



the evangelist

NEWS & EVENTS OF THE CHURCH OF S. JOHN THE EVANGELIST

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JANUARY LECTIONARY
CALENDAR

DATES TO NOTE

January 8th:
Vestry Meeting

January 27th;
**PARISH ANNUAL
MEETING**
w/combined mass
at 9 AM

February 2nd;
Men's Club Italian
Dinner Night

Church of S. John the Evangelist

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January 2008

To S. John's Family and Friends,

The season of Epiphany begins with the story of the wise men coming to worship the babe and to bring Him gifts. It is an interesting story on two levels. First the wise men are not inside the covenant of Moses. They come on the basis of a cosmic sign, the star. The star represents the evidence of God that is revealed through creation itself. It also announces that the revelation in Jesus Christ is for the whole world. The first Epiphany of Jesus is that He is Lord of the Gentiles as well as the Jews.

In literature there is a technique called foreshadowing. The gifts of the wise men foreshadow the whole of Jesus' salvific work. The gold represents the goodness of the material world. Frankincense represents the spiritual realm. Its appearance in this story shows that in the Incarnation the spiritual and the material are united in the person of Jesus. Myrrh is the symbol of Christ's vocation. Myrrh in the ancient world and indeed until the 1950s was used as an embalming agent. It is the symbol of Christ's ultimate sacrifice for us.

Epiphanies of our Lord are not restricted to His earthly life. From time to time Jesus reveals Himself to each of us. These appearances are usually not dramatic or literal. Finally, there is the Epiphany that Jesus promises us every time we come to Mass.

In Christ,

Fr. Tuck +

Dear Friends and Parishioners:

I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas, and I wish everyone a happy and progressive 2008. This coming year is going to be a very important one for S. John's. Please keep the Vestry in your prayers as we begin the search for a new Rector. This process will take from six to twelve months. If any of you have thoughts, opinions or recommendations about the search, please feel free to speak to any member of the Vestry.

At some point this spring we will have our organ back in operation. We should all thank Jono Babbitt for his hard work in putting the organ project together.

At our last Vestry meeting we had a visit from GERALYN WOLF. The meeting was very pleasant and she sends her love to everyone at S. John's.

I would like to see more Parishioners get together in 2008 to help with chores that need to be done around the Church. Coffee Hour, office work, yard work and the seasonal fairs are examples of areas in which we can always use additional help. The more help the merrier because we are together as friends and family. That's what keeps this church going – helping one another.

With the passing of another year it is time to prepare for our Annual Meeting, which will be held on Sunday, 27 January after a special 9 AM Sung Mass. Please note that there will be only one Mass on that day. We will need help in preparing the brunch that will be served after the meeting – please see me as soon as possible if you are able to help.

I would like to thank everyone who helped Teddi in the Christmas bazaar. I can't wait for next year's grand event!

On Saturday, February 2nd we will have our annual Italian Dinner. Tickets are \$11 for adults, and are available through me or any member of the Men's Club.

Sincerely, Your Senior Warden and Friend,

Charles White

God Bless.

Dear Friends in Christ;

Last month I ended my message by asking "Are you here?"

Since then, we have celebrated the four Sundays of Advent, the Feast of the Nativity of our Lord, and the Feasts of S. Stephen, S. John, the Holy Innocents, and the Circumcision, among others. Throughout these celebrations the presence of the faithful in our Parish demonstrated the strength of this community in carrying out our Lord's commandment to "... do this in remembrance of Me . . .".

The vagaries of the liturgical calendar this year make the season of Epiphany as short as it can possibly be. Ash Wednesday is February 6th. What this means is that we are faced very soon with the reality of Pre-Lent, and that the bright lights of Christmas and the warm glow of the manger are more quickly than usual replaced by the stark penitence of Lent itself. What does the sacrifice of the Mass mean to us as we make this abrupt transition from joy to penitence? Are we willing to continue to be faithful in our attendance at daily Mass and in fulfilling our prayer life even as the brilliance of the Epiphany star wanes and the shadows of Holy Week loom and lengthen in the distance? Indeed, for how many of us was the concept of the "sacrifice" of the Mass lost in that warm glow of the manger?

Here at S. John's we have a literally God-given opportunity to grow in our faith by entering daily into the sacrifice of our Lord and Saviour, without which we are lost, bereft and without hope. As we move through the rest of Epiphany and into Pre-Lent, let us continue to be faithful in our communal worship and collective support of S. John's.

In Christ's Peace

Jono Babbitt

Organist/Choirmaster & Junior Warden Pro Tempore

THE CHANT CORNER

Since the demise of the organ console, I have been delighted and excited by the enthusiastic singing of hymns and chants that have risen from the congregation. Obviously, we will all be grateful when the new organ console is complete, but this prolonged period of *a capella* enforcement presents a unique opportunity for spiritual and liturgical growth.

When the organ console died, we chose to use the First Communion Service setting of John Merbecke for the ordinary of the Mass. Most of us have been familiar with this setting for years, if not decades; what we may not have been familiar with is the nuance of chant notation that is printed in the Hymnal 1940.

There are four basic phrase indications printed in the Hymnal that we use to understand the tempo or speed of the chanted liturgy. The first is the small vertical line passing through the top line of the music staff; this line indicates a brief pause, though not a breath, in the forward motion of the chant.

The second is the longer line, passing through the middle two lines of the musical staff. This requires a full breath, but not a gap, in the natural text rhythm of the line.

The third indication is the full “bar line”, passing through all five lines of the staff, and indicating a full stop, as at the end of a sentence. Clearly, this requires a pause and drawing of breath, an important element when praying communally during the sacrifice of the Mass.

Finally, there is the double bar line that delineates a new paragraph of text. This pause is of necessity even longer; we are about to enter into a new thought, and we need to reorient our thinking to the new concept before us.

No matter how many times we may have sung the Merbecke service, I urge us all to look again at the notation in The Hymnal 1940. Responding to the breath marks may make the recitation more spiritual, and perhaps less automatic.

NOTICES

ST. JOHN'S PARISH ANNUAL MEETING

Our Annual Meeting will take place on **Sunday, January 27th** following a combined Sung Mass at 9 o'clock am. The meeting will take place in the Guild Hall with a parish brunch following. Business to be conducted includes election of new vestry members and presentation of the 2008 budget – if you have not yet turned in your pledge card for 2008, please do so to Ed Carnes in the coming week. Also, please be sure to let one of the Wardens know of any nominations – there are two vestry positions up for election.

MONTHLY PRAYER GROUP

The Prayer Group will meet at 6 o'clock PM on the third Monday of every month at Mary Jane Rodman's house - 41 Walnut Street in Newport. All are warmly welcome

MEN'S CLUB ITALIAN DINNER

Mark your calendars – the St. John's Annual Italian Dinner will be held on **Saturday, February 2nd** from 5 to 7 pm. Tickets for this fabulous feast of Florentine flavors are \$11 each. Please see any member of the Men's Club to purchase and be part of this great evening of parish community.

CONTRIBUTORS TO THE ORGAN FUND

Pierre F.V. Merle

Foundation for the Preservation of the Faith

EVANGELIST CONTACT

Please make the Evangelist yours. Any notices, letters, stories, thoughts, or prayers you would like to share with the community of S. Johns, please e-mail to theevangelist@saintjohns-newport.org or give to Lisa or Jono Babbitt. Also be sure to provide your e-mail address in order to be included on the church's e-mail distribution list.

SAINTS FOR JANUARY

Born of wealthy polytheistic, pagan nobility in 315, **Hilary's** early life was uneventful as he married, had children (including Saint Abra), and studied on his own. Through his studies he came to believe in salvation through good works, then monotheism. As he studied the Bible for the first time, he literally read himself into the faith, and was converted by the end of the New Testament. Hilary lived the faith so well he was made bishop of Poitiers from 353 to 368. Hilary opposed the emperor's attempt to run Church matters, and was exiled; he used the time to write works explaining the faith. His teaching and writings converted many, and in an attempt to reduce his notoriety he was returned to the small town of Poitiers where his enemies hoped he would fade into obscurity. His writings continued to convert pagans. His feast day is **January 13th** – transferred this year to Monday, January 14. His "Patronage" on one website is listed as: "against snakes, snake bites, and backward children" . . . (who knew!)

Born c347 in Asia Minor, **John's** father died when he was young, and he was raised by a very pious mother. Well educated, he studied rhetoric under Libanius, one of the most famous orators of his day. Monk. Preacher and priest for a dozen years in Syria. While there he developed a stomach ailment that troubled him the rest of his life. It was for his sermons that John earned the title "**Chrysostom**", or "golden mouthed". They were always on point, they explained the Scriptures with clarity, and they sometimes went on for hours. He became a reluctant bishop of Constantinople in 398, a move that involved him in imperial politics. He criticized the rich for not sharing their wealth, fought to reform the clergy, prevented the sale of ecclesiastical offices, called for fidelity in marriage, and encouraged practices of justice and charity. John's sermons caused nobles and bishops to work to remove him from his diocese and he twice was exiled from his diocese. Banished to Pythius, he died on the way in 407. His feast day is **January 27th**. Among others, his "Patronage" is listed as: lecturers; orators; preachers; speakers. May he serve us well during our Parish Annual Meeting.

Prayer of St. Chrysostom: Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. Amen.

VESTRY NOTES

REGULAR MEETING OF THE S. JOHN'S VESTRY: 11 DECEMBER 2007

- ❖ The newly established Organ Fund is now separately accounted. The organ fund needs \$1,232 to be fully funded.
- ❖ A seven-month CD has been bought with \$30,000 from NewportFed loan account.
- ❖ Pledging to date for 2007 totals \$46,041. Remaining potential pledging units will be contacted by letter and telephone.
- ❖ The Vestry authorized the funding of the required forensic audit of the Rector's Discretionary Fund.
- ❖ Commitment was made to rapid completion of the audits for 2005 and submission of audits for 2004 through 2006.
- ❖ It was agreed to meet with Diocesan authorities in January 2008 to recalibrate the apportionment for present parish income.
- ❖ Fr. Tuck requested the Vestry's prayers for Fr. Catir, due to his present state of health.
- ❖ Fr. Tuck also encouraged a "corporate communion" at the mass before future Vestry meetings.
- ❖ The Vestry formally authorized the Junior Warden to cancel the parish's connection with Petro Oil and transfer its business to a new dealer on better terms, as he finds necessary and advisable.
- ❖ The Junior Warden announced that Handicap-access signs will be installed for the Guild Hall.