

ST. JOHN'S
EPISCOPAL
CHURCH,
COMPASS
1520 WEST
KING'S
HIGHWAY
GAP PA 17527
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The Compass

... Pointing People toward Christ



NOVEMBER 2017

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Advent: A Time of Waiting in Hope

The Season of Advent starts Sunday, December 3, when we begin Year B in the Church Calendar (for Sundays), and Year Two (for the Daily Office). On that Sunday, we will light the first candle on the Advent wreath. Made of evergreens and shaped into a circle, it symbolizes both the eternity of God and eternal life for believers in Christ.

At St. John's Church, we use three purple candles signifying the virtues Jesus brings us: Hope, Peace, and Love, and one rose candle to represent Joy.

The Advent wreath dates from the 16th century, during the era of the Protestant Reformers. At the center of the wreath is the white Christ candle

that we light on Christmas Eve, as a reminder that Jesus is the Light of the World.

While the order of candles lit, and wording used, varies



In Advent, we light candles signifying Hope, Peace, Love, and Joy.

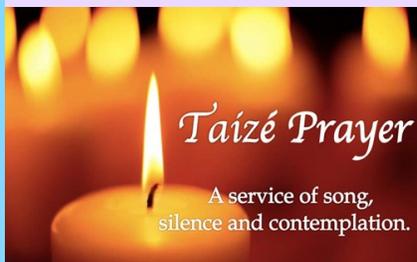
from church to church, the Advent wreath continually reminds us that we are called to be followers of Jesus, living in **hope, peace, love, and joy.**

Advent is also a time of waiting in hope, as we an-

ticipate the coming of Christ, both at Christmas as a tiny, innocent baby, and returning at the end of time, in glory. Because during Advent we also look forward to Christ's final coming as King of Kings, the last Sunday before Advent (November 26) is always Christ the King Sunday. This liturgical occasion reminds us that although this world may seem intolerably evil and corrupt, and at times, we are tempted to despair, the Bible promises that Jesus will return and make all things right. God's kingdom of hope, peace, love and joy will triumph! Let us rest in that assurance.

May God's peace be yours, in this holy Season; Love in Christ,

Advent Taizé Service, December 16th at 7 pm



On Saturday, December 16 at 7 pm, Taizé-style worship returns to St. John's.

Take time out from your hectic schedule to join us for a relaxed worship service that includes contemplative prayer; silence; inspirational Scripture readings; and easy-to-sing chants that will draw you closer to God.

Coming out of 20th-century France, Taizé worship is an ecumenical tradition that spans many denominations. Invite a friend or neighbor! It's an easy way to lower your blood pressure and reconnect with the Lord in a peaceful atmosphere that will help give you what you need to get through the holidays.

Now Thank We All our God



Sunday, November 19 after church, we will share a **potluck Thanksgiving Dinner** in the Parish Hall. Please see the sign-up sheet in the Parish Hall to indicate which dish you'll bring. (That Sunday is also **Stewardship Sunday**, when your **commitment cards are due.**)

Saturday November 18 between 9 and 10 am, Turkey Dinner donations that will be given to **Steeple to People** (frozen turkey; potatoes; canned vegetables; canned cranberry sauce; stuffing mix—*nothing fresh*) should be dropped off at St. John's.

Wednesday, November 22 at 7:00 pm: Thanksgiving Eve Service—a great way to start the holiday, offering thanks to God for His many blessings, and singing those well-beloved Thanksgiving hymns we only sing once a year.

“Come, ye thankful people, come, raise the song of harvest home ...”

**O,
Holy
Night!**



Invitation to a Christmas Open House (during Advent)

On **Saturday, December 2, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.**, members of St. John's Church are invited to an **Open House at Mother Nina and Rick's**, in **Laurel Place, Apt. 411** at Cornwall Manor (1 Boyd St., Cornwall PA 17016). You will be able to tour (tiny) home, and together, we'll enjoy holiday refreshments and fellowship in the common area across from the fourth floor elevator.

Your hosts will provide

drinks and tea sandwiches. Guests are invited to **bring your favorite (homemade or store-bought) Christmas cookies** to share.

Directions to Cornwall Manor: Take Rte. 322 N. toward Lebanon, turn right at the Boyd St. exit; wind around through the Miner's Village. At first STOP sign, turn right up the hill, then left at the Health Center. At next STOP sign, turn left. You'll be facing Laurel

Place.

If coming up Rte. 72, turn right at Rte. 419, to CM entrance not far, on right. After entering, go left at first STOP (Hillcrest Rd); right at next STOP; you'll be facing Laurel Place. Park anywhere you can, or in the upper lot across from the Health Center.

Please RSVP to Mother Nina before Nov. 30, so we know how much food to fix.

Looking Ahead: Christmas Eve 12/24 and Lessons & Carols 12/31

This year, the **4th Sunday of Advent and Christmas Eve are on the same day.**

On Sunday, **December 24**, our **Advent 4 Mass** will be at **10:30 a.m.** and **The Vigil of the Nativity** at **7:00 p.m.** Those wishing to decorate the sanctuary for Christmas should do this after the morning service. Also, we will need an altar party, greeters, and ushers for Christmas Eve. **Please email the Rector or Church Office if you can serve.**

The following **Sunday, December 31 at 10:30 a.m.**, we'll have a **Service of Lessons and Carols.** We'll need at least **4**, or as many as **8**, readers for that Sunday. If you can volunteer, please contact Mother Nina and she will email you the lesson.

Franciscans Update

On October 15, ten parishioners attended a presentation on St. Francis, Franciscan spirituality, and the Order of the Franciscan Community of the Holy Cross (FCHC)—a community of lay Franciscans committed to following Jesus Christ through a Franciscan Rule of Life.

To form a new branch of the FCHC, we are required to have:

- 1) Four persons committed to this vocation;
- 2) Permissions from the Bishop of Albany, and from the Bishop of Pennsylvania.



*Rebuilding
Christ's
Church,
one step
at a time.*

Thanks be to God, four members of St. John's Church are now engaging in a process of prayer and discernment about becoming Franciscans. And we are awaiting word from the bishops.

The discernment phase would be followed by a year of postulancy, involving: 1) gathering once a month for worship, prayer, outreach, and teaching on the biblical basis for the Rule; the writings of St. Francis and his biography; and what it means to be part of religious community; 2) A brief group trip to New York State to meet with the Guardian of the Order and other Franciscans of the Holy Cross.

After postulancy comes novitiate, and eventually, life-profession of vows. Clearly, God is at work in growing His Church in our midst, and we would be very grateful for everyone's prayers for it to continue.

November Birthdays and Anniversaries



Laura Armstrong	November 2
Leslie Yarnall	November 3
Emily Hoskins	November 7
Ruth Ann Pavelik	November 12
Fran Smith	November 17
Jenny Landis	November 22

Jon & Kathleen Strattan	November 2
John & Jane Strattan	November 6
Willis & Daryl Hoch	November 11



Lunch Bunch

When: Weds. November 29 at 11:30 a.m.

Where: Chili's on Hwy. 30 in Parkesburg

RSVP: Sign-up sheet in Parish Hall



HELP WANTED

From Kaye Lee:

"Could anyone who has a dolly move the flower pots outside the church after the first frost? I am hoping to move all the planters over by the dumpsters and cover them with a tarp for use in the spring."



Please contact Kaye by phone or email (see the Parish Directory, or talk to her in church.)

Friday, December 1st—Parents’ Night Out



An evening when both parents and kids can have fun!

Parents, do you simply need a respite, want a date night, or time to go Christmas shopping in peace?

Parents’ Night Out is the perfect opportunity to drop your kids off at St. John’s Church **from 5 to 9 pm** for an evening of games, crafts, and dinner.

Adult parishioners volunteer to watch the children and help with the activities while parents enjoy a night out!

Please let **Nancy Miller** or **Tina Zurcher** know soon whether your children will be taking part.

CEC Meets at St. John’s, December 7th at 10:30 am

The Consortium of Episcopal Churches (CEC) is a group of six churches along the Route 10 corridor: St. Mary’s, Elverson; St. Mark’s, Honey Brook; St. John’s, Compass; Ascension, Parkesburg; Holy Trinity, Coatesville; and St. Christopher’s, Oxford.

Representatives from each parish (**Pat Owens** is ours) meet quarterly at each other’s churches to discuss common interests or endeavors; share resources and information; and support one another in fellowship and prayer.

On **Thursday, December 7, the CEC will meet at St. John’s.**

Many thanks to those who have already signed up to provide breakfast and hospitality for our guests. Anyone is welcome to attend.

You can still get to church—don’t let the road closure stop you from coming.

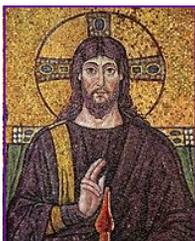
Road Closure at St. John’s

For the foreseeable future, PennDot has closed Route 340 from Cains Rd. to Route 10—right past the front entrance of St. John’s Church—to all but local traffic. However, you can still get to church easily if coming from Route 10 or Chester Co. If coming from

the Lancaster Co. direction, turn onto Cains Rd. Then make the first left at Buena Vista, then the next left on Compass Rd. (which has no street sign). On Sundays, our cemetery gate is usually open, but you can also turn left on West King’s Hwy., to get into the main church driveway. *Don’t let the detour deter you!* 😊



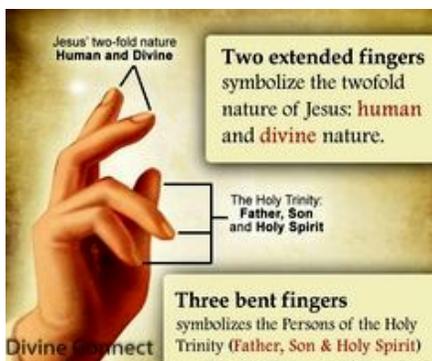
Why and When Do we Make the Sign of the Cross? *by the Rector*



The Sign of the Cross is likely the most often used prayer gesture of Christians. Despite its simplicity, the Sign of the Cross is an ancient prayer rich in meaning. References to it appear in writings dating back to 240 AD, and it is believed that it was in use during the earliest days of Christianity.

Initially the Sign of the Cross was made with the thumb, usually on the forehead but sometimes on the lips and chest. This small Sign of the Cross was in common use by the end of the 4th century and is still used today at every Mass, and with the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and the Anointing of the Sick. It also is used for marking the forehead with ashes on Ash Wednesday.

By the 6th century, people were using the first two fingers, held together to make a large Sign of the Cross, touching the forehead, chest, and shoulders. The two fingers symbolized the divine and human natures of Christ.



The use of three fingers became popular in the 9th century. The thumb and first two fingers were held outstretched together to symbolize the Trinity, while the remaining two fingers were bent to signify Christ's two natures. This form of the large Sign of the Cross is still used in Eastern Orthodox churches, where the right shoulder is

touched before the left. (That's how I learned it.)

By the end of the Middle Ages, the Western Church had adopted the practice of making the large Sign of the Cross by touching the left shoulder before the right.

The Sign of the Cross is used primarily as a blessing. We use it to ask God's blessing upon us, and to thank God for a blessing received. The priest uses this gesture to bless us and other objects. When used in this way, a large Sign of the Cross is made in the air.

When we make the Sign of the Cross upon ourselves, we are also expressing our belief in God and the Trinity, and we are to do this whenever the Holy Trinity is mentioned. In this way, we remind ourselves of God's love for us, of the sacrifice Jesus made to give us eternal life, and of the presence of the Holy Spirit within us.

The Sign of the Cross also gives us a way to express our faith in Jesus' death and Resurrection. We embrace the Cross of Christ and express our willingness to take up our own cross, while cherishing joyful hope in the resurrection to come.

At Mass, making the small Sign of the Cross on our foreheads, lips, and chest before hearing or reading the Gospel, also has meaning. In doing this, we acknowledge our belief in the Word of God, our commitment to spread God's Word in our daily lives, and our awareness of God's presence in our hearts.

CROSSING YOURSELF DURING WORSHIP

When you first come into church, it is appropriate to make the sign of the cross and kneel in silent prayer before worship begins. This is a way of affirming your faith in the Triune God, and thanking Him for the blessing of His presence in our Sanctuary. (If you truly believe Jesus is present in the Blessed Sacrament, then He is always

present in our Tabernacle.)

The second time you should make the sign of the cross is when the Trinity is mentioned in the "Opening Sentences."

The third occasion for making the Sign of the Cross is before the reading of the Gospel.

The fourth time to make the Sign of the Cross is during the recitation of the Nicene Creed, when the promise of resurrection to eternal life is mentioned. This indicates the blessing we will one day receive by faith.

Next, it is appropriate to cross yourself when the priest offers you absolution of your sins after Confession. This is indeed a blessing!



And again, making the Sign of the Cross during the Eucharistic Prayer—when the priest mentions "the Body of Christ" and "the Blood of Christ"—shows respect for the Blessed Sacrament, and gives thanks for the blessing of Jesus' sacrifice.

Last, we cross ourselves when the priest gives us the final blessing of God's peace at the close of the liturgy.

If you've never adopted the practice of crossing yourself, I encourage you to give it a try. For me, it has always been a special way to reverence the Lord, tangibly reminding me of everything He has done for me.

While making the Sign of the Cross may seem like a routine act, it is not. The Sign of the Cross marks us as Christians. It's a visible expression of our faith and hope in a triune God, and of our gratitude for all His blessings: His presence among us; the good news of the Gospel; the promise of resurrection and the life to come; absolution of our sins; the gift of His own Body and Blood to nourish our souls; and the blessing of His peace to go with us when we leave church.



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STAFF, WARDENS, and VESTRY

The Rev. Dr. Nina George-Hacker, FHC—Rector
 Suzanne Turpin—Administrative Assistant
 Robin Baldwin—Administrative Assistant
 Richard Hacker—Organist / Choir Director
 Reid Heeren—Rector's Warden
 Robin Baldwin—People's Warden
 Jenny Landis—Treasurer
 Kaye Lee—Clerk of the Vestry
 Steve Boyd—Property Manager
 Nancy Miller—Christian Education
 Jen Hoskins—Outreach
 Glenn Martin—Evangelism & New Members
 Bob Yarnall—Social Activities

MISSION STATEMENT

*We welcome all persons searching
 for spiritual guidance and wholeness
 in our broken world, as together
 we seek to serve others
 in the Name of Jesus Christ.*



<https://www.facebook.com/stjohnscompass/>

"Come and See!"



November Service Schedule

DATE	First Lesson, Psalm, & Prayers	Second Lesson & Eucharistic Minister	Acolyte	Crucifer	Greeters	Coffee Hour Host
November 5 Homecoming Sunday Rite 2 <small>[All Saints' Day observed]</small>	Kurt Gansauer	Robin Baldwin	Hank Fant	Linda Zynn	Helen Esbenshade Joanne Cipollini	<i>Potluck Meal for Homecoming Guests</i>
November 12 Pentecost 23/Proper 27 <small>[Fr. Wm. Rex, Preacher]</small>	Sharon Fremont	Cynthia Boyd	Tom Rohrer	Pat Owens	Ron & Joyce Kelly	Millers
November 19 Pentecost 24/Proper 28	Susan Gansauer	Tom Rohrer	Linda Zynn	Glenn Martin	Ron Zynn Steve Boyd	<i>Potluck Thanksgiving Dinner</i>
Weds. Nov. 22 7:00 pm <small>THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE</small>	Cynthia Boyd	Tom Rohrer	Hank Fant	Pat Owens	Cynthia & Steven Boyd	
November 26 Rite I <small>CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY</small>	Mary Lou Weaver	Robin Baldwin	Linda Zynn	Pat Owens	Paul Weaver Fran Gilfillan	
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE THIS MONTH	Altar Guild Pat Owens Ruth Ann Pavelik	Offering Robin Baldwin Jen Hoskins Jenny Landis Glenn Martin	Card Ministry Cynthia Boyd			Lunch Bunch Toni McLauchlan (Guest Host)