

## Sharing God's Love in Our Community Through Prayer, Study and Action

**St. Ann's Episcopal Church in Afton, NY**  
(Member of the Chenango District)

### **The Parish News**

[www.stannsaftonny.org](http://www.stannsaftonny.org)

**The Newsletter of St. Ann's Episcopal Church, Afton, NY**

**Clergy: The Reverend Fr. David A. Hanselman Cell: 607-761-4601 Office: 607-656-9502**

**If you desire Father David to visit you or give you a call, please contact him at one of the numbers above.**

**In an emergency and Fr. David cannot be reached, please contact one of the wardens.**

**Wardens: Dan Vail: 607-240-9264 Tracey Tallmadge: 607-343-1301**



December. Advent is here and Christmastime is coming!

This time of year brings up so many emotions. And it can be extraordinarily stressful for people. So, #1 rule for Christmas preparations – please make space for yourself and others.

Find (or rather, make) some time to slow down and relax a little. The opportunity to slow down a little very rarely happens on its own; you must insist upon it happening.

Be intentional about it. Don't feel guilty about it. Take a little break – pause, take a deep breath, and give thanks. It will be good for you and everyone you encounter.

And if you feel so inclined, join us on Dec 21<sup>st</sup> for a Longest Night/ Blue Christmas service in Zion's chapel. It's a lovely service of prayer by candlelight; an opportunity for peace and thanksgiving.

The entire range of emotions swirl around this season: Joy and wonder, hope and sadness, exhaustion, and exhilaration, fullness of love and emptiness of loneliness, and so many more.

Whatever you're going through, please remember this: God so loved the world that He became incarnated in the person of Jesus so that he might live and die among us. God loves God's creation and that means God loves you too.

Yes, very bad things can happen in life – just read Job and the Passion of Christ and so many other passages of Scripture – but God loves you. It helps me through my struggle with Long Covid and it can help you, too.

Know it. Remember it. Share it.

Knowing it and remembering it will bring healing and wholeness to your life. Knowing it and remembering it will bring guidance and confidence so that you can share it.

Sharing it will bring healing and wholeness to others and you will be Christ for those to whom Christ shall send you. Amen.

**DECEMBER SERVICE SCHEDULE \ SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL WHO SERVE**

If you are not currently receiving email Zoom invites, then please send your email address and you will be added to the parish listing. [Bottom415@aol.com](mailto:Bottom415@aol.com), Yes, the “zoom” service is different, but change is what life is all about.

Service Schedule					
Date	Service	OT Reader	Epistle Reader	Acolytes	
Dec 4	HC	Judy Rettberg	Judy Rettberg	Betty Vail	
Dec 11	MP	Carol Cimini	Carol Cimini	Betty Vail	
Dec 18	HC	Tracey Tallmadge	Tracey Tallmadge	Betty Vail	
Dec 24	HC	Various Readers	Various Readers	Betty Vail	
Jan 1	No Service				
READINGS BELOW					
		Old Testament	Psalm	New Testament	Gospel
Dec 4	HC	<a href="#">Isaiah 11:1-10</a>	<a href="#">Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19</a>	<a href="#">Romans 15:4-13</a>	<a href="#">Matthew 3:1-12</a>
Dec 11	MP	<a href="#">Isaiah 35:1-10</a>	<a href="#">Psalm 146:4-9</a>	<a href="#">James 5:7-10</a>	<a href="#">Matthew 11:2-11</a>
Dec 18	HC	<a href="#">Isaiah 7:10-16</a>	<a href="#">Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18</a>	<a href="#">Romans 1:1-7</a>	<a href="#">Matthew 1:18-25</a>
Dec 24	HC	Various Readings			
Jan 1	No Service				
If you are looking at the above on a computer device, then each reading is a link directly to the reading.					

**MORNING PRAYER LEADERS:** Dec. 11 - Denise & Amy Wieber



**Altar Duty for the month of December** is Betty Vail, 607-639-1201. If you desire flowers on the Altar on a given Sunday, please contact Betty a week in advance.

### St. Ann's Prayer List for **DECEMBER 2022**

We are trying to keep our prayer list updated the best way possible. To do that, please review the lists below and contact us with changes. Our lists are only as good as the information provided to us. A current listing follows. The names listed are not necessarily members of the parish and may include individuals or other requests for which we have been asked to pray. The clergy persons of the Chenango District are included. Please remember these individuals in your personal prayers. *"We are trying to be sure that our prayer list is as updated as possible and don't want to remove someone that should be on it."* Send or give any additions or changes to Tom Vail, 607-639-1201. Please note long term names will be left on the list indefinitely, short term names for two/three months unless updated.

Short Term		Long Term			
Marge	Diane	Carol	Peter	Fr. David Hanselman	St. Paul's Church
Anne	Dorothy	Bobbi	Joyce	Fr. Steven White	St. Andrews's Church
Dorothy	Fran	Mya	Marsha	Pastor Becky	St. Matthews's Church
Ralph		Jason	Holly	Fr. Geoff Doolittle	St. Peter's Church
		Cindy	Richard	The Very Rev. Dr. DeDe Duncan-Probe	Zion Church
		David	Bonnie	Bishop Michael Curry	Message Ministries
		Terra	Hailey	The Revs Ralph & Liz Groskoph	The General Theological Seminary
		Doc	Arthur	Emanuel Church	The Episcopal Divinity School
		Peter		Epiphany Church	



Please keep in your prayers our shut-ins –  
Pete and Carol Vail, Joyce Whitney, Grace Affuso, and Bonnie MacPherson

The General Theological Seminary of the Episcopal Church, the Episcopal Divinity School. The Learning Communities Initiative of the Diocese. 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, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous: and all for your love's sake. Amen.*

## CHRISTMAS CARDS



If you so desire to send Christmas cards to the following names, I'm sure they would be grateful.

Grace Affusso, 286 Deyo Hill Rd, 2036W, Johnson City, NY 13790

Mrs. Toni Weller, Solaris Health Care, 110 Kay-Larkin Dr, Patlaka, FL 32177

Bonnie MacPherson, Vestal Park Nursing & Rehab Center 105 W. Sheedy Rd., Vestal, NY 13850

Joyce Whitney as well just do not know where she is at. If anyone knows please advise myself or Betty Vail.



### Birthdays

12/01 Lexi Cutmore  
12/08 Woody Robbins  
12/16 Sandy Proffitt  
12/18 Abigail Burch  
12/20 Dan Vail



### Anniversaries

12/5 Dave & Nancy Setford

Please let me know if I am missing a Birthday or Anniversary  
[cttallmadg@aol.com](mailto:cttallmadg@aol.com) or 607-343-1301

## We Miss you



I  
Miss  
You



## CHURCH TERMS

**CHURCH TERMS: CHURCH YEAR** – Also called the Christian Year. It is the arrangement of the year by the church into two large divisions, first the festival portion commemorating the life and work of Christ, and second, the non-festival portion, setting forth the standards of the Christian life. The church year begins with the first Sunday in Advent, four Sundays before Christmas. This portion includes Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, Ascension and Whitsuntide or Pentecost. The non-festive portion begins with Trinity Sunday which is the Sunday after Whitsunday.



## Vestry Hi-lights for November

November 20, 2022

- Outreach: Voted to help the Afton VFW with their fund-raising efforts with our November outreach effort. For December, voted to support the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem.
- Voted to provide “seed” money for Amy Wieber to start a soup and sandwich lunch program.
- Decided to have “zoom only” services for January and February to help with fuel costs and avoid fighting with the weather. Fr. David will send from Greene. Access can be gained from St. Ann’s website. [Stannsaftonny.org](http://Stannsaftonny.org)
- We will NOT have a service on Christmas Day, Sunday.
- Carol, Mado and Fr. David reported on the Convention.
- Wednesday bible study suspended to support the Diocesan racism program.
- Voted to send Christmas offering to the General Theological Seminary. Also noted that the General Theological Seminary lists St. Ann’s as the only parish in the Diocese of Central New York to contribute to their support.
- Report on Stewardship effort. It is not too late to send in your “intention” card.
- Voted on the amount of pledge for the Diocese and agreed to meet the assessment.



***Your Way or God’s Way***

***Each of us will have to answer to God.***

***Romans 14:12 NCV***

The popular song “My Way” is a perfectly good tune, but it’s not such a great guide for living.

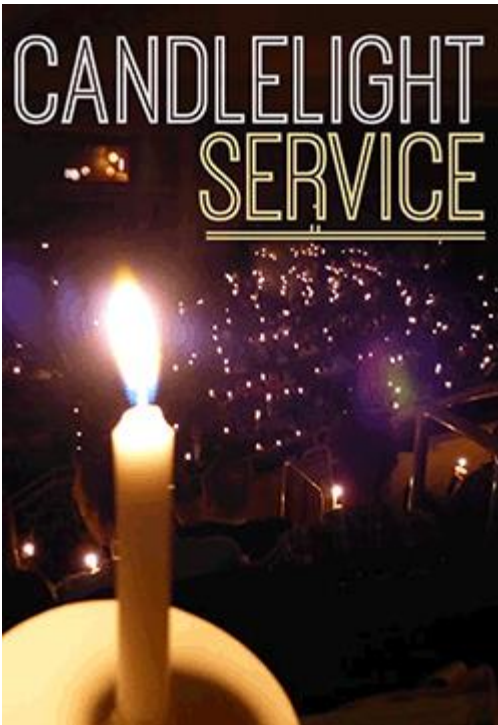
If you’re looking for life’s perfect prescription, forget about insisting on your own way and start doing things God’s way, even if you’re sorely tempted to do otherwise.

Sometimes God’s plans are crystal clear to us; sometimes they’re not. When you’re uncertain about God’s direction for your life, keep searching and keep praying. If you do, in time God will answer your prayers and make His plans known. You’ll discover His plans by doing things His way, and you’ll be eternally grateful that you did.

*God not only orders our steps, but He orders our stops.*

Author Unknown





The Christmas Eve candlelight service will begin at  
4:30p.m. on December 24<sup>th</sup>  
at St. Ann's Episcopal church.

Please join us with your family for this special service.  
Holy Eucharist will be celebrated.  
Keep Christ in Christmas.

There will be NO Service on Sunday 12/25/22



On Sunday December 4th after the service, we will have a brunch with a dish to pass. If you are interested, please call Carol Cimini, and let her know what food item you will bring and the number of people from your family that will be attending. There is a signup sheet on the kitchen counter if you plan to be in attendance before that day. We have not done this in a number of years, and it was felt that it would be a clever way to begin the Christmas season before we Zoom during the months of January and February. Merry Christmas to everyone and many blessings for a very Happy New Year.



**Help:** Isaiah 1:17 – *“Learn to do good. Seek justice. Help the oppressed. Defend the orphan. Fight for the rights of widows.”*

**Helping the needy is evidence of godliness because compassion comes from the very heart of God. Helping others is not merely a holy exercise for us to do but is also an indicator of the kind of persons we are. In closing our eyes to need, we reveal a lack of compassion. But when we cultivate a willingness to help others, God will provide opportunities for us to put our desire to work.** NLT - GEZ

**St. Ann's Episcopal Church**  
**P. O. Box 22**  
**Afton, New York 13730**

**SHARING GOD'S LOVE IN OUR  
 COMMUNITY THROUGH PRAYER, STUDY  
 AND ACTION**

**Clergy:** The Rev. David A. Hanselman

Worship Service: Sunday 9:15 am

Address Label Here

