



THE BELLRINGER

SAINT LUKE'S CHURCH

FOREST HILLS, NEW YORK

DECEMBER 2016

An Early Christmas

Advent Greetings to All,

Usually, this time of year, especially in church, people receive a combination of guidelines designed to suggest ways in which one can take time and wait—pondering a deeper meaning of the Nativity of our Savior rather than to be caught up in the many expressions of the Christmas rush.

Well, this time, I would like to celebrate an early Christmas by highlighting a quality of the people of Saint Luke's Church. You exhibit this virtue year-round, but it is especially evident in the weeks between Thanksgiving and Christmas: your concern for fellow humanity and your generosity in responding to human need. I am referring to your support of two projects in particular—the Outreach Thanksgiving Sale and the Jesse Tree Project.

Each November, the fundraising for our annual outreach grant reaches a high point with a very successful Thanksgiving Bake Sale and Pie Order program. Though the totals are not official yet, it looks like your weekend efforts raised approximately \$1,000 for Hour Children, a worthy program that works with incarcerated women and their children.

And there will be one final fundraiser on Sunday, December 11 when fresh-cut holly from the church grounds will be available for purchase. Then before year's end, Hour Children will receive a Christmas gift from Saint Luke's -- a check for the whole year's fundraising.

Now, in early December, we are focused on the Jesse Tree project—holiday gifts for children served by the Queens Community House. 100 children are in need. Though there are still

ornaments on the tree in the narthex, representing those children, I know that parishioners will make certain they are all claimed this coming Sunday. Then, with the children's gifts brought to church by Sunday, December 11, many area families will have an early Christmas indeed because of your good deed, your gift of giving.

That's real stewardship: allowing your resources to overflow in the direction of people who are less fortunate. You make it clear to a world in need what it means to keep Christ in Christmas:

Feed the hungry, clothe the naked, forgive the guilty, welcome the stranger and the unwanted child, care for the ill, and love your enemies.

It is never too early to celebrate the birth of Christ in the hearts of people—to give out of one's love for the building up of goodness and joy.

Peace,



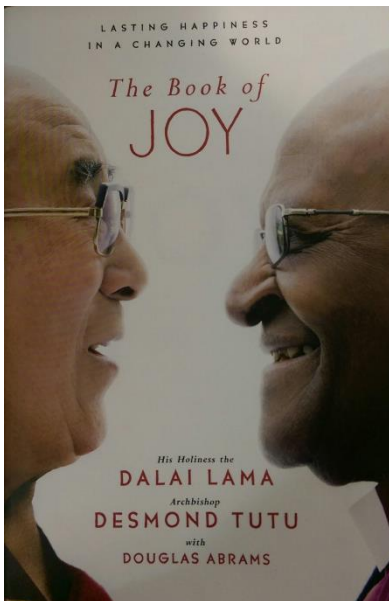
November Baptism

On November 6, we welcomed James Robert Nyberg into the fellowship of Christ's body, the Church through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. Please keep James and his parents, Christopher and Laura, in your prayers.



**Auditions for "Seussical,"
Gingerbread Players' Spring Musical,
Sunday, December 4 from 1:00 to 3:00pm**
For more details, contact director Jean
Tessier jtessier1126@hotmail.com.

**Saint Luke's Advent Series
Wednesday Evenings at 7:30pm
December 7 and 14
THE BOOK OF JOY**



Each evening begins with Advent Vespers followed by dessert, hot beverages, and a presentation and discussion on *Joy*. Even if you missed the first session on November 30, you are welcome to attend on the 7th and 14th.



**Forest Hills Choir presents
Rossini's Petite Messe Solennele
Saturday, December 10, 7:30pm**

This season's opening concert, conducted by Todd Wachsman, will take place at Our Lady of Mercy Roman Catholic Church, 70-01 Kessel Street, Forest Hills. Saint Luke's own Olivia Smith is a featured soloist, and the choir includes many Saint Luke's choristers. Come support Forest Hills' own community choir, and treat yourself to a superlative musical experience.



A Saint Luke's Holiday Tradition...

...is the sale of holly and greenery from Saint Luke's own front yard. You can brighten your home for the holidays with seasonal beauty, and benefit our Outreach Grant recipient, Hour Children, at the same time. The bouquets will be available Sunday, December 11 at hospitality hour in the parish hall.



***Jesse Tree Project:
GIFTS DUE December 11***

By giving gifts to children through the Queens Community House, we provide holiday cheer for needy families. The tree in the narthex is decorated with ornaments made by our Church School children. Each ornament contains the name and age of a child who needs some extra love. Take one or more ornaments, then write your name and phone or email on the master list next to the name(s) you are taking. **DON'T LOSE THE ORNAMENT** -- you will need to use it for a gift tag. Please take an ornament, purchase your gift, wrap it, **attach the ornament**, and return it to Saint Luke's Sunday, December 11.

A few hints: electronic games and gift cards are good for teenagers. If you buy clothing, err on the large side; if you're not sure about your purchase, enclose a gift receipt in the package.



***Youth Group Game Night
and "Secret Santa"***

Saint Luke's Youth Group will gather on Friday, December 16 from 7:00 to 9:30pm in the lower parish hall. Supper, board games, conversation, and a *Secret Santa* exchange of gifts make for a great holiday evening!



Church School Advent Pageant **Sunday, December 18**

This year's pageant, directed by Dolly and Louise Guinther, will be presented during the 10:30 Holy Eucharist on December 18. All boys and girls of Saint Luke's church school are invited and encouraged to participate. Rehearsals will take place on Sunday, December 4 and Sunday, December 11 following the 10:30 liturgy, and on Saturday morning, December 17, time to be determined.



Christmas Caroling and Potluck Supper

Sunday, December 18

All Saint Luke's church family and friends are warmly invited to come join the fun on December 18. We'll gather in the parish hall at 4:45, drop off our contributions for the supper, then proceed to make a joyful noise around the neighborhood at 5:00. (You might want to bring a flashlight to read the music – it gets dark early these days!) We'll return to the church for supper at 6:30. If you'd rather not sing, just show up with your dish to share, welcome the carolers on their return, and stay for an evening of food and fellowship.

Please indicate on the signup sheets in the narthex or parish hall what you'll be bringing – main dish, side, salad, or dessert.



Nominating Committee Report

This year's nominating committee is comprised of Chairperson Brian Percival (Warden), Michael Papamihalis (Vestry) and Ann Espenschied (parishioner-at-large). At Saint Luke's Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 22, 2017, the committee will present the slate of candidates to fill the following offices:

- 1 Warden (2-year term)
- 4 Vestry members (3-year terms each)

The Warden and current Vestry members whose terms expire are Velma Adams, Warden (ineligible for re-election); Vestry members Chris Dippel, Joanna Friedman and Jeanine McPartlin (ineligible for re-election, each having served two consecutive terms), and Jyri Laatikainen (eligible for re-election).

If you have a parishioner recommendation for Vestry service, please speak with a member of the nominating committee. Qualifications include being at least 18 years of age, baptized, active in and supportive of parish life and ministry for at least the past year.



CHRISTMAS GREENERY AND POINSETTIAS

Your offerings provide evergreens and poinsettias to beautify our church for worship during the Christmas season. So that your memorials and thanksgivings may be included in the Christmas worship leaflet, please complete the form below and send it along with your check to reach the parish office by **Sunday, December 18**.

Gift of Greenery
In memory of...

In thanksgiving for...

Your name: _____



Christmas at Saint Luke's

Christmas Eve, Saturday, December 24:

***4:00pm - Crèche Service and Christmas Story
for young Children***

10:00pm - Festival Choral Holy Eucharist

Christmas Day, Sunday, December 25:

***10:00am - Holy Eucharist with Organ and
Hymns***

PLEASE NOTE that although Christmas Day is a Sunday, we will not follow a Sunday schedule -- only one liturgy at 10:00am.



December Birthdays and Anniversaries

- 2 Aleyamma Varghese
- 2 Jim Chamberlain
- 7 Jim VanWestering
- 8 Paris Singh
- 12 Anne Harte Su
- 13 Barbara Glick
- 15 Emily Taylor and Guennadi Boiko (A)
- 16 Jonathan Wallin
- 16 Siew Kwok
- 20 Vanessa Franqui
- 22 Brian Percival
- 26 Vincent LaDuca
- 27 Gert Hounsell
- 27 Giselle Bates
- 27 Mickey Zacarias
- 27 Grant Tyrell
- 29 Jennifer Saver
- 29 Varghese and Aleyamma Varghese (A)
- 30 Kenneth Portz
- 30 Declan Hoyt Bowman

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The Very Rev. Thomas F. Reese, Rector