

St. John's Good News



From Reverend Sarah...

"Because you are precious in my sight, and honored, and I love you", (Isaiah 43:4)

Dear Friends,

The month of February is known for freezing temperatures, snow, the Super Bowl and of course Valentine's Day. On Valentine's Day we give flowers, candy, cards etc., as symbols of our love and affection to the special person(s) in our life. It can be celebrated between couples, among family members and with friends. But what do you know about the origin of Valentine's Day?

Almost 2,000 years ago, 270 A.D., on February 14 Roman Emperor Claudius "the Cruel" II beheaded a Christian priest named Valentine. As with most Saints there are lots of legends surrounding Valentine's life, arrest, and execution. One legend suggests that Claudius beheaded Valentine for performing Christian wedding ceremonies and/or helping Christian families. Another legend tells of Valentine performing secret wedding ceremonies between Roman soldiers and their finances. Once married, the soldiers would refuse to leave their wives to fight in Claudius' wars. In both legends, Valentine is a champion for love even when Claudius and other rulers felt threatened by love.

So, what would St. Valentine say about how Americans celebrate Valentine's Day each year:

\$277 million spent on cards

189 million stems of roses sold

The average man spends \$130 while the average woman spends \$70

Around 9 million people will buy a Valentine's Day gift for a pet

Over 35 million heart shaped boxes of chocolate sold

Valentine's commitment to love goes much deeper than cards, candy and flowers. He knew human love, whether between spouses or among friends or family as an extension of God's love for humanity. His selfless acts as a priest ultimately led to his death. He preached and practiced God's love just as we promised to through our baptismal vows. And while it's nice to give cards, flowers and candy to our loved ones, maybe this year, in memory of St. Valentine, we can also remember to love our enemy.

Peace,

Sarah

February 2019

Winter Worship Schedule

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

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ST. JOHN'S ANNUAL MEETING SUNDAY, FEB. 3, AFTER 10AM WORSHIP.

Every year we gather as a community to review the work done in the past year and have conversations about the upcoming year. The Episcopal Church was created as a representative democracy (similar to the United States government) and requires active participation and commitment from all adult parishioners. At our Annual Meeting this year we will vote in 5 new vestry members, Diocesan delegates, accept the 2019 budget and learn about outreach projects. **The new vestry will be commissioned on Sunday, February 10 and meet with Bishop Gayle Harris after worship on Sunday, February 24!**

TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY: THE PSALMS AND SPECIAL GUEST! During the season of Epiphany the Bible Study group will read and study The Book of Psalms. This collection of 150 songs and prayers were used by Jews, and now Christians, for worship and private devotion. Spanning the centuries, the Psalms reflect the ongoing relationship between God and humans—the ups, the down and the in-betweens! Each week we will study the Psalm for Sunday as well as other Psalms we read in The Book of Common Prayer. **On Tuesday, February 5** Saugus Public School Superintendent Dr. David DeRuosi Jr. will give a presentation about the Saugus public schools as well as answer questions about the new high school, student demographics, etc.

HEALTHY STUDENTS, HEALTHY SAUGUS PACKING THIS THURSDAY AT 7PM.

This month we're packing food on February 7 at 7! Each week 53 Saugus public school students take home a bag with cereal, canned protein, canned vegetable and fruit, mac and cheese and snack bars donated and packed volunteers. This one bag makes a huge difference for students whose families are struggling with hunger or food insecurity. During the month of February St. John's is collecting jars of peanut butter (15oz) so please leave donations in the Hurl Room.

30 HOUR FAMINE IS THIS MONTH! The St. John's Youth Group will participate in the 30 Hour Famine on February 22-23, Friday at noon until Saturday at 6pm. We will meet at St. John's at 6pm on Friday for fasting, instructional games and videos and end with a fabulous feast the following day in Ashworth Hall. There are multiple ways you can donate money to support of the Famine: give donations at the Youth Group Coffee Hour on February 10, place checks with 30 Hour Famine in the memo in the Offertory Plates, or by going to 30hourfamine.org and searching for St. John's, Saugus. Please help us fight childhood hunger!

THE BISHOP IS COMING, THE BISHOP IS COMING! On Sunday, February 24 Bishop Suffragan Gayle Harris will be with us for worship, lunch and conversation. A bishop's visit is a great time for us to show off our great St. John's hospitality and all the reasons why we choose St. John's as our church home. After worship Bishop Gayle will tell us about different opportunities for partnerships with the Diocese and other churches. A potluck lunch will be shared after the 10am service so please sign up in Ashworth Hall!

DUNKIN' OFFICE HOURS WEDNESDAYS 10-NOON. Feeling chilly and in need of a hot drink and maybe a sweet treat? Then join Rev. Sarah on Wednesdays at the Dunkin' on Hamilton Street.



Valentine's Day Card & Candies Sale



Jeannine, Julia and Elizabeth will be selling Valentine cards, pops and treats after both the 8 am and 10 am services in Ashworth Hall on two Sundays—Feb 3rd and Feb 10th. **All proceeds go to the church!**

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Every Child Deserves to Smile

February collection: Non-perishable food items, snacks, pasta, sauce, large bowls, utensils, and can openers. Please bring donations to the office during regular business hours or leave them in the vestibule clearly marked "ECDS". Your generosity is greatly appreciated!

Ongoing Needs:

Everyday items: plates, napkins, paper towels, baggies, microwavable foods, toiletries, including shaving items for men

Karen Riccio will be the motel liaison December 2018 – April 2019. She can be reached at kriccio1@gmail.com.

ECDS Quarterly Meetings for 2019 are scheduled as follows: The first Thursdays of March, June, September and December, at 9:30am in St. John's Hurl Room. Our next meeting will be held March 7, 2019.

Again, we are grateful for your continued support!
~ Jeanne Seaboyer

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Looking ahead....

Lent begins Ash Wednesday ~ **March 6th**

Palm Sunday ~ **April 14th**

Easter ~ **April 21st**

WORD SEARCH

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

Amber ~ Amethyst ~ Aquamarine ~ Beige ~ Black ~ Burgundy ~ Coral
Emerald ~ Gray ~ Ivory ~ Lavender ~ Mauve ~ Navy ~ Orange ~ Pink
Plum ~ Purple ~ Scarlet ~ Taupe ~ Turquoise ~ Yellow

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**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)