



The Correspondent

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

Volume XXVIII
Issue 1

January 2021

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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

Jan. 1 – New Year's Day
 Jan. 6 – Feast of the Epiphany
 Jan. 17 – Annual Meeting
 Jan 20 – Inauguration Day
 Jan. 21 – Martin Luther King Jr. Day



MISSION STATEMENT

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



Happy New Year! And a blessed Epiphany season! We come to worship the King, just as the wise men did so long ago.

May you always feel welcome at St. Ann's.

Saint Ann's Episcopal Church January 17, 2021



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 11:30 AM on Sunday, January 17, 2021.



Meet OnZoom.



Even though January 1 is, in reality, pretty much like December 31, on the calendar used to demark our days, the changing over to a New Year is a special time, a chance to start again. People all around the world have different rituals that mark the beginning of a new year. You've heard of the Polar Bear Plunge on Long Island? Well, the Scots do it on New Year's Day in the River Forth in Scotland. They say it builds a sense of camaraderie. In Spain the people eat grapes—specifically 12 grapes—one for each stroke of the clock at midnight. And if your grapes have all been swallowed by the time the chiming ends, that means good luck in the new year. In Ecuador they like to get new clothes, and in Brazil they specifically want new underwear. In China they have fireworks and dragon dances. In Denmark they break dinnerware—smash the plates right on the floor! In Bali they have a Day of Silence—no words spoken, no cars driven, no WiFi, electricity, or phone service. All the shops are closed. Be prepared to meditate on what the new year may bring. In New York we gather at midnight in Times Square (or in front of the TV) to watch an 11,875-pound ball made of Waterford crystal slide down a cable to a backward count of 10-to-“Happy New Year!” Then we drink a champagne toast to the future. All of these things are meant to welcome the new year and ensure that we will have good fortune for the coming 12 months. It may not have worked well last year, but we try again every year. And, even if some of last year's problems still hang on, there is a renewed sense of optimism that things will be better, and maybe they will be if we set our collective minds and hearts to it. Let us pray that, no matter what you did on New Year's Eve, the 12 months in front of us will bring health, happiness, justice, and good fortune to our world. Happy 2021, everyone! **–Rodney Dudley**

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2019 Saint Ann's Episcopal Church

February Deadline
Thursday, January 21

Clergy Staff

The Reverend Jeffrey Neal Stevenson, Rector, Ext. 12
frjeff@saint-anns.org

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A Word from the Rector Father Jeffrey Stevenson



The Epiphany Season

Dear Members of St Ann's,

The 12 days of Christmas have ended, and suddenly it is a new year, and we find ourselves in the season of Epiphany. This is a season that is more than annual meetings (although I will give details of that meeting later) and pancake suppers; Epiphany is a season of rich theological meaning. The season of Epiphany—or Epiphanytide—is a season in the liturgical year that is four to nine weeks long, from the Feast of the Epiphany, January 6, through the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday. It always starts at the same time, but varies in length based on the date of Easter.

Epiphany is a season when the Church really digs-in and explores the divine nature of Jesus. During Christmastide we explore the humanity of Christ by telling the stories of his birth, celebrating that he was born for us. The Gospel stories of Epiphany show us events that manifest the divine nature of Christ as the Son of God. The coming of the Magi who were shown the divine nature of Christ on Epiphany, and the first Sunday after Epiphany we hear the story of Jesus' baptism when "...just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from Heaven, "You are my son, the beloved. With you I am well pleased."

The gospels for the other Sundays of the Epiphany season describe the calling of the disciples, various miracles and teachings of Jesus. The Last Sunday after the Epiphany is always devoted to the Transfiguration. This year we hear the Gospel of Mark, describing to us the revelation of the Son of God in dramatic form, ending in the Transfiguration of Christ.

It is my humble opinion that we are not called to solve the mystery of Christ's nature, but we are called to struggle with it, meditate on it, and allow ourselves to be engulfed in it. This season, allow yourself to read and inwardly digest the Gospel, not as a matter of simply studying, but allow yourself to be settled in the mystery.

Blessings, *Fr. Jeff+*

A Word for the Year

Every January, some people pray and ask God to provide a word for their year ahead. Friends have shared theirs with me, but I was hesitant to embrace the practice myself. I'd love to receive a word like *flourish*; then again, I might be like the friend who heard *health* and then faced many physical challenges that year. But I tried it for 2020 and heard *prepare*. My first reaction was that the word wasn't very exciting, which possibly confirmed I hadn't orchestrated it. Indeed, 2020 ended up full of significant, unexpected change for our family, with careers, school, church and friends. *Prepare* reminded me that amid chaos, God had prepared me for each moment and continues to prepare me for what's next.

Give it a try! Regardless of the word you receive or what lies ahead, you can trust that God loves you and is ultimately in control for 2021 and beyond.

—Janna Firestone

Vestry Visions

Catching Jesus in the Act

Most of us are ecstatic to see 2020 in our rearview mirror. It was a year filled with loss and hardship for many reasons. It seemed like it was just one thing after another. Many of us look to this new year for a change in circumstance, a new beginning. But perhaps it is a matter of perspective. We've made it this far, and we are still here. So how did we do it? I think I know.



God has been working all along. We have to recognize how He is always with us. Recently, at the end of each Vestry meeting, Father Jeff has added a new item on the agenda, Catching Jesus in the Act. Vestry members are asked to share how we have seen His work in the last month. Rather than dwelling on all we have lost, we turn our attention to all we still have. It is an exercise designed to switch our focus from negative to positive. I wanted to share it with all of you as it truly helps to keep me optimistic and count my many blessings. I hope it does the same for you.

Where do you see Jesus at work? Stopping to reflect on this, there are many ways Jesus is among us. I will start with the obvious. Our new rector has come to us, bringing hope, goodwill, and a can-do attitude. We continue to hold services, albeit virtual, for our congregation to worship and pray. Our food pantry is serving our community and feeding those in our midst who cannot make ends meet anymore. Our tree sale and Christmas raffle were quite successful and brought in much needed revenue. Our giving tree and adopt-a-family gave Christmas gifts to many children who needed them most.

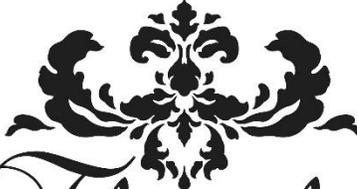
But there have been more personal ways I have seen Jesus. Two perfect, beautiful babies were born in our family this past year. They are truly gifts from God. He is working through the aides that care for my 108-year-old grandmother. We were in great need and were able to quickly find caring, kind people to help us with her. Their patience and willingness to assist is a great gift. Friends have seen me struggling and sent prayers, gifts and moral support just when I needed it most.

Jesus was present when I delivered some of the Christmas candles to members of our congregation. They were so appreciative, and their faces lit up. I see Him in the faces of the people and dogs I help connect through my volunteer work with animal rescue. There is nothing so satisfying as finding them their forever homes. Joy is evident in both human and canine. My family is closer than ever. We have spent so much time together this past year, and we are still here to tell the tale! We are able to let some of the little things go that may have set us off in the past.

I see an increase in kindness among people. Many have taken to thinking about others before themselves. A friend of mine reported she had her coffee paid for three times this past month, by the person ahead of her at the Starbucks drive-thru. Contributions are up at food pantries and other charities. News programs often highlight good works done by local citizens for the greater good.

I am not a "Pollyanna" by any stretch of the imagination. But I do believe we choose how we think. It is easy to get bogged down by the tragedy of our lives. It is human nature to dwell on the worst. Jesus is leading me to try to change that. I am walking a path that is rich with blessings and now recognizing them for what they are. God is with me and I pray He is also with you. Wishing you a happy, healthy and more positive new year.

Diane Miller-Magnani for the Vestry



Thanks
for All You Do



Our holiday season was decidedly different in 2020, but that didn't stop the people of St. Ann's! We had an amazing holiday season with money being raised in fun ways, and help given away to those in need, demonstrating that maybe 2020 wasn't so terrible after all. We have a lot to be thankful for.

Lynette Schulz started the season off with **Food Baskets for Families** at Thanksgiving. The giving was more automated this time (Hello, Signup Genius), but the result was food for 20 families at Thanksgiving, which I'm sure was doubly appreciated in this time of pandemic. Thanks, Lynette, for a great job!

Our Christmas Fair was cancelled this year because inside crowds were a bad idea, but **Nicole LaFontaine** stepped up with our **biggest Raffle ever**, along with a **50/50**, and brought in an amazing amount of money for the church. Everything was conducted on computer and through the mail. So, thanks, Nicole! And thanks to all of you who donated, bought tickets, and supported this effort!



The Christmas Tree Sale is one of our biggest fund raisers of the year, and fortunately, we did not have to cancel this because it takes place outside, where it's safer. The Christmas Tree Committee—the **Smiths, the Schmitzels, and the Honeys**—and all their helpers—did a bang-up job this year! Out of 750 trees received, 630 were sold the first weekend! That has to be a record. Every single one of the trees was sold within a space of nine days.

A big thank you to all who donated to the **Adopt-a-Family** appeal this year. Because of your generosity a substantial check will be sent to the St John's Episcopal Hospital Auxiliary who will provide families with much needed items this holiday season. **-Ellen Stoll**



Thank you to everyone who donated gifts for **Little Flower Children's Center** this Christmas. It was a HUGE success!! I feel so very grateful for each and every parish member who took the time to make these kiddos' wishes come true. This process really showed that with the immense darkness 2020 has pressed down upon us, we can be the beacon of light to inspire others. Thank you again! Humbly, **Ali Koinoglou**



Thanks to the **Wardens and Vestry** who decided, since we couldn't be together in the church this Christmas, that we could at least light a candle together while we were watching the Christmas services on our computers. They managed to personally deliver a battery-operated candle to every parishioner's home, so we could help light the world and take away the darkness.

thank you

A LETTER FROM TEXAS

By Mary Mattarella

Mary Mattarella, who headed the Peanut Butter & Jelly Ministry while she was at St. Ann's, moved to Texas last September. This is a letter remembering her time at St. Ann's and revealing what has happened in her life journey, living in Texas! Mary is carrying on her mission, in a new time and place. --Editor

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all my friends at St. Ann's!

Each and every one of you, are in my heart and prayers, especially this time of year. It was Christmas of 2005, that God brought me to the doors of St. Ann's, and my life was forever changed. I stopped by the Christmas tree lot, was invited to attend services, and the rest is history. It was through all of your support, friendship, love and prayers, that enabled me to grow my mission. I know that God is happy, that we together, served literally thousands of the homeless and poor.

Who could forget, the piles of socks, Christmas stockings, oranges, clothes and all donations, that all of you donated, so that my team of missionaries could pass them out in NYC and Long Island? Many of these donations, led to some of the homeless getting off the streets. We also gave out information which enabled them to have a permanent mailing address, receive Food Stamps, mental health care, and Section-8 housing. We partnered with Zion Episcopal Church in Douglaston, adding more donations, help, and lifetime friendships for helping God's Street People. This is where I want to tell you some great and current news.

Since I moved to Texas last September, I am continuing the mission work, that we started so long ago. My son David, my granddaughter Emily, and I are doing street mission work. We hand out sandwiches, soap, hygiene products, and I've made a list of verified PRIVATE agency help. It is very tough in this state to get Medicaid and Food Stamps, yes, even tougher than New York. I am still in the process of making connections to get help, but I've found some new friends at the Abilene Christian College. I met some amazing young adults, that hail from Europe and Africa, when I went for a job interview there. These young people have met me twice to help me do street mission work. I've even recruited Emily's doctor and his lovely wife from Ethiopia. I met them at the Health Clinic in Abilene Texas. This Doctor speaks 7 languages, holds several degrees, but he is only allowed to be a Physician's Assistant in the US. This kind man, is helping me get free physical therapy for my granddaughter, since Medicaid has not been expanded here in Texas.

Here in Abilene, "Skid Row", is located on Butternut Street. The Salvation Army does serve hot meals and provides beds for the homeless for at night, but they must leave by 6:00 AM. The mentally ill just walk up and down the street, while the newly released from prison, await their parole officers. This has been an amazing opportunity to serve God's folks. I was able to serve 50 people for Christmas--doing stockings filled with oranges, candy, socks, etc.

Another group I'd like to help are the working poor, begging outside of Walmart. These folks willingly work all day at Walmart, but their pay is low (\$7.25 minimum wage) and they must beg after their shift for food money. This is because they received Medicaid and Food Stamps, and when they got a job at Walmart the state of Texas demands that these funds be paid back ASAP. You also have to pay this back in New York, but there is a more reasonable time frame. Please pray for these folks.

The Texas landscape here in the country is quite beautiful, but I do enjoy the city of Abilene. To us New Yorkers, Abilene would be considered a large town. Abilene is very clean and has a lot of free cultural events. I am looking forward to taking Emily to see "The Nutcracker" for free, and I've signed up David and Emily for a Daddy/daughter dance. I like the vibe in Abilene, filled with the vibrant college students and professors.

The rural areas are harder to adjust to, but I will make you all proud of me, and not give up. There are a lot of cookie cutter mega churches here, and a cult called "The Yawehs." Also, there is "The Rattlesnake Roundup," where a group of snake hunters comes on your property to get rid of the rattlers. There are craft booths, music, line dancing, and other fun things downtown to celebrate. You can taste fried rattlesnake too, but I'm passing on that! I make sure any event we go to, is where people wear masks, and do social distancing. Believe it or not, the young adults in the city of Abilene DO the right thing, but the adults in "the country"--for the most part--do not. So, I only go into places like Abilene or Walmart, where social distancing and mask wearing are enforced.

In closing, I would like to say I love you, I miss you, and I am homesick for St. Ann's. I am hoping to visit in the summer! Happy New Year! I am on Facebook, and my email is Stbarnabus@yahoo.com. PS-- I paid \$1.52 for a gallon of gas!

Love you all, **Festive Mary**





VIEW FROM BEHIND THE POLE

Thank You!

Our Service of Advent Lessons and Carols on the First Sunday of Advent was a bit different this year. We were fortunate to have the church still open for in-person attendance. The reservations for seats were “sold out” with social distancing in mind.

Even though we were not in full choral form, we want to thank the soloists—Cathy and Don Baker, the Chung Family, Christine Mulroy, and Rick Magnani—who sang from the altar between the lessons. They managed to sound beautiful and full-throated even behind a mask!



The soloists were back again for Christmas Eve and Christmas—even though we were using live streaming from an empty church by then. Thanks again to Don Baker, Christine Mulroy, and Rick Magnani. And thanks also to Margery Fitts, our guest musician who played the harp for the 9:00 and 11:00 PM services.



**from
the
Choir**



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



WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

8	Charles & Barbara King	19	Roland & Lynne Russell	21	Anthony & Joan Palmieri
15	Kevin & Janet Adam	20	Donald & Stacy May	26	John & Carol Ann St. Lawrence
		21	Donald & Judy Hester		

BIRTHDAYS

1	Juancarlos Espinoza	8	Stephen Vander Borgh	14	Robert Sheppard	23	Jenny O'Connell
	Michael Hynes	10	Kyle Hughes	15	Daniel Limoli	24	Christie Clark
2	Charles King	12	Dorothy Benedict		Jeneane Patrovich	25	Sean Mattimore
4	Oliver Rivas		Donald MacKenzie	16	Carrie Whitehouse		David O'Donnell
	Jennifer Rossi		Theresa McGee	17	Kevin Adam	26	Ryan MacDonell
5	Aidan Donoghue		Caitlyn Wolfe		Joseph Castelli	28	Mary Ann Davis
	Diane Miller-Magnani	13	Brian Chalmers	18	Eugene DeMott		Jennifer Lembeck
	Chris McNamee		Ryan Lasko	19	Ryan Meinsen		Caryn Wells
6	Nancy Britts		Zoe Lasko		Evan May	29	William Kraft
	Stephanie Streek		Carol Ann St. Lawrence	20	Geraldine Hoek		Courtney Weeks
8	John Cerillo	14	Evan Meinsen		John St. Lawrence		Cassidy Weeks
	Richard Mugno		Grant Richards	21	Andrea Sanseviro	30	Christie Strecker

Happy Birthday to — and for — You!

Birthdays are unique because they celebrate who someone *is*, not what they've *done*. Henri Nouwen wrote, "It is more important to celebrate a birthday than a successful exam, a promotion or a victory. Because to celebrate a birthday means to say to someone, 'Thank you for being you.'... On a birthday we do not say, 'Thanks for what you did, or said, or accomplished.' No, we say, 'Thank you for being born and being among us.'"

To rejoice over someone purely for who they are is an echo of God's joy over us. Some families celebrate "baptism birthdays" (anniversaries) by lighting candles, sharing scripture and prayer, perhaps looking at photos and recounting stories of that milestone event that marked the beginning of their faith life.

On a birthday, said Nouwen, "we lift someone up and let everyone say, 'We love you.'" In baptism, God lifts us to his very heart and declares, "You are my precious child. I love you!"

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Our Church History



❖ The Garden of the Unforgotten

Anna & William Reylek
1877-1933
SECTION 70 W1/2 10 (End)

By Connie Currie

Anna Reylek died at the age of 81 at her Sayville home. Born in West Babylon, she had lived in Sayville for over 50 years. She was a member of St. John's Ladies Aid; Community Seniors of Sayville; American Legion Auxiliary, Smith Wever Post 651; Gold Star Mothers of Suffolk County Chapter 34; and she was First Vice President of the Sayville Cabinet for the Sick.

She was survived by her husband William of Sayville; one brother, William Ewert of West Babylon; three sons: William of Sayville, Charles of Bayport, and Alfred of Far Hills, NJ; four daughters, Mrs. Frieda Bacon of Farmingdale, Mrs. Anna Stoll of Lincoln City, OR, Mrs. Frances Kahn of Sayville, and Mrs. Emma Longshore of Navato, CA; 14 grandchildren and 10 great grandchildren. The Rev. Egbert J. Dunker, Pastor of St. John's Lutheran Church, officiated. She was buried at St. Ann's Cemetery in December of 1974.

William F. Reylek, Sr., age 84, followed his wife in death four years later, on March 1, 1978. Born in Brooklyn, he had lived in Sayville for over 50 years. He had retired in 1959, after 30 years with the Social Services Department. He was a member of the Modern Woodmen of America, the Community Seniors of Sayville, and the AARP.

Mr. Reylek was survived by four daughters, three sons, one sister—Mrs. Rose Daane of Setauket—14 grandchildren, and 15 great grandchildren.

The Rev. Walter Van Popering of the First Reformed Church of New Hyde Park officiated. William was buried next to his wife in the Garden of the Unforgotten.

Waiting Until God is Heard

We're often taught that prayer is speaking to God. And of course, that's part of it. It's good to pray for the well-being and needs of others — even Jesus prayed for his disciples. It's okay to pray for our own growth in faith and love. It's a wonderful, powerful thing, modeled especially by the Psalmists, to give God thanks and praise. And God welcomes our cries of pain and sorrow, offering the Spirit's help when words fail us (Romans 8:26).



But through the ages, many deeply faithful followers of Christ have practiced contemplative prayer, centering prayer and other forms of stillness before God. Danish theologian Søren Kierkegaard (1813-1855) expressed it this way: "To pray does not mean to listen to oneself speaking. Prayer involves becoming silent, and being silent, and waiting until God is heard."



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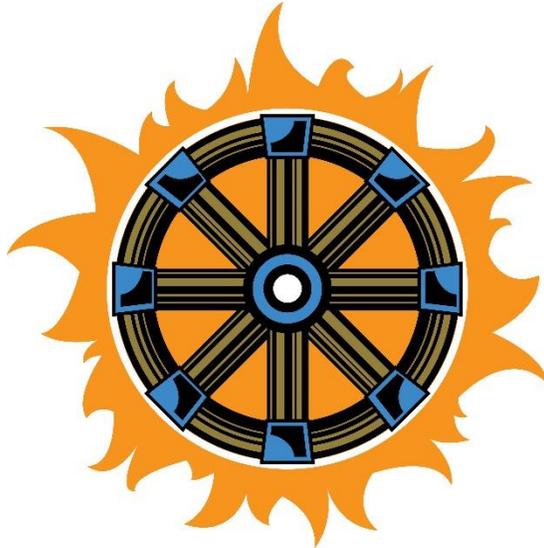
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+Christian Symbol+



The Wheel

A rotating wheel symbolizes God's divine force. Wheels with flames shooting out often portray God's throne, based on Ezekiel's vision (see 1:1-18). Some artists also show a burning wheel when God sends Adam and Eve out of the Garden of Eden.

**AROUND SAINT ANN'S
Monthly Schedule**

See Correspondent pages and Bulletin for changes/cancellations.

Check out the website at: www.saint-anns.org

Sundays

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

Mondays

- 10:00AM—12:00 PM Food Pantry - Closed
- 6:00 PM—Vestry Meeting—January 11
- 6:00 PM—Mission & Outreach - Canceled
- 8:00 PM—AA Meeting - Canceled

Tuesdays

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

Wednesdays

- 9:30 AM—12:00 PM Operation Hope - Canceled
- 10:00 AM-3:00 PM—Thrift Shop – Closed

Thursdays

- 10:00 AM—AA Meeting - Canceled
- 10:00 AM-3:00 PM—Thrift Shop - Closed
- 8:00 PM—AA Meeting - Canceled

Fridays

- 12:00-3:00 PM—Thrift Shop Closed

Saturday

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



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