

St. John's Announcements

December 8, 2024



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Tree of Light



Dear Parishioners,
Sunday, December 15th, we commemorate Advent III. It is a Rose, or Refreshment, Sunday. The other Rose Sunday is Lent IV. Anglican tradition has dubbed that day Mothering Sunday – the Church's Mother's Day. The Rose Sunday in Advent does not have many Anglican traditions (other than the rose color for the day), but we do have the Italian tradition of the Blessing of the *Bambinelli*. Parishioners are encouraged to bring up the baby Jesus from their home nativity scenes to be blessed after the Eucharist. This is a way of tying our corporate worship life to our private family devotions. It is a simple blessing, but I encourage you to participate.

Blessings,
Marc

UPCOMING EVENTS:
12/11- Eucharist @
10:30am

Happy Anniversary!
David & Kimmie Farrell

Happy Birthday!
James Simon
Roxie Farrell

St. John's Toy Drive - Asking for new, unwrapped toys for boys and girls, ages infant to 12 yrs. old. We are donating to Vernon, Manchester, and East Hartford Fire Departments. There is a table at the Tree of Life for the collection. We are accepting CASH donations; if you would like us to shop for you. Also looking for volunteers to sort and deliver the toys. Santa says thanks for the help! Any questions please contact John Horan (860-578-6412), Joy Dorin (860-614-8183) Terri Sessions (860) 644-5892

Learning to tell our Story: A Coffee Hour Formation Series - We will have two special post-service formation periods on Advent II (December 8th) and Advent III (December 15th). Both Sundays, we will gather in St. Mary's Hall immediately following both Eucharists. We will have coffee, tea, and light refreshment. We will gather together in tables and be given a couple of questions to ponder. While this is a time of sharing, no one will be asked to do anything they are not comfortable in doing. Passing completely on a question will be respected. Having said this, Christians are called to be witnesses to the faith. Witnessing to the way God moves through our lives is an important part of evangelism and church growth. The object of this two-week period, and others to follow, is not to have a bigger church (though that is not a bad thing), it is to get more in tune with our life of faith and to reinforce our ability to share that story. I have heard from you, and experienced in my own life, that, even for secular people, hearing the story of God's work can be a welcome narrative in a world so filled with troubling events and despair. I know Episcopalians have not been good at this over that last 100 years, but it is something on which, I believe, we can improve.

Blessings, *Marc*

The Continued life of St. John's, East Hartford

Beginning with the feast of St. Mary back in August, we will now regularly remember those communities of faith who have merged, or joined, with St. John's. We will celebrate these communities who still very much live on in the DNA of our current community. I like the idea of focusing on the feast day of the church, but even I am not so stubborn not to realize the challenges of St. John's feast day being December 27th. We will honor St. John's, East Hartford's life and vibrancy on Advent IV (this year December 22nd). On this day, we will show off a few of the artifacts of St. John's and I will be visiting the archivist at diocesan HQ to comb through their records. I hope you are able to come to a special coffee hour on December 22nd to see and hear some of the stories of this faithful community.

Christmas Service Schedule:

- 12/22 - Blue Christmas Service - 5pm
- 12/24 - Christmas Eve Services: 5pm & 10:30pm
- 12/25 -Christmas Day Service: 9am with Bishop Laura