



CROSSWAYS

The Newsletter of All Saints' Episcopal Church, Johnson City, NY

December 2020 Vol. 67 No. 11



ADVENT & CHRISTMAS OPPORTUNITIES* AT ALL SAINTS' NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2020

ADVENT 1

Saturday, November 28, 2020 5:00 pm

5:00 pm Liturgy of the Word by ZOOM & Facebook Live

Sunday, November 29, 2020

9:00 am "Dwelling in the Word" by ZOOM

10:30 am Liturgy of the Word by ZOOM & Facebook Live

5:00 pm Evening Prayer by ZOOM & Facebook Live

6:00 pm Advent Series *Incarnation: Rediscovering the Significance of Christmas* by ZOOM

ADVENT 2

Saturday, December 5, 2020 5:00 pm

5:00 pm Liturgy of the Word by ZOOM & Facebook Live

Sunday, December 6, 2020

9:00 am "Dwelling in the Word" by ZOOM

10:30 am Liturgy of the Word by ZOOM & Facebook Live

5:00 pm Evening Prayer by ZOOM & Facebook Live

6:00 pm Advent Series *Incarnation: Rediscovering the Significance of Christmas* by ZOOM

ADVENT 3

Saturday, December 12, 2020 5:00 pm

5:00 pm Liturgy of the Word by ZOOM & Facebook Live

Sunday, December 13, 2020

9:00 am "Dwelling in the Word" by ZOOM

10:30 am Liturgy of the Word by ZOOM & Facebook Live

5:00 pm Evening Prayer by ZOOM & Facebook Live

6:00 pm Advent Series *Incarnation: Rediscovering the Significance of Christmas* by ZOOM

ADVENT 4

Saturday, December 19, 2020 5:00 pm

5:00 pm Liturgy of the Word by ZOOM & Facebook Live

Sunday, December 20, 2020

9:00 am "Dwelling in the Word" by ZOOM

10:30 am Liturgy of the Word by ZOOM & Facebook Live

5:00 pm Evening Prayer by ZOOM & Facebook Live

6:00 pm Advent Series *Incarnation: Rediscovering the Significance of Christmas*

CHRISTMAS EVE

Thursday, December 24, 2020

1:30 pm Livestream Holy Eucharist from the Chancel

2:30 -4:30 pm Christmas Holy Communion Distribution

(Park, Enter, Walk-thru, Receive Holy Communion, Exit||: Repeat)

CHRISTMAS 1

Saturday, December 26, 2020 5:00 pm

5:00 pm Liturgy of the Word by ZOOM & Facebook Live

Sunday, December 27, 2020

9:00am "Dwelling in the Word" by ZOOM

10:30 am Liturgy of the Word by ZOOM & Facebook Live

5:00 pm Evening Prayer by ZOOM & Facebook Live

**Please see below for ZOOM, Facebook Live, and Amplify links and codes*

Rector's Christmas Letter will be mailed out separately in mid-December

ZOOM, FACEBOOK LIVE AND AMPLIFY LINKS AND CODES

Saturdays, Liturgy of the Word at 5 pm by ZOOM and Facebook Live

For ZOOM:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/554520322>

For Facebook Live

<https://www.facebook.com/pg/allsaintsjcny>

Sundays at 9 am "Dwelling in the Word" by ZOOM only

<https://zoom.us/j/410030305>

Meeting ID: 410 030 305

Sundays Liturgy of the Word at 10:30 am* by ZOOM and Facebook Live

For ZOOM:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82789763563?pwd=YlRpRmlmWTdxT2hQQmtQeng0cE5NZz09>

Meeting ID: 827 8976 3563

Passcode: 232719

For Facebook Live:

<https://www.facebook.com/pg/allsaintsjcny>

Sundays Evening Prayer at 5 PM by ZOOM and Facebook Live

For ZOOM:

<https://zoom.us/j/558434363>

Meeting ID: 558 434 363

For Facebook Live:

<https://www.facebook.com/pg/allsaintsjcny>

Sundays Advent Series *Incarnation: Rediscovering the Significance of Christmas* at 6 pm

For ZOOM:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87250958474?pwd=RIIxdkFreFQrYStBM3ZyT2FXUTZvQT09>

Meeting ID: 872 5095 8474

Passcode: 207163

Amplifymedia.com Congregation Code: CLHXMS

Thursdays Compline at 8 pm by Zoom only

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89685218858?pwd=QzBraExXc01UeVRxajFwRE5xNGdMQT09>

Meeting ID: 896 8521 8858

Password: 079826

Christmas Eve Livestream Eucharist, Thursday, December 24, 2020 at 1:30 pm by ZOOM and Facebook Live

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84528591686?pwd=enNmbjBBNGhqLzRiTmkwaFVMVTNidz09>

Meeting ID: 845 2859 1686

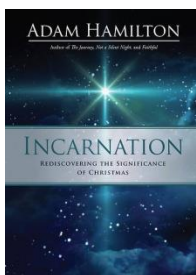
Passcode: 955006

For Facebook Live:

<https://www.facebook.com/pg/allsaintsjcny>

Here is a reminder on how to use ZOOM or Facebook Live. You do not need a ZOOM user id. You can ZOOM by means of a smart phone or a computer that has a camera and microphone. If you are connecting by computer use the link in the weekly e-mail: put your cursor over the “https: etc.” If that doesn't work go to the [Zoom.us](https://zoom.us) website and join the meeting by using the "Meeting ID" and the "password" if necessary. Remember to click “use computer audio” and to use the “camera icon” at the bottom to start the video. You can use the “microphone” icon to mute and un-mute yourself. If you call in, dial 1-646-558-8656 then follow the prompts for the meeting ID, password, etc.

Even if you are not on Facebook account, you are able to view the services of Holy Communion and Evening Prayer by following this link: <https://www.facebook.com/pg/allsaintsjcny/videos> . When all else fails digitally, there is still the telephone. If you let Deacon Dorothy (607-624-1523) or the Rector (607-237-9276) know ahead of time, we can connect about 6 people by phone for a service.



**ADVENT STUDY
ADAM HAMILTON'S *INCARNATION*
BEGINS SUNDAY NOVEMBER 29th
AT 6:00 PM BY ZOOM**

Charles Dickens' novel, *The Tale of Two Cities* set in the 18th century begins with the line, “It was the best of times, it was the worst of times...” It works for 2020 and it worked for Palestine in the 1st century. So, this Advent consider joining the ZOOM Advent Study, *Incarnation: Rediscovering the Significance of Christmas* on Sundays in Advent beginning Advent1, November 29th at 6 pm. Unlike previous Advent Studies we will not begin each session with a simple soup and bread supper, nor will we end with a liturgy in the Chapel. But we

will gather by ZOOM, watch a video led by Adam Hamilton, enter into discussions about scripture, Jesus, his birth, and his names and pray together.

Best-selling author Adam Hamilton writes about his new Advent Study:

“His parents gave him the name Jesus. But the prophets, the shepherds, the wise men, and the angels addressed him by other names. They called him Lord, Messiah, Savior, Emmanuel, Light of the World, and Word Made Flesh...[Together we’ll] examine the names of Christ used by the gospel writers, exploring the historical and personal significance of his birth. This Advent season church families will come together to remember what’s important. In the face of uncertainty and conflict, Christians reclaim the Christ child who brings us together, heals our hearts, and calls us to bring light into the darkness. Now more than ever, we invite you to reflect upon the significance of the Christ child for our lives and world today!”

This is an Advent Study that was designed for ZOOM gatherings. The video will be able to be seen on your computer, tablet, or smart phone. It also uses the resource of Amplifymedia.com site so that if Sundays at 6:00 pm doesn’t work for you can still watch the video on your own time.

Copies of Adam Hamilton’s book are available as both hard cover and an e-copy (\$13.49) from Cokesbury.com. Interested? Pick-up a copy of the book, *Incarnation: Rediscovering the Significance of Christmas* and tune in via ZOOM:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87250958474?pwd=RIIxdkFreFQrYStBM3ZyT2FXUTZvQT09>

Meeting ID: 872 5095 8474

Passcode: 207163

One tap mobile

+16465588656,,87250958474#,,,,,0#,,207163# US (New York)

Dial by your location

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 872 5095 8474

Passcode: 207163

Want to just watch or re-watch the videos for each session. Go to:

<https://my.amplifymedia.com/amplify/welcome> ; then browse/scroll down to Advent; then select Adam Hamilton “Incarnation”; click on it and select video. If asked, use this congregational code: CLHXMS.



“DWELLING IN THE WORD” CONTINUES DURING ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS ON SUNDAYS AT 9:00 AM BY ZOOM

Looking to do something different this Advent? Consider joining the “Dwelling in the Word” Bible Study on Sundays at 9:00 am by ZOOM. “Dwelling in the Word” is a way of spiritually listening to the text as one-way God speaks to us, with a willingness to be shaped by what God might want to say through the Scripture. Throughout Advent, Christmas, and the beginning of the season of Epiphany we are “dwelling” with the Prologue to John’s Gospel: John 1:1-18 in a variety of translations. Portions of the Prologue are part of the lectionary readings for Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany.

Here’s the process:

- Pray for insight.
- Read the passage aloud slowly and pause for reflection.
- Read the passage slowly again and pause for reflection.
- Then share as the Spirit moves you

As we listen to the Scripture we think about:

- What caught your attention, what shimmered for you or what touched your heart?
- What question(s) you would want to ask?
- What are we hearing? Where might the Spirit be nudging me or All Saints’?

Sound interesting? Then to connect to “Dwelling in the Word” go to the Zoom site (<https://zoom.us>); then “join a meeting” using the following Meeting ID: 410 030 305 or use this url and Join Zoom meeting <https://zoom.us/j/410030305>

**VESTRY TO MEET BY ZOOM
ON WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9th AT 6:00/6:30 PM**



The December meeting of the Vestry will be held on Wednesday, December 9th at 6:00 pm via Zoom. God willing Agenda, Minutes, and Financial will be sent to you by e-mail. The **actual start time is 6:30 PM** but those who wish to connect earlier, and chat are welcome to do so from 6:00 - 6:30 PM.

To connect to the meeting go to the Zoom site (<https://zoom.us>); then “join a meeting” using the following Meeting ID: 810 0922 6188 and Password: 322527. Or you can use this link: Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81009226188?pwd=QTZMRHNNNzJFMjl3VTNqQ3E1MWxaZz09>

Remember to click “use computer audio” and to use the “camera icon” at the bottom to start the video. You can use the “microphone” icon to mute and unmute yourself. If you call in, dial 1-646-558-8656 then follow the prompts for the meeting ID, password, etc.

**WANTED VOLUNTEER
A/V OR
COMPUTER TECHNICIAN
TO FACILITATE ALL
SAINTS’ ZOOM AND FACEBOOK
LIVE SERVICES**



All Saints’ is receiving a grant to purchase a laptop, tablet, and accessories to do All Saints’ Zoom and Facebook Live worship services. Prior to this grant, All Saints’ services and meetings have been done on the Rector’s personal MacBook Pro and iPhone! This volunteer technician will be responsible for setting up the equipment prior to both the weekend services in the church or chapel, using the Church’s Zoom and Facebook accounts, troubleshooting, and helping parishioners connect. Please contact the Rector if interested in running the devices!

COLLEGE LOVE THANK YOU



All Saints’ thanks everyone who donated goodies and monetary assistance for the mailings.

Thank you,
Lonna Pierce



Vestry Synopsis for November

The following is a synopsis from the meeting held through ZOOM.

- Zoom meeting started at 6 - 6:30pm socializing
- Vestry conducted Dwelling in the Word.
- We discussed being virtual though the Holidays. It was decided to have 1 service on Christmas Eve at 1:30pm, with a drive-up communion at the church from 2:30pm – 4:30pm., so driving would be easier. There will also be e-mails and snail mail that will spell out the option, thanking people for their pledges or asking if they need another pledge card or if they just want envelopes. Deacon Dorothy, Linda Barkman, Barb Freed, and Mother Chris will be baking cookies and putting them in small bags together with an Advent Pack, Mother Chris will also send out a Christmas letter. And then we again will bake cookies and the week of Advent 4 Deacon Dorothy and Mother Chris will deliver them along with church envelopes if they are ready.
- Treasurer's Report: line items were discussed with the Tioga grant money. Barb printed out a correct version of the balance sheet. There will be a finance meeting on Friday, and a Budget and Finance meeting on Nov. 18th.
- All Saints' Gathering Anew Step 3. We will be not gathering in the Church for services until we re-visit the infection rate of the town at the beginning of the new year.
- Scouts will be having a bottle drive sometime this month. Iris Hickey's Girl Scout troop will also start meeting here every other Wednesday starting Nov.18th.
- The lunch bunch will meet 11/20/20 at 3:30 pm by Zoom.
- Fundraising: There will be no Cabaret this year or pasta dinner.
- Building and Grounds – Matt Labosky and Gary Zurn and Rick Hrebin will be looking into fixing the wall in the Christian Ed room. Rubberized paint is needed after the wall is scraped and cleaned.
- Soup & Sandwich - Elevator is working! Numbers are still high.
- Chow: Ida gave report that numbers are still low.
- Diocese & Beyond: Upcoming convention on 11/13 & 11/14.by ZOOM and Facebook Live. Bishop DeDe will hold a Church service on Nov. 15th at 10:00 am for everyone. We will be participating. No services at All Saints' on November 14/15 or Dwelling in the Word.
- Next meeting December 9th, 2020 by Zoom.



**CALLING ALL ALTAR GUILD MEMBERS,
VOLUNTEERS, PURIFICATORS, CORPORALS,
BRASS AND SILVER POLISH: SATURDAY
DECEMBER 12th at 9:00 AM**

We will all meet at church at **9:00 am on Saturday December 12th** to clean silver and bring decorations upstairs to get ready for greening the church. If anyone has questions or concerns, please call Judy Horton or Kim Trowbridge so a meeting can be set up before we start work. The co-directors will make coffee and bring some cookies so please plan on coming and helping. Many hands make light work.



STEWARDSHIP ACTIVITIES



Time, Talents & Treasure

Financial Report from Budget & Finance Committee

The All Saints Budget & Finance Committee met this week via Zoom to begin deliberations on the 2021 Budget. It was NOT a very cheery experience, as we have a revenue shortfall of approximately \$28,000.



For all of you that have already submitted pledges for next year (32), “Thank You”! There are potentially about 15 pledges that have not yet been received from parish members who pledged this year. That dollar amount would amount to about \$15,000 if everyone pledged for 2021 at the 2020 rate. That additional commitment from you would cut the budget gap by almost half, leaving us with a task of finding additional revenues or further cutting costs, or a combination of both methods.

Please pray for our All Saints ministry, and if possible, complete and submit a pledge for next year. Any other ideas for helping to balance the budget would also be appreciated.

Tom Johnson
Warden & Budget & Finance Chairman

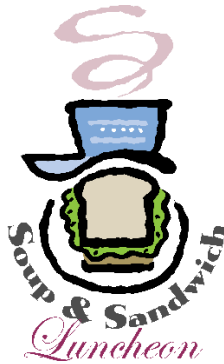
Hello Fellow Parishioners,

I would like to report on the status of the fall Stewardship Campaign. As of November 18th, we have received 31 pledges totaling a little over \$78,000. Thank you to everyone who has sent in a pledge card. Of course, you may also ask for envelopes without pledging. Tom Johnson reported at last night's Budget and Finance Committee meeting that there are still 15 possible pledges from people who pledged in 2020 who have not yet pledged for 2021.

As I said in last month's *Crossways*, I realize with the current situation, it may be tough for some people to decide what to do. If you can find a way to pledge, it would be helpful to the Committee so that we might be able to present a budget to the Vestry at their December meeting. If you need a new card, call the office and Linda Barkman can send you another. The budget figures can be revised as pledges come in. This will better reflect our situation for 2021. So, if you can send in your pledge card soon, I would greatly appreciate it. A member of the Vestry may call you to remind you. Personally, I came away from the meeting somewhat discouraged after seeing the preliminary projections for income and expenses.

I would also ask anyone who pledged in 2020, to look to see what you have already given, and if you are behind, please catch up by the end of this year. Remember, money given after December 31 will be counted for the year 2021.

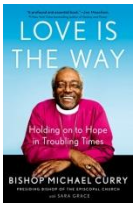
Don Thorpe, Stewardship Chair



SOUP AND SANDWICH CONTINUES

Soup and Sandwich continues to provide for those who come to our doors week by week. Since COVID began we have seen our numbers rise from about 60 served to now an average around 100. We continue to get some of our food from CHOW, but there are many things they do not provide for us. One of the biggest is all the disposable products necessary to serve strictly takeout. Because of this, the cost of each weeks' meal averages \$100. As of the beginning of October we have spent a \$1,000 more than the beginning of October 2019. Thanks to memorial contributions and some generous donors we still can continue to serve. I ask one and all to offer prayers for our program. Pray also for those who not only give up their time, but also volunteer for his essential service regardless of any potential risk.

Debbie Thorpe
Soup and Sandwich Chair



**BOOK CLUB TO MEET WEDNESDAY,
December 16th at 5:30 PM BY ZOOM:
READING BISHOP CURRY'S
*LOVE IS THE WAY***



The Book Club has decided to read Presiding Bishop Michael Curry's latest book, *Love is the Way: Holding on to Hope in Troubling Times*-often reading aloud. We have finished Chapters 1-4 so we will be moving on to Chapters 5 & 6 and maybe beyond in December. Because of Christmas, the Book Club will meet by ZOOM on Wednesday, December 16th at 5:30 pm.

Here's the publisher's blurb for *Love is the Way*:

“As the descendant of slaves and the son of a civil rights activist, Bishop Michael Curry's life illustrates massive changes in our times. Much of the world met Bishop Curry when he delivered his sermon on the redemptive power of love at the royal wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle at Windsor Castle. Here, he expands on his message of hope in an inspirational road map for living the way of love, illuminated with moving lessons from his own life. Through the prism of his faith, ancestry, and personal journey, *Love Is the Way* shows us how America came this far and, more important, how to go a whole lot further.

“The way of love is essential for addressing the seemingly insurmountable challenges facing the world today: poverty, racism, selfishness, deep ideological divisions, competing claims to speak for God. This book will lead readers to discover the gifts they need in order to live the way of love: deep reservoirs of hope and resilience, simple wisdom, the discipline of nonviolence, and unshakable regard for human dignity.”

Want to read and discuss? Pick-up a copy (hardcover \$20.99 and e-copy \$13.99) and then tune into the ZOOM Book Club meeting on Wednesday, December 16th at 5:30 pm. To connect to Book Club go to the ZOOM site (<https://zoom.us>); then “join a meeting” using the following Meeting ID: 810 8769 3464 and Password: 843148 or use this url to Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81087693464?pwd=Y0RKbEw5cFVrUmVlaHcrU1VPQ0VVUT09> You can also just participate by any phone by dialing +1 646 558 8656 and then keying the Meeting ID: 810 8769 3464 and Password: 843148.

Silver Bells Christmas Gift program for Senior Citizens



Thank you for your interest in this year's Silver Bells program. Last year, your participation was instrumental to our success, and we were able to provide 100+ gifts and lots of Christmas cheer to local senior citizens.

As you know, this year is not a typical year. However, we strongly feel that now, more than ever, older adults need to feel connected. COVID-19 has increased the isolation of many older adults and we would like this program to be a reminder that they are loved this holiday season.

Considering the pandemic, we have been working on ways to make sure we are doing everything we can to ensure the safety of all involved.

1. We are not distributing gift tags. We will be using an online software tool called Sign Up Genius (<https://www.signupgenius.com/>).

- This tool will allow us to make lists for your congregation to access online, see what gifts have not been taken and chose the gift they would like to purchase. When they “sign up”, it is visible to all others which senior is taken and what gifts are left.
- If you are concerned that some of your congregation does not utilize the Internet, we will be happy to discuss some ideas how you can adapt to make it accessible to those church members.
- Because we will not have tags, shoppers will need to make sure to identify who the gift is for.

2. We will not be using volunteers to wrap presents this year. Our staff (4 people) will be the only ones handling the gifts before delivery. This will greatly reduce the amount of personal contact with the gifts.

Susan Spencer

Faith in Action Volunteers - Broome County Council of Churches

3 Otsenigo St., Binghamton, NY 13903

607-724-9130 ext., 339

Fax 607-724-9148

- We will only be using gift bags this year.
- Shoppers may provide a gift bag, or we will supply one.

3. The volunteers who distribute the gifts will provide delivery with as little contact as possible.

- Gifts will be left at the door. The volunteer will wait to make sure the senior takes their gift.
- Our volunteers follow CDC guidelines involving social distancing, wearing masks, and washing hands frequently.

TIMELINE:

- **December 14th – 18th – Gifts will be picked up at your church**
- **December 21 & 22 - Gifts will be delivered**

We are requesting each church to take a minimum of 20 names. Please let us know if you would like to participate and the number of names you would like.

Thank you again for your help with this project!
Sue



Good Afternoon Linda,

Here is the link for the Silver Bells Sign up. There are a few ways to do this. You can forward the link to the people who were interested, and they can sign up themselves. (They would be asked to provide their name and email address, I would not contact them directly, but this is what's required to sign up.) Or you could just print out the list. If you have any questions, please contact me.

Thank you and have a great day!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4FAAAE2DA1F9C25-silver4>

Larese Isaacson

Program Coordinator

Faith in Action Volunteers

Broome County Council of Churches

3 Otseningo St.

Binghamton, NY

607-724-9130 ext. 339



**CUB SCOUT PACK 100
TO SELL CHRISTMAS TREES
AT ALL SAINTS' ==> Not this year**

Our Cub Scout Pack, 100, will **NOT hold** its annual Christmas tree sale in All Saints' parking lot. This is due to the COVID-19 crisis. Hopefully, next year.



REQUEST FROM DEACON DOROTHY PIERCE: JAIL MINISTRY NEEDS FOR CHRISTMAS AND WINTER

To Our All Saints' Family,

As we approach the Christmas/Holiday season and think about our brothers and sisters who are residing at the Broome County Jail, we can be certain that this will be an extraordinary season of compassionate giving. You have always been amazingly generous in your care for the men and women who are at the jail. I am forever grateful to God and to you for your gifts, donations, prayers, and the faithful, loving thoughts you send their way. Thank you so much! We will continue to prepare gift bags to hand out close to Christmas Eve Day for every person incarcerated at the jail regardless of his or her faith background, tradition, or practice. The biggest needs are for decks of playing cards, small puzzle books, and current devotionals (small and paperback). We also pass out stamped Christmas/Holiday cards to every individual early in December so that they can send them to their family and friends. These cards should be blank and simply placed in their envelopes, unsealed, and stamped, so that each person can write a message of love and hope to people who are important to them. We like to give out 2 or more of these cards to every person in the facility. The facility has over 500 beds. You can leave these items at the church or call me at 607-624-1523, and I will pick them up at your convenience. Thank you!

We are sadly unable to collect, prepare, and deliver gifts to the children of the men and women at the jail this year because of the pandemic. Hopefully, later, we can surprise the children with gifts, which I will ask for when the time arises. We do have ongoing needs for personal hygiene items which we

can accept and give out to persons as they are being released from the jail. These items may include shampoo, toothpaste, combs, deodorant, soap, and shaving items. Throughout the year, we always need sweatsuits (any sizes), socks, and underwear. All these items can be left at the church - or I will arrange to have them picked up at your home. Again, thank you so much! It is God's gift to us to be able to share with others with peace and love and hope.

I am eternally grateful for all you do to spread love and hope to the men and women at the jail. Many are lonely, feeling lost and sad, and disconnected from family and friends, especially at this time of isolation and not being able to have visits. Your gifts help to bring the love of Jesus Christ to all of them, no matter who they are, and are deeply appreciated and treasured.

*"At the end of the road they will ask me
- Have you lived? Have you loved?
And not saying a word I
Will open my heart full of names."*

Dom Pedro Casaldaliga

This is what we are called to do, to share love, to share ourselves. In doing so, we are serving and loving Christ himself. Keep up the Good Work! I love you all so dearly!

Faithfully and with love,
Deacon Dorothy ♥



CHRISTMAS EVE -- DECEMBER 24th!
1:30 PM LIVESTREAM
CHRISTMAS EVE EUCHARIST
2:30 – 4:30 PM HOLY COMMUNION
DISTRIBUTION

As the Rev. Josephine Robertson in her blog Barefoot Theology says, “In 2020 “the way we’ve always done things” won’t work.” Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the desire to love our neighbor as ourselves, the desire to keep everyone safe, and because there are to be no in-person worship services in the Diocese of Central New York this December, All Saints’ Christmas Eve Celebration of Holy Eucharist will be livestreamed at 1:30 pm on Thursday, December 24, 2020 on ZOOM and Facebook Live. Then from 2:30 – 4:30 pm Holy Communion will be distributed to those who come to All Saints. (These times were chosen so that people would not have to necessarily drive at night!)

The Christmas Eve Eucharist Livestream at 1:30 pm will have clergy, a musician or two and a reader in the chancel. All others will participate digitally. To watch and participate by ZOOM:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84528591686?pwd=enNmbjBBNGhqLzRiTmkwaFVMVTNidz09>

Meeting ID: 845 2859 1686

Passcode: 955006

To watch via Facebook Live: <https://www.facebook.com/pg/allsaintsjcny>

To receive Christmas Eve Holy Communion, think of it as a “walk-thru” rather than a “drive-thru.” Please, everyone do not come at once at 2:30 pm: stagger your arrival as you are able. Please wear a mask covering your nose and mouth.

- Park your car. If you are the only car in the parking lot; you can enter the church. If there are already cars in the lot; please wait until a household comes out of the church before you enter; and
- Enter the church wearing a mask; and
- Upon entering the church, please use hand sanitizer; and
- Keep 6 feet of physical distance from others; and
- Go down the center aisle to the altar rail; and
- Receive Communion (bread) from clergy who are also masked and wearing gloves; and
- Go up the street-side aisle, choose a pew in which to sit, briefly remove mask to consume Communion; replace mask; hear a Post-Communion Prayer said, leave the nave; and
- Use hand sanitizer again; and
- Exit the church, go to your car; and leave the parking lot.

Sound like a plan? Fingers crossed! Blessed Christmas!



ARE YOUR CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS FIRE HAZARDS?

Decorating for Christmas can be a pleasure. You create a hospitable and festive environment in which your community members can feel the spirit of the holidays.

But holiday decorations can also be fire hazards if they are not used properly (or if they have not been updated for a while). Check to make sure your decorations are safe before you display them.

Consider Age Before Beauty

Perhaps you have some beautiful old sparkling bulb lights that you have not replaced in 20 years. Or, you might have an antique ceramic Christmas tree that gets hot to the touch when you plug it in.

Although these old decorations may recall wonderful memories of Christmas past, it may be necessary to retire them from display; they could be fire hazards. Look for loose wires and broken bulbs, and if any item gets hot while plugged in, unplug it. Resist the urge to use older donated decorative holiday items and consider springing for new LED lights. These lights are both less likely to catch fire and more likely to save money on your energy bill.

Watch Out for Open Flames and Real Trees

Nothing is cozier than the soft, flickering flame of candles on a cold winter's night. Maybe you have put together a Christmas display—complete with a real tree or evergreen wreaths—right next to the altar's lit candles. It looks great, and you think the placement will be fine if everyone is careful and

follows basic safety rules. But that is a risk you should not take.

Boughs from real trees can dry out quickly and become tinder for fires from lit candles. Even if you try to remember to water your real tree regularly, it is still possible for it to catch fire if it is placed near open flames.

Do not take unnecessary risks for the sake of a classic Christmas decorative tableau. If you do display a real tree or items made from real trees, keep them far away from lit candles. And make sure that someone is responsible for extinguishing any candle flames when people are not present (good advice year-round).

Make a Decorations Protocol

Do not leave decorations plugged in overnight. Put out any flames before you leave the room and keep candle wicks trimmed. Make sure you have fire extinguishers in easy-to-reach places.

This [checklist](#) can guide you as you figure out how to minimize fire hazards at a time when more people may be present at your organization—and decorations may cause additional risk.

Go ahead and celebrate Christmas to the fullest! Decorate and embrace the good cheer of the season! Just make sure to consider the possibility of increased fire hazards connected to holiday decorations.

Above information provided by The Church Insurance Agency

COVID CHRISTMAS*

By the Rev. Josephine Robertson
All Saints' Episcopal Church
Bellevue, Washington

*Before all else let me say: 2020 has been an incredibly stressful and difficult year for us all. All the below is information and **suggestions**. Do what you need to do for your own mental health and well-being, stay home, stay safe.*

Ok, let's talk about Advent and Christmas in a pandemic.

We'll first sort out some liturgical housekeeping: Christmas is *not* Christianity's most important feast (that's Easter). Christmas joined the Christian calendar fairly late (in the 4th century). And the *religious* observance of Advent, Christmas and Epiphany requires almost *none* of what we have come to associate with December festivities in the United States and Europe.

Christmas has (in the last 100 years or so) been given *enormous* cultural significance and weight, mostly I'm afraid because it drives consumer spending. All that *pomp* is less about religion and more about parting you from your money than you'd like to believe. We've been snookered with romantic imagery and pseudo religious messages into the juggernaut that is modern American Christmas.

It didn't have to be that way and in 2020 "the way we've always done things" won't work. This year may be the perfect time to bring some sanity back to Advent and Christmas.

Christmas wasn't celebrated in the very early church. We don't see its development until the 4th century (in Rome.) The Christmas celebrations roughly coincided with Saturnalia. Advent may have actually *predated* the Christmas feast as a fast directly in opposition to the Saturnalia debauchery and gluttony. Either way, Christmas was the joyful commemoration of the Incarnation, of God putting on human flesh and living with us. Advent was a season (it has varied from 40 days to the current roughly 4 weeks) of preparation and fasting, often emphasizing helping the poor and fasting in solidarity with them.

Christmas isn't about "togetherness" or "family." Christmas is the radical claim that the creator of all that is *gave up* power, privilege, and comfort to enter into human experience; to experience our joy, sorrow, pleasure, suffering, and even death. For us to endanger the lives of our fellow human beings, lives sanctified by the Incarnation, *for the feast of the Incarnation* is blasphemy.

Fortunately, preparing for and celebrating the feast of the Incarnation *is* something we can do authentically and well, even in the midst of a pandemic.

Suggestions for Advent

It has been a long, stressful, and difficult year. And this holiday season (like the Easter season) will be different from past years. Don't try to recreate "normal."

Keep Advent simple and encourage your friends/family/congregants to do so as well. *Remember that Jesus' compassion was for the poor, the sick, and the hurting. Our first rule for Advent this year should be: do no harm, spread no disease.*

This liturgist and theologian suggests that we emphasize rest, service, and inner preparation this year. Here are some ideas, I don't suggest doing them *all*, pick just a few.

- Mark each week of Advent with an at home liturgy of candle lighting and prayer.
- Consider creating a "reverse Advent calendar." (Fill a box with non-perishable food items, contact your local food banks for their list of needs and how to donate them).
- Set aside time each day or week for a *simple* spiritual practice or devotional reading.
- Make a list of the people you know who may be particularly isolated right now (this includes those with disabilities, chronic health issues, the elderly, those with children, those who live alone, etc.). Make it a point to call the folks on your list at some point in Advent and just visit on the phone!
- Send Christmas cards. Remember, Christmas isn't until the 25th of December so there is no rush mailing these. Take your time and send personal greetings to people you love, write a prayer in the card if that is appropriate for that person, keep sending these right through the Christmas season. (When I send Christmas cards, I wait to mail them until Christmas Eve, so they arrive during the 12 days.)
- Set aside intentional time for *rest* each week. Schedule it on your calendar.
- *Wait.* Wait to bake the cookies, wait to hang the decorations. None of these things have to happen during Advent (and I suggest doing them during the *Christmas season*, not Advent). But if you chose to decorate in Advent do it slowly, savor it. Simplify. If the idea of what you normally do for decorations or baking seems overwhelming *don't do it*. The feast will still happen, regardless of how you have decorated (or not).
- Skip the gifts. Gifts are in no way necessary to celebrate Christmas, and in a time of economic uncertainty and a record number of people pushed into poverty, food insecurity, and homelessness the *obligation* of gift exchange runs opposite to the theological meaning of the season.
- All of that said: this has been a deeply hard and stressful year. If what you need in the darkest month is twinkle lights, ornaments, and fake snow then have at it, no guilt and no "advent police" here!

Christmas Suggestions

Christmas is a doubly weighted festival in that our dominant culture gives us messages of excessive consumer spending, overindulgence of food and drink, and paints saccharine and unrealistic expectations of family togetherness and perfection.

The church all too often follows the culture, reinforcing the “family togetherness” message. In 2020 Christmas is likely to be a time of deep loneliness and dissatisfaction as cultural and religious expectations (and traditions) run up against doing our duty to keep one another safe.

Remember that Jesus prioritized wholeness, and care for the vulnerable over everything else, *including* religious obligation *and* family ties. Jesus’ heart for the vulnerable should be our guiding light through the Christmas season.

- Spend Christmas Eve doing *all* your decorating. (Until very recently this was the tradition!) Put up the tree, hang wreaths, string out lights! Have fun, savor, call up friends or family and share memories while you all decorate together.
- Do church online Christmas Eve & Christmas Day. Call in to your community’s Zoom or join a livestream from anywhere in the world. We aren’t bound by geography this year so take advantage of that. (You could work out with your whole family to “go” to the same service.)
- Take Christmas Day *off*. Don’t get out of your PJs all day (a distinct advantage of online church). Read, eat your favorite food, play! (Enjoy the lack of stress or pressure to *be* anywhere.)
- Make plans to talk to the people you love and miss over the course of the 12 days. These might be friends, or family. Use video chat, or phone. Play a game online together, get creative in finding ways to connect.
- Now is the time for fun and excitement! Make (ahead of time) a Christmas days calendar with little treats for each day. (No need for a fancy setup, you could hang numbered packages on your Christmas tree, or make a grab bag to pull a treat from each day.) Treats might be small puzzles, games, chocolate, art supplies, riddles, Madlibs, or other silly enjoyable fun. (Remember, this doesn’t have to be expensive.)
- Change up tradition, instead of “traditional” holiday meals on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day cook your household’s *favorite* food. Mac & Cheese? Go for it. Burgers and tots? Why not. Plan out a special “favorite things” menu for the Christmas season. (And make donations to local feeding programs during this time.)
- Write letters, who are you missing during this season? Write them a real paper letter, put it in the mail.
- Bake. Your body is good, it bears the image of God. God became a body and seemed to enjoy it! Make yourself lovely things to eat and enjoy. Share them (safely) with people you love! Use box mixed, or from scratch, the how doesn’t matter.
- Get outside. If you live in an area with snow, get out and enjoy it, even if you aren’t a kid anymore. Throw some snowballs, or just wander and enjoy the scenery but a little play does us all good, try it! If you live in an area without snow? Go outside anyway! Take an evening walk and enjoy Christmas lights, wander through the woods, marvel at Creation. (Afterwards, make hot Chocolate from scratch! Boil milk (1 cup) whisk in 2 Tbsp cocoa powder and 1- 2 Tbsp sugar (to taste). Add a drop of vanilla extract, peppermint extract, marshmallows, or whipped cream for extra yum.)

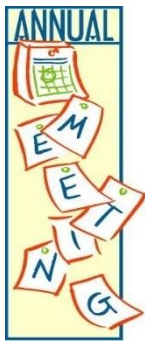
**From Barefoot Theology.com 10/27/20*



THE VESTRY WANTS YOU!

The nominating committee, consisting of [Tom Johnson](#) (warden), [Linda Barkman](#) and [Ida Taft](#) (vestry members), is requesting nominations from the congregation for two vestry persons [two three-year terms] and one warden [two-year term]. Please contact any one of these people to either place your

name into consideration or to nominate someone else. The committee will present the nominations for consideration at All Saints' Annual Meeting on January 24th, 2021.



ANNUAL MEETING REPORTS ARE DUE ON JANUARY 15TH!

Are you the chair of a committee? Stewardship? Are you a leader of an activity? Property & Grounds? CHOW? College Love Boxes? Christian Ed Director? Music Director? Treasurer? Soup & Sandwich

Lunch Program, etc.? Then please send in your written report of your ministry during 2020. The Annual Meeting is Sunday, January 24th, 2021 and **reports are due January 15th!**

ARTICLES FOR JANUARY CROSSWAYS DUE DECEMBER 22ND



EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF CENTRAL NY NEWS

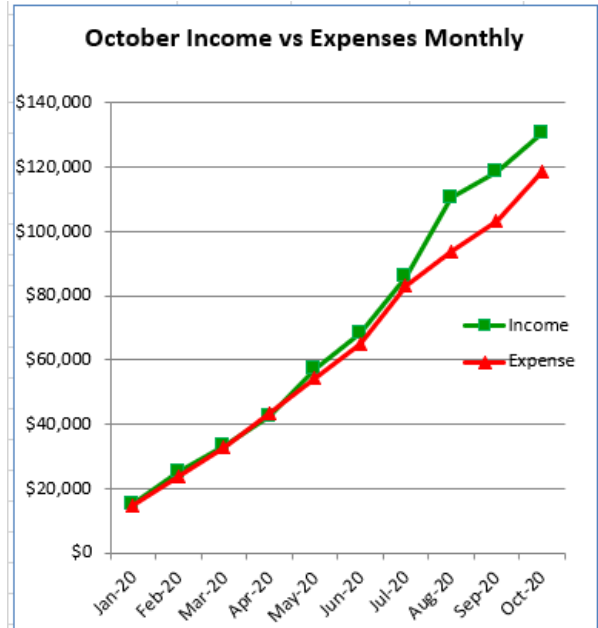
The following is the link to the [Diocesan News](#). The following is a link to the [Diocesan Blog](#).

You can subscribe to the *Messenger* at cnyepiscopal.org/messenger for more information.

NOVEMBER 2020

Truly, with “God all things are possible” (Matthew. 19:26). The following budget section has been updated after approval of a reduction in All Saint’s Diocesan Assessment from the Diocese.

	Actual October 31, 2020	Annual Amended Budget 2020
Offering & Pledges	\$79,246	\$105,798
Fundraising	\$5,408	\$12,750
Other Income	\$45,909	\$25,994
Total Income	\$130,562	\$144,542
Total Expenses	\$118,721	\$144,542
Profit(Loss)	\$11,842	\$0
Income Needed from Equity Surplus	\$0	\$0



- Most of the increase in income is due to Payroll Protection Plan money.

Special Christmas Offering — Christmas Offering Envelopes will be inserted in the Rector’s Christmas letter to be mailed in mid-December. Please remember that you **must include your name** on the envelope to receive credit on your giving statement.

Year 2021 Pledge Envelopes — for parishioners who have requested envelopes will be available for pick up in the narthex of the church on the weekend of 12/14-15. If you would like envelopes and do not find them there, please contact the office and a set will be assigned to you. **Please do not use envelopes from a prior year for 2021 contributions**, as new numbers are assigned each year and you may not receive credit for your contribution.

Year 2020 Pledge Statement Reminder — Pledge and other special gifts **received on or before December 31, 2020** will be posted on your Year 2020 statement. Pledge offerings and other special offerings arriving **after** December 31 will be posted on your 2021 statements. If you would like a statement of what you have paid to date, please contact the office. Year 2020 final statements will be available for pickup in the narthex the week of January 20th. If you wish your statement mailed to you, please send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to the church office.

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Puzzle!

Use the code to complete Isaiah's prophecy about Jesus, our Savior.



CODE:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q

10 23 13 17 14 6 18 21 21

11 14 12 10 21 21 14 13

6 24 23 13 14 1 15 4 21

12 24 4 23 2 14 21 24 1

22 18 16 17 3 8 16 24 13

14 5 14 1 21 10 2 3 18 23 16

15 10 3 17 14 1 25 1 18 23 12 14

24 15 25 14 10 12 14

I S A I A H 9 : 6 , N I V

Answer: And he will be called Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
Isaiah 9:6, NIV



PUZZLE

WHITE AS SNOW

Jesus, our Savior, came to earth to purify sinners.

Directions: Figure out which path through the puzzle is correct. Choose one to try, starting at the first picture under the "Path" box. Follow each picture's directional cues to see if the words make sense when placed in order in the blanks below. If not, try a different path until you figure out the Bible verse.



PATH 1	PATH 2	PATH 3	PATH 4	PATH 5	PATH 6
for	give	come	together	around	after
self	into	settle	eternal	thanks	forgive
God	love	says	without	Christ	warmth
love	sins	scarlet	other	light	praise
red	star	white	snow	winter	peace



"_____ now, let us _____ the matter," _____ the
 _____. "Though your _____ are like _____,
 they shall be as _____ as _____"

ISAIAH 1:18, NIV

Answer: Path 3; come, settle, says, LORD, sins, scarlet, white, snow



PRAYER LIST BEGINNING DECEMBER

Policy reminder: Submitted names are placed on the short-term list for four weeks and then moved to long term by request of the person submitting the name, or by need known by the Rector. **Also, we are trying to be sure that our prayer lists are as updated as possible and certainly do not want to remove someone that should be on it. If you know of someone that should be removed please let the office know. Thank you.**



Short Term: Steve Kasmarcik, Mary Padula-Malchak, Ryan Lane, Richard Benson, Audrey Fluck, Cindy Cole, Colleen, Sharry Doyle, Mike Burrell, Lucy Grabowski, Marion Kohickel, Sam McMullen, Patricia Wheller, Jim Schofield, Hannah Burrell, Teresa Perkins, Darlene Byarley, Sandy Johnson, Bryce Johnson, Herb Lake, Martin Kasmarcik, Tom Stout, Bill Kasmarcik, Jeanette Cook, David & Judy Horton, Margaret Isaminger, and Sarah Harrison-Pautard.



Long Term: Doug Carlson, Karen Zimmer, Dorothy Pierce, Noelle Benson, Larry Kiley, Eli Bedell, Tony Szwalla, Ralph Holloway; Bob Gillmer, Stacy Matto, Kenneth Barkman, Jenna Knapp, and Nanette McIntosh

Military: Ben Holbus and Michael Lake



Shut Ins: Thelma Barkman, Clark Byarley, Jane Chomyszak, Sally Cole, Arlene Foley, Ruth Furman, Lee Grabowski, Patricia Holloway, and Ardis Rogers



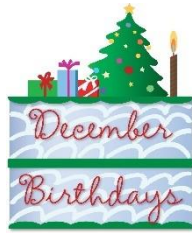
Celebrations in



17 Gary and Bobbi Zurn
28 Nancy and Kenneth Baker



- 02 Austin Steber
- 03 Benjamin Reynolds
- 04 Debbie Thorpe
- 10 Kate Saleeby
- 17 Carol Mastroe
- 18 Cynthia Macarak
Robert McCurry
- 23 Barbara Freed
Thelma Barkman
- 25 Joseph Dotolo
- 28 Ryan Hrebin
Arlene Foley
Matthew Labosky



Sanctuary Candle

December 6th – given by Barb Freed in memory of Donald Freed

December 13th – None

December 20th – given by Allen and Carol Motsko in memory of William and Martha Motsko

December 27th- given by Lonna and David Pierce in memory of Bruno and Mary Suchowiecki and given in thanksgiving of work done by everyone at All Saints'

December 20th – None

December 24/25th –

Mr. & Mrs. Harold Blanding - Bequest
Mrs. Ermine McDonald - Bequest
David Pierce and her mom and dad, Mary & Bruno Suchowiecki, given by Lonna Pierce
Adeline, Albert, & Marilyn Thorpe, given by Debbie and Don Thorpe
Frederic, Teresa, and Stephen VanDervoort, given by Debbie and Don Thorpe
Walter J Brink, Doris E. Brink, Donald Freed, and Connie J. Whalen, given by Barbara Freed

December 27th – in thanksgiving of work done by everyone at All Saints'



Altar Flowers Sanctuary Flowers

December 6th– given by Lynn Alexander in memory of Marilyn Doersam and The Rev. H. Arthur Doersam and given by Bobbi and Gary Zurn in thanksgiving for the birthday of their son, Dr. Derek Zurn

December 13th –given by Debbie & Don Thorpe in memory of Fred VanDervoort; given by Lonna Pierce in thanksgiving of birthday of Louise Pierce and given by Bobbi and Gary Zurn in thanksgiving of their 54th anniversary

Memorials for Christmas will be available for review at the Memorial Desk beginning Advent 1 on November 29th if we have in-person worship by this time. Memorial deadline for the Christmas bulletins is December 19th You can e-mail the church with Christmas memorials at allsaintsjcny@aol.com or use a Flower Fund form and put it in my office door mailbox.



The Rector, Wardens, Vestry & Staff

Wish you a Blessed Christmas

The following prayer is from the Evening Prayer service in the Book of Common Prayer:

Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or weep this night, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, Lord Christ, give rest to the weary, bless the dying, sooth the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous: and all for your love's sake. Amen.

The Final Word 

Happiness: Psalm 16:8-9 – “I know the Lord is always with me. I will not be shaken, for he is right beside me. No wonder my heart is filled with joy, and my mouth* shouts his praises! My body rests in safety.”

***As in Greek version: Hebrew reads glory.**

David discovers that joy is far deeper than happiness. Joy can be felt even in the midst of and in spite of one's deepest troubles. Happiness is temporary because it is based on external circumstances, but joy is lasting because it is based on God's presence with us. As we learn to contemplate this presence, not only will we grow in contentment, but we will discover the deeper joy that is connected to our confidence in God's abiding love for us. NLT-GEZ

The calendar on the following page is based on church activities as usual. Many meetings are via ZOOM or Facebook Live see above for information.



DECEMBER 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 Advent 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM <i>Dwelling in the Word</i> via ZOOM 10:30 AM Liturgy of the Word via Zoom and Facebook. 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM Evening Prayer via ZOOM and Facebook Live 6:00 PM Incarnation Advent Series by Zoom	30 Office Closed 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM CHOW Pantry	1 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM CHOW Pantry 6:30 PM Jr. League BD Meeting	2 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM CHOW Pantry 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM Rector Official Office Hours	3 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM CHOW Pantry 8:00 PM Compline via Zoom	4 Office Closed Rector Off Day	5 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM Soup & Sandwich Lunch 5:00 PM Liturgy of the Word via ZOOM and Facebook
6 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM <i>Dwelling in the Word</i> via ZOOM 10:30 AM Liturgy Word via Zoom and Facebook. 11:30 AM Rector/Wardens' Meeting 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM Evening Prayer via ZOOM and Facebook Live 6:00 PM Incarnation Advent Series by Zoom 6:00 PM Scouts Committee Mtg 6:15	7 Office Closed 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM CHOW Pantry	8 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM CHOW Pantry	9 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM CHOW Pantry 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM Rector Official Office Hours 6:30 PM Vestry Meeting	10 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM CHOW Pantry 8:00 PM Compline via Zoom	11 Office Closed Rector Off Day	12 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM Soup & Sandwich Lunch 5:00 PM Liturgy of the Word via ZOOM and Facebook
13 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM <i>Dwelling in the Word</i> via ZOOM 10:30 AM Liturgy of the Word via Zoom and Facebook. 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM Evening Prayer via ZOOM and Facebook Live 6:00 PM Incarnation Advent Series by Zoom	14 Office Closed 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM CHOW Pantry	15 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM CHOW Pantry	16 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM CHOW Pantry 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM Rector Official Office Hours 5:30 PM Book Club via Zoom	17 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM CHOW Pantry 8:00 PM Compline via Zoom	18 Office Closed Rector Off Day	19 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM Soup & Sandwich Lunch 5:00 PM Liturgy of the Word via ZOOM and Facebook
20 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM <i>Dwelling in the Word</i> via ZOOM 10:30 AM Liturgy of the Word via Zoom and Facebook. 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM Evening Prayer via ZOOM and Facebook Live 6:00 PM Incarnation Advent Series by Zoom	21 First Day of Winter Office Closed 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM CHOW Pantry	22 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM CHOW Pantry	23 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM CHOW Pantry 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM Rector Official Office Hours	24 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM CHOW Pantry 1:30 PM - 2:30 PM Christmas Eve Holy Communion Service with only priest, deacon, organist, and soloist. Service broadcast via Facebook Live and ZOOM 2:30 PM - 4:30 PM People to come into church for communion wearing masks, using hand sanitizer and social distancing	25 Christmas Day Office Closed Rector Off Day	26 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM Soup & Sandwich Lunch 5:00 PM Liturgy of the Word via ZOOM and Facebook
27 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM <i>Dwelling in the Word</i> via ZOOM 10:30 AM Liturgy of the Word via Zoom and Facebook. 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM Evening Prayer via ZOOM and Facebook Live	28 Office Closed 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM CHOW Pantry	29 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM CHOW Pantry	30 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM CHOW Pantry 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM Rector Official Office Hours	31 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM CHOW Pantry 8:00 PM Compline via Zoom	1 Office Closed Rector Off Day	2 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM Soup & Sandwich Lunch 5:00 PM Liturgy of the Word via ZOOM and Facebook