

The Lampstand



A Periodic Newsletter of
Saint John's Episcopal Church-Niantic



"You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the **Lampstand**, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven."

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Winter

Season of Advent

2018....



Saint John's
Episcopal Church

Rector + Editor

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Daniel Holle

Jr. Warden

Dave Rutherford

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Pamela Graham

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Larry Basso

Kathy DiMaggio

Chester Fairlie

Elizabeth Kimble

Gina Lincoln

Dick Miller

Janice Nykyforchyn



"O, Come Let Us Adore Him"

St. John's Annual Children's Nativity Pageant

Our Annual Children's Nativity Pageant will be presented on the Fourth Sunday of Advent, **December 23rd at the 10:00 am** Eucharist. Our worship service that Sunday will begin with the pageant telling the ancient story of the Birth of Jesus in Bethlehem. Susan Worgul, Dir. of our Treble Choir, is again coordinating this wonderful tradition with the help of many volunteers. A 'post-Pageant' reception will be in the Parish Hall.

Christmas Eve & Christmas Day

5:30 pm - Christmas Eve

Christmas Eve at Saint John's will begin at **5:30 pm** with a "Christmas Eve Prelude of Carols" with organ, brass and choirs. Come and celebrate the Birth of Jesus with us and please invite your friends and family to join us.

6:00 pm - Christmas Eve

Christmas Eve celebrations continue at **6:00 pm** with the celebration of our Festival Holy Eucharist of the Incarnation. Joyous sounds of those familiar Christmas Carols will be accompanied by John Anthony on our amazing Tracker Organ and Steve Lyons, brass musician on trumpet along with St. John's Senior Choir and our Treble Choir. Our Christmas Eve mass will end with the congregation singing *Silent Night* by candlelight. Come and join us for this beautiful celebration with your family.



9:00 am - Christmas Day

Our Christmas Day service is at **9:00 am** with the celebration of Holy Eucharist of the Incarnation with organ and Christmas carols.



Christmas Memorial Flower Donations

Saint John’s Church Sanctuary is decorated each Christmas thanks to the generous contributions of parishioners and friends of the Parish who offer gifts in memory of loved ones, in thanksgiving for God’s blessings, and to honor the achievements and accomplishments of those whose lives are closely linked to ours. Contribution envelopes are placed throughout the church for your convenience. **Please return your Christmas Flower Memorial envelopes by Tuesday, December 18th** in time to be listed in our “Christmas Memorials” bulletin insert on Christmas Eve. We are happy to accept flower envelopes submitted *after* Dec.18; those gifts will be recognized on Dec. 30. It is due to the generosity of so many that we continue to be able to transform our worship space for this Holy Night each year.

Help Us Decorate for Christmas Eve after the Pageant

Final decorating for the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day liturgies will be done *following* our 10:00 am Eucharist on Sunday, Dec. 23rd, the 4th Sunday of Advent. Following our special post-Pageant Reception in the Parish Hall, join us in placing the “finishing touches” on our worship space for the celebration of the Nativity. We’re looking for help with moving ladders, tables and trees. We should be able to get this done in less than 45 minutes with enough help!



Notice Anything Different About “Masthead” of this Issue?

Editor’s Note: *I can’t recall when I first placed a random Photo collage on the “masthead” of The Lampstand.* Who got included in a collage of photos atop this Advent Issue depended simply on who I have photos of or photos that others have taken and have then shared them with me. **So, at the outset, let me say, if you don’t find your photo in this month’s photo collage, its not personal!!** I always encourage others to share with me the photos they’ve taken here at baptisms, fundraisers, special worship services and so many other events that occur throughout the year. The photo collage that makes up the “masthead” of this issue of *The Lampstand*, is made up photos of *just some* of our **wonderful women parishioners**, young and old, who are integral threads in the “tapestry” of our Common Life. It was such fun to ‘connect the dots’ of the images of these beautiful faces. This photo collage includes many faces (12) of those who have come to St. John’s in just the past four or five years. A “key” to the photos is included below. Before you spy the key, try to identify as many of the faces with their names. I hope you enjoy connecting with them in real life as we deepen our relationships in Christ here at St. John’s.

Photo Collage Masthead KEY:

top, from left to right: *The Editor:* Jessica Kimble, Elizabeth McKinnon, (*Barbara Johnson-Low’s daughter*) Lisa Bragaw, Pam McKernan, Amanda Murray, Julia King, Tianne Pape, Hannah Jones, (*the Rector’s granddaughter*), Margaret Howard, Pamela Graham, Laura Stefanski, Susan Steady, Sandy Marquis; Gina Lincoln, Danielle Nykyforchyn,, Erin (*Worgul*) Stankiewicz, Ella Murray, Jane Calkins, Roxandra Antoinaidis, Alice Helgeson, Leslie Sollima, Dr. Josephine Beebe, Rosemary Goss, Barbara Johnson-Low, Sheila Fenn, Megan Cordeau, Kathy DiMaggio, Cheryl Rutherford, Jan Bond.)

Volunteers Sought to Serve as Lectors, Ushers and Intercessors

There are always opportunities for parishioners to serve on Sunday at both the 8:00 am and 10:00 am Eucharists as Lectors, Ushers/Greeters and Intercessors. Please speak to Father Tony if you are interested.

Parents and Grandparents

Children from third grade up are invited to serve on Sunday as Acolytes. Service includes being a torchbearer, crucifer and Gospel Book bearer. Please speak to Father Tony.



The Traditions of Advent



The liturgical Season of Advent which we began this past Sunday is observed by Anglicans as a time of expectant waiting and preparation. The term Advent comes from the Latin “*adventus*”, a translation of the Greek word *parousia*, often used to refer to the Second Coming of Christ. Advent begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas and marks the beginning of a **new** liturgical year in the Church. Observances includes blessing and lighting an Advent Wreath, as we light one candle at the beginning of each week in Advent. Each week another candle, with a specific ‘theme’: 1] Hope, 2) Peace, 3) Joy 4) Love. Traditionally, there are five candles in the Advent Wreath: three purple or violet candles, one rose candle, and the white “Christ Candle” lit on Christmas Eve. The use of the color violet or purple in Advent signifies expectation and anticipation of the coming of the King of Peace. In antiquity, purple pigment used in the textile trade was produced from secretions from a tiny snail. It took thousands of snails to produce sufficient pigment to color just one garment which explains why it has long been associated with royalty-ie. Christ the King.

A Community Service of Remembrance and Hope

Outreach by St. John’s Parish and the Dagle Foundation



A community service of remembrance and hope will be celebrated here at St. John’s on Sunday, December 16th at 3:00 pm. The Brian Dagle Foundation, founded by Paul and Ann Dagle following their son Brian’s suicide, offers healing, hope and support to those grieving the loss of loved ones. The service is a collaborative effort of St. John’s and the Dagle Foundation. To many who have lost loved ones, the holidays are a particularly difficult time both emotionally and spiritually. The readings and hymns will reflect the themes of *Remembrance and*



Hope. Please join us and light a candle to remember and give thanks for the loved and lost in your own family.

Cancellation Protocols During Winter Storms

This Winter, as in years past, St. John’s will post Cancellation Announcements on these T.V. Channels:



WVIT 4
FOX 61
WFSB 3
WTNH 8



EVENT BEING CANCELLED

Sunday Holy Eucharist
Evening A.A. & other 12-Step Meetings
Wednesday Healing Eucharist
Funeral or Memorial Holy Eucharist
Vestry Eucharist & Meeting
Morning A.A. & other 12-Step Meetings
Evening Parish Events
Parish Office Hours

TIME CANCELLATION POSTED

No later than Sunday - 6:00 am
No later than 12:00 o’clock Noon, that day
No later than 6:00 am
No later than 6:00 am day of the service
No later than 12:00 o’clock Noon, that day
No later than 6:00 am
No later than 12:00 o’clock noon, that day
No later than 6:00 am

When Winter Storms Occur & Cancellations are Announced:

Please **DO NOT CALL THE PARISH OFFICE** for cancellation information.



NO PARKING ON CHURCH PROPERTY during Storm Cancellations,
-Please allow our Snow Removal Contractor to do their job.

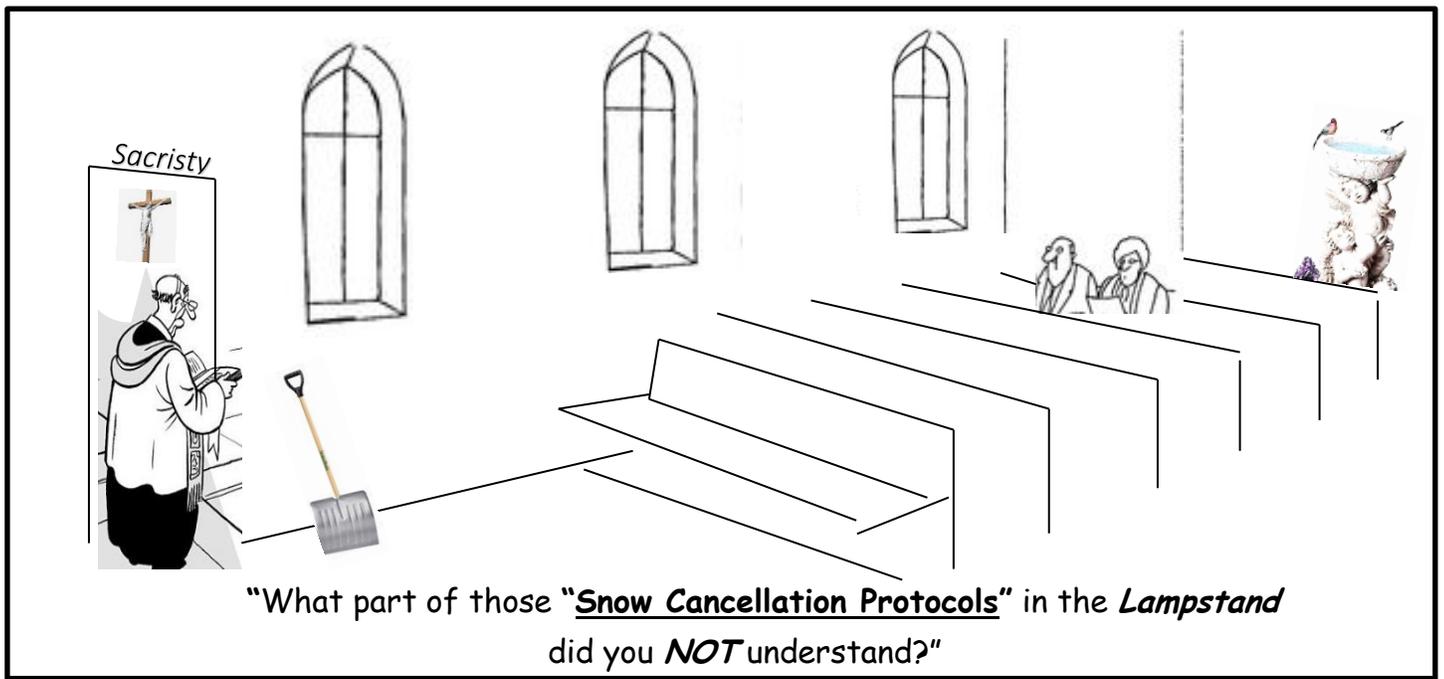


Can’t find a “St. John’s Cancellation” on your favorite T.V. station? **Try another channel.**

Please **DO NOT CALL THE RECTOR** for cancellation information.

When **no cancellation is posted BUT** it “looks bad” – **ROLL OVER AND GO BACK TO SLEEP**

~~~~~cut out and post~~~~~



## An Epiphany Festival of Lessons and Carols



### A Community Celebration - 3:00 pm Sunday, January 6

The Feast of Epiphany, January 6<sup>th</sup> celebrates the revelation of God incarnate as Jesus Christ. The “epiphany event” closely associated with this Major Christian Feast is recorded in the Gospel of Matthew:



*Wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking*

*“Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews?*

*For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.” -Matthew 2:1-12*

St. John’s is hosting this Service of Lessons and Carols and invitation have gone out to our neighboring Christian faith communities in the wider community. The service includes Choral Anthems, Hymns, and readings from Holy Scripture. A reception with light refreshments will follow in the Narthex. Please contact the Office if you would like to volunteer to be a Reader.

Just ONE Service on Sunday, December 30<sup>th</sup>

**PLEASE MAKE A NOTE OF THIS**

There will be **JUST ONE SERVICE**

of HOLY EUCHARIST

at 10:00 am - Dec. 30<sup>th</sup>

THERE WILL BE **NO 8:00am Service**

Our Regular Sunday Schedule Returns

January 6, 2019 @ 8 & 10

