



The Eagle's Nest

St. John's Episcopal Church December 2017

Padre's Pen

Happy New Year! Yes, the calendar year will change in another month, but December has brought us to the new Church Year. We get to hear the Gospel of Mark for the better part of the coming year at our Sunday Eucharist. In Advent, we are beginning to prepare ourselves for the Celebration of our Lord's miraculous birth that Holy Night in Bethlehem. 2017 has been a year of ups and downs (as most years are if we look more closely). As Christians we are Easter people. Each Sunday is a little Easter for us. As Anglicans we are also people of the Incarnation. Thus, Advent has a special place in our Church year.

This Advent we can take time to prepare for the celebration of the Incarnation of our Lord Jesus as we wait in expectant hope for his Second Advent, his second coming in power and great Glory. Please make use at home of the Advent Devotionals that we have available to help us prayerfully prepare for the Seasons of Christmas and Epiphany.

The members of St. John's have made me proud by the response to the outreach projects for Dove and the women's prison, by stepping forward to assist with the Judy Mason Thanksgiving project as a large group and by filling the requested routes for the Meals on Wheels in November. St. John's covered ten routes during the second week of the month taking food to many in need. It is always good to be able to support charitable causes with the donations that are

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Upcoming Events

December 9th –

9:00a - Altar Guild Cleaning

10:00a - Church Greening

December 10th – Lessons & Carols

4:30p

December 24th - Holy Eucharist 6p

Carols 9:30p; Holy Eucharist 10p

December 25th - Holy Eucharist 9a

See Mark Your Calendars (p. 3) and News Flash and Updates (p. 5) for more details

Diocese of Springfield

Bishop

The Rt. Rev. Daniel H. Martins

Staff

Rector: Rev. Richard Swan
rector@saintjohnsdecatur.org

Deacon: Rev. Donald Coventry
dncvnt@aol.com

Secretary: Mrs. LaVetta Williams
secretary@saintjohnsdecatur.org

Finance Director: Tom Ames

Treasurer: John Byler

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collected, but it is also a witness to our faith to step out and physically engage ourselves in the ministries that touch so many lives at this time of the year. This community presence can have as much an effect upon our future growth as anything else we may do.

As we continue to be the traditional worship space readily available in Decatur that can be open and accessible, we have a challenge ahead of us. Our recent stewardship campaign had a good response, but is still about \$20,000 less in giving than the 2017 pledges were. Therein lies a challenge for us to commit to an ongoing presence in downtown Decatur. Many have commented on the “feeling” of the presence of the Holy Spirit, on the beauty of our worship, the wonderful music with a great choir. It would be a shame to have to pare back on operating fund items. Please look at your giving level and respond if you have not gotten your pledge in to the committee.

I am still convinced that St. John's has a bright future here in Decatur. As a couple of guys said in their ads in the 1980's, “We appreciate your support!”

In Christ's love, Fr. Swan

Mission Leadership Team

Hye-Seung Byler
 Stephen Chadwick
 Dee Coventry
 Betsy Curlin
 Jane Gucker- Senior Warden
 Dick McCullough
 JoAnna McCullough - Clerk of the Leadership Team
 Jim Peoples - Junior Warden
 Kathy Phillips
 Melissa Rhodes

St. John's Yoga Veteran's Day Project



This photo is from the Yoga Veteran's Day Fundraiser on the 9th of December. Yoga instructor Kathleen Owen donated \$110.00 to the Oasis Soup Mission fund that is run by Tom Gregory. Kathleen received an anonymous to match her donation so she was able to donate a total of \$220.

Outreach

If you have a need for us to cook for you, please let Marv know so we can activate a site for you. Also if you would like to be added to the list of those who cook, please let me (Marv) know.

NOTE: We are still gathering food items on Sunday for NE Community Fund. Please remember to bring an item with you. It is so easy if you just throw an extra item in your cart when shopping for yourself. Items most needed are: peanut butter, cereal, canned meats, canned “meals”, cereal, rice, beans.

Favorite Recipe Corner

3 pkgs raspberry jello
 3 c boiling water
 pinch salt
 1 pkg frozen raspberries (thaw and use juice)
 1 c applesauce

Mix altogether and mold.

Dressing:

½ pkg miniature marshmallows
 1 c sour cream

Mix and let stand overnight. Whip with a mixer and color with a drop or two of food coloring, if desired.

NOTE: Just before our family moved from Belvidere, IL to Decatur in January of 1960, we were invited to the home of Larry and Donna Kleber for a farewell dinner. This was the salad she served and I loved it so much that I asked her for the recipe. I was 13 years of age at the time.

Submitted by Mary Peters

Potato Leek Soup

"A creamy soup with a strong leek flavor. Goes wonderfully with sourdough bread. Tastes even better heated up the next day."

Ingredients

- 1/2 cup butter
- 2 leeks, sliced
- salt and pepper to taste
- 1 quart chicken broth
- 1 tablespoon cornstarch (more if you prefer broth to be thicker)
- 4 cups red or Yukon Gold potatoes, peeled and diced
- 2 cups milk

Directions

1. In a large pot over medium heat, melt butter. Cook leeks in butter with salt and pepper until tender, stirring frequently, about 15 minutes.

2. Stir cornstarch into broth and pour broth into pot. Add the potatoes and bring to a boil. Season with salt and pepper. Pour in the cream, reduce heat and simmer at least 30 minutes, until potatoes are tender. Season with salt and pepper before serving.

Submitted by Mary Peters

Mark Your Calendars

There is a calendar of events listed on the bulletin board in the Parish Hall for the month. The sign-up sheet for flowers and the Sanctuary Candle is on the bulletin Board outside the Nave in the Cloister.

Church Greening – Saturday, December 9th at 10:00 AM

Altar Guild cleaning for Christmas – Saturday, December 9th at 9:00 AM

Lessons and Carols – Sunday, December 10th at 4:30 PM with a light reception to follow

Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Holy Eucharist Celebration schedule:

December 24th – Advent 4 Morning Eucharist – 9:00 AM only – Rite II

December 24th – Christmas Eve – 6:00 PM Eucharist and 9:30 PM Carols with 10:00 PM Eucharist immediately following

December 25th – Christmas Day – 9:00 AM

Next Mission Leadership Team Meeting

The next MLT meeting will be Wednesday, December 20th following the 6:00 PM Eucharist.

Mission Leadership Team Meeting Highlights

Jane reported that the Evensong was cancelled – no heat in the Nave and although we had Eucharist in the Parish Hall that morning, the Hall would not have worked for Evensong; she has completed the installation of the donated TVs. Jim was elated to announce that we have heat! There was a problem with the circulating pump on the boiler which is why we did not have heat on Sunday the 12th. Burdick's did replace the inner boiler and they are checking with the manufacturer regarding the fact that it only lasted 12 years. We discussed the upcoming budget, stewardship and the basic financial crisis. It was determined by the MLT that we should not lock the door closest to the West side of the parking lot. The ushers watch that door and we want to be welcoming. All other doors do get locked at 10:00 am.

Serving Opportunities

Any interested youth or adult over the age of ten interested in becoming an Acolyte, please contact James Keith or Father Swan.

New Web Verger

A big thank you to Jane Gucker for volunteering to be our "Web Verger."

Education Opportunities

ADULT STUDY

Friday Bible Study continues at 10 AM on Friday in the Guild Room. They continue to study the book of Genesis.

Sunday Adult Study: For the second quarter of Sunday School, we'll be reading through some of Galatians together, but with a bit of a twist. We'll also be reading alongside Luther using his commentary on Galatians to add his voice - the good and the bad - to our own conversations.

For all those who are interested in participating, Luther's commentary can be found electronically (and freely) here: https://www.amazon.com/Commentary-Epistle-Galatians-Martin-Luther-ebook/dp/B004TPTXX2/ref=sr_1_14?s=digital-text&ie=UTF8&qid=1509589417&sr=1-14&keywords=luther+galatians.

You can also buy a paperback copy by following the same link if you'd prefer. I do hope you'll join us.

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

Julie Keith is leading the class.



News Flash & Updates

Deondre Gregory was named to the All State High School Football Team! His football skills excelled with a plethora of touchdowns to lead the Maroa Forsyth Trojans to the State playoffs. To date (11/21/17) he has rushed for 1502 yards and scored 28 touchdowns! A quote from his coach borrowed from the Herold and Review: "He's a little guy, so you don't look at him and think a lot about power," Maroa coach Josh Jostes said. "But he's a very physical kid. He's not overly fast but he's fast enough and his balance and his vision are off the charts."



Church Greening – Saturday, December 9th at 10:00 AM

Altar Guild cleaning for Christmas – Saturday, December 9th at 9:00 AM

Lessons and Carols – Sunday, December 10th at 4:30 PM with a light reception to follow

Fundraising dinner for the Salvation Army at the Decatur Club on Thursday, December 14th. The next two days is the "Guns and Hoses" challenge, so first responders will be honored. The event will be catered by: The Beachhouse, The Gin Mill, Paco's Bistro, Robbies and The Taproot. Each will supply a "Signature Dish".

(There will be a cash bar available) That results in 100% going to the Salvation Army Red kettle campaign (Club and restaurants donating). One table is full and Lynn Currie is looking to fill a second table.

Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Holy Eucharist Celebration schedule:

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December 24th – Christmas Eve – 6:00 PM Eucharist and 9:30 PM Carols with 10:00 PM Eucharist immediately following

December 25th – Christmas Day – 9:00 AM

God willing, we will have an Ordination here at St. John's on Thursday, January 25th at 6:30 PM. Chris Gregory will be ordained to the Diaconate.

Oasis Thursday Soup. Tom Gregory continues to make soup for Oasis on Thursday. He has asked us to clean out our spice cabinets for any spices we no longer use. It does not matter if they are old, he can still use them. Please bring them to the kitchen in the Parish Hall.

We are trying to form a Lay Pastoral Care Committee. If you are interested, please contact Fr. Swan.

FUTURE EVENTS:

St. John's Patronal Feast – December 27th – Potluck

Annual Meeting – January 21st, 2018

Ordination – January 25th, 2018

Bishop's annual visit – February 4th, 2018

Birthdays

- 1st- Chris Dodson
- 2nd- Elizabeth Phillips
- 5th- Deondre Gregory
- 6th- Deroan Peters
- 8th- Tom Ames
- 13th- Eli Pilger
- 16th- Sarah Dodson
- 20th- Betty Boyd
Michael Koshinski
- 29th- Don Coventry
- 31st- Sharon Phillips



Photos



St. John's crew at the Judy Mason Thanksgiving Basket Project. Sis McDonald arrived after the picture was taken.

Holy Days in December

Every Wednesday at 6:00 pm and Saturday at 7:30 am we meet for Eucharist. It is our custom to honor a memorable figure in the life of the Church down through the ages. For December, we will give thanks to God for these faithful servants:

Saints Days for December:

Wednesdays

- December 6 Nicolas of Myra
- 13 St. Lucy
- 20 Ember Day
- 27 St. John

Saturdays

- December 2 St. Andrew, Apostle
- 9 Ambrose of Milan
- 16 Votive of the Incarnation
- 23 St. Thomas
- 30 The Holy Innocents



St. John's having Sunday Eucharist in the Parish Hall when the furnace wasn't working.



St. John's supporting Deondre Gregory at one of his playoff games.

AN ADVENT FESTIVAL OF

Lessons AND Carols

A traditional church service
blending music and scripture

Sunday · December 10th

4:30 P.M.

at



Admission is free

A reception will follow with light food

130 W. Eldorado St.
Decatur, IL
SaintJohnsDecatur.org
217-428-4461



CHRISTMAS
BEGINS WITH

Christ

Christmas Eve

6:00 P.M. Service

9:30 P.M. Carols

10:00 P.M. Service

Christmas Day

9:00 A.M. Service



130 West Eldorado Street
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