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Christmas Eve Services:

5:00 pm: Family Service
& Children's Program
10:00 pm: Carillon Recital
10:30 pm: Musical Prelude
11:00 pm: Festive
Christmas Eve Eucharist

Christmas Day Service:

10:00 am: Holy Eucharist
with Fr. Adam and clergy at
St. Jude's Church (Redeemer
Ministry Center), Hermitage.

You're Invited to Attend the 14th Annual 3Cs of Christmas

Cookies, Candies and Crafts

**Saturday, December 3, 2011
9:00 am - 2:00 pm**

Lunch Available • 50/50
Raffle to be drawn at 2:00 pm:
no need to be present to win

St. Johns Episcopal Church
226 W. State Street, Sharon, PA

ECW Christmas Tureen

Our Christmas Dinner will
take place at 6pm, Monday
December 12th.

Once again, we will have
the Tip-Tap-Toe Dancers to
entertain us. They charmed
everyone last year, and
are returning by popular
demand. Steering Committee
members will bring meat
dishes. Please invite your
friends and bring your
favorite casserole, salad or
dessert to share.

*RSVP with Dorothy O'Stafy by
December 9th at 724.347.7174*

**Note - If the weather is to be
nasty, call the church. Cancellation
decision will made by noon.*

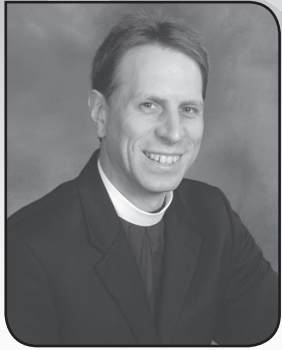


F R O M

God's House
T O *Your House*

DECEMBER 2011 • NEWS • CALENDAR

St. John's Episcopal Church
The Rev. Adam T. Trambley, Rector
724-347-4501 • stjohns@stjohnssharon.org
www.stjohnssharon.org



Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The turn of the New Year is always a good time to look back a bit and to look ahead, to see where we are on this journey of our life with God. As we begin the Church's New Year in Advent, we can see some of the ways we as a parish are living

into God's call to us, and where we might continue to live into that call more deeply.

One of the key accomplishments of our life together over the past year has been the adoption of a purpose statement, guiding principles and strategic directions. After much input from throughout the parish, we have a better sense of why we are here, how we go about our work at our best, and where God is calling us next. More importantly than writing them on cards, however, is putting them into action in various ways.

Some exciting initial steps have been taken. One of our strategic directions is to strengthen and transform youth and families. In the past few months, Missy Greene has restarted our children's chapel at both services. Over the past few weeks, we have had over ten youngsters attend. She has also overseen a freshening up of the nursery with new paint, a new carpet, and a new nursery caregiver, Christina Lapikas who I hope you have had a chance to meet. Wee ones who were not attending St. John's a year ago are now visiting the nursery, and their families are a regular part of our worship life.

Another strategic direction is meeting people's basic needs. Not long ago, about a half dozen people got together for dinner to discuss how St. John's could offer a free community meal to those in town who would appreciate an opportunity to share a meal with other people. They weren't part of a formal parish group and their

Flowers and Greens:

Once again, we ask St. John's parishioners to assist in preparing our church for the Christmas Holy days by contributing toward the needed adornments. Flowers and greens will adorn the Church throughout the Christmas Season; anyone attending worship or stopping by for private prayer may enjoy the beauty of the altar. After the Christmas Season, these flowers will be taken to the sick and shut-ins of the parish. Please fill out the enclosed envelope and return it with your offering to the Church Office no later than Tuesday, December 20. All names submitted will be included in the listing on Christmas Eve.

ECW News

We wish to thank our St. John's family for providing items for our Fall Rummage Sale. We made \$1,403.77 from this sale which was donated to ECS. Many thanks to all that volunteered their time by setting up and working this rummage sale.

Don't forget that the 3 C's will take place on Saturday, December 3rd. We gladly appreciate cookies, candy, crafts or monetary donations from the congregation and they should be delivered to the church by Friday, December 2nd.

Join Us for a Community Meal

Yes Virginia, there is a free lunch right here at St. John's on December 17th from 1-3 pm. We will have homemade Chicken noodle soup, Potato soup and homemade Apple pie... **Free, absolutely no cost, zip. zilch, nada! No money!** So come and join us for some fellowship and a free lunch!

House Group 1 will meet on Saturday, December 3rd at the home of John & Beth Krivak, 568 Lyle Dr., Hermitage, at 2pm.



Meet Christine

Christine Lapikas was hired to work in the nursery in September. Since then she has been a consistent presence for the youngest members of our congregation and a great addition to the St. John's family. We are really glad to have her with us! Christine is a full time student

at Youngstown State University, studying Special Education. Aside from her studies, Christine teaches three-year-olds at Creative Corner Learning Center three times a week. Christine has been married to her husband, Jeremy, for five years and they have a three-year-old daughter, Alexandria. She loves to spend time with her family.

If you haven't already done so, please stop in to say hello to Christine. Nursery care is available from 8:45am – 11:30am on Sunday mornings.

Divine Kettle Korn

St. John's Divine Kettle Korn in holiday bags is again available for Christmas. The price remains at \$5.00 per bag, or 6 bags for \$25.00. Orders can be placed with Missy Greene or left in the office along with your payment no later than December 11th. Kettle Korn will be available for pickup on Sunday, December 18th. All proceeds go to the Camp Scholarship fund.

Name: _____

Telephone#: _____

Quantity: _____ bags@\$5.00 each 6 for \$25.00 _____

DEADLINE FOR ORDERING: Sunday, December 11th.

work didn't include any parish staff. But they saw a need and figured out a simple way to meet it. On December 17th, they will offer their first community meal.

These two areas are small pieces of ways that we can do God's work as part of St. John's. I know that as some of our members re-engage our parish life and new members continue to join us, many other ideas will surface. I look forward to blessing many of those efforts in the future.

In the coming weeks and months, we will prepare for these new activities. We will learn about our purpose statement, guiding principles and strategic directions, including ways to make our current work more prayerful, loving, hospitable, high-quality, joyful, and engaging to the community. We will begin using a special musical piece incorporating our purpose statement that has been composed for our offertory. Perhaps most importantly, we will recognize the particular ways God has called us to prepare a place for him to dwell within this parish, a dwelling place that is made as we worship God, care for people and grow as Christians.

Peace, *Adam*

Altar Guild Cleaning Saturday, December 17th at 9am is when we will do our Christmas cleaning. Altar guild members don't forget to bring your cleaning supplies!

We Are Looking For Volunteers who are willing to help sew bags for kettle korn. If this is something you would like to help with, please contact Laura Peretic at 330-448-2050.



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Joy, Laughter and St. John's

Editor's Note: The following piece was written by Bob King on November 7, 2011, the day after our All Saints Service this year.

An Article in Sharon Herald Friday November, 4th summarizes a new book written by Rev. James Martin. *Between Heaven and Mirth* has many good thoughts about the saving grace of religion.

We are at a crossroads ourselves as we look forward to our future and how we should behave in relation to our new Strategic Directions and Guiding Principles.

I believe yesterday was, most likely, one of our best services that had a wonderful message culminated with a bag of flour which evoked smiles and joys on many faces.

The human aspect of joy interspersed with a wonderful sermon and message brings forth the notion as related in the Herald article that "Joy, Humor, and Laughter are at the heart of a spiritual life... Joy as a number of spiritual writers have said, is the surest sign of the Holy Spirit".

In the Movie, the Legend of Bagger Vance a comment is made that God is happiest when his Children are at Play. This is the stuff that makes life so interesting and wonderful. Be it true or not, I believe God is laughingly happy when we are happily at play. We desperately need a child's moment from time to time to make living worthwhile in a difficult world. Every Sunday, we need a sanctuary where it is safe and warm to express our prayers and hopes in a Joyful and Fun Way as we prepare for the new week.

The article continues, "While Joy shows a person is growing closer to God, Martin says it is also crucial to the health of the church." "Humor evangelizes", Martin says.

Youth Group Schedule: Saturday, December 3rd-Cosmic Bowling at Sharpsville Bowl, 9pm-11pm • Tuesday, December 6th-Taize Prayer at Villa Maria, meet at 6:15pm at St. John's to carpool • Sunday, December 11th-Helping with Parents' Day Out, after church until 3pm • Sunday December 18th-Christmas Caroling, 5pm-7pm.

Library News

St. John's Library has many new additions. Margaret Ulan donated thirty-one books from The Grace Chapel Inn series. They are delightful Christian novels about sisters, the bed and breakfast they own and the town they live in. Mrs. Ulan also donated nineteen books from The Mystery and the Minister's Wife series. All of the above books have various authors and are published by Guideposts. Mrs. Ulan also donated two books about hope in the face of loss; Comfort from Beyond and Crossing the Threshold of Eternity, two books about angels; Angel At My Door and The Angels of Morgan Hill and Heaven My Father's House about our home in heaven.

The library also received donations from Rich and Donna Billioni. We are adding seven books from C.S. Lewis' Chronicles of Narnia series, And God Created Laughter the Bible as divine comedy, and four books on Christian theology; The Imitation of Christ, The Many Gospels of Jesus, Life Together, and In Constant Prayer. St. John's Library would like to thank them for their donations.

After discussion with Fr Trambley it was decided that we are no longer using the card system for our church library. New books won't have cards in them. Books will be in the card catalog by title and author and will continue to be shelved by category. Please take any book that you are interested in and return it in a reasonable time. As always, if you have any questions, please ask me.

Barb Bagolin, Librarian 724-347-1197

ECS News: Many thanks to St. Jude's Church (St. Clements Ministry Center, Greenville) for decorating our hat and mitten tree this year. The parishioners there so graciously collected many hats/mittens/gloves & scarves for our clients and their families. These warm items will be passed out at our December 15th distribution day. Thanks again!

Have you checked out St. John's website? You will find: Acolyte schedule; Lector/L.E.M. schedule; ECW schedule; ECS dates of distribution along with Youth & Family Ministry schedules, and much, much more. Check us out today at: www.stjohnssharon.org

Vestry Highlights - Some items from the November vestry meeting:

- Junior Warden is finding quotes to get roof heat tape fixed so there will be no further water damage this winter.
- JCPenney's has donated clothing racks for use in ECS.
- Vestry elections are coming up and we are looking for people to run for Vestry at our January annual meeting
- At Fr. Adam's suggestion, the vestry approved a donation of \$1,200 from the Rector's Discretionary Fund and \$1,200 from the Booth Fund to the City of Sharon School District to buy musical instruments for the large number of elementary students that want to learn to play a band or orchestra instrument.
- Missy Green gave a report on some of her work, including the painting and carpeting of the nursery (made possible by a \$400 donation specifically for nursery carpeting), the recent Halloween Party, and an upcoming December 11 blessing of stockings.
- The vestry also approved granting the City of Sharon an easement of 9.5 sq.ft. on the corner of our property for sidewalk and streetscape improvements.

Cancer Society can Help - Are you in need of Transportation to your cancer treatments? The American Cancer Society CAN HELP! Sometimes the greatest challenge a cancer patient faces is just getting to their appointments. That's why the American Cancer Society provides free transportation assistance in Mercer County. If you or a loved one is facing cancer and needs help getting to treatments, call anytime, day or night at 1.800.227.2345, or visit cancer.org

Toys for ECS - If you have any gently used or new toys/books to donate for the children of families served by ECS, please leave them under the Christmas tree located near the Allen Hall entrance by **Sunday, December 11th**. No wrapping necessary. Toys will be given away at the distribution on December 15th.

January 2012 Deadlines

Please have articles for the January newsletter turned into the parish office by Monday, December 19. We ask that articles be typed or printed and delivered to the parish office in person, by regular mail, e-mail or fax:

E-mail: stjohns@stjohnssharon.org • **Fax No.:** 724-347-4502

Mail: 226 W. State St., Sharon, PA 16146

A date has not been set yet for our Annual Meeting in January, but Annual Reports are due by **Thursday, January 5th**. Please e-mail your report to: stjohns@stjohnssharon.org



From our Youth & Family Minister... Missy Greene

Christmas Eve Family Service, 5:00pm – Please join on Christmas Eve for our family service. The St. John's children and youth will help tell and illustrate the greatest story ever told. We will sing many favorite Christmas

hymns and celebrate the birth of our Savior together. If you have children interested in participating in the service, please contact Missy at the church office or by email.

Blessing of the Stockings, December 11th – Pull your Christmas stockings out of storage or unhang them from the chimney and bring them to St. John's for a blessing before the holidays. We will have a blessing at both the 8 o'clock and 10 o'clock services on December 11th.

Fill the Stocking will take place from November 27th until December 11th. A giant stocking will be placed in the lounge and we are asking that it be filled with canned food for ECS. Fr. Adam will say a prayer over the donated food at the 10 o'clock Blessing of the Stockings and it will be given to ECS for their Christmas give-away on December 15th. Please consider helping to fill the stocking.

Parents' Day Out, December 11th – Consider it a Christmas gift to all our parents from the Youth Group! Children may be dropped off at 11:30am (after the 10am service) and picked up at 3:00pm. Children of any age are welcome to attend. Lunch will be provided for the kids. We'll have a movie and activities to keep them busy! Please let Missy know if your children will be attending by calling the church office or emailing missy@stjohnssharon.org

Divine Kettle Korn Fundraiser – Once again the Youth Group is taking orders until December 11th for our own St. John's Divine Kettle Korn. Payment is due with each order, and pick up will take place on Sunday, December 18th. The money raised goes toward scholarships for summer camp. Please feel free to use the order form below and bring/mail to the office along with your payment.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>December 2011</h1> <p>St. John's 724-347-4501 e-mail: stjohns@stjohnssharon.org</p>						
				1 9am - Cookie baking 10am - Holy Eucharist 10:30am-12:30pm - ECS Food Pantry Distribution	2 9am - Cookie baking	3 9am-2pm – 3 C's 2pm – House Group I @ Krivak's 9-11pm – Youth Group Cosmic Bowling
4 8am - Holy Eucharist 9am - Christian Education 10am - Sung Eucharist	5 7pm - ECW Steering Committee Meeting	6 6:15pm – Youth Group leaves from the church to Villa Maria for a Taize Prayer Service	7 <i>Bulletin Items Due</i> 7:30pm - Choir Rehearsal	8 10am - Holy Eucharist	9	10 Allen Hall Reserved
11 8am - Holy Eucharist 9am – Christian Education 10 am - Sung Eucharist 11:30am – Parent's Day Out 5pm- Youth Group In-House Blessing of the Stockings at 8 & 10....Kettle Korn orders due	12 6pm - ECW Christmas Tureen	13 7pm - Healing & Prayer Ministry	14 7:30pm - Choir Rehearsal <i>Bulletin Items Due</i>	15 Allen Hall Reserved 10am - Holy Eucharist 10:30am-12:30pm - ECS Food Pantry Distribution	16 Allen Hall Reserved	17 9am - Altar Guild Cleaning 1pm-3pm - Community Lunch
18 8am - Holy Eucharist 9am - Christian Education 10am - Sung Eucharist 5pm - Youth Group Caroling Kettle Korn delivery date	19 January Newsletter Deadline 7pm - Vestry	20 Christmas Memorials Due	21 7:30pm - Choir Rehearsal <i>Bulletin Items Due</i>	22 10am - Holy Eucharist	23	24 CHRISTMAS EVE 10:30am - Acolyte Rehearsal 5pm - Family Service & Children's Program 10pm - Carillon Recital 10:30pm - Musical Prelude 11pm - Festive Eucharist
25 CHRISTMAS DAY 10am Christmas Day Service with Fr. Adam and clergy at St. Jude's Church (Redeemer Ministry Center)	26 Parish Office Closed	27 7pm - Healing & Prayer Ministry	28 <i>Bulletin Items Due</i>	29 10am - Holy Eucharist	30	31 NEW YEAR'S EVE