St. John's Announcements

November 26, 2023

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2023 Holiday Bazaar

The Feast of Christ the King is one of the youngest and mostly widely celebrated feasts of the Christian Year. It only dates back to the 1920's, but it is celebrated throughout the Western Church and even in parts of the Eastern Church. Though the feast is less than a century old, it caught on quickly. It seems so appropriate that we would take some time out of the year to celebrate the kingship of Christ. After surviving a World War and a pandemic, the church seemed to understand with clarity that the rulers of the nations and those in authority throughout the world, let them down. They made bad decisions that resulted in millions of people losing their lives. It compelled many Christians to seek a different king, and to place trust in a different set of rules and values. The 21st century has also seen its share of wars and a pandemic. We have also experienced loss of life and suffering on a large scale. The war in Ukraine has caused more than a half of a million casualties with thousands more in the war in Gaza and southern Israel. We pray for peace, and we give thanks to Christ the King for showing us how to love and order our lives.

Blessings, Marc

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Wednesday Eucharist
11/29 @ 10:30am

Advent Series
12/7 @ 6pm

Happy Birthday!
Linda Borovicka

Gift Card Sales Has Been Extended! - Gift Cards are available for purchase. Order forms will be available in the Narthex. **The last day to turn your order in is Sunday, December 10th. Gift cards will be distributed on Sunday, December 17th at both services**. Please leave your order form in either the drop file in the Narthex in Bill Francis's file or deliver them to Christina in the office. You can also mail the order form to Bill Francis at 41 Pinnacle Rd., Vernon, CT. 06066. 860-872-2044. Please consider buying a gift card to replenish grocery cards for our in-house food ministry, or you can donate the gift cards to our Holiday Bazaar raffles. They also make great gifts for Thanksgiving and Christmas. Thank you for your continued generosity.

Eucharistic Visitors wanted! - In January, during the Epiphany season, we hope that the members of St. John's will expand on an important lay ministry, that of Lay Eucharistic Visitor (EV). EV's are lay people licensed by the Diocese to bring Holy Eucharist from a Sunday service to parishioners who cannot be at the service due to infirmity. As Deacon Scott noted in his recent sermon further explaining this ministry, there are some generally not-very-onerous qualifications in order to serve in this way. (That sermon is available on the website if you missed it!) He and Fr. Marc will be starting a process of helping interested parishioners to get trained and licensed after the Christmas season. If you are interested in serving in this way, please talk with Fr. Marc or Deacon Scott as they will be scheduling the training soon.

Advent Series - This year's Advent series will take place on Thursday evenings from 6:00pm to 8:00pm on December 7th,14th, and 21st. We will begin our time with a soup supper. The center of our discussion will be on Bishop Wright's devotional book, *Advent for Everyone*. If you are planning on attending the series, please sign on the sheet in the back of the church, through an email, or call Christina in the office. We will be ordering the books very soon. There is a short devotional reading for each day and a discussion question. We will be discussing a few of those questions each week. Like last year, we will conclude our time with a brief Eucharist.