

## SMC Newsletter December 2021

December came so quickly! It has been a whirlwind and hopefully we can slow down and be contemplative about the hope of the Advent season. We are also so thankful for our successful Spirit of Christmas – Baskets Galore and More event. Make sure you check out the pictures at the end of the newsletter.

Please send me any information you would like included for next time. Many blessings, Patty

### An Update from the ECW and the Christmas Bazaar

**Thank you to EVERYONE who worked on and supported the Spirit of Christmas – Baskets Galore and More event. on Dec. 4<sup>th</sup>.** All proceeds raised will be used by the ECW in their work to benefit our community and church. We were honored by your presence, and we hope you enjoyed your time with us.

Thank you to the following generous donors who provided gifts and prizes for our fishbowl baskets and gingerbread house awards:

Amethyst Springs, LLC, Andy Bovee, Bailey's Wine & Liquor, Charmed Creations, Chops Hair Salon, Country Girl Salon, Dollar General, Gold Dragon, Harris Grocery, Hudson River Community Credit Union, J.M. Farm, Joe's Mini Mart, Lake Luzerne Auto Parts, Luzerne Market, Meme's Florist & Gifts, Moon Star Asian Bistro, R J Waterhouse Fuel Oils, Rocco's Restaurant & Pizzeria – Corinth, Rocco's Il Pizza – Lake Luzerne, Something Secret Boutique, Stewart's Shops, Stone's Pharmacy, The Farmstand, The Hardware Store, Tops Friendly Markets, and White's ACE Hardware.

We were delighted by the response to our gingerbread house competition, particularly by the diversity of the designs. We would like to thank the individuals and families, whose ages range from 2 ½ to 80, for the 30 gingerbread creations which we received. Congratulations to the winners:

The family of Ernie & Sue Wilder, Dylan Walker, Colin & Leslie Mattison, Nolan Willoughby & Nicole Drobneck, the Nicols Family, Charlotte Dawes, Lucy Dawes, Joanne Morrison, Quinn Clemens, and Fran Pickens. Ginny Franzen won the candy guessing game.

We are blessed and grateful to live amongst a group of people who live out the great commandment of Christ: to love God and to love our neighbors as ourselves.

**\*There is no ECW meeting scheduled in December.**



## An Update from Meryl on the 2021 Advent Food Drive

After last year's awesome support of our reverse Advent Calendar food drive for our local Food Pantry, St. Mary's invites you to be part of this year's food drive.

We have calendars and bags available at the back of the Church. Please take them and use the calendar as a guide to donate items of your choice (as you are able or any other items you feel are appropriate).

Then return the bags before or on Christmas Eve.

The items will help replenish the shelves at the Food Pantry after the Christmas Holiday.

Thank you.



## An Update from Meryl on Birthdays and Anniversaries.

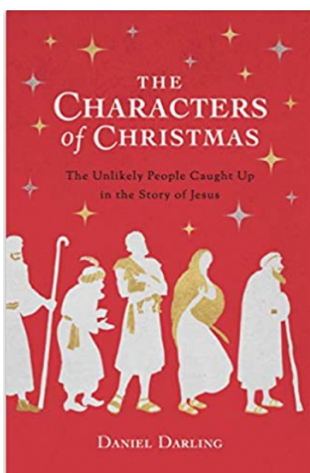
### The birthdays for December are:

Mary Davis Dec 6th, Rick Littlejohn Dec 4th, Marika Jones Dec. 8th, Ted Walker Dec. 11th, and Ruth Merkle Dec 21st, and Lynn Lagace Dec. 30th.

### The anniversaries for December are:

Noel and Meryl Dawes Dec. 20th.

Please give Meryl your birthdate so we don't forget anyone's birthday! You do not need to give the year! Please notify Meryl of any upcoming anniversaries. Photos are also welcome from these occasions.



## Bible studies-Advent

Fr. Lou will continue to have a **service at 10am on Wednesdays - followed by a bible study** in the Parish Hall. We will be studying the readings for the weekly Sunday service.

Fr. Lou has started the **Advent bible study on Sundays at 11:30am and Wednesday evenings at 6:30pm**. We are discussing the **Advent book, *The Characters of Christmas***, which will conclude Dec. 19<sup>th</sup>. We will work through the book by reading three SHORT chapters a week. Fr. Lou will lead a group discussion. Please know all are welcome regardless of completed readings!

**Free Advent devotionals, based on the writings of Bishop Robert Barron, are available for free at the rear of the church.** Please take one, and may it assist you in drawing closer to God throughout this Advent season.

We will be attending the **6:50pm showing of *Christmas with the Chosen: The Messengers*** at the Bow Tie Criterion Cinemas on **Thursday, December 9<sup>th</sup>** in Saratoga. Please call Fr. Lou at 802-734-0263 if you are interested.

**Advent started November 28<sup>th</sup> and will end before Christmas.** It is a time the church has set aside for spiritual preparation of ourselves for Christ's coming in the past (incarnate Christ-birth of Christ), present (Christ in Word and Sacrament), and future (Christ's coming again in glory). It is a time of quiet anticipation, deep reflection, and contemplation of the things of utmost importance. It is a time of recognizing that if Christ is going to come again, into our hearts, there must be repentance.

Advent is the beginning of the Christian liturgical year, and our church decorates the altar in blue during this time. We celebrate hope, peace, joy, and love by lighting the advent wreath every week.



## DOK

**There is no meeting for the DOK the month of December.** The DOK is supporting the Albany Refugee Resettlement Ministry and the St. Francis Mission in Albany in our Diocese this December-January. The Albany Refugee Resettlement Ministry (ARRM) is a ministry of the Episcopal Diocese of Albany that has been serving Tri-City communities for over three decades, mainly through St. Francis Mission in Albany. Since its creation, the ARRM has endeavored to assist the small but constant trickle of displaced people from every corner of the world. This ministry aids people running from wars, totalitarian governments, poverty, persecution, and natural disasters who have made their way here to our Diocese. The organization welcomes these refugees and aids their assimilation into American culture through this ministry.

Right now, there is a need for winter coats, gloves, hats, scarves, boots, etc. There is also an Amazon wish list of needed items: [https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/dl/invite/6VZ4tI3?ref=wl\\_share](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/dl/invite/6VZ4tI3?ref=wl_share). They also need new items to prepare an apartment for arriving families. The list of suggested donations is on the last page.

The St. Francis Mission has a particular family they would like to give a gift card to for Christmas. If you are interested in helping with any of this, please contact Patty.



## First Fruits Sunday on Sunday, Nov 21<sup>st</sup>.

Thank you to everyone who sent in their pledges either by mail, by collection plate, or during the First Fruits Celebration Sunday service. Thank you to Frank, Ruth, Barbara B-L, Patty, Fr. Lou, and Cathy L. for their testimonies. A big thank you to all the volunteers related to the stewardship campaign. Time, Talent, and Treasure are all valued. (I apologize for not having more photos of this event.)



### Coffee Hour Update.

Coffee hour is every Sunday after church. **Please signup to volunteer for December with Jennie.** Jennie's email is [violin1965@hotmail.com](mailto:violin1965@hotmail.com), # 518-696-5129. We need 1-2 volunteers per Sunday.

### Prayer Requests.

**\*\*Please Pray for:** Linda & Mason as they grieve the passing of David, their son and father, the Haramut family, Shawn & Carisa, Amy H. & Maddie, Sylvia C., Sharon K., Jeff R., Michaela and Landon, Carol, Mary Carol and Deacon Alan, Maxine and her family, Jennifer, Kailee and Dante, Paul B, Mary W., Mark M., Marissa, Shaunna, Marika J., Eduard & Mariana, Joyce L., Jack G., Sonia, Carole, Greta H., Peter & Nancy W., our community's youth, the men and women in law enforcement and in the armed forces of our country, the victims and families of the COVID-19 pandemic, those who need healing from the virus, healthcare workers and first responders who are confronting this disease, and those who are struggling with isolation or emotional distress due to the pandemic. All those whose needs are known only to our Lord.

**Diocesan Cycle of Prayer** Retired Bishops William Love, Daniel Herzog, and their families. For Bishop Smith and the Standing Committee and for Holiness of life in every Episcopalian. Additionally, please see: <https://albanyepiscopaldiocese.org/prayer>

Please contact Erich Kaminsky by email at [erichkaminsky@yahoo.com](mailto:erichkaminsky@yahoo.com) or by phone or text at 518.502.4075 with updates.



### Odds and Ends.

**Fr. Lou explained the meaning of Christmas at the Holiday Stroll in Lake Luzerne.** He was honored and grateful to be asked.

**Michaela and Rich gave birth to a beautiful baby boy, Landon James Robertson, on November 12, 2021, at 2:27pm.** He weighed in at 8lbs 7.3 oz and 20.5 inches long.

**The Greening of the Church will be Sunday, December 12<sup>th</sup> after coffee hour.** Please join us as we decorate our Sanctuary for the season.

**Photos from the fishbowl basket raffle, the gingerbread house competition, the prayer area, and the baked goods area.**

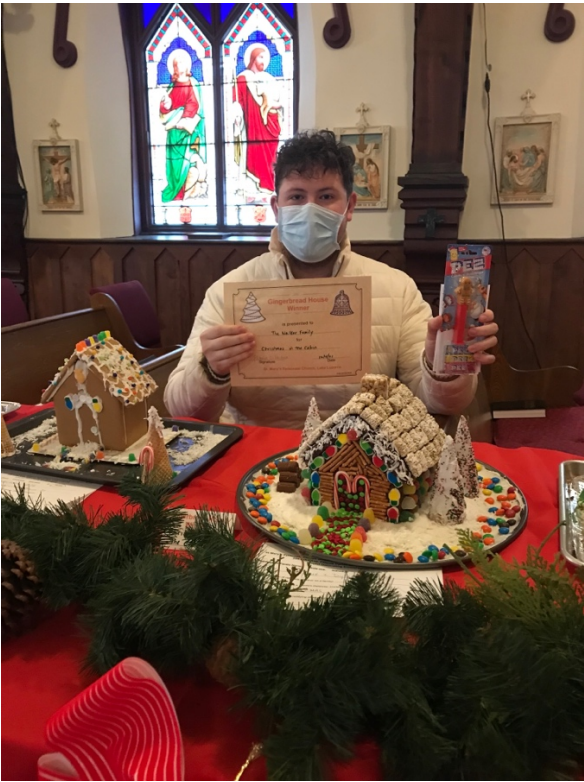
**A note from Ruth:**  
MY CHRISTMAS WISH

WHAT DO I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS?

FRIENDSHIP AND LOVE AND CHEER  
FAITH IN MY FELLOW COMMRADES  
TO LAST THROUGH THE COMING YEAR  
FILL UP MY CHRISTMAS STOCKING  
WITH LAUGHTER AND MIRTH AND SONG  
TUCK IN LOTS OF PATIENCE  
TO HAVE WHEN THINGS GO WRONG  
LEAVE OUT ALL GREED AND SELF PITY  
GIVE ME STRENGTH FOR MY TASKS  
GIVE ME MORE WISDOM AND COURAGE  
THIS CHRISTMAS THAT'S WHAT I ASK

UNKNOWN AUTHOR









## Donation List for Albany Refugee Resettlement Ministry

### Standard Food Items:

- 1 bag sugar
- 1 bag flour
- 1-2 lb. bag rice
- 1-2 lb. bag dry lentils
- 1-2 lb. bag dry chickpeas
- 1 quart of cooking oil
- 1 box of teabags
- black pepper & salt
- 1 jar of instant coffee

### Cleaning Items:

- 1 bottle of all-purpose cleaning spray
- 1 toilet brush
- 1 liquid laundry detergent
- 1 broom & dustpan
- 1 vacuum or manual push sweeper

### Miscellaneous Items:

- 1 plastic laundry basket
- 1 pad of paper
- 1 box of envelopes
- 5 pens/pencils
- 1 electric fan
- 2 light bulbs
- 1 calendar
- 1 small toolkit
- 1 travel sewing kit
- 1 book of "Forever" stamps
- 1 flashlight with batteries

### Bedroom Items:

- 1 Full-sized blanket & sheet set
- 2 twin-sized blankets & sheet sets
- 4 standard-size pillows
- 1 alarm clock
- 25 hangers

### Kitchen Items:

- 1 set of mixing bowls
- 1 set of baking pan/dish (at least 1)
- 1 sauce pan/pot & 1 frying pan
- 1 set of cooking utensils
- 1 set of sharp knives
- Measuring cups and spoons
- Med/Lg cutting board
- Manual can opener
- 3 kitchen towels
- 3 dishcloths
- Silverware for 4
- Dishes for 4 (plates & bowls)
- 4 drinking glasses
- 1 bottle of dish detergent
- 2 D-Cello type sponges
- Kitchen trash can & liners
- 1 roll of aluminum foil
- 1 roll of plastic wrap
- 2 rolls of paper towels
- Rice or Pressure Cooker

### Bathroom Items:

- 4 towel sets (bath, hand & washcloth)
- Shower curtain & hooks
- 1 bottles of shampoo
- 2 bars of soap
- 4 toothbrushes
- 1 tubes of toothpaste
- Spray deodorant (for teens & adults)
- 1 box feminine supplies (No tampons)
- 1 package disposable razors/shaving cream
- 1 package toilet paper
- 2 boxes of tissues
- Small trash basket and liners
- Diapers & wipes (children 0-3)