
the
Messenger

December, 2009

A newsletter of the Parish of St. John's in the Village

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[www: stjvny.org](http://www.stjvny.org)

Sunday Eucharist at 8:00 & 11:00 am; M-F: Morning Prayer at 8:00 am; M, W, F: Eucharist at 6:15 pm

Coming Up In December

Wednesdays December 2, 9 & 16	Advent Class Series: <i>Keeping a Holy Advent</i> 7:00 pm in the Parish Hall
Saturday December 5	Advent Quiet Day: <i>Theotokos - The Story of Mary, the God-bearer</i> 10:00 am - 3:00 pm- Parish Hall & Common Room
December 6 & 13	Christmas Card writing for Village Nursing Home - during the coffee hours
Saturday December 12	“Advent: Anticipation and Prayer” - A one day workshop sponsored by The Open Door - 10:00 am - 3:00 pm
Sunday December 13	5th Annual Cookie Exchange - Following 11:00 am Eucharist Decorating the tree in St. Benedict's Courtyard
Tuesday December 15	Christmas Caroling at Village Nursing Home: 6:30 pm Party following in the Rectory
Sunday December 20	Deadline for flower subscription submission
Wednesday, January 6	The Feast of the Epiphany - 6:30 pm followed by Parish Pot Luck (Sign-up sheet posted in Common Room)
Sunday January 31	Annual Meeting of the Parish - 12:30 pm in the Parish Hall

Christmas Schedule appears on page 11

From the Rector's Desk

My dear friends,

Years ago, when I first began to attend the Episcopal Church, in university days, I was struck by a number of things. One was the way that Episcopalians behaved in Church. I had been used to the Methodist Church where people sat in church before the service began, and chatted and talked with their friends. Sometimes they waved across the church to their friends. But when I started attending the local Episcopal Church, the atmosphere was different. People came in, in silence, sat a moment, then usually knelt on the kneeler, and made the sign of the cross. There was a little rustling sound as people, perhaps, tucked their leaflets into the hymnal at the place for the opening hymn. But all else was in silence until the organist began the prelude.

From time to time, I think it is useful to recall that tradition. What should you do when you come into church?

First, defer your greetings to later in the morning, when we gather for coffee and a light collation in the parish hall. Perhaps smile at those you know, but you have something better to be about. And that is prayer. Kneel for a moment, or if it is your custom, stand at your place and say your prayers. Here is a good one:

Almighty God who pours
out on all who desire it the
spirit of grace and
supplication: Deliver us,

when we draw near to you
from coldness of heart and
wanderings of mind, that
with steadfast thoughts and
kindled affections we may
worship you in spirit and
truth ; through Jesus Christ
our Lord. Amen.

Here is one for before communion:

Be present, be present O
Jesus our great high priest,
as you were present with
your disciples and be
known to us in the breaking
of bread, now and forever.
Amen.

Some other prayers are found on page 834-5 of the prayer book. Or, if you want to do what we, in the altar party are doing, try saying Psalm 34, verses one through eight, on page 627.

There is always a prayer book right in front of you, take advantage of it and use it during your time of silence before the liturgy.

A few other, general guidelines. Don't bring coffee or food into the church. You are here to nourish the soul, not the body, to satiate your thirst for the blood of Christ, not for the caffeine of Starbucks. Leave that for later. Don't bring newspapers into church, and especially don't read them in church. Use your time in church for prayer.

If you feel you must read, try reading a prayer or two from the prayer book, or a psalm, or some part of the liturgy.

When it comes time for the prelude, listen to it. The classic repertoire of church instrumental music is designed to match certain liturgical seasons. If, for example, you are attending the Eucharist during Advent, listen to the prelude and see if you can figure out why the composer wrote these particular tunes and tones. How do they help us to think about anticipation? How do they help us think about the coming of Christ? Do they have something to say about our mortality or our need to be held to account? Can you perceive in the music the character and style of John the Baptist or the Blessed Virgin Mary? Music can be a great window into God, take advantage of it.

So, generally, use the time before church for prayer, set aside papers and cups of coffee and papers for things of more eternal endurance. Say your prayers. Learn a few prayers to say before church begins. Take advantage of the rich variety of music we enjoy here.

All of this is meant for your edification, that is your "building up" into the body of Christ. Let it do what it is meant to do.

Faithfully,



Silence in the Liturgy

Silence is an important part of the liturgy and at no place more than at St. John's. We use a lot of silence. There is a silent time after each of the readings, except the gospel, and there is a long silence after the breaking of the bread following the consecration. These are meant to be reflective silences, during which time we might consider some point mentioned in the readings, offer a prayer for a person in need, consider a theological point raised by the flow and text of the liturgy, or simply be quiet and think of nothing. Silence also helps us to slow the pace of the liturgy so that it becomes, as a whole, more meditative.

We are adding another silence to the liturgy. After the deacon, or the celebrant, bids the general confession, by saying "Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor" there will be about thirty seconds of silence before we begin the confession, "Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you...." This reflective silence is not surprisingly designed for us to use in reflecting on our sins. It is something of miniature self-examination. How might you use this silence? You might examine your own faults. Before the liturgy, you might mark your prayer book at the ten commandments (page 350) and refer to them as you keep the silence. Or there might be some particular pain or disappointment you might consider at this point of silence. Or you might consider the summary of the law, from Rite I, (page 324) which reminds us that we are to love God and love the neighbor, and then reflect upon

one's failures in these two key areas identified by Jesus.

This decision, and its explanation, is not designed to make the liturgy more grimly penitential. The silence is meant to be a time when you might consider how wonderfully renewing it can be to lay ones concerns, pains, and failures before God and to rejoice in the loving power of forgiveness that so completely characterizes God.

We are going to try this silence for about four months and see how it goes. If it does not prove to be helpful, we can easily change it. Father Prator would be glad of your reactions.

Vestry Report

The Nominating Committee, consisting of Father Lloyd Prator, Pam Brown, Jay Campbell and Cherian Thomas proposed the following slate for the elections at the Annual Parish Meeting, Sunday, January 31, 2010.

Warden:

Douglas Smith

Vestry Class of 2013

Andrew Jones
Richard Lipscomb
Paul Reitz

Pamela Brown, Tim Boos and Douglas Smith are stepping down because of term limits. Richard Lipscomb was appointed in 2009 to fill the remainder of Carol Quatrone's Vestry term and has agreed to run for a full term.

The Vestry voted unanimously to thank Carol Quatrone for her work on the Halloween Dance.

The Vestry also approved an Epiphany Pot Luck Dinner to be held on January 6 following the 6:30 Eucharist.

Stewardship Report

Members of the Stewardship Committee, Pam Brown, Tim Boos, Fred Bohlen and Jeff Roy, have begun contacting parishioners who have not yet made their financial pledge for 2010. The campaign is on track, but we need final figures in order to estimate income for the 2010 budget. Please see any member of the committee for assistance.

A Note from Father Corney

Dear Friends,

Greetings from the north country. I am slowly getting acclimated to living where the only shop, restaurant, etc., in walking distance is a hair styling salon --- something of which I have no great need.

I want to thank you all, not just for the wonderful tea, the train tickets, and Simon Carr's painting, one which I had been in love with since I first saw it at a gallery opening several years ago, but for all your many kindnesses to me over the years I was at St. John's. The years at St. John's were without exception wonderful and happy ones for me.

I miss you all very much, and I promise to use those tickets to come back and visit before too long.

Apart from unpacking boxes of books (which are waiting until my son finishes the bookcases he is building for me) I am more or less moved in. And I would be delighted to see any of you should care to take a trip up north. My cell phone has my old NY number (212 675-6478), and my land line is 518 223-0243. E-mail is still corney@gts.edu.

Thank you again for everything.

Dick

St. John's Christmas Cards for Sale

Did you see the beautiful custom-made Christmas Cards St. John's is selling? They were a hit at our fall courtyard bazaar. Cards are being sold at the Vestry On Call Table. The price is \$10 for a package of ten. This is a great price for a unique card !!!! Repeat customers welcome!

Christmas Card Drive and the Village Nursing Home - December 6 & 13

Since last year's Christmas card ministry for The Village Nursing Home was so successful, we are once again requesting your donations of holiday and blank greeting cards. A box is set up in the Common Room where you may place your donations. We plan to write the cards on both December 6th and December 13th during coffee hour at a designated area.

Pens will be provided. 8:00 am service attendees are especially encouraged to participate.

Theotokos - The Story of Mary, the God-bearer

An Advent Quiet Day

Saturday, December 5, 2009

10:00 am - 3:00 pm

The Quiet Day is a miniature retreat, compacted into a single day, but offering some of the features and taste of a retreat at a monastery. We gather for the Angelus and Morning Prayer, as monks and nuns have for centuries. There will be a couple of talks, and then another office of prayer at noon. We will have a nice lunch (provided by the parish at no cost) and then another couple of talks. The day will conclude with the Eucharist. There will be ample time for silence, prayer and meditation. There will be books available, a copy of the list of the names of those who have asked our prayers will be available, and people can trace the Stations of the Cross. When the notice is posted, please sign up for the Quiet Day so that those planning it will know how many people to welcome.

When Mary said "yes" to God's invitation to bear Jesus, the Son of God, she allowed our world to be transformed. As she opened herself up to embrace the mystery of God, Mary showed us the way to love out of darkness and to bear light into our world; to meet the longing for wholeness we all have with the fulfillment that Christ alone can offer. During our Quiet Morning, we will weave together the Advent themes of darkness and light, endings and beginnings, and longing and fulfillment, as we explore together what it means for each one of us to

be God-bearers, as Mary was. Our journey will include times of prayer, reflection, silence, music and storytelling, all within a contemplative setting.

Leader:

The Reverend Barbara Hutchinson is a priest currently serving St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Port Washington, NY, Diocese of Long Island, as the Assistant Rector. Her current responsibilities include development of the Children and Youth Ministry programs as well as providing leadership and spiritual support through a transitional period in the parish life. She offers weekly prayer groups, consistent communication with families focusing on the spiritual lives of children, and opportunities for individual spiritual conversations and guidance. While attending The General Theological Seminary, she was an intern at St. John's in the Village, New York, participating in the worship and pastoral life of the parish. Blessed with the leadership and guidance of so many people there, her time at St. John's in the Village became integral to her formation as a priest. Prior to attending seminary, she was a member of St. James Episcopal Church, Lancaster, PA where she was a Sunday school teacher for 15 years, a vestry member, a youth mission trip leader, and a staff member as Director for Stewardship and Congregational Development. Barbara and her husband Bill enjoy their time in Port Washington sailing and exploring the northern shore of Long Island.

*Advent Class Series :
Keeping a Holy Advent*

**Wednesday Evenings,
December 2, 9, & 16, 2009
at 7:00 pm in the Parish Hall**

Advent is one of the most important seasons of the church year because of the richness of its heritage and the profundity of its theology. Unfortunately, it has largely become buried in the secular preparation for Christmas, and therefore it does not get the attention it really deserves. This class will help to remedy that shortfall. We are planning the class to be just three sessions long and to be over well before the busiest part of the holiday season, so that you might plan to attend. The class will explore some of the readings appointed in the lectionary, some of the traditions, like the Advent wreath, which are so interesting, and some of the liturgical ceremonial associated with the season. Each Wednesday, we will hear recordings of some of the choral anthems which are planned for the season.

**Leaders: *The Reverend Lloyd Prator
Mr. Gordon King***

**Saturday, December 12 - 8:00 pm
"Tis the Season: There Is No Rose"
Schola Cantorum on Hudson
embraces all-American music for its
15th Anniversary Season**

This critically acclaimed choral ensemble will present a concert program of Advent, Christmas and Epiphany works that highlight the human experience of the Divine through prophecy, preparation and joy. The program will feature well-known

American spirituals, early Shaker tunes, in addition to newer arrangements and works on traditional seasonal themes from composers such as Gerald Near, Williametta Spencer, J. David Moore and SCH's 2009-2010 Featured Composer Roger Wesby of Wagner College.

All tickets for this season's performances are set at the special 15th Anniversary price of \$15. See Gordon King or Andrew Jones for more details. Tickets will be available at the door.

**Finding God in AIDS
“Advent: Anticipation and Prayer”
Saturday, December 12, 2009
10:00 am - 3:00 pm**

A one-day workshop on AIDS and Christian spirituality at the Open Door, a safe confidential environment. Attendance is free but strictly limited to people living with HIV or family members, lovers, care-partners of HIV+ persons. Advanced reservations appreciated but not required. Lunch will be served. Call: 212-243-6192 to reserve or if you have any questions.

Christmas Flowers by Subscription

The flowers in the Sanctuary at Christmas are traditionally given by subscription. This is a very appropriate way to remember loved ones, living or dead. An offering envelope for the altar flowers will be sent out in the mail and will be available at the back of the church. Contributions in any amount are welcome. Lots of donors will ensure that there are lots of beautiful

flowers in the Sanctuary for the Christmas holy days. In order to include the names of the donors and honorees in the bulletin, the deadline for receiving the names is Sunday, December 20.

St. John's 5th Annual Cookie Exchange - Sunday, December 13, following the 11:00 am Eucharist

The Christmas Cookie party is now an annual event! Parish cooks are invited to bring home-made Christmas cookies to share at the Coffee Hour following the eleven-o'clock Eucharist on Sunday, December 13th. We will also decorate the parish Christmas tree in the Courtyard while munching on cookies.

Christmas Carols at the Village Nursing Home

Tuesday, December 15

Once again this year, St. John's in the Village will participate in singing Christmas Carols to the residents of the Village Nursing Home on Tuesday, December 15 at 6:30 pm. The nursing home is located at 607 Hudson Street at West 12th Street. We will meet in the Main Dining Room, then stroll the residential floors, spreading holiday cheer as we go. Immediately following we will convene in the Rectory for light refreshments and fellowship. (Note: Coat storage will be available. For your comfort, please dress lightly as heat is kept high at the VNH.)

Christmas Eve Music

The Christmas Eve service begins at 10:00 pm and, as we have done in the past, will be preceded by an extended prelude beginning at 9:30 pm. Choral music for the prelude will include Luboff's arrangement of "Still, Still, Still", the Spanish carol, "Riu, Riu, Chiu", "Ding Dong! Merrily on High" as arranged by Charles Wood, John Joubert's "Torches", plus several congregational hymns. Organ music will include Bach's setting of "in Dulei Jubilo", "Vom Himmel Hoch" by Pachelbel, and our own Gordon King's setting of "Go Tell it on the Mountain". At the offertory the choir will sing William Mathias' "Wassail Carol". The communion motet will be "What Cheer" by William Walton. Service music will be the Community mass by Richard Proulx.

People Here and There

by Jeanne Sutton

New York is getting ready for the holidays. The Christmas tree is placed in Rockefeller Center; the stores are decorating their windows for the season.

Parishioners are visiting family and friends or entertaining others. This year St. John's in having a Thanksgiving dinner at 4:00 in the afternoon in the parish hall. Sandra Oduol will visit her sisters Grace and Nicole in Stanford Connecticut. Sammy Chin and Fred Harrity will be in Connecticut visiting Sammy's family. Lorraine Burns is having dinner with her friend Alice Marie Nelson, a former opera singer in Germany. Jeanne Sutton will have her annual dinner with Mimi Staley and her

family in East Rockaway, NY. Mimi attended St. John's when she was a student.)

Other parishioners have been traveling from the parish are Fernella Lewis who visited her mother Iljame in Antigua. Robert White and David Ruderman were in London to hear one of Bob's students in Rigaletto at the English National Opera. Three weeks ago, David gave Bob a surprise birthday gift – a trip to Savannah and Charleston. Bob didn't know about the gift until he arrived at the airport! Beth Rake reports that Sallie Batson is doing well in Greenville and has adopted a new dog.

Congratulations and best wishes to Dan Weick. He passed the New York Bar examination!

December birthdays. Keith Edwards (2nd), Scott Carlton (5th), Randy Trumbach (6th), Ellen Clark (8th), Samuel Cross (13th), Douglas Smith (20th), Bob Burgess (29th).

Arlander Brown

Every Sunday we remember Arlander Brown in the prayers of the people. Why not remember him at the holidays with a greeting card! He'd love to hear from you. Send cards to:

Mr. Arlander Brown #02A4618
Green Haven Correctional Facility
594 Route 216
Stormville, NY 12582-0010

Daily Office Readings

The Daily Office readings for December are found in the Book of Common Prayer. This is Year 2 for the Daily Office, Year C for the Sunday Eucharist.

Week of December 6: Advent II

Week of December 13: Advent III

Week of December 20: Advent IV

Week of December 27: Christmas I

Christmas at St. John's

Christmas Eve, 24 December

Christmas music at 9:30 pm
Solemn Eucharist at 10:00 pm

Followed by celebration reception in the Parish Hall

Christmas Day, 25 December

Eucharist at 10:00 am

St. Stephen's Day, 26 December

Eucharist at 12:00 noon

St. John's Day, 28 December

Eucharist at 6:15 pm

Holy Innocent's Day, 29 December

Eucharist at 6:15 pm

Holy Name, 1 January

Eucharist at 6:15 pm

The Feast of the Epiphany, 6 January

Eucharist at 6:30 pm

Everyone Welcome

In This Issue

Advent Class Series	page 6
Advent Quiet Day	page 5
Arlander Brown	page 8
Caroling	page 7
Christmas Cards	page 5
Christmas Cards	page 5
for Village Nursing Home	
Christmas Eve Music	page 8
Christmas Flowers	page 7
Christmas Service	page 11
Schedule	

Cookie Exchange	page 7
Liturgical Note	page 3
Open Door Workshop	page 7
People Here & There	page 8
Rector's Message	page 2
Schola Cantorum	page 6
Stewardship Update	page 4
Thank You	page 4
Vestry Report	page 4



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