



The Correspondent

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

Volume XXIX
Issue 11

December 2022

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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

(In person & online Only)

TUES-THURS

8:00 PM—Compline (online only)

SPECIAL UPCOMING EVENTS

- 3 Dec—St. Ann's Christmas Fair
10:00 -4:00 & Open House 12:00-4:00 pm
- 4 Dec-- St. Ann's Christmas Open House 12:00–4:00 pm
- 6 Dec—Senior Luncheon 12:00 pm
- 17 Dec—Caroling Service 5:00 pm
Dinner to follow
- 18 Dec-- Lessons & Carols 2:00 pm
---Reception 3:00 pm
- 25 Dec: Christmas Day
- 26-30 Dec: *office closed*
- 31 Dec—New Year's Eve
- 1 Jan-----New Year's Day



MISSION STATEMENT

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

Christmas Worship Services



Blue Christmas, Wednesday, December 21

8:00 PM Blue Christmas (also called the Longest Night) is a day in the Advent season marking the longest night of the year. On this day, we honor people who have lost loved ones and are experiencing grief.

Christmas Eve, Saturday, December 24

4:00 PM Family Service
(No 5:00 PM Service)

8:00 PM Holy Eucharist Rite II with Choir & Brass
11:00 PM Holy Eucharist Rite II with Choir & Brass

Christmas Day, Sunday, December 25

One service 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist Rite II

New Year's Eve, Saturday, December 31

5:00 PM Holy Eucharist Rite II

New Year's Day, Sunday, January 1

One service 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist Rite II



The season of Advent begins four weeks before Christmas. That, of course, is why we currently have an Advent wreath on the altar—and sometimes in our homes. Often, we observe the lighting of the wreath, but we don't exactly remember what the symbolism is. So, I thought now would be a good time for a refresher! (I don't remember either).

The circular wreath represents eternity. On that wreath, four candles are arranged. One candle on the wreath is lit each Sunday as a part of the Advent services. Each candle represents an aspect of the spiritual preparation for the coming of Jesus. Each week of Advent on Sunday a particular candle is lit. According to tradition, each of the 4 candles represents a thousand years, to total the 4,000 years from the time of Adam and Eve until the birth of Jesus.

On the first Sunday of Advent, a purple candle is lit. This candle is typically called the "Prophecy Candle" in remembrance of the prophets, especially Isaiah, who foretold the birth of Christ. The second purple candle is called the "Bethlehem Candle," symbolizing Christ's manger and represents love. On the third Sunday of Advent, the pink candle is lit. It is usually called the "Shepherds Candle" and represents joy. The last purple candle is called the "Angels Candle" and represents peace.

Now we probably won't remember all this information, but it's interesting to know that it's more than a pretty decoration and that it represents the tradition of thousands of years, having begun in Germany in the 16th century! And it's a good way to remember why we celebrate Advent for those four weeks before Christmas.



Second Sunday of Advent

A blessed Advent to you all! --Rodney Dudley

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2021
Saint Ann's Episcopal Church

January Deadline
Friday, December 16

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COME TO DONATE
COME TO SHOP
COME TO VOLUNTEER

OPEN

Wed, Thu, Sat 10AM to 2PM



A Word from the Rector Father Jeffrey Stevenson



Dear Members of St. Ann's,

A few thoughts on the nature of Christmas...

The Upside Down of Christmas

Theologian Halford Luccock once saw a shopper “who looked like an animated Christmas tree with packages dangling from every limb.” When he retrieved some dropped bags, she grumbled that Christmas “turns everything upside down.” Luccock replied, “That is just what it was made for!”

He explained: “Christmas is a story about a baby, and that is a baby’s chief business, turning things upside down. ... A baby in a family divides time into two eras, just as Christmas does. There is B.C., which means ‘before child,’ and A.D., which means ‘after deluge.’”

When God became flesh, the lowly, last, least and lost were exalted, added Luccock. As a result, “the locked-up treasures of kindness and sympathy come from the inside of the heart, where they are often kept imprisoned, to the outside of actual expression in deed and word.” The Christ-child “enables all [people] to get at the best treasures of their lives and offer them for use.”

A Prayer to the Christ Child

You have come to us as a small child, but you have brought us the greatest of all gifts, the gift of eternal love. Caress us with your tiny hands, embrace us with your tiny arms and pierce our hearts with your soft, sweet cries. —Bernard of Clairvaux (1090-1153)

A Christmas Harvest

Christmas is the harvest time of love. Souls are drawn to other souls. All that we have read and thought and hoped comes to fruition at this happy time. Our spirits are astir. We feel within us a strong desire to serve. A strange, subtle force, a new kindness, animates man and child. A new spirit is growing in us. No longer are we content to relieve pain, to sweeten sorrow, to give the crust of charity. We dare to give friendship, service, the equal loaf of bread and love. —Helen Keller

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

Happy Holidays!



St. Ann's has been very busy this holiday season!

Our Food Pantry manager, Lynette, has once again organized a collection of food items for assembling Thanksgiving baskets. Lynette takes donations from our parish and assembles baskets which she delivers to folks who may not otherwise have a holiday meal. Thanks to all of her hard work and the generosity of our parish, we were able to make many baskets to feed 18 families in our community.

We are having our Christmas Fair on Dec. 3 from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM! We are all very happy and excited that this wonderful fundraiser is back! Thank you very much to all of you who so generously donated to the fair raffles. And thank you to all the Thrift Shop volunteers and other volunteers who worked so hard preparing and organizing to get ready for the fair, and to all who volunteered to work the day of the fair.

This month we will be having several Holiday events:

- December 3, 2022 – Saturday Christmas Fair 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM
- December 3, 2022 – Saturday Meadow Croft's & St. Ann's Holiday Open House
- December 4, 2022 – Sunday Meadow Croft's & St. Ann's Holiday Open House
- December 18, 2022 – Sunday Lessons & Carols

A Christmas Prayer

*Lord, we pause here in the midst of the busyness and excitement of Christmas
 To thank You for coming as a baby in a Bethlehem manger
 To rescue us from sin and to offer us salvation.
 Your gift to us is greater than any present wrapped and placed under a tree.
 We thank you, we worship you, and commit to seeking you first this day, this season, this year.
 In Jesus' name, Amen.*

Please have a healthy and relaxing holiday.

Nancy Koinoglou, for the Vestry

VESTRY ROSTER

	Wardens:	2023 John O'Neill	2024 Nancy Koinoglou
	Vestry:	2023 Donald Hester Patricia Osarchuk	Diane Miller-Magnani
		2024 Wendy Schmittzeh John Smith	Carol Ann St. Lawrence Rich Acierno
		2025 Greg Domoff	Jeanne Monasterolo



Thanksgiving Food Drive

Thanksgiving Food Baskets

We would like to thank those who generously donated and gave their time to support the Thanksgiving Food Ministry. This year we distributed food baskets to 18 families, providing Thanksgiving dinner for over 75 people. The recipients were truly grateful and sent wishes for a Happy Thanksgiving to our caring parish family.

Many thanks to all the participants. God bless you & those we serve.
~*Lynette Schulz*

SEAMAN'S INSTITUTE REPORT

Marge Rogers and I delivered 23 cowls, 18 hats, 13 Mariners scarves and 9 Seafarer scarves to the Suffolk County coordinator for gifts for SCI this fall. We can always use more items for the Christmas at Sea project. If you would like to receive patterns or have 4 ply yarn to donate, please email me at ellenstoll@gmail.com. Winter is a great time to knit and crochet!

Twin sister friends of mine from St John the Baptist church in Brownsville Jct, ME made all the cowls and some hats!

Thanks to all who contributed. ~*Ellen Stoll*



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*



Saint Ann's Episcopal Church January 22, 2023

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 22, 2023.



On November 1, our Senior Luncheon speaker was Jonathan Pryer from the Sayville Library, who spoke at length about the wide variety of services now available at the Sayville Library—it's not just books anymore!



Join us again on **Tuesday, December 6**, for another delicious lunch cooked up by our talented chefs, Linda Munkelwitz and Karen McGorty. There will be Christmas caroling and much festivity!

Creation Care Weekend



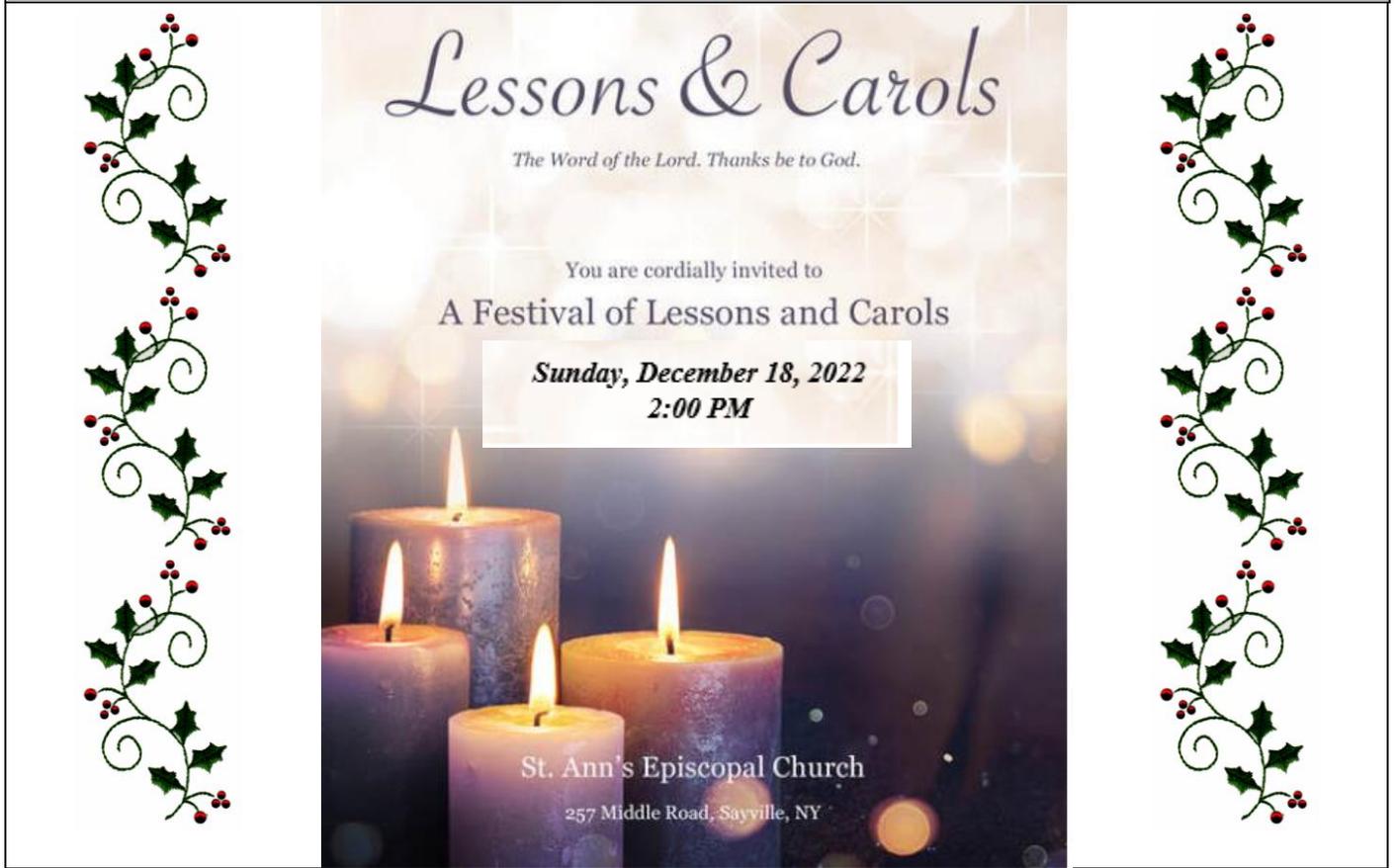
On Sunday, November 13, we had Creation Care Weekend. The Rev. Dr. Matthew Moore was with us to give a sermon and a presentation after church on what we can do to take care of God's Creation.

It was amazing to think that by 2035 parts of our country—even parts of Long Island—might be underwater if we don't step up our reaction to climate change. I did not know that the Diocese had a committee working on things that can be done to mitigate these changes, and, of course, we are not the only ones. Solar power, electric vehicles, and other changes will someday be as common as cell phones.

The Bible tells us we are stewards of the earth, and we must take this as a serious matter.



VIEW FROM BEHIND THE POLE



Reception to follow in the Parish Hall

JOY TO THE WORLD: A Collaboration Across Time and Place

For Christmas Day worship, many churches use Psalm 98. It is fitting, then, that Isaac Watts, who interpreted 132 psalms as hymn texts, based a now-beloved carol on it.

Watts (1674-1748) was a student of language, religion and philosophy. He wanted to make Scripture more relevant to lay people and thought hymns could help. Watts composed more than 600 hymn texts, many still in use. But Psalm 98:4-9, "Joy to the World," needed music to fit its words.

Enter Lowell Mason (1792-1872), an American choir director. He came across Watts' Psalm 98 hymn text and sought inspiration for a melody from the famous oratorio *Messiah* by George F. Handel (1685-1759). Mason pulled musical phrases from sections of Handel's work, resulting in the tune we now recognize as "Joy to the World."



So it is that three men who lived across three centuries and never met — along with the composer of the original psalm more than two millennia earlier — together produced a hymn to the Christ-child, which millions have sung and continue to love.

THE MIRACLE OF THE CHRISTMAS TREES

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas! The trees were delivered to St. Ann's on Saturday morning, November 26th. The unloading took about 45 minutes with all the help who was there waiting at 7:00 AM. We had 750+ trees delivered, and at least 600 were sold by the end of the weekend! Back in the day, it took 2-3 weeks to sell all the trees, but last year—and this year again—trees have flown out of the tree lot! By December 3 when people are coming for the Christmas Fair, there are not likely to be any trees left. [Photos: John K. Smith]



Thanks to all who helped!





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	13	Christian & Melanie Hagenlocher	26	John & Barbara Stahlberg
7	Robert & Barbara Gaito	17	Michael & Lauren Rascona	28	John O'Neil & Richard Mugno
11	Brian & Maureen Rockwood	22	Lars & Jill Gustafson		

BIRTHDAYS

2	Rick Kaiser	6	John O'Neil	12	Parker Cole	23	Holly Rhodes-Teague
3	Isar Casteneda		Kristen Welte	13	Marian Winter-Bartsch	24	Wendy Schmittzeh
	Cara Kudlek	7	Lilo Carr Rivera		Scott Leuly		Raymond Coiro
4	Brett Krakaur	8	Christopher Teague	14	Ava Gustafson	26	Melanie Hagenlocher
	Linda Munkelwitz	9	Daniel Miller	15	James Bosse	27	Jordan Stankovich
5	Jack Adam		Nancy Miller	16	Leann Barone	28	Francis Rivera
	Anne Savage	10	Jonathan Greci	20	Douglas Teague	29	Ethan Schmeider
	John Stankovich		Nicholas Greci	21	John Stahlberg		Connor Teague
6	Joseph Garafolo		Ryan Hughes	22	Mark Schmittzeh	30	Robert Belfield
	Brayden Lasko	11	Nancy Close	23	Jill Gustafson		Mary Funaro
	Richard Magnani	12	Carolann Gaites		Ronin Kashdan	31	Kimberly Rodriguez-Cerillo

BRAQ BOX



Congratulations to Sophia and Nora, Harkins, granddaughters of proud grandparents Linda and Richard Maddox, and daughters of Ray and Kerri (Maddox) Harkins. Over the Thanksgiving weekend, Sophia (8) and Nora (6) competed in an Irish dance contest (The Mid-Atlantic Region Oireachtas--the name of the event meaning Championship in Gaelic.) in Philadelphia. Their team performed a 4-Hand Celi in the Under-10 category with 48 teams, and received 14th place. Nora, who is the youngest dancer from the Mulvihill-Lynch school in Ronkonkoma to compete, performed a Traditional Set in the Under-7 category which had 30 contestants and was awarded First Place! This whirlwind weekend was their first time ever competing at the Oireachtas. With the support of their parents, each other, the school, their family and friends, Sophia and Nora have a very bright future ahead of them in Irish Dance. Well done, girls!



Nora on left; Sophia 2nd from right

MEMES of WISDOM

MARY, EXHAUSTED,
HAVING JUST
GOTTEN JESUS
TO SLEEP, IS
APPROACHED BY
A YOUNG MAN
WHO THINKS TO
HIMSELF : WHAT
THIS GIRL NEEDS
IS A DRUM SOLO

thebestchristianmemes



In Iceland,
books are exchanged
on Christmas Eve,
then the tradition
is to spend the rest
of the night reading
and eating
chocolate.
That sounds
absolutely perfect.

fb barefoot five

brooke hampton



I love you.
You're probably
thinking "You don't
even know me."
But if people can
hate for no
reason, I can
LOVE.



Stay Safe
and
Healthy



"Hurry! Our New Year's resolutions start in ten minutes."

+Christian Symbol+



Candle

The candle symbolizes Jesus being the light of the world (John 8:12), as well as his call for Christians to be lights (Matthew 5:14). Candles play a prominent role in the Christmas season. Each candle on an Advent wreath has a special meaning. Many churches have a candlelight worship service on Christmas Eve, often at midnight.

**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
9:00 AM---Sunday School –During 10:00 service
10:00 AM—Holy Eucharist
7:30 PM—AA Meeting

Mondays

10:00AM—12:00 PM Food Pantry
6:00 PM—Vestry Meeting—December 12
8:00 PM—AA Meeting

Tuesdays

8:00 AM—Men's Group
7:00 PM—Adult Choir

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

FROM TRASHED TO TREASURED

In December 2017, Jimmy Amisial, a Texas State student home in Haiti on break, noticed a crowd peering into a trash can. A 4-month-old infant lay inside, but no one moved. So, Amisial scooped up the baby and took him home to his mom. They washed and clothed him, gave him milk and sought medical care.

After investigators failed to locate parents, a judge asked if Amisial would serve as legal guardian. Sensing “this had happened for a reason,” he “took a leap of faith.” Now Amisial is raising funds to adopt Emilio.



“I’m glad I got the opportunity to transform his life from being abandoned in the trash to being a wonderful treasure,” he says.

Likewise, God did not leave humankind trapped amid the trash of sin and evil, destruction and death. Instead, God came to us as Jesus, scooped us into his loving arms and claimed us as his own. Like Emilio, we’ve been transformed and are treasured. **--Heidi Hyland Mann**

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