

ST. JOHN'S PARISH WEEKLY

Sunday, December 14th, 2008

The Third Sunday of Advent

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

Today	Dec 14	9:00 am – Advent Study Group (in Guild Room, see below) 9:45 am – Choir Rehearsal 10:00 am – Christmas Tree Sale (at the Loring-Greenough House) 10:30 am – Holy Eucharist with Sunday School & Nursery Care during the service and Coffee Hour afterwards 7:00 pm – Night Song (see announcement below)
Monday	Dec 15	6:30 pm – Yoga (in Parish Hall) 8:00 pm – AA Women's Step Group (in Guild Room)
Tuesday	Dec 16	10:30 am – Support Group for Mothers with Newborns (“J.P. Moms”)
Wednesday	Dec 17	6:30 pm – Holy Eucharist with Music
Friday	Dec 19	11:00 am – Support Group for Lesbian & Gay Parents with Small Kids
Saturday	Dec 20	10:00 am – Christmas Tree Sale... Maybe (if we haven't Sold Out!)
Sunday	Dec 21	9:00 am – Advent Study Group 10:00 am – Christmas Tree Sale... Or not (if all the Trees are Sold!) 9:45 am – Choir Rehearsal 10:30 am – Holy Eucharist, with Sunday School & Nursery Care 7:00 pm – Night Song

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Last of the Special Wednesday Services in Advent is December 17th: Please join us December 17th for another intimate celebration of Holy Eucharist with music. We gather for communion, hymns and Taizé chants at 6.30 p.m. in the sanctuary. These services are a very special way to observe the Advent season!
 - Advent Study Group Continues through December 21st: “Waiting” is the theme of an Advent Study Group led by Marie Campbell, Steve Domienik, and Anne Fowler.
 - What does it mean to wait as an individual? As a community?
 - What is spiritual waiting?
 - What does it mean to wait for the Birth of Christ?
- We are exploring these questions using the Gospels assigned for Advent (Year B in the Revised Common Lectionary). Please join us in the Guild Room at 9.00 a.m. on Sundays in Advent. All are welcome at any or all sessions.
- Advent Meditations: In this season of Advent, Anne will be posting meditations each day until Christmas on the St. John's website. They will be posted by Saturday night for entire week that follows, just in case you want to read ahead :-). Please use the link under Light Reading on the left hand side of the home page (www.stjohns-jp.org) to get to the Advent Meditations Calendar.

- Night Song at St. John's is Fabulous! In a joint ministry with the Sisters of the Society of St. Margaret (SSSM), the new Sunday evening service kicked off last week (December 7th). About 40 people attended the first Night Song, which was organized by Daryl Bichel, one of the owners of the Taylor House B&B in Jamaica Plain, and Sister Carolyn Darr, Superior of the SSSM convent on Fort Hill in Roxbury. The second of these very special services will be this evening at 7:00 pm and will feature:
 - Instrumental Jazz, with Ben Schwendener on the Piano and Bhub Rainey on the Saxophone.
 - Renaissance Choral Music, with "The Men of Night Song" performing the Kyrie from the "Mass for 3 Voices" by William Byrd, "Rejoice in the Lord" by Thomas Causton, and "O Lord God Most Merciful Savior" by William Deane.

Please tell the music lovers you know about our new service and make plans to come to Night Song!

- Collection of "Be an Angel" Presents: Again this year, St. John's is providing Christmas presents for children in the care of the Massachusetts Department of Social Services. We responded so quickly to "adopt" all 25 children on the original list provided by DSS that we added more! **PRESENTS ARE DUE @ THE CHURCH THIS SUNDAY**, so we can get them to families by Christmas. If you have questions about gift collection logistics, contact Dawn Teserero: dawn_tess@hotmail.com or 508-463-8224.
- The St. John's Annual Christmas Tree Sale continues on the grounds of the Loring-Greenough House, 12 South St in Jamaica Plain – directly across from the Centre Street Monument – but maybe not for much longer! We sold over 200 trees last weekend, and started this Saturday with only about 140.
 - Hours are Saturday and Sunday from 10:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. (while supplies last!).
 - Proceeds of the sale benefit St. John's and also the Loring-Greenough House. It's a great alternative to buying a tree from the large home improvement stores!
- A Special 4 p.m. Service Has Been Added on Christmas Eve. This is meant to help families with small children who find it hard to get to the later evening service. If you have friends and neighbors who might be looking to worship with their kids between the end of afternoon naps and evening bedtime, please tell them about the new service. The full schedule for Christmas is:
 - Christmas Eve, Dec. 24 – 4:00 p.m. Special Children's Service
 - Christmas Eve, Dec. 24 – 7:30 p.m. Holy Eucharist with Carols
 - Christmas Day, Dec. 25 – 10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist with Carols
- Help us Deck the Halls with Poinsettias! Please consider a donation to help cover the cost of special flowers to celebrate the holiday. A donation of \$20 or more would be wonderful, but any amount is greatly appreciated. Checks or cash should be given directly to Georgia Buck, who is coordinating holiday flower arrangements.
- If You Have Not Already Done So, Please Consider Pledging to Support St. John's 2009 Operating Budget. All members of the parish should have received a mailing with information on the budget and pledging. If you did not, extra copies as well as pledge forms are at the back of the church. Last Sunday's in-gathering of pledges got us off to a great start. But we really need as many people as possible to pitch in and help out. Thanks!

- Cookbook Sale: During November and December, the famous St. John's Cookbook, JAMAICA PLAIN AND FANCY will be on sale at the table in the entry of the church for \$10 for holiday gifts and cooking with new recipes. Please give the money to Andrew Schieffelin (marked Cookbook in the bottom left if you're giving a check) or to Alicia Faxon if Andrew isn't around. There are many family recipes and some from Jamaica Plain restaurants so it's a real treasure!
- Sunday School & Nursery Care: All children ages 4 to 12 are invited to attend classes taught downstairs by our dedicated teaching staff. There is also child care for infants and children up to 3 years of age. But just as Jesus welcomed the little ones, children of any age are welcome to sit with their parents in the sanctuary throughout worship services.
- Coffee Hour Rota: The new system for providing Sunday coffee and refreshments seems to be working well. Thank you Dick Laton-Taylor for making this happen! If you are not currently on the list of St. John's members helping out with Coffee Hour but are willing to pitch in, please contact Dick at di.claire@verizon.net or 617-899-6019. And for those in the Coffee Hour Rota who arrange to switch dates with someone else, please let Evan Smith know at evanmcsmith@comcast.net or 617-477-9231 so he can acknowledge the correct individuals in the bulletin.
- An ounce of prevention: Don't leave anything valuable where it can be seen in your parked car outside the church.

NOTE OF THANKS

- Thanks to this week's coffee hour team of Ed & Margaret Stedman, and Nicole Valtz and Geoffrey Parsons.

PRAYER REQUESTS

- Please pray for the repose of the soul of Estelle Dixon, Delva Bent's sister and Rodney Campbell's aunt, who passed away a week ago Thursday.
- Please pray for the repose of the soul of George Miller, the Rev'd. Matthew Cadwell's stepfather who recently passed away after a seizure and cardiac arrest.
- Prayers are requested for Betty Rivers, Lori Deane's grandmother who faces surgery for removal of scar tissue on her intestines after being admitted to the hospital on Thanksgiving Day.
- Prayers are requested for Martha Waldorf, Helen Waldorf's mother who is undergoing intensive treatment and receiving 24-hour care.
- Please pray for Timothy O'Brien, friend of the Fowler family who is suffering from the effects of a brain aneurism.
- Please pray for Carol Ann McCullough's continued progress as she recovers from knee replacement surgery.
- Please sustain your prayers for Ann Davis Goodrum and David Goodrum as David continues a renewed course of treatment for the colon cancer found in his lungs.
- Please continue to pray for Matteo Torres Singer, who is suffering from a rare brain affliction. Matteo is the son of our former associate priest the Rev'd. Michele Torres and her partner Emily.
- Continued prayers are requested for Lloyd Dixon who is being treated for cancer.

- Please pray for Dana Tesorero, his wife, and their young daughters. Dana, brother of Dawn Tesorero, is in Iraq for his second tour of duty as an Air Reservist and serves as an Air Base firefighter.
- Prayers are requested for Walt Borja, brother of Ivan Borja. Along with his Illinois Air National Guard unit, he was deployed to “an undisclosed location” in the Middle East at the end of November. Walt leaves behind his wife, Kim, and their three young children.
- Please pray for Christopher Cianflone, brother of Caitlin Cianflone. He is about to be deployed to Iraq with his unit.
- Our prayers are requested for the Very Rev'd. Jep Streit and the community of the Cathedral Church of St. Paul in Boston as they recover from the fires which damaged the robbing room and sacristy last Sunday.