

The Ridge Runner

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End of the year – and it has had its moments – but here we are!! There are a few things you should know about the upcoming Advent and Christmas seasons. Again – we are asking for your participation. In case you forgot, St. Faith's is still where it has always been – on Caribbean Blvd., in Cutler Bay. We long to see you!

Coming up in December DECEMBER 3RD.



Announcements have been made in our Sunday Bulletins and on our website – so everyone should know by now. **BUT JUST IN CASE YOU WERE NOT PAYING ATTENTION – PLEASE NOTE: THERE WILL BE ONE (1) SERVICE ONLY ON SUNDAYS, BEGINNING ON DECEMBER 3RD. THE SERVICE TIME WILL BE 9 A.M. THIS WILL CONTINUE UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.** The prayer is that with one service falling between 8 a.m. and 10 a.m., most everyone from both services will be able to attend without undue strain. **SO LET'S SEE YOU ALL AT CHURCH ON SUNDAYS AT 9 A.M.**

It just so happens that the Season of Advent also begins on December 3rd.



Sunday December 3rd is the first Sunday of Advent and it's also the first Sunday of the Church's New Year. **So – HAPPY NEW YEAR EVERYONE!!** It's during this Season of Advent that Christians prepare for the coming of our Lord. **As you know, Advent ends at sundown on Christmas Eve.** You will notice that the colors on the Altar get changed to purple, as that is the primary color for the Season and signifies **penitence and royalty.**

The Crèche is put out by the Altar, and any young ones in church on Sunday will be asked to process up with the animals that will inhabit it and await, like us, the Coming of our Lord.



Also out, is the **Advent Wreath**, which is circular shaped, representing the **Eternity of God**. It bears **four candles** (three purple and one pink) for each of the 4 weeks of Advent, plus the **White Christ Candle** in the center. The first purple candle on the Advent

Wreath, symbolizing "**Hope**", will be lit on the first Sunday, (Dec. 3rd). The second purple candle will be lit on the 2nd Sunday of Advent (12/10), and that candle symbolizes "**Love**". The pink, which is lit on the third Sunday of Advent, also named Gaudette Sunday, symbolizes "**Joy**", as Christians rejoice because our preparations for the coming of our Lord, are half-way done! The fourth candle, lit on the 4th Sunday of Advent

(12/24), symbolizes "**Peace**". *Those are the four Virtues our Lord Jesus represents to us.* The White Christ Candle is lit at **Christmas**, and symbolizes the **Light of Christ** coming into the world. Are we informed or what?



Take a look at the **Chrismons** trees and check out those **Chrismons**. "Chrismon" is a combination of the words "Christ" and "monogram," and means "symbols of Christ." Early Christians often worshipped in secret to avoid persecution and they developed certain

symbols that were used to communicate with fellow believers and direct Christians to secret places of worship. These Symbols often adorned doors and buildings, and were included on items such as jewelry and household utensils.



An example of one such decoration is the **Chi-Rho**. These two letters, the 'X' (Ch) and the 'P' (R) are the first letters of the Greek word "**Christos**" which means Christ. See if you can locate other symbols on

the trees.

SUNDAY DECEMBER 10th.



Let us all participate in the **Special Service of Advent Carols and Lessons** that the choir will be leading on **December 10th** at the 9 a.m. Service. Bring a friend or two so they can also share the experience. The Choir

is busy rehearsing this as well as the uplifting Christmas Music that all of St. Faith's looks forward to yearly.



Hanging of the Greens

The Altar Guild could do with some help to decorate the Church and hang all the Greens for Christmas. If you would like to help, *please remain after the 9 a.m. Service on December 17th, when the decorating will be done.* Got to make the Church beautiful for the Christmas Season!

**SUNDAY DECEMBER 24TH – CHRISTMAS EVE
9:00 A.M. & 5:00 P.M.**



This Sunday marks the 4th and final Sunday in Advent, as well as the beginning of the Christmas Season at Sunset. **SO THERE WILL BE TWO SERVICES ON THE 24TH.** We will close out the Advent Season at the 9 a.m. Service,

AND we will return for the Christmas Eve Service at 5:00 P.M. There will be no midnight mass this year – only the 5 p.m. service – **so come one and all and be prepared to have a great time!** The Choir is busy rehearsing for the Service, and they are even bringing in a Band to play with them. It promises to be a really enjoyable service!! **Lots of carols & joy!!** Bring your friends and neighbors so they too can have a great start to the Christmas Season.



Gifts for the Kids

Please remember to pick up the little snowman tag or tags from the Notice Board at the back of the Church, and buy a gift or two for children of your Food Pantry recipients. They so look forward to receiving these gifts from you every year. Gifts must be returned by **December 10th** to the Church.



A reminder to all chapter members that their December meeting will take the form of their annual Christmas Lunch!! The Lunch will be held at Red Lobster

on SW 136th St. (across from The Falls) at 11:30 a.m. on the second Saturday in December – December 9th. Remember to bring your gift with you.

**And looking ahead a few weeks – to
“A date to remember”.**



The Second Sunday in January, **January 14th** is the day St. Faith's will have its **Annual Meeting**. The Meeting will be held immediately after the 9 a.m. **Service and Brunch will be served.** Most importantly – all ministry heads should send their

annual reports to Esther by **January 9th**. If you or any member of St. Faith's wish to sit on the Vestry for the 2018 -2021 three-year term, please contact Donna Lewis or any member of the Vestry so you or

they can be put up for election at the Annual Meeting.



The ECW will meet on **Sunday January 7th** to plan for the Brunch at the upcoming Annual Meeting. The meeting

will be held after the 9 a.m. service. So all ladies, please try to attend.

And by the way – the Deanery meeting hosted by the St. Faith's chapter on November 18 was a huge success. Seventy-six persons (because it included a few men) from chapters throughout the Deanery attended and everyone had a great time. Thanks to the ladies of our Chapter who made this possible, to Father Picou for being the celebrant at the Eucharist, and Dr. Covarrubias for playing for the Service. **AND A WELL DESERVED HONOR WAS BESTOWED ON OUR PRESIDENT – DONNA LEWIS. SHE WAS ELECTED AS THE “DISTINGUISHED WOMAN OF THE YEAR FOR THE SOUTH DADE DEANERY.” CONGRATULATIONS DONNA!**



Did you remember to bring or send in your Pledge. I think some of us may have forgotten as only twenty-five (25) were received, and surely, St. Faith's has more than 25

congregants! The Vestry needs that pledge to make up the budget for the year. **SO – PLEASE SEND IT IN.**



We wish the Best of Birthdays to the following:

John Hrasar	December 5
Val Darby	December 19
Tilcia Branch	December 22
Brandon Bullock	December 27
Dr. Paul Young	December 28



FOOD PANTRY

Food Pantry clients were very happy to receive those special items in their bags to help with their Thanksgiving Dinners. They will also receive additional special items for Christmas.

For the month of November 195 bags were distributed to 178 households, which helped 566 people who live in those households. The extra food, plus the Snowman gifts will make for a Merry Christmas for our Clients. They appreciate your generosity.



It's time to get in your donations for Flowers for the Christmas Season. Put your donation (\$20 minimum) in the collection bag, or give it to Esther. Please make sure that the sentiments you want published are enclosed with the donation. A separate leaflet of acknowledgements will be printed for the Christmas Eve Service.



**Have a Merry, Safe and Blessed Christmas everyone!
And until we meet again in**

Walk Good My Friends!