

## Fr. Nick's Top Ten List of Quotes About the Incarnation of Christ

“The incarnation is a kind of vast joke whereby the Creator of the ends of the earth comes among us in diapers... Until we too have taken the idea of the God-man seriously enough to be scandalized by it, we have not taken it as seriously as it demands to be taken.”

— *Frederick Buechner, (born 1926) American Presbyterian minister, novelist, poet, and preacher*

“He became what we are that He might make us what He is.” - *Athanasius (298 –373) bishop*

“...and in the Incarnation the whole human race recovers the dignity of the image of God. Henceforth, any attack even on the least of men is an attack on Christ, who took the form of man, and in his own Person restored the image of God in all that bears a human form.”

— *Dietrich Bonhoeffer, (1906-hanged by the Nazis 1945) from The Cost of Discipleship*

“When we allow God to be born in us, there is no telling, no telling at all, what will come out.”

— *Barbara Brown Taylor, (born 1951) Episcopal priest, professor, author and theologian*

“The central miracle asserted by Christians is the incarnation. They say that God became human. Non-Christians seem to think that the Incarnation implies some particular merit or excellence in humanity. But of course it implies just the reverse: They that are whole need not the physician. Christ died for men precisely because men are not worth dying for; to make them worth it.”

- *C.S. Lewis (1898 –1963) British writer and lay theologian.*

“Man’s maker was made human that He, Ruler of the stars, might nurse at His mother’s breast; that the Bread might hunger, the Fountain thirst, the Light sleep, the Way be tired on its journey; that Truth might be accused of false witnesses, the Teacher be beaten with whips, the Foundation be suspended on wood; that Strength might grow weak; that the Healer might be wounded; that Life might die.”

— *Saint Augustine (354 –430) theologian, philosopher, and bishop*

“There is nothing so secular that it cannot be sacred, and that is one of the deepest messages of the Incarnation.”

— *Madeleine L'Engle (1918 –2007) American writer of poetry, and fiction,*

“The best way to reconcile two disagreeing families is to make some marriage between them: Even so, the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us in the world that He might hereby make our peace, reconciling God to man and man to God. By this happy match the Son of God is become the Son of Man.

- *John Boys (1571–1625) Dean of Canterbury from 1619 to 1625*

“Veiled in flesh, the Godhead see; Hail, th'incarnate Deity: Pleased, as man, with men to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel! Hark! the herald angels sing, Glory to the new-born King!”

- *Charles Wesley (1707 –1788) English priest and Methodist, known for writing about 6,500 hymns.*

“And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father’s only son, full of grace and truth. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father’s heart, who has made him known.” - *St. John’s Gospel 1:14,18*

## FOOD PANTRY

Please continue to not bring items to the church but instead make a cash donation to these organizations below:

Karing Kitchen  
116 W. Grove St.  
Oneida, N.Y. 13421

Church on the Rock  
164 Madison St.  
Oneida, N.Y. 13421

Food Bank of CNY  
7066 Interstate Island Rd  
Syracuse, N.Y. 13209

I would also like people to consider donating to the CNYSPCA for the animals in need as well. Unopened packages of pet food and litter are appreciated or contact them at [FrontDesk1@cnyspca.org](mailto:FrontDesk1@cnyspca.org) to find out what they need the most.

CNYSPCA  
5878 East Molloy Rd  
Syracuse, N.Y. 13211

## Too Blessed To Be Stressed

Our ongoing ZOOM activities at St. John's:

Wednesdays: Hug A Mug Coffee Hour 930 a.m. to 1030 a.m.

Thursdays: Bible Study @ 7p.m.

Sundays: Church Service on Facebook Live @ 930 a.m. Please Join Us !

For Hug A Mug, Bible Study, as well as Sunday services, please watch your emails for the correct links (or email Father Nick and ask)

**We would like to thank the following people for quickly and faithfully returning their pledge cards:**

Jane Armstrong

Martha Walrath

Jerry and Sandy Aylesworth

Bob and Gloria Wilkins

Suzanne Bauer

Mark and Leslie Zebrowski

Kelly Brown

Gisela Campanie

Suzanne Clark

In order to complete the budget for the 2021 year please please pray and send in your pledge card as soon as possible. Did we say please?

Peter and Carol Dwyer

Kellie Highers

Stanley Janczuk

Norita Kane

Jack and Peg MacMullen

Doug and Gerrie Miller

Susanne Miller

Nigel Priest

Shelly Sears

Peter and Susan Slaunwhite

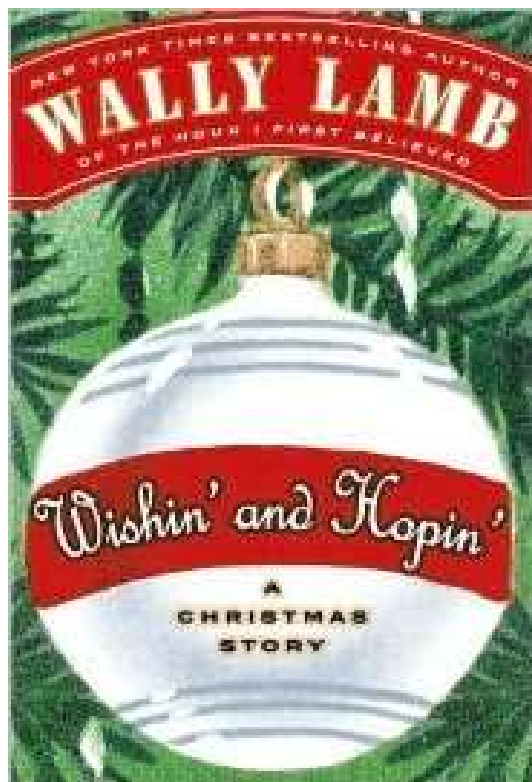
Father Nick and Gale Smith

Martha Smith

Congratulations to Danyella Brown who was inducted into the National Junior Honor Society on November 5<sup>th</sup>.



## HOLIDAY READ



Suggested as our book club read for the month of December, I thought our church family may enjoy it as well. 1964 brings a Christmas that 10 year old Felix Funicello (distant cousin of Annette) won't forget. Hilarious warmth and joy for the holiday season much like Jean Shepherd's A Christmas Story.

Congratulations to Megan Dwyer on Amazing First Marking Period Grades

Course	Teacher	MP1 Grade
English 12/MVCC EN 101-102	McKay	100
MVCC Survey of Economics (BM101) Student shows excellent effort	Myatt	100
Psychology H Student shows excellent effort	Schneider	100
Concert Choir A pleasure to have in class Student shows excellent effort	O'Connell	100
Wind Ensemble	Hawthorne	100
PE 1	Poulos / Curro	100
<b>Quarterly Average:</b>		101.00

**Grading C**

P-PASS  
E-Excellent  
N-Needs Improvement  
Aud-Audit  
IE-Ineligible

## Tandem Bike Ride with God

Most of 2020 has been difficult for all of us, We've been in our houses more and discouraged from gathering in groups. To escape the house into the fresh air and to exercise I rediscovered riding my bike this summer. The sense of freedom was exhilarating. I explored neighborhoods, side streets and tree canopied trails. Riding the quiet paths with the breezes blowing around me often led to prayer and meditative moments.....

Which reminded of this piece I read years ago. It's been around a long time, and I've thought of the image often. Sometimes I'm in the front seat with Jesus whispering directions or assurances or suggestions in my ear. Other times I've been in the rear seat doing the pedaling footwork I believe the Holy Spirit has directed. And, truth be told, sometimes in the rear seat I've even lifted my feet off the pedals and just rested, knowing God was in control, fending off the bugs or harsh weather, and I was safe for the moment.

May this metaphor help in the uncertain months ahead and inspire us to remember that God is always pedaling with us.

Gloria Wilkins



## The Road of Life

Tim Hansel

At first, I saw God as my observer, my judge, keeping track of the things I did wrong, so as to know whether I merited heaven or hell when I die. He was out there sort of like a president. I recognized His picture when I saw it, but I really didn't know Him.

But later on when I met Christ, it seemed as though life were rather like a bike ride, but it was a tandem bike, and I noticed that Christ was in the back helping me pedal.

I don't know just when it was that He suggested we change places, but life has not been the same since.

When I had control, I knew the way. It was rather boring, but predictable... It was the shortest distance between two points.

But when He took the lead, He knew delightful long cuts, up mountains, and through rocky places at breakneck speeds; it was all I could do to hang on! Even though it looked like madness, He said, "Pedal!"

I worried and was anxious and asked, "Where are you taking me?" He laughed and didn't answer, and I started to learn to trust.

I forgot my boring life and entered into the adventure. And when I'd say, "I'm scared," He'd lean back and touch my hand.

He took me to people with gifts that I needed, gifts of healing, acceptance and joy. They gave me gifts to take on my journey, my Lord's and mine.

And we were off again. He said, "Give the gifts away; they're extra baggage, too much weight." So I did, to the people we met, and I found that in giving I received, and still our burden was light.

I did not trust Him, at first, in control of my life. I thought He'd wreck it; but He knows bike secrets, knows how to make it bend to take sharp corners, knows how to jump to clear high rocks, knows how to fly to shorten scary passages.

And I am learning to shut up and pedal in the strangest places, and I'm beginning to enjoy the view and the cool breeze on my face with my delightful constant companion, Jesus Christ.

And when I'm sure I just can't do anymore, He just smiles and says..."PEDAL!"

## Our Laura Bennett Visits

St. John's family has always inspired me with the outpouring of love and compassion. And the restrictions imposed by COVID hasn't stopped it. Cards and phone calls and Zoom meeting connections have kept us close at a distance. One of the finest connections I've experienced is the weekly visits to our beloved Laura Bennett who is in Extended Care Facility of Oneida Health Center. We began window visits in August with between 6-12 folks attending each week. We were very fortunate with the weather most days but feared we would have to stop our visits as winter approached. Then ECF came through with an enclosed, heated structure which we tried out on Wednesday before Thanksgiving. So we can continue our visits! The visits mean so much to Laura and to all of us who attend. She says she can feel the love surrounding her.

The new set up @ ECF means only two visitors at a time, but we've decided we can take turns going into the enclosed structure while others wait outside. The new structure is by the main entrance to ECF near their parking area. We will continue to meet at 3:00pm on Thursdays thru December except last two weeks being Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve. On those two weeks we will meet on Wednesday, December 23 & 30, also @ 3:00. No need to make reservations, just show up and well fit you in. Wear your mask and bring your cell phone so you can talk with Laura! Thank you all for this special connection. Call me if you have any questions.

Ann Hodgins





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Bishop: The Rt. Rev. Dr. DeDe Duncan Probe

Rector: The Very Rev. Arthur W. Smith

Parish Administrator: John Reinhardt

Treasurer: John Macmullen

Clerk of the Vestry: Valerie Hill

Senior Warden: Susan Slaunwhite

Junior Warden: Leslie Zebrowski

Vestry:

Sandra Aylesworth

Sheila Aylesworth

Cathy English

Valerie Hill

Ann Hodgins

Shelly Sears

Laura Weismore

Shane Weismore

Beth Wieland

Loving God, by your grace you have gathered us from many walks of life to become a loving family at St. John's. Help us to sustain the miraculous love within this parish, and guide us in sharing this love with our neighbors. All this we ask through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, Amen.

Please submit Evangelist articles to Laura Weismore by the 15th of each month at :

[snowkittens7311@gmail.co](mailto:snowkittens7311@gmail.com)