

# St. John's Good News



April  
2024

## On the seemingly indelicate subject of Funeral Preparation

We live in a death-denying culture. We tend to avoid thoughts about our own death. Such avoidance can create confusion and anxiety for the loved ones we leave behind. In this Eastertide we are strengthened by the knowledge of our Lord's victory over death. With this strength I invite you to consider what you would like to have included in your funeral service.

Planning your funeral liturgy need not be a morbid task to be avoided but the joyful work of planning the celebration of your life. *The Book of Common Prayer* reminds us that the funeral is an Easter liturgy, finding its meaning in Christ's resurrection, and that it is characterized by joy, in the certainty that "neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."

There are a few practical things which I invite you consider when you are healthy and death seems far away.

\* Write a will. Thousands of Massachusetts residents die each year without a will and their estate becomes *intestate*. The state can take some months to sort out what is to become of your assets, and will take a portion for their efforts. It is possible to handwrite a will and leave copies with a few family members, or leave a copy on file at the church. You might also consider leaving a portion of your estate to the church or another organization you would like to support.

\* Consider pieces of music or poetry you would like to have included in the Thanksgiving for your life. This could include music provided by our director of music or particularly meaningful recordings.

\* Choose what you would like to be done to your bodily remains. This includes giving careful consideration to becoming an organ donor. This act of generosity could extend the life of another.

Cont'd.

**Sunday worship remains at 10am, in-person and virtually—all are welcome to participate. The service also broadcasts through Zoom, with weekly dial-in and link options shared by email.**

Phone: 781-233-1242

Twitter:  
[@StJohnsSaugus](#)

Facebook: St. John's Episcopal Church Saugus

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You should consider whether you prefer your mortal remains cremated or buried in a casket, and where you would like them to be interred.

\* Write notes to those close to you to be left with your will. Such an exercise done when you are healthy will remind you of how precious these persons are as well as give them something tangible to reflect upon after you have passed away.

I am available to discuss any of these subjects with you if you would like assistance navigating through some of these decisions. Your survivors will be very grateful.

Peace,  
John+

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**Refugee Immigration Ministry**

15th Annual International Concert

April 18th 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

at

Trinity Episcopal Church

124 River Road, Topsfield MA

Admission \$25 buy online or at the door

Participating choirs: Mwindi Congolese Choir, Philippine Choir,  
Cameroon Choir, Sikh Westborough Gudwara

Soloist, Laura Proctor

Refugee Immigration Ministry

6 Pleasant Street, Suite 227

Malden MA

Phone: 781-322-1011 Website: [www.r-i-m.net](http://www.r-i-m.net)

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**Lobster Roll Sale**



**Friday, May 3rd  
7am - 12pm**

**Order deadline: Tuesday, April 30th**

Cost: \$15.00 per roll - also includes condiments, a bag of chips, and a brownie. Pay at pick-up - cash or check (*payable to St. John's*).

Free (*local*) delivery for orders of 5 or more.

Call or email the parish office: if leaving a message, state your name, phone Number, and the number of rolls. We will only contact you if there is a specific question about your order.

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**Every Child Deserves to Smile**

Thank you for all the fabulous Easter donations! Your amazing generosity in February has allowed us to create 40 overflowing Easter Baskets for the homeless children residing at the motel.

During the month of April, we will be collecting toiletries, snacks, fresh fruit and Boredom Buster Activities for spring vacation. Suggestions include coloring books and crayons, play-doh, new and gently-used games, jump ropes, matchbox vehicles, playing cards, and puzzles. We are also collecting spring and summer clothing of all sizes. In April, we are looking for a volunteer to make a one-time delivery of the donations to the motel. Could that be you? If this ministry touches your heart, please contact Jeanne Seaboyer for details. Donations may be left in the baskets in the vestibule.

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**Looking ahead.....**

**Mother's Day Plant Sale ~ Saturday, May 11th**

**9am - 1:30pm**

**Details to follow!**

Word Search

See if you can find these Easter-related words

F F L B R E R P S I T P H F P Z T  
 P O P Q C E S A C R I F I C E N H  
 U B R W R F S R S C K S G L R O E  
 Z B E G J E R U S A L E M R X T A  
 Q V G T I J N W R X V T O O Z D S  
 L K L O R V I C L R M I M H K B T  
 G Z E A E A E I L D E E O N N S E  
 R A K O M L Y N E E W C S R S E R  
 Y C Z I J B N J E O H E T O H U G  
 S P F T N H J N W S L C R I G E O  
 P F T P W G W W P T S C X P O Z L  
 A J T H O R N S S I U R I S E N G  
 X C U B J L B O P B L D J Z E B O  
 G G K D B E P X Y P H A O O D M T  
 M B N S A A M R L F P C T N L A H  
 X B N I M S A C T O M B T E L E A  
 S Q B O P M R D S D T Y F H L L X

Apostles ~ Betray ~ Cross ~ Easter ~ Forgiveness ~ Golgotha  
 Jerusalem ~ Judas ~ King ~ Lamb ~ Mary ~ Pilate ~ Resurrection  
 Risen ~ Sacrifice ~ Savior ~ Thorns ~ Tomb

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**Officers:** The Rev. John T. Beach, Priest-in-Charge, Brenda Caggiano, Sr. Warden, Daniel Casey, Jr., Warden, Phil Littlehale, Treasurer, Paul Felci, Assistant Treasurer, and Kristina Palazzo, Clerk of the Vestry & Sexton

**Vestry:** Bill Bidmead, Sr. (2026), Joanne Crowe (2027), Rose Holt (2027), M. 'Dibby' LeBlanc (2026), Sandy Mears (2025), and John Rogalski (2027)