



The Eagle's Voice

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

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December 2016

Merry Christmas

Dear Friends in Christ,

During the Advent season our attention is drawn to John baptizing people in the Jordan River. The scene is very familiar to us. What you may not know is that the Jordan empties its waters into two very different seas. I'd like to take a moment to tell you about them.

There are two seas in Palestine. One is fresh, and fish are in it. Splashes of green adorn its banks. Trees spread their branches over it and stretch out their thirsty roots to sip of its healing waters. Along its shores the children play, as children played when He was there. He loved it. He could look across its silver surface when He spoke His parables. And on a rolling plain not far away He fed five thousand people.

The River Jordan makes this sea with sparkling water from the hills. So it laughs in the sunshine. And men build their houses near to it, and birds their nests; and every kind of life is happier because it is there.

The River Jordan flows on south into another sea. Here is no splash of fish, no fluttering leaf, no song of birds, no children's laughter. Travelers choose another route, unless on urgent business. The air hangs heavy above its water, and neither man nor beast nor fowl will drink.

What makes this mighty difference in these neighbor seas? Not the river Jordan. It empties the same good water into both. Not the soil in which they lie nor the country about.

This is the difference. The Sea of Galilee receives but does not keep the Jordan. For every drop that flows



into it another drop flows out. The giving and receiving go on in equal measure.

The other sea is shrewder, hoarding its income jealously. It will not be tempted into any generous impulse. Every drop it gets, it keeps.

The Sea of Galilee gives and lives. This other sea gives nothing. It is named The Dead. There are two kinds of people in the world. There are two seas in Palestine.

I invite you to reflect on these two seas as you think about your giving in general and your support of the ministry of Saint John's in particular.

Yours in Christ,

Bill+

Annual Meeting

The Annual meeting of St. John's Church will be held Sunday, December 11, 2016 immediately following the 9:30 Service

Agenda

Annual Meeting

Rector's Report

Senior Warden Report

Finance

2016-Budget Comparison
11/30/16 Balance Sheet
Preliminary 2017 Budget

Buildings & Grounds

Building Update

Old Business

New Business
Election of Senior Warden

& Vestry Members

We will have a pot luck breakfast at the meeting. Please join us!



We will be participating in the Heifer Project this Christmas. Pick up an envelope in back of church and make a donation toward the purchase of a sheep for a family in a third world country.

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 envelope back by December 18th to be included in the list of flower memorials.

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



St. John's Church

2017 Pledge

Name: _____

Envelope #: _____

Pledge Amount: \$ _____ per: _____
Wk/Mo/Yr

Building Fund: \$ _____ per: _____
Wk/Mo/Yr

Christmas Schedule

Advent IV

December 18, 2016
9:30 AM

followed by hanging of
the greens

Christmas Eve

December 24, 2016

6:45 PM - Carol Sing

7:00 PM - Candlelight service

Merry Christmas!