

St. John's Good News



July & August
2018

Summer Worship
Schedule

June thru August

**Sunday Morning
9am Rite II**

Phone: 781-233-1242

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Episcopal Church
Saugus

From Reverend Sarah...

Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, 'You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet'; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law. Romans 13:8-10

Dear Friends,

God has blessed my life in countless ways and over the past few months I have been especially aware of the blessing of wealth. Now I'm not talking in terms of having loads of money for buying fun new gadgets or expensive cars! I'm talking about the fact that I have never experienced true hunger. Growing up there was always food, healthy and unhealthy, in our pantry and in the refrigerator. As an adult my husband and I always have more than enough food in the house and money to go out for dinner every Sunday night. We may worry about money for unexpected costs but we don't worry about having enough money for food.

Surprisingly this is not true for millions of people living in the United States. The United States Department of Agriculture studies hunger in the US and divides it into three categories: food -insecure (uncertain of being able to have enough food), low food insecure (have enough food but by changing eating habits like eating less varied diets, using food stamps) and very low food insecure (one or more member of the family had to change their eating habits). According to its 2016 study the USDA reported that 4.9% of households experienced very low security, 7.4% experienced low food security, and 12.3% experienced food insecurity. Added together that is 24.6%!

This data is staggering for the richest nation in the world. These statistics include Saugus and surrounding communities. Families in Saugus don't have enough food for a variety reasons include the loss of job, high cost of housing, medical bills, etc. As Christians we are reminded by Paul in his letter to the Romans that the law requires us to **LOVE** our neighbors. When we actively love our neighbors we automatically live by the commandments handed down to Moses on Mt. Sinai.

Contd.

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God has given us the opportunity to express this love through the pilot program, *Healthy Students, Healthy Saugus*. This is a joint effort between the Saugus Faith Community and the Saugus Public Schools. Beginning in mid-September once a week bags full of healthy, non-perishable food will be provided to 50 elementary aged children (47.3% of Saugus students in this age range are considered low income). This added food will help cover the weekend for families that depend on free lunch at school. At its June meeting, the Vestry voted to participate in this program by packing bags once a month. The Saugus faith leaders and the school department continue planning so please stay tuned!

In our great nation no one should go hungry. St. John's is embodying the love of God's law by combatting hunger in our community.

Peace,

Sarah

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**SUMMER POST-CHURCH SERMON DISCUSSIONS.** During our Lenten series the group requested space to debrief sermons during coffee hour. Starting July 1 a table will be set up for those interested in discussing the sermon and/or readings. Rev. Sarah will be available to go into more detail about her sermon preparation and looks forward to hearing constructive feedback.

**HAPPY FOURTH OF JULY!** Please note the office will be closed Wednesday, July 4 and Rev. Sarah will not hold office hours at Dunkin' Donuts.

**BIBLE STUDY CONTINUES WITH PAUL AND HIS LETTER TO THE ROMANS.** Starting July 10 we will begin our study of Paul's letter starting with Romans. Romans is Paul's longest letter and offers Paul's understanding of salvation through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. If you're looking for a summer project come to Bible Study on Tuesdays, 10:30-12. On July 31 The Reverend Patrick LaFortune, Assistant Rector at Church of the Good Shepherd, Reading, will lead Bible Study while Rev. Sarah is away. **\*\*Please note:** Bible Study will be held Wednesday, July 18 (not the 17<sup>th</sup>) 12:30-200.

**OFFICE HOURS AT DUNKIN' DONUTS WEDNESDAYS 10-12.** Have you ever wondered how Jesus would have drank his coffee? Cream, sugar, maybe almond milk? Come ponder similar questions with Rev. Sarah every Wednesday (except August 1, 22, 29) at the Dunks on Hamilton Street in Saugus.

**ITS TIME TO GET ORGANIZED!** The slow summer season is the perfect time to clean and organize our church! On Thursday, July 19 from 10-2pm; please come help our Parish Administrator clean up and clean out the offices, Hurl room, copier room and any other place that needs a little TLC. A pizza lunch with a home-made dessert will be provided!

**ENJOY FOOD & FELLOWSHIP AT A ST. JOHN'S SUPPER!** At the request of the Vestry the Stewardship Ministry Team, Rev. Sarah, Julia, Kristina, Dibby and Chris, are hosting a series of dinners for time to relax and enjoy one another's company outside of Sunday morning. The dinners will also be an opportunity to begin thinking about our priorities for the 2019 budget. How does God need us to use our resources? Where do we want to invest our time, talent and treasure! The first 2 dinners will be Sunday, July 22 at 5pm and Tuesday, August 7 at 6pm. Our hope is that each person/family will attend one dinner. Please talk with Rev. Sarah with questions and don't forget to sign up in Ashworth Hall.

**SERMON CONVERSATIONS AUGUST 5: THE TRANSFIGURATION.** In lieu of a typical sermon, we will gather in small groups to discuss the Transfiguration, when Peter, James and John witnessed Jesus in all his glory, accompanied by Moses and Elijah. Recorded in the Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke, this moment reveals Jesus' divinity and his close relationship with God. In groups we will talk about the times when we felt transfigured or transformed and how God is constantly inviting us to a new life.

**REV. SARAH AWAY IN JULY AND AUGUST.** From July 31-August 4 Rev. Sarah will be out of the office in order to make up for over-time hours. From August 21-September 3, Rev. Sarah will be away on vacation. Pastoral coverage will be provided by local clergy for emergencies and Sunday worship.

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From the Sr. Warden...

Your vestry had a fulfilling and constructive retreat in Bethany House, in Arlington, on May 5th. A focus of the retreat was a part of the Priest-in-Charge process, which is setting goals. Goals not only help your vestry as we move through the Priest-in-Charge process with Rev. Sarah, but they also help us to focus on specific matters and measure our progress.

One goal we are going to focus on this year is that of stewardship. Not just stewardship of the monetary kind, but stewardship of time, ideas, participation; everything that can help bring us closer to being a greater part of our community.

A stewardship committee has been commissioned by the vestry, and they have been tasked with developing ideas to help us achieve our goal. You will be hearing more about this over the coming months.

At our June vestry meeting Rev. Sarah discussed a meeting the school superintendent had with Saugus clergy regarding helping undernourished children in the school district. In Saugus elementary schools, 47.3% of children are low income, and depend on the school system for breakfast and lunch - a startling number. The superintendent's hope is to enact a pilot program in which 50 children, who do not receive adequate nutrition at home, will receive donated bags of non-perishable food to take home on weekends. Many details are to be resolved, but the vestry passed a motion for St. John's to participate in the program. More details will follow.

Whatever your plans are for the summer, I wish you well and hope you have the opportunity to take a break and enjoy some well deserved down time.

Also, Founder's Day is Saturday, September 8th, and St. John's will again be an active participant in the festivities. We will host an art exhibit, provide ice cream, and have a booth on the street. We are seeking volunteers to help throughout the day. Please speak with Jean Seaboyer, Diana White, or myself if you can contribute some time. We also would love to have as many parishioners stop by and say "hi"!

Sincerely,
T.J. Martin

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**30 HR Famine**

An enormous THANK YOU to our fundraising team and donors who participated in gathering \$2,220 for World Vision's 30HR Famine! Students learned about global hunger and how God needs us to help. Through fasting and understanding, team members raised awareness about the effects of worldwide malnutrition and were inspired to make a difference in the world. Well done!!

**Fair Baskets**

Over the summer, please consider donations for fair baskets; the themes will be boy, girl, chef, breakfast, and Italian. Sandy St. Clair will be putting baskets out in September. Thank you!

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Yard Sale Results

Without the donations of parishioners (and family & friends), we would not have been able to achieve such success—the final tally exceeded \$1,050! A special thank you to those who helped set up tables, bring donations up from the basement, sort and organize beforehand, bringing all contributions outside on Saturday, and of course, sell items to the community: Bill Bidmead, Steve White, Keith and Max Monto, Paul Schultz, Diane Walker, Kristina Palazzo, Jeanne Seaboyer, Jane Selvitella and daughters, Jan Stevenson, Brenda Caggiano, Fritz White, TJ Martin, Bea & Bob Simmons. Finally, thank you to our Treasury Team who will verify the funds.

With sincere thanks, Donna Manoogian

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**EVERY CHILD DESERVES TO SMILE**



Our next meal date is **Sunday, July 29<sup>th</sup>, 10AM**. Share some St. John’s love by making someone’s day a little brighter and join us in the kitchen as we prepare meals to be sent to the motel. No experience necessary. Great conversation and laughter guaranteed!

We continue to collect non-perishable food items and everyday needs (paper plates, napkins, plastic utensils, baggies, etc.) Donations may be left in the *Every Child Deserves to Smile* collection container in the vestibule. If you have any questions, please contact Jeanne Seaboyer 781-662-4342 / [jmseaboyer@gmail.com](mailto:jmseaboyer@gmail.com)

**COMMUNITY OUTREACH**



In collaboration with First Congregational and New Hope Churches we will be collecting back-to-school supplies for Saugus children in need during the months of July & August.

Donations of School Supplies may be left in the Every Child Deserves to Smile collection tote found in the vestibule.



**Get the scoop at St. John’s! Do you appreciate art or enjoy a sweet September sundae?** September and Founder’s Day will be here before we know it. Sign up now to help with our annual participation in Founder’s Day as we host an art exhibit, featuring the works of talented students from the Belmonte Middle School and pass out complimentary ice cream sundaes. Rather be out in the fresh air? Sign up to man the booth on the street and show the crowd what makes St. John’s special! A sign up sheet can be found on the board in Ashworth Hall or contact Diana White, TJ Martin, or Jeanne Seaboyer.

### Word Search

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

Cookout ~ Democracy ~ Independence ~ Festivities ~ Fireworks ~ Gathering ~ Glory  
 Heritage ~ Honor ~ Ladybugs ~ Lemonade ~ Midsummer ~ Parade ~ Recreation  
 Seashore ~ Sparkler ~ Swimming ~ Thunderstorm ~ Traveling ~ Valor

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Happy 4th of July!

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 (2021) ~ Paul Felci (2020) ~ Sandy St. Clair (2019) ~ William 'Bill' St. Clair (2021) ~ Jeanne Seaboyer (2020) ~ Jenna Sharwood (2020) ~ Diana White (2021)