

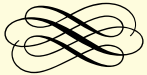


Views from the Mountain

From the Rector

The Reverend Susan R. Ironside

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS on the Mountain



Sunday, December 3

The First Sunday of Advent

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

Sunday, December 10

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 17

The Third Sunday of Advent

- 8 am Holy Eucharist, Chapel
- 10 am Christmas Pageant with Holy Eucharist, Church
- 11:15 pm Coffee Hour hosted by Pageant parents

Sunday, December 24

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

- 9:30 am Holy Eucharist Rite II, Chapel

The Eve of the Nativity

- 4:30 pm Chorale Prelude, Church
- 5 pm Festive Christmas Eve Family Service with
Holy Eucharist and Building of the Crèche, Church
- 10:30 pm Chorale Prelude, Church
- 11 pm Festival Holy Eucharist, Church

Monday, December 25

The Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ

- 9:30 am Holy Eucharist Rite II, Chapel

Sunday, December 31

First Sunday after Christmas

- 9:30 am Holy Eucharist Rite II, Chapel

The Church is quirky, but most of you know that already. While the rest of the world says that December is the end of the year, we start a new Church Year this week, when we turn the page and begin again in the season of Advent. So, allow me to be the first to wish you a Happy New Year!

We read the Bible in a three year cycle, and last year we heard from the Gospel of Matthew every Sunday. You probably noticed Matthew's fixation with "weeping and gnashing of teeth" and the many times that people were warned they could be cast into outer darkness. That's typical Matthew. But Matthew is also where we learn of the arrival of the Magi when Jesus was born, and Jesus' parable about the Sheep and Goats—wherein we learn that Jesus comes to us in the vulnerable and meek. We know that story because of Matthew.

This year we will hear from the Gospel of Mark, the earliest Gospel to be written. It is also the shortest, and there are no stories about Baby Jesus, because the story opens when Jesus is a full-grown man, being plunged into the waters of baptism and then immediately sent by God into the wilderness and then into a world where he barely takes a breath and is always on the move. You will notice that in Mark's Gospel, Jesus does almost everything immediately, and there is a sense of urgency in the way the story is told.

So we take the plunge this Sunday on the first day of our New Year. Our room will be draped in blue, and the Advent wreath will be lit, and we will hear an ancient narrator again tell us the story of the Jesus, this year told in a different way, this time by a narrator who doesn't seem to want us to sit still for very long, because Jesus never sat still for very long.

There are many things you can do to celebrate the New Year. You can make an Advent wreath to keep at home. Our Sunday School kids will do that this week, and if you don't have a kid in Sunday School, I bet you could convince one of our kids to make one for you. It's a wonderful way to enter into the New Year. You can also learn new Advent hymns that Mr. Jennings is going to teach us. If you haven't already, Advent is a great season to make your pledge to St. John's for 2018, celebrating your joy and hopes for the coming year by sharing with God's people.

Mostly, I hope you will come to mark the New Year with us on Sunday mornings, and together we will watch to see how Jesus is going to be born among us in this New Year.

Susan +

WORSHIP NEWS

Christmas Service Schedule

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

- ❖ **5 pm Christmas Eve Family Service with *Building of the Crèche***
The Festive Christmas Eve Holy Eucharist 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 Chorale Prelude, Church**
- ❖ **11 pm Christmas Eve Festival Holy Eucharist**
Please join us in the church beginning at 10:30 pm with a Chorale Prelude followed by a Christmas Eve Festival Holy Eucharist.

Monday, December 25th ~ *Christmas Day*

- ❖ **9:30 am Holy Eucharist for Christmas Day**
Join us in the chapel for Holy Eucharist.

PRAYER LIST

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

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.

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 3's, 4's, and 4+ classes have been practicing their songs for our annual Christmas Sing. The 4+ children have been working on memorizing their parts for the First Christmas play. All 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. SJNS is also participating in donations of *1st Night Bags* for CASA SHaW along with SJOTM. This is the season to be grateful for what we have and what we give!

Registration for next school year begins on February for SJNS and SJOTM families of preschool age children. Prospective families may contact our nursery school for registration information and tour our cheerful facility. For further information, please contact jwilliams@sjotm.org or call Jeanne Williams, Director at 908-766-0374.

STEWARDSHIP 2018

The **2018 Stewardship Campaign** is off to a strong start! If you have any questions about Stewardship, please contact **Bob Courtemanche**. If you haven't already done so, please return your 2018 Pledge Card ASAP, as the Vestry needs them to make their budget decisions for the upcoming year. Extra pledge cards can be found here, on the web at www.sjotm.org, in the narthex or call the office 908-766-2282 to have one sent to you.

The Rector, Wardens, and Vestry are grateful for the faithfulness and generosity of the following people whose gifts support the mission of our parish. Add your name to this list by sending your pledge to the office or emailing Lisa Keenan at l.keenan@sjotm.org.

Anonymous	Frank and Mary Johnson
Doris Aufschlager	Harry Jones, III
Joy Baird	Lindy Judd
Grove and Betsey Blair	Ron and Sue Kennedy
Bob and Debbie Brucker	Bill and Anne Kearns
Stuart and Helen Brunet	Lois Lark
Catherine Cavanaugh	Jon and Heather Leef
Charlie and Jeanie Chapin	Jeff and Robin McKeon
Jim and Kathy Christie	Rich and Vicky McGlynn
Kathy Christie	Bill and Jane McKnight
James and Lisa Costello	Mary Mason
Bob and Mary Courtemanche	Ferdinand and Christina Masucci
Peter Courtemanche	Peter and Jane Mercer
Christian and Gerry-Jo Cranmer	Joan Millspaugh
Chris and Bea Daggett	Pat Moody and Collins Snyder
Richard and Nina Dixon	Margaret Murphy
Alan and Erin Deombeleg	Barbara Mushalko
Ward Dorer and Hilary Thomas	Martin and Margo Packouz
Alan and June Enos	David and Joan Powell
Jody Flegal	Eric Ridder
Steve and Sabina Forbes	Doug and Christina Rutz
Bette Gaver	Steve and Antoinette Sbaraglio
Al and Erna Haueis	Lindley and Christine Scarlett
Stephanie Haueis	Melissa Sharron
Gates and Mary Ellen Hawn	Dorothy Smullen
Betty Heitmann	Peter and Kathy Tober
Bill and Sally Hespe	Peter and Patty Vollmar
Burton How	Ulrich and Dolly von Hollen
Wood Huntley and Beirne	Paul and Valerie Zanardi
Donaldson	
Susan Ironside	
Pat and Shellie Iossa	

Tax Deductible Gift in 2017

You can make a contribution to the church or fulfill your pledge using your IRA.

If you are 70 1/2 or older:

- ◆ You may transfer up to \$100,000 from your IRA directly to the church.
- ◆ If you have not yet taken your required minimum distribution for 2017, your gift can satisfy all or part of that requirement.
- ◆ You pay no income tax on the gift. The transfer generates neither taxable income nor tax deduction, so you can benefit even if you do not itemize your tax deduction.

Don't delay! To help ensure that your gift counts this year, transfers will need to be made by **December 29**.

MUSIC NEWS

BOYS & GIRLS CHOIR

The St. John's Boys' & Girls' Choir will resume Sunday afternoon rehearsals in the New Year, and we hope all children of the parishes in grades 3 through 8 will join us after the 10:00 a.m. liturgy for a brief rehearsal with Mr. Jennings in the Choir Room. Boys' & Girls' Choir will sing at the 10:00 a.m. liturgy on February 11, April 1, and May 13. Please help spread the word.

CHRISTMAS EVE MUSIC at ST. JOHN ON THE MOUNTAIN

The St. John's Parish Choir will offer a Choral Prelude to both Christmas Eve liturgies this year, beginning at 4:30 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. respectively. Please join us for a special collection of beloved carols set by English Composers David Willcocks and John Rutter and by American composer Clarence Dickinson.

CHILDREN & YOUTH NEWS

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Important Dates



CHRISTMAS PAGEANT ON
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17th at 10 am

Sunday, December 10th Pageant costume pick-up 11:15 am in Parish Hall

Saturday, December 16th Pageant rehearsal for **SPEAKERS** at 9 am

Pageant rehearsal for **ALL** at 10 am

Sunday, December 17th Pageant at 10 am (meet in Parish Hall at 9:30 am)

Please Help
"Foster Some Love"
this Holiday Season

1st Night Bags are being assembled for **foster children** to make their first few nights away from home a little easier. These children are all receiving support from **CASA SHaW** (Court Appointed Special Advocates of the Somerset, Hunterdon, & Warren Counties).

Items Needed (all new):

- Stuffed Animals
- Blankets
- Children's books
- Toiletries
- Crayons, markers, coloring books
- Duffle bags
- Water bottles

*All items are due to Saint John on the Mountain by **December 24th**
379 Mt. Harmony Road, Bernardsville*

ADVENT WREATH MAKING

December 3rd

Please join us on Sunday, December 3rd as we make Advent Wreaths (in Parish Hall). All materials will be supplied. A \$5 donation to help off-set the cost of supplies is greatly appreciated.

- Children will make their wreaths at 10:00 (in lieu of Sunday School).
- Adults are welcome to make theirs immediately following the 10:00am service.



CHRISTMAS EVE with 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.

ADVENT ARTS AND CRAFTS

Calling All Kids

You won't want to miss Coffee Hour on December 10! 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, Sarah Murphy,
Peter Iossa, Emmy Baird, and
Meredith Hespe*



**There Will Be No Sunday School or
Confirmation Class on
Sunday, December 24th and December 31**
Classes will resume on Sunday, January 7th.

COMMUNITY/FELLOWSHIP NEWS

LADIES' HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

Thursday, December 14th

The Ladies' Christmas Lunch will be at Roxiticus CC on December 14 at noon. The cost will be \$30; 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.

\$40 will include wine with lunch. Please make your reservation by sending your check made out to Wendy Argent-Belcher to the office at 379 Mt. Harmony Road, Bernardsville, NJ 07924 by December 8th. Any questions? Email [Wendy Argent-Belcher](mailto:Wendy.Argent-Belcher@msn.com) at wargentb@msn.com.



PRESCHOOL ADVANTAGE

Funding early education for local children

Tuition Assistance for Preschool Available

Do you know a family that needs help to afford the cost of preschool? Tuition assistance can make it possible for 3- and 4-year-olds in this area to attend a quality preschool program. Preschool Advantage has been assisting families in Morris and Somerset counties for 25 years and provided tuition for 75 area children at partner preschools this year. Applications for the 2018-2019 school year can be submitted starting January 1. Those received by February 28 will be given priority in funding decisions. To learn more about Preschool Advantage and the application process, please visit the Preschool Advantage website at www.preschooladvantage.org, call (973) 532-2501, or email program@preschooladvantage.org.



December Birthday Wishes to

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

MOUNTAINTOP MOMENTS

Sunday, December 10th

We probably all have stories of Christmases or other times when we have waited with great joy and excitement... And then the day came, and indeed it was happy and wonderful! Sometimes we are all filled up with love and joy. But other times and in some areas of our lives, we may be waiting, wondering, reflecting, even wandering in the desert, ...wondering if or when we will find the "promised land."

Those of us who have attended the storytelling group, Mountaintop Moments, are amazed at the beautiful stories we have heard and told. The blessing of knowing each other better and the encouragement and warmth of the fellowship have stayed with us well past the hour we spend together.

The general theme at our next gathering on Sunday, December 10th, will be "stories about the joy of receiving and/or the experience of 'waiting.'" But this is not a very formal group so who knows where our stories will take us! We meet in the Chapel, about 20 minutes after the 10 AM service is over and we have grabbed a cup of coffee down the hall. All are welcome to join us. If you have any questions, please reach out to Lindy Judd, Al Hudgins, Jerry Murphy or Mother Susan.

MEN'S LUNCHEON

Thursday, December 7th

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](mailto:Alan.Enos@verizon.net) at 908-234-1321 or aenos4@verizon.net.

MISSION OUTREACH

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.



GRACE SOUP KITCHEN

Friday, December 29
600 Cleveland Avenue, Plainfield, NJ

Grace Soup Kitchen serves 1,000 hot nutritious meals the last five days of each month to the hungry of Plainfield. St. John on the Mountain parishioners help on the last Friday of each month. Join us one Friday as we prepare and serve lunch. The next day scheduled for St. John on the Mountain to serve is on Friday, December 29th from 10 am – 1 pm. To sign-up email [Graham Argent-Belcher](mailto:Graham.Argent-Belcher@msn.com) at gabelcher@msn.com.

SJOTM 2017 FALL FUNDRAISER

November 3



We had a fantastic time on Friday, November 3rd during our annual Fall Fundraiser. Delicious food and drink, and a successful silent auction & wine pull.

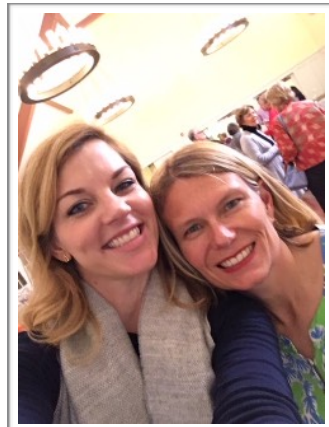
Preliminary numbers show a gross \$14,141 and net \$11,741. The Silent Auction netted about \$5,000 and the Wine Pull \$535. This is a terrific result that gets us very close to our goal for the year. Thank you all ever so much for all your help in making this a fun, profitable event

Thank you to our generous Event Sponsors & Patrons:

Charles & Jeanie Chapin
Bob & Mary Courtemanche
Dick & Nina Dixon
Gates & Mary Ellen Hawn
Rich & Vicky McGlynn
Bill & Jane McKnight
Joan Millspaugh
Bill & Marie Young

And thank you to the following donors:

Doris Aufschlager
Kathy Christie
Andrea & Paul DeMarco
Cookie & David Goulding
Jo & Frank Johnson
Harry Jones
Anne Kearns
Lois Lark
The Leef Family
Kimberly & Courtney Sikes





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 Monday, December 18th. 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 _____

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

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Director of Music & Organist
cjennings@sjotm.org

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





St. John on the Mountain

Welcome

→ St. John on the Mountain
clergy & staff
the wardens & vestry
contact us
directions
photo gallery

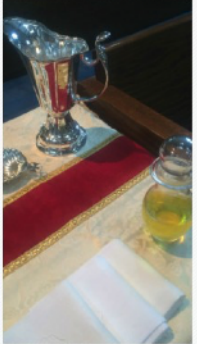
Worship & Music
News & Info
Children & Youth
Parish Life
Serving & Giving
Mountain Art Show
St. John's Nursery School

St. John on the Mountain

The Episcopal Church of St. John on the Mountain
Welcomes You
379 Mount Harmony Road, Bernardsville, NJ
908-766-2282 [Directions](#)
[visit our facebook page](#)
[Christmas Flower Dedication Form](#)

December 3rd, The First Sunday in Advent
8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I
9:00 am Nursery Care, Room 2 Lower Level
Parish Choir Rehearsal, Church
Confirmation Class
10:00 am Holy Eucharist Rite II, Church
Advent Wreath Making, Parish Hall
11:15 am Coffee Hour, Parish Hall

SJOTM is handicap accessible



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED