***Priestly Perusings***

We are entering a season of feasting and feasts! While the month of November brings the conclusion of the Church Year, it also includes and leads us into the new Church Year and some of the important feasts of each. October 31 is honored as “Hallowe’en,” so named because it is the eve of **The Feast of All Saints’** (Nov. 1) – and so “All Hallows Eve,” or hallowed (holy) evening, shortened to Hallowe’en. The Feast of All Saints’ is our own patronal feast, one of two which Christianity honors by allowing its celebration not only on the day itself, but also on the following Sunday. Our own festive celebration of our 56th Birthday will take place on **Sunday, November 6**, with a festive Eucharist, followed by a joyful pot-luck brunch in Andrews Hall. The Ingathering of Pledges for the Year 2017 will take place on that day (see below). The names of departed loved ones will be remembered at the altar during the Eucharist, as a special reminder that they (with angels, archangels, and all the company of heaven) still join us around the altar every time we gather to give thanks for all the goodness which God has provided to us. Sunday, November 13 will be our annual **Youth Group Honors Veterans brunch**. All are invited to the brunch prepared by our Youth Group; if you are a veteran, or are bringing a veteran to the brunch, please be in touch with our Youth leader Michelle Byram. November 19-20 brings us the 232nd annual Convention of the Episcopal Church in Connecticut, held this year at the Convention Center in Hartford. Saturday the 19th is the day for business and legislation to be enacted by clergy and delegates (your delegates are Michael De Negris, Jr. and Ouida Green); Sunday the 20th (the Feast of Christ the King) is the Convention Eucharist (see info below). Wednesday, Nov. 23rd is the annual community **Thanksgiving Eve service** – which takes place this year at St. Pius X Roman Catholic Church at 7 PM. The following Sunday, November 27, is **The First Sunday of Advent**, and the beginning of the new Church Year (Year A of the three-year lectionary cycle). Advent, of course, is the season of preparation for the coming of Christ at **Christmas**. Christmas Day this year falls on Sunday, and, after much discussion with individuals and focus groups, we have decided to keep our regular Christmas schedule, with one small change: Christmas Eve, there will be a Family Eucharist with carols at 5 PM, the Midnight Mass (with Choir) will be at 10 PM (instead of at 11), and the Christmas Day Eucharist will be at the regular Sunday time of 9:30 AM. We hope this schedule will be helpful to all in planning your time to join your church family to worship Christ, the newborn King. So come, all ye faithful, and join in all the feasts of fall!

Faithfully,

*Susan+*

**THE 232nd CONVENTION OF THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF CONNECTICUT will take place Saturday – Sunday, November 19-20. For the first time, the Convention Eucharist will take place at the Convention Center in Hartford, on Sunday, November 20, at 10:30 AM. The Preacher at that “Celebration of the Spirit” will be our Presiding Bishop, Michael Curry!** Bp. Curry is one of the world’s great preachers, and it is our privilege to welcome him to Connecticut. All Episcopalians in the Diocese are invited to attend, and, to that end, we are exploring the possibility of renting a bus for those from All Saints’ who wish to attend. More information about the bus will be forthcoming. If you are planning to attend the Eucharist, you are asked to register online at the ECCT website [www.episcopalct.org](http://www.episcopalct.org) ***and also to sign up on our own bulletin board***, so we know which members of All Saints’ will be attending. There is no cost to register, but the Bishops’ Office would like to know how many to expect and we need to know how many will be interested in bus transportation. A series of workshops will be offered following the Eucharist for those who wish to attend. The current plan for that Sunday morning is to offer a service of Morning Prayer at All Saints’ for those who are unable to attend the Convention Eucharist.

**We have received information from the Bishops’ Office that Bishop Laura Ahrens is scheduled to make her Visitation to us on Sunday, JUNE 18, 2017. CONFIRMATION AND RECEPTION will be be offered as part of that Visitation.** Our current Youth Confirmation Class will be preparing for this throughout the coming Church School Year, and attendance at those classes is critical. If you or yours is desirous of being Confirmed or Received at that time, or of making a Reaffirmation of Faith, please let Susan know soon. An adult Inquirer’s Class will be offered in the spring, for those interested in preparing for these rites.

**BECOMING A MEMBER OF ALL SAINTS’** is really very simple. If you have been Baptized with water in the name of the Trinity in any Christian tradition, all you have to do is register your Baptism with us (let Susan know the date and place of your birth and of your Baptism) – this makes you a member of All Saints’ Parish, but Baptism makes one a Christian; it does *not* make you an Episcopalian! If you are already a Confirmed Episcopalian, please just ask Mother Davidson to request your Letter of Transfer from your former parish. In order to become an Episcopalian, you must be Confirmed (for those who have been raised in most Protestant traditions, as well as other Episcopal churches) or Received (for those who have been raised in the Roman Catholic or Eastern Orthodox Churches) by a bishop in the Episcopal Church. Preparation for Confirmation/Reception of adults is offered through Inquirers’ Classes (one will be held at the convenience of those who sign up). The Prayer Book also offers the opportunity for adults who have been away from the Church for a long time, or who have experienced a recent re-awakening of their faith, to make a public Reaffirmation of Faith before the Bishop at the time of the Visitation. For more information on each of these, and to apply for Baptism of adults or children, please speak to Mother Davidson. While celebration of the Sacrament of Holy Baptism is a joyous event possible on any Sunday of the Church Year (except during Lent) the Prayer Book suggests five occasions on which Baptism is particularly appropriate, and one of those is All Saints’ Day (this year, All Saints’ Sunday is Nov. 6).

**STEWARDSHIP and the ANNUAL GIVING CAMPAIGN:** Please pray about what God may be calling ***you*** to do to further the ministry of Christ in and from All Saints’ in the Year 2017. **Pledge packets will be distributed on Sunday, October 30. The Ingathering of pledges of Time, Talent, and Treasure will take place on Sunday, November 6, at the All Saints’ Day celebration.** The overall theme for this year’s Annual Giving Campaign has been “Living Generously;” let us pray that we may all be as generous as we are able in support of this wonderful parish and the ministry it exercises within and beyond these walls in the name and for the sake of Christ.

**VOTE 2016:** The privilege of voting in election is one of the great freedoms that we have in this country. This is one of the few occasions on which Church and State offer us the same opportunity. As part of God’s Creation, we are blessed with the gift of free will. It is both our privilege and our responsibility, as children of God, and as citizens of these United States of America to exercise that privilege and responsibility to make well-informed choices for the greater good of all. I encourage you to VOTE – vote your conscience, whatever your politics may be. Remember that we are voting not only for a new President, but also for other offices in public service. I invite you to join me in seeking to elect candidates who reflect, as closely as possible, the love of God we have seen in the example given us in Jesus Christ our Savior.

**ACOLYTE TRAINING FOR NEW CRUCIFER/SERVERS AND TORCH-BEARERS will take place as needed.** Adults and children ten years of age and up are encouraged to speak to Mother Davidson if you are interested in joining this ministry which is so important to our liturgical life! We’ll train you one-on-one. It’s not difficult, and it is a great way to serve the Lord. We are always in need of more acolytes!

**OUR NEW CHURCH SIGN:** Many, many thanks to **Thomas Dobensky**, who designed and built our new church sign as his Eagle Scout project! Tom and his mother, JoAnn Caruso, did the lovely landscaping. Thanks to those who have helped support the project with your prayers and your financial resources. It has been wonderful to see it take shape. We will be tweaking it a bit as time goes on; we are hoping for lighting for it, and for a clear cover which will protect it from the weather.

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH**:

Advent is just over a month away beginning on Sunday, November 27th. We are looking for interested parishioners to light the wreath each Sunday during Advent. No prior experience is needed! If you are willing, please contact Rhonda Mazur to pick your Sunday. Thank you!

(860-583-8584) home

(860-9958918) cell

or email rhondamazur@snet.net

**CHURCH SCHOOL UPDATE**…

Our 2016-2017 school year is off and running! Our confirmation class is meeting every Sunday under the direction of Jackie and AJ. Confirmation is scheduled for June 18th. Rhonda has been working with the middle school children. During the weeks ahead we will be focus on Advent, prepare our annual Christmas cards for local elderly residents, and build our gingerbread houses…an annual treat!

There are many opportunities for church school children to become involved at All Saints’ Church, including becoming a torchbearer or acolyte. If your child is interested, please contact me or Mother Davidson for more information.

~Rhonda

(860-583-8584) home

(860-995-8918) cell

**YOUTH GROUP NEWS**

Youth Group will host the fourth annual Veteran’s Brunch to honor the veterans of All Saints’ Church (and beyond) on Sunday November 13. This year’s brunch will be dedicated to the memory of Maurice St. Pierre who honorably served in World War II. Please extend All Saints’ hospitality by inviting a veteran to join us!! For more information, please contact Michelle Byram.

Youth Group will be selling Christmas Cards and Calendars this year, coming in November. All proceeds will go to Shephard’s Meadow Therapeutic Riding Farm to help veterans with PTSD participate in their therapeutic riding programs.

Youth Group will participate again this year with our Giv2 (Give Squared) friends in helping to wrap Christmas presents for the GWIM soup kitchen Christmas party. The wrapping will take place on Saturday, December 17 at Wolcott Congregational Church.

All youth in grades 6 through 12 are welcome to participate in Youth Group whenever you are able!

**FESTIVAL CHORALE**

The Southington Festival Chorale is having a concert on December 4th at 3:00pm. The location is the Plantsville Congregational Church. Tickets are $10 each. Please see Chorale members Pam Lindvall, Roberta Stockdale, Lynda Curtiss or Mary Pepides for tickets.

**GOLF TOURNAMENT**
This year's tournament, banquet and raffle, proved to be a great success. We are grateful for all those who participated as golfers and banquet attendees, and a special thanks for those who contributed generously as sponsors and raffle prize donaters. Net receipts of nearly $4,400 will be used for local community outreach throughout the next year.   Copies of the attached were placed on each dinner table at the banquet to acknowledge the generous support which we received.

ALL SAINTS’ EPISCOPAL CHURCH

HAWK’S LANDING COUNTRY CLUB

SEPTEMBER 10, 2016

This year’s tournament is being dedicated to the memory of our beloved long time tournament committee member, Maurice St. Pierre, who passed away two months ago at the age of 90. For the last sixteen years, Maury had worked tirelessly on making sure that our tournament was a success and for that we thank him and will miss him dearly.

Many thanks to those that played today and supported the outreach programs of our church and the Wolcott Food Pantry.

We would like to thank the following sponsoring companies and individuals for their support and those local businesses and individuals that contributed prizes for our raffle.

Robertine Osae – Birdie Sponsor

Sullivan Bros. Remodeling – John Sullivan – Birdie Sponsor

LVS, Inc. – Leon Hermans

Raymond’s Building Supply, Inc. – Ray Rinaldi

Ed Peczynski

Joseph Penta

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Bryce Gear – Eric Sanderson

Woodtick Memorial Funeral Home – Scott Griffith

Migliaro Fuel – Gene Migliaro

Attorney Mark and Holly Wrenn

JH Barlow Pump – Walter Sherman

Mattatuck Industrial Metal Scrap

Barbara Dicks

Michael DeNegris Sr

Florence Ruggerio

Tyrrell Middle School

ALL SAINTS’ EPISCOPAL CHURCH

HAWK’S LANDING COUNTRY CLUB

SEPTEMBER 10, 2016

**Donated Raffle Prizes**

WEBSTER BANK

TDBANK

PEOPLES BANK

WATERBURY COUNTRY CLUB

HAWK’S LANDING COUNTRY CLUB

MOHEGAN SUN CASINO

LAFORTUNA RESTAURANT

PEPSI-COLA BOTTLING OF BRISTOL

WOLCOTT EXCHANGE CLUB

SOUTHINGTON FIRESTONE

PLAINVILLE FIRESTONE

GARY BRUNET

HAZEL DEMPSEY

THE DAVIDSON’S

THE MARCISZ’S

THE MAZUR’S

THE PINEAU’S

THE RICHARD’S

THE SMITH’S