



The Eagle

January 2020

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Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

I hope your holidays were filled with the blessings of Christmas, joy, peace, hope and Love. Thank you for the journey of Advent, and your love and support for me and my family. We shared that Christmas joy with the marvelous celebrations of Christmas Eve with special music from all ages, and a few dear friends who came home to share their gifts with us.

Christmas Day, too, which ended with us singing the rousing hymn, "Go Tell It on the Mountain!". Even though I was not present to watch our youngest and not so young retell the Christmas story in the annual pageant, I heard (and saw a recording) of the precious moments. An angel also texted me a portion of your exuberant rendition of "Twelve Days of Christmas" which delighted all at the Christmas Card Supper and caroling.

The parish hall renovations are nearing completion, and that adds to our joy. We are also blessed by a successful Stewardship season that saw 4 new pledges and more than 50% of us increased our pledges. We have promised our support of and participation in the mission and ministry of St. John's Church. We pledge as individuals and as a community to transform lives into even greater wellness by flowing all of 6 of our Holy Currencies. The Cycle of Blessings empowers us in life-giving ways. We are proclaiming the Gospel in many and various ways – let's continue to reveal The Way of Love! The Christmas season of giving and receiving - giving ourselves in Love and receiving Love - fills us with the knowledge of God's love for us and for all creation. This annual celebration deepens our awareness that we are part of something bigger, something that requires each of us to be part of God's revelation of Love come down at Christmas, every day. The Word became flesh. The Light came into the world, and the darkness could not comprehend it, as the prologue to John's Gospel tells



PRIEST IN CHARGE

The Rev. William Cruse

ST. JOHN'S WARDENS

Ken Bledsoe, Sr. Warden

Janice Hardy, Jr. Warden

VESTRY

Nancy Abbott

Kristin Canty

Jason Farrar

Carolyn Greenberg

Lynda Hammond

Kevin Haas

Barry Hardy

Pat Tarbutton

John Woods

CLERK OF THE VESTRY

Barry Hardy

FINANCE CHAIRPERSON

Nancy Abbott

TREASURER

John Greenberg

BOOKKEEPER

Meg Acer



The Eagle

Meg Acer, Editor

Articles can be submitted in writing, or by E-Mail to:

ellen.joyce@

stjohnsramsey.org

us. What an extraordinary Love story.

Shortly we will remember the Epiphany on January 6th and the arrival of the Magi, their homage to the newborn king, and their awakening to the knowledge of this Love come down from God. They go home by another way so they can spread the good news to more people, just as I invited us to do in my Christmas homilies.

We will hear more good news as our lectionary readings fast forward to the beginning of Jesus' ministry and his baptism. Here the heavens proclaim him, and us, beloved of God in whom God is well pleased. The gifts continue to fill us with joy. We'll hear how Jesus called the first disciples, Simon Peter, Andrew, James and John and built relationships with all people. The Spirit of the Lord is upon him and he has been anointed to bring good news to the poor and freedom to the captives. And like the disciples, we too are called to tell the Good News of God's Light to a darkened world.

Now is the year of the Lord's favor and we are sharing in all of the blessings, for we too are beloved and filled with the Spirit at our baptism. Even though many of us also experience loss, grief, confusion, and loneliness, yet we trust in the knowledge of God's abiding presence. People and their loving actions remind us of it. We thank God for the gifts and recall our promise to serve and share our Gifts. As Paul tells us in 1 Corinthians, there are many gifts and each of us has different gifts, and each of us needs each other. It's the Cycle of Blessings in action. When we come together as the whole body of Christ, we proclaim the good news of God's Love and heal the brokenness. It takes all of us in relationship, listening to and loving one another. We need to reflect The Light of Christ, giving the Hope, Love, Joy and Peace of Advent now and always. Let's go forth into the world rejoicing in the Love come down and the power of the Light that shines in the darkness! Alleluia!!

Peace - Bill+

St. John's Memorial Church

Annual Meeting

and

Holy Eucharist

February 9, 2020

**There will be no 8:00am service that day*

With Gratitude ~

On behalf of the Priest in Charge, Wardens, Vestry, and all who share in the grace of God through the worship, ministries, programs, and outreach of St. John's Church, we thank the following for their pledges for the year 2020.

(as of December 22, 2019)

<i>Nancy & Jim Abbott</i>	<i>Carolyn & John Greenberg</i>	<i>Sabrina & Narine Persaud</i>
<i>Vi & Herb Abrams</i>	<i>Rose & Kevin Haas</i>	<i>Renee & Bruce Peters</i>
<i>Debbi & Andy Alt</i>	<i>Lynda & Scott Hammond</i>	<i>Christine Potts</i>
<i>Dick Andersen</i>	<i>Ashley & Richard Hardy</i>	<i>Melissa & Richard Quast</i>
<i>Martha Anderson</i>	<i>Barry Hardy</i>	<i>Donna & Charlie Rann</i>
<i>Karla Barricella</i>	<i>Janice & Chuck Hardy</i>	<i>Emily & Doug Rennie</i>
<i>Elkie & Anthony Beninati</i>	<i>John Harley</i>	<i>Bonnie Rodgers</i>
<i>Emmy Bledsoe</i>	<i>Helene & John Heschle</i>	<i>Ruth & Ron Roshong</i>
<i>Kelly Jo & Ken Bledsoe</i>	<i>Rose Ann & Rob Holewinski</i>	<i>Virena & Peter Rossi</i>
<i>Marina & Leonard Boma</i>	<i>Charlotte & Mike Kazigian</i>	<i>Joan & Rick Rouault</i>
<i>Lynn Brooks</i>	<i>Kate & Paul Kezmarsky</i>	<i>Laura & Andy Sama</i>
<i>Kristin & John Canty</i>	<i>Ellane & Bob Klie</i>	<i>Brooke & Ken Silber</i>
<i>Susan & Robert Carr</i>	<i>Drew Kreismer</i>	<i>Peg Surridge</i>
<i>Brenda & Dean Cary</i>	<i>Doris Latham</i>	<i>Nancy & Tom Tarbutton</i>
<i>Robert Clooney</i>	<i>Kathy & Bill Lathrop</i>	<i>Patricia Tarbutton</i>
<i>Maria Cornea</i>	<i>Amy Lynch</i>	<i>JoEllen & Greg Wall</i>
<i>Bill Cruse</i>	<i>Michele & Bill Mack</i>	<i>Gail & Dave Washburn</i>
<i>Bill Deegan</i>	<i>Carol & Frank McInnis</i>	<i>Mary & Jim Welton</i>
<i>Beka & Jason Farrar</i>	<i>Stacey & Jay McMahan</i>	<i>Elaine Jones & John Woods</i>
<i>Kathy Fede</i>	<i>Dorene Milic & Adam Kozielec</i>	
<i>Jim Francese</i>	<i>Judy Miller</i>	
<i>Jane & James Fraser</i>	<i>Maryann Molnar</i>	
<i>Tom Frost</i>	<i>Julie & Jorge Moya</i>	
<i>Charlie Ghosio</i>	<i>Dick Overton</i>	

We also express our gratitude and appreciation to our regular givers for their gifts of time, talent and treasure in support of St. John's and our ministries.

Episcopal Church Women 2020 Film Fest Begins January 6!

The theme of St. John's 2020 ECW film and book season is "Forgiveness of Others". The theme of forgiveness appears repeatedly in scripture such as Matthew 6:14: "For when you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you." This comes shortly after the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:12) and expands on part of the prayer. But what is forgiveness? How do we go about forgiving? We will explore the complexities of this theme through discussion of four films and a book. All parish women and friends are invited to attend.

Our first meeting will be on Monday, January 6 at 7:00 pm in the downstairs lounge/vesting room to view and discuss the 2012 film Quartet starring Maggie Smith, Billy Connolly, Michael Gambon, Tom Courtenay, Pauline Collins, Sheridan Smith, and Gwennyth Jones and directed by Dustin Hoffman in his debut as a director. This British comedy-drama revolves around a former opera singer who moves into Beecham House, a retirement home for professional musicians. Although Beecham House is fictional, it is patterned after Casa di Riposo per Musicisti founded by Giuseppe Verdi. When finances threaten to close the home, the residents decide to help fundraise by reprising the most famous recording of the quartet in the opera Rigoletto. But old rivalries and hurts threaten to derail this plan. Quartet was nominated for various awards including a Golden Globe nomination for Best Actress (Maggie Smith), British Independent Film Awards nomination for Best Supporting Actor (Billy Connolly), and a win for Dustin Hoffman for Best Narrative Feature at the Chicago International Film Festival.

ECW will meet on the first Mondays of January through June (except the second Sunday in April due to Holy Week).

Our complete 2020 season:

January 6: Quartet

February 3: Gran Torino

March 2: The Descendants

April 13: Book discussion *The Hundred-Foot Journey* by Richard C. Morais

May 4: Unbroken: Path to Redemption

June: End of season dinner (date TBD)

Please join us at St. John's on Monday, January 6, 2020 at 7:00 pm for an evening of camaraderie and thought-provoking discussion as we support each other in our spiritual journeys. For information, contact ECW co-chairs Marilyn Bartholme or Janice Hardy (HardyCJR@aol.com or 845-357-8244).

Church School

St. John's Church School ***January 2020***

The Church School children will continue to learn about the gospel readings during the month of January and the third season of the church year, Epiphany, by engaging in the curriculum lessons and related activities during their class sessions. The word "epiphany" means "making God manifest." The primary theme is Baptism, beginning with the Feast of the Baptism of our Lord. The season begins on the Day of Epiphany, January 6th, and lasts until Ash Wednesday, February 26th, at the beginning of Lent. Children from the Grades 6-8 class will be the *readers* at the Family Service on January 19th.

All are invited to participate in the "Souper-Bowl" Church School outreach program beginning on January 12th and culminating with a "soup can" sculpture in the Parish Hall on January 26th. Cans of soup will be collected in the labeled baskets in the Parish Hall. We're looking forward to a spectacular sculpture this year!

The Church School teachers and children wish to thank everyone who graciously donated gifts for the St. Paul's CDC "Adopt a Family for Christmas" program this year. The wrapped presents were picked up by CDC this year and delivered to the center in Paterson where they were received with smiles and tears of joy.

"On behalf of the clients and staff of St. Paul's Community Development Center, I would like to extend our heartfelt thanks and appreciation for your donation of holiday gifts. It is truly inspiring to see how many individuals have stepped forward to lend their support and ensure a happy holiday for families in need. Your contribution has helped our organization meet the need presented and for that we are tremendously grateful." Marlene Williams, Executive Director, CDC.

Church School Calendar - January 2020

January 5	Church School- 10:00 AM
January 12	Church School – 10:00 AM - Souper Bowl Outreach Project Begins – NWC for Food Action
January 19	Family Service: 10:00 AM with Choristers and Cherubs, No Church School
January 26	Church School – 10:00 AM – "Souper Bowl" Collection Project Ends

Church School Calendar - February 2020

February 2	Church School – 10:00 AM
February 9	Church School - 10:00 AM – CS Staff Meeting – 11:15 AM - Gr. 3-5 Classroom
February 16	Family Service: 10:00 AM with Choristers and Cherubs - No Church School
February 23	Church School –10:00 AM

Many Thanks!

We were blessed by Bob & Charlotte Wright with the gift to the parish of a ceramic Nativity scene. It will adorn our altar for Christmas and Epiphany and for years to come! Thank you Bob & Charlotte!!



Music Notes

A note of thanks to all our musicians who made music for our worship during the past Advent and Christmas seasons. From the 3-6 year olds (and their parents) in our children's choirs, to the Chamber Ensemble under flutist Ellane Klie's direction, to our trumpets Melanie Greenberg and Mike Peters on Christmas Eve, Abby Greenberg's beautiful singing of "O Holy Night", and of course the committed members of our Senior Choir all under the direction of Drew Kreisner, we owe a word of THANKS for making our worship meaningful, musical, and exciting. With the new NAVE organ, we sang strongly leading us at each service. We are truly blessed!

Volunteers Needed for Community Thrift Shop

In order to keep our account open at the Community Thrift Shop in Midland Park we must help staff one week per year. This year it is the week of **February 11-14**. There are two shifts per day. Morning shifts are 10-12 and afternoons are 1-3. Each shift requires two volunteers. The easy work consists of tagging merchandise and is performed sitting down. Names of volunteers must be submitted two weeks prior to our scheduled week so we need commitment soon. Please consider signing up. Contact Mary Welton (201-825-8629 or mhswelton@yahoo.com) if you can help. Men!! You can do this, too.



The Episcopal Diocese of Newark
NOTICE OF CONVENTION

To Clerical and Lay Deputies of the 146th Annual Convention
of the Episcopal Diocese of Newark:

The Convention will be held on Friday, January 31 and Saturday, February 1, 2020 at:

**The Hilton Meadowlands, 2 Meadowlands Plaza
East Rutherford, NJ 07073**

Registration will begin at 8:30 AM on Friday.

The Business Session will be Called to Order at 11:00AM*

There will be a Diocesan Wide Service of The Holy Eucharist on Saturday at 9:00AM
- all are welcome.

All Convention Business materials will be e-mailed to deputies and available on the
website. www.dioceseofnewark.org/convention

Please direct any questions to John A. King, Secretary of Convention
jking@dioceseofnewark.org

**Times subject to change, please watch for further announcements on specifics.*

Our St. John's family

Thank you so much for the
wreath of gorgeous flowers
that brightened our hearts.
The connection was so
supporting.

John and I, and my entire
family felt God's loving
embrace through you.

Peace,
Bill, John + Cruses

The family of
Donald Cruse, Jr.

thanks you for your
kind expression of
sympathy

**ST. JOHN'S
MEMORIAL
EPISCOPAL
CHURCH**

A House of Prayer for
All People



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Check us out on the Web:
www.stjohnsramsey.org

Worship Schedule

Sunday Services

Holy Eucharist
8 AM & 10 AM

Church School

9:45AM Infant & Child Care

Celtic Prayer

Wednesdays at 7:30 PM



The Rev. William Cruse
Priest in Charge

The Rev. Richard Louis
Rector Emeritus

Drew Kreismer
Organist/Choirmaster

Meg Acer
Parish Administrator

Megan Kendall
Youth Missioner

Upcoming Event Calendar

January

- January 1 Happy New Year!
January 6 ECW Quartet
January 12 "Souper Bowl" Begins
January 20 Articles due for the February Eagle
January 26 "Souper Bowl" Collection Project Ends

February

- February 3 ECW Gran Torino
February 9 Annual Meeting

