



Rector's Letter

Dear Friends in Christ:

On January 1, Deacon Alex preached a very fine sermon in which he highlighted a number of timely issues, chief among them perhaps being the attempt retailers and advertisers make these days to rush people from one season to the next. He remarked that the day after Christmas, one store he visited was already hawking its Valentine's Day wares. While we've all heard the expression "live for today" – and there is something to be said for taking advantage of the present moment – we would do well to savor the seasons of our liturgical year like a fine wine. As Deacon Alex said, the mysteries of our faith – like the incarnation of our Lord, which we celebrate with special intention through the Epiphany – are not meant to be rushed, but rather are meant for us to carefully consider, and to enjoy. The celebration of the birth of the Son of God only happens once a year. Why rush it?

Speaking of the Epiphany, this year we transfer its celebration to January 8. The actual feast day, January 6, is the Twelfth Day of Christmas; the eighth will serve as our twelfth day this year, and will mark the conclusion of our celebration of the season. Once again, we will bless and distribute chalk at both Sunday Masses with the following information and prayer. The inscription below is to be written with the blessed chalk on the lintel above a home's front door:

20 + C + M + B + 12

The four digits at the beginning and end of the inscription represent this new year of 2012. So next year the final digit will change to "3". Because the Epiphany comes so close to the start of the New Year, the numbers represent an annual renewal of God's blessing. **The letters** have two meanings: they represent the traditional names of the Magi: Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar. They also abbreviate the Latin words *Christus mansionem benedicat* – "Christ bless this house." **The crosses** represent the protection of Christ, whom we invoke, and the faithfulness of the Magi who adored the infant Jesus. The inscription is made above the front door, so that all who enter and depart this year may enjoy God's blessing. After you have written the inscription above your front door, say the following prayer:

*Lord God of heaven and earth, you revealed your
only-begotten*

Son to every nation by the guidance of a star.

Bless this house and all who inhabit it.

*Fill us with the light of Christ, that our concern for
others may reflect your love.*

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Of course, there is much to celebrate on the Epiphany, and this weekend we have a guest to help us do that (see below).

I look forward to seeing you in church.

Faithfully yours,

(The Rev.) Christopher V. Pyles

THANK YOU TO THE MEMBERS OF THE CHOIR, THE ALTAR GUILD, THE ALTAR SERVERS AND EVERYONE ELSE – including Deacon Alex, Kay Putman, and Sara Witmer – whose hard work helped make our Christmas services so wonderful. Some of this work is very behind-the-scenes; other work is very front-and-center. Either way, it's all a group effort, and the many hands made lighter work. You all have my deepest thanks for decorating, singing, washing, cleaning, setting up, showing up, and serving. Christmas was a true joy for me, as I hope it was for all of you, too.

- Father Chris

BISHOP BAXTER MAKES HIS ANNUAL VISITATION ON FEBRUARY 26, THE FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT. All who would like to be baptized, Confirmed, or Received from the Roman Catholic or Lutheran Church, please contact the parish office right away.

THE FIRST OF WHAT WILL HOPEFULLY BE A SERIES OF PRAYER BREAKFASTS WILL BE HELD THIS SATURDAY, JANUARY 7, IN THE PARISH HALL, BEGINNING AT 10 A.M. In the parish survey conducted last Spring, many people expressed an interest in a prayer breakfast program, which would occur periodically, and feature food, prayer, and a guest speaker on a spiritual topic. This Saturday, January 7, is our inaugural breakfast. Our guest speaker will be the Rev. Dr. Stuart Hoke, formerly of Trinity Church, Wall Street. Father Hoke was conducting a church service in Trinity Church – just blocks from Ground Zero – at the time of the attack, and helped evacuate children and staff from Trinity's pre-school and office building. He was later evacuated to Staten Island. He will be with us to present "Shelter from the Stormy Blast: Theological Reflections on the Events of

9/11." He is a superb speaker, and will be staying to preach for us the next day on our observance of the feast of the Epiphany. All are welcome; it would be helpful – but is not required – to let us know in advance if you're coming so we can have enough food. If you haven't signed up already, please contact Father Chris or the parish office by Thursday, January 5, to let us know you'll be here.

OUR ANNUAL MEETING WILL BE SUNDAY, JANUARY 15, FOLLOWING THE 10 A.M. MASS, PRECEDED BY A POT-LUCK LUNCH. As most of you know, this is the time when the various committees give their reports and the rector gives a “state of the parish” address. This is a legally and canonically required meeting, and a quorum of members in good standing must be present for it to take place. So please plan to attend. There is a sign-up sheet on the table in the back to indicate what food item you might be able to bring. While we generally focus on the spiritual aspects of parish life, we can’t forget that the temporal aspects are also important. Please be at the meeting to learn more about the nuts-and-bolts parts of life at St. John’s.

YOU MIGHT HAVE NOTICED THE NEW FURNITURE IN THE SANCTUARY, which was made by Patrick North. Constructed of oak – like the altar – the new seating enables all three ministers of the Eucharist to sit inside the Communion rail, and in matching seats! The area where the three “sacred ministers” (celebrant, deacon and subdeacon) sit is called the *sedilia* (the plural of the Latin word *sedile*, or seat). In stone churches, these seats are often carved out of the wall, so the ministers are almost entirely concealed during the service when seated! We are grateful to Patrick for the effort and painstaking detail he put into the work. They are beautiful. Now, we need cushions for them, and they will need to be custom made. If you think you might be able to help with this “special order” project, please contact the parish office.

A NOTE OF THANKS FROM FR. SELVAGE

Please know of my deepest gratitude for those who offered condolences and prayers for the death of my father, William B. Selvage. Your many cards and notes were most deeply appreciated. As many of you know, he was an incredible man full of love and a generous heart. It is a loss to be sure, but his death released him to go home. I shall miss him a great deal but carry him with me always, a gift of immeasurable value. + *Give rest, O Christ, to your servant with your saints, where sorrow and pain are no more, neither sighing, but life everlasting. Alleluia!*

NOTES OF THANKS FROM THE CENTRECREST FAMILY HELPED BY THE APPEAL DEACON ALEX MADE TO THE PARISH:

Dear Rev'd Alex and St.
John's Episcopal Church,

I would like to thank you for giving us the Weis cards. We bought a lot of food and each of us got what we wanted. I am happy for people like you for being so nice to my family. I love my daddy and am glad he is home.

Thank you so much,
Chase Bush
7 years old

Dear Rev'd Alex and St.
John's Episcopal Church,

Thanks you for helping our family since my dad is sick. I am thankful for what you gave us. I would like to thank you for giving us the Weis cards. When we were at Weis we got to pick out some food we wanted. I got some chips and a drink. I am glad you donated. It helped a lot. We are going to use your donation for things we will need or bills we have to pay. I love my dad so much. Thank you for helping us.

Sincerely,
Cassidy Brush
10 years old

Dear Rev'd Alex and St.
John's Episcopal Church,

Thank you so much for helping my family since my dad is sick. I am glad that you gave us the money so I know someone actually cares about my family enough to help us in our time of need. I would also like to thank you for the donation you gave us that will help for medical bills, house bills, and holiday gifts. I love my dad so much he means the world to me. Thank you so much for helping my family.

Sincerely,
Caitlyn Brush
11 years old

COMING UP:

THE THURSDAY NOON MASS RESUMES JANUARY 5TH at the Lady Altar in the Church. Following the Mass there will be a lunch and Bible study in the rectory. All are welcome.

THE COMMUNITY LUNCH WILL BE HELD ON JANUARY 6TH AT THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH. If you can help, please be there by 10 am.

THE NEXT REGULAR VESTRY MEETING will be held on Wednesday, January 18th in the Mary R. Beaver Fellowship Hall at 7:30 p.m.

ST. JOHN'S VOLUNTEERS:**EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS**

	8 A.M.	10:00 A.M.
Christmas I, January 1, 2012	Dn. Dyakiw	NT & Chalice Dn. Dyakiw K. Grossman
The Epiphany, January 8, 2012	Dn. Dyakiw	Dn. Dyakiw S. Witmer
Epiphany II, January 15, 2012	Dn. Dyakiw	Dn. Dyakiw M. E. Scott
Epiphany III, January 22, 2012	Scott Mauger	Dn. Dyakiw J. Hilderbrand
Epiphany IV, January 29, 2012	Dn. Dyakiw	Dn. Dyakiw J. Dench

ALTAR GUILD SCHEDULE

December 31, 2011 – January 6, 2012	M.K. Jones, B. Shugert
January 7 – January 13, 2012	M. K. Jones, B. Shugert
January 14 – January 20, 2012	B. Raymond, B. Roberson, J. Dench
January 21 – January 27, 2012	B. Raymond, B. Roberson, J. Dench
January 28 – February 3, 2012	C. Fetters, S. Witmer

ACOLYTE SCHEDULE

Sunday, January 1, 2012	Crucifer - Bryan Hough
10 a.m. Mass:	Torchbearer -
Christmas I	Torchbearer -
	Bookbearer/Server - Jason Dench

Sunday, January 8, 2012	Crucifer - Jason Dench
10 a.m. Mass:	Torchbearer -
The Epiphany	Torchbearer -
	Book Bearer/Server - Bryan Hough
	Thurifer- Sean Hough

Sunday, January 15, 2012	Crucifer - Steve Dillon
10 a.m. Mass:	Torchbearer - Bryan Hough
Epiphany II	Torchbearer - Sean Hough
	Bookbearer/Server - Charles Maurukas

Sunday, January 22, 2012	Crucifer - Jason Dench
10 a.m. Mass:	Torchbearer - Steve Dillon
Epiphany III	Torchbearer - Bryan Hough
	Bookbearer/Server - Sean Hough

Sunday, January 29, 2012	Crucifer- Charles Maurukas
10 a.m. Mass:	Torchbearer - Bryan Hough
Epiphany IV	Torchbearer - Sean Hough
	Bookbearer/Server - Steve Dillon

JANUARY COLLECTION COUNTERS

Steve Dillon and Mike Fitzgerald

JANUARY COFFEE HOUR HOSTS

January 1- No Coffee Hour – New Year’s Day
 January 8 -Judy & Charlie Hilderbrand
 January 15 -Annual Parish Meeting
 – Pot luck lunch
 January 22-Stuart & Paula Hough
 January 29-Dan & Deb McGinley

January Birthdays

January 1- Patrick North
 January 2- Joyce Banker
 January 4- George Shugert
 Kayleigh Fitzgerald
 Paula Hough
 January 19- Jennifer Zeigler
 January 22- Warren McMullen
 January 23- Arbutus (“Boots”)Fitzgerald
 January 25- Charles Maurukas
 January 27- Alice Wilkinson
 January 28- Mark E. Scott
 January 29- Wesley Mauger
 F. Scott Mauger



SERVICE SCHEDULE

Sundays: Low Mass at 8 (Rite I); Sung Mass at 10 (Rite II)

Wednesdays: Low Mass at 9:30 in St. Michael’s Chapel

Thursday: Low Mass at 12 noon at the Lady Altar in the Church

The Parish Office is open Monday through Thursday from 9 A.M. to 12 NOON. For after-hours emergencies, or whenever the services of a priest are needed, please phone Father Chris at 215-870-4809.

JANUARY 2012

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	Friday	Saturday
1 Christmas I 7:45 – Morning Prayer 8 – Mass – Rite I 10 – Mass – Rite II No Coffee Hour	2	3	4 9:30 am – Mass/Healing	5 Noon Mass & Bible Study	6 10 am Community Lunch	7 10 am – Noon: Prayer Breakfast & Presentation
8 The Epiphany 7:45 – Morning Prayer 8 – Mass – Rite I 10 – Mass – Rite II Coffee Hour	9 7 pm – Men’s Group	10	11 9:30 am – Mass/Healing 6 pm – Council of churches dinner, Faith United Methodist Church	12 Noon Mass & Bible Study	13	14
15 Epiphany II 7:45 – Morning Prayer 8 – Mass – Rite I 10 – Mass – Rite II Pot luck lunch & Annual Meeting	16 Martin Luther King Day – Parish Office Closed 7 pm – Men’s Group	17	18 9:30 am – The Confession of St. Peter: Mass with Healing 7:30 pm – Vestry Meeting	19 Noon Mass & Bible Study	20	21
22 Epiphany III 7:45 – Morning Prayer 8 – Mass – Rite I 10 – Mass – Rite II Coffee Hour	23 7 pm – Men’s Group	24	25 9:30 am – The Conversion of St. Paul: Mass with Healing	26 Noon Mass & Bible Study	27	28
29 Epiphany IV 7:45 – Morning Prayer 8 – Mass – Rite I 10 – Mass – Rite II Coffee Hour	30 7 pm – Men’s Group	31				

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

**120 WEST LAMB STREET
BELLEFONTE, PA 16823**

Office: 814.355.0497

Fax: 814.355.3981

Parish Email:

stjohnsepiscopal@comcast.net

Parish Website:

www.stjohnsepiscopal-bellefonte.org

*St. John's is a parish in the
Diocese of Central Pennsylvania,
The Right Reverend Nathan
Baxter, Bishop*

PARISH CLERGY

The Rev. Christopher V. Pyles, Rector
cvpyles@aol.com
215.870.4809 (cell) (Off Tuesdays)

The Rev. Alex Dyakiw, Deacon
deaconalex@gmail.com
814.883.0430 (cell)

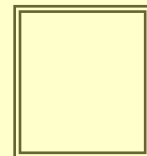
PARISH STAFF

Sara Witmer, Secretary
Barbara Roberson, Treasurer
E. Kay Putnam, Organist/Choir Director
Terence Riley, Sexton

LAY LEADERS

Dr. Karen Harvey, Senior Warden Mike Fitzgerald,
Junior Warden
Charles E. Maurukas, Acolyte Director

**ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
120 WEST LAMB STREET
BELLEFONTE, PA 16823**



**NAME
STREET ADDRESS
CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE**