

St. John's Good News



From Rev. John...

Light unto the Gentiles

Matthew's Gospel alone contains the account of the Magi coming from Persia to catch a glimpse of Jesus. Matthew was writing for a Jewish audience who were familiar with Hebrew scriptures. Throughout the Old Testament one can find instances of Gentiles who have become spokespersons for God (e.g., Ruth, Naaman, Cyrus). Faithful Jews were reminded of this frequently, particular in Exodus 22:21, *You shall not wrong or oppress a resident alien, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt.*

Mindful of the fact that the Gentiles might bring urgent messages for the Jewish people, faithful Jews were reminded that they also had an urgent message to the outside world. God said, *'It is a light thing that Thou shouldst be My servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the preserved of Israel. I will also give Thee for a light to the Gentiles, that Thou mayest be My salvation unto the end of the earth.'* (Isaiah 49:6)

On the Feast of the Epiphany (January 6th) we celebrate the fact that people strange to us may carry with them an urgent voice that we need to hear. The Magi were philosophers who were seeking truth, healing, and justice. They were seeking someone who could give meaning to their lives. This is what it means to search for wisdom. It means to be forever curious, and constantly open to the possibility that world is trying to teach you things. To be wise also means that you are likely to endure the wrath of powerful persons (such as Herod) who have a vested interest in people remaining ignorant.

When we celebrate Epiphany, we are acknowledging that Jesus came for all the world and not for one particular group of people. We celebrate the fact that our lives are inextricably linked with each other. The light of Christ coming into the world is a corrective to those power and principalities which legitimize hate and cruelty.

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**January
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 weekly link options shared by email.

Phone: 781-233-1242

Twitter:
@StJohnsSaugus

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<u>In this issue</u>	<u>Page</u>
From Rev. John , Prayer for Epiphany	1-2
Annual meeting, Stewardship update ECDS/Outreach news	3
Word Search	4

Prayer for Epiphany

There is a time to born, and it is now

By Walter Brueggemann

There is a time to be born and a time to die.

And this is a time to be born.

So we turn to you, God of our life,

God of all our years,

God of our beginning.

Our times are in your hand.

Hear us as we pray:

For those of us too much into obedience,

birth us to the freedom of the gospel.

For those of us too much into self-indulgence,

birth us to discipleship in your ministry.

For those too much into cynicism,

birth us to the innocence of the Christ child.

For those of us too much into cowardice,

birth us to the courage to stand before
principalities and powers.

For those of us too much into guilt,

birth us into forgiveness worked in your generosity.

For those of us too much into despair,

birth us into the promises you make to your people.

For those of us too much into control,

birth us into the vulnerability of the cross.

For those of us too much into victimization,

birth us into the power of Easter.

For those of us too much into fatigue,

birth us into the energy of Pentecost.

We dare pray that you will do for us and among us and through us
what is needful for newness.

Give us the power to be receptive,

To take the newness you give,

to move from womb warmth to real life.

We make this prayer not only for ourselves, but

for our school at the brink of birth,

for the church at the edge of life,

for our city waiting for newness,

for your whole creation, with which we yearn

in eager longing.

There is a time to be born, and it is now.

We sense the pangs and groans of your newness.

Come here now in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Annual Meeting

Sunday, February 5th ~ 11:30am

Parishioners are encouraged to attend this important meeting to discuss achievements for 2022 and our goals for the new year. The annual report, church financials, and the budget will also be reviewed. An election of officers, vestry, and delegates for the diocesan convention will be held, and we look forward to your participation!

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Stewardship Ministry 2023 Update

Thank you to all that have pledged financial support to St. John's for 2023. As of 12/22/22, we have received 52 pledges totaling \$87,300.00. We received three new pledges and two more people signed up for auto withdrawal of their monthly pledge. We now have just over half of our pledges coming automatically to the church bank account each month, a great benefit for the treasurer paying our monthly bills. If you have not returned your pledge card for 2023 there's still time!

Thank you for your love and financial support of St. John's as well as your gift of time for the various activities at St. John's throughout the year.

Julia Aston
Stewardship Ministry

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Every Child Deserves to Smile



THANK YOU to all who contributed to *Every Child Deserves to Smile* in December! Your generous donations allowed us to lift up our neighbors in need with 16 grocery store gift cards and 5 much needed baby strollers.

We will be holding a warm clothing drive during the month of January. All sizes of clothing are needed, infant through Adult 2XX. Please mark any donations with ECDtS or J. Seaboyer.

During the month of January, we will also be collecting snacks for a snack & fruit basket. Non-perishable food items, bottled water and juice boxes, paper goods, plastic storage containers, can-openers and microwaveable containers are always welcomed donations.

Donations may be left in the donation baskets in the vestibule. Please contact Jeanne Seaboyer if you have questions.

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Community Outreach

SFD Annual Toy & Gift Cards



Thank you for the overwhelming response to this annual drive! Your outpouring of love enabled us to provide the Saugus Fire Department with \$530 in gift certificates to ensure Saugus families experiencing a challenging period could provide a memorable Christmas for their teens & tweens. Gift cards were delivered to Ret. Capt. Bill & Carol O'Malley in early December. The O'Malley's extend their appreciation to the members of St. John's for our continued support.



Word Search

From A to Z, can you find these countries of the world?

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

Albania ~ Brazil ~ Canada ~ Denmark ~ Ethiopia ~ Fiji ~ Greece

Honduras ~ Iceland ~ Jamaica ~ Kosovo ~ Lebanon ~ Malta

Netherlands ~ Oman ~ Peru ~ Qatar ~ Romania ~ Spain ~ Thailand

Ukraine ~ Venezuela ~ Yemen ~ Zambia

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Happy New Year!

Officers: The Rev. John T. Beach, Priest-in-Charge, Brenda Caggiano and Daniel Casey, Jr., Wardens, Phil Littlehale, Treasurer, Paul Felci, Assistant Treasurer, and Kristina Palazzo, Clerk of the Vestry

Vestry: Duana 'Dee' LeMay (2024), Sandy Mears (2025), Donna Manoogian (2024), and Kenneth Webber (2023)