

The Eagle's Voice

The Newsletter of St. John's Church, Cohoes, NY

Volume 17 Issue 4

December 2013

Merry Christmas

"And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil."

John 3-19

A Message from Mother Gerry

I got up early one morning, still in my pajamas, and ran out quickly to get the paper. It was still dark. If it had been light, I would have put on some proper clothes first. The light would have revealed my true condition – not dressed for the neighbors to see.

So it goes for all of us when it comes to sin. We don't want anyone to know what our sin looks like – what we have done, or what we would like to do, or what we are thinking about doing. We want to show our good side to the world. But, John writes in his gospel that the Light has come into the world to reveal all those things we do in darkness, all those things we long to hide from



everyone, even ourselves.

God in his infinite love and grace sent His Son, Jesus Christ, the Light of the world. And Jesus will not leave us in our sinful condition. He will bring his light into the darkest corners of our heart to expose what is there so we can confess it and receive forgiveness and have life.

The Light has come to rescue us. Of course, there is a choice – come to the Light or remain in darkness. But, we remain lovers of the darkness at our own peril. During the next two weeks of Advent, we have the opportunity to think about

our sinfulness and to repent and start afresh. Advent is a time of active waiting. We are meant to use this time to prepare ourselves for Christmas Day when we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, and to prepare for his return. He has promised that he will return and at that time he will make our way straight and put all things right – no more sin, or sickness, or sorrow. No more death.

During the next few days, I encourage you to wisely open your heart and let the Light come in. Warning: expect changes to be made. Jesus will not sit quietly in the parlor. He will rearrange the furniture; throw out what is broken and tattered, and clean up those dark corners. He will rummage through your hidden stuff, sorting it out. When the Light comes, changes follow. And this is good. It is just what we need to prepare for that final visit when he will return and take us to his Kingdom. Come, Lord Jesus!

Have a holy Advent and a Merry Christmas. Hope to see everyone on Christmas Eve – Mother Gerry

Christmas Memorials

Please remember that you can honor a loved one or memorialize a relative with a donation to the Christmas Flowers Memorial.

Please send your donations by Sunday December 16 to be included in the list of flower memorials.

Christmas flowers will be on the altar at the Christmas Eve service.

Annual Appeal

Enclosed in this newsletter is a 2013 pledge card. The Vestry needs to make an estimate of how much income we will have to work with in the upcoming year. Your pledge gives us a realistic idea of what we will have. Your generosity is appreciated.

There are other ways that you can help the Parish even if you can't afford a financial gift. Our vestry is always looking for people to help with cleaning, yard work and outreach projects. If you have a special talent in these or other areas let us know and we will find a way for you to help grow our church.

Please Note.....

If anyone is unable to attend Eucharist on Sundays and would like to receive Home Communion, please call the church at 237-6013 and leave a message on the answering machine. I will call you back and arrange a time to come visit. --

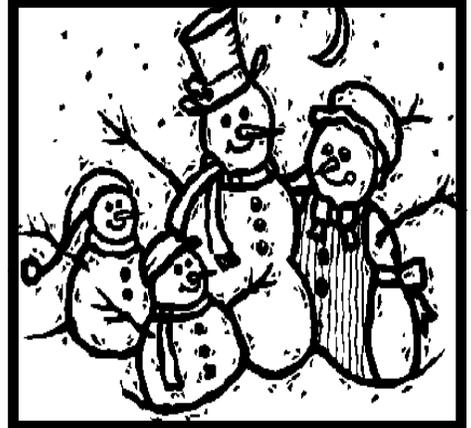
Mother Gerry

From the Sr. Warden:

I love the feeling of sitting in the church with a group of my fellow parishioners. Sharing our faith in a loving God who is reaching out to us through fellowship. It has been a challenging year. But Sundays keep me moving forward with the faith that everything will come together.

Thank you to all of our faithful families that join us on every Sunday. A church is more than just a building. It is a gathering of family. I am blessed to have all of you as a member of the family we call St John's.

Ed Tremblay



Christmas Schedule

Advent IV

December 22, 2013
9:30 AM

followed by hanging of the greens

Christmas Eve

December 24, 2012

6:45 PM - Carol Sing

7:00 PM - Candlelight service

Merry Christmas!