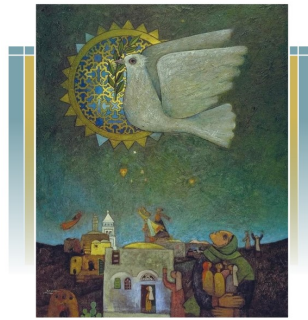




# † ST. FRANCIS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH COMMUNIQUE

DECEMBER 2023 - JANUARY 2024  
The Newsletter for St. Francis Dunellen

## 2023 Advent Cycle of Prayer FOR THE CHURCHES IN THE HOLY LAND AND THE MIDDLE EAST



*“Like living stones let yourselves be built into a spiritual house.” (1 Peter 2:5)*

It is common for the Christian community in Palestine, Israel, and other parts of the Middle East to refer to themselves as “the living stones.” This phrase is meant to convey the fact that these communities trace themselves all the way back to the earliest churches and very first disciples of Jesus in the land in which he lived, and died, and rose again.

The foundation of this spiritual house, which has stood so long in the land of the Holy One, is solid because its stones are built upon Christ, the chief cornerstone. Yet, with the recent conflict in Gaza, Israel, and the whole of occupied Palestine, the ground underneath it has once again been shaken. For many Christians who live elsewhere in the world it is difficult to even imagine the challenges of bearing witness to the hope of the Gospel in the midst of so much devastation and sorrow.

Yet, St. Paul teaches us that the Church is an interconnected and interdependent body. “When one part suffers, every part suffers.” The living stones, therefore, must know and feel that they are not being shaken alone. The Body of Christ sees and feels their pain, sadness, fear, frustration, and loss, and is moved together to compassion, solidarity, and prayer. In prayer, we are joined together across all distances and cry out together to the God who hears and answers.

This cycle of prayer is produced jointly by the Churches Beyond Borders Communion (CBB), which brings together The Anglican Church of Canada (ACC), the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC), the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), and The Episcopal Church (TEC). It features prayers for each day throughout the season of Advent for specific congregations, ministries, and outreach initiatives of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL) and the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem (EDJ). On the four Sundays of Advent, the prayers are those written personally by the Presiding/National/Primate bishops of the four churches, focusing on themes of truth, justice, peace, and hope.

This Advent, as we prepare to welcome Christ anew into the ever-present brokenness of our fragile world, we encourage members of our churches to devote themselves, in a special way, to upholding our siblings in faith in this time of trial; the living stones who may be shaken now, but, in Christ, whose faith will not be moved.

The entire Cycle of Prayer with a message from Bishop Curry can be found here:

<https://www.anglicanlutheran.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023-CBB-Advent-Cycle-of-Prayer.pdf>



## **2023 Is the 800th Anniversary of the Nativity Crèche**

St. Francis of Assisi created and erected the first nativity scene on December 15, 1223. This year to mark the special remembrance of our Lord's birth, the St. Francis crèche will be on display throughout the Advent season. Each week we will add more figures to the crèche as we await the celebration of Jesus' birth.

# DEACON'S CORNER

Deacon Gerry Welch

Advent and Christmas are coming!

Advent marks the beginning of the church year. We begin year B on December 3. We Christians get ready for Jesus' birth every year. We are also preparing for Jesus' second coming. The secular world calls what we call Advent the Christmas season. Houses are decorated, gifts are bought, cookies are baked and then December 25<sup>th</sup> rolls around and Christmas is over. We Christians celebrate Jesus' birth for 12 days, not just one. The Advent season is a time to get ready for Jesus. Advent is a season of joyful expectation. Lent is seen as a time of getting ready for Christ to die for us whereas Christmas is a time of preparing for Christ to live with us as described on a website called [calledtomore.org](http://calledtomore.org).

This season has a lot of traditions. We light the Advent wreath in church or in our homes. Each candle marks a week of the season. The themes are hope, love, peace, and joy. The wreath is a circle just as God has no beginning or end. As we light each candle more the room grows brighter. This growing light mirrors Jesus bringing light into our world. Other symbols of the season are Christmas trees, poinsettias, and stockings. All these items can remind us of Jesus' birth.

An important symbol of the season is the creche. The creche is a visual representation of the scene of our Savior's birth. As Luke and Matthew's Gospels tell us, Jesus was born in a stable because there was no room at the inn. A favorite memory in my family is my grandmother waiting until midnight to place Baby Jesus in his crib. This year marks the 800th anniversary of the first creche. Fun fact, St. Francis our patron saint, is said to have made the first creche.

Legend has it that St. Francis was planning Christmas Eve mass but realized the chapel could not hold all the parishioners, so he arranged outdoor worship. Francis used the creche to illustrate Jesus' birth. Francis wanted to help the parishioners connect to Jesus' humanity. Our Lord was humbly born in a manger. St. Francis wanted to remind the townspeople of Jesus' call to serve the poor. St. Francis used live animals.

We Christians continue our season of Advent and Christmas until Epiphany. On January 6 and 7 we will resume our practice of chalking the door frame to mark the New Year. Please let me know if you would like to have your house prayed at or help chalk other people's houses.

Happy Holidays,  
Deacon Gerry

# *Annual Parish Meeting!*

## *Sunday, January 28th*

### **Nominating Committee Seeks Nominations for Parish offices**

Nominations are being sought for the following offices and a member of the Nominating Committee may well ask you to consider serving! If you are interested in serving in any of these areas, you may also please contact a member of the Nominating Committee: Amy Myzie, Kathy Balenson, Marie Petit-Homme, Larry Quirk & Pam Maiolo. Elections are held at the Annual Parish Meeting, on Sunday, January 28th.

A brief description of each of office follows:

#### **1 Junior Warden (2-year term)**

Along with the Senior Warden, the Junior Warden serves as a senior lay official of the parish. The Wardens act as a council of advice to the Rector on matters of parish life and ministry, serve as leaders of the congregation, and may call and lead Vestry meetings in the Rector's absence when necessary. The Junior Warden traditionally has oversight responsibility for maintenance and repair of the physical plant

#### **3 Vestry members (3-year Term)**

The Vestry, made up of 9 Vestry members, the two Wardens and the Rector or Priest-in-Charge (when in office), serves as the board of trustees of the congregation. The Vestry as a body has legal responsibility for financial and physical affairs of the parish, but is also a community of spiritual leaders. While Episcopal canon law gives final authority over some matters of parish life to the Rector alone (for instance, worship and education), the Vestry serves an important role of shared leadership with the Rector for the overall life and ministry of the parish.

Vestry members often take responsibility for or assist in one area of the parish's operations. Vestry members show leadership by example and participation in the worship and ongoing life of the parish, and in their stewardship of time, talent, and treasure. Communication is another important function of the Vestry.

#### **3 Delegates and 3 Alternates to Diocesan Convention (1 year term)**

Three Delegates from each congregation along with canonically resident clergy of the Diocese attend the Annual Convention of the Diocese of New Jersey every year (Alternates replace Delegates if they are unable to attend.) At Convention, Delegates vote in elections for offices such as Diocesan Council and Standing Committee (which, between them, exercise responsibilities for the Diocese similar to those of a Vestry in a congregation); Deputies and Alternates to the General Convention of the Episcopal Church; Treasurer of the Diocese, and other offices. Convention also approves the diocesan Budget and votes on resolutions about the life and ministry of our Diocese. To prepare for the business of Convention, Delegates and Alternates are encouraged to read reports made available in advance of Convention on-line, and to attend one of several pre-Convention meetings.

## 6 Delegates to Watchung Convocation (1 year term)

The Diocese of New Jersey is sub-divided into eight geographical Convocations. St. Francis' belongs to the Watchung Convocation, made up of congregations in southern Hunterdon County, northern Somerset County and western portions of Middlesex and Union Counties. Clergy and delegates gather for a Sunday afternoon or weekday evening meeting once each Spring and Fall at a date and place TBA. Convocation delegates elect a Dean for the Convocation as well as one clergy and lay member of the Diocesan Nominating Committee and the Board of Missions. Convocation meetings are also an occasion to make connections with the wider Church of which we are part. The Bishop and members of Diocesan staff usually attend the fall meeting of each Convocation.

### Christmas Flower Donations

We will be decorating the Church for Christmas this year and would welcome donations for Christmas flowers in memory of loved ones and/or in thanksgiving for God's blessings. Donations may be made by check or cash dropped off at or mailed to St. Francis. You may also use the "Donate Now" button on our website (AKA Vanco), indicating the purpose of your donation as a Special Offering. Please contact Trina Rios, Office assistant with memorial names and/or thanksgivings. Last date for donations Dec 17<sup>th</sup>.

### Christmas Family

Once again, this year we would like to provide a "Special Christmas" to families in need. One family of four includes two girls ages 9 & 12. All gifts need to be received by Dec 17<sup>th</sup>. Please choose a tag on the Christmas tree in the narthex, sign next to the gift you have chosen and purchase that gift. If you would like to make a monetary donation and have the gift purchased for you, mark your check "Special Christmas," or send a gift card to either Kohls or Target. Please see Elaine Patania or Michelle Klastava for further information.

### Christmas Gift Wrapping

**December 17<sup>th</sup>** at Fellowship Hour. Please come by to help with this project. Please see Michelle Klastava for further information.

### Greening of the Church

**10:00AM December 24<sup>th</sup>** – We will be celebrating our final Advent Sunday, to be followed immediately with the "Greening of the Church". All hands are appreciated to assist with the decorations and placement of flowers which will make St. Francis a beautiful Christmas scene. Zoom & Facebook also available.

### Christmas Worship

**Christmas Eve Worship** We will offer a single Eucharist on December 24<sup>th</sup>, **Christmas Eve 4:30PM**. The service will be in person as well as offered via Zoom and Facebook Live.

**Christmas Day Worship will be at St. Barnabas Church, 142 Sand Hills Rd, Monmouth Junction, NJ @ 10:30 am.**



**ATTENTION: Ladies of St. Francis**

**Save the Date!!!**

**Women's Christmas Party**

**Tuesday, December 5, 2022**

**Time: 6:30 Pm**

**Location: St. Francis' Milbank Hall**

**400 New Market Road, Dunellen, N.J.**

**Dinner: Potluck**

**Game: To participate please bring a gift of a  
minimum value of \$25.00 (Per Person)**

**Contest: Ugly Sweater! (Get creative)**

**BYOB: Share and Share alike**



# AFFILIATION UPDATE

## **GOOD NEWS FROM THE DISCERNMENT COMMITTEE!!!!**

On November 17th, our Discernment Committee met with the Diocesan Canon for the Ordinary, Cn. Joanne Izzo, who advised us that we have FOUR candidates to evaluate in our search for a new Priest in Charge. These are priests who responded to the nationwide search established by the Diocese indicating an interest in leading our affiliated parishes.

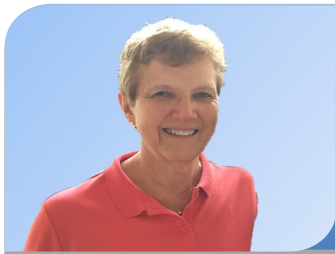
The names of the candidates and their documentation have been shared with the members of the joint Discernment Committee and we are in the process of reaching out to these individuals to arrange the two Zoom interviews that will take place with each of them.

When our work is complete, the Committee will advise which of the candidates (either all or some) seem to be a good fit to lead our affiliated parishes. Those candidates will then enter a second process of evaluation by the joint Vestries of St. Francis and St. Barnabas to make a final selection of a new Priest in Charge.

We are aware that with the Advent and Christmas seasons upon us scheduling these interviews will be a challenge at this time of the year but our committee is hopeful that we can complete our work by the end of this year or certainly by the middle of January.

We ask for your continued prayers as we ,with the aid of the Holy Spirit, continue our search process.

Larry Quirk  
Co-Chair  
Joint Discernment Committee



# OUTREACH

## Outreach Coordinator: Pam Maiolo

### **SPECIAL ADVENT OFFERING**

This year's special advent offering will be for the American Friends in the Diocese of Jerusalem (AFEDJ).

A nonpolitical, nonsectarian 501(c)(3) organization, AFEDJ is dedicated to raising financial support for schools, hospitals, and centers for children with disabilities in Palestine, Israel, Jordan, and Lebanon. These institutions serve everyone, irrespective of their religion, ethnicity, or ability to pay. They build hope for all in the Holy Land. The Christian values of equity, justice, and respect for the dignity of all are at the heart of our efforts.

You may make your donation directly to St. Francis Church in the form of a check, Vanco designation or cash. Please designate AFEDJ in your giving. We will then send one check to AFEDJ. More information about the organization will be coming to you on a weekly basis in the Sunday bulletin. Please give generously

**Beginning World Changers** will be the recipient of our winter coats, jackets & vests this year. They are a local grass roots organization that serves the needs of Dunellen and other locals in the area. All items should be new or used for adults or children. Used clothing must be clean, spot free with no rips or tears. The donation box is in the narthex.

Outreach collection continues for **St. Paul's Food Pantry** (please see suggested donation chart below), **Plainfield Humane Society** and **Fresh Start at Summit Health.**

These are on- going and never-ending needs. Please pick something up for donation when you are at your favorite store

### **ST PAUL'S FOOD PANTRY—SUGGESTED DONATIONS**

<u>DECEMBER</u>	<u>JANUARY</u>	<u>FEBRUARY</u>
Cookies/Crackers	Your Choice	Pasta/Sauce

*"Thanksgiving is but one day, but every day is a day to give thanks!"*



# Advent

The first season of the church year, beginning with the fourth Sunday before Christmas and continuing through the day before Christmas. The name is derived from a Latin word for “coming.” The season is a time of preparation and expectation for the coming celebration of our Lord's nativity, and for the final coming of Christ “in power and glory.”

## ADVENT CALENDAR 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>3 Worship</b> <b>Advent 1</b> Read Luke 21:25-36. How do the symbols of the Advent season help you understand the story of Jesus? Where do you see them in your worship today?	<b>4 Turn</b> Read Isaiah 58. How does this reading challenge you to think about fasting and festivals differently? How might this lesson change the way you celebrate or recognize this holy season?	<b>5 Learn</b> Read Matthew 4:18-22. How do these verses from Matthew inspire you to read Scripture with new eyes? Try reading several different translations of this passage. See how the language might change your reading of it.	<b>6 Pray</b> Pray along with the Collect for Advent 1, found on page 211 of <i>The Book of Common Prayer</i> . Set a timer for three minutes to sit in silence and hear what God might be saying back to you.	<b>7 Bless</b> Call or write a letter to a family member with whom you would like to have a closer relationship. Make plans in the new year to chat on the phone or meet over Zoom or in person. Let them know how much you love them and look forward to knowing them better.	<b>8 Go</b> Read or watch your local news. Ask God to open your heart and eyes to ways you can promote reconciliation and healing in your community.	<b>9 Rest</b> Spend at least 45 minutes outside today, without doing yard work or fixing lights or redoing bows on the garland. Take some time to just sit outside and let the air wash over you, taking away the stress and worry of the moment. Read Psalm 100 before and after your outside time. See how this psalm may help you rest and recharge your spirit.
<b>10 Worship</b> <b>Advent 2</b> Read Luke 3:1-6. How does the story of John the Baptist fill your heart with hope?	<b>11 Turn</b> Turn away from the busyness of the world right now. Turn your heart and mind toward giving thanks for this time of reflection, refreshment, and renewal.	<b>12 Learn</b> Read Luke 1:45. Share your faith story with one new person this week. It can be someone you have known for a while who has not heard the faith part of your story.	<b>13 Pray</b> Pray along with the Collect for Advent 2, found on page 211 of <i>The Book of Common Prayer</i> . As you are out and about for the rest of this week, notice the people you pass. Ask God to bless them in their lives and work. See how this changes the way you go about your week.	<b>14 Bless</b> Spend a significant amount of time today discerning if there is a special blessing or gift you can share with your church, a local ministry, or with your community. Ask God to inspire and equip you with the fortitude and tools to make this gift something truly memorable and heartfelt.	<b>15 Go</b> Go out of your way to have a conversation with someone you might not normally visit with today. Ask God to open your heart to hear this person as God does.	<b>16 Rest</b> Put your phone on airplane mode and leave it in a dresser drawer for an hour or two. Whatever happens in that time, you can handle later. Give this time to yourself and Jesus, to rest and recharge for the week ahead.
<b>17 Worship</b> <b>Advent 3</b> Imagine the faces you'd like to see at church — an all-star list of folks you want to worship with. This could be people you know from summer camp when you were a kid, people who might have already died, people you work with — all your favorites. Commit to pray for those folks this week. And make a commitment to ask one of your all-stars to come to church with you in the next month.	<b>18 Turn</b> Do you have amends or apologies or adjustments you need to make? Ask God to open your heart and mind to those opportunities for reconciliation and growth. Thank God for the gifts of mercy and love, and the courage to make the changes necessary. And then do your best, with God's help, to make those changes.	<b>19 Learn</b> Read Luke 1:59-80. When Zechariah's speech returns, he praises God. If you lost the power to speak for nine months like Zechariah did, what would be your first word of praise? Share this with your family, friends, and on social media.	<b>20 Pray</b> Pray along with the Collect for Advent 3, found on page 212 in <i>The Book of Common Prayer</i> . How will prayer guide you through the rest of the week? Set aside special time today to focus your intentions on stirring up peace and spreading joy.	<b>21 Bless</b> We know that angels are God's special messengers to us, and that Gabriel spent intentional time with Mary, helping her to understand her part in God's story. Who has shared an important lesson or their presence with you this week? Thank them today with a call or note.	<b>22 Go</b> Go out into your neighborhood today. Where is God at work? Ask God to show you how you can celebrate that good work and name God's presence in your community.	<b>23 Rest</b> Set aside 30 minutes to spend in silence with your best friend today. Sure, it may feel a little weird to be silent on the phone or while sitting next to each other on the couch or across the table. Just give it a try. Make sure to set aside time after your silence to pray for each other and to say thanks for the time of rest.
<b>24 Rest</b> <b>Advent 4</b> The conventional wisdom is that new parents should rest when the baby is resting. Make sure you take some time out to rest with Baby Jesus — and marvel in the wonder of a fresh, new, clean, shiny, tiny, precious start. Take a nap and thank God for the gift of Jesus and for peace at Christmas.						

# WINTER HEALTHY BITS

Chris Colwell

Christmas Time is Here! As we ring in the holidays, children of all ages anxiously await Santa bringing gifts and toys! But safety must come first - American Public Health Association (APHA.org) has put together some guidelines for choosing safe toys for all ages:

- Inspect all toys before purchasing. Avoid those that shoot or include parts that fly off. The toy should have no sharp edges or points and should be sturdy enough to withstand impact without breaking, being crushed, or being pulled apart easily.
- When purchasing toys for children with special needs try to choose toys that may appeal to different senses such as sound, movement, and texture. Consider interactive toys to allow the child to play with others. Think about the size of the toy and the position a child would need to be in to play with it.
- Be diligent about inspecting toys your child has received. Check them for age, skill level, and developmental appropriateness before allowing them to be played with.
- Look for labels that assure you the toys have passed a safety inspection - "ATSM" means the toy has met the American Society for Testing and Materials standards.
- Gifts of sports equipment should always be accompanied by protective gear (give a helmet with the skateboard).
- Keep kids safe from lead in toys. Educate yourself about lead exposure from toys, symptoms of lead poisoning, and what kinds of toys have been recalled. Be aware that old toys may be more likely to contain lead in the paint. Have your children wash their hands frequently and call your doctor if you suspect your child has been exposed to lead.
- Do NOT give toys with small parts (including magnets and "button" batteries which can cause serious injury or death if ingested) to young children, as they tend to put things in their mouths, increasing the risk of choking. If the piece can fit inside a toilet paper roll, it is not appropriate for kids under age three.
- Do NOT give toys with ropes and cords or heating elements.
- Do NOT give crayons and markers unless they are labeled "nontoxic".

One of my favorite things about the Christmas season is the feeling of peace, joy, and good will. The world feels safer, a happier place - people seem friendlier. As Kris Kringle said in the 1947 movie "Miracle on 34<sup>th</sup> Street",

***"Christmas isn't just a day, it's a frame of mind"***

Wouldn't it be wonderful if that '**frame of mind**' continued endlessly? Why can't it? During the holiday season there are a few TV commercials promoting this good will. A young girl notices her elderly neighbor doesn't have any Christmas decorations outside her home. There's no Christmas tree in her window - her home seems dark. The young girl takes some of her family's lights and decorations, decorates the outside of this elderly woman's home, rings the doorbells and hides, waiting for the woman to open the door. When she sees the decorations, the girl comes out and says 'Merry Christmas', making the woman smile. A recent commercial shows a seemingly single mother trying to straighten up at home before rushing off to her late-night job. Her teenage son is glued to the TV playing video games. The son looks around their home and sees the pile of dirty dishes in the sink, laundry needing to be done, and one ornament on their Christmas tree. He is then seen selling his video game and coming home with packages. His Mom comes home, noticing a Christmas wreath on the door, clean and folded laundry in the basket, the dishes have been washed and put away, and the tree is decorated. 'Christmas is What You Make It' appears on the screen as they hug.

I am reminded of our own St. Francis. The reading in Forward Day-by-Day for November 10<sup>th</sup> included this quotation attributed to St. Francis of Assisi:

***"You may be all the Gospel your neighbor will ever read"***

We can suppress our own sadness or melancholy by doing a good deed. How simple it is to be kind to the grocery store checkout person or to let someone merge in front of you at a busy intersection. Our kindness might even become contagious!

May we all continue to keep that "**Christmas frame of mind**" in our hearts forever.

***May you and your family continue to enjoy the Blessings  
of good health throughout the New Year.***

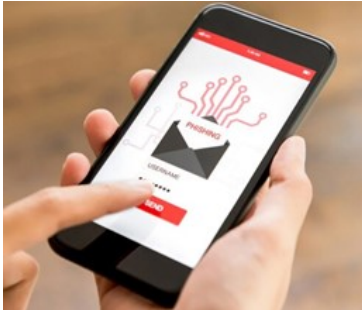
--Chris Colwell



I am sending you out like sheep into the midst of wolves, so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves.



Matt. 10:16  
NRSV



With the approach of the holidays, the number of fraudulent emails, phone calls and text messages is on the rise. The Bishop and diocesan staff will never ask for gift cards and will only contact you on [diocesofnj.org](mailto:diocesofnj.org) email addresses.

**Protect yourself from these common frauds.** Church members and leaders are commonly targeted by scammers who pretend to be known clergy or diocesan staff. These messages may come via email or text message and try to convince you to send money, buy gift cards, or send information that the huckster shouldn't have access to. These messages can look genuine, but there are usually clues that they are not:

1. The "sender's" name is not used the way the person actually does. For instance, messages claiming to be from Bishop French might be signed "Reverend Sally."
2. The sender's email address is not the same as the real person's (though it might be close)
3. The sender says that they cannot talk right now but request you keep the conversation in text or email

Here are some tips from the [FBI's Scams and Safety web site](#): **How to Protect Yourself**

- Remember that companies generally don't contact you to ask for your username or password.
- Don't click on anything in an unsolicited email or text message. Look up the company's phone number on your own (don't use the one a potential scammer is providing), and call the company to ask if the request is legitimate.
- Carefully examine the email address, URL, and spelling used in any correspondence. Scammers use slight differences to trick your eye and gain your trust.
- Be careful what you download. Never open an email attachment from someone you don't know and be wary of email attachments forwarded to you.
- Set up two-factor (or multi-factor) authentication on any account that allows it, and never disable it.
- Be careful with what information you share online or on social media. By openly sharing things like pet names, schools you attended, family members, and your birthday, you can give a scammer all the information they need to guess your password or answer your security questions.



# STEWARDSHIP



"The Stewardship Committee thanks **everyone** for their support, participation, and assistance during the Fall Stewardship Campaign! We are especially grateful to those who have returned their Estimate of Giving cards and made a financial commitment to St. Francis for 2024 (as a reminder, commitments can be made or changed at any time during the year).

All year our contributions of wealth, wisdom, and works grow the roots of St. Francis deeper and stronger. Add in God's grace and we find ourselves rooted in God's great abundance!"



# Daphne and Jack's Baptism

November 5, 2023



God Bless Daphne and Jack!





# CELEBRATIONS

## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Leslie Oliver	12/03
Larry Quirk	12/05
Kelsey Pelliccia	12/06
David Dunham	12/08
Bethany Hirsch	12/09
Daren Mayer	12/10
Mae DeRogatis	12/10
Alexis Tirado	12/14
Mary Pfeiffer	12/21
Laura Breck	12/23
Dominique Sinckler	12/24
Pamela Maiolo	12/24
Juan Tirado	12/25
Michelle Klastava	12/26
Timothy Tereman	12/29
Mathew Kurian	12/29

## DECEMBER BAPTISMS

Beth Chernichowski	12/01
Larry Quirk	12/16
Laura Breck	12/31

## DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Gerianne & Laura Breck	12/13
Elaine & Thomas Patania	12/16

## DECEMBER CONFIRMATIONS

Richard Trotman, Jr.	12/03
Margaret Forsythe	12/11



## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Cecil Baker, Jr.	01/05
Christy McGuire	01/08
Jason Pfeiffer	01/12
Percy Crowther	01/12
Kadine Maye-Senior	01/13
Kent Scriven	01/14
Kristi Scriven	01/14
Norma Trimmer	01/17
Anton Sinckler	01/19
Hannah Mathew	01/20
Kora Kokotajlo	01/24
Derek Staats	01/26

## JANUARY BAPTISMS


Ashley Beam	01/01
Davidson Doll	01/07
Jabari Halls	01/09
Anthony Klastava	01/09
Matthew Klastava	01/09
Brian Mayer	01/11
Briana DeCandia	01/11
Mary Pfeiffer	01/13
Tyler Klastava	01/13
Mae DeRogatis	01/15
Bethany Hirsch	01/30

## JANUARY CONFIRMATIONS

Nicholas Waskiel	01/10
Mary Pfeiffer	01/13

# MONTHLY CALENDAR

## DECEMBER 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>3 FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b>  <b>8AM</b> Holy Eucharist (On-Site ONLY) <b>10AM</b> Holy Eucharist (On-Site & On-Line)	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>  <b>3PM</b> Contemplative Prayer Group <b>6:30PM</b> Women's Christmas Party	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>  <b>6:15PM</b> Intercessory Prayer Group	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>10 SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b>  <b>10AM</b> Holy Eucharist (On-Site & On-Line)	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>  <b>3PM</b> Contemplative Prayer Group	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	 <b>1PM-3PM</b> Caroling Downtown Dunellen
<b>17 THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b>  <b>10AM</b> Holy Eucharist (On-Site & On-Line)  Christmas Gift Wrapping	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>  <b>3PM</b> Contemplative Prayer Group	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>  <b>6:15PM</b> Intercessory Prayer Group <b>7:30PM</b> VESTRY MEETING (In-person; Milbank Hall)	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24 FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b>  <b>10AM</b> Holy Eucharist (On-Site & On-Line) <b>Greening of the Church</b> <b>4:30PM</b> Christmas Eve Worship	<b>25 CHRISTMAS DAY</b>  <b>10:30AM</b> <b>WORSHIP AT</b> <b>ST.BARNABAS</b>  	<b>26</b>  <b>3PM</b> Contemplative Prayer Group	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>31 FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS</b>						

# DECEMBER LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

ROLE	USHER <u>On-Site</u>	Camera <u>On-Site</u>	Acolyte	CELEBRANT	FIRST LESSON <u>On-Site</u> Reader	PSALM <u>On-Site</u> Reader	HOST USHER (Zoom & Facebook)	SECOND LESSON <u>On-Site</u> Reader	PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (+)	COUNTER
DECEMBER 3	Pam	David	-	Rev. Andrew Calandriello	Kate	Princess	Emma	Larry	Grace	Rillette Larry
DECEMBER 10	Pam	Vin	-	Rev. Andrew Calandriello	Olivia	Christy	Emma	Rillette	Pam	Kathy Rillette
DECEMBER 17	Laura	David	Jaeden	Fr. Ramon Ubeira	Grace	Rillette	Emma	Laura	Elaine	Marie Cynthia
DECEMBER 24 (10AM Service)	Laura	Gerrienne	-	Deacon Gerry	Pam	Grace	Emma	Olivia	Laura	Will be counted 12/27 (E, P, A)
DECEMBER 24 (4:30PM Service)	Chris	Vin	-	Rev. Andrew Calandriello	Chris	Kathy	Emma	Grace	Pam	Will be counted 12/27 (E, P, A)
DECEMBER 31	Pam	Vin	-	Deacon Gerry	Olivia	Grace	Emma	Pam	Christy	Michelle TBD



## Special Advent Sunday School Session Join Deacon Gerry - December 3rd

On December 3rd Deacon Gerry will lead Sunday School in a special class to mark the first Sunday of Advent.

We will set up our Sunday School Advent Wreath, learn about Advent and begin to prepare for the birth of Jesus on Christmas Day. The reason for the season!

Come be part of the fun of Sunday School.

Sunday School Teachers  
Kathy Balenson and Nathalie Edwards

# JANUARY 2024 MONTHLY CALENDAR

JANUARY 2024						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b> NEW YEARS DAY	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>  6:15PM Intercessory Prayer Group	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> THE EPIPHANY  House Blessings
<b>7</b> FIRST SUNDAY AFTER EPHIPANY  8AM Holy Eucharist (On-Site ONLY) 10AM Holy Eucharist (On-Site & On-Line) House Blessings	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>  3PM Contemplative Prayer Group	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPHIPANY  10AM Holy Eucharist (On-Site & On-Line)	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>  3PM Contemplative Prayer Group	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>  6:15PM Intercessory Prayer Group	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPHIPANY  10AM Holy Eucharist (On-Site & On-Line)	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>  3PM Contemplative Prayer Group	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>  7:30PM VESTRY (Tentative)	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPHIPANY  10AM Holy Eucharist (On-Site & On-Line)  ANNUAL MEETING	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>  3PM Contemplative Prayer Group	<b>31</b>			

***January 2024 Liturgical Schedule will be published in late December.***

# SAVE THE DATE!



**SAVE THE DATE**

**BLACK HISTORY PROGRAM**

**Sunday, February 11, 2024 11:15 a.m.**

**EDUCATION IS SOCIAL JUSTICE!**

**St. Francis Episcopal Church**

**Dunellen, NJ 08812**

**Keynote Speaker: Dr. William F. Baskerville, Jr.**

**Assistant Superintendent- Piscataway Township Public Schools**

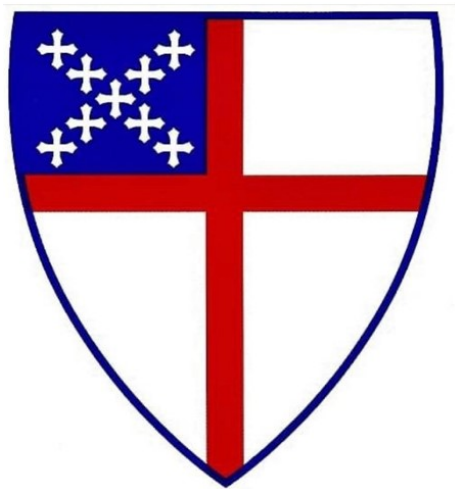


**Reception-Milbank Hall-RSVP -February 2, 2024**

Contact Heather at [hnunes505@gmail.com](mailto:hnunes505@gmail.com) or 732 979 -4389



*St. Francis Episcopal Church  
400 New Market Road  
Dunellen, NJ 08812*



## **ST. FRANCIS EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

[www.stfrancisdunellen.org](http://www.stfrancisdunellen.org) (732) 968-6781

**DECEMBER 2023 - JANUARY 2024**

### **Clergy**

The Rev. Gerry Walsh, *Deacon*  
The Rev. Canon Frank Hubbard,  
*Priest Associate*

### **Vestry**

Pam Maiolo—Sr. Warden, Finance, Buildings  
and Grounds, Rectory Liaison, Outreach  
Amy Myzie—Jr. Warden, Finance, Financial  
Secretary  
Kathy Balenson—Sunday School, COME, ECW  
Christy McGuire—Stewardship, Communications  
(Media Releases), Website/Facebook  
Marie Petit-Holmes—Stewardship  
Elaine Patania—Stewardship, Finance, “Office  
Overseer”  
Cynthia Pelliccia—Fellowship, Finance

### **Vestry (continued)**

Gerrienne Breck—Vestry Clerk, MailChimp  
Larry Quirk—Finance  
Grace McDougall—COME, Fellowship, Finance  
Michelle Klastava—Fundraising, COME

### **Non-Vestry**

Ilia Scriven—Treasurer, Finance  
Tom Patania, Yuennadi Moya—Buildings and  
Grounds  
Laura Breck—Communique, Liturgical Scheduling  
Nathalie Edwards—Sunday School  
Paul Sinckler—Finance, Buildings and Grounds