



# the EAGLE

the newsletter of  
St. John's of Lattingtown

Winter 2011~12

## RECTOR'S LETTER FOR ADVENT, CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR

### DEAR FRIENDS

Someone once asked the Buddha if he was a god. His reply was "No, just awake!" I love this quotation. It links nicely to our Christian tradition when we sing hymns at this time of year that have the word 'awake' in them. Our corporate bible reading also often refers to being awake in one way or another during this season. So my question to you all and myself is how awake are we?

Webster's defines awake as 'rousing from sleep'. In today's pace there is the temptation to be on automatic pilot but really half asleep. The bills are to be paid on automatic debit. There are the same tasks to do each season. Each week, each day we can be on automatic pilot and so much so that we miss the beauty and the gift of the present and the present moment. We can drift through each day and time period totally asleep to its gift.

I love collecting shells. Do you remember I said in a sermon that I had been collecting shells and felt something prodding me? When I looked it was a tiny hermit crab reminding me that he was awake and in his home and shelter. He kept me awake to that fact. During this season we need to take some precautions to ensure we keep awake and are each more awake.

Rather than get into Christmas present and cards 'same old, same old' routine and be on automatic pilot we are challenged to be more awake to what we are doing. May be a typed generic Christmas letter needs to be replaced by a handwritten note on a card, expressing sentiments with deep love and care. May be rather than give a person the same old present year by year they should be more creatively bought for.

Of course all this takes time and effort and we all say we have none. But whose

fault is that? Every human being is asked to wake up to the preciousness of time and how short life is relatively. Have we the time for a smile, a telephone call, an encouraging word? A nice letter or a creative gift? How do we talk to people? At them or as fellow human beings, also made in God's image to be loved and respected?

The principle of living in a more awake fashion and to the opportunities of the season and to the gift of breath, life, nature, family and friends is a must. Otherwise it will all pass us by. Let each one of us live in a more awake fashion and cherish each moment. A song we sometimes sing at St John's has these words to inspire:

'..let this be the moment now

With every step I take

Let this be my solemn vow

To take each moment, and live each moment'

St. Ireneus tells us that 'The glory of God is a human being fully alive.' In other words if we are not more aware of life and living and persons and awake to all, then we are asleep; indeed dead to the life that God has for us. You may feel half dead with all the pre Christmas rush and all that is going on in your life but listen to your breathing, take time out to live, savor and cherish or life's gifts will pass us all by.

May our Advent, Christmas and New Year be ones where we make being awake to life a priority and a discipline. 'Keep awake' says Matthew 24 'for you do not know when your Lord is coming'. We need to remember that God comes to us in various guises to keep us all awake. Let's not miss the Divine hints to keep awake! Let's not live life half asleep or worse. Let's live it! Really live it!

Happy Advent, Christmas and New Year to you all

Simon+



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## CONFIRMATION AND RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION CLASS



### CONFIRMATION AND RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION

at St. John's begins during Lent as per the tradition of the Church. Confirmands are expected to attend a service on Ash Wednesday and they will then be enrolled in Confirmation Preparation on the following Sunday (the first Sunday in Lent). The age for Confirmation in our Diocese has been lowered to 13,

but remains at the discretion of the local priest. It is more important that the confirmand be able to express a mature faith than be of the exact age.

If you would like more information on Confirmation & Religious Instruction for young people and adults, watch the parish bulletin and website for details of our program or speak with the Rector.

### PROJECT SNOW ANGEL!

From our Sunday School Coordinator Courtney Callahan

On November 13th we started Project Snow Angel in the Sunday School classrooms! Remember when you were young and you would fall into the snow and make snow angels? Remember how good it felt and how awed you were when you looked at the life-size angel imprint you made in the snow. Well, we would be so honored if you would make your angelic imprint at Sunday School. How?

We are asking pairs to sign up for just one Sunday a year. Ask your spouse, a relative or a friend in the parish to join you. We are first filling up spots between now and the end of February in Godly Play which is Kindergarten to 2nd grade. Then we will fill spots for the older group which is 3rd grade and up.

A teacher will always be there to teach the children. We only ask you to first introduce yourself and tell the kids why you come to church on Sundays, why the church is important to you and maybe you have a story of a close moment with God or Jesus or with another parishioner. After we all get to know one another we begin the lesson. Feel free to interact with the kids during this time. So there is little prep work--we will mail you the lesson plan so you will be able to read it beforehand so you will know what we will be covering.

### PRIEST FOR A DAY



A student tries on Fr. Simon's stole

Mostly we just want you to share you! This model has worked miracles in another parish. Please think about being a part of our Sunday School miracle! Your choice to be there will make a huge impact on these children.

Remember, Jesus needed both Mary and Joseph. Please consider making a pledge to serve in the spirit of HIS parents. You may call Courtney Callahan at 516-497-1255 or email her at courtneycallahan@yahoo.com for more details.



### THIRD SUNDAY BREAKFASTS

The Vestry hosted the latest shared breakfast and bible conversation held most 3rd Sundays of the month at 9 AM. All are welcome!



### REFLECTIONS FROM PARISHONERS ABOUT WEDNESDAY CONTINUING EDUCATION CLASSES

Participating in these discussions has broadened by perspective on spirituality – I like the openness of the conversation in which each person's views are heard and respected. Also having new people at the group – not necessarily St. John's parishioners, opens the discussion even further and allows for further meditation on the themes.

Continuing Ed enriches my life. Answers questions I have and questions I didn't know I had. It is the highlight of my week and the answer to my prayers. I've learned to be more accepting of other thoughts and voices and words. I've learned that to love is not enough, that I need to be more loving.

The weekly Continuing Ed classes have broadened my understanding of what it means to be a Christian. I feel informed & enlightened & our conversations are often the highlight of my week.

Participating in the St. John's Continuing Ed group is always an inspiring, enlightening and soul-expanding

experience for me – a place where I am gifted with other peoples' perspectives, as well as invited to share openly my own. Fr. Simon presents the group with a topic, hands out a list of questions to get us all thinking, and opens the floor for discussion, which takes us where we know not where!

How the role of religion has evolved throughout history. What meaning the idea of God has in different cultures. The role of symbolism & myth in understanding religious experience.

Unfortunately I have missed the last two classes but it really doesn't matter too much as I think the main and most interesting thing about these classes is that we open up discussions on different subjects to do with the church, God and religion that we would not be thinking of on a daily basis.

Since this is my first time here, and especially in a small group unit, I would hope to be inspired to be able to better understand the meaning and interpretation of religion. Also, I would be interested in the topics and following discussions from the group.



### JOINT EUCHARISTIC MINISTER RETREAT

The Rector recently led a joint retreat at St. John's with the Eucharistic Ministers of St. John's and St Gabriel's Brooklyn. He led three meditations on why the Eucharist is so important and talked about Eucharistic theology and ways we can show our devotion to Christ present among us in this unique way. The day included a lively Eucharist and silent prayer before the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction. Jen Rehm provided lunch for us all too. Those who took part shared what they had got from the day's work together. A good time was had by all and certificates for all participants affirmed the Church's thanks for faithful service as Eucharistic Ministers.



### 145TH ANNUAL DIOCESAN CONVENTION

Unpacking the Vision: Bishop Larry's Convention Address

On November 11 and 12, 2011 the Diocese of Long Island held its 145th Convention, attended by 600 clerical and lay delegates, including the writer.

The principal event of the convention was the Address of Bishop Larry Provenzano, who recounted the tale of Martin (who later become bishop of Tours) who cut off his own cloak and gave to man who came to him in poverty, begging alms. The legend tells us that the very next night Jesus appeared to Martin wearing that cloak. Bishop Larry stated: "Our mission in a genuine sense is to take our cloak in our time and share it with those whom we recognize in need: in need of good news, in need of a home for faith, in need of food shelter or care."

While Bishop Larry, celebrated our ongoing mission where there are hungry mouths to feed, he was not convinced that the Diocese is currently organized in a way that can best "unleash our potential for mission." Thus, the Bishop will seek a review of Diocesan Canons and will appoint a Diocesan Commission on Structural Reform for Mission and Ministry, which report and make recommendations in three years. The Bishop noted that we seem to work in our own "silos," meaning that we work in isolation from each other, and this needs to change.

Bishop Larry closed his Address by returning to his initial point: "Whatever cloak we carry, we have it

St. John's 145th Annual Convention Delegates



Carlyle Dunaway



Adrian Bogart

for the sake of others, for the sharing."

Many other matters were raised during the two days. One matter of particular interest is a requirement approved at the General (i.e., national) Convention, that, effective January 1, 2013, all dioceses and congregations must participate in the Denominational Health Plan and provide eligible clergy and lay employees regularly scheduled to work 1500 hours per year (i.e., 30 or more hours per week) with healthcare benefits.

The 145th Diocesan Convention adjourned late Saturday afternoon on November 12. Carlyle Dunaway



### THE CONVENTION LOGO

Used on signage, book covers and pins, was created by the Committee of Dispatch on Business which our Rector chairs and designed and executed by parishioner Duncan Naylor.

### TALK ON STEWARDSHIP GIVEN BY LARRY WARD ON 11-20-11

I am here to represent myself and my Co-Chair Mike Powers and others to talk about Stewardship. That means, among many other things, MONEY ! Yes, we are using that word in Church!

The Eastern mystic Kahlil Gibran in his treatise THE PROPHET was asked, "Speak to us about Money." He replied "Money is LOVE made VISIBLE." How true a thought! And I would add, givable and thankful. Remember the UTO, the United Thank Offering? That may date you!

Your committee has given this matter a lot of thought recently and has put some ideas in a LETTER you should have received this week. It was mailed Wednesday. Please READ it, thoughtfully, and let us know how you and your family feel about the ideas in it. And return

the enclosed PLEDGE CARD with your choices (e.g., amount for 2012, how to be given - either weekly or otherwise, etc.) by the YEAR END. Now a pledge is more like a guess than a legal commitment but it allows Treasurer Jim Large and the Vestry to plan ahead to keep our wonderful programs going and if possible start some new ones. Thank you for doing this.

Aren't we all very fortunate for what we have here! Skippy and I have a very young Grandchild, a girl, who when faced with some task well beyond her years, always says, "I CAN DO IT." Well, WE CAN DO IT as well. We can give love with a capital L, AND with a capital M. We can be more VISIBLE both to ourselves and to others around us who then will want to join us in our parish church and make our lives even more wonderful as we worship OUR LORD AND SAVIOR in this beautiful place. God bless us every one!



### AHOY MATEYS, PIRATES AT ST JOHN'S FAIR

The 59th annual St Johns Fall Fair took place recently on a sunny Saturday in September. The theme this year was Pirates of the Caribbean, following in the fair tradition of family friendly themes. Ye Pysrate Brotherhood, a group of volunteer men and women who enjoy the spirit of the pirate era, were the entertainment for the young and young at heart. Dressed in authentic reproductions of pirate costumes and weaponry, they charmed the children and adults with their antics.

Our Rector officially opened the fair at 10am with a prayer. Early shoppers who wanted to check out the sale prior to the opening came at 9:15am for a special opportunity to shop before the general public. Many children and adults came dressed in pirate attire, and the winner of the best children's costume was three year old Colin who came with his parents all the way from Mount Sinai in Suffolk County.

As always the fair featured a wide variety of items for sale from the antique collectibles to the hand made items, and everything in between. There was also plenty of food throughout the day, from breakfast to lunch. For the children there were games and bouncy rides, face painting and the always very popular drum circle led by Drum Man George Hooks and his assitant, Randy



Lithgow, who both dressed as pirates. In the Parish Hall were the high end treasures, Cream of the Crop, Silent Auction and The Gallery.

The Gordon Highlanders entertained with a stirring parade of bagpipes, and parishioner Duncan Naylor, acting as Master of ceremonies, proved an eclectic variety of recorded music throughout the day.

The chairpersons of each booth and their committees work very hard all year to make the fair a success. All items sold at the fair had been donated, both by parishioners and many other people in the community. The tents were decorated with flags of many nations, generously underwritten by parishioners Donna and John George. Many other sponsors each year help to underwrite the expenses of the fair, from tent rentals to the children's rides and entertainment. The church

as always during the fair, was open for visitors to look around and spend a few quiet moments of contemplation, while parishioners were on hand to welcome and answer any questions.

The fair, chaired by myself, is a group effort with many volunteers making it's success possible. A portion of the proceeds from the fair each year are donated to outreach including local and international charities.

By Victoria Crosby

### FAIR PREVIEW AND WRAPUP PARTIES



The preview party held on a mild September evening before the fair was well attended by parishioners. Delicious hors d'oeuvres

prepared by many talented chefs/ parishioners were beautifully displayed in the cloister, coordinated by Suzie Chase. Dustin Chase acted as bartender with wines generously donated by Neil and Blair Trimble of



Banfi and Ridgley and Carla Beale from Winecraft

In November Fair Chairman Victoria Crosby hosted a Fair wrap up and thank you



party in the Parish Hall for the chairman and committee members who had helped to make the fair a success. Comments both positive and negative were discussed in order to help make improvements for the 2012 Fair.



**ADVENT GIVING ENVELOPE**

Parishioners are asked to express their thanks to God for the birth of Jesus and the message of Christmas by making an additional donation for the life and witness of our Parish Church. Please return the enclosed envelope to the Church as soon as you can. Thank you in anticipation of your generous giving as we come to year's end. S+

**TRANSPORTATION TO CHURCH**

If you or someone you know would like to come to church but have no transport, please call Karin and let her know and we will find transport. We would love to see you!

**AGAPE IS COOKING**

each month to stock the St. John's freezer for people in need of a home cooked meal. If such a need comes to anyone's attention, they can email me (vsfox76@gmail.com) for more info. Thanks so much, Vicki

**SERVICE OF DEDICATION OF THE GRAVESTONE FOR DANNY DAVISON**

Words shared by the Rector on Sunday October 23rd at the Locust Valley Cemetery

For some people a gravestone is just a gravestone. For the people of God in the Old Testament places of burial were markers on the road, places of great significance and veneration containing the remains of the patriarchs and matriarchs of faith. There are passages in the Bible where they are described. They are still their years later years after the person was buried there. They became places of pilgrimage. We share in that trajectory of faith and memory today. What we do together as immediate family and friends is of great significance. We do this with faith in God, eternal life and the communion of saints. This gravestone is a touchstone for memory and faith.

Today in this beautiful cemetery we remember our much loved Danny and dedicate and set apart his grave to be used and seen as a symbol of our continuing love and thanksgiving for him. We dedicate it by tracing the sign of the cross over it, that symbol of love our badge as Christians - a symbol of love winning through suffering, winning through it all.

We gather today acknowledging how much we miss dear Danny but remembering his faith in God and heaven. As I often say the veil between death and life is a thin one and so while Danny is on another shore now, we feel our communion with him. We are never separated and never will be. May this gravestone and place of burial always be a touchstone for us to touch this closeness and link

**AMANDA SCHUSTER RIP**

Amanda Schuster

After a long illness Amanda went to be with the Lord. She had shown amazing bravery and courage throughout. In illness as well as in her life she showed such bravery and determination as well as faithfulness to God and God's Church. Her Celebration of life was well attended and Canon Porter and Father Michael Sniffen our former Assistant both shared in the leading of the liturgy. The text of the Rector's sermon can be read or listened to on the website. We extend our condolences to her family and her many friends. Inspired by Amanda's faithfulness let us remember that as we journey Amanda and other faithful Lattingtown saints surround us and lead the way.

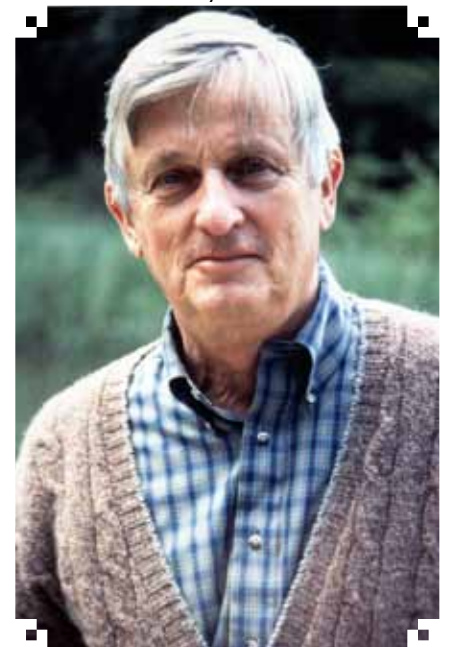


between heaven and earth, this communion between God, the departed and this life.

Now there are many touchstones. There is this one; there are our photographs, our memories and so much else. This is one particular one, a special one. May you and we derive comfort by this touchstone and all the others knowing that Danny is in God's nearer presence now but totally in communion with us, alongside us.

On the rectory study wall looking down at me as I write is a photograph of Danny. This rector has that touchstone. It links me to him in a powerful way. You will have so many touchstones but may this one in particular that we dedicate today be a continuing special one, a place for pilgrimage and grace. May all who visit Danny's grave experience grace and strength and the virtue, faith and faithfulness of this man, one of our Lattingtown saints. Amen

Danny Davison





# Music at St. John's

*presents*

## A Baroque Christmas at St. John's of Lattingtown

Baroque Chamber Orchestra with The St. John's Choir  
*Eric Milnes, director*

Sunday, December 4, 7 o'clock in the evening

*Instrumental and Vocal Christmas Music by  
Marc - Antoine Charpentier, Henry Purcell, George Friedrich Handel & Arcangelo Correlli*



A suggested admission donation of \$25 benefits MUSIC AT ST. JOHN'S  
Please RSVP your intention to attend by calling the church office at 671.3226  
or email Karin at: [Karin@stjlat.org](mailto:Karin@stjlat.org)

### EDNA'S 101ST!

St John's parish-ioner Edna Sykes celebrated her 101st birthday with Rev Simon Foster, Nancy Roenfeldt, Victoria Crosby and friends and staff at The Sunrise in Glen Cove.



### UMBERTO BECOMES U.S. CITIZEN

You may not know Humberto Marichal but he works at St. John's making our church beautiful and polished each week. The floors in our Parish Hall are sparkling, the pews and kneelers are clean. On Monday, October 24th, Humberto became an American Citizen. The staff presented him with a congratulatory cake commending him for his dedication over several years of effort in becoming a citizen. We are so proud of him! Umberto and his wife Doris worship at St. John's regularly.





### 9/11 VICTIM'S SON REFLECTS ON 10-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

This article excerpted from the Huffington Post. Used with author's permission, parishioner Andrew Lenoir.

The first week of school is always hard. There's the adjustment back into academic routine, the planning out of one's goals and schedule, and then there are the reminders that time continues forward -- unfeeling and unstoppable. The start of each new school year has been an especially difficult experience for me the last 10 years, because Sept. 11 always falls in the first week.

When I started at Brown University, I sat with a group of fellow freshmen on the seventh anniversary of September 11th. My family had just left after visiting for the day, and I was hoping no one would recognize my personal connection to the date.

There in the dining hall, the conversation came up -- my generation's version of "where were you when JFK was shot?" While the JFK conversation is polite chit-chat in front of anyone whose last name isn't Kennedy, Oswald or Ruby, there are no faces to the attacks of 9/11.

I hoped no one would ask why my grandparents had sent me a Popcorn Factory gift basket. I hoped no one would remember I was from New York. I hoped no one would ask why my father had not visited along with the rest of my family. I hoped no one would pay attention to me at all, and no one did. I sat there as the other students talked about their own memories of the day: how they left school early, how they hugged their parents and cried, and how much the experience of 9/11 had changed them.

What I remember most vividly of that morning, Sept. 11, 2001, was my middle school principal gathering all of us together, a group of sixty 10- and 11-year-olds, and looking at us with the bleak, defeated candor I have come to associate with a total loss of words: "There's been an incident."

We were on an overnight field trip. It was my first week at a new school. No one told us anything, in part, I suppose, not to scare us, and in part because they didn't know themselves what to expect. We were told to pack our things and get ready to leave a day early. This was a time to be with our families.

We arrived in the school parking lot after dark. The bus was surrounded by parents, holding hands against their nervousness, presenting a tough front to support their children. I picked up my bag and scanned the crowd. My mother was alone. She was crying.

My memories get a little fuzzier after that. My grandfather drove us home. I remember lying with my head in my mother's lap, and my vision blurring as we both wept. I remember arriving in my bedroom, and finding a stack of new comics I had ordered. The cover of Batman #428 stared back at me, the climax of the "Death in the Family" story arc. Robin lay bloody and broken -- dead after being caught in a building explosion.

I knelt by my bed and earnestly prayed. On some level I hoped. I remember protesting that it was too soon to give up when my mother scheduled the memorial service a few weeks later, citing that people had been found in the wreckage of ground zero, but in the words of that prayer I admitted something I already knew.

My father, John Robinson Lenoir, Vice President at Sandler O'Neill & Partners, who worked on the 104th floor of the World Trade Center's south tower, was dead. He was 38.

One of the things I've grown used to since Sept. 11, 2001 is the utter cluelessness of anyone who tries to talk to me about it. While anyone who's been through a loss knows that the phrase "I know how you feel" is usually as insensitive as it is well meant, it's rare that one's personal business is so ingrained in popular culture and political rhetoric.

I've had people ask how I could possibly befriend a Muslim student, ending with, "You do know the A-Rabs killed your father, don't you?"

In middle school another student handed me a pin reading, "I bombed an Afghani child," as a gift, before patting me wordlessly on the shoulder.

I distinctly remember one boy who told me I should feel happy that "they're going to make 9/11 National Firefighters Day." I'm not condemning the rather misguided attempts at consolation. I empathize with the underlying problem.

The last known survivor of the Titanic died in 2009. (Bear with me for a second.) While the events of 9/11 and the sinking of the Titanic may not seem to share much at first glance, it is precisely on the surface that they come together. Both are admittedly tragic events that are so iconic that one only needs to see an unnamed image of the occurrence to immediately know what's being referenced.

I have a recurrent daydream in which my child or grandchild asks me about Sept. 11 for a school project, and I have to search for the right words to say. As a nation, we need to decide soon how we teach people about this event, as it increasingly sinks into the depths of history.

The story of 9/11 did not end this May with the assassination of Osama bin Laden. This story, my story and all our stories are one story. The narrative lives on in its retelling, and in the way it is woven into the fabric of American identity.

We praise New York firefighters for their bravery, rushing into the unknown at the risk of life and limb, and yet after 10 years we cannot give them what they deserve: acknowledgement that they were lied to about air quality dangers and coverage for their cancer treatment. We have rhetoric, we have fancy speeches and we have Hollywood blockbusters that tell us how to feel, but we must all search within ourselves to know the story as it happened and as it should be told.

Textbooks are being written, commemorative coins are being sold, and journalists run stories about the rising generation for whom the events of 9/11 are as alien and fantastic as that luxury liner hitting an iceberg is for anyone born after 1912.

This Sept. 11, the memorial at ground zero is opening for the first time, and as a country we are no closer to agreeing upon what it is we want to remember.

We owe the dead, the suffering, the survivors and our posterity more than that. When my family and I join together this year to remember, I will pray again -- for the first time in 10 years -- not for my father but for those of us left behind. I will pray for our nation to heal, for the divisions to mend, and in the hope that one day, this day will have a message of hope.



### NURSING A SQUIRREL

A poem by Fr. Simon+

After Church yesterday we walked  
The Golden Retriever and me  
We found a baby grey squirrel  
On the road lying unable to move  
The squirrel had fallen from a tree  
Or been hit by a car  
Let's call the squirrel Sam  
For Samantha or Samuel or Sami  
We investigated  
I moved Sam to grass  
Sam cried like a baby  
Off the road and cars  
But other dangers lurked  
Eagles visit these parts  
I have seen them  
Poor Sam would have no chance  
I returned to the rectory  
Barney I left there  
Then I looked for a shoe box  
I went walking back to where Sam  
lay  
There Sam was, just as we had left  
I put Sam in the box  
The rectory was having a guest  
I put Sam somewhere safe  
Left nuts, water, and leaves  
Sam is so beautiful  
The most gorgeous tiny feet  
I took Sam's photograph  
A model if ever there was one  
Sam was very weak  
Sam talked squirrel talk  
I never knew that  
Like a baby gurgling  
I had Sam prayed for  
At a church service last night  
Would Sam be alive the next day?  
Sam is now much weaker and is dying  
I lifted Sam's head to give him a drink  
"When I was thirsty  
You gave me a drink" said Jesus  
To think I had thought this  
Chiefly of relevance to humans!  
Sam is so weak now

But if Sam does die today  
This creature is lying on his side, peaceful  
Lovely brown eyes open, he moves now and again  
Seems so peaceful  
Sam is safe and will have a funeral service  
Just like Felix the cat did  
Sam will be buried next to Felix  
Sam and Felix



A close-up of Sam

Like saints Perpetua and Felicity  
Saint Francis called the creatures  
All of creation, sisters and brothers  
To show how interconnected we all are  
My sister or brother Sam  
Next to brother Felix  
The whole experience has been a lesson  
Creation cries out for compassion  
She cries out for tenderness and care  
People and animals are crying out  
We just have to be alert to the cry  
To our own cry and the cry of others  
Sam is resting now  
He will have no more trauma  
No more moving  
Going to a longer sleep  
May the Great Squirrel Lover  
Welcome Sam home  
Sam changed a rector's life  
The encounter was a sacrament  
Something outward

Something inward  
The tiny baby feet, the gurgling  
Sister squirrel, brother squirrel  
Money could not buy  
Your beauty, your spirit  
Sleep on, we'll never be separated  
Communion is for ever  
Rest in peace Sam  
Holy, Holy, Holy  
Holiness and Life  
Sacredness, they're One  
In One, caught up in The One  
"In God we live and move  
and have our being"



Baptism of the Beisler family children Isabelle and Kathryn



Baptism of William E Morris

### HOMILY FROM THE PRIVATE BURIAL SERVICE OF RALPH SMITH

Given by the Rector on November 6th.

In The Episcopal Church today is All Saints Sunday when the Church reflects on those who have gone on before. The Church remembers the famous and not so famous whose lives speak to us and always will. Today would have been and is Ralph's 86th birthday. We meet today to honor with Christian burial someone we and this parish will never forget, our Saint Ralph.

The Greek New Testament word for saint is hagios which means those set apart, holy and consecrated. In stature as a person Ralph surely was and is set apart by his way of living and life, his standards, his sense of fun and fair play and justice. He was never remote or cold though but as a human being he set a very high standard of dignity and specialness. He could not be pompous or self-righteous, instead full of fun and anyone who tried to be over-serious Ralph's jokes would soon win them over. He had a lovely warmth of spirit and a great interest in people. He was so respectful and full of honor. He had that wonderful reading voice too and how I and we loved to hear him read in Church.



Ralph was consecrated and dedicated to being a great human being full of love, care and fun. He meant so much to you Faye and dear family and to his friends and his Church and not least here at St John's. He touched our lives and so many others so deeply. His bravery and endurance through sickness too were amazing even though we know he wanted to be out of care facilities.

That shock of hair, his blazer, always so smart and always a kind word unless he disagreed with someone and then his integrity of spirit meant he had to challenge or say he disagreed.

I owe Ralph many things not least his great kindness in help as a lawyer when this priest with less grey hair than now was wanting a visa. He helped me and the Parish and so helped so many. He was fun to be with and boy conversation and stories were never lacking were they? How many times might we have been in a situation where that wit, those jokes were such an inspiration and tonic?

There is a School of Episcopal person that Ralph was part of...dedicated, prayerful, God-fearing and God-loving, Church-loving and faithful in all things. Their lives have enriched this Church and the national Church so much. What a much-valued member of St John's, a valued member serving the Seamen's Church Institute too.

Ralph always encouraged me as his priest over the years. He was always at pains to encourage and I will never forget the way whenever we prayed together I would pray and then Ralph's prayer of appreciation for the visit and ordained ministry.

Ralph was a pillar of this Church and always will be. He was a pillar of support to his rector and always will be from the other side of eternity. He was a pillar to so many different community groups and great causes and his professional help made such a difference to so many. I know to you dear loved ones and friends he was an amazing pillar. I know you sense his loss so deeply. May God comfort you in your loss knowing that as I often say the veil between heaven and earth is a thin one. May we always hear that laughter and see that twinkle and may all Ralph stood for draw us on to make the world, Church, community and life a better place through the way we live. Rest in peace dear friend and fellow pilgrim and enjoy the results of the First Easter. Death has lost her sting. The Easter Tomb points to new and eternal life, your destiny, our destiny the Church believes and our hope. Heaven has a great story teller now...but then Jesus liked telling a good story too.



*Merry Christmas and Happy New Year  
from the Rector, Eric, Karin, Mary, Kate, Duncan and Humberto*



**ST. JOHN'S ADVENT SCHEDULE**

- Dec. 11th** Advent 3 - 10:30 Lessons & Carols
- Dec 17th** 9am Greening of the Church
- Dec 18th** Advent 4 10:30am Eucharist
- Dec 21st** Christmas Reconciliation of a Penitent (confession) 1pm thru 2pm or by appointment (for evening)
- Dec. 24th** 2:30 Christingle Workshop and pageant costuming  
4:00 Christingle Service for the young and young at heart  
6:00 & 11:00 First Eucharist of Christmas
- Dec 25th** 8am Said Eucharist  
10am Festival Eucharist with Carols
- January 1st** Epiphany Sunday and Prayers for the New Year at 8am and 1030am

**NEW PARISH CHILDREN'S FUND**

We are now in the process of designing a Children's Fund for our parish's children and grandchildren. We realize that not only adults but children too are having to navigate these economically chllanging times. Parents and grandparents who have never needed help before are feeling the pinch and we want to be there for them. We are thinking of providing small amounts here and there when parents really get up against it after paying the monthly bills. These expenditures might include, for example, a music lesson, snow boots or school supplies. Please feel free to email courtneycallahan@yahoo.com with your thoughts.

**SNOW ANGELS AND CHRISTINGLE**

On page 2 "Snow Angels" are introduced - begin your new role right now with a special sign up to help with Christingle! (Contact Courtney.)

**CHRISTINGLE!**

From Courtney Callahan, Sunday School Coordinator.

What we wait for all year! Please write it down on your calendar in red and green to get the Christingle Spirit started December 24th!

Christingle Service - 4:00 PM Sanctuary  
Christingle Workshop - 2:30 PM Guild Room

If you wish your children to participate in the Christingle workshop, please call Courtney at 516-497-1255 or email her at courtneycallahan@yahoo.com



the newsletter of  
**St. John's of Lattingtown**

325 Lattingtown Road  
Locust Valley, New York 11560

phone **516.671.3226**  
fax **516.671.6097**  
email **service@stjlat.org**  
web site **stjlat.org**

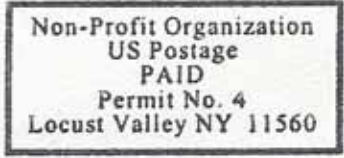
Rector:

**The Rev. Simon Foster**  
office hours

**Monday-Thursday 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.**  
**Friday 9 a.m. - noon**

If you would like to talk to the Rector about anything, need priestly ministry or would like to receive Holy Communion at home or in hospital due to sickness, please call to make an appointment.

**RETURN SERVICE  
REQUESTED**



**BAPTISMS**

Kathryn J Beisler  
Isabelle M Beisler  
Quinn H Fredericks  
Grace S Witton  
Karl A Witton  
David E Witton  
William E Morris  
Marc A Gamboa Palacios  
Thornton Geddes Franson

**FUNERALS & MEMORIALS**

Joseph P Vermot-Desruches  
Mary K Holterbosch  
Marcia Hawthorne  
Amanda Cecil Schuster  
Ralph K. Smith, Jr.

**THE MINISTRY TEAM AT ST JOHN'S**

a parish which seeks to live the Baptismal Covenant (pg 304, Book of Common Prayer)

**MINISTERS:**

Every congregant, parishioner and participant in parish life.

**ASSISTANTS TO THE MINISTERS:**

Diocesan Bishop –  
Lawrence 'Larry' Provenzano  
Rector – Simon Foster

**MINISTERS OF MUSIC:**

Eric Milnes (Director) with choir members.

**ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT:**

Karin DeMario, Kate Scefonas, Mary Syracuse, Duncan Naylor, Humberto Marichal

**PARISH LEADERSHIP TEAM:**

Father Simon Foster, Rector  
Churchwardens and Vestry members: Tom Gimbel, Carlyle Dunaway, Gerda Andersen, JoAnn Browne, Victoria Crosby, Glenn Dorsey, Vicky Fox, Nicole Engels, Jim Large, Peter Marshall, Bob McLane, Liza Picoli, Nancy Polk and Larry Ward.