



The Eagle's Voice

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

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Merry Christmas

Dear Friends in Christ,

As we approach the twelve days of Christmas, I wonder what visitors from another planet might make of all our activities this time of year? What is Christmas really all about? Would they watch television and decide that it is a season to give your spouse a new Mercedes? Or for couples to give each other matching SUV's? Maybe they would think it is all about shouting ecstatically because you received the one gift you really wanted. Perhaps they would just smile at the wonder of all the lights and decorations we set out each December.

Would these aliens from another planet see anything that gives them a clue as to what Christmas is all about? Maybe. They might see that co-worker purchasing an additional "secret Santa" gift for that person in the office down the hall who is feeling lonely and forgotten this year. Perhaps they might notice the older gentleman patiently feeding his long-time partner, who no longer recognizes him because of Alzheimer's. They might notice the young college

student, who has volunteered to help at the homeless shelter on Christmas Eve. All are reflecting the Love of God that took on human flesh in Jesus of Nazareth.

The true meaning of Christmas is something that reaches to the very depth of our souls. In the midst of all our business, I encourage you to take a few moments to reflect on what Christmas is all about. Perhaps the best time to reflect is during the twelve days of Christmas (December 25 – January 6) when all the other activities around us seem to have quieted down.

At Christmas, through his grace-filled birth, (as the late Karl Rahner once wrote) God says to the world: "I am here. I am with you. I am your life. I am the gloom of your daily routine. I weep your tears. I am your JOY. Do not be afraid to be happy, for ever since I wept, joy is the standard of living that is really more suitable than anxiety and grief of those who think they have no hope. When the totals of your plans and of your life's experiences do not balance

out evenly, I am the unsolved remainder. And I know that this remainder, which makes you so frantic, is in reality my love that you do not understand. I am present in your needs.

This reality - this incomprehensible wonder of my limitless love - I have sheltered safely in the cold stable of your world. I am there. I no longer go away from this world, even if you do not see me now... I am there. It is Christmas. Light the candles. They have more right to exist than all the darkness. It is Christmas. Christmas that last forever".

Yours in Christ,

Bill+



Blue Christmas

For some people Christmas is a difficult time. The joy of the season is overshadowed by the grief over the loss of a loved one, the loss of a job, or the end of a marriage. If this is true for you this year or if you know someone for whom it is true, we encourage you to come to our community **Blue Christmas Service** on December 16 at 7:00 PM at St. John's Episcopal Church, 405 Vliet Blvd in Cohoes.

Annual Giving

The church relies on your generosity to continue with our operations. To make that giving easier we provide weekly giving envelopes. We also ask each of you to fill out a pledge sheet to help our Vestry plan on how much funds we may have when completing our budget. Envelopes will be found in the Narthex starting next week. If you need them please see Linda Tremblay and she will assign you a number.

This service is designed especially for you. You are not alone. You are loved.

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.

At year end we will provide you with an IRS form that will tell you how much you donated during the year. We also are always looking for volunteers to help around the property. If you cannot help financially we would appreciate your time and talents.

Please see Ed Tremblay if you are interested on serving on a committee.



*Our Savior
is Born*

Christmas Schedule

We need your help.
Please join us for the
hanging of the greens
December 23rd after the
9:30 service

Christmas Eve

December 24, 2018

6:45 PM - Carol Sing

**7:00 PM - Candlelight
service**

Merry Christmas!

Wardens Challenge

I challenge the Parish to try and have 40 people in the pews each week. When we make that challenge I will ring the Sanctus bell during the offertory. Lets ring the bell each week!