

St. John's Good News

From Rev. John

Advent 2023

*Come now, let us argue it out,
says the LORD:
though your sins are like scarlet,
they shall be like snow;
though they are red like crimson,
they shall become like wool.* Isaiah 1:18

Dear Friends,

As I write these words, I am aware of the fact that we will shortly be entering the season of Advent. It is at this time when we open our hearts and our minds to the transforming power of Jesus entering the world.

Over the course of the past several weeks, some of us have been gathering together to study the book of Isaiah. Isaiah speaks to the people of Israel in the 7th Century BC. In his powerful and holy poetry, he also speaks to the people of Saugus in 2023.

Isaiah speaks to a people who are distrustful and have demonstrated anger, cruelty, and indifference towards each other. Although they were freed from the shackles of Pharaoh, they had created a different form of slavery. In his first chapter, the prophet speaks a word of courage to a contemptuous people that they might lovingly resolve their disputes in the temple.

Like the people of Jerusalem during the reign of King Uzziah, we are a people living under threat. Global warming, a dysfunctional Congress, and the seemingly unending wars in both the Middle East and Ukraine fill us with dread. We do not know our neighbors and are often estranged from our own family members.

As we enter this holy season, let us do so with the knowledge that Emmanuel (God *with* us) can both loosen the tongue and unstop our ears so that we can speak the truth in love. During this season of Advent we discover that God can bridge the huge divide which separates us and gives us the wisdom to learn from those with whom we disagree.

May this season be one of grace, healing, hope, courage and humor to all of you.

Peace,

John+



December 2023

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 link options shared by email.

Phone: 781-233-1242

Twitter:
[@StJohnsSaugus](#)

Facebook: St. John's Episcopal Church Saugus

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Lay Eucharistic Training

Early in the new year, **Lay Eucharistic Visitor Training** will be offered via Zoom on two consecutive weeknights (you must attend both): **Tuesday, Jan. 16** and **Wednesday, Jan. 17, 6:30-8:30 p.m.** - register at diomass.org. To be licensed by the bishop as a lay Eucharistic visitor, one must complete training, be up to date with Safe Church training and have signed authorization from their congregation’s clergy person. The application for licensing is online here. Contact Martha Gardner with questions or for more information.

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Lenten Quiet Day

You are welcome to join us for a Lenten quiet day on **Saturday, December 16, from 9am – 12pm**, at the Parish of the Epiphany in Winchester. Our retreat leader, Br. David Vryhof, SSJE, a brother and priest of the Society of Saint John the Evangelist in Cambridge, will lead a workshop on intimacy with God. He will pursue the question “How do we come to know and love God more intimately so that we may better serve God in the world?” If you would like attend, please contact the church office.

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Sunday Advent Worship - 10am
December: 3rd, 10th, 17th, and 24th
Christmas Eve Worship: 4:30pm & 9pm
Christmas Day: Holy Eucharist at 10am
December 31st: Lessons & Carols ~ 10am



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Pot Luck Supper

Thursday, December 7th, 6:00pm to 9:00pm
Food from 6:00pm to 7:00pm ~ Musical entertainment from 7:00pm to 9:00pm

Contact Janet Pothier with what you will bring for food. There will be pizzas for those who don’t want to bring specific type of food.

Invite friends, this is a night out for community in and outside the church.

Dan Casey, Junior Warden

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Every Child Deserves to Smile



Your heartwarming generosity allowed us to send \$70 in grocery store gift cards to the motel in time for Thanksgiving. THANK YOU!



We will continue to collect Stop & Shop and Market Basket grocery gift cards during the month of December. Donations toward the purchase of gift cards will also be gratefully accepted.

We will also be collecting the following much needed items:

- Disposable flashlights
- Microwaveable & non-perishable foods
- Tuna fish/canned meats
- Instant noodles
- Can openers
- Bottled water: gallons & single bottles
- Paper plates
- Natural fruit juices
- Disposable utensils
- Hot/cold cups

Clothing for cold weather: hats, mittens/gloves, sweaters, pants, socks - all sizes children & adults (2T-Adult)

Donations may be left in the collection baskets in the vestibule. Our next Quarterly meeting will be **Thursday December 7, 9:30am** in the Hurl Room. All are welcome to attend.

Questions may be directed to Jeanne Seaboyer.

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Community Outreach

Saugus Fire Departments Annual Drive



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. For those wishing to make a monetary contribution toward the purchase of gift cards, please contact Jeanne Seaboyer. **The final collection day will be December 3rd.**



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Candle & Flower Memorial Gifts ~ 2024

In the New Year, if you wish to remember a loved one or friend on a particular day/month with a candle or flower memorial, kindly email or call the church office.

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2024 Stewardship Ministry - Rooted In Love

The 2024 Stewardship Packages have been mailed. If you did not receive one, please let me know! There are also extra mailings on the wall rack in the back of the church.

I thank you for your enthusiastic participation with the weekly Bible Verses passed out in church as well as your notes attached to the roots of the tree poster with your thoughts about how St. John's roots you in faith.

If you haven't already done so, please return your 2024 pledge card to the church as soon as you are able so that the Finance team is able to create the 2024 Budget for St. John's.

We thank each and every one of you for your support, both financially and by volunteering your time, and for your presence in our St. John's Community!

Sincerely,
Julia Aston, 2024 Stewardship Ministry

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How are we Rooted in Love at St. John's? Stewardship Ministry 2024 Peoples' individual responses placed on the rooted tree in church.

- * St. John's is family. I enjoy coming to church every week to worship and everyone in the parish is family.
- * St. John's has been my home church since I was 9 singing in the very same choir pews as today.
God's House
- * A sense of community and family
- * The week is not complete if I do not start it with Sunday Service.
- * St. John's is a place I can go to be reminded that God needs to be in my life and shows me how He can be.
- * St. John's is a community strong in Faith and Service to Others.
- * I find it brings me closer to God and Community.
- * St. John's helps me get through day by day.
- * St. John's and the parishioners make me feel a part of a community of caring wonderful people, especially in these trying times.
- * The community coffee hour☐
- * Feels like family. Always feel welcomed.
- * St. John's is my church home and Touch Stone to God.
- * For love and support of our church Family.
- * St. John's has built up my confidence.
- * Praying together lets me know I am not alone and gives me courage.
- * Coming to St. John's each Sunday morning is my "step in the right direction" to go through the up coming week. It strengthens my faith and gives me hope.
- * To get closer to GOD and find like-minded believers. All while basking in the light of our Lord.
- * As we trust in God, he will provide us (our roots) with nourishment. The nourishment is Gods' love we just have to reach out for it.
- * Seeds of Love are sown here.
- * I come to pray and do as the Old and New Testament books instruct us. What to do and what not to do.

Contd.

- * Church provides renewed faith and support to NOURISH us. We are the new shoots from the tree, the tree is church. God sheds light on us and helps us grown. When there is an end of life, there is a heaven offering a new spiritual life.
- * St. John's is the well from which I draw my strength.
- * St. John's provides me with a sense of being included. It allows me to give to people and my community. I would miss the feeling of social connectedness if I were not able to be here. I feel Peace here.

How are How are YOU rooted in St. John's?

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Christmas Craft Fair

Saturday, December 2nd ~ 9am - 2pm

Yard sale (downstairs) ~ Tables: Vendor craft, baked goods, candy, handmade greeting cards, jewelry, sewn and knitted items, etc. ~ Gift basket raffle ~ Kids activities ~ Snack bar and more! Stop by and bring a friend!

If you would like to lend a hand for the event, we are in need of set-up, clean-up, and yard sale help, etc. Even an hour or two can make a big difference - contact Donna Manoogian or the church office. Thank you!

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Help for Fair - Bake & Candy Table

Baked goods are needed for the Christmas Craft Fair: cookies, pies, breads, cakes, etc. See Donna Manoogian if you intend to bake something. Let's set up a great bake table with tasty treats this year - *your help is very much appreciated.* And, if anyone can assist at the candy table, kindly contact Brenda Caggiano – thank you!

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From everyone at St. John's - we wish you a joyous Christmas and a very blessed New Year!

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Word Search

Can find these words associated with Christmas?

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

Angelic ~ Bethlehem ~ Carolers ~ Celestial ~ Creche ~ Divine
 Emmanuel ~ Family ~ Jesus ~ Joyful ~ Magi ~ Giving ~ Goodwill
 Manger ~ Nativity ~ Rejoice ~ Shepherd ~ Tradition ~ Tidings ~ Yule

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Officers: The Rev'd. John T. Beach, Priest-in-Charge, Brenda Caggiano, Sr. Warden, Daniel Casey, Jr., Jr. Warden, Phil Littlehale, Treasurer, Paul Felci, Assistant Treasurer, and Kristina Palazzo, Clerk of the Vestry & Sexton

Vestry: Bill Bidmead, Sr. (2026), Dibby LeBlanc (2026), Duana 'Dee' LeMay (2024), Donna Manoogian (2024), and Sandy Mears (2025).