

# The Cambridge Episcopalian



JESUS HEALS  
COME MEET HIM  
HERE... NOW

December, 2017

St. Luke's Episcopal Church • Cambridge, New York • (518) 677-2632 • [www.stlukescambridge.org](http://www.stlukescambridge.org)

## A message from Fr. Matt

Sitting with a group of folks from Saint Luke's a couple weeks ago, we were sharing our Thanksgiving plans. Some were staying home, some traveling to a family member's home, and some going out to let others do the cooking for them. It was wonderful listening to the different ways folks were preparing to celebrate Thanksgiving.

Our conversation then turned to the first Thanksgivings; about how the holiday we know and love has evolved over the centuries. We found ourselves amused at what those first pilgrims, and then President Lincoln many years later when he declared it a national holiday, might think about Black Friday becoming part of a new tradition for many people these days 😊.

That got us talking about Advent and Christmas. For most of us, the season of Advent is about preparing for Christmas. We know the story well...the baby Jesus born in a manger in the little town of Bethlehem; a baby born to be the Savior of the world, the promised Messiah who would free people from sin, the baby Emmanuel whose name means God with us.

This is the story we know and love, the story we look forward to every year, the story we've built family traditions around, the story we focus on to prepare our hearts for Christmas Day.

Like Thanksgiving however, Advent and Christmas were not always the way we know it today. In case any of you reading this one day find your way onto Final Jeopardy, the word advent comes from the Latin word *adventus*, which means "coming." The word *adventus* is a translation of the Greek word *parousia* which describes the "second coming" Jesus promised.

In the knowledge and certain hope that Christ would one day return as promised, Advent began in the 4th and 5th centuries as a 40 day season of preparation for new Christians who were to be baptized on the Feast of the Epiphany in January. It was a season



of instruction, penance, fasting and prayer. There was no connection between Advent and celebrating the birth of the Savior.

In the 6th century, Advent evolved in the Roman Church to be a season for all Christians to prepare for our Lord's second coming. Then, sometime during the Middle Ages, Advent once again evolved to include Christ's "first coming" at Christmas.

Today, the season of Advent includes the first four Sundays leading up to Christmas. The new Christian year then begins on Christmas Eve with a 12-day celebration known in the Church as Christmastide.

During Advent, we look both forward and backward. This means we look back at Christ the Messiah's coming in celebration, while at the same time, look forward in eager anticipation to the coming of Christ the King when he returns for his people. You will see this through the Gospel readings during Advent as the first two weeks highlight Christ's return in glory and judgment, and the second two weeks announce His birth through John the Baptist and the Angel who visited the shepherds.

Our hope as Christians lies both in the fulfilled promise of Christ's first coming and the yet-to-be-filled promise of His second coming. So while Advent is certainly a joyous time to look forward (by looking backwards 😊) to Christ's birth, it is also a time to look forward to His return. The miracle of Christmas can only be truly appreciated when we know in our hearts the promise of Jesus to one day return for all of His children, return so every person He knows by name can be resurrected with Him once and for all in God's eternal glory. That is the miracle of Christmas.

May the God of Hope prepare each of you this Season of Advent to fully embrace the Miracle of His Birth.

Father Matt

## ST. MARTHA GUILD CHRISTMAS PARTY

Here is your invitation to our annual St. Martha's Guild Christmas Party...We hope you can make it. There is always lots of laughs, fun, fellowship and hugs!

*"Where one or two are gathered in My Name,  
I am there!"*

**When...** December 4, 2017 at 6pm

**Where...** Parish House

Please bring a dish to pass and a \$15 gift for our rambunctious Gift Swap!!

Hope to see You there!

**Questions:** You can email me at Bobbie  
www

or call Andrea Stevens at 518-753-4191

## Merry Christmas

Yes, it's that time of year again....  
St. Martha's Guild Christmas Party



### PLEASE NOTE:

#### **NEWSLETTER ARTICLES FOR JANUARY**

All items for the **January Newsletter** should be turned in by December 31, 2017.

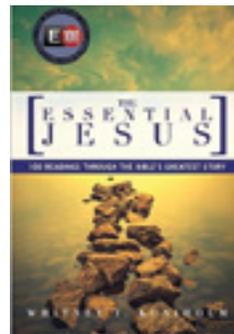
Please send your articles to:

palazzonancijane@gmail.com

Sending them by e-mail is the most convenient way for us, otherwise they have to be retyped, If you don't have that capability, please don't worry or hesitate to contribute. If you have any questions please call us at 677-3898, or shoot us an e-mail.

Thank you so much for your help.

### ESSENTIAL JESUS



Whether a believer, a seeker or just curious, discover yourself how Jesus became the most influential person in human history through 25 Old Testament and 75 New Testament readings which reveal his place in history and uncover the truth about his life, death and resurrection.

Monday Evenings from 6:30-8pm

Begins January 8th, 2018

Saint Luke's Parish Hall

Contact Father Matt to register

### NEW LEADERS FOR SMG

At our last St. Martha's Guild meeting, Lynn Wilbur volunteered to take over the job of President of the guild and Tara Davis volunteered to take on the job of Vice President. Thank you so much, Lynn and Tara, for your quick willingness to serve. We are all blessed by you!

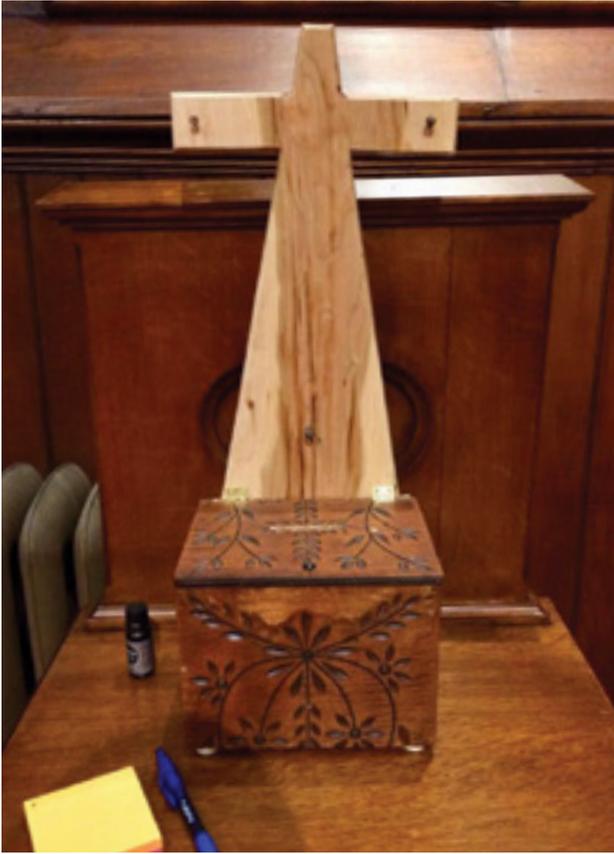
Bobbie Stevens and Andrea Wolff have been wonderful and faithful leaders over the past MANY years. We offer them deep thanks for all their efforts and selfless service! Bravo!!!

...and thanks to all those helping hands and giving hearts that serve others through the efforts of the guild.



### CHRISTMAS FAMILIES

There are sign up sheets in the Parish Hall for buying gifts for our Christmas Families. Please check it out, and thank you in advance for the generosity of your heart!



## THE FOOT OF THE CROSS

A new ministry of St. Luke's Church is "The foot of the cross". Take your need there, and by your faith make your request known to God. Place it in the box in private, and based on Mathew 6:6 But when you pray, go into your inner room, shut your door, and pray to your Father, who is unseen. And your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

Then the call goes out to the St. Lukes family to make time to pray for the needs at the foot of the cross. 1 Thessalonians 5:17 says "pray without ceasing", that's a tall order to follow alone, but, If the membership of St. Luke's would make time to pray for the needs placed by faith at the foot of the cross, we will get much closer to 1 Thessalonians 5:17.

The requests in the box are known only to God and the person who's prayer it is, no one will ever read them. 1 Peter 5:7-9... Cast all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you. 8Be sober-minded and alert. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. 9Resist him, standing firm in your faith and in the knowledge that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering.... Lets fight back, and remember daily, the prayers at the foot of the cross, for the strengthening of the Church, and Gods Glory.

## THE SEVEN SILENCES OF MARY



Christmas is the celebration of Christ's Incarnation...the arrival of God in the form of the human baby Jesus.

The four weeks of Advent preceding Christmas is our chance to prepare for the celebration of the baby's arrival.

Begin your preparation by joining

**Mother Miriam,**  
**Superior of Saint Mary's Convent,**  
 for a time of learning, reflection and prayer through the heart of Jesus' Mother.

**When...**Saturday, Dec 2nd, 10am-3pm

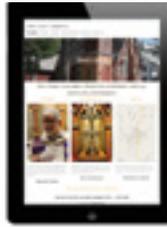
**Where...**Saint Luke's Church

**Lunch** ...will be provided

There is no cost

Register with [fathermbaker@gmail.com](mailto:fathermbaker@gmail.com)  
 or by calling Saint Luke's at 677-2632

## VISIT OUR WEBSITE



Don't forget to check out Kait and Dan Hyde's wonderful St. Luke's website at: [www.stlukescambridge.com](http://www.stlukescambridge.com). They are always adding wonderful new additions!

## NEEDING HELP?

Please call Roberta Breese (686-7217) if anyone is sick, in the hospital or needs communion.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

<b>Weekly</b>	Fr. Matt's Office Hours – Parish House		Mondays Wednesday	Ongoing 6:00-8:00 p.m. 12:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m.
	Youth for Christ		Tuesdays	6:00 p.m. Parish Hall
	Morning Prayer & Mass		Wednesdays	10:00 a.m Church
	Bible Study of Genesis		Wednesdays	10:30 a.m. Parish Hall
	Men's Group - 1st Timothy Women- 1st Timothy		Wednesdays Wednesdays	6:00 p.m. Parish Hall 6:30 p.m. Parish Hall
<b>DECEMBER</b>	Christian Character Series	Nov 29	Wednesdays	10:30 a.m. Parish Hall
	Bridges of Care	TBA	Tuesday	12:30 p.m. Brieman Bldg.
	Seven Silences of Mary	Dec 2	Saturday	9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Church
	SMG Christmas Party	Dec 4	Monday	6:00 p.m. Parish Hall
	Daughters of the King	Dec 5	Tuesday	2:00 p.m. Parish Hall
	Praise and Worship	Dec 7	Thursday	6:30 p.m. Church
	Lessons & Carols	Dec 9	Saturday	4:00 p.m. Church
	Gloria Palmer	Dec 18	Monday	6:00 p.m. Parish Hall
	Vestry	Dec 19	Tuesday	6:30 p.m. Parish Hall
	Early Christmas Eve	Dec 24	Sunday	9:00 a.m. Church
	Traditional Christmas Eve	Dec 24	Sunday	5:30 p.m. Church
	Christmas Day	Dec 25	Monday	10:00 a.m. Church
<b>Jan.</b>	Essential Jesus	Jan 8	Monday	6:30 p.m. Church
	St. Luke's Youth Event	Jan 14	Sunday	after Church TBA
	St. Martha's Guild	Jan 21	Sunday	9:00 a.m. Parish Hall
	Annual Meeting	Jan 21	Sunday	after Church Parish Hall

## MINISTRY SCHEDULE NOVEMBER

### 8:00 SERVICE

Date	Reader	Coffee Hour
12/3/17	Carol Hamilton	Sunday School
12/10/17	Dolores Mullen	Patrice O & Kristi S
12/17/17	Carol Hamilton	Palazzo
12/31/17	Nancy Palazzo	Bobbie

### 10:00 SERVICE

Date	Acolyte	Chalice	OT Reader	NT Reader	Prayer of People
12/3/17	Steve S.	Roberta Breese	Steve S.	Gail Bearup	Laurie S.
12/10/17	Roberta Breese	Dianna Tully	Nate Baker	Patty Midura	Mary Molten
12/17/17	Patty Midura	Steve S.	Bob B.	Ruth Gillen	Diana T.
12/31/17	Diana T.	Patty Midura	Carolyn L.	Lou Midura	Rick C.

PLEASE, IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO FUFILL YOUR ROLE ON SUNDAY LET ME KNOW ASAP, FR. MATT (518) 955-5424

## PONDERINGS...

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A few weeks ago Fr. Matt asked if anyone would be willing to serve the Chalice at the 8:00 service on mornings when the congregation was full. I volunteered and Fr. Matt showed me how...

Last week the day came when he saw a need and asked if I would do it. Though I was a bit concerned that my aging brain might not remember how, I said "Sure!"

(After all, if I made a mistake, it would not have been born out of malice and it could lead to humility – a much treasured virtue!)

It seemed to go well, and I found it to be a profound joy to offer my dear friends "The Blood of Christ, The Cup of Salvation."

It was a blessing that fed me throughout my day and led me to remember a talk I had heard many, many years ago... It was given by Fr. Mike Scanlan, who, at the time, was one of the National Leaders of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal. He was also the president of Steubenville, a Franciscan University in Ohio.

His talk was primarily on living through our difficulties, sufferings and doubts. Over and over as he spoke he invited us to "put it in the Chalice."

When we are hurt by another, unite with Christ's hurts and put our hurts in the Chalice.

When we are afraid, unite with Christ, and put our fear in the Chalice. When we are disappointed in ourselves – or others – put it in the Chalice.

Receiving communion is a deeply personal moment for each of us – the actual consumption of our Lord, Jesus Christ. It truly is one of those mysteries that we will never fully grasp with our limited, earthly understanding: The invitation to be fed by, healed by and lovingly affirmed by our Lord through His Body and Blood.!!

The opportunity to unite our personal sufferings with Christ's by putting them all in the Chalice – and through grace, leaving them there – is divinely transforming.

I believe that every burden, wound, conflict, guilt and pain that we put in the Chalice draws us another step forward as we seek to follow Our Good Shepherd, Our Salvation Giving Lord, Jesus Christ. He invites us all to "Put it in the Chalice".

How blessed we are!!!

- Nancy Palazzo

*We invite you all to send in your thoughts to share... remembering God can speak to us through one another.*

## CAMBRIDGE PARADE

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The Cambridge Chamber of Commerce has penciled in December 15th for a Christmas Parade.

If anyone would be interested in pulling together a float - a live nativity has been suggested - please sign up at the back of the church or the front of the Parish Hall. If there is sufficient interest we will pool our resources and celebrate the Coming of Our Lord with our town and our neighbors.

Thank you.



## CHRISTMAS BAZAAR 2017

On November 18th the women of Saint Martha's Guild joined together to raise money to support our work to encourage the love of Jesus in our children and others by Providing scholarships to Christian camps and other activities. We had a good time enjoying each other's company and working to make the Bazaar a great success by raising a little over \$2500.

We would like to send a thank you to all those who helped on the day of set up and the day of the sale, along with those who provided baked goods. And a very special thank you to Bobbie Stevens and her daughter Andrea along with all the Stevens family who put so much time into collecting so many wonderful baskets.

