

The Missioner

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Volume 18, Number 1

January 2012

It's sometimes tough to come down from all of the energy of Advent and Christmas. The days that follow Christmas seem to have a lull, but also a strange magic about them. I'm not simply talking about the enjoyment of new things—certainly that is pretty nice. However, I do think that there is something even deeper about our experience with Christmas that lingers in our hearts for a while after. Perhaps there is something about all of the intention and waiting in the anticipation before Christmas that lends us some different perspective in the longer term. Whatever it is, it is captivating and invigorating.

My guess is that this is why we need a whole season for Christmas, and a season for Epiphany, as well. We need some time to come down, and figure out what it all means. Because however it is that the Holy Spirit has chosen to move within us; we know that it must be for a wider purpose than just tickling our feel-goods.

This, I think speaks to the responsibility of spiritual experience—and more importantly to being part of the Church. What we find, if we open ourselves up to spiritual experience, is that what we thought was only for ourselves is actually the seed of something for the whole community—even the world. It might be anything from having some revelation about the mysteries of God, to something as simple as learning to love one's family and friends in a much more meaningful way. Either way, these gifts are to be shared for the good of all people. The tricky part is figuring out how best to share such things. Of course, this takes discernment.

But the good news is that because we are given a community of faith, we are given people who can help us to discern how best to share what we are given. And if we can commit to be part of one another's lives through service, prayer and worship—we find that our experiences and the use of our gifts can be discerned with people who have become trusted friends. As it turns out, when we understand our experiences with God, and our gifts as not for ourselves only; we see that they naturally draw us ever closer to community (which is pretty cool, actually). And once again we find God's call to community and (dare I say it) evangelism renewed as our lives and stories are invigorated by experiencing God.

So, as we move through the short season of Christmas, and look toward Epiphany—it is important that we not forget the love, light and warmth of Christmas. If anything, the season of Epiphany is a time in which we are to take the wonderful mysteries of Christ that we experience, and allow them to shine that they can be shared. We must allow it to manifest in good works and devotion. And above all, we must allow it to continually transform our hearts and minds so that as we experience a deepening relationship with God, the love that we find there can be incarnated to the world around us.

Important Dates to Remember

Jan 1	Lessons and Carols
Jan 8	Epiphany Sunday
Jan 14	Annual Reports Due
Jan 18	Vestry Meeting
Jan 29	Annual Meeting

In peace,
Fr. Matt +



Happy New Year!

As you read this I imagine that you have begun to recover from the holidays. The holiday season when family gathers to celebrate and enjoy time together is coming to a close. Some of us may be exhausted and may have become tired of the “hoopla” and commercialism associated with the season. Hopefully each of you has enjoyed the season and has had time to rest and regroup for the year ahead. I also hope that you each fully experienced the presence of Christ during this holy time. The magic of secular Christmas can co-exist with the spiritual renewal associated with the birth of Christ.

Looking ahead (as I always try to do) the New Year brings with it a fresh sense of renewed life and vitality to St. John’s. We are settling in and becoming more comfortable with the ministry which has begun under the leadership of Fr. Matt. Our church family seems ready to venture into the future with a new sense of direction and purpose.

I hope that you plan on attending this year’s Annual Meeting, which is scheduled for January 29th, after the 10:30 service. During this meeting you will hear a summary of what has been done during the last year and also hear plans for the future. I strongly encourage you to attend so you can actively engage in the future of St. John’s. Please note this event on your calendar as a priority.

Another opportunity that is available for our adult members is a six week study that is taking place on Tuesday evenings beginning January 10th and running for 6 weeks. There is more information about the study in a separate article in the newsletter. Please consider participating in this adult formation program.

Still another learning opportunity is planned for February 17th and 18th. St. John’s will have its annual leadership retreat at St. Charles Borromeo Pastoral Center in Romeoville. It begins on Friday evening and continues most of the day on Saturday. You have the option of staying overnight. This we hope that vestry members and other leaders will attend. Our hope is to have a variety of leaders present to help generate enthusiasm and commitment for the year ahead. Father Matt will be leading the retreat. Watch for more information. This is not intended to be exclusive to vestry members. The intent is to be inclusive and have as many participants as possible. There is no cost for participants. The retreat will end by 4:00pm on Saturday.

Last year at this time we were faced with an uncertain future. We were waiting to find our new priest. We were preparing for the continuation of our transition period. Now we have a new focus. Our priest has been selected. We have been introduced to his “new perspective”. Now we have the challenge, the opportunity, the call, to join with Fr. Matt and the leadership as we forge into the future. It is a special time and each of us has a chance to make a difference and live an energized life here at St. John’s.

We all need to share in the optimism and activity of this chapter of St. John’s history. The new year is upon us... My hope and prayer is that one of your resolutions for 2012 is a renewed commitment to your church and the work God has planned for us.

Peace, Bob

Parish Staff

Rector The Rev. R. Matthew Humm
Deacon.....The Rev. Roberta Molony
Deacon.....The Rev. John Whennen
Director of Music.....Thomas Secor
Sexton.....John Glasscock

Vestry

Sr. WardenRobert Meehan
Jr. Warden.....Allan Luzbetak
TreasurerJerry Jezuit

Vestry Members

Clark Davis Jerry Jezuit
Dave Kapitanek.....John Larson
Elizabeth Paulsen..... John Schwab
Tom Secor..... Todd Sheetz
Susan Meehan-clerk

Parish Ministry Contacts

Sacristan..... Sue Kapitanek
Daughters of the King...Wendy Stewart
Education Elizabeth Paulsen
Episcopal Ch Women Susan Meehan
Helping Hands Pamela Carter
Hospitality Guild.....Lillian Hensley
Men’s Club Todd Sheetz
NewsletterMain Office
Outreach Ministry. Ruth Kozlowski and
.....Judy Broud.
New Building..... Todd Sheetz
Senior Choir..... Thomas Secor



IMPORTANT NOTE

ALL REPORTS FOR
PUBLICATION IN THE
ANNUAL MEETING EDITION
OF *THE MISSIONER* MUST BE
SUBMITTED TO THE OFFICE
NO LATER THAN
SATURDAY,
JANUARY 14, 2012.

Attendance

Have you been worshipping with us regularly?

It is easy to fall into the habit of not nourishing our spiritual lives. Don't let this happen to you! The table below represents attendance during the month of November. Average Sunday attendance for 2011 was 95.5.

Please make sure you take care of your spiritual life.

	2011	2010	2009
November 6	129	59	100
November 13	91	63	111
November 20	85	86	123
November 27	77	65	102
			94
Total	382	273	530

After services take time to greet our many visitors. Give them a warm "Welcome!" Some of us are here to seek relief from heavy pressures. Others are reaching out for comfort in sorrow. Still others are here to thank God for recent or ongoing blessings. What we all have in common is a great desire to know God and to be enabled to do God's will.



We extend our deepest sympathy to . . .

- Jerry Jezuit on the death of his mother, Helen Jezuit.
- The Huddleston family on the death of Jerry's father, Jack Huddleston.
- Sandra Johnson, on the death of her mother, Elizabeth Johnson.
- The Zurek and Barndollar families on the death of Edward Zurek, Kelly Zurek's father, and Kendall, Erin and Michael's grandfather.
- The Rodeghero family on the death of Pearl Rodeghero.

May the souls of all the departed rest in peace.



The Power of Prayer . . .
Pray for those who are ill
or in any need, especially:

Nicolas	Liz	William H	Norbert
Joan K	Skip L	Konstantina G	Jerry H
Robert K	John A	Gilbert M	Brian K
Kathryn P	Vic T	Vicki S	Mike K
Linda T	Jeanne R	Michael C	Monique D
Doris M	Greg W	Irene C	Marcia A,
Paul	Phyllis B	Don A	Carlos, Mary
Elsie	Bruce C	Terry A	P, Kathleen L
Anna Belle	Mary Beth R	Thomas K	Carl A
Royleen T	Joa A	Robert D	
Marquerite	Kathy A	Bob W	
Connie	Paul R	Dale L	
Pearl R	Jackie M	Art T	
Grier	John L	Cyndi T	
Tristan	Kelly C	Marvin	
Velma L	Amy S	Dolores F,	
Rusty	Steve M	Judy K	
Mark K	Dorie K	Lauren K	
Rita	Carol J	Adrianna K	
Peter T	Kathleen D	Robert L	
George E	Melinda R	Tom K	

This is another day, O Lord. I know not what it will bring forth, but make me ready, Lord, for whatever it may be. If I am to stand up, help me to stand bravely. If I am to sit still, help me to sit quietly. If I am to lie low, help me to do it patiently. And if I am to do nothing, let me do it gallantly. Make these words more than words, and give me the Spirit of Jesus. **Amen.**



January 14th for
the February, 2012
Edition of the Missioner

Request for Annual Reports:

All reports for the annual meeting should be turned be submitted no later than January 14th.

Our annual meeting is scheduled for January 29, 2012. We need the reports early enough so that we have the information ready for this meeting. Please make every effort to submit your report as soon as possible.

Those reports needed include:

Report on Attendance	Altar Guild Report
Treasurer Report	Senior Warden Report
Membership Report	Director of Music Report
Physical Operations Report	Worship Statistics
ECW-UTO-CPC Reports	Hospitality Report
Daughters of the King	
Christian Education Report	Deacons' Reports
Prayer Shawl Ministry	Usher's Report
Outreach Committee	Others

These reports can be submitted electronically or paper copy. You can submit reports to the church email account, office@stjohns-lockport-il.org or to me at meehan201@comcast.net.

I appreciate the leaders of each of these important ministries timely attention to this request. Any questions please contact me (cell-815-228-4098 or at home – 815-524-3396).

Bob Meehan
Sr. Warden

Vestry News



At the December 14, 2011 meeting, the Vestry...

Accepted the committee reports.

Heard...

- o That in the financial reports, income is up because some people pay periodically. The planned deficit will be less than expected because rector expenses are under budget.
- o A summary of Fr. Humm's report highlighting the Diocesan Convention, Outreach and Formation.
- o That approximately 60 pledges totaling just over \$100,000 have been received.
- o That four new people have volunteered to be on the vestry next year.
- o That the office computer crashed and a new computer and external hard drives were purchased with a donation.
- o That fire inspector visited with Bob Meehan and just two lights need to be installed in the church. This is less than previously thought and cost less than expected. Knox boxes are not necessary.
- o That we entered into contract with Air Gators to maintain the furnaces and air conditioners.
- o That a laptop computer was purchased for Fr. Matt.
- o About two learning opportunities being offered by the Diocese. Information will be posted. One is an energy audit meeting at Grace Church in New Lenox on January 14.
- o That the Annual Meeting is scheduled for January 29. Reports are due January 14.

Took action to...

- o Authorize the Sr. Warden to negotiate the snow removal contract.
- o Approve the 2012 housing allowance for Fr. Humm.

The next regular meeting is January 18, 2012 beginning at 7:00.

WHAT'S GOING ON AT THE CATHEDRAL OF ST. JAMES?

Move from Charity to Advocacy and Back

First Saturday Workshop January 7th from 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM

The Social Justice Team of St. James Cathedral welcomes Ken Butigan, Director of Pace et Bene, a Peace and Justice worker, teacher, workshop facilitator, dynamic writer and trainer for over 2 decades. See <http://paceebene.org/user/10> for more information.

Ken will help St. James members to understand the Gospel message of the Baptismal Covenant and how to move from charity to advocacy and back. Ken is a dynamic nonviolence trainer rooted in the gospel. You are invited....



USHERS NEEDED

It has come to my attention, that over the past few months the number of the assigned Sunday 10:30 am Mass Ushers has dwindled to only a few. As the holidays approach the need for coverage during Sunday 10:30 am Mass is becoming increasingly important. The St. John's Ushers and the other staff need your help. There are currently six openings to act as an Usher these are as follows: two open positions for every first week of each month, two open positions for every fourth week of each month, and two open positions for those months with a fifth Sunday. If you are interested please contact Bruce Ray, Lead Usher, or Deacon Bobbie Molony, or Fr. Matt for more information.



The altar guild is looking for anyone who is able to do calligraphy.

If you have the talent and are able to volunteer a little of your time please

contact Sue Kapitanek

at 815 836-0465 or sue@apex-reps.com

Pledge Envelopes



2012 Pledge envelopes are on the cabinet in the back of the church.

We have done our best to keep envelope numbers the same as last year, however, in some cases this was not possible.

Bible Study Planned at St. John's

Title: *Epiphany Papers* (Available through the Diocese of Massachusetts)

Supporting Book: **Ancient Faith, Future Mission: Fresh Expressions in the Sacramental Tradition"**
Steven Croft; Paperback;

Cost of Book: \$17.00 per copy (book may be used in future studies)

Study guides Will be provided

Discussion Leaders: Deacon John Whennen & Bob Meehan

Time Commitment: Tuesday Evenings Beginning January 10th
Each Evening 7:00 to 8:30 (Maximum Length)

6 sessions:	Jan 10	Orientation
	Jan 17	Lesson 1
	Jan 24	Lesson 2
	Jan 31	Lesson 3
	Feb 7	Lesson 4
	Feb 14	Lesson 5

This study group is the beginning of what we hope will grow into a regularly scheduled adult formation activity.

The intent is to provide an opportunity. Should you be interested in it please sign up on the forms available in The back of the church or you can call the office and Donna will put your name on the list.

Books and materials will be distributed the first night we meet.

We look forward to gathering and examining the topic of Epiphany and its relevance to Christians.

Any Questions can be directed to Deacon John, Bob Meehan, or Father Matt.



IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT!

The Lockport Resource Center (LRC), a newly formed ministry of the Lockport/Homer Area Ministerial Alliance, is excited to announce plans for making a difference in people's lives. The LRC will hold its Grand Opening on Saturday, January 14th, at the Christian Ministry Center, at 604 E. 9th St. in Lockport, IL from 10:00 AM until 3:00 PM. The staff of the LRC is asking area residents to donate gently used clothing and/or make financial contributions that day.

Under the theme of "Sharing God's Love: People Helping People", the LRC will operate a thrift store at the Christian Ministry Center on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays and on Saturdays. The proceeds from the sales of new and gently used clothing will be used to provide assistance to people in a variety of ways (e.g. No-interest small loans for those in need of emergency assistance-- rent, utilities, prescriptions, auto repair; scholarships for those looking to further their education; and financial support for the FISH Food Pantry to name just a few).

We are looking for people to partner with us in this important ministry. You can help in any of the following ways:

- 1) Pray for the Resource Center and its ministries;
- 2) Make a financial contribution to help underwrite any of the LRC ministries;
- 3) Bring donations of new and gently used clothing to the center;
- 4) Serve as a volunteer
 - a) Clothing sorters are needed on Tuesday and Saturday mornings.
 - b) In store volunteers are needed on Monday, Wednesday, Friday & Saturday
 - c) Computer/word processor volunteers are needed to help develop print and electronic resources.
- 5) Shop at the LRC; you'll be amazed at the bargains you will find;
- 6) Tell others about the Resource Center
 - a) Invite others to volunteer or to become a ministry partner with you;
 - b) Invite others to bring clothing donations to the center;
 - c) Invite others to pray for the Resource Center;
 - d) Invite others to make a financial contribution to support to Resource Center;
 - e) Invite others to shop at the Resource Center.

Thank you for your support of this ministry. By your support, you will be showing God's love and helping people! For further information, please contact Deacon Bobbie, or Fr. Matt, or call the church office at 815 834-1168

Sunday December 4th, we had great pleasure having "Lewis University Wind Quintet" for our second concert of the series. We put on a reception afterwards with lots of good food and holiday sparkle. About 30 people attended and we had a great time. We had the pleasure of having Father Matt join us. We would like to thank each and every one that helped and contributed food for this concert.

Our next concert is in February 2012, "God on Broadway". We hope to see you there.

Hospitality would like to wish everyone a Blessed Holiday.

Peace,

Lillian Hensley
Hospitality

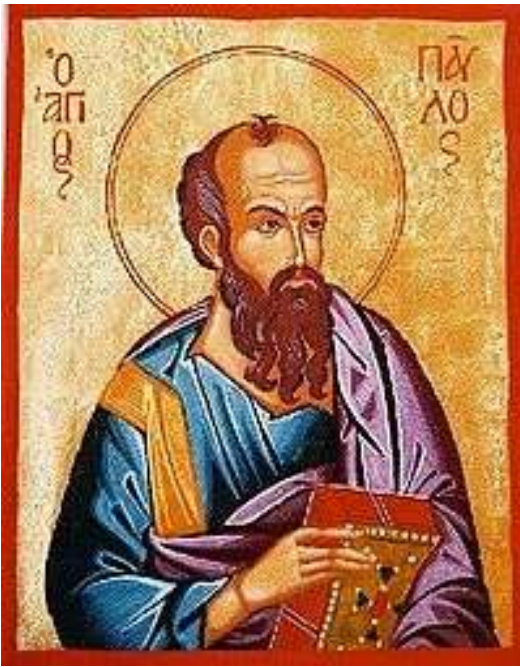


Remember
The FISH Food Pantry

*Every Sunday is
a PANTRY SUNDAY*
PLEASE BRING SOMETHING
TO SHARE .

Conversion of St. Paul

January 25



Paul, or Saul as he was known until he became a Christian, was a Roman citizen, born at Tarsus, in present-day Turkey. He was brought up as an orthodox Jew, studying in Jerusalem for a time under Gamaliel, the most famous rabbi of the day. Describing himself, he said, “I am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin” (Romans 11:1).

A few years after the death of Jesus, Saul came in contact with the new Christian movement, and became one of the most fanatical of those who were determined to stamp out this “dangerous heresy.” Saul witnessed the stoning of Stephen. He was on the way to Damascus to lead in further persecution of the Christians when his dramatic conversion took place.

From that day, Paul devoted his life totally to Christ, and especially to the conversion of Gentiles. The Acts of the Apostles describes the courage and determination with which he planted Christian congregations over a large area of the land bordering the eastern Mediterranean.

His letters, the earliest of Christian writings, reveal him as the greatest of the interpreters of Christ’s mind, and as the founder of Christian theology. He writes, “I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me; and the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me” (Galatians 2:20).

Paul describes himself as small and insignificant in appearance: “His letters are weighty and strong,” it was said of him, “but his bodily presence is weak, and his speech of no account” (2 Corinthians 10:10). He writes of having a disability which he had prayed God to remove from him, and quotes the Lord’s reply, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore, Paul went on to say, “I will all the more gladly boast of my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may rest upon me” (2 Corinthians 12:9).

Paul is believed to have been martyred at Rome in the year 64 under Nero.

O God, by the preaching of your apostle Paul you have caused the light of the Gospel to shine throughout the world: Grant, we pray, that we, having his wonderful conversion in remembrance, may show ourselves thankful to you by following his holy teaching; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

The most famous person associated with Tarsus in religious history is [Paul the Apostle](#). Paul was born a Jew of the tribe of Benjamin in Tarsus about AD 10 and spent his early years here. His father was a Roman citizen; Paul inherited that citizenship and its rights



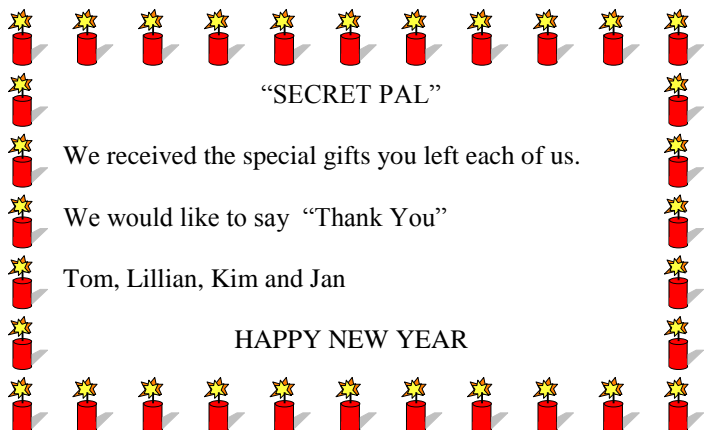
Church of St. Paul



The youth group would like to thank everyone that supported the Kringle Sale. We did great this year at Christmas Crossroads. A special "Thank You" goes out to Susie Meehan for helping to make our new table cloth for Crossroads. Everyone loved it.

Wishing everyone a Happy & Safe Holiday Season.

St. John's Youth Group





JANUARY



01	Elsie Edburg	16	Pam Carter	13	Thomas & Konstantina Gogerty
03	Doris Mitrovich		Roy Stewart	17	Jeffry and Chris Peterson
	Colette Raimondi	18	Ashley Lindstrand	25	Thomas & Susan Drake
04	Danielle Williams	19	Scott Hall	26	Kenneth Porter & Catherine Baker
05	John Sample	21	Sharon Laskowski		
	Tristan Humm	24	Stephanie Benson		
	Patrick Gabel		Jacquelyn Williams		
06	Robert Suva	25	Patricia Darin		
07	Bailey Kozbiel	28	Hannah Hill		
09	Lora Messer		Kathryn Kupchek		
10	Allan Luzbetak		Elizabeth Raimondi		
	Patricia Graham	29	Mary Alyce Polich		
11	Jeffry Paterson	30	Brandon Raimondi		
14	Susan Kapitanek				

THIS MONTHS LESSONS

Date	1st Lesson	Psalm	2nd Lesson	Gospel
January 1	Numbers 6:22-27	8	Galatians 4:4-7 or Philippians 2:5-11	Luke 2:15-21
January 8	Isaiah 60:1-6	72:1-7, 10-14	Ephesians 3:1-12	Matthew 2:1-12
January 15	1 Samuel 3:1-10(11-20)	139:1-5, 12-17	1 Corinthians 6:12-20	John 1:43-51
January 22	Jonah 3:1-5,10	62:6-14	1 Corinthians 7:29-31	Mark 1:14-20
January 29	Deuteronomy 18:15-20	111	1 Corinthians 8:1-13	Mark 1:21-28

Due to technical difficulties with the new computer, a calendar for January is not available.

The following cartoon does not reflect the thoughts or feelings of the management—it is just a joke.



HAVE A HAPPY NEW YEAR—AND DON'T FORGET TO LAUGH!



**Welcome
To
Worship**

SUNDAY

- 8:00 AM. Holy Eucharist
- 9:15 AM. Children's Eucharist
and Church School
- 9:15 AM. Choir Rehearsal
- 10:30 AM. Holy Eucharist

WEDNESDAY

- 9:30 AM. Eucharist
- 7:00 PM. Eucharist



2012 Sign Ups Needed!

It is that time of year again when the new year's Altar Flower and Sanctuary Charts are put up. If there are special dates which you would like to have flowers at the altar or a sanctuary candle burning in memory of a loved one or in thanksgiving for a birthday, anniversary, or other important event.

PLEASE sign-up!
*(Suggested donation Flowers
\$25.00., Candle-\$10.00)*

Friends of St. John's are invited to sign-up too!

Simply drop us a line with the date you would like to set aside and tell us the purpose. Envelopes may be found in the back of the church.

Thank You!



Lockport, IL 60441

312 East 11th Street

St. John's Episcopal Church

The Missioner

