

St. John's Good News



From Reverend Sarah...

Dear Friends,

"This is my commandment, that you love another as I have loved you." (John 15:12)

As a good Jew, Jesus lived by the 10 Commandments which he distilled into the "love" commandment. In this part of the gospel Jesus is preparing his disciples for his departure. The core of this preparation is Jesus' commandment that his disciples love one another, just as he has loved them. Here Jesus is not referring to the love shared between families or friends. Jesus commands his disciples to practice *agape* love—to love universally and unconditionally. This type of love transcends all boundaries as we love the stranger and even the enemy in our midst.

In giving this commandment Jesus speaks not only to the "original" disciples but to generations of followers who were moved by his message. On All Saints' Sunday we will celebrate the many men and women who embodied *agape* love in their commitment to serving Christ in their own context. As the hymn "*I Sing a Song of the Saints of God*" says: one was a soldier, one was a priest and one was slain by a fierce wild beast.

However, if we believe that only saints can love universally and unconditionally we remain blind to the limitless nature of God. My paternal grandfather was what you might call a "secular" saint. Pop-pop was a Marine in the Pacific Arena during World War II. Like many men of his generation serving in the military was how you served your country. It wasn't a choice you made, rather a call that you answered. Answering that call led my grandfather to islands in the Pacific Ocean where he trained for a land invasion of Japan. At the same time, answering that call eventually led my grandfather to a college education through the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944, also known as the G.I. Bill. Without this Bill my grandfather would have returned to life as a farmer in northern Ohio where his family had lived for generations. Instead he received a bachelor's and later a master's degree from Notre Dame University in metallurgy. During his career he secured several patents for different steel alloys and received a Presidential medal for his contributions to science.

Contd.

November 2018

Fall Worship Schedule

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

Phone: 781-233-1242

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From his time serving his country in the military and then as a scientist my grandfather knew the importance of education and committed his life to providing educational opportunities for the men and women of rural Tennessee. While he wouldn't use the language "Christian service," he was serving Christ, loving his neighbors, by tutoring adults trying to get their GED, funding scholarships at local community colleges and providing special science classes at high schools. For so many he turned dreams into realities, lifting individuals and families out of the cycle of poverty and isolation.

Christian service is built on Jesus' commandment to love one another—to love the other person as much as you love yourself. As my grandfather shows, we must love one another out in the real world where the need for love is often greater. At St. John's we offer multiple ways to serve Christ—Bible Study, Stewardship Ministry Team, Altar Guild, Vestry, Church School, etc.

So as we move through the busy month of November and approach Advent, how and where are you serving Jesus Christ? How and where are you loving your neighbors?

Peace,
Sarah

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### **NOVEMBER EVENTS**

**HEALTHY STUDENTS, HEALTHY SAUGUS BAG PACKING THURSDAY, 11/1, 7PM.** The Saugus school system and the faith communities have come together to provide nutritious food to children who go hungry over the weekend. Thus far 54 students are signed up to receive food bags every Friday which are packed on Thursday nights at various churches in Saugus. St. John's agreed to host bag packing on the first Thursdays every month so our first night is November 1 at 7. The packing takes about 30 minutes and is open to the entire community. Please speak with Rev. Sarah if you are able to help out and/or if you are able to provide snacks for volunteers.

**DIOMASS ANNUAL CONVENTION SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 3.** Each year diocesan clergy and lay leaders gather to approve the annual budget, vote on proposed resolutions and learn more about our shared life as the Episcopal Church in eastern Massachusetts. This year 5 resolutions will be proposed: addressing the Opioid crisis, using fair trade coffee at church events, protecting transgender rights, re-committing to protecting the environment and supporting the Episcopal Church's stance on open immigration. Diocesan Bishop Alan will offer his annual Convention Address during the morning Eucharist. Let us continue to prayer for our church and its leaders.

**BUSY SUNDAY ON NOVEMBER 4!** On *All Saints Sunday* we celebrate all the men and women who faithfully served God in all times and in all places. Some saints were famous for their work and some quietly served God but they were all saints in God eyes! At the 10am we will welcome new saint, *Paul Schultz, through the sacrament of baptism!* Lastly as we give thanks at the *Eucharist we will bless all the 2019 pledge cards* and give thanks for your generosity!

**STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY TEAM STILL COLLECTING PLEDGE CARDS!** Thank you to all who have already sent in their pledge cards for 2019! This year's theme, "*Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.*" (I Peter 4:10) invites all of us to consider how we give back to God and to our church family. Please send in your pledge soon that the Treasury Team has accurate income numbers as they put together next year's budget. We are well on our way to reaching the goal of \$84,000 (\$3,000 increase from last year's pledge income). To date we have received \$36,340!

**VETERAN'S DAY CELEBRATION ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 11.** In observance of Veteran's Day, all veterans and their families are invited to bring any items or memorabilia to share with the parish during the coffee hours. Over the past 2 centuries the American military has protected citizens both at home and abroad. Telling and hearing the stories of veterans is an important civic duty of all Americans so please help us honor our veterans!

**WELCOME SPECIAL GUESTS: THE REV. CANON JEAN-BAPTISTE NTEGWANGA AND THE REV. CANON MARTHA HUBBARD!** On Sunday, November 11 Rev. Canon Jean-Baptist and Rev. Canon Martha will join us for worship and then the Vestry meeting. Rev. Martha is our new Regional Canon in charge of working with clergy and parishes during times of transitions. She will be our guide through the Priest-in-Charge process as we think and pray together about the future of St. John's. **ALSO, IT'S HOT DOG SUNDAY!!**

**MIDDLE SCHOOL RETREAT FRIDAY, 11/16-SUNDAY, 11/18.** Each year the Office of Youth Ministry of the Diocese of Massachusetts offers a weekend retreat for youth in grades 6-8<sup>th</sup> at the Barbara C. Harris Camp and Conference Center in New Hampshire. The weekend will include small group workshops, fun games, active and thoughtful worship, a LIVE band, and holy time for attentiveness to the presence of God in our lives and in each other. Car(s) will leave St. John's around 3pm on Friday and return around 3pm on Sunday. The total cost of the retreat is \$140 per youth but scholarships are available. Please see Rev. Sarah ASAP if you have a youth that would like to attend and/or if you are interested in being a chaperone.

**PLANNING FOR ADVENT WORSHIP SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 18.** After the 10am service join Rev. Sarah to plan worship for the 4 Sundays in Advent as well as Christmas Eve. Although Advent is a short liturgical season it is full of rich images, music, prayers etc. If you have ideas/questions/concerns about our worship this is the time and place to speak up!

**BIBLE STUDY CONTINUES WITH FIRST CORINTHIANS-NO MEETING ON 11/20!** The devoted Bible Study group is reading and enjoying Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians. Although Paul's writing is not always easy to read his words still speak to our church today on topics like boasting, divisions, arrogance and sin. Please note: there will be no Bible Study on the Tuesday before Thanksgiving, November 20.

**DUNKIN DONUTS—GREAT COFFE AND GREAT COMPANY!** Are you exhausted by this fast-paced world we live in? Do you need a place to sit and sip a hot drink on a cold day? Then come to Dunks on Hamilton Street on Wednesdays, 10-12, to hang out with Rev. Sarah! And bring a friend or two!

### Every Child Deserves to Smile

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

### Community Outreach



As in years past, we are participating in the Saugus Fire Department's annual appeal to help make Christmas more enjoyable for families in need. Donations of winter hats & glove, ball caps, sweatshirts, and gift cards (pizza, movies, Amazon, etc.) for teens and tweens gratefully accepted. For those wishing to make a monetary contribution toward the purchase gift cards, envelopes may be found in the pews. For questions or further information, please contact Jeanne Seaboyer at 781-662-4342/jmseaboyer@gmail.com.



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The Fair!

We did it! Proceeds from the fair are over \$5,300! Thank heavens the weather cooperated enough. Many thanks to everyone for their help with set-up, table monitoring, clean-up, and everything in between...a stellar effort!

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### The Dinner!

Once again our annual Roast Beef dinner was a huge success. We served close to 100 dinners with the help of our chef, waiters, cashier, room captains, and clean-up crew. Special thanks to the members of the following families: White, Schulze, Bidmead, Geary, Martin, Seaboyer, Sharwood, Monto, Littlehale, Pothier, Line, Gibbs, Coogan, and Manoogian and to all the wonderful pie makers. The cost of all the food was very generously donated by parishioners, making the profit approximately \$1,300.

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* High Five to our Volunteers *

And speaking of help, we cannot overemphasize the blessing of support from parishioners and friends for our events. From ECDS meals to plant and yard sales to fairs and roast beef dinners, St. John's diligent and helpful hands make all the difference in the outreach and growth of this parish. **THANK YOU SO MUCH!**

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**Reminder: don't forget to adjust your clocks for Daylight Saving on Nov. 4th!**

*A very Blessed and Happy Thanksgiving to you all!*



WORD SEARCH

P X S K R A K E O N I D B O U N T Y  
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Bounty ~ Chill ~ Cornucopia ~ Cranberry ~ Election ~ Family ~ Feast ~ Football  
 Gourd ~ Gravy ~ Harvesting ~ Hockey ~ Pie ~ Rake ~ Saint ~ Squirrels  
 Thankfulness ~ Veneration ~ Veterans

**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)