



Week of December 20—December 26, 2020

CASTING OUR NET

ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

PO Box 173, 512 Granary St. New Harmony, IN 47631 (812)682-4604

Website: ststephensnewharmony.org

Facebook: New Harmony St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

You may give online by visiting our website or by texting SSNH to 73256 (REALM)

Dear St. Stephen's Community,

Tomorrow marks the 19th Anniversary of my ordination to the priesthood. In our family Christmas Card, I put "Zoom priest" as one of my descriptors, because for most of 2020, that is how I have priested. (Yes, that is a verb in my book).

In the Episcopal Church, there is no such thing as a private Mass. A congregation of some sort must be present in order for the Sacrament to be valid. And, yesterday, for the first time since March, we were able to celebrate Eucharist together and I am so grateful. It was different: a progressive liturgy of sorts (like a progressive dinner, only a mix a virtual and physical venues) beginning with Advent Candle Lighting at Mumford Farms, then to a live stream brief Eucharist at the Parish House for all, followed by brief Communion Services for five different small groups. . And God blessed us with the most beautiful December weather we could imagine. I was exhausted by the end of it, but for all the right reasons.

I thank all of you who worked so hard to make it happen. And our festivities continue...

We will celebrate Christmas Eve via Zoom, Christmas Day on your own, and the Feast of St. Stephen's via Zoom (complete with the virtual background debut of our new Red Dossal given in memory of Robert Gregg).

Have a blessed, joyous, and safe Christmas: remember the light shone to you from St. Stephen's and pass it on!

God's peace,

Beth+



FOOD PANTRY GIVEAWAY

From Ken Back:

The New Harmony Ministry Food Pantry distributed food to 143 families Thursday afternoon. Thanks to all who worked or donated or offered moral support.

The Kiwanis club collected over 300 toys that were given to families with children. Every child under 15 received a bag of toys.

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

December 27, 2020

Isaiah 61:10-62:3

Psalm 147

Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7

John 1:1-18

We ask for Continued Prayers:

The church, its members, and its mission; The nation and all in authority; The welfare of the world; Charles, Sally & Scott Huck; Sheila, Greg, & Ivy; Rachel, Karen & Trevor; Eli Haddix; Health Care Personnel; Those suffering from the effects of COVID

And for those serving in the Military:

EB; Alex; Caitlyn; Brady; Jackson; All who serve

And for Safety in Travel for:

All truck drivers and delivery persons

Those who have died:

Those who have died from COVID 19;

Those who have died from violence



*Join us live on Facebook
For Christmas Eve Service
December 24th at 8:00 pm*



New Harmony St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

For those who celebrate Birthdays in Dec:

December 6 – Vicki Harris

December 6 – Mark Sellars

December 7 – Mike Staubit

December 18 – Sara Pfister

December 25 – David McFarland

December 28 – Shane Harris

For those who celebrate Anniversaries in Dec:

December 16 – Robin & Rita Davis

December 30 – Bish & Liz Mumford

And for those serving in our Diocese,

including Bishop Jennifer Baskerville-Burrows; our companion Diocese Brasillia, their Bishop Mauricio, and the people and Diocese of Haiti and St. Andre's in Mithon

Blessings:

Today's outdoor Communion service; Those who have recovered from COVID-19; For the Covid vaccine & the hope it brings as an end to the pandemic; The joy and love that Christmas brings even in these dark times

END OF YEAR CONTRIBUTIONS

In compliance with the IRS, contributions to St. Stephen's Church must be received in the church office by the following end dates in the year 2020

Deadlines: Dec 23, 2020 – **online** contributions

Dec 30, 2020 – hand delivered and **dropped off**

Dec 31, 2020 – **postmarked**, if in mail delivery

These dates are to be used for all contributions to be listed on the 2020 giving statements. Thank you for your attention to these bookkeeping dates.

YEAR-END
GIVING

