



Advent and Christmas 2009

Invitation to Holiness

Everything is Changed

In the Advent Godly Play story, one of the first sentences spoken is "Everything is changed." The season of Advent marks the beginning of our Church calendar, and indeed, *everything is changed*. Just as the word "advent" means "coming", the world is changed as we await the coming to the birth of God into the world. Nothing can ever be the same when we welcome Christ into our lives and prepare a space for him to dwell.

Enter into this season fully. Participate in tradition and ritual. Cultivate new ways of being. Look at the world anew. Everything is changed.



*Advent
Evening
Dinner*

Begin the Journey

Enter the Advent Season with the St. Mark's Community in a feast of anticipation. This beautiful evening opens the season with a candlelit dinner, and continues with sacred song, prayer, and a look towards the coming Christ, featuring Rebecca Maggi and The Rev. Joanne Sanders. All generations are invited to begin this journey. A special children's program is provided.

Saturday, November 28 at 6:15pm

Winter's Gold: An Advent Prayer

Gracious God, remind me that this is a time to slow down in order to be attentive to the stark stillness winter brings. Help me breathe deeply and know myself to be held in the warmth of your love. When the sun is high, let me look up and be bathed in your gift of winter's gold. When the moon lights up the night, let me look up and drink in your gift of snowy calm. I ask this for the sake of your love. Amen.

Tea-Time

All Women are invited to a tea party to get a much-needed break from the hustle and bustle.

Sunday, December 13 2:00-4:00 p.m.

The Anderson Home, 2080 Tasso St, Palo Alto

RSVP to by December 9 to Rebecca at 650-814-4990 or rebeccaannbarbee@yahoo.com

Sundays in Advent

1st Advent, November 29: Advent Wreath Making

An event for the whole family!

Join us in the parish hall following the 10am service to make your own family Advent wreath.

2nd Advent, December 6: Diocese of Jerusalem

On the feast of St. Nicholas, we will honor the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem with special prayers and a middle-eastern themed Agape.

3rd Advent, December 13: The Magnificat

During the 50 minute forum, join with Dr. Joseph Sargent in an examination of this ancient prayer.

Intentional Waiting through Centering Prayer

Take time this season to join with others in the practice of Centering Prayer. Use the time for slowing down, for creating space within, for discerning how best to respond to this Holy Time. Each session begins with a short introduction followed by 25 minutes of meditative silence.

In the Kennedy Room

Mondays, 1:00-1:30 p.m.

Wednesdays and Fridays, 8:30-9:00 a.m.



Advent Resources Available

Look for materials to enrich the season for the whole family on the Welcome Table.



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Deck the Halls & Green the Church!

Help us Deck the Halls with an old-fashioned Greening of the Church! Don't miss this wonderful opportunity to meet others and to contribute to the preparation of our sacred space.

We begin with a potluck soup and salad supper and then move to decorate the church for the Christmas services. Everyone is welcome! Special activities for children provided.



Sunday, December 20th
5:30p.m. - Supper
6:30p.m. - Greening
Sign-up in the Church!

Annual Christmas Pageant A HOLY NIGHT

Through drama, and song, we celebrate the birth of Christ with a wonderful home-grown Pageant. Join the holy family, shepherds, wise people, animals and angels in the telling of the sacred story at the **4:00pm service on Christmas Eve.**

We are blessed to have the very talented Joani King as script-writer and director. All people are invited to participate as actors, musicians, technicians, cast support, and set and costume makers! Contact Mary Greene (mary@saint-marks.com) or Joanie King (joankingink@gmail.com) about how to get involved.

Attention all interested potential cast members!

Rehearsals will be held on the following days:

Main Speaking Parts: December 6 & 13

Entire Cast: December 20 & 23



Advent Giving Tree

In this season of giving, we will extend a hand to three areas of support. Deepen your gift-giving experience by helping those less fortunate.



Ecumenical Hunger Program provides food, clothing, household essentials, support and referral services to those in need in our own community. Established in 1975, they help families and individuals who are experiencing economic and personal hardship - and it is supported entirely by contributions from the community.

Global Aids Interfaith Alliance provides life-saving services in rural Malawian villages by delivering services to people in need, with a particular emphasis on Malawi's most vulnerable citizens: women and children. Services include HIV prevention, Orphan Care & Education, Nursing Scholarships and Microfinance for Women.

The Cameroon Project supports orphaned and destitute children through Eglise Christ Roi (Christ the King) Anglican Church and Good Shepherd Home by providing financial support for children to attend school and obtain the needed books and supplies for education.



Christmas Services

Christmas Eve, Thursday, December 24th

4:00pm - Join us for the annual Children's Christmas Pageant and Holy Communion

10:00pm - This traditional Christmas service begins with a half-hour of carols followed by a festive Eucharist

Christmas Day, Friday, December 25th

10:00am - This service is a wonderful way to usher in the Christ child with Communion and carols.

1st Christmas, Sunday, December 27th

8:00am & 10:00am - worship on this first Sunday of Christmas to celebrate the new light enkindled in our hearts and lives.