

St. John's Good News



From Rev. John...

Dear Friends,

Last week Bishop Gates wrote a pastoral letter (see pg. 4) to the churches in the Diocese informing us that most of the restrictions for church gathering have been lifted. We are cautiously returning to gathering as have in the past and seeing each other's faces. I acknowledge that the danger of infection has not completely passed. For this reason, we shall continue to transmit our worship on Zoom for those who feel uncomfortable (or unable) to join us in person.

There are still some precautions we are observing:

- * For the time being, we shall not be using a common cup for communion.
- * For the next several weeks, we shall refrain from shaking hands during the exchange of the peace. We shall also refrain from passing the communion plate. It is our hope that these restrictions will be lifted soon.
- * Please be aware that there are still many who are medically vulnerable or who feel uncomfortable being unmasked or in having physical contact. We ask that you respect each other's boundaries and strive to make everyone feel safe.

One old tradition we are re-commencing is gathering for coffee hour immediately after the service. I am grateful for Elizabeth Littlehale who resumed her work in coordinating this. We invite anyone who is able to contribute refreshments for future coffee hours to email her at palparis(at)verizon(dot)net or to contact the church office. We also invite those who would like to bring a folding lawn chair for the coffee hour.

My wife, Denise, and I are very much looking forward to meeting you during our fellowship time after the service.

Peace,
John+

June 2021

Sunday worship will remain at 10am through the summer, in-person and virtually: All are welcome to join us ~ the seating capacity has increased to 75 and rsvp is no longer necessary to attend church. We will continue to also broadcast worship via Zoom, sharing the weekly link options by email.

Phone: 781-233-1242

Twitter:
@StJohnsSaugus

Facebook: St. John's
Episcopal Church
Saugus

<u>Inside this issue</u>	<u>Page</u>
From Rev. John, Graduation message & prayer, Diocesan Youth Council info	1-2
ECDS update, Plant Sale Update, etc.	3
Bishop's Letter	4-5
Word Search	6

We congratulate those who are graduating this month. May know that they are surrounded by God's Love.

Paige Littlehale
Gwyneth Littlehale
Kieron Sharwood
Nicole Stewart

A Graduation Prayer

For anyone embarking on a new adventure, this prayer is for you.
For anyone witnessing a loved one transitioning to something new, this prayer is for you.
For those uncertain about the future, or where your path will take you, this prayer is for you.
For anyone who has wondered where God is calling them, this prayer is for you.

It's a season of both letting go and holding on, the season of remembering what was, and looking forward to what will be. A season forcing us to look back at where we've been, and the people and places who have shaped us.

In these days of joy and fear, remember you are not alone. Your path may seem clear, or perhaps uncertain, yet either way you walk, and even in the steps that may feel foreign or backwards, you do not go alone.

Go forth and love. Go forth in love. Remember your name: God's beloved.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

From Diomass.org

Applications began May 15 for the 2021-2022 Diocesan Youth Council (DYC). The DYC is open to young people in grades 9-12 looking to build community with other young people, engage in the work of justice and service, ask big questions about their faith and take on positions of leadership and responsibility. Help is needed to recruit young people ready to step up—or be raised up—to active ministry on the diocesan level. Questions may be directed to The Rev. H. Mark Smith at [hmsmith\(at\)diomass\(dot\)org](mailto:hmsmith@diomass.org)

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Amazon Smile

Just a reminder that if you're shopping for yourself or others online at Amazon - kindly sign in to Amazon Smile. The program donates a portion of all eligible purchases to the charity of your choice—just select St. John's and Amazon Smile will do the rest. Thank you!



Counting

Just an fyi that we will be counting on Sunday, June 27th—kindly forward any memorials, pledges, etc. to the parish office beforehand. Thank you.

Every Child Deserves to Smile



During June and July, we will be collecting fresh fruit, snack items, and single serve beverages such as fruit juice, water, lemonade, iced tea, etc. We will also continue to collect non-perishable food items, toiletries, 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\(at\)gmail\(dot\)com](mailto:jmseaboyer(at)gmail(dot)com)

Plant Sale Update

Annual Spring Mother's Day Plant Sale update: I'm pleased to report we realized a profit of \$669! Again, thanks go out to all who played a role in ensuring the success of our annual plant sale. It does take a village to make it all happen! Be sure to mark your calendar for next years sale: May 6 & 7, 2022!



Back-to-School Supplies ~ July & August 2021



As we have done for many years, we will be collecting school supplies for the children who are in need of assistance in the Saugus community. In September, donations will be forwarded to the Superintendent's office for distribution where there is known need. We will also send supplies to the motel for children served by our *Every Child Deserves to Smile* ministry. Donations may be left in the ECDS collection basket in the vestibule or by contacting Jeanne Seaboyer at 781*662*4342 or [jmseaboyer\(at\)gmail\(dot\)com](mailto:jmseaboyer(at)gmail(dot)com).

Here are several excerpts from the Bishop's letter—the entire letter is posted at Diomass.org.

Dear People of the Diocese of Massachusetts,

Changing Realities: An In-Between Time: We write to you during Ascensiontide—that period *after* the departure of the risen Christ from the company of the faithful, but *before* the descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost to fulfill Jesus' promise of a renewed, different form of companionship. It was the ultimate *in-between time*—no longer the old, but not yet the new; headed for a changed reality, but as yet full of questions about what that new reality will look like. Together we are in just such an in-between time—one which will certainly last much longer than the 10 days of liturgical Ascensiontide.

Local Decisions: Trusting One Another, Protecting One Another: For the past 14 months, clergy and lay leaders of our diocese have faithfully observed limitations on in-person gatherings, bringing together their communities through virtual worship, fellowship, and formation, while also finding concrete ways to serve neighbors in need. We thank you for your extraordinary devotion and leadership! As signs emerge rapidly that many restrictions are no longer needed for those who are fully vaccinated, we feel it is time to entrust local leaders with wider latitude to make most decisions about the pace and scope of regathering, knowing that you will monitor guidance from civic authorities in your own communities, and adjust your practices accordingly. WBUR provides a helpful site for monitoring conditions by town, available at wbur.org.

In all instances, clergy and vestries who conclude that practices which are more restrictive than those that follow are best in their local context will have our fullest support.

Worship

Effective immediately, and until June 30, **indoor in-person worship should be limited to 60% of building capacity.** This six-week phase allows for continued expansion of vaccination rates, and the observation of any consequences following swift re-openings in other contexts. Capacity restrictions will be fully lifted July 1, unless statistics warrant a revision to this plan.

We urge you to continue to observe **physical distancing between households** in order to protect those who are not yet fully vaccinated. Per CDC guidelines, **those who are not yet vaccinated should continue wearing a face covering and maintain physical distance.** We encourage all worshipers to maintain these precautions in order to protect one another.

Outdoor services are strongly encouraged; no attendance limits are prescribed for such worship.

At the Passing of the Peace, physical contact is discouraged. A slight bow or a hand to the heart remains the safer option.

In the **sharing of Holy Eucharist,** please use wafers for the distribution of Communion in one kind only. Refrain from using the common cup; individually pre-packaged wine may be used, if desired. While we hope for a future revision of these restrictions, they remain in effect until further notice.

Indoor singing by *fully vaccinated people wearing masks* has been deemed by the CDC to be a safe activity. Accordingly, singing may be permitted by those fulfilling these conditions. Outdoor singing is permitted. Continued physical distancing, indoors and out, is important for anyone singing.

We hope that congregations will **continue to offer virtual opportunities** to gather, even when in-person worship and formation resume. This is not only to protect those who are not yet fully vaccinated, but also to benefit from our experience of the past year in reaching a broader circle through online worship and fellowship.

Vaccinations

We **continue to urge vaccination** against the coronavirus for all our members as soon as they are eligible.

We reiterate, however, that our congregations **must not require vaccination, nor documentation thereof, for attendance at worship services.**

It is within the authority of the rector or priest-in-charge, in consultation with the wardens, to require vaccination (or a medical exemption) of **church staff, musicians/choristers, and volunteer leaders** of Christian formation (especially with children) and other programs. For the protection of those most vulnerable, we strongly encourage you to do so.

Fellowship and Pastoral Care

Coffee hour and other events with food and drinks may resume. We ask that you plan carefully about how food and drinks are served. Individually wrapped foods and designated servers, as opposed to potlucks or buffets, are a safer option.

Continue to exercise caution when making **in-person pastoral visits**. Brief visits with minimal physical proximity are safer, especially for those who are most vulnerable due to illness or age.

As we continue to live through this in-between time together, we are enormously proud and grateful for your own adaptive, creative, and committed ministry during these challenging months. May the Spirit descend upon you and your congregations anew to fill you with God's grace and strength!

Faithfully,

The Rt. Rev. Alan M. Gates, Bishop Diocesan
The Rt. Rev. Gayle E. Harris, Bishop Suffragan

~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

WORD SEARCH

Can you find these words associated with summer?

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

Basking ~ Campfire ~ Cloudburst ~ Cruise ~ Daisies ~ Grill ~ Ladybug
 Muggy ~ Outings ~ Picnicking ~ Rainbow ~ Sunscreen ~ Sweltering
 Swimming ~ Stargaze ~ Tanned ~ Volleyball ~ Visitors

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Officers: The Rev. John T. Beach, Priest-in-Charge, Daniel Casey, Sr. Warden, William St. Clair, Jr. Warden, Phil Littlehale, Treasurer, Paul Felci, Assistant Treasurer, Brenda Caggiano, Clerk of the Vestry

Vestry: Rose Holt (2022), Duana LeMay (2024), Donna Manoogian (2024), Samantha Martin (2023), Kristina Palazzo (2023), Sandy St. Clair (2022), Kenneth Webber (2023)