

St. John's Good News



From Rev. John...

Dear Friends,

As we continue our Lenten journey this year, we are given hope in the falling Covid infection rate. Though we will not be gathering in person in the church until after Easter, we are intending to have a sunrise service on Easter morning in the church garden. You are warmly invited to join me at 6 a.m. that morning, it will be a joy to celebrate with you.

We will also be celebrating our 10 a.m. Eucharist via Zoom.

Peace,

John+

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Bishops invite church-wide commemoration of Bishop Barbara C. Harris

It has been nearly a year since the passing of Bishop Harris. Our diocesan bishops are inviting individuals and congregations as well as the National Church to remember her in prayers and liturgies. Please see the announcement at www.diomass.org.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Archbishop Welby Presentation

There is a five part presentation by Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury on Exploring Prayer. You are all welcome to participate. Kindly visit the following link:
<https://www.archbishopofcanterbury.org/exploring-prayer>

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

March 2021

**Sunday at 10am,
online at Zoom**

All are welcome to join in virtual worship. Please contact the office for more information.

Our weekly service bulletins are posted at www.StJohnsSaugus.org

Phone: 781-233-1242

Twitter:
[@StJohnsSaugus](https://twitter.com/StJohnsSaugus)

Facebook: St. John's Episcopal Church Saugus

Inside this issue Page

From Rev. John, Bp. Barbara Harris remembrance, Arch. Welby presentation, Absalom Jones	1-2
ECDS & Outreach, Mask sale, Easter list, etc.	3
Word Search	4



On February 13th, the Episcopal church celebrated the Feast of Absalom Jones, The First African American Priest of the Episcopal Church. Founder of The African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas 1746-1818.

The life and legacy of The Reverend Absalom Jones is a testament to the resilience of the human spirit, his faith, and his commitment to the causes of freedom, justice and self-determination.

Absalom Jones was born into slavery in Sussex County, Delaware on November 6, 1746. During the 72 years of his life, he grew to become one of the foremost leaders among persons of African descent during the post-revolutionary period. In his younger years in Delaware, Absalom sought help to learn to read. When he was 16, his owner Benjamin Wynkoop brought him to Philadelphia where he served as a clerk and handyman in a retail store. He was able to work for himself in the evenings and keep his earnings. He also briefly attended a school run by the Quakers where he learned mathematics and handwriting. In 1770, he married Mary Thomas and purchased her freedom. It was until 1784 that he obtained his own freedom through manumission. He also owned several properties.

During this period, he met Richard Allen, who became a life-long friend. In 1787 they organized the Free African Society as a social, political and humanitarian organization helping widows and orphans and assisting in sick relief and burial expenses. Jones and Allen were also lay preachers at St. George's Methodist Episcopal Church, Philadelphia, PA where their evangelistic efforts met with great success and their congregation multiplied ten-fold. As a result, racial tensions flared and ultimately they led an historic walk out from St. George's.

In 1792, under the dual leadership of Absalom Jones and Richard Allen, "The African Church" was organized as a direct outgrowth of the Free African Society. Both Jones and Allen wished to affiliate with the Methodists, but the majority of the congregation favored the Episcopal Church. Richard Allen withdrew with a part of the congregation to found Bethel Church (later, Mother Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church). The African Church became The African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas with Absalom Jones as its Lay Reader and Deacon. In 1802, Jones was ordained by Bishop William White as the first African American Episcopal Priest. During the severe yellow fever epidemic of 1793, Absalom Jones and Richard Allen mobilized the Black community to care for the afflicted. In 1797 and 1799 Absalom Jones, with other free Africans, presented tenable petitions to Congress and to the President of the United States opposing slavery. Two schools and supportive services for the Black community developed under his leadership. In 1797, when the first African Masonic Lodge of Philadelphia was warranted, Absalom Jones was installed as First Worshipful Master and in 1815 he was elected the First Grand Master of the First African Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania.

From: [aecst\(dot\)org](http://aecst(dot)org) ~ *The African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas website*

Every Child Deserves to Smile



Many thanks everyone who donated toiletries! We filled a large box full of personal items for the guests. A thank you also goes out to Mark Gianatassio, DMD, who added to our collection with toothbrushes & floss. Everyone's generosity is very much appreciated!

During the month of March, we will be putting together a snack and fruit basket complete with some sweet treats for Easter. Donations are gratefully accepted and may be left at the church or by calling or emailing Jeanne.

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 or jmseaboyer(at)gmail.com.

Community Outreach

100 Hats has been an amazing success! Thank you to all who have contributed thus far! As of January 31st we had 99 hats, along with an assortment of gloves and scarfs donated. To date we have distributed all of the adult sizes and approximately half of the child sizes to *Every Child Deserves to Smile* and Bread of Life. We will continue to collect warm items and distribute them as needed. Adult sizes are especially needed.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

St. John's Online Site

Handmade cloth face masks are still available to purchase at our site: st-johns-church-saugus.square.site. They are well-made, affordable, colorful, and a comfortable fit! The cost is \$8.00 per mask; we offer quick delivery, and you may pay online with a credit or debit card. Our thanks to Betty Couture for her generous gifts of both time and skill in creating them!

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Looking ahead....

Easter memorials: Easter is April 4th—please forward your remembrances/thanksgivings for the special prayer list no later than **Friday, March 26th**. Thank you!

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Lobster Roll Sale

Mark your calendars: our next lobster roll sale is **Friday, April 23rd**. Details to be announced!

WORD SEARCH

Can you find these cities and towns in Ireland?

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

Ballina ~ Cork ~ Cloyne ~ Dublin ~ Edenderry ~ Foxford ~ Galway ~ Kennare
 Killarney ~ Limerick ~ Longford ~ Menlough ~ Newport ~ Tipperary ~ Tullamore
 Sligo ~ Shannon ~ Waterford ~ Wicklow



Officers: The Rev. John T. Beach, Priest-in-Charge ~ Daniel Casey, Sr. Warden ~ William St. Clair, Jr. Warden ~ Phil Littlehale, Treasurer ~ Paul Felci, Asst. 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)