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# The Outrider

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February 2006

## THE VIEW FROM ABOVE THE CLOSE

### FINDING FEBRUARY'S CHARMS

"In the bleak mid-winter, frosty wind made moan,  
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;  
snow had fallen, snow on snow on snow,  
in the bleak mid-winter, long ago."

--Christina Rossetti

OK, I know it's a Christmas carol—but Christina Rossetti's words remind me of February in New England. February is a month whose only virtue, it seems to me, is that it is a day or two shorter than any other month! It is a bleak time—gray and forbidding—a time for "hunkering down" and getting under the blankets and drinking lots of hot things and waiting for the pitchers and catchers to report to spring training....

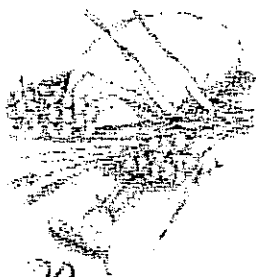
But this year I'm trying a new tactic—I will search high and low for the advantages of February...the good things about this bitter month. I'm going to bundle up and walk in the chill and snow, rather than hide from it. I'm going to use the long, dark nights to reflect and rejoice instead of complain. I'm going to be thankful for the warmth of indoors rather than rage against the weather outside. I'm going to find the charm of moving slower rather than wishing I could move faster.

After all, every day of February this year falls in the season of Epiphany—that time of the church year that reminds us to look for Christ in unexpected places and unforeseen ways. It is the time of crossing our own personal deserts, following the star that leads us ever onward to what is waiting to be born. So the possibility is waiting for us to discover God in the bleakness of mid-winter, in the bare, dead trees etched against a gray sky, in the small surprises of joy in this month of hunkering down. An epiphany, after all, is defined as "the profound and sudden insight into the deep down meaning of things, usually prompted by what is ordinary and commonplace."

So, keep your eyes open for the child—for life and promise in a time of iron earth and stone water. Bundle up and make your journey. We all have a gift to bring....I'll let the poet remind you of yours....

"What can I give him, poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb.  
If I were a wise man, I would do my part;  
yet what I can I give him—give my heart."

Shalom, Jim



*B*ecause when in your hand, we  
without mercy may see death,  
we will pursue of the one King  
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### EPIPHANY HOME COMMUNIONS

The date is February 1—with a snow date of February 15.  
Come be a part of St. John's scattered community made one  
with bread and wine at our hosts houses.

Our Hosts will be:

1. Sandy and Norman Jellinghaus—860-274-0577  
52 Academy Hill Rd. Watertown
2. Helen and David Pritchard—203-754-3378  
175 Columbia Blvd. Waterbury
3. Alice Mancinone—203-879-4804  
67 Todd Rd., Wolcott
4. Doris Hollenstein—203-755-6206  
134 Mason Ave. Waterbury

*Please call your host or the office to let us know you are coming.*

**ASH**



**ASH  
WEDNESDAY**

### **WEDNESDAY AT ST. JOHN'S**

Wednesday, March 1 is the beginning of the season of Lent—our  
time to prepare for Easter. Begin your observance of this time by  
attending the Eucharist and disposition of ashes.

There will be three services—8 a.m., noon and 7:30 p.m.

But ashes and communion will be available each half-hour all day in the chapel.  
Take advantage of the opportunity to mark this beginning.

## Chorister Academy

As the Chorister Academy looks forward to a new calendar and liturgical year, several important events appear on the calendar. First, the Chorister Academy is planning a St. Patrick's Day party for the whole congregation on Saturday, March 18<sup>th</sup> in the auditorium. Check the next Outrider for more details about this event. This party will be a fundraiser for the 2<sup>nd</sup> major event in the spring: our trip to Grace Church in New York City in June, where we will be the choir for the Sunday morning Eucharist. While in New York, we also hope to be able to visit a museum, walk around and have a meal together. We are honored to have been asked to sing at Grace Church and look forward to an exciting day.

Also, as we begin a new year, we welcome chorister Adella Carlson of Woodbury, daughter of Sandy Carlson and Ed Dzitko. Dellie is in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade at Mitchell School and has already shown herself to be an eager and capable chorister. Welcome, Dellie!

The choristers have been invited to sing at the Abbey of Regina Laudis in Bethlehem, and we look forward to preparing for that event.

-Maria Coffin



Youth Group

## Youth Group News

Since mid October it has been our privilege to work with the youth at St. John's church. Our goals are to develop a community where the youth can find belonging, self expression, and deepening spirituality. We have discussed such themes as coping with stress, self esteem, world hunger, family relationships, enhancing friendship, and overcoming fears. We also hope to involve the youth in community projects. Last November they prepared grocery bags for the GWIM, Salvation Army, and Waterbury Baptist Ministry's Thanksgiving food distribution.

We appreciate the commitment of each youth and their parent's involvement in this ministry. We look forward to the coming year as we continue to facilitate this vibrant and enthusiastic group.

-Maner and Rhonie Tyson

## ADULT FORUM: LISTENING FOR GOD

Some of the world's great literature addresses the presence and absence of God. During the season of Epiphany, when we celebrate God's presence in unexpected ways and in unexpected places, the Adult Forum will read and discuss short stories from Peter Hawkins collection, *Listening For God*, Volume I. If you would like a copy please notify the church office at 203-754-3116. Please join us each Sunday at 9:00 am during Epiphany.

# KNITTING FOR THE HOMELESS

## Basic Knit Mittens



### Materials:

- 3 1/2 oz. worsted weight acrylic yarn
- One set of 4 double pointed needles size 5
- One set of 4 double pointed needles size 7
- Tapestry Needle

### Instructions:

Size: Child's Medium (Women's Medium)

Gauge: In stockinette stitch on larger needles:

18 sts = 4"

28 rows = 4"

1. Cuff: With smaller needles, CO 24 (30) sts. Evenly distribute sts on 3 needles and join, being careful not to twist sts. Work in k1/p1 ribbing for 2 1/2 (3") increasing 4 sts evenly spaced across rnd: 28 (34) sts.
2. Hand: Change to larger needles and knit 2 (4) rnds.
3. Shape Gusset: Rnd 1: Place marker (pm), m1, k1, m1, pm, knit to end of rnd. Note: M1 means "make one." With tip of left-hand needle, lift thread that runs between stitch just worked and next stitch, and knit into back of this thread. This makes a less noticeable increase and does not leave a purl bump as a regular increase does.

Rnd 2: Knit. Repeat these two rnds, increasing 1 st after first and before second markers, until there are 7 (11) gusset sts. At beg of next rnd, place 7 (11) gusset sts on holder and CO 3 sts. Continue knitting every rnd on 30 (36) sts until mitten reaches tip of little finger.

4. Shape Top: Rnd 1: K4, k2 tog around: 25(30) sts.  
Rnd 2,4,6 & 8: Knit  
Rnd 3: K3, k2 tog around: 20 (25) sts.  
Rnd 5: K2, k2 tog around: 15 (20) sts.  
Rnd 7: K1, k2 tog around: 10(15) sts.  
Rnd 9: (for large size only): K1, k2 tog 7 times (8 sts). Knit 1 rnd.

For all sizes: K2 tog around. Knit 1 rnd on 5 (4) sts. Cut yarn leaving 5" tail. Thread tail through remaining stitches and pull securely. Take opening shut, tie off, and weave in loose end inside of mitten.

5. Thumb: With larger needles, pick up 7 (11) stitches on 2 needles. On third needle, pick up 3 sts along CO sts of hand: 10 (14) sts. Knit every rnd until thumb reaches bottom of nail.
6. Shape tip: Rnd 1: K2, [k2 tog, k2] 2 (3) times: 8 (11) sts.

Rnd 2: Knit.

Rnd 3 (for small size only): K2 tog around (4 sts).

Rnd 3 (for large size only): (K2 tog) 5 times, k1: (6 sts).

Rnd 4 (for all sizes): Kit. Cut yarn leaving tail. Thread tail through remaining stitches and pull securely. Tack opening shut, tie off, and weave in loose end on inside of mitten.

Don't forget Knit 1, Purl 2 which meets on the second Saturday of each month from 9:30-11:00 in the auditorium. Join us for knitting and fellowship.

-Doris Hollenstein

## OF LEMS and PYXS and PURIFICATORS

Each Sunday, a traveling communion kit is given to the LEMs for the week to take to a parishioner who is shut in or in the hospital or couldn't make it to church for some reason. Inside the kit given to the LEM are the following items:

1 Pyx, 1 Purificator, 1 Chalice, 1 Paten and a bottle. There are host and wine in the kit for the communion. So, what are all these things?

First off, a LEM is a Lay Eucharistic Minister. These are the people who take communion out to those who cannot be with us. They use the reserve sacrament (bread and wine already consecrated and remaining from the service) to bring the church to these people. In this ministry they say prayers with the shut in and their families and distribute communion. If the person receiving communion is up to it, they also visit for a few minutes.

The Pyx is a small box used to hold the communion bread. The word pyx is derived from the Greek for box.

The Purificator, both in the LEM kit and on the altar, is the cloth used to wipe the rim of the chalice during the administration of communion and to clean the chalice after communion. It generally is made of linen and has a cross embroidered on it.

The chalice is the vessel that contains the wine being passed during communion and the paten is the plate that holds the bread.

After the LEMs have distributed communion, whatever is left must be disposed of properly. The bread is generally eaten by the LEMs. The wine can be consumed, but if it is not to be consumed it should be returned to the earth, which is done by pouring it out into soil outside.

-Pam Toffey

A decorative border consisting of a musical staff with notes, framing the text on the page.

## BROADWAY ON THE GREEN 2006

Time has come for the show to go into rehearsal for 2006. This year's endeavors will include music from Bye Bye Birdie and Music Man as well as new pieces written for the show by our own talented director, Jeanne Luedke. The children in our cast will benefit from learning about music in the midst of performing. Cast members, as well as others will work with the kids each rehearsal while they are waiting for their next cue. You will remember that none of us are professionals and many are trying it for the first time using the Suzuki Method to learn under Jeanne's guidance.

Again this year, we look to you for help to achieve our goal of completing the Pew Cushion project. I ask each of you to contact one of the companies you use or work for, to place an ad in our Program. It is inexpensive and a great way to get their name in front of a large community base while gaining a tax deductible item for themselves.

Tickets purchased in advance of the show are discounted and have been welcomed gifts for those who give you service throughout the year. Talk to your clubs and other groups about planning to attend as a group together for one of the three performances.

You may contact any member of the cast to accomplish these requests or see Jo Plunski Sundays between 9 and noon at the church for forms and /or tickets. With your help, BOG can make a real contribution to St. John's again this year.

-Joanne Plunski

## A Word of Thanks

December 28, 2005

*To all those who so willingly helped in my time of trial, I have written the words of thanks below:*

*How can I tell you what I truly feel in my heart?  
Love and thanksgiving for St. John's from the start.  
Yes, the family I found is beyond compare,  
the best most loving and helpful anywhere.  
When fear, worry and trouble fell into my path,  
you gave your support to shield from the aftermath.  
In God's eyes, you're His children, taught to obey,  
In my eyes and heart, you are saints on the way  
to being welcomed and heralded in heaven some day!  
As we visit the patients to bring them a smile,  
know that you helped us along every mile.  
May God show you His favor every day  
For all you have done to help me this way.*

*Sincerely,*

*Jo Plunski*

## The Personal Side of Hurricane Katrina



Dear St. John's Family,

I just wanted to send out a belated email thank you after passing out the gift cards from St. John's church to victims of Hurricane Katrina.

The gift cards were able to help fifteen teachers and staff members with one hundred and two hundred dollar donations and eight students and their families with fifty and one hundred dollar donations. These are families who lost everything in the hurricane. One of the students, Joyce, is in a special education class. Her mother died from cancer in mid July. When the hurricane hit, their house was flooded with over eight feet of water. They do not have flood insurance and are slowly trying to replace everything while making repairs to their house. Joyce was very happy that she could go buy some new clothes. Janet Frisard is a special education math teacher at Northshore High School. Not only did their home flood, it burned to the ground a few days after the hurricane, while their family was evacuated. Janet and her husband are currently living in a tiny FEMA trailer while waiting for some kind of federal assistance to rebuild. Janet comes to school every day with a smile on her face and still gives 100% to her students. David is another student at Northshore High School. He is a senior this year. Their home flooded and they were forced to live in a greenhouse while searching for another place to live. There are no cooking facilities in the green house, so the paraprofessionals at school all pitched in to make David's family meals at least once a week. He comes to school hungry and I'm sure leaves school hungry. His mother is living in a nursing home due to illness, so it is just David and his dad. These are just a couple of stories about the people you helped with your fundraiser.

Everyone was very appreciative- some were moved to tears. It is so important that people across the United States are still thinking about the families in the Gulf Coast.

Thank you again for your kindness and generosity.

Sincerely,  
Roberta Fotter

## Celebrations Part 1: by Lorene Castle

Thank you for the opportunity to be your Senior Warden for the past three years. We have an amazing church. Sometimes we feel we are driving on ice when we take the leaps of faith we take for the next step in our journey. Most of the time things just feel right.

- Can any of us look at the Choristers and think that this ministry isn't right,
- or the third service when 200 people came on Easter morning,
- or the people who eat because of the GWIM Soup Kitchen,
- or Mardi Gras,
- or the Adult Forums,
- or the new youth group,
- or the folks who come regularly to prepare the Lord's Table,
- or those of us who partake of the Eucharist
- or the folks who donate their time and flowers to create a beautiful setting for our worship,
- or the Liturgical art by Judy McManis,
- or the sermons by Jim Bradley, Malinda Johnson, Michael Spenser, or Mike Carroll,
- or Harriet Fotter inviting Billy Collins to read his poetry at St. John's ,
- or the expertise of Sue Cromwell to prepare the service leaflets,
- or the dedication of the best Pat, Bill, and John who keep our building open to the community
- or the leadership of Diane Platt with our Sunday School,
- or the noon prayers,
- or the healing services,
- or prayer shawl ministry and the quiet days
- or the way Armando Gonzalez has created the third service
- and the way that Michael Spenser is creating the fourth service,
- or the dedication of the members of our adult choir
- or the way that Jim allows us to have opportunities to minister that don't follow traditions,
- or the way the Barbara treats the folks who eat in the GWIM Soup Kitchen,
- or the dedication of the Outreach Committee to minister to this community
- or the generosity of our parish when we were asked to give to people in need because of Katrina,
- or the seven houses we have made safe, warm, and dry in AmeriCares Projects,
- or the tons of vegetables we have grown through the Sharon House Project,
- or the inspired liturgy created by the Liturgical Committee,
- or the reminder each week to save our island home by the Earth Committee,
- or the building that is in such good shape because of the Vestry and the House Committee,
- or the way our grounds look because of the House Committee and some creative ideas from Harriet Fotter,
- or the way the Outrider gets folded and mailed by volunteers that most of us never see,
- or the way that so many folks write meditations for the Lenten Services,
- or the Clericus Group that meets weekly in our Church
- or the place Integrity is welcomed,
- or the committees that make the tag sale and Christmas sale happen,
- or the summer music series,



- or the leadership of Jim Bradley
- or the community building expertise of Malinda Johnson
- or the women's breakfasts
- or the amazing Broadway on the Green,
- or the staging, lighting skills that Barbary Curry contributes to our services
- or the number of deacons and priests that have started their ministry at St. John's,
- or the doors that are open to the public,
- or Sacred Spaces coming to 12 Churches in Connecticut,
- or ushers, vergers, and readers who share their time and talent
- or the people who are welcomed in this church that didn't feel welcomes in other churches,
- or the music of excellent musicians like Bob Havery, Maria Coffin, Pam Toffey, Dorothy Ferguson, Steve Minkler, and others,
- or the leadership and dedication of the Stewardship Committee
- or the Vestry who created the five year plan for 2004
- or the Vestry who continued the five year plan for 2005
- or this year's Vestry who continued the five year plan for 2006.

The Vestry Members who supported the five-year plan for 2006 include the four members of the 2005 Vestry who left the Vestry at our Annual Meeting January 22, 2006: Don Pomeroy, Bob Toffey, Dot Raleigh, and Pam Behrman. Don, Bob, Dot, and Pam have contributed significantly to the progress that we have made. The Vestry Members from 2005 year who will continue on the Vestry are: Barbara Curry, Monica Tiso, Wilson Rodriguez, Evanson Dover, Donna Ploski, Mary Beth Thompson, Donna Deitch, and Michelle Webber. Please join me in thanking the Vestry members for the time, prayers, and commitment to the important work we do. The new Vestry members and the new Senior Warden have not been elected at the time I am writing this but you will know who they are by the time you read this article.

In addition, the other officers are remaining in office this year. You are lucky to have them on the team: Scott Moore, Junior Warden, Holly Hart, Secretary, and Lorraine Barker, Treasurer.

My hope and prayer is that St. John's will continue the journey through this five-year plan and the next five-year plan and the five-year plan after that. We have all the resources we need including enough money. We are not giving enough of our resources yet to fund all of the work we do. We are taking money from our endowments to do that. However, we could change that. You and I together can change that now or tomorrow or the day after that.

## Celebrations Part 2

One of the first opportunities I took advantage of at St. John's was The Emmaus Weekend Workshop created and led by Jim Bradley. We broke up into groups to discuss how our life events related to the Emmaus scriptures that Jim read during the workshop. I was in the small group with Bill Penny and Rick Clark. We shared stories and some tears. During those small groups and other times when our paths crossed, both of these courageous men taught me life lessons I will never forget. I have written about Rick before. Today, I want to join with others who celebrate Bill Penny. Bill had macular degeneration so he could not drive anymore. For me, Bill was a model in many ways. One of the ways was Bill's ability to ask for help. Bill had to ask for rides continually. He never showed frustration when someone said no. He went on to the next person. Sometimes he had to ask five people before he found someone to take him

where he needed to go. Jim will tell you he always gave more than he took. Many of us will miss Bill's smiling face. We can still learn from him. I cannot imagine any better way for you to get some sense of who Bill was than to share the wonderful homily that Jim gave at his funeral service. Please read and consider whether there is a lesson Bill can teach you.

## THE SERMON FOR THE FUNERAL OF THE REV. BILL PENNY

The Rev. Dr. Jim Bradley

The best job I ever had—best by far—was being Bill Penny's chauffeur from time to time.

I am only one of a multitude of folks who were Bill's chauffeurs—and though I always thought I was his *favorite driver*, I am as sure as sure can be that everyone who gave Bill a ride felt like "his favorite driver". Bill simply had the God-given capacity to make *whoever* he was with feel like the best and brightest and most beloved. That gift of his is beyond compare, fondly to be wished, a holy gift.

And there is this: I was Bill's driver to the General Convention in 1997.

We'd drive into Philadelphia each morning from Bill's sister in law's house and go to the convention center. I would feel like the one person entourage of an ecclesiastical "rock star". We couldn't walk ten steps without someone coming over to hug and kiss and love on Bill. And he would hug and kiss and love on them.

There were coveys of nuns who descended on him like teenagers around the Beatles—Bill was Paul and John and George and Ringo all rolled into one. There were bishops who would walk away from important conversations just to come over and bask in Bill's presence. Just walking through the convention center, priests by the dozens and as many lay-people, would be drawn from whatever else they were doing to come and hold Bill near and feel his oh-so-fierce hug in return. (Sometimes, when he hugged me, I felt he was about to dislocate my shoulder or break some bone....Bill was a world class hugger.....)

I had known before that trip that Bill was a "special person"—what I hadn't realized is how wide spread that realization was! Everyone he ever met, it seems, was made to feel so wonderful by just being with him that they never forgot it....And could never forget it.

And now Bill is dead. I hate this part. I want to rant and rage against God and the cosmos and the powers that be and say, "No, give him back to us...we still have great need of him...."

And we do. His family needs him and we as individuals and we as a church have "great need" of him—of his never-ending compassion, his great, good humor, his gracefulness and generosity of spirit, his wisdom about what was *old* and his openness to what is *new*, his love and his guidance and his eternal optimism in the face of life's cynicism and his undefeatable hope in the face of fracture and fear.

We have need of knowing that whatever the evidence to the contrary, life is TERRIFIC....Really, life is Terrific....That's what Bill believed, believed always, believed absolutely, without a shred of doubt....

"Enough about me," Bill would be saying about now, "Proclaim the Gospel, Jim. Proclaim it...."

And this is the gospel I proclaim—the gospel Bill gave his life to; *God is Love*.

Not complicated at all. Not subtle in any way. A simple three word sentence that gathers up and contains all we know and all we need to know.

**GOD IS LOVE.**

In one of Kurt Vonnegut's science fiction novels, there is a robot named Salo that had been programmed to travel the galaxies endlessly, searching for the answer to one simple question: "WHAT IS THE MEANING OF LIFE?"

Salo finally finds his answer from a lonely, forgotten woman who was marooned on one of the moons of Jupiter. "THE MEANING OF LIFE," Beatrice tells him, "IS TO LOVE WHOEVER IS AROUND

TO BE LOVED."

I believe that would have been Jesus' answer as well.

And I **know** it was Bill's answer.

From Bishops to power-brokers to the people who run the fish store to clerks at Starbuck's to folks down on their luck—Bill simply loved whoever was around to be loved. Whether he was pleading for compassion from the powerful or sitting on a bench on the Waterbury Green with the homeless—he loved whoever was around to be loved. And in that he proclaimed the gospel more eloquently and profoundly than any preacher can convey.

God is love—and love is stronger than death could ever be.

The Buddhists tell us that the *illusion of separateness is the cause of human suffering*. The illusion of separateness is the cause of human suffering. If that is true, then *the acceptance of unity is the pathway to joy*.

That, I believe, is the gospel truth that Bill embraced, leaned into and lived from. He didn't seem to notice the separateness of the powerful and powerless, of brokenness and wholeness, of hope and hopelessness, of death and life. Bill seemed to accept, in ways both obvious and profound, the "unity" of God's creation. He loved whoever was around to be loved.

And that is the good news I proclaim for him and from him.

He taught us to love by loving—by his eternal love of his precious Natalie, his blinding love of Priscilla and all her family, his loyal love to those he ministered to and with, his unflinching love of "the least of these" in our midst, and—most, most of all—his quiet and grateful love of the one who is Resurrection and Life.

**SAVE THE DATE FEBRUARY 11TH - LET'S GIVE THE WINTER BLUES NEW MEANING!**

The saying goes: if you can't beat 'em, join 'em! Maybe the same thing applies to the winter blues...

So let's get together and beat back the worst of winter with a pot-luck and some great music. The Carnegie Clapp Trio did an amazing job at our September Kick Off event. They played lots of "oldies" and fun, bluesy-jazzy (OK, I just made that description up) dancing music. By the way, they're featured at Diorio's, so check them out there, and once you're hooked, talk them up to all your friends!

My hope is that this will be a pretty simple get together from 6:00-10:00pm in the auditorium. "Come as you are" (i.e. no costumes, no dress up!); invite everyone you know, friends and strangers alike; and bring something delicious, if not nutritious, to share.

Let's huddle together come February and dance the winter blues away!



# Happy Birthday!

2/1	Michele Carrano	2/15	Tammy Perrault
2/1	Susette Torres	2/16	Katherine Spencer
2/1	Liana Walker	2/17	Robert Baranoski
2/2	Tyler Beaudoin	2/17	Lachlan Hawes
2/2	Tamra Leary	2/17	Keyarah Coleman
2/3	Abby Townsend	2/17	Edwin Monteiro
2/3	Amaya Barata	2/18	Clara Bigelow
2/4	Amy DiCorpo	2/18	John Bozzuto
2/5	Bonnie Flanagan	2/18	Pauline Levesque
2/5	Jason Russo	2/19	James Morgan
2/5	Mitchelle Torres	2/20	Brian Ladden
2/6	Michelle Mastropietro	2/20	Natasha Bush
2/6	Vida Petrocione	2/21	Gail Szantyr
2/6	Beverly Strassner	2/21	Sarah Greider
2/7	Lucylle Ladden	2/22	Sonja Osborn
2/7	Pamela Strassner	2/23	Hector Echeandia
2/7	Anthony Longo	2/23	Lisa Echeandia
2/7	Nashana Cambigue	2/23	Gregory Mattson
2/8	Kenneth Greider	2/24	Antoinette Nyirakamana
2/9	Kathleen Trowbridge	2/25	Kyle Banisaied
2/9	Angela Bowman	2/27	Mark Aloia
2/9	Jacqueline Quirici	2/27	Alexis Langlois
2/10	Michael Gates	2/27	Kary Dominguez
2/10	Lauren Dehoyos		
2/12	Jeanne Reed		
2/13	Elizabeth Syman		
2/13	Anthony DiZinno		
2/13	Brittany Clarkson		
2/13	David Decarolis		
2/14	Ryan Tenezaca		



2/14	Michael & Judy Sims
2/15	Weiler
2/24	Albert & Theresa Gambino
2/27	David & Francine Smith



## FEBRUARY OUTFIDER

The deadline for submitting articles for the March 2006 Outrider is February 8, 2006. Please submit all announcements and articles via e-mail to [OUTRIDER@stjohnsonthegreen.org](mailto:OUTRIDER@stjohnsonthegreen.org) or mail them or deliver them to the church office, attention OUTFIDER. You can also give them to Pam Toffey.

I'd like to continue the "Recipes from the Parish" column, so if you have a recipe you'd like to share, please submit it. I'd like to put in one recipe every month. I'm also looking for pattern submissions for knitting and crocheting hats, mittens, gloves, scarves, ponchos and shawls.

# FEBRUARY PRAYER LISTS AT ST. JOHN'S

## February 5, 2006

Brian & Lucylle Ladden, Edwina Lago, David & Andrea Lago and Family, Evette & Jerry Lamy, Jim & Darlene Lance and Family, Lila Lange, Don & Heidi Langlais, Joseph & Kristan Lanoie, Jason & Cathy Lanoie, Chuck & Chayne Lasky, Frederick Leary & Mary Cox

## February 12, 2006

The Leavenworth Family, Christopher & Wendy LeBeau, Richard Lee & Tom Butcher, Peter & Bertha Anne Lenart, Bruce Levett & Kasheene Dasent, Wayne & Catherine Lewis, Cynthia Liburd, Rocco & Vicki Longo, Anthony & Tracy Longo, Frederick & Gina Loomis, Wayne & Alice Lowry, Melita & Michael Lucas & Family

## February 19, 2006

Jeanne Luedke, Maria Luna and Family, Andrew & Karen Lyman and Family, George MacDonald, Michael & Debra MacDonald, Edwin Maldonado & Evelyn Ferrer, Alan Mancinone and family, Alice Mancinone, Lisa Mancinone & Family, Laureen Mancinone and Family, Jim & Beth Manners

## February 26, 2006

John & Ann Mantzaris, Alexandria Markowich, George & Donna Marlak, Tony & Jennifer Marques, Galo Marriott, Michelle Mastropietro & Family, Alex Matolesy & Claudia Medina, Greg & Laurie Mattson, The May Family, Andrew and Sarah Mazzei

On February 12 the flowers are given in memory of Victor Grey.

On February 5 the bread and wine are given in memory of Francis Bergin.

## Coffee Hour



Starting in September, various groups and ministries within the Parish have begun to host the coffee hours after the first and second services. Each group is encouraged to bring photos or displays to educate folks about their various ministries. Members of each ministry are encouraged to be available to both serve at the coffee hour table and talk about their ministry within the parish.

This is a chance for all of us to be involved in the radical ministry that defines St. John's as a parish. And, beyond that, it will, week by week, give the congregation insight into the work and ministry of St. John's. 15



## THE WEIGHT OF NOTHING

"Tell me the weight of a snowflake," a coal mouse asked a wild dove.

"Nothing more than nothing," was the answer.

"In that case, I must tell you a marvelous story," the coal mouse said. "I sat on a fir branch, close to the trunk, when it began to snow; not heavily, not in a raging blizzard, no; just like in a dream, without any violence. Since I didn't have anything better to do, I counted the snowflakes settling on the twigs and needles of my branch — nothing more than nothing, as you say, the branch broke off."

Having said that, the coal mouse fled away.

The dove, since Noah's time an authority on the matter, thought about the story for awhile and finally said to herself:

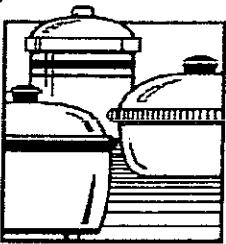
"Perhaps there is only one person's voice lacking for peace to come about in the world."

This poem was submitted by Kay Bergin. She received it in a Christmas card this season and wanted to share it with all of us.

### CARD MINISTRY

If you have any birthday cards organizations have sent you and you don't need, please donate them to Sarah Haines. Drop them off in the office.

Many Thanks!!



### CASSEROLE SUNDAY

Casserole Sunday is the first Sunday of the month. Please prepare in throw away containers and bring to the kitchen. Thank you.

### MEATLOAF MINISTRY

Every third Sunday of each month, a two pound cooked frozen meatloaf or two pounds raw hamburger or \$5.00 to have a meatloaf made in your name is needed for the Greater Waterbury Interfaith Ministries. Please bring meatloaves wrapped in foil to the kitchen.

Thank you.

-Sarah Haines

# CHRISTMAS MEMORIAL LIST

In Memory Of:

Ralph Petrocione  
Jessie Coyle  
Francine Tartaglia  
Alice & Thomas Baker  
Emily Dexter  
Oral Pomeroy  
Stephen J. Obar  
Monty Mancinone  
Margaret Hutchinson  
Virgil & Cleo Bradley  
A. Jos. Morrone  
Jean Minkler  
Marjorie Gannon  
All Bishops

Arline & Joseph DiVito  
Edward. Jefferson  
Phoebe & Patrick Osborne  
Ruth & Harold Peterson  
William Dexter  
Richard O. Clark  
Ian Z. Dwyer  
John Mancinone  
Bonnie-Jean Baranoski  
Dan & Emma Pisano  
Sara & Robert Seystahl  
Frederic & Lucy Kellogg  
All Knightons  
Marsha Lynn Marrone

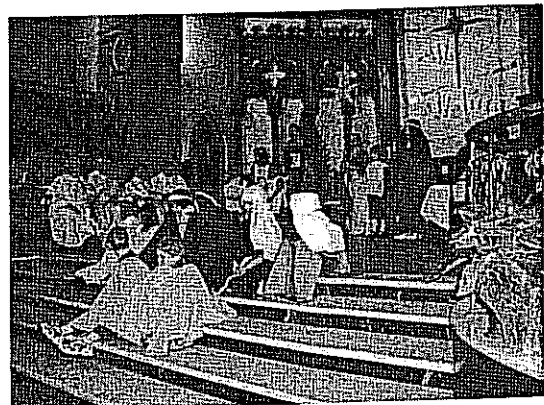
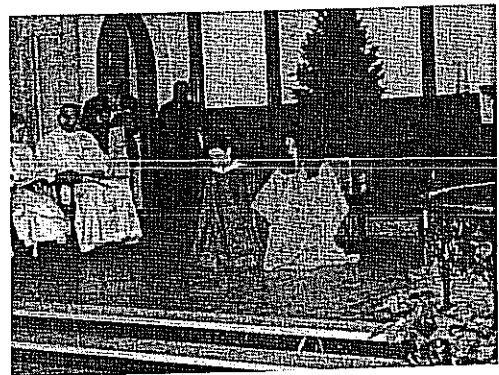
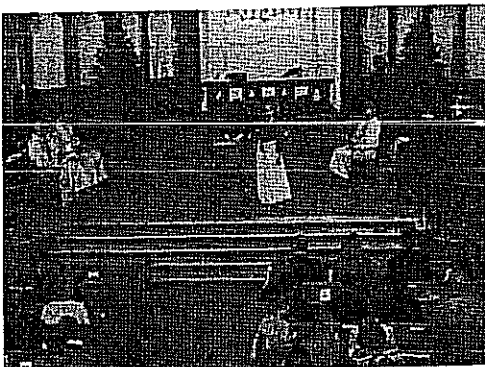
The evergreens were given in loving memory of Robert and Harriet Toffey.

In Memory Of Loved Ones And To The Greater Glory of God

Richard & Sally Harris  
Eleanor Crean  
Mr & Mrs A Angurio  
Gwem Monzani Fund

Larry Ferrari  
The Bryce Family  
Bob Cook

## EPIPHANY PAGEANT



## The Lanyard

The other day I was ricocheting slowly  
off the pale blue walls of this room,  
bouncing from typewriter to piano,  
from bookshelf to an envelope lying on the floor,  
I found myself in the L section of the dictionary  
where my eyes fell upon the word *lanyard*.

No cookie nibbled by a French novelist  
could send one more suddenly into the past—  
a past where I sat at a workbench at a camp  
by a deep Adirondack lake  
learning how to braid thin plastic strips  
into a lanyard, a gift for my mother.

I had never seen anyone use a lanyard  
or wear one, if that's what you did with them,  
but that did not keep me from crossing  
strand over strand again and again  
until I had made a boxy  
red and white lanyard for my mother.

She gave me life and milk from her breasts,  
and I gave her a lanyard.  
She nursed me in many a sick room,  
lifted spoons of medicine to my lips,  
set cold face-cloths on my forehead,  
and then led me out into the airy light  
and taught me to walk and swim,  
and I, in turn, presented her with a lanyard.  
Here are thousands of meals, she said,  
and here is clothing and a good education.  
And here is your lanyard, I replied,  
which I made with a little help from a counselor.

Here is a breathing body and a beating heart,  
strong legs, bones and teeth,  
and two clear eyes to read the world, she whispered,  
and here, I said, is the lanyard I made at camp.  
And here, I wish to say to her now,  
is a smaller gift—not the archaic truth

that you can never repay your mother,  
but the rueful admission that when she took  
the two-tone lanyard from my hand,  
I was as sure as a boy could be  
that this useless, worthless thing I wove  
out of boredom would be enough to make us even.



from *The Trouble With Poetry and other poems* by Billy Collins, copyright ©2005 by Billy Collins

I heard Billy Collins read this poem New Year's Eve on NPR's Prairie Home Companion. There is nothing like hearing a poet read his own work. Join us on April 4, 3:00pm at the Mattatuck Museum.

JJJJJJJJJJJJJJJJ

If you are someone who loves poetry, who knows someone who loves poetry, or if you have spent your life wondering what other people love about poetry, consider giving yourself or someone you love a ticket to St. John's "Experiencing The Arts: Billy Collins" event on April 4, 2006. Billy Collins will be reading some of his poems and signing his books; there will be a lovely reception as well. All of this will be happening at the Mattatuck Museum beginning at 3:00pm. The cost of a ticket is \$40.00. Call the office (203-754-3116) to reserve your seat.

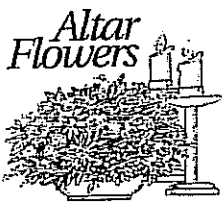
-Harriet Fötter

## Altar Flowers

St. John's Flower Ministry has modified the way altar flowers are dedicated on each Sunday. Altar flower offerings of nature's beauty are acts of worship that enhance the liturgical seasons, provide beauty to God's altar, and express our love of God's creation in all seasons.

The Flower Ministry has issued an "open call", if you will, for anyone to have altar flowers donated in memory of a loved one, regardless of the amount donated.

Attached to this Outrider are two forms to fill out: one form if you just want to make a general donation to the altar flower fund and a second form for those who wish their loved one(s) to be remembered



I wish to make a donation to the flower fund:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## Communion Bread and Wine Offering

If you would like to have Communion Bread and Wine offered in memory of a loved one or in thanksgiving for someone or something, please fill out this form and drop it in the collection plate or mail into the Church Office (Donation is \$10):

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

In Memory Of: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

In Thanksgiving For: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Sunday you wish Bread & Wine celebrated for: \_\_\_\_\_