



The Correspondent

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

Volume XXIX
Issue 7

July 2022

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WEEKEND SERVICES

Saturday 5:00 PM – Holy Eucharist–Rite II
Sunday 9:00 AM – Holy Eucharist–Rite II (in person & online)

TUES-THURS
8:00 PM—Compline
(Online only)

SPECIAL UPCOMING EVENTS

- *Independence Day, July 4*



MISSION STATEMENT

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

SUMMERTIME—TIME TO STAND & STARE

What is this life, if full of care,
 We have no time to stand and stare.
 No time to stand beneath the boughs
 And stare as long as sheep or cows.
 No time to see, when woods we pass,
 Where squirrels hide their nuts in grass.
 No time to see, in broad daylight,
 Streams full of stars, like skies at night.
 No time to turn at Beauty’s glance,
 And watch her feet, how they can dance.
 No time to wait till her mouth can
 Enrich that smile her eyes began.
 A poor life this if, full of care,
 We have no time to stand and stare.



Dual Citizenship

For Christianity and democracy to work, both need responsible citizens. Consider what happens to a republic when its citizens won't run for public office, won't vote, won't work for the common good, duck paying taxes and mistreat others. Now consider what happens when Christians won't volunteer at the church, won't give, won't practice their faith, won't love their neighbors. Both our country and our faith need sincere practitioners. Nationally, we need a citizenry committed to making the ideals of liberty the practices of life in America.

Christianity needs followers of Jesus committed to making the ideals of God's kingdom the practices of daily life.



This is not an either-or situation. Christians everywhere are citizens of two countries, one on earth and one in eternity. The kingdom of God is not yet fully come, but it's already in effect. Our two citizenships can neither be fully united nor fully separated. We cannot withdraw from the world and pretend we are somehow dwelling only in the kingdom of God now; nor can we simply embrace the world and assume earthly governments fulfill God's will. Those are extremes, and they are unbiblical.

—from a sermon by Stan Purdum

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2022

Saint Ann's Episcopal Church

September Deadline

Thursday, August 25th

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Text 631-212-2329...

"PRAYER" (to receive a link for making prayer requests)

"KIDS" (to get info on youth offerings & Confirmation)



268 Middle Road,
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(631) 589-6220

COME TO DONATE
COME TO SHOP
COME TO VOLUNTEER

Wed, Thu, Sat 10AM to 2PM



A Word from the Rector Father Jeffrey Stevenson



“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.” (John 3:16-17)

Last week we received an email from the bishop’s office in response to the overturning of Roe vs. Wade. In the statement he wrote, “...we have received information from federal authorities of credible security threats against clergy and churches around the release of today’s decision, particularly to congregations and clergy who are vocal in support of reproductive rights.” This was disheartening and frightening to think that anyone might resort to doing harm because we have different views, even on a subject as sensitive as Pro Life / Pro Choice. The Episcopal Church has a stance on this subject that I know may be contrary to some of your beliefs. We have lost members this past week over this issue. This is heartbreaking.

In the Gospels, Jesus was asked 187 questions, he answered 8. The others he either ignored, posed another question in return, changed the subject, told them it was the wrong question, revealed their hypocrisy, redirected, or used metaphor that often caused more questions than answers. In contrast, he asked 307 questions. Jesus pushes us to question our assumptions and wrestle with what it means to be faithful. With open hearts, we are called to continuously and lovingly engage with God and our neighbors, seeking truth through questions and conversation.

It falls then to us today to hold our positions with deep humility, knowing that we might be wrong, knowing that we have only a partial understanding of the mysteries of God, that each of us is limited in our understanding of the law of God and the book of nature, and that to be a part of this tradition is to be committed to listening to voices that challenge us and, sometimes, disturb us.

The bedrock of our faith are the teachings of Jesus Christ. Of the questions that Jesus answers, when the religious authorities ask him which is the greatest of the commandments, Jesus tells us plainly, “‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.” (Matt 22:37-40)

I believe more strongly now than ever: that which seeks to divide us is wrong. We are a Christian people and we find our strength in the celebration of our faith and in the sharing of Eucharist, *together*. I believe that God’s love has the capacity to encompass all of us. I pray that God’s grace continues to shine upon our parish and that each of us continues to know the love of Christ. Amen.

Blessings

Fr. Jeff+

Vestry Visions

Learn Your 3 T's!

June was a very important month for St. Ann's. On June 4th we celebrated with 13 confirmands at a very beautiful Cathedral service and just a few days later, the Installation of Father Jeff as our new Rector after his joining us here almost 2 years ago! For all who attended the Installation ceremony, it was a very special evening. With a wonderful sermon from Bishop Provenzano, who described not only Father Jeff's role as our spiritual and administrative leader, but also the Congregation's responsibility to work with Father Jeff to fulfill the goals of the Parish.

What are the goals of the Parish? The spiritual and administrative goals of the Parish can be generally described as "Ministries" and the progress and support of these Ministries is the primary focus of the Vestry. Many times, there is no distinction between the spiritual and administrative aspects of a Ministry because any activity or task that we perform with a feeling of communal purpose will engender a sense spiritual connection. Examples of Ministries at St. Ann's include the Food Pantry, the Thrift Shop, the Fire Island Ministry, the Pastoral Care Ministry, Christian Education Ministry, the Food Pantry, the Buildings and Grounds Committee, the Christmas Fair Ministry, the Christmas Tree Ministry the Choir and many others, which can be found on the St. Ann's website.

All of these ministries have one thing in common – they are essentially activated and directed by volunteers. The extent of success or failure of our efforts to achieve our goals as a Parish relies largely on our ability to fulfill our responsibilities firstly to our Parish, and secondly to the surrounding community and beyond. This was the message delivered by Bishop Provenzano during the sermon at Father Jeff's Installation. It's not Father Jeff's responsibility to make sure that the Parish goals are fulfilled. Rather it the responsibility of the Parish – you and me, to make sure that we're accomplishing our goals, with Father Jeff's help.

If you are aware of this responsibility and are compelled to help in some area but are not sure how to begin, I can tell you it is easier than you think. The first step is to speak with a member of the Vestry!! You'll see us in the Congregation with "Vestry" written on our name tags. Step number 2 is to learn your 3 T's: Time, Talent and Treasure! These are the critical components of fulfilling the goals of the Parish. Your effort and support in any area of the T's (or all of them) is how the work gets done. Perhaps you are inclined to a particular area of interest, whether it's the Building and Grounds Committee (those beautiful flowers didn't plant themselves!) or helping with the Christmas Fair. Or maybe you have no idea how best to get involved – that's ok! We can have a conversation and find a spot for you that allows you to participate! There is clearly a disproportionate number of volunteers doing most of the heavy lifting required throughout the year, season after season. So please get involved, share the load and don't forget your 3 T's!

Sincerely,
Rick Acierno For the Vestry

	Wardens:	2023 Thomas Honey	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

The Thrift Shop ~ One Year Later

It was one year ago we reopened the shop after being closed for 18 months, and it seems like the shop was never closed! Our sales are right back to pre-COVID numbers and climbing! We still provide vouchers for those who are in need and low-cost items to all. The question is:

How long can we maintain the tremendous amount of work that is involved in keeping the shop open?

We currently have 18 volunteers. That might sound like we have this covered; however, not all volunteers are here every day. Some may come for two hours a month. Every little bit helps, but no matter how many hours a volunteer can give it helps our cause tenfold! The heartbreaking part is that only 2% of volunteers are church members. For the largest ministry at St. Ann's that number is bewildering. We have asked for help in many ways: In *The Correspondent*, local newspaper ads, asking volunteers to recruit their friends, and so on. The answers I get from recruiting volunteers always centers around these same methods, but to no avail. At a Diocese outreach meeting the Thrift Shop managers got together to discuss how we attract and retain volunteers. Many of us have the same lack of volunteers except for one. That shop does more outreach, makes more money and not surprisingly is open much more often. Their secret...the clergy, vestry and church committees all take turns volunteering on Saturdays! It is a huge success and has been for years!



I have a new plea for everyone who is reading this....

If anyone is involved in High School PTA, a parent of honor student, a parent of a Boy Scout, or a parent of a high school student heading to college who needs community service hours-- Please mention this volunteer opportunity and give our information that follows! Here is the easy part...it could be just as little as one phone call that would be a tremendous help to us and our efforts to gain volunteers! The easiest way to get volunteers is through word of mouth, but we are consumed running the shop that we can't get enough time "outside" to even accomplish this. So, we need your help!! Thank You

-Nanci Guerra, TS Manager

St Ann's Thrift Shop at 631-589-6220

-Or-

Email: mayng503@aol.com

Confirmation Class of 2022



I am so proud of our members who were received and confirmed on Saturday, June 4th, at the Cathedral in Garden City. Congratulations to Alex, Jess, Abby, Ben, Brendan, Charlotte, Daniel, Emma, Ian, Lauren, Michael C., Michael R., and Miranda Congratulations to all!

~Fr. Jeff



with Mother Lilo

Updates: [Taste and See 20220621 \(saint-anns.org\)](https://www.saint-anns.org/2022/06/21/taste-and-see-20220621)

Listen and Share: [2 sessions] **Monday, [June 28 &] July 11**

Contemporary Spiritual Poetry 7:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. with Mother Lilo.

There are many ways that God can speak to us. This group will explore some examples of contemporary spiritual poetry from modern-day poets.

Bible Study: [3 sessions] Short Stories by Jesus **Dates/time TBD**



TRIENNIAL UPDATE: The National Board of Episcopal Church Women met May 22nd, 2022, and determined to honor the request of Bishop Curry and President Jennings and not convene the Triennial meeting in Baltimore in July 2022.

TRIENNIAL GRANTS: Back in March, and to coincide with the upcoming Triennial, the National Board awarded Sutton Scholars the Unified Gift Grant and Paul’s Place the Community Connection Gift.

We ask that each of you consider supporting these two organizations. Even with the ECW not having a presence at this year’s General Convention, we still want to ensure that these awarded grants are fulfilled with the same dedication as has been demonstrated at past Triennials.

“They modeled unconditional love”: St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church honors three of its members who were shot and killed.

Summary of General Convention Resolutions on Abortion and Women’s Reproductive Health.

The Church urges dioceses and congregations “to give necessary aid and support to all pregnant women.”

Anglican efforts in Africa weakened by Ukraine crises. The Russian invasion of Ukraine has put a strain on their aid and resilience building efforts in many African nations.

Price Festival Welcomes Everyone Under the Rainbow. Christ Episcopal Church of Toms River had a booth next to a community group that holds meetings at their church.

Between General Conventions, church makes some progress on sexism, harassment, pay equity.

The work of General Convention in 2018 is remembered in part for its significant discussions and efforts around the issues of sexual abuse.

Girls “soar” at St. Mark’s Camp. Girl Up is a global movement sponsored by the United National that promote leadership development.

Give: I want to Help

Support the Episcopal Church Women

Contributions from provinces, dioceses, parishes/congregations, and individuals provide ongoing support to the ECW National Board so that it can continue its ministry. Even the smallest contributions add up to make a world of difference. As you pledge your support for the National Episcopal Church Women, consider how your help could be felt with a recurring monthly gift.

More Information: info@ecwnational.org

ecwnational.com
 Facebook - [@ecwnational](https://www.facebook.com/ecwnational)
 Facebook - [@socialjusticeecw](https://www.facebook.com/socialjusticeecw)

VIEW FROM BEHIND THE POLE

CHOIR END-OF-YEAR PARTY

The choir finished out the year with a potluck supper at the home of Christine Mulroy and Susan Knoepffler. The weather was beautiful, and we enjoyed relaxing on the outdoor patio surrounded by their beautiful garden. The choir sang through the end of June and will start rehearsals again the Tuesday after Labor Day.





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	Patrick & Karen Cavanagh	15	Shaun & Jessica Brett	29	Keith & Heather Johnson
6	Dennis & Bo Messina	22	Peter & Jenny O'Connell	31	Christopher & Kyle Wolfe
	Adam & Jessica Shelton				



2	Joanna Wolfe	13	Richard Maddox	19	Jean Arena	27	Gerhard Pagels
3	Doreen Greci	14	Rodney Dudley		Fr Jeff Stephenson		Patricia Shiebler
4	Joanne Festa	16	Barbara Gaito	20	Salvatore Senese	29	Carole Sheppard
	Roland Russell	17	Eleanor Cheslak-Wilkins	22	John Schulz	30	Patricia Madison
5	Emily Cole		Ronald Mediatore	23	Ella Chalmers		Victoria Speicher
11	Taylor Schmittzeh		Donald Russell	24	Susanne Schultz	31	Nathan Casaburi
13	Jillian Waters	18	Robert Immoor	27	Rachel Ferzola		Constance Currie

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.

New Seat, New Perspective

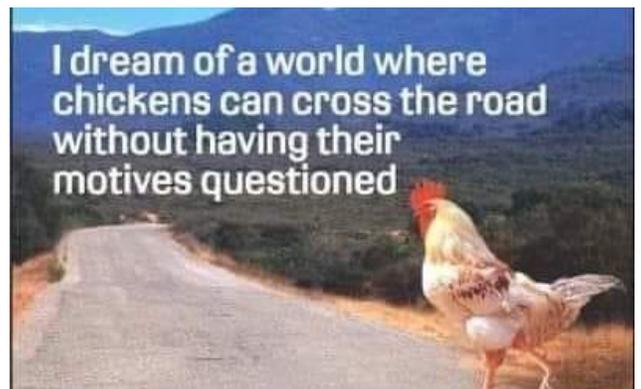
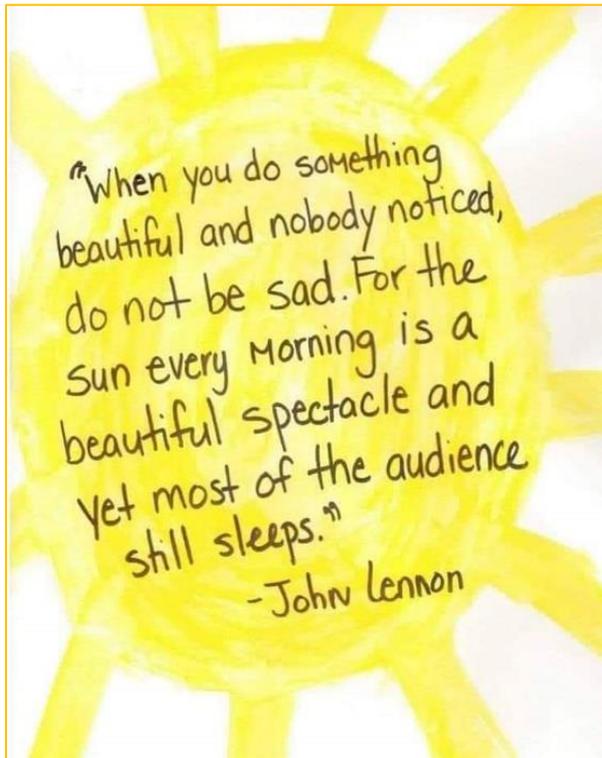


In older sitcoms, family members, especially parents, each had their own chair in the living room. No one else sat there. If its “owner” wasn’t present, the on-set chair remained empty. Church can be like that too, with people claiming the same seat week after week. Our view of the service and of fellow worshipers is familiar and comfortable.

Recently, our family was “bumped” back a bit, which felt surprisingly different at first. But we interacted just the same with the service. As a bonus, I talked with different people. And after church we stayed to visit a bit longer.

I’m glad church seats don’t have nameplates. And I’m thankful that God nudges me out of my comfort zone from time to time, giving me a new perspective. —Janna Firestone

MEMES of WISDOM FOR JULY



+Christian Symbol+



I	X	Θ	Υ	Σ
Ιησους	Χριστος	Θεου	Υιος	Σωτηρ
Jesus	Christ	of God	Son	Savior

ICHTHUS - THE FISH

The first letters in the Greek phrase “Jesus Christ, Son of God, Savior” spell ICHTHUS, or fish. Early Christians used the sign to convey their faith while avoiding persecution. In the gospels, fish are part of several miracles. They also represent people who need to be “caught” for Christ. Today, a fish bumper sticker is a popular indicator of Christian faith.

AROUND SAINT ANN’S Summer Monthly Schedule

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

Sundays

9:00 AM—Holy Eucharist

7:30 PM—AA Meeting

Mondays

10:00AM—12:00 PM Food Pantry

6:00 PM—Vestry Meeting—July 11

8:00 PM—AA Meeting

Tuesdays

8:00 AM—Men’s Group

8:00 PM—Compline (online)

Wednesdays

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

8:00 PM—Compline (online)

Saturday

10:00 AM-2:00 PM—Thrift Shop Open

5:00 PM—Holy Eucharist

“That the birds of worry and care fly over your head, this you cannot change, but that they build nests in your hair, this you can prevent.” -**Chinese Proverb**

God Among the Rubble

The nonprofit World Central Kitchen provides fresh meals for communities in need following natural disasters or during humanitarian crises. After Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022, WCK fed millions of people in the country and refugees at border crossings.

When I feel discouraged by tragic news and ask where God is, I’m reminded that God shows up precisely in people such as the WCK teams. They are God’s hands serving healthy food to people fleeing home. They are God’s heart and arms welcoming those in need to be nourished.

Often in the Bible God shows up around meals: Sarah and Abraham host the Lord in the form of three visitors; God rains manna from heaven for the Israelites; an angel provides food for exhausted Elijah; Jesus eats with “tax collectors and sinners” and feeds crowds with a few loaves and fish. Supremely, Jesus gives to all the meal of Holy Communion, the bread and wine that are his very body and blood. In our broken world, God is among the rubble, among the helpers, among us. -**Heidi Hyland Mann**

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It is for freedom that Christ has set us free.
Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves
be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.

Galatians 5:1 NIV

