



Good News

The Newsletter of St. Chrysostom's Episcopal Church, Chicago

December 2011

Advent and Christmas Activity Highlights

Advent begins on Sunday, November 27, 2012. Below is a partial listing of the many activities at St. Chrysostom's. The December Good News will include a complete listing and additional details, but we wanted to highlight some items that may require reservations and/or advanced planning in your personal schedules.

Sunday, December 4 — Second Sunday of Advent

- Ingathering of Cathedral Shelter Christmas Baskets (9 am to 1 pm)
- WOSC holiday Bake Sale, Book Sale, "regifting" sale
- Eucharists at 8:00 AM, 9:00 AM, and 5:15 PM
- 11:00 AM Advent Lessons and Carols

Thursday through Saturday, December 8–10

- St. Chrysostom's Day School Gingerbread House Decorating (information available through Day School office)

Friday, December 9—Candlelight Carols

A benefit for the Music at St. Chrysostom's (reservations required)

- 5:00 PM Family Carols for our littlest children (in the Church)
- 7:00 PM Candlelight Carols (in the Harding Room)

Sunday, December 11 Third Sunday of Advent

- Eucharists at 8:00 AM, and 5:15 PM
- 11:00 AM Church School Christmas Pageant (there is no 9 o'clock service on this day)

Tuesday, December 20

- 4:30 PM Neighbors in Need dinner (volunteer helpers needed)

Christmas Eve, Saturday, December 24

- 4:00 PM Christmas Eucharist, Procession and Children's sermon
A service designed to specially welcome our littlest and noisiest!
- 10:30 PM Christmas Music
- 11:00 PM Christmas Midnight Eucharist

Christmas Day, Sunday, December 25

- 11:00 AM Christmas Eucharist and Sermon (note: one service only today)

Sunday, January 1, 2012 Feast of the Holy Name/New Year's Day

- 11:00 AM Holy Eucharist (note: one service only today)

Sunday, January 8, 2012 The First Sunday after Epiphany: Feast of the Baptism of our Lord Jesus Christ

- Services at 8 am, 11 am, and 5:15 pm (note special combined service, there will not be a 9 o'clock service on this day)

Cathedral Shelter Christmas Baskets Ingathering

Many thanks to all of you who have so generously adopted a Cathedral Shelter family so that the many families in need may have a Christmas this year. The shelter had a record number of families to be adopted, and we have been able to have a record number of donors who have been kind enough to give their time, effort and resources for those less fortunate. I can't express my sincere gratitude to everyone for their support in making this wonderful project a success. Please remember, whatever you chose to give the families for their gifts, they will love and appreciate this Christmas Day. Remember to bring your boxes on either Saturday, December 3 from 9 am to 1 pm, or on Sunday, December 4 from 9 am to 1 pm. —Judy Van Dam

IMPORTANT DEADLINE

In order to have sufficient time to prepare the Annual Report booklet for our Annual Parish Meeting on January 22, all reports from staff, vestry, and committee chairs are due in the church office on or before Wednesday, January 11, 2012.

St. Chrysostom's Episcopal Church Staff

The Rev. W. Raymond Webster, II
Rector

The Rev. Danielle Thompson
Associate

The Rev. Larry A. Green
Deacon

Richard Barrick Hoskins
Director of Music & Organist

Roger D. Stanley
Associate Organist

Audrey Williams
Administrative Assistant

Janice Brinke
Part-time Bookkeeper

Ronald Franklin
Sexton

Mary Ellen Christy
Headmistress of the Day School

Richard Noble
Day School Sexton

The Vestry

Mark Fisher, *Senior Warden*

Brian Lignelli, *Junior Warden*

Scott Altemose

Marilyn Helmholz

Claire Hoppenworth

Barbara Jones

Craig Korte

Andrea Lamoreaux

George Mesires

Jacqueline Griesdorn Matzke

Lindsay Roberts

Matson Schwalm

Vanessa Shropshire

Judy Van Dam

Richard W. Shepro, *Chancellor*

Charles Sanida, *Treasurer*

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From the Rector

Advent 2011

Dear friends,

A very special thank you to everyone who made the events at the beginning of November so memorable! The Rev. Benedict Varnum (now, that sounds good!) was ordained to the diaconate by our bishop here on All Saints' Day, November 1. And we kept the next Sunday, November 6, as All Saints' Sunday with a special combined service at 11:00 AM—kids and Mozart, splendid procession and hymns. Lovely receptions followed both services with a crowded Harding Room. My great thanks to all for these great services of worship of God and the times of hospitality and welcome following each. They were St. Chrysostom's at our very best.

I want to thank—personally and on behalf of our parish—everyone who has made a pledge to support the mission of St. Chrysostom's in the coming year. And I want to extend a warm invitation to you to join us. This is a time of transition and it is so important everyone be a part of that transition, to move into the future in faith and confidence. Please know an invitation to make a pledge.

And I also want to invite you to the special events of December, of Advent and Christmas. St. Chrysostom's, Chicago, knows how to keep Christmas! We have the full schedule of special programs and Christmas services printed—do know an invitation to come home to your parish church this season. There is a special place waiting for you.

Four things to do in this busiest (and sometimes loneliest) of seasons:

1. Come to the altar of your parish church, come to St. Chrysostom's. Listen for God's Word of abundant love for you.
2. Say a word of thanks to God for all the goodness and beauty in your life, in this world—and first and last for God's love for you in Jesus Christ.
3. Do you have a favorite carol? Make it your prayer. The carols *are* prayers you know—of thanks and praise.
4. Do something for someone in need. Give something.

My very best wishes to you in this season. May the beauty of the season speak to you of God's love for you.

Raymond Webster, *Rector*

Good News: The Newsletter of St. Chrysostom's Episcopal Church, Chicago
is published monthly from September through May, plus an additional Summer issue (June-August). Please submit articles or announcements to Roger Stanley at roger@saintc.org.

Roger D. Stanley, *Editor*
Audrey Williams, *Production Assistance*
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Exploring Mutual Ministry: how did we get from there to here?

As part of our continuing conversation, here and in the vestry, about what mutual ministry looks like, it seemed appropriate (and for history buffs, fun!) to take a look at how various “ministries” came to be. In brief, what do Scripture and tradition tell us about our ministry as baptized people and how did ordained ministries actually develop?

Lydia and Dorcas: Christian communities first met in one another’s homes for prayer, Scripture reading, fellowship, and special blessings over bread and wine. A variety of people with a variety of gifts made up these early “house churches,” and the more established churches that followed them in the second and third centuries: catechists (teachers), catechumens (learners), prophets, confessors, healers, penitents, missionaries, widows dedicated to service in the church, others who needed the church’s help, benefactors, servers, elders, and overseers. In the Book of Acts, Lydia was an artisan who heard Paul’s message about Jesus and opened her home to him. Dorcas was another woman who supported the poor. The *laos tou theou* (the whole people of God) was a diverse group of men, women, children, Jew, Gentile, slave, and free-person who shared in building up and sustaining the life of the community.

James: James is thought to have been one of Jesus’ brothers, and was the overseer (*episkopos*) of an early Christian community in Jerusalem. Leaders like him emerged in the very early days of the church to perform an administrative and presidential role in their communities. They were pastors, presided at the table, and interpreted Scripture. The *episkopoi* (bishops) took on more and more work and began to rely heavily on their assistants (*diakonoï*) and congregational elders (*presbyteroi*) and for help.

Stephen and Phoebe: Deacons, the above-mentioned *diakonoï*, were chosen early on in the Book of Acts to see to the needs of vulnerable people in the church community. Stephen, a deacon, is recognized as the first martyr; Phoebe is called a deacon in Paul’s letter to the Romans. To this day, deacons assist bishops and perform ministries of service. This is symbolized by their stole, worn conveniently to the side as they minister at the holy table.

Elders: The last type of ministry to emerge is that of the *presbyter*, or what we in our church call a priest. Bishops consulted with groups of elders in local congregations, who assisted them in governance, in preaching, and in distributing the communion. It is thought that as bishops took on greater administrative and regional responsibilities, they began to rely on presbyters to oversee congregations.

It’s perspective-enhancing to know something of the history of how we got to where we are—what gifts and ministries existed in the early church, how it was governed, and how the roles of bishop, deacon, and priest developed, especially as our congregation enters a time of transition. In baptism, each of us is called to be part of a “royal priesthood” and to be “living stones” built into a spiritual house for God (1 Peter 4). And in Paul’s words, we are each given our spiritual gifts “for the common good” (1 Corinthians 12).

A Joyous Ordination!



These photos of Ben Varnum’s ordination on November 1 were taken by Sue Cromer and The Rev. Adam Frieberg.

Neighbors in Need Dinner

Our next Neighbors in Need dinner is Tuesday, December 20. The Planning Committee meets on the first Thursday of the month. Volunteers are welcome to join in cooking, serving, visiting with the guests, and clean-up activities. Call the church office to become involved in this outreach ministry. Donations needed: 12 cans whole cranberry sauce; 12 pies (preferably pumpkin). Please call the church office to make sure the items are still needed.

Cooking for Deborah's Place

Call the parish office regarding the continuation of this ministry. The next scheduled cooking day is Thursday, December 17.

Good Samaritan Fund

The Good Samaritan Fund is a line item in the church annual budget which funds a variety of outreach programs connected to St. Chrysostom's such as various Episcopal Charities (including Cathedral Shelter and St. Leonard's Ministries) and the Career Transitions Center (the "parent" organization of our Monday evening Employment Council). With recession budget cuts, our line item is \$1,000 which the Vestry, at the Rector's suggestion, has augmented with a grant from the Gilchrist Fund for outreach of \$3,000 to make \$4,000. If you have suggestions of agencies or programs to which funds might be given, please speak to outreach chair Jim Neaylon or the clergy or one of the Vestry.

Adult Forums for December—The Gift of Joy

December 4: SPEAKER: Bruce Tammen

The Essential Role of Music in the Liturgy

How does music have the power to rouse us with marches, soothe us with elegies, stimulate our spirits, and touch our emotions better than words can? Since ancient times, chants, dances and carols have been essential to religious rites in monasteries, temples and churches all over the world. Why are music and religion so closely linked?

December 11: Panel Discussion: What is Joy Anyway?

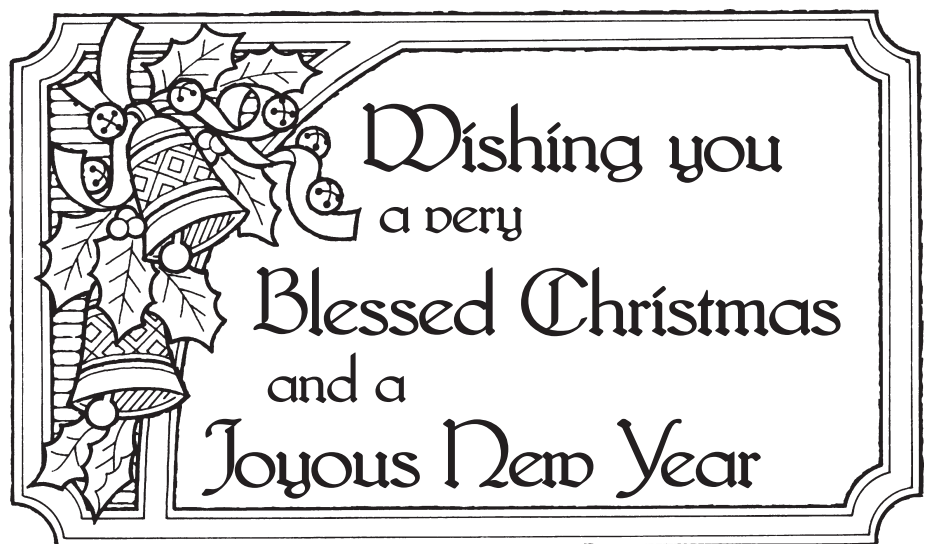
Everyone is invited to the Guild Room to eat special goodies and talk about "joy" at Christmas. What makes us joyful? For the poet, it's a rainbow in the sky. Each of us—the artist, the grandparent, the child, the runner, the gardener, the musician, has a different description of what makes his or her heart leap up. What distinguishes joy from contentment or happiness? Why does Christmas promise joy? Come to the Adult Forum for an open-mike discussion and find some answers.

December 18: SPEAKER: The Reverend Danielle Thompson

Darkness and Light

There's a reason why Christmas happens when it does. Just when all seems unfaillingly dark, the planet turns and light seeps back into our world, This class will explore the spiritual themes of darkness and light in the context of the Advent and Christmas seasons.

—Ann Kadinsky-Cade



Music at St. Chrysostom's

Concerts at St. Chrysostom's

Our concert series continues in the new year, so mark your calendars for these upcoming concerts and watch for details after the holidays.

Sunday, February 12 at 2:30 p.m. —Leipzig, Royal Chapels & Convents

An exquisite afternoon of music for treble voices, strings and organ includes music of J. S. Bach, Couperin, Charpentier, and Lucrezia Orsina Vizzana (a 17th-century Italian nun).

February 26 at 2:30 p.m. —A Concert for Ray Webster

Richard Hoskins, Roger Stanley, and members of the Choir perform some of the Rector's favorite music.

Sunday, March 11 at 2:30 p.m. —Viols & Verse Anthems

A delightful afternoon of Tudor and Restoration music: verse anthems sung by members of The Choir of St. Chrysostom's Church directed by Richard Hoskins and accompanied by a consort of viols and strings led by Craig Trompeter.

Concerts at St. Chrysostom's are graciously supported by the generosity of parishioners and friends. Your contribution is welcomed at each concert.

Candlelight Carols

Join us once again as we welcome the Christmas season with our rollicking wonderful Candlelight Carols! This year we again have two Carol Sings on December 9: the first at 5:00 p.m. is for families with young children; the second at 7:00 p.m. is for adults and families with older children. We'll sing favorite carols, hear about Christmas in well-loved prose and poetry, partake of the Wassail Bowl, and Harold the Boar will make his annual appearance! All are welcome, a jolly time is promised to all! Reservations are required. Call Richard Hoskins at 312.944.1083 ext. 17 by December 6 to ensure you have a reservation.



Choral Music for December

December 4

The Second Sunday of Advent

The Choir of St. Chrysostom's Church

The Advanced Children's Choir

Palestrina: Canite tuba

Ramsey: O sapientia

Hadley: I sing of a maiden

Ley: We wait for thy lovingkindness, O Lord

December 11

The Third Sunday of Advent

Members of The Choir of St. Chrysostom's Church

The Children's Training Choir

The Advanced Children's Choir

Hoskins: Flemish Carol

Traditional: Sussex Carol

Terry: Myn lyking

December 18

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

The Choir of St. Chrysostom's Church

Mouton: Nesciens Mater

Rachmaninoff: Bogoroditse Devo raduysia

December 24

Christmas Eve

The Choir of St. Chrysostom's Church

The Children's Training Choir

The Advanced Children's Choir

Hoskins: Flemish Carol

Willcocks: Ding, dong, merrily on high

Mediaeval Carol: Nowell, Nowell, in Bethlem

Plainsong: Puer natus est

Anonymous: There is no rose of such virtue

Gabrieli: O magnum mysterium

Hoskins: Away in a manger

December 25

Christmas Day

The Choir of St. Chrysostom's Church

Handl: Resonet in laudibus

Vaughan Williams: The blessed Son of God

Women of St. Chrysostom's

We meet on December 7, from noon to 2 pm, for our annual Christmas luncheon and stocking stuffing. The recipients of the stockings are Chicago Public School children in our own Sarah Lisle's classrooms. RSVP to Lisa Valiani at 773.276.7821 or respond to her evite. Heartfelt gratitude goes to Sherri Wick, Pam Marks, Mary Ellen Christy, Katie Benson, and Katie Heaton who all co-chair this event.

Sunday, December 4, is our annual Holiday Sale with books, baked goods, and a "regifting" table. You don't want to miss this event. Do you have an unused Christmas gift that you'd like to donate? Will something that you gave last year pop up on our table? You'll have to join us to find out. Lynn Evans (levans1221@sbcglobal.net) is chairing the Bake Sale, Sara Clary (clary.sara@gmail.com) is chairing the Book Sale, and Annie Brown (abrown@dinopublishing.com) is chairing the Regifting Table. **Volunteers are needed.**

On January 23 at 6:30 PM, WOSC is hosting its first ever Monday Night at the Movies in the Guild Room. Cost is \$10. Judy Langendorff is chair. Movie, popcorn, dessert, and discussion. We'd love for you to join us.



Deacon Notes

It's that time of year again: December and all the joys of Christmas. But what is the real meaning of Christmas? Is it the gifts under the tree, the lights in the windows, the cards in the mail, turkey dinners with family and friends, snow in the yard, stockings hanging in the living room, and shouts of "Merry Christmas" to those who pass us in the streets? Is this really Christmas? For many people, Christmas is a time of sorrow. They don't have the extra money to buy presents for their children, family, and friends. Many are saddened at Christmastime when they think of their loved ones who will not be able to come home for various reasons. Turkey dinners may be only a wish and not a reality for some. Yet, Christmas can be a season of great joy. It is a time of God showing His great love for us. It can be a time of healing and renewed strength. You see, Christmas is when we celebrate the birth of the Christ child. God sent His Son, Jesus, into the world to be born. His birth brought great joy to the world. Shepherds, wise men, and angels all shared in the excitement of knowing about this great event. They knew this was no ordinary baby. The prophets had told of His coming hundreds of years before. The star stopped over Bethlehem just to mark the way for those who were looking for this special child.

Why did He come? Why did God send His son to this sometimes cruel and hard world? Without Jesus, we would all die in our sins. Jesus was born so one day the price could be paid for the things we have done that are wrong. The Bible says that all have sinned. We are all born with a sin nature. We do things that do not please God. Through the sins of Adam and Eve, we have all inherited that sin nature. We need to have that removed. The only way is through Jesus. Jesus came so He could die on the cross for ALL of our sins. If we believe that Jesus died for our sins, we can ask Him to come into our hearts and forgive us. Then, we are clean and made whole. We can know that heaven is a place where we can go to when this life is over.

"But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us and to cleanse us from every wrong." I John 1:9 we can truly be happy at Christmas! No matter what may be happening, we can know that we are His children. We then become sons and daughters of God. Heaven will be our home one day. Look at Christmas in a new way this year. This is the year to invite Jesus into your heart. You will then have a "Merry Christmas." The joy and peace you will receive will last all year as you look to God for all your needs to be met.

Jesus Is The Reason For The Season! Rejoice! Merry Christmas all.

—Rev. Larry A. Green, *Deacon*



Day School children, their parents and the Women of St. Chrysostom's joined together at the monthly Day School Chapel service in November to bring items for Christmas stockings that will be distributed in December. This outreach ministry is a combined effort of the Day School and WOSC.

December Calendar Highlights

Thursday, December 1

3 pm Neighbors in Need planning meeting

Friday, December 2

4:00 pm Advanced Choir rehearsal

Saturday, December 3

Cathedral Shelter Christmas Basket ingathering

Sunday, December 4

2nd Sunday of Advent

Cathedral Shelter Christmas Basket ingathering

WOSC Bake Sale

8:00 am Holy Eucharist

9:00 am Family Eucharist

10:00 am Christian Education

11:00 am Advent Lessons & Carols

5:15 pm Holy Eucharist

Monday, December 5

6:00 pm Employment Council

Wednesday, December 7

8:15 am Holy Eucharist

12 noon WOSC lunch & stocking stuffing (Harding Room, Guild Room)

4:00 pm Children's Choir Caroling & Party

6:30 pm Bible Study

Thursday, December 8

Day School Gingerbread House decorating

Friday, December 9

Day School Gingerbread House decorating

5:00 pm Family Carols (church)

7:00 pm Candlelight Carols (Harding Room)

Saturday, December 10

Day School Gingerbread House decorating

Sunday, December 11

3rd Sunday of Advent

8:00 am Holy Eucharist

10:00 am Christian Education

11:00 am Church School Christmas Pageant

5:15 pm Holy Eucharist

Monday, December 12

6:00 pm Employment Council

Tuesday, December 13

1:00 pm WOSC Book Club (Guild Room)

6:30 pm Communications committee meeting

Wednesday, December 14

8:15 am Holy Eucharist

11:45 am Day School Chapel

1:30 pm Eucharist at Kenwood

4:00 pm Training Choir rehearsal

6:30 pm Bible Study

Thursday, December 15

3 pm Cooking for Deborah's Place

Friday, December 16

4:00 pm Advanced Choir rehearsal

Sunday, December 18

4th Sunday of Advent

8:00 am Holy Eucharist

9:00 am Family Eucharist

10:00 am Christian Education

11:00 am Holy Eucharist

5:15 pm Holy Eucharist

Monday, December 19

6:00 pm Employment Council

Tuesday, December 20

10:30 am Eucharist at Hallmark

4:30 pm Neighbors in Need dinner

6:30 pm Vestry meeting

Wednesday, December 21

8:15 am Holy Eucharist

4:00 pm Training Choir rehearsal

6:30 pm Bible Study

Friday, December 23

4:00 pm Advanced Choir rehearsal

Saturday, December 24

Christmas Eve

4:00 pm Christmas Eucharist & Children's sermon

10:30 pm Christmas music

11:00 pm Christmas Midnight Eucharist & Sermon

Sunday, December 25

Christmas Day

11:00 am Christmas Eucharist & Sermon

Monday, December 26

Parish office closed

Wednesday, December 28

8:15 am Holy Eucharist

6:30 pm Bible Study

JANUARY 2012

Sunday, January 1

The Holy Name of Jesus

11:00 am Holy Eucharist & Sermon

Monday, January 2

Parish office closed

Wednesday, January 4

8:15 am Holy Eucharist

4:00 pm Training Choir rehearsal

6:30 pm Bible study

Thursday, January 5

3:00 pm Neighbors in Need planning meeting

Friday, January 6

4:00 pm Advanced Choir rehearsal

Sunday, January 8

1st Sunday after the Epiphany

8:00 am Holy Eucharist

10:00 am Christian Education

11:00 am Holy Eucharist, Baptism & Sermon

5:15 pm Holy Eucharist



CHRISTMAS FLOWERS 2011

The flowers in our church at Christmas are made possible by gifts from parishioners. If you wish to make a gift toward the flowers, please fill in the information below and return this form with your check made out to St. Chrysostom's. Please return this form by Monday, December 12, 2011, so that we may recognize your gift in the Christmas service paper. We welcome any size donation.

Name _____

Phone (day) _____ Email _____

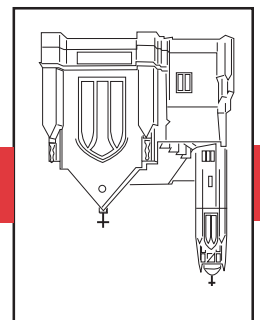
Commemoration note in Christmas service paper: The flowers in the Church today are given to the glory of God by

_____ in memory of / in honor of / in thanksgiving for / in celebration of / in loving memory of
(*underline one*)



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