senese or Mother Lilo, but everyone is enjoying their new space.



The former conference room is now a comfortable waiting room with Lauren there to greet people and answer questions. Fr Jeff's office is through the open door on the far wall. It was formerly the Youth Room.

## Daily Reminders of Baptism



One way Satan attacks Christians is by reminding us of our sins, both of commission (wrongdoing) and omission (neglecting to do right). And one way we can fight back is by remembering our baptism. The reformer Martin Luther recommended pondering that sacrament daily, whenever we wash our face, because "in baptism sins are drowned."

Getting dressed can serve as another frequent reminder, Luther says, because baptism is the "daily garment ... the Christian is to wear all the time." He writes, "Christ instituted holy baptism ... to clothe you with his righteousness. It is tantamount to his saying, 'My righteousness shall be your righteousness; my innocence, your innocence. Your sins indeed are great, but by baptism I bestow on you my righteousness; I strip death from you and clothe you with my life.'"



## Coffee Hour Sign-up:

We are still looking for people to sign up to take care of Coffee hour. There are a handful of dates still available, and because we are not serving any food right now, it is the easiest time to do it! Please call the office, sign up on the sign-up sheet at the Coffee Hour, or go to the link below:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D49A8AB2BABFAC52-coffee>

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## For Love of Animals

St. Francis of Assisi, known for his affection for animals, is honored on October 4. Some congregations observe this day by blessing pets, remembering that God pronounced animals — along with all creation — good. God saved not only Noah's family but animals of all kinds from the Flood. And despite Jonah's protests, God had compassion on Nineveh — "and [its] many animals" (Jonah 4:11). How intriguing that the prophet adds this point!



Care for all living creatures is clearly part of the divine character. Animals don't do anything to earn God's favor except be themselves. From this, we can learn that God pours out love unconditionally. As Psalm 36:6 (CEV) declares, "All people and animals are under your care."

## BLESSING OF PETS

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 3 AT 2:00 PM

ALONG WITH A PET ADOPTION EVENT

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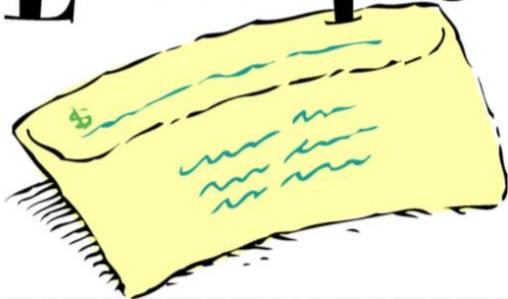
## Barnabas Buddies

**VOLUNTEERS WANTED!** Every now and then we have a parish member who is temporarily unable to prepare meals for themselves and would appreciate a little help. We are compiling a list of volunteers we can call upon to bring a meal to parish members when necessary. Deliver a sandwich, pick up take-out food or cook a meal-- it would be a great help.



Please note: **This is not a huge commitment and sometimes there are months when not one person needs assistance.** You do not have to cook anything or provide all the meals. In fact, the meals can be Chinese food, pizza, or take-out from a local restaurant. Costco has many prepared meals that just have to be warmed up. The more people who volunteer, the easier it is for everyone! If you'd like to volunteer, **please call Nancy Koinoglou (631-567-4322) or email ([nvsk3@yahoo.com](mailto:nvsk3@yahoo.com)).**

# Offering Envelopes



We are getting ready to re-order the giving envelopes, so we'd like to update our list. We know that a number of you are giving online or through your bank's bill-pay system, and you may not need envelopes anymore. Please let the Church Office know.

Also, if you are NOT currently getting giving envelopes, but would like to, please let the Church Office know with a call or email.

Phone: 631-589-6522;

Email: [office@saint-anns.org](mailto:office@saint-anns.org).



## THE THRIFT SHOP IS



Saint Ann's Thrift Shop is now open! Days of operation will be

- **Wednesday -- 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 PM.**
- **Thursday -- 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 PM.**
- **Saturday --10:00 a.m. to 2:00 PM.**

## \*Fourth Wednesday\* Lunch & Meditation

Peg Costanzo is continuing her Prayer and Meditation group which meets at her home in Ridge on the Fourth Wednesday of each month at 12:30 PM. It starts with lunch (bring your own bag lunch) and some conversation. After lunch there is a Bible reading and a few minutes of meditation, followed by discussion. Great for relaxing and dealing with stress! The July date is:



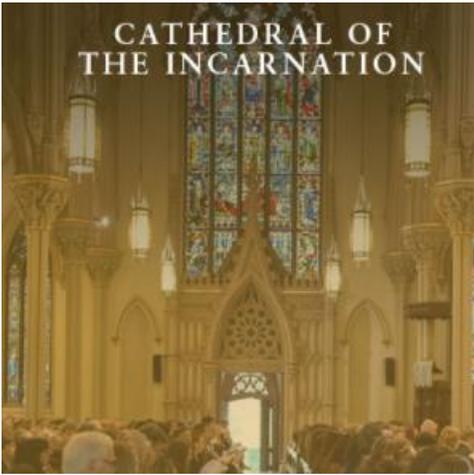
**WED., OCTOBER 27**

We hope you can join us!

**Peg's Cell Phone Number: 631-921-0587**

**(Call or text)**





# ORDINATION

I bind unto myself the name,  
The strong name of the Trinity  
By invocation of the same,  
The Three in One and One in Three,  
Of whom all nature has creation,  
Eternal Father, Spirit, Word,  
Praise to the Lord of my salvation;  
Salvation is of Christ the Lord!



And therefore, father, give your holy power to Liselotte and make her a priest in your church.





# VIEW FROM BEHIND THE POLE



The St. Ann's Choir singing behind a different pole for the September 11 Memorial Service at the Common Ground Rotary Park

\*\*\*\*\*

CHOIR REHEARSALS  
TUESDAY EVENINGS –  
7:00 PM

NEWCOMERS ARE  
WELCOME!

Rehearsals are in the  
church choir loft  
“BEHIND THE POLE”

[Photos from the Sayville Chamber of Commerce Website and Diane Miller-Magnani]



## NEW CHORAL SCHOLAR FOR THE CHOIR

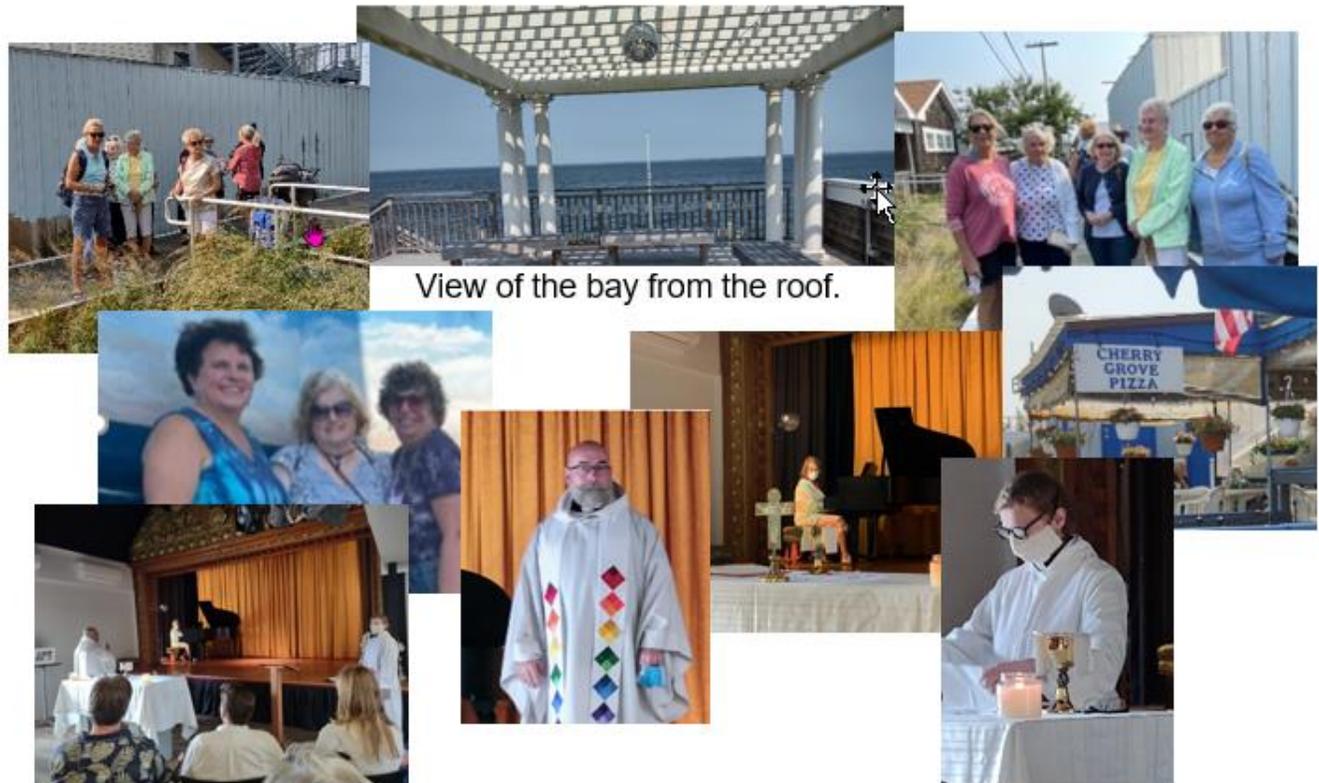
This month the choir welcomed a new choral scholar! She is Katie D'Ambrosio who is a Senior at Bayport-Blue Point High School. Katie loves to sing, writes music, and also plays several instruments. She is planning eventually to use her skills helping other people with music therapy. We have been fortunate in the past with our choral scholars, and Katie follows in a fine tradition. The sopranos will be particularly happy to have someone in the choir who can reliably hit those very high notes!

[Photo: Laura Sanchez]

# THE CHURCH AT CHERRY GROVE

On September 12, the 10:00 service at St. Ann's moved across the water to the Cherry Grove Community Center. Quite a few people came, and it was a beautiful day for a ferry ride. The congregation was very welcoming, considering we enlarged their attendance by about three times as many people!

The Community Center also has a roof with a beautiful view of the bay. They call the outside stairway "the Stairway to Heaven!" Many parishioners went back on the next ferry, but a few stayed to enjoy lunch and a walk around the area.



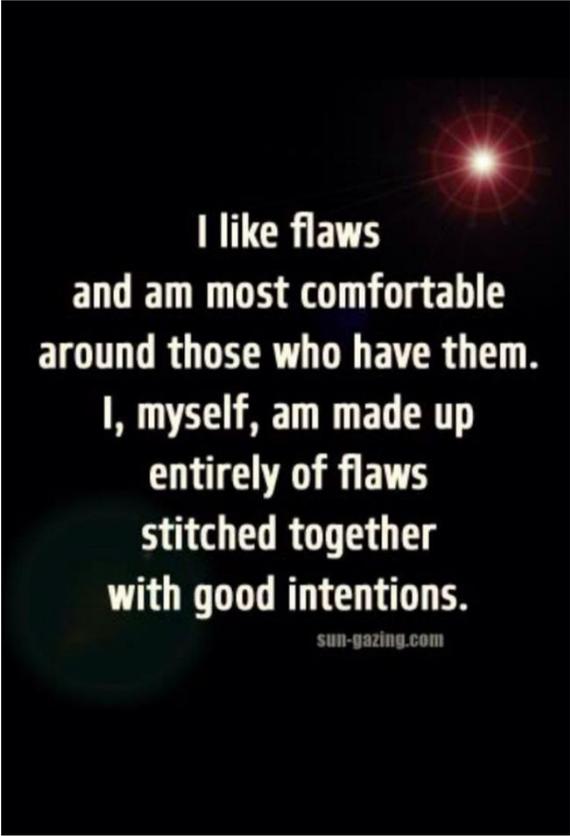
## Mixed signals

A newcomer approached the pastor after worship and said, "I'd like you to pray for my hearing."

Placing hands on the man's ears, the pastor said a very passionate, earnest prayer and then asked the visitor, "How's your hearing now?"

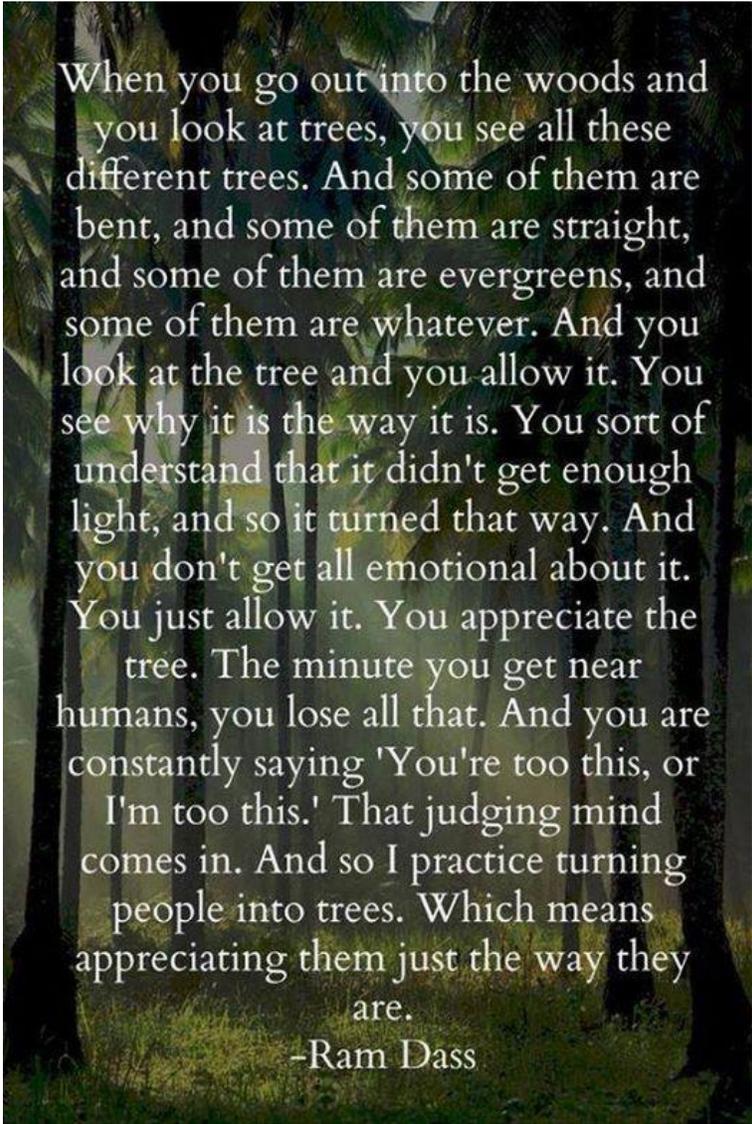
With a confused look, the man said, "Well, it's scheduled for tomorrow."

# Mememes of Wisdom



**I like flaws  
and am most comfortable  
around those who have them.  
I, myself, am made up  
entirely of flaws  
stitched together  
with good intentions.**

sun-gazing.com



When you go out into the woods and you look at trees, you see all these different trees. And some of them are bent, and some of them are straight, and some of them are evergreens, and some of them are whatever. And you look at the tree and you allow it. You see why it is the way it is. You sort of understand that it didn't get enough light, and so it turned that way. And you don't get all emotional about it. You just allow it. You appreciate the tree. The minute you get near humans, you lose all that. And you are constantly saying 'You're too this, or I'm too this.' That judging mind comes in. And so I practice turning people into trees. Which means appreciating them just the way they are.

-Ram Dass



ALL SHALL BE WELL,  
AND  
ALL SHALL BE WELL,  
AND  
ALL MANNER OF  
THINGS  
SHALL BE  
WELL.

-God is now here



GOD IS NOWHERE

First Baptist Church in Newton

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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

7	Charles & Donna Romano	10	Anthony & Wendy Lico	21	Rich & Cheryl Waters
	Robert & Connie Taborsky	12	Gregory & Lisa Jacques	23	Jesse & Jennifer Lasko
9	Robert & Mary Ann Costanzo	18	Salvatore & Doreen Grenci	24	Michael & Erin Hynes
10	George & Mary Fisher	21	Thomas & Cara Clark Jr.	28	Joseph & Lisa Castelli



1	Sydney Felton	8	Scarlet Marrugo	15	Renee Chalmers	21	Virginia Spiess
	Lauren Immoor	9	Nicole Rey	16	Paul Weeks	23	Shayler Smyrk
2	Donna Stankovich	10	Melanie Acierno	17	Frank Costanzo	25	Lily Acierno
3	Kathy Senese		Hewlett Krakaur	18	Shin Kang-Chung	28	Shawn Felton
4	Donna Romano	11	Michael Chalmers		Katherine Elton	29	Richard Acierno
5	Jessica Shelton	12	Rich Waters	19	Emma Chung		Brooke Mattimore
7	John Smith	13	Olivia Hlavac	21	Janet Adam		Whitney O'Donnell
8	Henry Lemanis	14	William Verneer		Christine Mulroy	30	George Koinoglou

*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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<p>411 Central Islip Blvd. Ronkonkoma, NY 737-0051</p>	<p>Granny Road &amp; Route 112 (opp. Holy Sepulchre Cemetery) 696-0721</p>		

## Our Church History



### ❖ The Garden of the Unforgotten

Nancy Culbertson Travis  
Section 50—Lot 6

*By Connie Currie*

**Mrs. Nancy Culbertson Travis**, widow of Seward S. Travis, died in the Eastern Star Home in Oriskany, in late February of 1956, where she had lived for the previous five years. She was born at Groveland, NY, about 1877, the daughter of Michael and Mary Culbertson

Mr. and Mrs. Travis came to Sayville around 1921 from Greenport, where Mr. Travis had been Superintendent of Schools. He held the same position in the Sayville School system, retired in 1933, and died in January of 1937. Mr. Travis continued to live in her home on Gillette Avenue until she went to the Eastern Star Home.

Mrs. Travis was a member of the Stirling Chapter of the O.E.S. of Greenport. She was also a member of the Sayville Congregational Church, the Needlecraft Club of the church, and the King's Daughters.

She was survived by five sons: Theodore of Allwood, NJ; Seward Ford of Barrington, RI; Daniel Palmer of Brooklyn; Richard Gould of Youngstown, OH; and Jack G. of Sayville. She also left two brothers. J. Culbertson of Darien, NY; and Augustus P. Culbertson of Rochester, NY; and eight grandchildren.

Eastern Star services were held at Raynor's Funeral Chapel. Funeral services were conducted by the Rev. Alastair C. Sellars of the Sayville Congregational Church, also in Raynor's Chapel. Burial followed the next day in St. Ann's Cemetery.

## What God is Like

Before her death in 2019, Rachel Held Evans started writing a book with her young children in mind. The goal was to help them explore images for God, who is love. *What Is God Like?* (co-authored by Matthew Turner) acknowledges, "That's a very big question, one that people from places all around the world have wondered about since the beginning of time." The book highlights such biblical images for God as an eagle, a shepherd, a fort, wind, an artist, a "strong and safe" mother, and a "gentle and safe" father.

Just as Evans remained open to questions as a means to grow in faith, her book concludes: "Keep searching. Keep wondering. ... But whenever you aren't sure what God is like, think about what makes you feel safe ... brave ... loved. That's what God is like." What images for God come to your mind? Indeed, what is God like — for you?



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**+Christian Symbol+**



**RAINBOW**

The Rainbow represents God's pardon and his promises. It also symbolizes his reconciliation to faithful Christians. After the Flood, God placed a rainbow in the sky as a symbol of his promise to never destroy the earth that way again (Genesis 9:12-16). A rainbow can also represent the throne of Christ, as well as his glory and final judgment.

**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 – On hold  
10:00 AM—Holy Eucharist  
7:30 PM—AA Meeting

**Mondays**

10:00AM—12:00 PM Food Pantry  
6:00 PM—Vestry Meeting—October 11  
6:00 PM—Mission & Outreach  
8:00 PM—AA Meeting

**Tuesdays**

8:00 AM—Men's Group  
6:00 PM—Children's Choir – TBA  
7:00 PM—Adult Choir – Tuesdays

**Wednesdays**

9:30 AM—12:00 PM Operation Hope  
10:00 AM-2:00 PM—Thrift Shop Open

**Thursdays**

10:00 AM—AA Meeting  
10:00 AM-2:00 PM—Thrift Shop Open  
8:00 PM—AA Meeting

**Fridays**

**Saturday**

10:00 AM-2:00 PM—Thrift Shop Open  
5:00 PM – Holy Eucharist



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**(631) 589-1500**  
[www.moloneyfh.com](http://www.moloneyfh.com)

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# The Correspondent

St. Ann's Episcopal Church  
262 Middle Road  
Sayville, NY 11782  
Change Service Requested

Non-Profit Organization  
**U.S. POSTAGE**  
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