# St. John's Announcements

November 29, 2026

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## Highlights from the Holiday Bazaar





This Sunday marks the beginning of Advent and the start of our Church year. While we might not shoot off fireworks and throw a party, the beginning of the Church year does contain a strong element of hope. That hope is found in the person of Jesus both in his coming as the incarnate Word of God born of the Virgin Mary and as Christ the King, our great Lord and bringer of the end of time. The season of Advent's peculiar combination of looking forward and back is very appropriate for the beginning of a year. We give thanks for all the blessings of the previous year, and we gather hope for what the new year will bring.

Advent also is a penitential season. While Lent is longer and more directly focused on sin, Advent has a similar call to self-reflection. Advent encourages us to be quiet and slow down. This is very countercultural, and I will admit, hard to accomplish. December is one of the busiest times of the year for many of us, and it can be difficult to take time for stillness. Though, even taking a moment to pray for quietness in the midst of chaos might do us all some good. I pray this will be a season of reflection and joy for you.

Blessings,
*Marc*

## UPCOMING EVENTS IN ST. MARY'S HALL

12/2– Wednesday
Eucharist @ 10:30am
***Healing Service***

12/3 – Lunch Bunch
@ 12:30pm

12/3 – Building &
Grounds Meeting
@ 5:30pm

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**Christmas Memorial Flowers –** Order forms for Christmas flowers are located in the back of the church. Orders are due by Thursday, December 18th.

**Mitten Tree** – the Mitten Tree is up! The response last year was awesome. The donations of hats and mittens go to MCC and Cornerstone. One young man at Cornerstone last year was so excited about his new hat he started singing. A big thank you to all who help make this happen.

**A Look at Joseph -** Joseph is one of the great patriarchs in the Judeo-Christian tradition, but we do not get to spend much time with him in our Sunday lectionary cycle. For the next few weeks, I will be leading a look at this last of the Patriarchs found in Genesis. We will meet immediately following the 8:00am Eucharist this Sunday. All are invited to join us. No previous knowledge of Joseph is required for the discussion. We will meet in the undercroft.

**Toy Drive** - St John's will be supporting local Toy Drives again this year. On Sunday 11/29, Sunday 12/6 and Sunday 12/13 we will be collecting **new, unwrapped** toys in the Narthex for distribution to East Hartford (Social Services), Manchester (Police Department) and Vernon (Fire Department). We will also accept **cash** on those Sundays if you're unable to shop. Many thanks for supporting this outreach for the children. - St John's Outreach Committee