

St. John's Good News

From Rev. John...

Dear Friends,

As the days grow short and the sun becomes a stranger, we gather together to light candles and tell stories of hope.

Advent is a time during which we become particularly aware of the gulf between the world of our dreams and the world in which we live and move and have our being. It is during this time of waiting and prayer that we long for God to somehow bridge this gulf.

It is during Advent that we can see with greater clarity those things for which our heart hungers.

We hunger for righteousness.

We hunger for an opportunity to communicate the love which is within us.

We hunger for a world in which we are no longer afraid, anxious, and lonely.

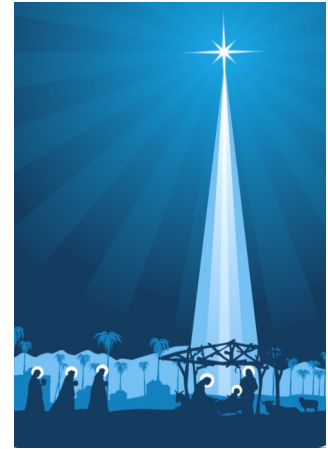
We hunger for meaning.

We consider these things as we prepare within us a place for the coming of the Lord, who reveals himself with healing power at Christmas.

I invite you to observe a Holy Advent. Know that God is speaking to all of us through our hunger, and that he is preparing a place within us to receive him.

Peace,

John+



**December
2021**

Sunday worship remains at 10am, in-person and virtually: All are welcome to participate, and seating capacity is now at 75. The service also continues to broadcast via Zoom, with weekly link options shared by email.

Phone: 781-233-1242

Twitter:
@StJohnsSaugus

Facebook: St. John's Episcopal Church Saugus

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Advent Prayer

In our secret yearnings we wait for your coming,
and in our grinding despair we doubt that you will.
And in this privileged place we are surrounded by witnesses
who yearn more than do we and by those who despair more
deeply than do we. Look upon your church and its pastors
in this season of hope which runs so quickly to fatigue
and this season of yearning which becomes so easily quarrelsome.
Give us the grace and the impatience to wait for your coming to
the bottom of our toes, to the edges of our finger tips. We do not want
our several worlds to end. Come in your power and come in your
weakness in any case and make all things new. Amen.

~ Walter Brueggemann

Christmas Worship

All children (and those young in heart) are welcome to join us for the Christmas Pageant which will take place on December 24th at 5 p.m. All interested persons should contact The Rev. John Beach.

You are all invited to our Christmas Eve service at 9 p.m.

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On **Thursday, December 9, 2021** at 6pm (EST), **Presiding Bishop and Primate Michael B. Curry** discusses the year ahead for The Episcopal Church. Joining him in this conversation are his Canons: The Rev. Cn. C. K. Robertson, Ph.D., Canon for Ministry Beyond The Episcopal Church, The Rev. Cn. Stephanie Spellers, Canon for Evangelism, Reconciliation and Creation Care, and The Rev. Cn. E. Mark Stevenson, Canon for Ministry Within The Episcopal Church. The conversation will be moderated by the Rev. Winnie Varghese, Rector of St. Luke’s Atlanta, Georgia. The 60-minute event will include a moderated panel discussion, followed by a Q & A session. Registration is free, but required – please register at EpiscopalChurch.org.

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Advent Quiet Day: "Make Your Home in Me": Jesus invites us to make our home in him, just as he makes his home in us (John 15:4). In a rapidly changing world, when so much that we took for granted has become unreliable or unstable, our old familiar “home” is gone. Weather is erratic; institutions we once depended on are shaky; households and communities are stressed. Is it possible to feel “at home” in the midst of a troubled world?



This online Advent Quiet Day on Saturday, Dec. 4, 9:30am-Noon, invites participants to respond to Jesus’ invitation to come home to the One who loves us utterly. This time together will include silence and guided meditation, presentations and small group conversation, and free time for solitary prayer. This joint online retreat with the Diocese of Western Massachusetts will be led by the Rev. Dr. Margaret Bullitt-Jonas. To register, contact the parish office.

Every Child Deserves to Smile



Thank you to all who have contributed to the ongoing collection of non-perishable food items and everyday needs (paper plates, napkins, plastic utensils, baggies, etc.). Your generosity is deeply appreciated by those receiving these gifts.

Donations may be left in the Every Child Deserves to Smile collection container in the vestibule. From November 1st - December 31st, we will also be collecting \$10 gift cards to Stop & Shop and Market Basket.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Sunday, November 28, 2021



As in years past, we are participating in the Saugus Fire Department's annual appeal to help make Christmas more enjoyable for families in need. Donations of gift cards (pizza, X-box, Visa, Amazon, etc.) for teens and tweens are gratefully accepted. Please note: donations must be



received by November 28th to be included in the St. John's 2021 gifts to be delivered to SFD Ret. Capt. Bill O'Malley.

If you would like to contribute items for the ECDS program or make a monetary donation toward the purchase of gift cards, kindly contact Jeanne Seaboyer 781*662*4342 or email Jeanne at [jmseaboyer\(at\)gmail\(dot\)com](mailto:jmseaboyer(at)gmail(dot)com).

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**Christmas Wreath & Poinsettia Sale ~ 2021**

**Celebrate! Deck the Halls with beautiful seasonal plants from Kane's Flower World!**

Christmas Wreaths and Poinsettia Plants ordered in the month of November will be ready for **PICK-UP on Friday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> ~ 1pm-6pm**

**Please note: The order deadline has been extended to NOON, Wednesday, Dec. 1st.**

- 6.5" Pot (contains 1 Red Poinsettia plant)     \$17
- 7.5" Pot (contains 2 Red Poinsettia plants)     \$29
- 14" Wreath with Red bow     \$29

**Order online:** [st-johns-church-saugus.square.site](http://st-johns-church-saugus.square.site) or contact the church office.

Cash, Check and MC/Visa accepted. Payment must accompany order.

Questions may be directed to Jeanne Seaboyer by contacting the church office:

**781-233-1242 - *thank you for your support!***

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Advent & Christmas Worship Opportunities

Sundays: Nov. 28th (Pledge Sunday), Dec. 5th, 12th, and 19th ~ 10am

Christmas Eve Pageant, December 24th ~ 5pm
Evening Service (w/ Choir) ~ 9pm

Sunday, Dec. 26th ~ A Festival of Carols & Lessons - 10am

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Candle & Flower Memorials for 2022

If you wish to remember a loved one or friend on a particular Sunday or holiday in the New Year, please contact Sandy St. Clair or the church office.

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Christmas Prayer List

Kindly forward your remembrance and thanksgiving names for our Christmas list to the church office no later than *Thursday, December 16th* – thank you!

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Fair & Dinner Update

The profit from our Annual Fair and Roast Beef Dinner earned over \$4,500—no small task in these still-challenging times. St. John’s remains deeply grateful to the following diligent, hands-on helpers who cooked, baked, knitted, set-up, cleaned-up, monitored fair tables, engaged visitors, received payments, and performed a host of other essential duties:

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|
| Julia Aston | Evelyn Bangs | The Rev. John Beach |
| Stephen & Nancy Belyea | Bill Bidmead | Janice Butler |
| Betty & Julie Couture | Debbie Cox | Jeannine Cutter |
| Paul Felci | Dibby LeBlanc | Elizabeth Littlehale |
| Donna Manoogian | T. J. Martin | Judy Maxwell |
| Sandy & Ray Mears | Kristin Palazzo | Bill & Janet Pothier |
| Karen Riccio | Gail Sarno | Jeanne Seaboyer |
| Laura Geary | Julie Stewart | Jane Selvitella |
| Brendan Sharwood | Bill & Sandy St. Clair | Ken Webber |
| Fritz & Diana White | Steve & Nancy White | James Duracin |
| Debbie & Christopher Rossetti | Rose Holt | Tammy & Paul |
| Myra & Max Monto | Brenda & Susan Caggiano | |

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Stewardship Mailing

Kindly notify the church office if you have not received your pledge packet for 2022.

Thank you!

Word Search

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

Advent ~ Celestial ~ Charity ~ Cranberries ~ Decorate ~ Desserts ~ Eggnog ~ Feast
 Gifts ~ Greetings ~ Holiness ~ Magi ~ Messiah ~ Nostalgia ~ Pageant ~ Rejoice
 Revered ~ Snowfall ~ Spirit ~ Togetherness ~ Wrapping

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*Have a very blessed and Merry Christmas,
 and a healthy, Happy New Year!*

Officers: The Rev. John T. Beach, Priest-in-Charge, Daniel Casey, Sr. Warden, William St. Clair, Jr. Warden, Phil Littlehale, Treasurer, Paul Felci, Assistant Treasurer, and Brenda Caggiano, Clerk of the Vestry

Vestry: Rose Holt (2022), Duana LeMay (2024), Donna Manoogian (2024), Samantha Martin (2023), Kristina Palazzo (2023), Sandy St. Clair (2022), and Kenneth Webber (2023)