



The Eagle's Voice

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

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December 2015

Merry Christmas

Imagine the meeting of two pregnant women: one married, old, worn down with waiting and hoping and praying for a son, and chosen; the other young, pregnant, unmarried, afraid, virgin, also chosen. Imagine the day they met, standing on a hill, looking into each other's eyes, scared, puzzled, happy, and so excited they were probably both talking at the same.

Elizabeth must have felt like leaping for joy but couldn't manage it at nine months. But her baby could as John jumped inside his mother's womb. Imagine, two women meeting, both wondering why me. What a story they both had to tell.

Mary sang her story, beginning: "My soul magnifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior. For he has regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden. For behold from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed. For he that is mighty hath magnified me, and holy is his Name."

The Lord is full of surprises and often they are not easy, nor do they always make sense, but they are always full of wonder and light. God is faithful. And he calls his people to be faithful and trust in him, in all circumstances. That's what Mary and Elizabeth did.

On November 29, the Church entered the season of Advent and for the next 26 days we are meant



to devote time in prayer and contemplation, pondering the great mysteries of God, thinking about his story and how we are a part of that story. One of the greatest mysteries is that he has chosen you and me to be his faithful servants, to love and worship him, to sing our songs of praise and thanksgiving, and to tell our stories so others can know him and his Son. Perhaps a good Advent devotion is to read the Magnificat daily and let Mary's song carry you up to new heights of praise and worship. Have a blessed Advent and Holy Christmas and remember you are in my prayers. I hope to see you at St. John's soon. God bless!

Mother Gerry +

Annual Meeting

The Annual meeting of St. John's Church will be held Sunday, December 13, 2015 immediately following the 9:30 Service

Agenda

Annual Meeting

Rector's Report

Senior Warden Report

Finance

2015-Budget Comparison
11/30/15 Balance Sheet
Preliminary 2016 Budget

Buildings & Grounds

Building Update

Old Business

New Business
Election of Junior 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.

Don't forget to bring in a can good for our food pantry drive.

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 20th to be included in the list of flower memorials.

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



Christmas Schedule

Advent IV

December 20, 2015
9:30 AM

followed by hanging of the greens

Christmas Eve

December 24, 2015

6:45 PM - Carol Sing

7:00 PM - Candlelight service

Merry Christmas!

St. John's Church

2016 Pledge

Name: _____

Envelope #: _____

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

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