



THE BELLRINGER

SAINT LUKE'S CHURCH

FOREST HILLS, NEW YORK

May 2018

Loneliness in America

Dear Friends,

We are quick to think of loneliness as a sometime situation in life for certain groups of people; for example, the elderly, especially those who have recently lost a spouse. Also, loneliness is viewed as a concern for a single person who cannot find a social circle, or who does not have family or friends with whom to celebrate "the holidays." However, in a nationwide survey just completed, the finding is that the loneliest in our society are young people between the ages of 16 and 22.

Furthermore, this condition of loneliness is not experienced as a fleeting feeling but more like a chronic ache, affecting daily life and one's sense of wellbeing. Of the 20,000 people surveyed, 50% responded they feel alone or left out always or sometimes; 54% said they feel no one knows them well; 56% said the people around them are not experienced as "with them." 40% responded that a constant in their lives is that they lack companionship and feel isolated from others. (This statistical information is from an NPR broadcast on Tuesday, May 1, 2018.) Certainly, this condition of loneliness cuts across all age groups. However, the researchers were surprised to discover that younger generations are actually lonelier than older generations.

The survey, conducted by Cigna, a large health insurance provider, understandably goes on to seek correlations between loneliness and health outcomes; and, for sure, loneliness blurs the line between *mental* and *physical* health, impacting both. But what about the impact on a person's

spiritual health? And how might the qualities of a spiritual life, a spiritual community, be helpful and healthful in touching the lives of those who are lonely?

A Community of Invitation, Welcome and Belonging in which you are truly *with* people and not just around them; where you are known and know others in significant ways that matter; and where you are encouraged to seek God and, in so doing, discover yourself and others anew. The Church, at its intentional best, is such a community.

Yes, it is so important to reach out to the hungry, homeless and those marginalized by society—important and not easy to do. Yet it is also important to reach out to the lonely, who are often people we do not even see because, as in this survey's finding, the loneliest among us are those we characteristically and perhaps somewhat euphemistically label as "in the prime of life" and "having everything to live for." Let's keep these findings in mind and in prayer. Perhaps we can find ways to act as the Church—the Community of Invitation, Welcome and Belonging.

In Christ,



Baptism April 29

On the Fifth Sunday of Easter, we welcomed Daenerys Marcela Aguilar into Christ's Body, the Church, through the sacrament of Holy Baptism. Please keep Daenerys and her parents, Dennis and Pura, in your prayers.

and 29. Altar flowers contribution is \$55; sanctuary lamp \$10.



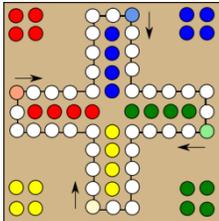
And remember that after the services each Sunday, altar flowers are available to brighten the life of a home-bound friend, or help someone celebrate a happy occasion. Any Altar Guild member will be happy to arrange a bouquet for you in the sacristy after the 10:30 liturgy.

**Ascension Day
Thursday, May 10**



Holy Eucharist at 7:30PM
followed by Strawberry Shortcake Social

**Youth Group Game Night
Friday, May 18, 7:00 to 9:30PM**



The young people of the parish and their friends are invited to meet in the Parish Hall for food, fun and fellowship. If you have a really awesome board game you'd like to share, bring it along. If you don't, come anyway -- you're sure to enjoy playing the games others bring!

Altar Flowers and Sanctuary Lamp

Please contact the church office if you would like to memorialize a loved one or offer a thanksgiving by dedicating altar flowers or a sanctuary lamp.

Available dates for altar flowers are July 1, 15, 22 and 29: dates for sanctuary lamp are July 22

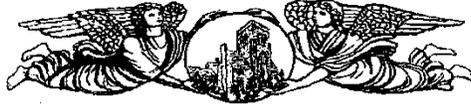


THE FEAST OF PENTECOST
is Celebrated Sunday, May 20
Holy Eucharist 8:30am
Holy Eucharist with Choir & Organ
at 10:30am

**Wings of Song
Organ and Vocal Concert
Sunday, May 20 at 3:00pm**
(see flyer, next page)

It's a double-header, featuring three of Saint Luke's incredibly talented musicians: William J. Stokes, organist; Olivia Smith-Grugan, mezzo-soprano; and Michael Protacio, tenor. You appreciate their artistry every Sunday morning - now you have the opportunity to hear them again on the afternoon of Sunday, May 20. All are warmly invited to the reception following the concert.

Saint Luke's Church



Wings of Song: "Heavenly Music in a Sacred Space"

MUSIC FOR A SUNDAY AFTERNOON



Bach, Handel, Wagner, Saint-Saens...

William J. Stokes, *Organist*

Olivia Smith-Grugan, *Mezzo-soprano*

Michael Protacio, *Tenor*

Sunday, May 20, 2018 at 3:00pm

Suggested donation \$15, seniors and students \$12

Saint Luke's Church • 85 Greenway South • Forest Hills, NY

718-268-7772

www.stlukesforesthills.org

LOOKING FORWARD....

Memorial Service for Sheila Miller

Saturday, June 2 at 1:00pm

Sheila Miller was a long-time member of Saint Luke's. She served for many years on the Altar Guild, was often an usher at services, and regularly contributed to the church's fund-raising events. Unhappily, there came a time when the growing disability of Alzheimer's Disease limited her so severely that she could no longer come to church, but it meant a great deal to her that people from Saint Luke's continued to visit and write to her.

Sheila thought of Saint Luke's as her family, and in her will left the largest portion of her estate to the church. Since she had no other family, it would be wonderful if as many parishioners as possible took the role of family members and came to say a last farewell. Refreshments will be served after the service.

--Joyce Egginton

(who, with Shirley Vickers, handled Sheila's affairs for the last ten years of her life)

Screening Mystery

"Looking for things human and divine in film"

June 6 at 7:30pm in the Parish Hall



Maggie Smith stars as the filthy, feisty, infuriating title character in this funny -- and thought-provoking -- film.



ImaginAuction

June 16, 2018

How You Can Help Make It

Our Most Successful Event Ever!

Saint Luke's 16th annual **ImaginAuction** relies on parishioners' creativity, sparked by their imagination, to make donations of Time, Talent and Treasure to be auctioned. In the past, people have contributed services

and talents reflecting their unique areas of expertise -- a tour of Forest Hills Gardens, cooking classes, piano and vocal lessons, babysitting -- to mention only a few, in addition to items such as jewelry, books, gift certificates from local businesses, etc. What items or services can you contribute? **ImaginAuction** co-chairs Claire Dippel and Terri Matassov are eager to hear from you. And be sure to RSVP to your invitation -- it's in the mail. Space is extremely limited, and you won't want to miss out on this fun-filled event!



Birthdays and Anniversaries

- 5 Margaret Dippel
- 6 Christopher Nyberg
- 7 Katie George
- 7 Maya Parker-Rose Deazle
- 8 Rebecca Santana
- 9 Fitzgerald Kwok
- 11 Christina Rodriguez
- 11 Annelise Rodriguez
- 12 Suzanne Schick-Lin
- 13 Linda Portz
- 15 Zee Dempster
- 17 Claire Dippel
- 17 Margaret Rowley
- 17 Elizabeth and Brian Reynolds (A)
- 18 Andrea Kwok
- 22 Julissa Capellan
- 26 Joanna Friedman
- 26 Louise Guinther
- 29 Micaela Brown
- 31 Liz Ramos

The Bellringer
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The Very Rev. Thomas F. Reese, Rector