



Views from the Mountain

From the Rector

The Reverend Susan R. Ironside

As is my New Year's Eve custom, I watched the *Twilight Zone* marathon on television, 30 minute episodes in black and white, one right after the other, stories of space aliens in unexpected places, and computers the size of our parish hall that sometimes don't behave. In my family we sit around together, making predictions and waiting for our favorite episodes, taking occasional naps, and finding sustenance in popcorn and leftover Christmas chocolate.

In the hours spent watching the *Twilight Zone*, I have learned conclusively that things usually aren't what they seem to be, and what you thought you knew about any plot, isn't the whole story after all. Just when you think you have figured out what is going to happen next, you find that you are mistaken.

In these days of Christmas and Epiphany, the Church teaches us essentially the same thing. A baby in a barn is actually the Ruler of the universe. The man baptized by John in the Jordan River is both God's Beloved Son, but also the guy who is immediately thrust into a life of hardship and danger.

The twist ending always surprises us. Jesus is both less impressive than might have wanted—he wields no magic wand, no impressive benefits of being part of the royal household—and more impressive than we could have imagined. Jesus is the stubborn Savior who will stop at nothing to be with us. Come what may, he is always there, no matter what plot twists occur. This particular calendar year holds an interesting twist because we will enter into the holy season of Lent on Valentine's Day, and will celebrate Easter on April Fool's Day. Odd, right?

My advice is keep watching the story the Church tells and lives. Because just when you think you have figured out what is coming next, you will almost certainly be mistaken.

Merry Christmas and Happy Epiphany!



WORSHIP NEWS**ANNUAL MEETING****ONE WORSHIP SERVICE**

Sunday, January 28th

Annual Meeting January 28th

Please join us for our Annual Meeting, on Sunday, January 28th, when we will have one worship service at 10 am with a meeting to immediately follow in the sanctuary.

- Coffee and light refreshments will be served.
- Nursery care will be extended until 12:30 pm.
- Children's Entertainment will be provided during the Annual Meeting. All children ages Pre-K and up are invited to Parish Hall to do crafts, while their parents attend the meeting.

**FLOWER DEDICATIONS**

St. John on the Mountain continues the tradition of having fresh flowers on the altars. The arrangements enhance the sanctuary and are shared afterwards with the sick or divided to use again the following week in the chapel. Donations of flowers are made as memorials or in thanksgiving for special occasions. A date can be shared by more than one donor. The 2018 flower sign-up charts are now posted on the bulletin board in the hallway of the church building, opposite the entrance to the Chapel sacristy. For dedications and specific floral requests contact Sue Kennedy at gdirak@aol.com or the office 908-766-2282 office@sjotm.org. The cost is \$100 for church altar flowers and \$70 for chapel altar flowers.

2018 HOLY BAPTISM DATES

We baptize primarily on those dates set aside for baptism, as listed in the Book of Common Prayer. Since the presence of the community of faith is essential for welcoming the newly baptized into the church, baptisms take place in the principal service on the appointed Sunday. The next dates for Baptism are:

- Sunday, January 7th at 10 am
- Sunday, February 11th at 10 am
- Saturday, March 31st at 7 pm
- Sunday, May 20th at 10 am
- Sunday, November 4th at 10 am

Questions about baptism? Please contact Mo. Susan at rector@sjotm.org.

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.

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

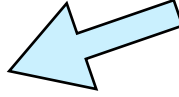
Wednesdays at 8:15 am

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

CHILDREN & YOUTH NEWS

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Once again the children of St. John on the Mountain put on a wonderful performance of Gretchen Wolff Pritchard's *Good News of Great Joy*



For more photos of the pageant visit www.sjotm.org go to *Welcome* tab and then to *Photo Gallery* tab



Pageant Costumes

If you still have any costumes, please return ASAP!

Thank you to: Margot Lewis for directing the pageant and to Lynn Mitchell for producing the pageant
Thank you to Juliana DeMarco and Sarah Iossa for "herding" the children during rehearsal and the performance. Thank you to Jim Costello, Paul DeMarco, Michael Mitchell, Nick Palma, and Steve Sbaraglio for putting the set together. Thank you to Christina Rutz and Kimberly Sikes for setting up coffee hour and to all of our pageant parents for their delicious contributions to coffee hour.

We would also like to recognize and thank the cast:

Oyinda Emuleomo, James Gilmartin, William Gilmartin, Sophia Gudgion, John Keeley, Patrick Keeley, Jane Lewis, Sarah Lewis, Trevor McKeon, Charlotte Mitchell, Meredith Mitchell, Patrick Mitchell, Jack Morris, Sammy Morris, Bea Mortenson, Chapin Mortenson, Dylan Palma, Audry Panik, Jack Panik, Reagan Panik, Alex Rutz, Jack Rutz, Morgan Sikes, Charlotte Stover, Adeline Swartz, Ben Swartz, Lily Swartz, Margot Swartz, Grace Tober, John Tober, Caspar von Hollen, and Konrad von Hollen.

Christmas Eve Building of the Crèche

Thank you to all children who participated in the building of the Crèche at the Christmas Eve Family Service this year.

Reduce, Re-use, Recycle!

If you still have your metal wreath form and any of the decorations from Advent Wreath making, please consider bringing it back to church so that we may use it again next year.



Best Wishes as you celebrate your birthday in January

Meghan Robinson, James Gilmartin, Mia Sbaraglio, Grace Tober, Owen Baird, Molly Lukacsko, Garrett Davidson, Sheridan Davidson, Charlotte Mitchell, Alex Rutz, and Caspar Von Hollen

MISSION OUTREACH**FOSTERING LOVE UPDATE**

by Kathy Tober

A huge thank you and shout out to everyone who donated to the 1st Night Bag program benefiting CASA SHaW and the children in foster care in our area. A special thanks goes to Jessica Walker at the J. Walker Salon for sponsoring a collection drive.

I am proud to say that thanks to everyone involved, 66 1st Night bags - duffle bags filled with toiletries, a stuffed animal, a cozy blanket, books, a toy/craft, etc.-will be delivered to these kids with the intent of letting them know they are cared for as they spend their 1st night away from their homes and families.

Best wishes to everyone for a happy and healthy 2018!

GRACE SOUP KITCHEN

Friday, January 26
10 am – 1 pm
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, January 26th from 10 am – 1 pm. If you would like to volunteer to help or if you have questions, please email Graham Argent-Belcher at gabelcher@msn.com or call him at 908-766-1011.

**THANKSGIVING & CHRISTMAS
ADOPT-A-FAMILY
Results**

Thank you to all who donated food to their *Adopt-a-Family* for Thanksgiving and Christmas. This year we provided meals to 10 families at Thanksgiving and 11 families at Christmas. Thank you to all of you who made a monetary donation to the Food Bank Network of Somerset County. The next opportunity for *Adopt-a-Family* will be in April for Easter.

MUSIC NEWS**BOYS' & GIRL'S 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.

For more information, please contact Christopher Jennings, Director of Music.

STEWARDSHIP 2018

As of January 1st, we have 89 pledges for \$321,441. 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 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.

Todd and Dorota Anderson
Anonymous
Doris Aufschlager
Chip and Tressa Baird
Joy Baird
Grove and Betsey Blair
Bob and Debbie Brucker
Stuart and Helen Brunet
Catherine Cavanaugh
Charlie and Jeanie Chapin
Jim and Kathy Christie
Kathy Christie
Sally Chubb
Peter Clarke
Tabby Cochran
James and Lisa Costello
Bob and Mary Courtemanche
Peter Courtemanche
Christian and Gerry-Jo Cranmer
Chris and Bea Daggett
Alan and Erin Deombeleg
Richard and Nina Dixon
Ward Dorer and Hilary Thomas
Olu and Uchente Emuleomo
Alan and June Enos
Kit and Kathy Falcon
Jody Flegal
Steve and Sabina Forbes
Bette Gaver
Katy George and Paul Cain

Andrew and Jocelyn Gilmartin
David and Cookie Goulding
Al and Erna Haveis
Stephanie Haveis
Gates and Mary Ellen Hawn
Betty Heitmann
Bill and Sally Hespe
Burton How
Wood Huntley and Beirne
Donaldson
Pat and Shellie Iossa
Susan Ironside
Frank and Mary Johnson
Craig Johnston
Harry Jones, III
Lindy Judd
John and Abby Kean
Bill and Anne Kearns
Joe and Jocelyn Keefe
Ron and Sue Kennedy
Bob and Lindsay Kielley
Lois Lark
Clyde Leef
Jon and Heather Leef
Merritt and Margot Lewis
Rich and Vicky McGlynn
Jeff and Robin McKeon
Bill and Jane McKnight
Mary Mason
Ferdinand and Christina Masucci

George Mellendick and Jim Williams
Peter and Jane Mercer
Joan Millspaugh
Michael and Lynn Mitchell
Pat Moody and Collins Snyder
Steven and Lori Morris
Rachel Mullen
Margaret Murphy
Barbara Mushalko
Julie Nelson
Art Oschwald
Martin and Margo Packouz
Jim and Katie Porter
David and Joan Powell
Joe and Michelle Ray
Eric Ridder
Doug and Christina Rutz
Steve and Antoinette Sbaraglio
Lindley and Christine Scarlett
Anthony and Kimberly Scillia
Barbara Scillia
Melissa Sharron
Courtney and Kimberly Sikes
Dorothy Smullen
Peter and Kathy Tober
Peter and Patty Vollmar
Dorothy C. von Hollen
Jack Woods
Paul and Valerie Zanardi

Don't Forget that You Can Donate Your Stocks to SJOTM

Take advantage of the tax benefits! To learn more, please contact Lisa Keenan in the office at 908-766-2282 ext 13 or by email at L.Keenan@SJOTM.org. We would be happy to accept stock donations for 2018 as form of pledge payment.

COMMUNITY & FELLOWSHIP NEWS

LADIES' LUNCHEON

Thursday, January 18th

All are welcome to join the *Ladies Luncheon* on Thursday, January 18th. Check the bulletin and website for the hostess and location.

Please bring a sandwich; beverages and dessert will be provided. Kick-off the New Year with fun and fellowship.

January Birthday Wishes to

Graham Argent-Belcher, Joy Baird,
Helen Brunet, Bill Hespe, Heather Leef,
Jon Leef, Jeff McKeon,
Blake Putnam, Summy Putnam,
Melissa Sharron, Hilary Thomas,
Pete Vollmar, & Harry Wilmerding



MEN'S LUNCHEON

Thursday, January 4th

Please join us on Thursday, January 4th 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. The favor of a reply is requested in order that a place may be reserved for you at the table, but last minute drop-ins are always welcome. Hope to see you there. For more information please contact Alan Enos at 908-234-1321 or aenos4@verizon.net.

ADVENT WREATH MAKING

Sunday, December 3rd



ST. JOHN'S NURSERY SCHOOL NEWS

Happy 2017 from the teaching staff at St. John's Nursery School!

In January our pre-K classes will be traveling! They will learn about other countries through songs, stories, food, and games. Many of the children's parents will be visiting their class to teach about another country of their interest. This is a great opportunity for our parents to share their talents and spend time with their child in class.

Other activities this month include observing the wonders of winter, pajama parties, and celebrating Chinese New Year!

It's time to think about registration for the 2018-19 school year. School tours are available upon request. All interested families please contact the nursery school director, Jeanne Williams at jwilliams@sjotm.org or 908-766-0374.



St. John on the Mountain Christmas Plants, Flowers, & Special Music have been Given to the Glory of God and

In Thanksgiving for

Sunday School children and teachers,
by Lynn Mitchell

Our daughter,
Christina M. Johnson,
and family and friends far & near
by Jo & Frank Johnson

Our children and our St. John's family,
by Jane and Bill McKnight

My grandchildren:
Liam, Emmy, Owen, Colin, Ryan,
Charlie, Ben, and Georgiana,
by Joy Baird

Our grandchildren,
Caroline, Whitney, & Alison Zerweck and
Tad & George Enos,
by June & Alan Enos

Our wonderful family and friends,
by the Kennedy Family

Children, grandchildren, friends and Schatz,
by Patricia I. Moody

Emerson Courtemanche, Max Courtemanche,
by Mary & Bob Courtemanche

Our family and church friends,
By Jane & Peter Mercer

My wonderful family,
by Betty Heitmann

Family, friends, and many blessings,
by Lois Lark

Choir, Friends, and Family,
by Rachel Mullen

Eugene Anderson,
by Dorota Anderson

Donations by
Ward Dorer & Hilary Thomas
Bette Gaver
Pat & Shellie Iossa
Paul & Valerie Zanardi

In Memory of

Fritz Lark,
by Lois Lark

Eugene W. Mason, Sr.
Eugene W. Mason, Jr.,
Eugene W. Mason, IV,
Wilhelmina Mason,
Cope B. Wallbridge,
Elizabeth M. Wallbridge,
Gordon (Sandy) Millspaugh,
Collister Johnson,
by Jo & Frank Johnson

John Ludlow Lee,
John Landon Lee,
by Binx Lee

Margaret F. and Oscar A. Gottscho
Mathilde W. Gottscho
by Chris and Susie, Jon, and Nick Gottscho

David W. Flegel,
Arnold W. Kolkebeck,
Julia Kolkebeck,
Carolyn Silverman,
Fenn Putman
by Jody Flegel

Geradus Beekman,
France Aimee Beekman,
Malcolm Forbes, Roberta Forbes
by Steve & Sabina Forbes

Dorota Bohdanowicz
by Dorota Anderson

Our loved ones who we miss so much,
by Jane and Bill McKnight

Amy Ironside
by Susan Ironside

Cory Dylan Gilmartin,
by Andrew Gilmartin

Mary and Joseph Zebedeo,
Christine Z. Smith,
by Debbie Smith & Ron Keefe

My sister, Katie Grant,
our parents, Kay and Del Hitch,
Clare and Lafe Todd,
and Sandy Millspaugh,
by David & Joan Powell

Laurie Van Ingen,
Howard & Marguerite Bock,
Lawrence & Evelyn Van Ingen,
Marc Lustgarten, Meredith Durham,
by Mary & Bob Courtemanche

SJ Gordon,
by Katie & Jim Porter

William G. Meekings,
by the Kennedy Family

Sid Moody,
by Patricia I. Moody

Cliff Cavanaugh,
by Cam Cavanaugh

Robert Heitmann,
Gladys Fox,
by Betty Heitmann

Tom Ladas,
by the Rutz family

Edythe Brunet,
Meade Brunet,
Sally B. Beyen,
Sally H. Brunet,
Geoffrey Tower family,
by Helen & Stuart Brunet

Mary and Joseph Zebedeo,
Christine Smith,
by Debbie Smith & Ron Keefe

Howard Kirchheim,
Irva Kirchheim,
by Susan Kirchheim

Brad Murphy,
Sandy Millspaugh,
by Margaret Murphy

Sandy Millspaugh,
By Joan Millspaugh

George and Timothy Mullen,
by Rachel Mullen

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. JOHN ON THE MOUNTAIN

379 Mount Harmony Road
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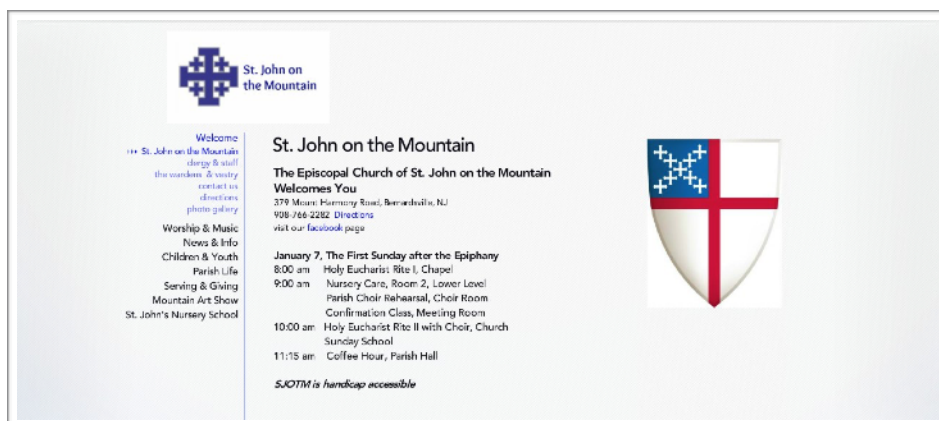
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FOR DAILY UPDATES AND INFORMATION,
DON'T FORGET TO VISIT OUR WEBSITE

www.sjotm.org
and be sure to *like us* on facebook



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