

# St. John's Good News



December  
2024

## Advent, a time to listen....

*Give ear, O my people, to my teaching;  
incline your ears to the words of my mouth!  
I will open my mouth in a parable;  
I will utter dark sayings from of old,  
things that we have heard and known,  
that our fathers have told us.  
We will not hide them from our children,  
but tell to the coming generation  
the glorious deeds of the Lord and his might,  
and the wonders which he has wrought. ~ Psalm 78:1-4*

We are now in the season of Advent. In our churches and in our homes we light candles and tell stories. December in Saugus is a month of dark and cold days. We tell stories of people who have known darkness, but have not been consumed by it. "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it". (John 1:5)

We tell the story of a word given to Isaiah in a particularly dark chapter of the history of Israel, "speak tenderly to Jerusalem and cry to her...a voice cries out, 'In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord.'"

The story was remembered and told again by John the Baptist to those who lived in a time of political instability. We tell the story of a socially vulnerable girl who heard a word which put her in an even more precarious position. In her naiveté and terror she was able to see her life clearly and let out her revolutionary song which has been the rallying cry of oppressed peoples for two millennia.

We tell stories of hope being given to Elizabeth and Zechariah. We tell of fear struck in the heart of Herod, who sees with terrifying clarity that he is losing his grip on power and yet, clings like a drowning man.

We have heard these stories so often, that we no longer hear them. They have become like the bland, emotionally manipulative, escapist stories broadcast on television at this time of year. We hear them in much the same way we hear the insipid, banal music pumped over the public address systems of grocery stores and elevators.

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

Phone: 781-233-1242

Twitter:  
[@StJohnsSaugus](#)

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These sacred stories are about people who, in the language of the prayer book, have “grown weary of the changes and chance of this fleeting world”. They are people much like us. Some have been the victims of state sponsored oppression. Others have been ignored by those in authority. Still others are forced to watch from a distance while people they love live in danger. Like us, they have become so preoccupied with and consumed by their daily burdens that they see the darkness as normative and despair of the possibility of the advent of light.

It is to such as us that the psalmist cries out, “incline your ears to the words of my mouth!” These stories invite us to listen and hear. We hear a word of healing, hope and restoration spoken to us in this polarized country. We hear the holy cry to become generous, gentle, and caring people. The God who calls to us is the same God who empowers us.

O that today we would hearken to his voice.

John+

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**Bishop’s Post-election Letters**

Our new Presiding Bishop Sean Rowe has published a post-election letter to the Episcopal Church national website if you wish to view it. Our diocesan Bishops, The Rt. Rev. Julia Whitworth, and The Rt. Rev. Carol Gallagher have also posted a letter at Diomass.org.

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**Advent & Christmas Worship**

**The Sundays of Advent** ~ December 1st, 8th, 15th, and 22nd

**Christmas Eve - Family worship** ~ Tuesday, Dec. 24th, 4 pm

**Christmas Eve Vigil - w/ Choir** ~ 9pm

**Christmas Day (Eucharist, no music)** ~ Wednesday, Dec. 25th, 10am

**Festival of Lessons & Carols** ~ Sunday, Dec. 29th, 10am

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**Christmas Prayer List**

Please forward names (in remembrance or in thanksgiving) for the Christmas prayer list to the office no later than **Monday, December 16th**. Thank you!

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Stewardship 2025 - Walk in Love



Just a reminder to return your pledge for 2025, either by mail or on Sundays by Dec 8th. If you did not receive a pledge packet we may not have your address in our system. Please see Julia - envelopes labelled *2025 Pledge Packets* are also available in the back of the church on the wall with other handouts. Thank you for your support of St. John's - we wouldn't be here without you!

~ Julia Aston  
Stewardship

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Every Child Deserves to Smile



Thank you to everyone who donated to our November collection to provide a meal in a bag for each family. Your generosity will allow us to send 24 bags filled with all the ingredients for a meal along with a pasta boat, serving spoon and can opener.

We will be packing those bags on **Tuesday, December 3rd at 11am** in the Hurl Room. All are welcome to join in walking in love with us and feeling the joy of the season as we assemble the bags.

During December we will continue to collect grocery gift cards for the families.

Our next quarterly meeting has been postponed to **Thursday, January 2, 2025 at 9:30am** in the Hurl Room. All are welcome to attend.

Please contact Jeanne Seaboyer if you have questions or would like to make a gift card donation.

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Community Outreach – We have extended the collection date to **December 8, 2024**



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.



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**Christmas & Craft Fair**

**Saturday, December 7th ~ 9am - 2pm**

Yard sale (downstairs) ~ Tables: Craft and Vendor, baked goods, candy, handmade greeting cards, jewelry, sewn and knitted items, etc. ~ Raffle for Gift baskets ~ Kids face painting activities ~ lunch 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 difference - contact Donna Manoogian or the church office. Thank you!

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**Baked Goods & Volunteers needed for Fair**

**Baked goods are needed for our Christmas & Craft Fair:** cookies, pies, breads, cakes, etc. See Donna Manoogian if you intend to bake something or can help at a table. Let's set up another great bake table again this year - *your support is invaluable and always appreciated!!*

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**Looking Ahead...**

**Save the date!** St. John's Annual Meeting will convene **Sunday, February 2nd at 11:30am.** Your participation at this gathering is not only welcome but important; we will review finances, elect officers, vestry members, and convention delegates, as well as discuss past accomplishments and goals for the New Year. We look forward to everyone attending!

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**About the Advent Calendar**

Courtesy of The Rev. Thomas Mousin; he is an Episcopal priest, rector at St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Portland, Maine. He is also a chaplain with Hospice of Southern Maine. For this year's calendar, Rev. Thomas says, "Since the liturgical season of Advent begins on December 1st this year, the format of the calendar is like traditional 24 day Advent calendars you find elsewhere: you will find Dec. 1 in the upper left corner, but then the days are arranged randomly around the page, inviting you to find your way through Advent."

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*We wish you a joyous Christmas and a very blessed New Year!*

Word Search

Do you remember the crayons colors?  
See if you can also find a few others you may *not* know! :)

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

Apricot ~ Bordeaux ~ Carnation ~ Chestnut ~ Copper ~ Eggplant  
 Goldenrod ~ Gray ~ Maroon ~ Melon ~ Oatmeal ~ Orchid ~ Periwinkle  
 Shadow ~ Shamrock ~ Tangerine ~ Tumbleweed ~ Wisteria

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**Officers:** The Rev. 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), Rose Holt (2027), Dibby LeBlanc (2026), Donna Manoogian (2024), and Sandy Mears (2025), John Rogalski (2027).