



Views from the Mountain

From the Rector

The Reverend Susan R. Ironside

This is the time of year when I lug boxes of stuff down from my attic. To be more precise, this is the time of year I invite members of my household to lug boxes of stuff down from the attic and help me scatter the stuff we keep in those boxes around the house—colored balls, strings of lights, and little baby Jesus—only to collect the stuff again in January and lug it back up the attic. It's a sacred ritual.

You probably have similar traditions in your house.

At church, this is the time of year when members of the Altar Guild lug a massive Advent wreath out of the basement, and it hovers above us for the month of December, getting brighter as each week passes.

I don't think any of us could imagine Advent without this sacred tradition.

In a few weeks, shepherd costumes and angel's wings will come out of storage and Lynn Mitchell will start figuring out who will wear what, and what garments have to be shortened and who will declare "good news of great joy" to all the people.

In the Nursery School, Jeanne Williams calls the month of December "Glitter Season." Our preschoolers cover anything they can find with layers of glue and glitter, driving the sexton (and probably many parents) nuts.

More sacred traditions.

It's a restless season.

There won't be enough hours in the day. Parents will shop online at all hours of the night, and grandparents will whisper on the phone, trying to get the size of boots or the video game exactly right. The traffic will be bad. Christmas Carols on the radio will make us long for the dulcet tones of Taylor Swift singing about her ex-boyfriend.

And, you know, it's marvelous, this restless season. Because the coming of Jesus surely brings chaos. Which is a good thing.

I used to be ashamed of how busy I was every December, feeling like a jerk because I didn't spend enough time in prayer. (Which, I assure you, I don't.) But then I read something Deitrich Bonhoeffer wrote. "Not everyone can wait: neither the sated nor the satisfied nor those without respect can wait. The only ones who can wait are people who carry restlessness around with them."

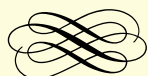
So now I carry my restlessness around with me with something like pride, a mindfulness that we are doing nothing less than waiting for the Savior.

There still won't be enough hours in the day, but that's OK. Whatever gets done, gets done. And whatever doesn't get done, well, the sheer volume of glitter in the Nursery School will make up for any shortcomings.

Advent hopefulness to you,

Susan +

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS on the Mountain



Sunday, December 6

The Second Sunday of Advent

- 8 am Holy Eucharist Rite I, Chapel
- 10 am Holy Eucharist Rite II, Church
- 11:15 am Advent Coffee Hour, Parish Hall
- Advent Arts & Crafts, Parish Hall

Sunday, December 13

The Third Sunday of Advent

- 8 am Holy Eucharist Rite I, Chapel
- 10 am Holy Eucharist Rite II, Church
- 11:15 am Advent Coffee Hour, Parish Hall
- Advent Arts & Crafts, Parish Hall

Sunday, December 20

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

- 8 am Holy Eucharist, Chapel
- 10 am Christmas Pageant with Holy Eucharist, Church

Monday, December 21

- 10:00 am Greening of the Church

Thursday, December 24

The Eve of the Nativity

- 5 pm Festive Christmas Eve Family Service with Holy Eucharist and Building of the Crèche, Church
- 10:30 pm Carols by Candlelight, Church
- 11 pm Festival Holy Eucharist, Church

Friday, December 25

The Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ

- 10am Holy Eucharist, Chapel

Sunday, December 27

First Sunday after Christmas

- 8 am Holy Eucharist Rite I, Chapel
- 10am Christmas Lessons and Carols, Church

WORSHIP NEWS

Christmas Service Schedule

Thursday, December 24th ~ *Eve of the Nativity*

- ❖ **5 pm Christmas Eve Family Service with *Building of the Crèche***
The Festive Christmas Eve Holy Eucharist with the Children's Choir will include the *Building of the Crèche* and will take place at 5 pm. Families with young children are invited and encouraged to celebrate the Nativity with us. Children who would like to participate in the Procession should arrive by 4:40 pm and gather in the chapel. Childcare is available.
- ❖ **10:30 pm Christmas Eve Carols by Candlelight, Church**
- ❖ **11 pm Christmas Eve Festival Holy Eucharist**
Please join us in the church beginning at 10:30 pm with Carols by Candlelight, followed by a Christmas Eve Festival Holy Eucharist.

Friday, December 25th ~ *Christmas Day*

- ❖ **10 am Holy Eucharist for Christmas Day**
Join us in the chapel for Holy Eucharist.



MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Wednesdays at 8:15 am

Please join us every Wednesday in the Parish House Meeting Room from 8:15 am - 9:15 am.

PRAYER LIST

If you would like to have someone added to the Prayer List, please call 908-766-2282 or email the Parish Office office@sjotm.org.

CHRISTMAS LESSONS & CAROLS

Sunday, December 27th at 10 am

Join us on Sunday, December 27th at 10 am when we will continue to celebrate the Christmas season with the reading of the nine lessons. The Choir of St. John on the Mountain will lead us in the singing of our favorite Christmas Carols. It is truly a family service as we begin with the journey of Adam and Eve in the garden, hear the promise of the prophets and are once again inspired by the birth of Jesus as told to us in the Gospels. Many familiar carols, sung by all of us, and a few remarkable new ones, sung by The Choir, are interspersed with the readings.

December Birthday Wishes to

Tressa Baird, Kip Forbes, Sabina Forbes,
Sally Hespe, Burton How, Rich McGlynn,
Robin McKeon, Joan Millsaugh,
& Sam Murphy





St. John on the Mountain
CHRISTMAS FLOWERS & MUSIC

St. John on the Mountain is now accepting contributions for Christmas plants, flowers, & special music. Gifts may be given either as memorials or in thanksgivings. In order that we might publish all names in the Christmas bulletins, we ask that you send in your dedications by Wednesday, December 16th. If you would like to contribute, please complete the form below, or your own version of it and return it to the Parish Office, along with a check made payable to St. John on the Mountain, with a note in the memo section: Christmas Flowers & Music. If you have any questions, please contact the Parish Office (908) 766-2282 ext 10 or office@sjotm.org.

Cut along dotted line, fill-out and return to SJOTM at 379 Mount Harmony Road, Bernardsville, NJ 07924

Please print clearly using first and last name without any titles

In Memory of

Please print clearly using first and last name without any titles

In Thanksgiving for

Your Name _____ Your daytime phone _____

COMMUNITY/FELLOWSHIP NEWS



Bryan Marshall of J. Wippell & Co

ALTAR GUILD WORKING TO KEEP OUR TREASURES IN FINE CONDITION

Bryan Marshall of J. Wippell & Co. shown here in the church sacristy consulting on our hangings and vestments as we work to keep them in fine condition.

For forty years Bryan has been involved in the creation of our altar and communion furnishings and the design of our stain glass windows. He knows the rich history of our church and reminds us how fortunate we are to be surrounded with such beauty as we worship. Take note of these fabrics and symbols as the Altar Guild makes changes to liturgical colors throughout the year, beginning with the stunning blue sets for Advent.

LADIES' HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

Thursday, December 17th

The Ladies' Lunch for December will be hosted by Wendy Argent-Belcher at Roxiticus CC on December 17th at noon. The cost will be \$25; there will be an elaborate holiday buffet that includes hot soup, carving station, chicken dish, seafood dish, vegetables, rice, potatoes and a selection of desserts. Please make your reservation by sending your check to Wendy at 55 Seney Drive, Bernardsville, NJ 07924 by December 10th.

MEN'S LUNCHEON

Thursday, December 3rd

Please join us on the first Thursday of each month at 12:15 pm at the Morristown Club at 27 Elm Street in Morristown. The luncheons are open to members of the parish and their guests. For more information please contact Alan Enos at 908-234-1321 or aenos4@verizon.net.

GREENING OF THE CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS

Monday, December 21st

Please join the Altar Guild on Monday, December 21 at 10 am to prepare the church and chapel for Christmas. Help hang wreaths and fill baskets. Any and all helping hands would be most appreciated. Coffee and donuts will be served. Questions? Contact: Mary Courtemanche at june2180@aol.com or Sue Catlett at sueshell@earthlink.net

COFFEE & CONVERSATION

Thursday, December 10th

Want to learn more about SJOTM programs? Want to talk about a program you'd like to see at our parish? Join Lynn Mitchell, Director of Children's Education, and Sally Hespe, Vestry Member and Outreach Co Chair, for coffee and conversation. Thursday, December 10th, 9:30 -10:30 am at Sally's home, 36 Southfield Drive, Bernardsville. RSVP to Sally at (908) 875-1518 or sallyhespe@aol.com. If you are unable to attend during the day, we will offer another evening date in January.



MUSIC NEWS*by Richard Morgan, Organist***ST. JOHN'S
INTERGENERATIONAL CHOIR**

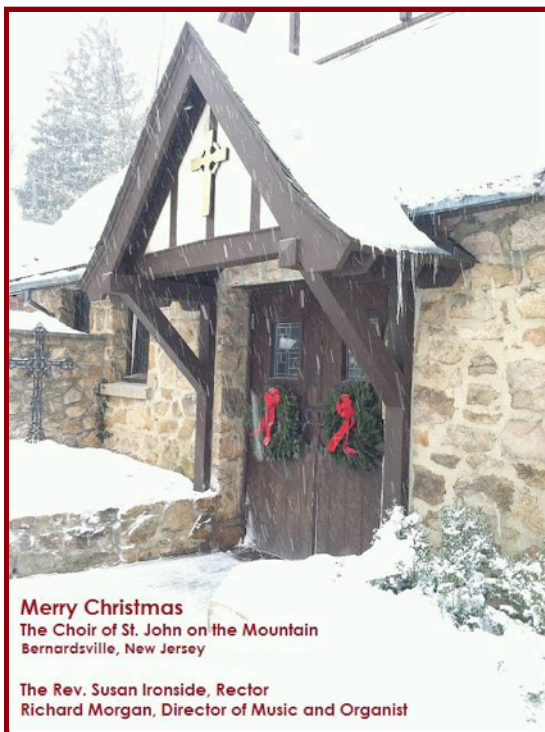
St. John's Intergenerational Choir invites you to join in the music making this Christmas. Once again, all ages are welcome! Parents, children, Grandparents, Aunts, Uncles, and all members of the Parish are invited to sing together for the Offertory Anthem during the Pageant on December 20st at 10 am and again at the 5 pm Christmas Eve Service on December 24th. Please arrive a half hour before each service for a brief warm up in the Choir Room. No vestments needed – street clothes and children in Pageant Costumes will be great. All singers will be invited forward during the Peace to assemble and sing the anthem.

There will be 2 rehearsals: Sundays after church (around 11:15 am) on December 6th and 13th. Meet in the Choir Room for about 20 minutes with Mr. Morgan to rehearse the anthem. Copies will be provided at this time.

This is a wonderful way to join your family and friends and again welcome the Christ Child in song!

**ST JOHN ON THE
MOUNTAIN CHOIR
CHRISTMAS CD**

The Choir is excited to release their first recording, "Merry Christmas". The CD is available now for \$15

**HYMN SING**
Sunday, December 6th**Music! Music! Music!**

On the Mountain

A Community Hymn Sing

Please gather with us to celebrate and sing our favorite hymns. Rick Morgan will accompany us as we draw ballots to select our all-time Hymn Book favorites, from canticles to carols, patriotic anthems to plainsong....and **Sing, Sing, Sing!**

Sunday December 6, 2015

4pm – 7pm

St. John on the Mountain
Bernardsville, NJ

Singing will be followed by a holiday feast in the Parish Hall.

All proceeds will benefit the church and missions of St. John on the Mountain

RSVP by
November 25th

**CHILDREN'S CHOIR
Christmas Music - Rehearsal**

All children are welcomed and encouraged to rehearse some old favorites and some great new music every Sunday at 10 am in the Chapel in preparation for the Christmas Pageant and for the 5 pm Christmas Eve Service. Just go into the Chapel and sing with Director Katie Morash and Director of Children's Ministries Lynn Mitchell!

CHILDREN & YOUTH NEWS

Christmas Eve Family Service With Building of the Crèche

Children who would like to participate in the Procession should arrive by 4:40pm and gather in Parish Hall. Childcare is available.

There Will Be No Sunday School on Sunday, December 27th
Classes will resume on Sunday, January 3rd.

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT Important Dates

**CHRISTMAS PAGEANT ON
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20th at 10 am**

Sunday, December 13th	Pageant costume pick-up 11:15 am in Parish Hall
Thursday, December 17th	Pageant rehearsal 4-5 pm Speakers Only
Saturday, December 19th	Pageant rehearsal for All at 10 am
Sunday, December 20th	Pageant at 10 am (meet in Parish Hall at 9:30 am)



*Advent Wreath Making on
Sunday November 29th*



ST. JOHN'S NURSERY SCHOOL NEWS

Following Thanksgiving it's all about getting ready for Christmas at St. John's Nursery School. Children from our 3s, 4s, and 4+ classes have been practicing their songs for our annual Christmas Sing. The 4+ children have been learning their parts for the First Christmas play. All of our classes have been busy making special gifts for their parents. Other important December events include cookie baking, St. Nick's shopping at St. John's, and class Christmas parties.

Our nursery school families have been asked to participate in a local program, Bundles of Grace, in which a

bundled blanket and book will be given to children battling cancer at local hospitals.

January is registration month for our SJNS and SJOTM families of preschool age children. New families may register in February. School tours will be given beginning in January. Please contact the nursery school for further registration information. jwilliams@sjotm.org Jeanne Williams, Director, 908-766-0374

ADVENT ARTS AND CRAFTS

Calling All Kids

You won't want to miss Coffee Hour on December 6th and 13th! Please join us in the Parish Hall for some creative seasonal arts and crafts following the 10 am service.

**Best Wishes as you
celebrate your
December birthday!**

*Patrick Mitchell, Peter Iossa,
Holly Lippman, Emmy Baird, and
Meredith Hespe*

MISSION OUTREACH

KIDS HELPING KIDS

Kids Helping Kids will again be engaging our youth in the process of giving by providing Christmas gifts to local children in youth shelters. These are kids who would otherwise have no gifts and are without family on Christmas morning. Last year we were able to deliver over 40 gift bags and provide each shelter with one big item for their residents to enjoy. The response from the shelter kids, administrators and our own parish was nothing short of amazing. This year we are proud to serve: the Morris County Youth Shelter, The Somerset Home and St. Peter's orphanage. Our kids will be collecting funds over the next few Sundays at coffee hour so please support their efforts. You can also help by volunteering your time sorting gift bags, transporting gifts, or taking your kids shopping for a homeless child. Lists will be coming out very soon. Any questions please contact: Sandy Keegan: 908-234-0043 or Lynn Mitchell: lynnmitchell@sjotm.org



The Confirmation class helping out at the food pantry in Somerville.

STEWARDSHIP

The **2016 Stewardship Campaign** is off to a strong start! As of December 1st, we have 49 pledges for \$208,401. If you have any questions about Stewardship, please contact Paul Zanardi at paulzanardi@gmail.com or Bob Courtemanche at bob.courtemanche@gmail.com. If you haven't already done so, please return your 2016 Pledge Card ASAP, as the Vestry needs them to make their budget decisions for the upcoming year. Extra pledge cards can be found on the web at www.sjotm.org, in the narthex or call the office 908-766-2282 to have one sent to you.

Did You Know You Can Donate Your Stocks to SJOTM?

The tax advantages of giving stock, instead of cash, to church can make doing so very worthwhile. We would be happy to accept stock donations for 2015 as form of pledge payment. To learn more, please contact Lisa Keenan in the office at 908-766-2282 ext 13 or by email at L.Keenan@sjotm.org.

ADOPT-A-FAMILY

Help save a struggling family's Christmas by providing an uncooked meal. It's easy! Just buy the makings for a meal, and deliver it uncooked to your *Adopt-a-Family*. A sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board near Parish Hall. Please call Sue Kennedy at 908-234-0267 with any questions. If you have a particular family you have been supporting in the past, please let Sue know so that she can inform the Food Bank.



THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. JOHN ON THE MOUNTAIN

379 Mount Harmony Road
Bernardsville, NJ 07924
908-766-2282

PARISH STAFF

The Reverend Susan Ironside
Rector
rector@sjotm.org x11

Billy Webster
Pastoral Associate
webster@sjotm.org x18

Richard Morgan
Director of Music & Organist
richardmorgan@sjotm.org x14

Lynn Mitchell
Director of Children's Ministries
lynnmitchell@sjotm.org

Lisa Coakley
Parish Administrator
office@sjotm.org x10

Lisa Keenan
Finance Manager
L.Keenan@sjotm.org x13

FOR DAILY UPDATES AND INFORMATION,
DON'T FORGET TO VISIT OUR WEBSITE

www.sjotm.org

and be sure to *like us* on facebook



The screenshot shows the website for St. John on the Mountain. At the top is the church's logo, a blue cross with a white center, and the text "St. John on the Mountain". Below the logo is a "Welcome" section with links for "St. John on the Mountain clergy & staff", "the wardens & vestry", "contact us", "directions", and "photo gallery". To the right of the welcome section is a "Worship & Music" section with links for "News & Info", "Children & Youth", "Parish Life", "Serving & Giving", "Mountain Art Show", and "St. John's Nursery School". On the right side of the page is a "St. John on the Mountain" section with the heading "The Episcopal Church of St. John on the Mountain Welcomes You". Below this is the address "379 Mount Harmony Road, Bernardsville, NJ 908-766-2282" and links for "Directions", "visit our facebook page", and "November Newsletter". A "Sunday, December 6, The Second Sunday of Advent" section lists the following services: 8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I; 9:00 am Nursery Care, Room 2 Lower Level, Confirmation Class, Meeting Room, Parish Choir rehearsal, Church; 10:00 am Advent Lessons & Carols with Holy Eucharist, Sunday School, Chapel; 11:15 am Coffee Hour, Parish Hall, Advent Arts & Crafts, Parish Hall; and 4:00 pm Hymn Sing, Church. At the bottom of the page is a Facebook icon and a note that "SJOTM is handicap accessible". On the right side of the page is a photograph of a wooden sign that reads "CHURCH OF ST. JOHN ON THE MOUNTAIN" with the Episcopal cross logo.

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED