

# St. John's Good News



April 2018

## Spring Worship Schedule

**Sunday Morning  
8am Rite I  
10am Rite II**

Phone: 781-233-1242

Twitter:  
[@StJohnsSaugus](#)

Facebook: St. John's  
Episcopal Church  
Saugus



Dear Friends,

After celebrating the Sabbath with friends and family, a small group of women headed to the tomb that held Jesus' body. With them they carried ointments and cloth to prepare his body for final burial. The sun had set, the day was coming to an end and darkness had overtaken the land. We can be sure this outer darkness mirrored the inner darkness of their grief.

This grief was quickly turned into worry when they saw the open, empty tomb. This worry then turned into amazement as they began to understand that Jesus' body hadn't been stolen but had been resurrected from death and back into life. There was no longer any need to mourn their friend's death. God had interceded in the world in a new way by raising Jesus after his gruesome murder.

I had never thought much about the empty tomb until I visited a tomb in Nazareth. Below the Sisters' of Nazareth Convent is a maze of caves, walkways and the tomb pictured below. The tomb was constructed sometime in the first or second century and is similar to the tomb Jesus would have been placed in shortly after his death. The boulder serving as a door rolls in and out of a narrow hole in the rock. The tomb opens into a small area which is surrounded by smaller spaces to hold the bodies. In this way families could be buried together in one tomb.

As you can see this tomb is empty (except for the lighting installed for better viewing). Being this close to a tomb resembling Jesus' tomb gave me a new appreciation of the meaning of the "empty tomb." For those women coming to the tomb its emptiness became the cause of ecstatic joy. It meant that Jesus was still a part of their community and their lives. In my own life emptiness has a more negative connotation—it means loss or despair. So I do my best to avoid emptiness whether it's in my stomach or my mind or in my heart. I fill myself with food, television, work, noise, video games etc...all so that I don't have to feel that loss or despair. Despite my repeated attempts I can't fill this emptiness.

*Contd.*

---

### **Inside this issue    Page**

From Rev. Sarah, April Events	1-3
From the Sr. Warden, etc.	3
Amazon Smile, Lobster Roll Sale, and ECDS	4
Word Search	5

The story of Easter reminds us that emptiness can serve as an open space for God to enter into our lives. The empty tomb wasn't a sign of Jesus' absence, but rather a sign of his ongoing presence. And so we don't need to fear the emptiness or struggle to fill it. The emptiness will not overtake us. We need to sit with it and trust that God will fill it just as God filled the empty tomb.

Peace,  
Sarah



~~~~~

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**THANK YOU HOLY WEEK HELPERS!** A huge THANK YOU to all who helped prepare our church for the many services during Holy Week!! It's said that "many hands make light work" and at St. John's we are indeed blessed with many hands. Our heartfelt gratitude goes out to Angela Grabowski, Bill Bidmead, Stephen Sikorsky, Stephen Belyea, the Altar Guild, Steve White, the Choir, Lay Eucharistic Ministers, Acolyte Teams and all those working behind the scenes!

**EASTERTIDE BIBLE STUDY: THE BOOK OF ACTS FO THE APOSTLES.** Beginning on Tuesday, April 10, 10:30-noon, our Eastertide Bible Study will discuss the book of Acts. Known as the "sequel" to the Gospel of Luke, Acts recounts the lives of the disciples following Jesus' ascension. Our guide will be the book, *A Journey through Acts*, by Forward Movement which pairs daily readings with reflection and discussion questions. The readings began right after Easter so pick up your copy of the book today. **\*\*Please note: no Bible Study on April 24, instead 2-3:30pm on Wednesday, April 25.**

**FIRST COMMUNION: SUNDAY, APRIL 29.** Although St. John's welcomes all to receive the blessed bread and wine we maintain the tradition of offering First Communion for our young people. On Saturday, April 28, 1-2pm Rev. Sarah will offer a preparation class for children interested in receiving their First Communion. The class will include instruction as well bread baking for Sunday's communion. Interested Parents/guardians please fill out the form in the back of the church and bring to the info meeting with Rev. Sarah on Sunday, April 15 after the 10am service.

**CAMINO DE SANTIAGO PRESENTATION SUNDAY APRIL 22.** Rev. Sarah will offer a brief presentation with photos and snacks about her week walking the Camino de Santiago de Compostela. This pilgrimage dates back to the time of Jesus and follows the path of St. James' disciples in northern Spain. It was an amazing experience of walking prayer through the sun, rain and even snow!

**30-HOUR FAMINE & YOUTH WORSHIP.** Jesus calls us to feed the hungry and so the youth will be raising money to combat world hunger through the 30-Hour Famine. All youth are encouraged to participate and raise funds before the Famine begins on Friday, April 27 at St. John's Church. During the Famine we will keep busy with games and movies as well as preparing for the Youth Worship on Sunday, May 6. Please see Rev. Sarah or Diana White for the participant packet to start your fundraising!

**REGISTER NOW FOR SUMMER CAMP AT BCH!** Each summer the Barbara C. Harris Camp and Conference Center offers week-long camp for students in grade 4-12. Each day campers spend time in Bible Study, and outdoor activities like swimming, archery, sports, theater etc. It is also a great opportunity for our youth to experience different types of worship with modern music, visiting chaplains, and a closing campfire Eucharist. St. John's will work with families to ensure that any youth can attend summer camp so please don't hesitate to speak with Rev. Sarah TODAY! Registration is on-line at <http://www.bchcenter.org/register-for-camp-2>.

~~~~~

**From the Sr. Warden...**

Happy Spring!! Given how cold and snowy it has been this March we can only hope that the arrival of April will bring us some signs of spring and the renewal of life.

Your vestry has been renewed with new members – Al Coppola, Brenda Caggiano, Dale Coogan, Diana White, and Bill St. Clair - and is looking forward to the year ahead. We are planning a vestry retreat at Bethany House of Prayer, in Arlington, on May 5<sup>th</sup> during which time we will prayerfully contemplate the path ahead for St. John's. We are also continuing to work with Rev. Sarah, our Priest-in-Charge consultant, Lynn Smith, and the diocese's Office of Transition Ministry on the three-year Priest-in-Charge process.

In a non-vestry related matter, I am planning a lobster roll sale for April 27<sup>th</sup>. Some of the parishioners who usually assist with making deliveries will be on vacation, and I would be grateful for any volunteers who could deliver rolls between 10:00AM & 12:00 noon.

~ T. J. Martin

~~~~~

**Yard Sale**

We have begun accepting donations for our annual yard sale on June 9th. As usual, kindly leave items downstairs in the room next to nursery area. Feel free to call the office if you have any questions. **Thank you!!**

Amazon Smile

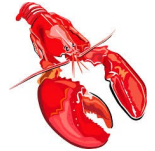


Just a reminder that if you're shopping on Amazon.com, kindly visit Amazon Smile and select St. John's as your nonprofit organization. Amazon will contribute 0.5% of eligible purchases to the church. Literally thousands of items qualify, and every bit helps. Thanks so much for your continued support!

~~~~~

Lobster Roll Sale

**Friday, April 27th**  
**7am—12pm**



Deadline for orders: **Tuesday, April 24th**

~ Free local delivery for orders of 5 or more ~

\$12/ each: includes one lobster roll, condiments, bag of chips,  
and a homemade brownie

~~~~~

EVERY CHILD DESERVES TO SMILE



**Thank you** to all who donated soups, pasta, snacks, and paper goods during March. You help to the light the beacon of hope for families in need.

**As the turnover at the motel has been great, we will continue to** collect paper towels, paper plates, plastic utensils, microwaveable meals, pasta & sauce, granola bars, soup, crackers and snacks through the month of April. Guests are also in need of can openers, large bowls for cooking in a microwave, serving spoons, metal silverware, dish towels, pot holders, etc.

Donations may be left in the Every Child Deserves to Smile collection container in the vestibule.

Our next **quarterly meeting** will be held **Thursday, April 5, 9:30AM in the Hurl Room.** All are welcome to attend.

**The meal scheduled for Sunday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> will be rescheduled for a date To Be Determined.** More info to follow when available.

If you have any questions or wish to volunteer to prepare a meal, please contact Jeanne Seaboyer 781-662-4342/ [jmseaboyer@gmail.com](mailto:jmseaboyer@gmail.com).

~~~~~

*Have a Blessed and Happy Easter!*

### Word Search

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

Annunciation ~ Blooming ~ Benevolent ~ Celebrant ~ Creed ~ Divinity ~ Eastertime  
 Eternal ~ Faithfulness ~ Grace ~ Invocation ~ Resurrection ~ Sacrament ~ Seedling  
 Sunshine ~ Tulips ~Violets ~ Worshippers

~~~~~

**Officers:** The Reverend Sarah van Gulden, Priest-in-Charge ~ T. J. Martin, Sr. Warden ~ Fritz White, Jr. Warden ~ Phil Littlehale, Treasurer ~ Janet Lancaster, Asst. Treasurer ~ Sandy Mears, Clerk of the Vestry

**Vestry:** Brenda Caggiano (2019) ~ Dale Coogan (2021) ~ Al Coppola (2019) ~ Paul Felci (2020) ~ Sandy St. Clair (2019) ~ William 'Bill' St. Clair (2021) ~ Jeanne Seaboyer (2020) ~ Jenna Sharwood (2020) ~ Diana White (2021)