

St. John's Announcements

October 8, 2023

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Wiley Miller – Non Sequitur. 2017



Today we are celebrating the Feast of St. Francis. Because St. Francis had such a loving relationship with the natural world, it has become a tradition for the church to offer blessings on pets and other beloved animals. Blessing farm animals and other wildlife is certainly older than Francis. During Rogation days, and especially during the long processions through the parish neighborhoods, all kinds of animal and plant life was blessed. Though there is certainly no theological or liturgical reason to not bless pets and other beloved animal life during Rogation Day, the blessing of pets, especially, has migrated over to St. Francis day. St. Francis day is now widely celebrated in Episcopal Churches throughout the country. Since this has occurred, it probably makes sense to break up the blessing of animal life to today's liturgy. The 10:00 will have the Blessing of the Animals Liturgy. It is not always the smoothest service, but that is part of the tradition. St. Francis was the inventor of the Nativity Play, or Christmas Pageant. He insisted on using live animals, and it was not unusual for the sheep to begin munching on the hay in the baby Jesus' crib. The God of scripture clearly has a sense of humor, so I encourage you to find the joy in this liturgy – even if things go awry.

Blessings, Marc

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Wednesday Eucharist
10/11 @ 10:30am

Chili Challenge and
Cookout
10/14 @ 4:30pm

Happy Birthday!

Evelyn Clarke
Keith Morehouse

Hawkwing Outreach - It's that time of year again for our annual collection for our brothers and sisters on the reservation! There are many ways that you can help:

- Toys for boys and girls in the \$10-\$12 range for ages 5-10 and no batteries. These will be given at The Great Give Away in December.
- To help with the brutal winter cold, we will accept only new and gently used clean winter coats for all ages. Kids sizes are especially in need.
- Sunday, October 22nd will be the special money collection for the reservation food banks. If you would like to give money for either toys or the food bank, please make your checks out to Hawkwing and write on the memo line either toys or food bank.
- Any questions, please call Terri at 860.644.5892.
- Please find more information at www.hawkwing.org.

Bins in the Narthex – There are bins in the Narthex collecting the following items:

- Toys for boys and girls
- Gently used coats.

Thank you for your donations!

Calling all Chili cooks and BBQ lovers! - Saturday, October 14th @ 430pm the Men's Ministry will be hosting a Cookout and Chili Challenge! This event is to raise money for local food security charities including MACC and Corner Stone. Tickets will be sold in the Narthex. Sign up if you think your chili recipe will win!

Assorted Nut Sales – Nancy Simon will be collecting Assorted Nut Sale order forms. Due date for all sales is Sunday, October 15th. Order forms will be in the back of the church. Please contact Nancy Simon for any questions – 860-978-0198/nancysimon@att.net

Tree of Light – Join us in making our Tree of Light shine bright this holiday season. Order forms will be in the back of the church. Due date for forms is Sunday, November 19th. Please contact Linda Borovicka, Kimmie Farrell, or Bethany Chanthavisouk for any questions.

Gift Card Sales - Gift Cards are available for purchase. Order forms will be available in the Narthex. The last day to turn your order in is Sunday, November 5th. Gift cards will be distributed on Sunday, November 12th at both services. Please leave your order form in either the drop file in the Narthex in Bill Francis's file or deliver them to Christina in the office. You can also mail the order form to Bill Francis at 41 Pinnacle Rd., Vernon, CT. 06066. 860-872-2044. Please consider buying a gift card to replenish grocery cards for our in-house food ministry, or you can donate the gift cards to our Holiday Bazaar raffles. They also make great gifts for Thanksgiving and Christmas. Thank you for your continued generosity.

Save the Date – Holiday Bazaar will be Saturday, November 18th from 9am – 2pm. More details to follow!

Bible Study - Our weekly Bible study begins this week with a study of the Prophet Daniel. Daniel is the last of the greater prophets, and it focusses on a later period in our Old Testament. It contains some of the best-known stories in scripture like Daniel and the Loins' Den, as well as, apocalyptic literature much closer in genre and tone to the Book of Revelation. If you have been reading the Bible your whole life or never cracked one open, you are most welcome to join our Wednesday Bible Study at 12:30. We are going to try a hybrid bible study meeting both through Zoom and in the Parish Hall. If you would like a Zoom invitation, please reach out to Father Marc. Anyone can come in-person at any time.