St. John's Announcements

January 14, 2024

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The Rt. Rev. Jeffrey W. Mello

The Episcopal Church, as the name suggests, is a church under the leadership of bishops. We believe in the classic orders of ministry of bishop, priest, deacon, and lay person. Since Deacon Scott came to St. John's, you all have become accustomed to three of those orders of ministry, but you might not be as familiar with bishops. Bishops are attested to in the New Testament. They are overseers of a particular section of land or city known as a diocese. The main symbol of the order of bishops is the shepherd's crook. They, like a shepherd to sheep, guide us along, in the bishop's case pointing out the way to Jesus. Bishops do not live and work in remote palaces but regularly visit the many congregations under their care. Bishop Mello was made bishop diocesan in the fall of 2022. He has many congregations to visit throughout the diocese which covers the entire state of Connecticut. Today, it is St. John's in Vernon's turn for a visit. While the bishop will no doubt have news to share about the wider Episcopal Church in Connecticut, the primary role of a bishop's visit, is to pray together. Though I like to preach, it is a chance for even me to sit down and listen to the good news of Jesus Christ. The bishop also wants to hear about your passions and concerns. The bishop will want to hear about what you are excited about in our community. Today, we will worship together at 8:00am and 10:00am. We will also gather for a parish forum at 9:00am in St. Mary's Hall. This time will give the opportunity for the bishop to share news and stories and for parishioners to share and ask questions. The vestry will be meeting with the bishop for lunch to continue our conversations. I know that Bishop Mello is keeping us in his prayers, and I ask you to pray for the bishop.

Blessings, Marc

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Bible Study
1/17

Epiphany Pageant
1/21

Trivia Night - 1/25

Annual Meeting
1/28 after 9am service

Shrove Tuesday – 2/13

Happy Birthday!

Michael Duszyk
Ben Mund
Frederick Taylor
Bill Francis
Dave Smith
Andrea Burr

Happy Anniversary!

Lawrence & Anne Willette
Lauren & Steven Harshly

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Streaming 10am service volunteers wanted! – Our beloved Andy Halpryn does a wonderful job streaming our 10am services but would love some help. If you would like to be trained to stream our liturgies please see Andy or Rev. Marc.

Open Forum with the Bishop – Please join Bishop Jeff W. Mello on Sunday, 1/14 at 9am in St. Mary's Hall.

Epiphany Pageant – The Epiphany Pageant has been rescheduled to Sunday, 1/21 at the 10am service.

Trivia Night – Join your fellow parishioners for our second annual Trivia Challenge. On January 25th at 6:30pm, we will begin with a potluck supper and trivia night. The trivia will range from animals, music, movies, sports, history, and other general knowledge questions. We will work in teams so don't feel badly if you don't know everything – no one does!

Annual Meeting – Our annual parish business meeting will take place on Sunday, January 28th immediately following a single 9:00am service. The meeting will include a parish brunch and discussion of parish finances and mission. I hope you can join us.

Bible Study - St. John's hosts a weekly Bible Study. This winter, we are reading the Book of Daniel. We meet in a hybrid fashion in St. Mary's hall. All are welcome to attend at 12:30pm on Wednesdays. If you would like to join via Zoom, please contact Father Marc or Christina in the office.

Shrove Tuesday – Tuesday, 2/13 5:00pm – 6:30pm. Please join us in the St. Mary's Hall for pancakes and a flap jack relay. Tickets sales and more details soon!