



The Correspondent

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

Volume XXIX
Issue 1

January 2022

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Editorial Page	2
Rector's Corner	3
Vestry Visions	4
Behind the Pole	9
Anniversaries/Birthdays	12
Garden of the Unforgotten	13
Calendar	15

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

- 1----New Year's Day
- 6----Epiphany
- 17---Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- 18 -- Fr. Jeff to be inducted as Rector
- 23—Annual Meeting



MISSION STATEMENT

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

Celebration of a New Ministry

The Rev. Jeffrey Neal Stevenson



7:00 PM

Tuesday, January 18

St. Ann's Church



Bishop Larry Provenzano will make it official as he installs Father Jeff as the 10th rector of St. Ann's.



Saint Ann's Episcopal Church
January 23, 2022

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 23, 2022
[ONLINE ONLY]



The new year is here! The old year is past. Although there are still things that must be dealt with from 2021, they are in the past, and the best we can do with the past is learn from it. About 2,400 years ago, Socrates said this, and we're still quoting him, so there must be something to it!

“The secret of change is to focus all your energy not on fighting the old, but on building the new.”

If we want to change the way things are in our world today, we have to focus. Focus on doing things right this time. Focus on the future and how we can make a better life for all people. Focus not on old grievances from the past but on building new alliances, new solutions, and new hope for the future.

Our lives have been changed already by circumstances; there is a lot of fear, hate, and mistrust in the world today, but it doesn't need to be this way. Let 's focus on the first two commandments that Fr. Jeff always reminds us of:

- 1) *Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and soul, and mind.*
- 2) *Love your neighbor as yourself; and be sure you love yourself as well.*

Let's welcome the New Year and focus on making this the year that we make things better! One person, one step, one day at a time. Happy New Year! **–Rodney Dudley**

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2022
Saint Ann's Episcopal Church

February Deadline
Friday, January 21st

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Wed, Thu, Sat 10AM to 2PM



A Word from the Rector Father Jeffrey Stevenson



Greetings!

I send to you and your families my wishes for a happy & healthy New Year!

I'm sure you have been following the growing concern about the OMICRON variant and the rising number of cases of COVID in Suffolk County. Many places are putting in place a number of precautions that bring to mind the early days of this pandemic. We will keep our doors open and maintain our current schedule of in-person services on the weekend. I ask that if you are feeling unwell that you avoid coming to church in person and participate in service online. The 10am service will continue to be both in person and online. This is a fast-moving wave of infections and so we will continue to monitor the situation day-by-day.

In keeping with state directives and guidance from the Diocese of Long Island, masks must be worn at all in-person meetings and services. We have suspended coffee hour. During the week I have decided to limit access to the parish office to staff and those who absolutely need to be there. Finally, I am asking that all meetings be held on Zoom, FaceTime, or on the phone whenever it is practicable to do so. This will include the Annual Meeting, which will be held on 23 January 2022 after Sunday services, at 11:30am (more information about that will be forthcoming).

As another year of joy and sorrow is put into the rearview mirror, may we trust the LORD to be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path in these uncertain times. Let us embark on a new year as always lifting each other up and putting our trust in the LORD.

Blessings,
Fr. Jeff+

Here are photos of some of the many things that went on at St. Ann's during December. While we don't have pictures of everything, we appreciate the work of everyone from the Christmas tree sale, the Raffle, the Thrift Shop Christmas Bazaar, the rained-out Christmas Carols and S'mores Event, which had no s'mores but plenty of inside singing, the Open House in conjunction with Meadow Croft, the Blue Christmas service, and, of course, the Christmas Eve candlelight service with our guest brass musicians. And thank you, Noah, for recording it all for the folks at home! -Editor



Vestry Visions

WELCOME, JANUARY

If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away;
behold, all things have become new. [2 Corinthians 5:17]

When I taught high school health education, each day I wrote an inspirational quote on the blackboard. I wanted my students to have something to think about when they zoned out of my boring lecture. I carefully curated stacks of wonderful, thought-provoking quotes. Today, as I sat down to write this article, I decided to begin by searching for good January-themed quotes, to get me started. What I found presented me with lots of great material!

“You can’t calm the storm, so stop trying. All you can do is calm yourself. The storm will pass.”

For example, right now we live in an anxious and unsettling world. With the new variants of the Covid virus, we are seeing a spike in cases all around the country. Many people I know, including family members, are worried and frightened. We tend to hide in our homes and incessantly follow the news reports. We listen to the news anchors and pundits and forget to put our trust in the Lord. I am not advocating that we forget the science, forego vaccinations, and run out, maskless, into huge crowds, all the while screaming, “God will protect me.” But put all the information into perspective. We must remember to put some effort into our spirituality, share some of our burden with God. Prayer and service can help us through this difficult time, along with the necessary precautions. Because I know one thing to be true; this crisis will end. Maybe not tomorrow, or next month, but it will end. And cringing in fear is not the way to face our problems. We must do the best that we can to keep ourselves safe. And give the rest up to our God.

“We will open the book. Its pages are blank. We are going to put words on them ourselves. The book is called *Opportunity* and its first chapter is New Year’s Day.” -Edith Lovejoy Pierce

January is a wonderful time to take stock and start fresh. What worked for me last year, what totally tanked? It is a time to make resolutions, to try new things. One quote that really moved me was “Old ways won’t open new doors.” We have an opportunity to open up and grow, both personally and as a church. We cannot be so rooted in how we always did things, but open ourselves up to new possibilities. Our clergy and vestry are poised and ready to help guide us through the transitions that are inevitable. Life in our community has changed over the years and to survive in it, St. Ann’s must find a way to cherish and honor our old traditions while finding new pathways to survival.

“This is the year I will be stronger, braver, kinder and unstoppable. This year I will be fierce.”

I know that we always start out the year with the best of intentions. I certainly do. But these intentions often wane quickly. Our goals tend to be somewhat vague, sweeping, lofty, and difficult to achieve. One way to insure they are accomplished is to make SMART goals. Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, Time Based. Instead of saying I will pray more every day, maybe start with small, measurable steps. I will pray for the needs of others for 5 minutes, 3 times a week. A measurable, realistic goal you can keep track of. Once that habit is mastered, increase it to 5 times a week, and so on. This is a valuable tool used in time management techniques and education. We can all benefit by using this in our lives.

“This year I want to focus more on my peace than on my pace.”

My fellow parishioners, let us welcome January and the hope that it brings. Let us all take this time to further our spirituality, our connection to God. Let us be optimistic and kind, caring for ourselves and our neighbors. Let us share our time, talents, and treasures with the world. Jesus wants us to live as he lived, love as he loved. Let us go forth in the name of the Lord. Thanks be to God. [continued]

[continued from previous page]

Let go of yesterday. Let today be a new beginning and be the best that you can, and you'll get to where God wants you to be."

-Joel Osteen

Happy New Year to all!

Diane Miller-Magnani for the Vestry



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**



The Thrift Shop



With the Annual Christmas Fair was postponed for another season, but the Thrift Shop, with two years' worth of items saved up, decided to have a one-day (9 to 3) sale themselves in December. The Christmas Table and the Jewelry Table were the Littlejohn Building, and the Toys and This & That were set up in the Thrift Shop itself. In spite of the late start, the Thrift Shop brought in a tidy sum to add to St. Ann's Budget! Thanks to all who worked the tables, and all who shopped!



CANDIDATES FOR THE VESTRY

ELECTION AT THE ANNUAL MEETING JANUARY 23RD



FOR WARDEN: *Nancy Koinoglou*

For 2-year Term

My name is Nancy Koinoglou, and I have been a member of St. Ann's church since 1991. I have been on the Vestry since 2011 and have been Warden since 2013.

Over the years, some of the areas I have been involved with are working in the church business office, chairing the Christmas Fair, planning/organizing church events, scheduling ushers, renovating the Littlejohn building for church business office relocation, maintaining our church buildings and serving on the Committee of Buildings and Grounds.

FOR VESTRY: *Greg Domoff*

For 3-year Term

It is with much hope and joy that I stand for another term on the Vestry for St. Ann's. When Fr. Hugh asked me to stand for the Vestry two years ago, the world was a much different place. Covid wasn't even on the radar and it seemed that the most pressing task before the Vestry would be to select a new Rector. Little did any of us know how our world would be turned upside down! Through it all, we, as a Vestry placed our faith in God and quickly realized that we would all need to think "outside the box", something which came quite naturally to me working as an earth science teacher for 33 years. Working as a team with Fr. Hugh, we adapted to the new reality before us and helped to keep the ship of our parish afloat. Building upon the work done by the Search Committee and in tandem with the Diocese, we were able to secure outstanding spiritual and administrative leadership for our parish with the selection of our current rector.



Since he took over, all of us have been witness to our parish moving forward. Despite the challenges that modern day life has placed upon us as a parish and the hardships that Covid has brought us, I believe that we find ourselves in a stronger position today than we did two years ago. Our finances are solid and most importantly, the enthusiasm and administrative skill of Fr. Jeff, our new Rector and along with our new Curate, Mtr. Lilo, have breathed new life into our church. Working together as a team, all sorts of exciting things are happening or in the works.

Moving ahead, the information gleaned from the Renewal Works surveys that we filled out earlier this fall will help propel our spiritual community in ways that will help us grow and to help bring God's Kingdom to us and to our surrounding community. Another area of growth for us will be to focus our energy into preserving the creation around us, namely our precious and life-giving environment through a Diocesan

Ministry called Creation Care. In the months and years ahead, we hope to bring this ministry to our parish in order to direct some of our love and care to our natural surroundings. As a science teacher with a strong background in geology, physical oceanography, and meteorology, I am excited to help bring this ministry to our parish. More immediately, we as a vestry are looking at and working on ways to upgrade and improve the safe operation of our grounds and facilities.

While there is much to be concerned and worried about in both the near and long term, we have shown that we can meet the challenges before us. By placing our faith in God and confidence in ourselves, we can not only grow but we can thrive.

FOR VESTRY: *JEANNE MONASTEROLO*

For 3-year Term

It's been an honor to serve on the Vestry temporarily and I would love to continue to serve St Ann's in this capacity. So, for anyone who doesn't know me, I am Jeanne Currie La Natra Monasterolo, the daughter of Connie Currie. I am a cradle Episcopalian and have been a member of St. Ann's for 53 years. I made all my sacraments at St Ann's including marriage to my late husband Salvatore La Natra. Over the years, I served at St Ann's as a Sunday School Teacher, acolyte, lector and EM. Currently I live with my new wonderful husband Fabio (who is from Argentina) and my amazing 22-year old son Sal, and three cats, Dilly, Charlotte and Peaches and our crazy dog Bella. Thank you for the opportunity to tell you a little about myself.



FOR VESTRY: (One 3-year term – Open)

FOR VESTRY: (One 3-year term – Open)

The candidates for Vestry listed here are running for re-election. Meanwhile, the full slate of candidates is not yet available, as two Vestry members have opted to retire, and will be replaced by two new candidates. The election for Vestry members will take place at the Annual Meeting on January 23rd. Look for updates in the coming weeks.

The Good Book Club

As we head into Epiphany, I have chosen to deepen my relationship with the Bible through participation in the Good Book Club. This year, the Good Book Club will dive into the first twenty chapters of Exodus from Epiphany, January 6, to Shrove Tuesday, March 1.



I am very excited for this journey through Exodus. If you are interested in joining me for this study, please text the word "Exodus" to 631-212-2320. You will be asked for some basic info (name, phone, etc.) and then sent a link to sign up for the Good Book Club emails. If you would like to do this independently, you can also just go directly to the website <https://www.goodbookclub.org> and sign up. –Fr. Jeff

THE MIRACLE OF THE CHRISTMAS TREES

As in many previous years, the trees were delivered to St. Ann's on Saturday morning, November 27th. The unloading took about 45 minutes with all the help who was there waiting at 7:00 AM. We had 750+ trees delivered just as in the past. But this year was different! Right after the trees were delivered, there was a long line of cars snaking down Middle Road and into the church driveway. By the end of the day, 529 trees had been sold! The calendar for sales shifts was set up for the usual two weeks, but in five days every single tree was gone! Surely that must be a record!

Thanks to all the people who put in the time and effort to set up the lot, unload the trees, sell the trees, and clean up when it was all over! It's one of our most enjoyable (and most profitable) ministries. [Photo: Noah Stetzer]



Which President Banned Christmas Trees from the White House?

Answer: None other than our old friend, President Theodore Roosevelt! An avid outdoorsman and environmentalist, he banned Christmas trees from the White House during his presidency. The president feared that real Christmas trees would lead to deforestation. Roosevelt refused to display a Christmas tree in the White House, fearing that to do so would be sending the wrong message to the public. Roosevelt's action was intended to inspire Americans to just say no to Christmas trees. But Roosevelt's son, Archie, didn't share his ecological principles. He dragged in a small tree and hid it, fully decorated, in a closet.



VIEW FROM BEHIND THE POLE



CHRISTMAS EVE

Trumpeters Ryan Mattimore and Jimmy Bott lent drama and gravitas to the choir's rendering of Christmas hymns "Oh Come, All Ye Faithful," "Joy to the World," and "O Holy Night." The brass always makes Christmas Eve special.

Between services, the choir was treated to boxed sandwich suppers from Panera, thanks to Fr. Jeff and Noah. We had a nice interlude and recharge for the midnight service.



EPIPHANY

When I called my daughter's family on December 26th, I said, "Merry Christmas" to my 5-year-old grandson, who then said, "That was yesterday, Grandma!" And *poof* he was off the phone and gone before I had time to tell him about the "12 Days of Christmas" and the partridge in the pear tree! Obviously, he has not yet been advised that Christmas doesn't end until the Feast of the Epiphany on January 6! With that in mind, the Choir hopes you will enjoy singing Christmas carols with us until that time. **—Rodney Dudley**

An Outreach Visit to Mercy First

For several years, Susan Verneer has been making a Christmas visit to Mercy First in Syosset. It is the orphanage where her late father Angelo grew up. He must have liked it because he used to take Sue to visit the area and show her the places he remembered growing up. After he died, Sue wanted to honor his memory by doing something for Mercy First. They told her that many of the children don't have relatives to visit during the holidays so they stay put. Mercy First suggested \$5 coupons for meals at McDonalds, because it's a special experience, they get to go off-campus, and they know that someone outside the school cares about them. When Sue joined our local women's sorority which focuses on friendship and helping others, she asked if we would think about donating money towards her mission. That was an easy "yes"—not only to support a new member, but also to help orphans! We started out small, but our donation has grown over time, but the meal coupons were not enough for the whole school; they were still special prizes to be won by having contests and playing games. This year Fr Jeff began asking to speak with people who did outreach in the community—in other areas than the church. Sue thought of Mercy First, and while not expecting anything, thought Fr Jeff might like to know about it. He did. And he gave her a nice donation which sent her back to McDonalds, and even to Wendy's which is also nearby the orphanage. Sue has usually taken a friend or relative with her when she visits, but I had not yet had the chance to go. So, a couple of weeks before Christmas we made the appointment to go and visit. Sue had all her coupons and had bought 10 pounds of wrapped candies (the kind you buy for Halloween) to take with us. The morning before we left, she had an appointment at a salon in town and got to talking with the owner about her plans to visit Mercy First in the afternoon. It seems the story struck a chord with this person, and when Sue went to pay the bill, the lady said, "no charge" for the visit and then handed her a \$100 bill from the cash register. The Mercy First fund was really overflowing now! After a quick stop for yet more food coupons, we headed for Syosset.

The more you give, the more comes back to you, because God is the greatest giver in the universe, and He won't let you outgive Him. Go ahead and try. See what happens.

Randy Alcorn

www.idlehearts.com



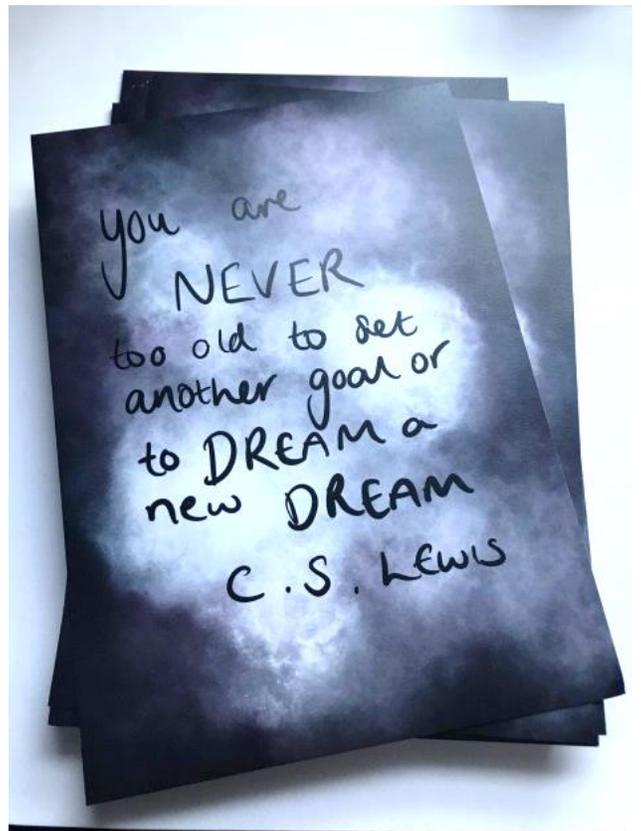
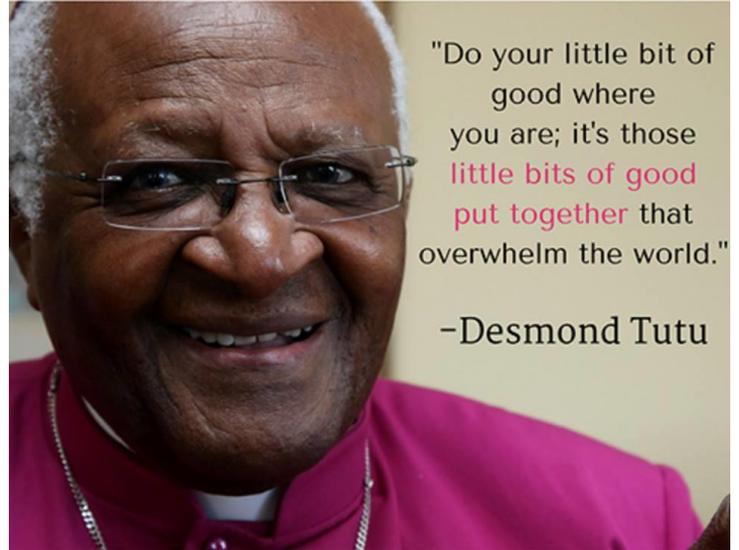
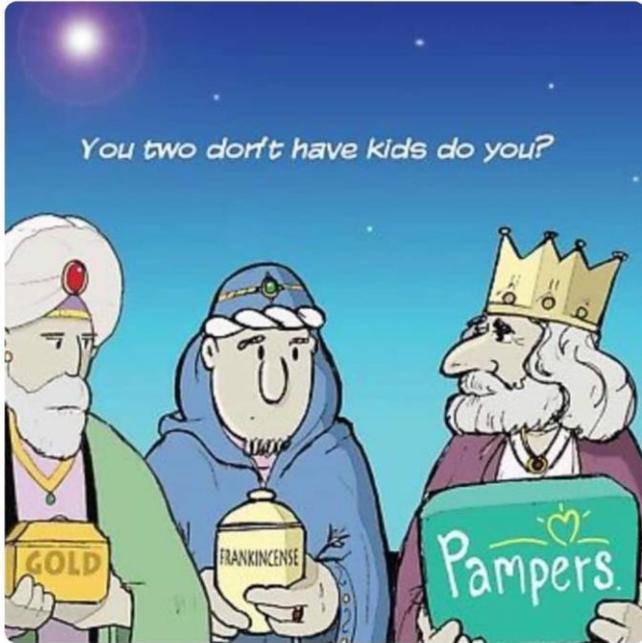
Mercy First is a lovely school-like building in a wooded area not far from town. Since I was a "newbie," they gave me a tour around the building, and explained the routines and the cooking, eating, studying, and entertainment and arts areas. We did not meet with the kids, but saw some of them walking through the hallways. There are 64 children, ages 12-18 living there now. The dorms are separated from the main building. One wing of the building is dedicated to immigrant children who have no guardian. They are learning English and the American way of life in addition to their regular studies. I must say, visiting in person has a much stronger effect than I expected. It's wonderful to be able to donate money, but we tend to donate to places that mean something emotional to us. Nothing is perfect, of course, but we are thankful that there are

places like Mercy First who care for children who are alone in the world and who try to give them a good base for launching them into the adult world.

The people at Mercy First were thrilled with our donation, and even took our photo to put on their Facebook page! We learned that not only do we get back in good feeling far more than the cost of the donation, we learned that the story of the giving literally multiplied the amount of our gift, so that everyone could go out to eat this year. Maybe twice!

--Rodney Dudley

MEMES of WISDOM FOR JANUARY





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



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

Our Church History



❖ The Garden of the Unforgotten

**PHILIPPE REGIS DENIS DEKEREDERN
DE TROBRIAND**

June 4, 1816 – July 15, 1897



Philippe Régis Denis de Keredern de Trobriand (Regis de Trobriand) was a French aristocrat, lawyer, poet, and novelist who emigrated at a young age to the United States. During the American Civil War he was a general in the Union Army.

De Trobriand was born at Chateau des Rochettes, near Tours, France, the son of a baron who had been a general in Napoleon Bonaparte's army. In his youth he studied law and wrote poetry and prose, publishing his first novel in 1840. He was an expert swordsman who fought a number of duels.

In 1841, to answer a dare, he emigrated to the United States at the age of 25 and immediately became popular as a *bon vivant* with the social elite of New York City. He married an heiress named Mary Jones, and although the wedding was in Paris and they lived in Venice for a time, socializing with the local nobility, they returned to the United States and took up permanent residence in New York. In the 1850s he earned a living writing and editing for French language publications. He was the publisher of *Revue du Nouveau Monde* and the editor of *Le Courier des Etats-Unis*.

He was appointed brigadier general by President Abraham Lincoln on April 10, 1864. After the war, de Trobriand continued to serve with the Army. He served as the commander of Fort Stevenson in Dakota Territory from 1867 to 1870, and then as part of the occupation forces in the South, particularly New Orleans, during Reconstruction. He resided in New Orleans from 1875, but did not retire from the Army until March 20, 1879. During his retirement he wrote a number of books including *Quatre ans de campagnes à l'Armée du Potomac*, published in 1867 (English translation, *Four Years with the Army of the Potomac*, 1889), *Vie militaire dans le Dakota, notes et souvenirs (1867–1869)* (published posthumously in 1926, with its English translation, *Army Life in Dakota*), and *Our Noble Blood* (posthumous, 1997). He spent his summers with his daughter (Marie Caroline de Trobriand Post) on Long Island.

De Trobriand died in Bayport, New York, and is buried in the cemetery at St. Ann's Episcopal Church, Sayville, New York.



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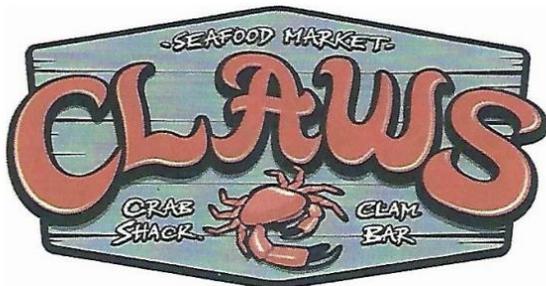
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+Christian Symbol+



Hand of God

This symbolizes God the Father, as well as his ownership and care of all creation. During the Christian church's first 800 years, the hand was about the only symbol used for God. Many Bible verses speak of God's loving, protective hand (Psalm 138:7; Ecclesiastes 2:24; 1 Peter 5:6). In heaven, Jesus sits at God's right hand (Mark 16:19).

**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 – 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—January 10
- 8:00 PM—AA Meeting

Tuesdays

- 8:00 AM—Men's Group
- 6:00 PM—Children's Choir – On hold
- 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



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