



~ **St. John's Church** ~
Weekly News
January 31, 2024

Rev. Catherine Nichols
Officiant

Readings for Sunday, Feb. 11, 2024

2 Kings 2:1-12
Psalm 50: 1-6
2 Corinthians 4: 3-6
Mark 9:2-9

Loose Plate Offering
Food Shelves

Mark the Date

Tuesday, Feb. 13th at 6pm Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Wednesday, Feb. 14th at 5 pm Ash Wednesday Service (By Zoom)

Wednesday, Feb. 21st Lenten Study Begins at 7:00-8:15 (By Zoom only)

Saturday, Feb. 24 at 11am Consecration of Jeremiah Williamson (remote access available)

Lent 2024

A Message from Diane

Dear Friends,

The seasons of the church were created hundreds of years ago for our help in growing our spirits and our relationship with the sacred. As I'm sure you all know only too well, life and the demands of our families, professions, health, and responsibilities have a way of consuming our energies, thoughts and planning. The church in her wisdom recognized that we need all kinds of ways to call our attention to the "things of the spirit." Thus, sacraments, liturgies, and seasons of the church year were created to help us "remember" the centrality of the wellbeing of our spirits.

And so we now have inherited many different facets of spiritual ritual to support us in our spiritual lives. I am aware that we all feel compelled to take very good care of our health and the wellness of our bodies (as we should), we consider it necessary, and it is, to continue to stretch our minds and intellects but we often feel that we don't need to put a full-hearted energy and commitment into growing our spirits.

One of the ways the church supports our growth in faith is by changing up the seasons. And with those seasonal changes, we can be stimulated to recognize that something different is going on. As you know we change liturgical colors to represent theological changes. White for Christmas and Easter, Green for the long season of Pentecost or Ordinary Times, blue or purple for Advent and certainly purple for Lent, oxblood for Maundy Thursday, and nothing, a bare stripped altar for Good Friday until Easter morning (or Saturday afternoon, not to be seen until Sunday morning). These of course are all "outward and visible signs of an inward grace." These are some of the ways we can get triggered to remember the stories, the times, and the seasons. Music, liturgical words and decorations are other ways that add to our seasonal awareness. We do not decorate the altars during Lent as a symbol, a call to attention, we observe Advent in preparation for the glories of Christmas. We have 60 days of flowers, white festive altar clothes and vestments – all signs to draw our attention and invite us to reflect on the meaning of the resurrection. Ancient rituals for timeless remembrances. Importantly, some of the messages have changed and grown, just as we are called to change and grow our thinking.

Lent no longer stresses an emphases on the punitive "giving up good things" but rather carries an invitation to take on some mindfulness practices that

...that might grow us and deepen our understanding of the mystery of God in Jesus and thus the joy and fulness of our lives. Do consider joining with your fellow parishioners in our Lenten Study of “A Season for the Spirit” by Martin Smith. I think we’ll not only grow but also enjoy ourselves! Our Ash Wednesday Service will invite us to a Holy Lent, no words of punishment or denial! This year will be quite different because I’m in Florida until Holy Week and so we will do some of our marking of the season via Zoom. All are welcome!

Lenten Study Group

Invitation to join Lenten Study Group on Zoom (Wed. Eve for 6 weeks) with Rev. Diane

Book: “A Season for the Spirit” –“Readings for the Days of Lent” by Martin L. Smith.

Ordering instructions: After you hit the Submit button on the Sign Up Page (Link Below), you'll see a page with instructions for where to order online.

This book is popular, it's LOW in stock. If you're books arrival date is after Feb. 21 Start day, we have a back up plan.

Nancy Sherman will be receiving a bunch of 2nd hand copies of this book at St. Johns over the next few weeks. These are yours for the borrowing. Email her directly if you need a copy nancysherm@gmail.com to pick up or to be mailed.

When: Wednesday evenings during Lent:
February 21, 28, March 6, 13 and 20 and maybe 27

Where: We will meet via Zoom (only) from 7pm – 8:15 to discuss what we’ve read during the week. Each day’s reading is no more than 3 pages and is often followed by suggestions for reflection.

Sign Up Here:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScq9rV-zKeF6H_kzFXuFNsgzyFhnOJm44hKYMIEmerTqRmSEw/viewform

Description of Format from Rev. Diane:

Everybody reads in the comfort of their own home “A Season for the Spirit” “Readings for the Days of Lent” by Martin L. Smith. He is the former Abbott of The Society of St. John of the Gospel in Boston, a Brit by birth and training, who left the monastery a number of years ago to move to D.C. and has become a well-known retreat leader and preacher. Books available on Amazon.

How can we really have a discussion on Zoom – easy! We can break into groups of 3 or 4 depending on how many folks we have and talk among

groups of 3 or 4 depending on how many folks we have and talk among ourselves, with some guiding questions with which to start. Then we'll gather altogether in the large group for final sharing and close our time with some bits from Compline.

I hope you can join in this exploration of growing our spirits during this year's Lent. Remember that the sign of a healthy spiritual community is laughter! We aim to have fun!

**Blessings to you all,
Diane**



Welcome Back, Lee

What an amazing surprise we had on Sunday morning when you quite literally rolled through the doors of our church and up the aisle to settle in a perfect spot by the piano where you could actively participate in the service. You sang, you prayed and you rejoiced that you were back with us once again. Your positive, cheerful outlook, combined with the love that you and Heather share with one another, has been at the core of your recovery. Even though it will be slow, you will get there. How can you not with all of us cheering you on!

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

After a hiatus during the pandemic this custom is being revived. Many thanks to Mike Smiles, Tomlin Coggeshall and Christopher Rice, Steve Rucker and

to Mike Simms, Tommie Coggshall and Christopher Rice, Steve Kucker and Jonathan Gillespie who have stepped forward to flip those pancakes and sausages onto our plates. Please mark your calendars for this festive and tasty gathering on Tuesday, Feb. 13 at 6 PM.

Prayers

For Those in Need or Any Kind of Distress

Geoffrey, Ella, Lois, John, Joyce, Abra, Beverly, Noa, Chris, Olivia, Larry, Steven, Tom, Karen, Sally, Lynne, Eve, Matt, Thomas, Frederick, Carolyn, Jim, Lee, Betsy, Arnold.

Prayer for the Bishop-Elect

Prayer for the Bishop-Elect. Eternal God, our Shepherd and Guide, we bless and thank you for your servant, Jeremiah, Bishop-Elect of your Episcopal Diocese of Albany.

By the working of your Holy Spirit grant him grace and every spiritual gift as he prepares to take up his role as our chief pastor and teacher. Make him a shepherd after your own heart, who will walk in your ways and watch over your people with loving care. Strengthen and guide him to lead in vision. Fill him with courage to teach your truth.

Prepare our hearts to welcome Father Jeremiah, Jennifer, Oscar, and Isaiah joyfully into our Diocesan community. Continue to purify our intentions, and lead us into holiness, that we may bear witness to your Son without shame or fear, in unity, humility, and mutual charity, devoted to your will for the good of the world.

Search Prayer

Dear Lord, grant us your wisdom and guidance as we embark upon our search process. Help us to humbly discern and accomplish your will for St. John's. We know this will be a challenging journey for all of us, but we pray that it will strengthen our faith and our respect and love for each other. Help us to share more deeply our faith in you as we learn to listen to each other with open hearts and minds and to hear your voice in all that we say and do. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

Welcome Corps

Our new official name is Lakeside Friends of Refugees and we share with AFRI a P.O. Box at the Willsboro Post Office. We have an account at the Champlain National Bank with an EIN number, which is required even though there are no employees, and we have checked the box that states that it is a "no-profit organization". The next step will be to begin the process that will enable Welcome Corps to become a 510(c3) organization.

Through the month of May, Linda Beers, Essex County Director of Public Health, is scheduling monthly zoom meetings to help us, as well as other Essex County health directors, fill out the State Department form for Welcome Corps as well as answering our questions. This will be immensely helpful as we fill in our on-line application for sponsorship.

Welcome Corps only deals with fully vetted refugees and we have requested two male refugees. At this time, we do not know when they will be arriving here. However, in anticipation of their arrival we ask you to consider putting aside any household items, including pots and pans, as well as a microwave and perhaps, chairs and tables, etc. for their use.

For donations, cheques can be made out to Lakeside Friends of Refugees. Mailing address is PO Box105, Willsboro, 12996. Thank you one and all for continuing support of this witness in love for all of our sisters and brothers.

Meal Train

A Message From Norma Goff

In the first round in January, I did not get in touch with all of you, as we had plenty of people signing up for each of the days designated on the Computer run Meal train, which was every other day. An e-mail from Heather indicated they would be thrilled to continue this through March if enough are willing to help. She also said that they very much enjoy the visits as well! I asked if they have a food preference, and she said no, they have liked everything, and have no food aversions.

She suggested that maybe people would just like to make whatever food might be their own favorite, but did ask us, if possible, to leave food in containers that don't need to be returned. If that isn't possible names need to be on containers. Please make enough for two people for one or possibly a second day, and list an entree, any other food like salad, bread, vegetable or dessert.

If you are already on for February, you do not need to sign up for March unless you wish to do so. Also, a reminder....you might also consider obtaining a meal or part of one from a local cafe or restaurant, as soups, breads, quiche and other foods and desserts are readily available.

I am attaching below an excel copy of who is scheduled for this month to date.

and adding blanks for future days so others may sign up if you so wish...but no one is required to participate, as not everyone likes to cook and not everyone has time! Because some had difficulty with going through passwords and getting on the computer run “Meal Train” set up, this is hopefully an easier version done by e-mail. All you need to do is reply to all , which includes me, give a date, listing what you think you might prepare, and I will sign you up for that date, as well as let others know. If we end up with two signed up for the same dates, I will get back to you to try to arrange a different one. I am not sure who really is desirous to take part, so have included a number of their friends and associates through shared events and boards. If you think of another at your church, group or among friends who might wish to help, please let me know, or pass this along. I will wait to add my name when I know what dates remain open.

Here is the url for the Excel spreadsheet.

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/?shva=1#inbox/FMfcgzGxRdsXlsvnxQhsdQXnLtZLfnvX?projector=1&messagePartId=0.1>

If you have a problem accessing this I would suggest that you contact Norma directly at normagoff13@gmail.com

“Jesus in Our Hearts Kids”

Even if only one child comes to our Service and then attend Sunday School after the Gospel is read, Rinda Foster and Bobbi Perez want to make them feel welcomed and a part of the St. John's community. Our” pop up” classes can accommodate ages 5-16 which we begin in a circle sharing where we share blessings and petitions, say the Lord's Prayer and lead a hands- on project. After returning to the sanctuary to receive communion we end our gathering by lighting a candle for a 2 minute meditation.

Although our numbers are thin right now we keep our supply corner stocked for that great day when a number of kids and parents discover this offering at our church.

HISTORY TIDBIT PART 13

[Note how often the minutes reflect physical plant problems with both the rectory and the chapel/church. The rectory was still relatively new so this is surprising.]

Essex N.Y. April 19th, 1895.

The Treasurer, Andrew J. Tucker, presented his report for the past year. Showing balance on hand, \$16.55. On motion, the Treasurer was authorized in his discretion to draw from the fund in the Bur: Savings Bank, an amount sufficient to pay for tuning the organ, about \$13.50. On motion Andrew J. Tucker, Treasurer: was authorized to have leak in roof repaired. On motion, Stephen D. Derby, Ervin G. Lyon, & C. M. DuBois were elected a committee to ascertain about a new carpet for the Chapel, & to report thereon to the Vestry.

Essex N.Y. Sept. 2nd, 1895

At an adjourned meeting of the Vestry of St. John's Church of Essex N.Y. held at the Chapel.

Rev: William N. Irish, presented his resignation as Rector of the Parish, & then retired.

S. D. Derby, Warden presiding.

On motion, resignation was duly accepted. Resignation hereto annexed.

On motion, S. D. Derby, A. J. B. Ross, & H. H. Knapp were appointed a committee to draft suitable resolutions to present to Rev: Wm. Irish, & publish in County paper.

On motion the Clerk was directed to inform the bishop of such resignation & acceptance, & to correspond with him about procuring a clergyman for this Parish.

(Insert: Resignation Letter from Rev. Wm. N. Irish – as follows)

"The Rectory" Essex N.Y.

Aug. 27, 1895.

To the Wardens and Vestrymen of St. John's Church Essex N.Y.

Dear Brethren

When the Bishop was here in June I told him that I intended to resign in October as Missionary in Essex and parts adjacent. After stating to him the reasons for leaving you he accepted my resignation, though he regretted the necessity for the step.

It now becomes my sad duty to place in your hands my resignation as Rector of St. John's Church which I have held for more than eleven years to date from October 1, 1895.

If I had no other reason to offer, my advanced age should be a sufficient one. In addition to this I find the care of even a small Parish too much for me at times; while the Mission at Willsborough, and a more thorough visitation of the Parishioners in the country require the energy of a younger and stronger man than I am.

I cannot part without wishing, most sincerely, for yourselves personally, your families, and the people you represent the manifold blessings of our Heavenly Father. You are all very dear to me, and I shall ever remember how uniformly good and kind and true you have been to me and mine.

Affectionately your sincere friend and Rector,

Wm N Irish

(Insert: Resolutions published in County Paper – as follows)

[It is interesting to see that a notice of this type was placed in the county newspaper although not surprising since the message reached the broadest audience by this means.]

Resolutions Adopted at a Meeting of St. John's Vestry, Held at Essex, N.Y., Sept. 20th, 1895.

We, the Wardens and Vestrymen of St. John's Church, of Essex, N.Y., being assembled do, in behalf of ourselves, and also the communicants and congregation of St. John's Church, hereby resolve:

That we deeply regret and deplore the fact that the infirmities of old age have caused our pastor, who has grown very dear to our hearts, to present his resignation to the Vestry.

That as an appreciation of his blessed and ever kind teachings, we trust that those who have been his constant care and attention may merit that great reward, which is the goal of every Christian ambition, and thereby reflect upon a most faithful discharge of his duties while here in Essex.

That the Christian work he has inaugurated, and so faithfully carried on, may continue, and be brought to a successful issue, to his great honor.

That we trust our beloved pastor carries away in his heart a love, as great and abiding, as we, his flock, feel this day in our hearts toward him; that in our best wishes and in our prayers, we bid him "Godspeed," trusting that those rich blessings. Which the Great Pastor so abundantly bestows may be his, and when the Master says come! he and his may enter into the eternal blessedness of a Heavenly home.

That these resolutions be entered upon the Church records and also published in our county papers.

St. John's Zoom Passcodes

St. John's Sunday Service

<https://www.stjohnsessexny.org/worshipmeet>

Morning Prayer

<https://www.stjohnsessexny.org/morning-prayer>

Vestry Meetings

<https://www.stjohnsessexny.org/vestrymeet>

Finance Committee

<https://www.stjohnsessexny.org/financemeet>

Buildings & Grounds Committee

<https://www.stjohnsessexny.org/bandgmeet>

Contemporary Bible Study

<https://www.stjohnsessexny.org/biblestudy>

Meditation

<https://www.stjohnsessexny.org/meditationmeet>

Sunday Service Zoom Recording

stjohnsessexnyzoom@gmail.com

Passcode: +W2t+Fwu

AA 12-Step Meeting

Zoom Meeting ID: 817 7797 4233

Passcode: 123456

Weekly Calendar

Tuesday Contemporary Bible Study (Zoom) 9:30 - 10:30 AM

Wednesday Meditation (Zoom/In Person) 4 PM

Thursday Morning Prayer (Zoom) 10 AM

Sunday Holy Eucharist 10 AM (Zoom/in person)

Sunday AA Meeting (Zoom/In Person) 7 PM

Your Vestry

Scottie Emery-Ginn and Bill Tribou (Wardens)
Louise Baietto, Bruce Hale, Diana Lawrence, Jon McBride
Bruce Stephan and Anne Zilch(Members)
Darcey Hale (Clerk)
Antonia Bullard (Treasurer)

St. John's Episcopal Church | 4 Church Street, Essex, NY 12936



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