



# The Eagle's Voice

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

Volume 23 Issue 4

December 2019

## Merry Christmas

### Dear Friends in Christ,

During the darkest days of the year we light the Advent candles to remind us of hope, faith, joy and prayer. This year, as we prepare to celebrate the birth of the Messiah and prepare for his return at the end of time, each of our Sundays is filled with special activities.

**December 8** is our Annual meeting – a day to reflect on the past year and focus on the year to come. It is a time to elect new leaders and to share a meal together.

**December 15** the churches of Cohoes and Waterford will offer a *Blue Christmas Service*. This is offered with the realization that for some people the holiday season can be difficult. The loss of a loved one, loss of job, divorce, illness can all overwhelm the joy of

Christmas. For those who feel blue this year, this service is for you. It will be held at Grace Church in Waterford (34 Third St.) at 7:00 PM.

**December 22** Bishop Love will visit St John's and Julia Weaver will confirm her faith. While we celebrate with her as she makes a mature re-affirmation of her faith, it is also an opportunity for all of us to renew our baptismal promises. We will have a catered meal for this special occasion.

Finally, **Christmas Eve**, we will have a special interactive service that should be fun for all ages but is especially suitable for children. If you have friends who have children, but do not worship regularly with a faith community, this is a service to invite them to. Not only will children enjoy the interactive homily, they will learn



about the true meaning of Christmas.

May the days of Advent be blessed, and the joy of Christmas fill your heart.

**Yours in Christ,  
Bill+**

## Welcome Bishop Love

We are blessed to have Bishop Love join us this Advent Season. December 22 will be an important day. Besides the Bishops visit our Senior Acolyte Julia will receive the sacrament of Confirmation. After a catered breakfast we will deck the halls by preparing the Sanctuary for Christmas Eve. Maybe the Bishop can help with the star on the tree.

## 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! It has been a while since I have rung it!!!!

## 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 in a few weeks. If you need them please see Linda Tremblay and will she will assign you a number.

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.

## 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.

## Community Giving

The Parish supports many community groups that provide for others. During this year we have supported the Alzheimer's Association, LifePath Cohoes (Senior Center), Youth for Christ and St. Eustis Dominican Retreat. We also make an Annual donation to Heifer International.

We encourage all Parishioner's to also support these and other community groups like the Food Pantry at Holy Trinity. Giving envelopes can be found in the rear of church for your convenience.



## December Schedule

**Annual Meeting**  
December 8, 2019

**Bishop's Visit**  
December 22, 2019

Hanging of the Greens

**Christmas Eve**  
December 24, 2019

**6:45 PM - Carol Sing**

**7:00 PM - Candlelight service**

Merry Christmas!



*Our Savior  
is Born*