

# THE BELLRINGER

SAINT LUKE'S CHURCH, FOREST HILLS

ADVENT 2009

## *Our Sacramental Life*

Dear Friends,

At the heart of our parish life together, and in my ministry with you as priest, is a sacramental center that nourishes the individual as well as the community in our effort that Saint Luke's Church be an expression of the Body of Christ. These sacramental aspects were outlined in the new parish directory's cover letter. I include them here since many people have not yet picked up a copy or might not have access to one.

Yours in Christ,

Tom

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### Worship

The Holy Eucharist is celebrated on Sunday mornings at 8:30 and 10:30am, and on Wednesday mornings with special intention for healing at 10:00am. Principal Feasts and many Holy Days are celebrated as announced and you are encouraged to attend.

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### Sacramental Preparation

**Holy Baptism:** The Sacrament of Holy Baptism is administered during the celebration of the parish Eucharist at the Easter Vigil, on the Day of Pentecost, on All Saints Day or the Sunday after All Saints Day, on the Feast of the Baptism of our Lord, or when the Bishop is present. Those persons wishing to be baptized (be they adult candidates or the parents of children to be baptized) should contact the church office to set up a pre-baptismal instructional meeting with the Rector.

**Confirmation, Reception and Reaffirmation:** The sacred vows and

promises of Holy Baptism are renewed through the sacramental rite of Confirmation, through Reception of those who have been previously confirmed by a bishop from another denomination in the Apostolic Succession, or through Reaffirmation for those already confirmed members who desire a public rite of renewed faith. From time to time, parish classes are announced. Otherwise, interested persons are asked to contact the Rector.

**Marriage:** if you are seeking the Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage or the Blessing of a Civil Marriage, please speak with the Rector at least three months in advance. The Episcopal Church offers generous pastoral response to all who are seeking to live in life-long committed relationships of love; thus, all such persons are encouraged to speak with the Rector.

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### Pastoral Care

**Sickness:** Please contact the church office so that we may, as a parish, pray for the healing of our members.

**Hospitalization:** Please contact the church office (718-268-6021) or, if after hours, the Rector directly (917-714-5647) so that prayer can be offered and a visit arranged.

**In the event of death:** Please contact the Rector as soon as possible.

**Spiritual Counsel:** The Rector is available for home or office visits to discuss matters of faith or of particular life circumstances. To make an appointment, please call the parish office.

### **THANKSGIVING DAY EUCCHARIST AT 10:00AM**

On November 26, we will gather together at **10:00**, not 10:30. Please take note of the time.

### ***The Rummage Report***

In spite of the recession (or perhaps because of it), people came out in droves to avail themselves of the famously high quality and low prices at our annual Rummage Sale. We are glad that we were able reach out to the community at large during these difficult times. Even the leftovers will benefit a good cause – they were donated to the Lupus Foundation. According to Rummage Treasurers Diane Santana and Sal Amato, the total is already over \$10,000, and money is still coming in.

<b>Stalls and Their Receipts</b>	
Appliances	\$ 350.00
Books	694.78
Boutique	1,864.00
Children/Handbags	263.80
Jewelry	1,424.10
Linens	522.85
Menswear	366.50
Snack Bar	1,353.00
White Elephant	2,141.00
Women's Coats	292.75
Women's Separates	704.50
\$5 Bags	205.00
<b>Grand Total (to date)</b>	<b>\$10,182.28</b>

Heartfelt thanks to all Saint Luke's parishioners and to our friends and neighbors who lent a hand before and during the sale. They donated items, sorted, priced, polished, folded and sold merchandise, and baked delicacies for the Snack Bar. We also thank the stalwart gentlemen (and ladies) who set up all those tables, and put them away after the sale!

-- Carol Khare and Shirley Leh  
Rummage Co-Chairs

### ***Homage to Rummage***

It's often said that one person's trash is another's treasure. This is often true of items that are given to Saint Luke's Rummage Sale.

Some of you may recall that several years ago an old painting was donated to the sale. A parishioner put it aside, had it appraised, and paid the church the appraised value.

This parishioner then researched museums that might be interested in accepting the painting as a gift. The Brooklyn Historical Society in Brooklyn Heights gladly accepted the gift in the name of Saint Luke's Episcopal Church, Forest Hills, New York.

When art objects are accepted by institutions and museums, there is never a guarantee that the work will be exhibited or that it will remain in that museum's possession permanently. Well, lo and behold, James Northcote's 1896 painting, "Storm at Coney Island," is hanging in the Society's lobby. It has been framed and cleaned and is part of a show entitled "Views of and from Brooklyn: Landscapes from the Permanent Collection." It is hanging along with a dozen other paintings from the Society's collection. Descriptive text listing each painting by artist, date and subject matter is displayed on an adjoining wall. If you happen to be in Brooklyn, you might want to stop in and take a look at Saint Luke's Rummage "treasure."

-- Allan Smith

### ***OCTOBER MILESTONES***

**Tuesday, October 13, 10:00am:** The life of long-time parishioner Marguerite Molloy was celebrated in the Liturgy of the Resurrection. Marguerite was 106 years old.  
**Tuesday, October 13, 1:00pm:** A memorial service was held at Saint Luke's for Harry Snow, 82. Harry and his family were former Saint Luke's parishioners.

### ***Episcopal Relief and Development: Make Your Presents Felt***

Saint Luke's parishioners contributed a total of \$588.00 to ERD in September and October for Taiwan typhoon relief, but the need for help continues in every part of the world. ERD urges each of us to consider giving "Gifts for Life" this holiday season. The catalogue is available online at [www.erd.org/giftsforlife](http://www.erd.org/giftsforlife), or you can make a contribution at that same site. Checks may be mailed to Episcopal Relief and Development, 815 Second Avenue, New York, NY 10017.

### ***Why Do We Baptize?***

Father Tom's sermon on All Saints' Day, November 1<sup>st</sup>, will explore the radical nature of Baptism and what it means to reaffirm Baptismal Vows. A "Q & A" session will follow during Hospitality Hour in the program year's ongoing theme of "Christianity 101."

### ***"The Comedy of Errors" Bakers Wanted***

The Gingerbread Players are in need of baked goods to be sold at intermission of Shakespeare's delightful play about mistaken identity (see flyer). They don't have to be gingerbread – any toothsome delicacy will be most welcome. Contact Louise Foisy, 718-575-1767, or [lmf325@aol.com](mailto:lmf325@aol.com).

### ***Remembrance Sunday – November 8***

In recognition of the approaching Veteran's Day, and mindful that our country is presently engaged in two wars, we will gather in worship to remember those who have lived and died in service of their country. We will pray for all who suffer through war and are in need. We will ask for God's help and blessing that we may do God's will, acknowledging that the divine will is peace, and that our calling is nothing less than the peace which is founded on righteousness and established throughout the whole world.

### ***Diocesan Convention***

The Annual Convention of the Diocese of Long Island takes place on Friday and Saturday, November 13 and 14, at the Melville Marriot. All canonically resident clergy are voting members of Convention. Our parish delegate with voice and vote is Anne Harte Su; Stephen Banci is alternate. Please keep the Diocese and our new Bishop Larry Provenzano in your prayers.

### ***Instructed Eucharist***

The teaching tradition of the church includes an occasional practice known as an "Instructed Eucharist". During the liturgical celebration on Sunday, November 15, Father Tom will offer a running commentary

explaining what we do in our worship and why we do it. A brief "Q & A" session will take place following the Postcommunion Prayer.

### ***Tuesday, November 17: Marriage Equality Panel***

In light of a proposed bill coming before the New York State legislature, a consideration of same-sex marriage from various faith perspectives will be presented at 7:30pm in the Forest Hills Community House on Borage Place. Father Tom has been asked to be one of three panelists. All are invited to this discussion of a timely topic from the vantage point of faith.

### ***Interfaith Thanksgiving Service Sunday, November 22***

At 4:00pm, Our Lady Queen of Martyrs church at the corner of Ascan Avenue and Queens Boulevard will be the setting for the annual Forest Hills Interfaith Thanksgiving Service. Saint Luke's hosted last year's service, and if you were present you no doubt remember what a beautiful and uplifting experience it was. Please plan on worshipping with your friends and neighbors of various faiths on this joyful occasion.

### ***Advent Sunday, November 29:***

#### ***A Service of Hope and Expectation***

The Advent Season commences with the Lighting of the Advent Wreath and a special Liturgy of the Word, beginning with the choir's chanting of the Matins Responsory by Palestrina.

#### ***"CHRISTIANITY 101"***

#### ***ADVENT BIBLE SERIES***

#### ***Sundays at 12:00 Noon***

#### ***The Bible While You Wait***

Advent is a season of waiting, a spiritual practice often crowded out by the busyness and business of Christmas. This Advent, we will reflect on the broad themes of the Bible as a way to re-orient our calendar.

**Nov. 29– The Heart of the Hebrew Bible**

**Dec. 6 – The What's New Testament**

**Dec. 13 – The Gospel According to Paul**

Each Sunday begins with a presentation by the Rector followed by discussion.

### ***Altar Guild Morning of Reflection***

On Saturday morning, December 5, Father Tom will lead a program of prayer and reflection for the members of our parish Altar Guild. Beginning with a service of Morning Prayer at 10:00am, Guild members will discuss their experiences of altar and sanctuary service, reflect on the spirituality of such support, and conclude with a "Trivial Pursuit" game about names and uses of various liturgical furnishings.

### ***Vestry Election at Annual Meeting***

Each year in advance of the Annual Meeting (in 2010, January 24), the Nominating Committee formulates its slate of candidates for open offices. As this issue of *The Bellringer* goes to press, the Committee membership has not yet been named, although the chairperson will be Warden Jonathan Wallin. The following persons' vestry terms expire at the Annual Meeting: Paul Dinas, David Smith, Jean Tessier and Jane Thornton. All are eligible for re-election except Jean Tessier, who will have served two consecutive terms.

If you are interested in being considered by the Nominating Committee as a candidate for vestry office, or if you know of someone who would like to have his or her name submitted, please inform Jonathan Wallin. To be eligible for office, parishioners must be at least 18 years old and members of Saint Luke's for at least the past six months; be regular in weekly worship; and actively support the church.

### ***Spread the Joy of Christmas Through Our Jesse Tree***

This Advent, Saint Luke's will again provide holiday gifts for needy families in partnership with the Queens Community House. The tree will be in the narthex beginning November 29, and all are encouraged to take at least one ornament/gift tag. On the back of each ornament is the name and age of a child who needs some extra love. Your job is to purchase and wrap an appropriate gift, using the Jesse Tree

ornament as a gift tag, and return it to Saint Luke's by Sunday, December 13.

Please write your name and phone number or e-mail address next to the name(s) you are taking on the master list by the tree so we can make sure all gifts come in. (But *don't* write your name on the ornament.) If you buy clothing, err on the large side, and if you're not sure about the size, enclose a gift receipt in the box. Important reminder: *Don't lose the ornament!* You need it for your gift tag. Any questions, please see Joanna Guinther or Jean Tessier, or e-mail Joanna at [jbg23@verizon.net](mailto:jbg23@verizon.net).

-- The Outreach Committee

***"Hark, the Herald Angels Sing..."***

***? And So Can You! ?***

***Saint Luke's Caroling Party***

***Sunday, December 20***

Warm up your vocal cords, invite some friends, and join us at the church at 4:45pm. We're aiming for a 5:00 departure and go caroling around the neighborhood until about 6:30, then return to the church for a potluck supper in the parish hall. If singing in the great outdoors doesn't appeal, why not just come for the supper? Everyone is requested to bring a dish to share, so please sign up indicating what you'll be bringing – main dish, side dish, salad or dessert. Signup sheets will be available in the narthex and at coffee hour beginning in December.

### ***Christmas Cheer for the Homebound***

Do you know someone whose Christmas would be brightened by the gift of a holiday plant from Saint Luke's? If so, please let the office know the person's name (and address if he or she is not a parishioner) no later than December 18, and the Inreach Committee will arrange for poinsettias to be delivered.

***DECEMBER 31, 2009***

***SAVE THE DATE!***

Our New Year's Eve celebration begins in the church with the Vigil of the Holy Name/New Year's Eve Liturgy at 7:00pm. Then we'll proceed to the parish hall where we'll ring in 2010 in style. For the benefit of

the American Cancer Society's Hope Lodge  
– and the entertainment of all – the Outreach  
Committee presents

***“Turning the Page:***

***A New Year's Eve Gala”***

**One performance only, 8:00 to 10:30pm**

Delectable hors d'oeuvres, irresistible  
sweets, and wine, beer or champagne punch  
will accompany a program of popular  
standards performed by favorite voices from  
the parish and beyond, with our own Velma  
Adams at the piano. The cost is a recession-  
friendly \$30.00 per person, every penny of  
which goes directly to Hope Lodge. Look  
for your invitation in the mail and when you  
receive it, please *RSVP no later than*  
*December 11*. Space is limited, and you  
won't want to miss seeing out the old year  
and ushering in the new with your Saint  
Luke's family.

-- Joanna Guinther  
Jean Tessier

Outreach Committee Co-chairs

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***November Birthdays***

3 Matthew Santana  
3 Maria Barbanotti  
5 Shibu Varghese  
8 Irene Matthews  
11 Jeremy Boiko  
14 Amber Elizabeth Lenti  
18 Emily Brillson  
23 Susan Sydenham  
23 Anna Alfano Gurney  
25 Marianne Percival  
26 Jean Tessier  
28 Nancy Cheng Yue

***December Birthdays and Anniversaries***

2 Aleyamma Varghese  
2 Jim Chamberlain  
5 Noelle Alfano  
5 Jocelyne Brillson  
7 Richard Sydenham  
12 Anne Harte Su  
16 Jonathan Wallin  
17 Lindsay Baxter  
19 Vincent Yue  
22 Brian Percival  
27 Gert Hounsell  
27 Giselle Bates  
28 Nancy Baxter  
29 Varghese and Aleyamma Varghese (A)

