



# The Correspondent

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

Volume XXV  
Issue 11

December 2018

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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

Dec. 2 – First Sunday of Advent  
 Dec. 2 – Svc of Lessons & Carols 3:00 PM  
 Dec. 9 – Second Sunday of Advent  
 Dec. 16 – Third Sunday of Advent  
 Dec. 23 – Fourth Sunday of Advent  
 Dec. 24 – Christmas Eve  
 Dec. 25 – Christmas Day  
 Dec. 31 – New Year's Eve/Watch Night



## 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



### Christmas Eve, Monday, December 24

4:00 PM Holy Eucharist Rite II with Christmas Pageant  
 7:00 PM Holy Eucharist Rite II with Soloist  
 9:00 PM Holy Eucharist Rite II with Choir & Brass  
 11:00 PM Holy Eucharist Rite II with Choir & Brass

### Christmas Day, Tuesday, December 25

10:00 PM Holy Eucharist Rite II



Meet our new Interim Priest

## Father Hugh James

See Page 3

## FROM THE EDITOR

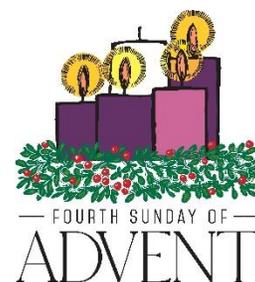
The season of Advent begins four weeks before Christmas. That, of course, is why we currently have an Advent wreath on the altar—and sometimes in our homes. Often, we observe the lighting of the wreath, but we don't exactly remember what the symbolism is. So, I thought now would be a good time for a 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 16<sup>th</sup> century! And it's a good way to remember why we celebrate Advent for those four weeks before Christmas.

A blessed Advent to you all! *--Rodney Dudley*



### Saint Ann's Office

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### *The Correspondent*

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2016 Saint Ann's Episcopal Church

January Deadline

**Thursday, December 22**

### Clergy Staff

The Reverend Hugh James, Interim Rector

The Reverend Brian Barry, Assistant to the Rector, Ext. 13

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

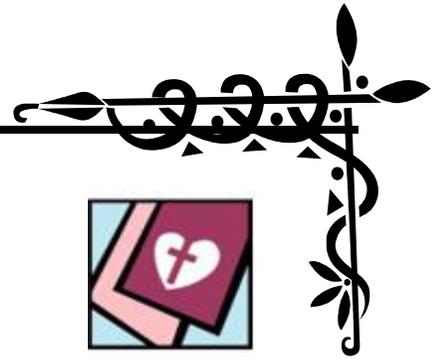
### Saint Ann's Staff

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Finance Manager	Gayle Brady	589-6522
Sexton	Lou Linbrunner	589-6522
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## A Word from The Interim Rector Father Hugh James

*Father Hugh James and his wife Susan arrived in Sayville the last week in November. They took a few days to settle in to the Rectory, and many parishioners had the chance to meet him when he preached on the First Sunday of Advent (Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>) Here is a brief biography of his life before St. Ann's.*

Father Hugh was Rector of Christ Episcopal Church in Norwich, CT, from February 2012 until November 2018. Before that he was a Vicar in various parishes in St. David's Diocese in Wales. He has a particular interest in spiritual development, conducting retreats and quiet days, and has acted as spiritual director to several individuals. He was Provincial Officer for Youth and Children's Work for the Church in Wales for 7 years and has worked for the full inclusion of children and young people in church life. He is the author of "A Fitting End: making the most of a funeral", a book on funerals, and used to lecture on funerals at St Michael's College, Llandaff. He also taught communication skills for Cardiff University's Diploma of Pastoral Studies, and has, more recently, been a personal tutor and lectured in Church History on the South Wales Ordination course. He also contributed to "A Guide to Parish Youth Work" and several other publications.

From June 2017, Hugh was also been Pastor of St Mark Lutheran Church (ELCA) in Norwich. This arrangement came to an end at the end of August 2018.

He has been married to Susan since 1985 and his other interests include playing chess, walking their springer spaniel, Danny, tai chi, and a little gardening.



*We would like to say a very big "Thank You" to everyone who has extended such a warm welcome to us as we settle into "our" (their) new home at St. Ann's. It's a joy to come to such a warm and welcoming community, and we look forward very much to getting to know you all.  
~Father Hugh & Susan James*

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# Vestry Visions

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*To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven.*

(Ecclesiastes 3:1)

Some of you may even recognize these words in a song from the 1960's — "Turn, Turn, Turn" by The Byrds. The point is, there is a season for everything, and right now the time is glorious as we prepare for a new church season, Advent. Advent means 'Coming' in Latin. This is the coming of Jesus into the world. We use the four Sundays prior to Christmas to prepare and remember the real meaning of Christmas. As these next few weeks bring the hustle and bustle of decorating, buying presents, preparing food and gathering with family, please take some time to reflect, pray and prepare our hearts for the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

St. Ann's is also preparing for a new coming as well, Father Hugh James and his wife Susan. We look forward to their arrival and celebrating his first service with us on Saturday, December 1. Please give them a warm welcome as they enter this Advent season with us.

## On other matters of Vestry:

- The pledge cards have been coming in for next year. If you have not already returned your pledge card yet, there's still time to do so.
- A big thank you to Lynnette Schulz and all the volunteers who either donated food or helped to assemble the Thanksgiving baskets. We were able to serve 25 families for Thanksgiving who otherwise might have not had a special meal.
- Once again, the Christmas Fair was a huge fundraising event. Preliminary totals have brought us past last year's total of over \$8,000. Thank you to everyone for their time-- whether it was to volunteer, donate or shop!
- By now the Christmas trees have been delivered and hopefully almost sold out. This has been a tradition of St. Ann's for over 50 years. It is wonderful to hear from the repeating customers how long they have been coming to us for their trees, their traditions of picking one out and the joys of the families as they cart of their pick. If you haven't signed up for this vital ministry yet, please do so. You'll be surprised as to how much fun you'll have!
- The Giving Tree in the Parish Hall is empty! And already the gifts reflecting the requests on the tags are piling up under the tree. This year we will be donating gifts for St. John's Children's Hospital, Little Flower Family Services and Adopt-a-Family. Donations are due back in the Parish Hall by December 9<sup>th</sup>. Please do not wrap the gifts, just attach the tag from the Giving Tree.

Wishing you a Blessed Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year!

Respectfully Submitted,

*Wendy Schmitzeh* for the Vestry

## A SPECIAL STORY FOR ADVENT

*The following story was written in a letter received by a priest from one of his parishioners. It's a true story and demonstrates the spirit of Advent.*

It was rather a cold, brisk day in November, and my daughter and I decided to take a walk and canvass the neighborhood which we had just moved into. Moving from a small apartment in Queens to a three-bedroom ranch in Suffolk County was, to us, like moving into a mansion.

To my daughter, who was only 2 years old, everything held a certain kind of magic—a leaf blowing in the wind, a soda can rolling down the street, or an odd shaped rock on someone's lawn were amazing sights to her. She picked up everything she saw as we walked, and I thought I'd never be able to stop saying, "Put that down! It's dirty! You don't know where it's been!"

We were on our way home, when for the umpteenth time, she bent down to pick up something she saw in the gutter. I was about to reprimand her for what I hoped would be the last time, when I paused. Something had caused me to be silent and take the time to look at what my daughter held in her hands.

It was a crucifix. The old, wooden cross was scratched, and the varnish had long since disappeared. The color of the wood was faded. The back of the cross was hollow. I thought it might have once held a candle or a rolled-up parchment with the Liturgy of the Last Rites written on it. I imagined it hanging in some nice grandmother's room—a grandma with lace doilies on her bed table and pictures of our Lord on the wall. The figure of Jesus too was dirty and caked with mud.

I still wasn't sure about letting my daughter hold it, but she looked up at me with those wonderfully innocent eyes and said, "Mommy, I found Jesus. Can I take him home?" I nodded yes, trying to hold back the tears that had suddenly come to my eyes.

When we were almost home, she held up the crucifix and looked it up and down and said, "Mommy, Jesus is very dirty. We'll have to give him a bath." I laughed. What a funny thought! Jesus in the bathtub being bathed by my daughter—who more often than not had the devil in her eyes rather than the innocence.

When we got home, we began the cleanup. It took some time, but Mommy, Daddy and daughter sanded down the cross, varnished it, gave Jesus a bath, and finally, hung the crucifix up above our front door. Jesus had a home now, and my daughter was delighted!

During Advent, when it's time to prepare for the coming of our Lord, it might be wise to take a lesson from a 2-year-old. Jesus may be found in a church, but he can also be found in the gutter. If we take the time to look around us, we may be lucky enough to find him, take him home, bathe him, and given him a permanent place in our hearts. Helping those in need or those who don't look well—as clean as we do—this is part of Christmas, of every day in the life of one who follows Christ.

We would all be very lucky indeed if we could look up to heaven and say, "Mother, we found Jesus. May we take him home?" Amen!



God sends us out as messengers with his good news. Who has brought that news to me? Who needs me to carry that news to them?



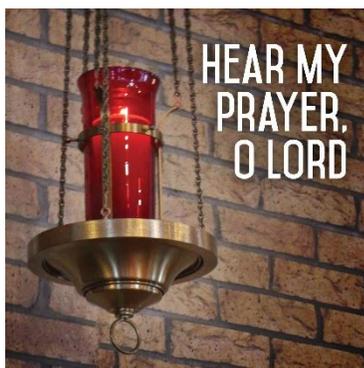
## Thoughts from the Front Porch Father Brian Barry



### NEW BEGINNINGS

With the exception of the evergreens, the trees are well and truly bare. The temperature is dropping, and the wind has been kicking up lately. I am still making time to sip my tea in my rocking chair these chilly mornings, but I am perhaps hurrying inside a little more quickly than I did a few weeks ago. Now we find ourselves in the season of Advent, as we remember Christ's first coming into the world, and prepare to receive him into our hearts yet again. Advent marks the beginning of a new Church year (yes, the Church has a different calendar than the secular world). And at the beginning of this new year, I find my mind turning naturally to new beginnings here at St. Ann's.

Considering we are in a new Church year, I find it altogether fitting that our new Interim Rector, Father Hugh, joined us the first Sunday of Advent. Advent always marks a transition point in the Christian calendar, and we are, of course, in a transition here at St. Ann's. I am looking forward to the months ahead, and find myself very excited to work with and get to know Father Hugh. I know St. Ann's will provide Father Hugh and his wife Susan a very warm welcome.



In considering new beginnings, I have had to think about where Christ is asking me to meet him in my own life. Frequently, in following the secular calendar, we make "New Year's Resolutions." They usually revolve around some sort of discipline--diet, exercise, etc. It's probably because we recognize we have been lax in some way, particularly with regards to

our health (and waistlines). I wonder, do people make spiritual resolutions? At Diocesan Convention in November, our Bishop reminded us of a challenge he had made to us as the clergy and parishes of the diocese at last year's convention: to spend one hour a day in prayer, one day a month in prayer, and one octave (8 days) in prayer a year. I had forgotten he had made that challenge. But, as they say, it's never too late to start. This Advent, I have made the resolution for myself to spend one hour a day in prayer, one day of prayer a month, and an octave of days in prayer a year. And as Bishop Provenzano has challenged me, so I challenge you my brothers and sisters at St. Ann's. Won't you join me in prayer, in this new year? That is my invitation to you, as we begin this new year together. Please let me know if you would like to join me, and how I can help you keep this resolution.



Because of scheduling conflicts, there will be no blood drive in January. We will try to hold our next blood drive in the spring of 2019.

Please continue to give the Gift of Life this holiday season and find a blood drive near you. There is always a shortage of blood at this time of year

## Thanksgiving Food Baskets

We would like to thank ALL those who generously donated and gave their time to support the Thanksgiving food basket ministry. With your help, we distributed food baskets to 25 grateful families. This provided Thanksgiving dinner for over 110 people. Thank you to the St. Ann's choir and to our Christian Ed. classes for donating 3 extra baskets as we had late requests for baskets. The recipients were truly grateful and sent wishes for a Happy Thanksgiving to our caring parish family. We give thanks all year long for your compassion and commitment to help others. Happy Thanksgiving!



### A MERRY BALANCE

In Luke 10:38-42, Martha gets a bad rap. After all, we need Marthas to get things done and to show hospitality. (Note that Martha is the one who opens up her home to Jesus in the first place!)

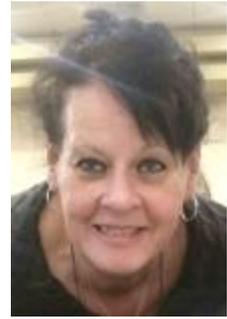
Marthas are needed in December, but holiday preparations shouldn't shift our focus from the reason for the season. When we become "worried and distracted" as Martha did (v. 41, NRSV), we're tempted to trade God's "one thing" (v. 42) for the world's many worthless things. Yet if we're only like Mary, we may forget to let the world know who we're celebrating!

So this Christmas, keep a proper balance between your inner Mary and your inner Martha. Take time to "be Mary," kneeling at the manger, so that all the merry things you do as Martha have meaning and serve the newborn king.



## PEANUT BUTTER AND JELLY MINISTRY

By Mary Mattarella (631-745-3745)  
[stbarnabus@yahoo.com](mailto:stbarnabus@yahoo.com)



Merry Christmas to my sisters and brothers in Christ!



Our mission trip to NYC, was a success! Over 50 people in need received help from your generous donations. One of the favorite items, was the cup of soup.

Rodney, Flo, and myself, were joined by our friends from Zion Church, who also brought blankets, warm clothing, and sandwiches.

In December, we will be handing out the usual much needed items, plus the very much anticipated **stuffed Christmas Stockings**. I am hoping to bring 100 of them! If you want to donate for our special Christmas run, we could use:

- Candy
- Oranges
- Stockings (at Dollar Tree for only \$1)
- Socks are also much needed in the cold weather and are in short supply.



In November, Rodney and I were joined by Greg and Paul from St. Ann's to do a local mission in front of Stop and Shop in Shirley. We handed out warm coats, and other much needed items. One family, was especially touched, because the Dad had just been hired for an outside job, and he needed warm clothing and a coat! We also gave out some beautiful pre-sorted hygiene packets, which were donated to us from high school students in Paul's classes out of the generosity of their hearts.



The Christmas spirit is alive all year long, because of all your love and generosity.

As always, all are invited to help on mission day, which is the last Saturday of each month! I hope you might want to join us for at least one Sunday. You'll be amazed! And, of course, I am always grateful for all your prayers and support!

Thank you! Love, *The Very Festive Mary*



## THE THRIFT SHOP

Have you visited the Thrift Shop lately? Most of the people who come in are not parishioners, yet you can find some amazing bargains there! You would be surprised at some of the best dressed ladies in church who got their jackets, purses, or blouses at "Annie's Boutique!" Not only clothes, but dishes, books, jewelry, and odds and ends. You never know what you'll find there!

Even if you don't want to shop, you should stop in and see the new décor and say hello to the volunteers, who work many hours a week for the love of it. They would really appreciate the opportunity to show off the shop they work so hard at and are so proud of!

Make it a point to stop in. I'll bet you won't come out empty handed. One person's "castoff" is often another's "treasure."

## THE 8<sup>TH</sup> SACRAMENT

Coffee and cake do not magically appear each Sunday between the services! Yes, Kathy Senese does work her magic every Saturday evening to set up the coffee. But,...

*we need parishioners*

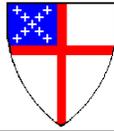
to sign up to bring the milk, goodies, and clean up after the 10:00 service.

If you're someone who enjoys chatting and having a hot cup of coffee and a snack in the Parish Hall on Sunday morning, PLEASE sign up for a Sunday or two. You can even tag



team and have someone from 8:00 set up and someone from 10:00 clean up. Look for the sign-up sheet next to the yummy treats! Best time to set up is Saturday evening when the church is open, but if you can get to church by 8:30 or so, there's plenty of time to set up. (Decorations optional!)





# NOTES

“The world is round so that friendship may encircle it.”  
—Pierre Teilhard de Chardin



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SHELVES**

## OUR DAILY BREAD

**Monday & Thursday, from 10:00 AM -12:00 Noon**

The food pantry is especially in need of these supplies.

**Canned Meats \* Soup \* Chili \* Eggs \* Shelf Stable Milk \***

**Cereals \* Peanut Butter \* Jelly \* Toiletries**

Of course, cash donations allow us to buy whatever is needed!



## 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



## Christian Yoga

*On Vacation During December*



## ST. BARNABAS' BUDDIES



Whether you need help or can give help, call Gerry Hoek at 631-868-7278 for further information.

- (1) Prepare a meal for someone recovering from a recent illness or fall.
- (2) Drive someone to a doctor's appointment and bring them home.
- (3) Bring someone to church (perhaps once a month) if they are unable to drive.
- (4) Make a phone call to someone homebound just to let them know they are not forgotten.



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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.



			<b>WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES</b>		
6	Sal & Kathy Senese	13	Christian & Melanie Hagenlocher	26	John & Barbara Stahlberg
7	Robert & Barbara Gaito	17	Michael & Lauren Rascona	27	Louis & Lily Dadabo
11	Brian & Maureen Rockwood	22	Lars & Jill Gustafson	28	John O'Neil & Richard Mugno



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-Cerillo
	Brayden Lasko	12	Carolann Gaites		Ronin Kashdan		
	Richard Magnani		Parker Cole		Holly Rhodes-Teague		

*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. Prayers will be offered at worship for each listed above on the Sunday of the week of their birthday and/or anniversary.*

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## *Our Church History*



By Connie Currie

### ❖ **The Garden of the Unforgotten**

**CAPTAIN GEORGE ROGERSON  
MRS. GEORGE (DELIA) ROGERSON  
Section 11 – Lot 11**

**Captain George Rogerson** passed away suddenly in mid-November of 1914. The Captain was a quiet, modest, manly man whose life was given in service to his family and against whom not an ill word was known to have been spoken. Soon after his marriage, he came to Bayport, where he lived for 24 years. Well built and of a powerful constitution, the Captain was never ill.

A fisherman by trade, he was accustomed to long hours and all kinds of weather. For that reason, his death was a shock to all. Captain Rogerson, who was born in Vermont 52 years prior to his death, was survived by his wife Delia, his sons George, Hugh, and John Thomas; three daughters, twins Dell and Delia, and Elizabeth.

Captain Rogerson was buried in St. Ann's Cemetery, with the Rev. John H. Prescott officiating.

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**Mrs. George (Delia) Rogerson**, widow of Captain George Rogerson, died at her home in Bayport at the age of 74. She was born in the north of Ireland, but had made her home in Bayport for 52 years.

A pleasant woman, Mrs. Rogerson raised six children, three girls: twins Delia and Dell, and Elizabeth; and three sons, George, Hugh, and John Thomas. All but George survived her. He died of the results of gassing during World War I. Her husband Captain George Rogerson passed away in 1914.

At the time of her death, Mrs. Rogerson's son Hugh was in Southside Hospital after having an operation, and his brother John Thomas was about to have surgery in Florida. Neither son was able to attend their mother's funeral.

Mrs. Rogerson was a member of Pride of Bayside Circle and Lady Foresters of America, the members of which held services at the Isaacson Funeral Home. She was also a member of the Auxiliary Unit of American Legion Post #651. For many years she had been a devout parishioner of St. Ann's Episcopal Church and was laid to rest in the parish cemetery.

The Rev. Joseph H. Bond officiated at her funeral service.





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## +Christian Symbol+



### The Five-Pointed Star

The star of Bethlehem is often shown as a five-pointed star. Roughly shaped like a human being, it symbolizes Christ's incarnation. It also calls to mind the wise men's journey: "After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, 'Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him'" (Matthew 2:1-2, NIV).

## 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  
10:00 AM—Holy Eucharist  
7:30 PM—AA Meeting

### Mondays

10:00AM—12:00 PM Food Pantry  
6:00 PM—Vestry Meeting—Dec. 10  
6:30 PM—Mission & Outreach—Dec. 17  
8:00 PM—AA Meeting

### Tuesdays

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

### Wednesdays

9:30 AM—12:00 PM Operation Hope  
10:00 AM-3:00 PM—Thrift Shop Open  
7:00 PM—Youth Group

### Thursdays

10:00 AM—AA Meeting  
10:00 AM—12:00 PM Food Pantry  
10:00 AM-3:00 PM—Thrift Shop Open  
1:30 PM----Christian Yoga Class  
8:00 PM—AA Meeting

### Saturday

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



Conveniently located in your community, we are there when needed most. With a caring staff, comforting atmosphere, and only 3 miles from Sayville, We're close in all the ways you need.



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