

St. John's Good News

I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. (Isaiah 43:19)



Dear Friends,

Greetings from your new Priest-In-Charge! After many conversations with Diocesan leadership, your Wardens and your Vestry I am excited to serve with you at St. John's and the wider community. Over the next three years we will work together to discern who God is calling us to be and how we are to serve our neighbors. It will be a process of patient listening to the stories of St. John's past, present and future.

As with the arrival of any new priest, there will be a period of adjustment as we get to know one another. Meeting with parish leaders I know that adjusting to a part-time priest will be a challenge. Having a full-time priest does offer a sense of comfort but I assure you that I will always be available for emergencies. Providing pastoral care and liturgical support for sudden illnesses, personal crises and deaths will always be my priority whether it is a work day or not.

On my first Sunday, October 8, I will share more about myself. For now I'd like to share a list of "What Priests and Ministers Want You to Know" that I have found helpful for my previous parishes.

What Priests and Ministers Want You to Know:

- 1. Your minister has a personal life.** Just like regular people, life can be joyous and overwhelming. And we often are not able to share that with parishioners. A quote I saw on a bumper sticker said, "Be kind, because everyone you meet is fighting a hard battle." Yes, indeed.
- 2. Sundays are long days for us.** We are on from the time we step into the church until the last person leaves. We are responsible for the liturgy, the sermon, etc...People tell us things, from random comments about the football game to significant news about their lives. We often are teaching a class, as well. A retired priest I knew said every hour clergy work on Sundays is the equivalent of working 2.5 hours any other day.

Cont'd

October 2017

Fall Worship
Schedule
(Begins Sept. 10th)

Sunday Morning
8am Rite I
10am Rite II

Phone: 781-233-1242

Twitter:
[@StJohnsSaugus](#)

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St. John's Episcopal
Church Saugus

Inside this issue	Page
From the Priest-in-Charge	1-2
From the Sr. Warden, Fair Update	2-3
ECDS, and Roast Beef Dinner	4
Word Search	5

- 3. Clergy have to flip switches in ways that are not good.** Every priest/minister I know has many stories of going from a parishioner's hospital room where the family has gathered to say goodbye to a finance committee meeting. It is the nature of what we do.
- 4. We miss the parishioners we bury.** Just because we're preaching the sermon and celebrating the liturgy like we're totally together doesn't mean we aren't crying on the inside. Clergy do not live with the people they serve and not grieve when those beloved people die.
- 5. We are not particularly good at disappointment.** Just a note - this is not good. We cannot do everything we want to do. We only have a certain amount of energy, which means we, like the rest of the humanity, have to make choices about where and how our energy can be shared. This will always mean something that someone really, really wants to see done in the church will not be done. And we hate that, but there you go.
- 6. Life happens at the church every day of the week.** A few things that happen when the flock is not at the church: planning liturgies, writing sermons, taking phone calls, meeting with people who need to be heard, visiting those who are sick, working with community groups, etc... Which also means it's a good idea to call first to see if we are free before you drop in for a chat.
- 7. We attend a lot of meetings.** An average clergy person 5 meetings a week which takes up both time and energy. Some meetings involve the parish and some involve the Diocese but both require hours of communication and preparation. Also, most of the meetings take place in the evening which means we can't share dinner with family and we don't end the day until 8-9pm.
- 8. Church life is often feast or famine.** Just like regular life, life in the church either seems to run at 100 mph or quite slow. We really love what we do, but need down time to re-energize and reflect.
- 9. We don't remember what you tell us on Sunday.** Please, email us or write it down.
- 10. We make mistakes.** Yes, indeed. Forgive us when we do. Love us anyway.

Peace,
Sarah

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### From the Sr. Warden...

Happy Fall!!

I would like to extend a warm welcome to our new priest-in-charge, Rev. Sarah van Gulden! Rev. Sarah joins us October 3rd, and her first Sunday with us will be October 8<sup>th</sup>. I know, this is Columbus Day weekend and many folks already have plans, but if you would like to introduce yourself to Rev Sarah, she will be in the office at St. John's October 4<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM. I am confident she will be a wonderful spiritual guide, and help us discern our place in the local community.

As we enter fall it is time to start thinking about planning for next year; this includes pledges and upcoming vestry positions. While we have not had a formal stewardship campaign this year, we still need to keep the lights on and the building warm in



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the coming months. In the next few weeks, you will receive an annual pledge packet and, if you can make a pledge, we kindly ask that you try to return the information to the office by the first Sunday of November. The pledge information is important in preparing next year's budget.



There will be several open vestry positions in the New Year. Being on vestry is an opportunity to have a deeper role in the life of St. John's. If you think you may be interested in serving on the vestry, do not hesitate to speak with myself or any of the vestry.

With warm regards,  
T.J. Martin

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### Pie Social & Annual Fair

**Pie Social and Fair Kickoff: Friday, Oct. 20<sup>th</sup> at 6pm**

**Annual Fair: Saturday, Oct. 21<sup>st</sup> begins at 9am**

**Crafts ~ Baked Goods ~ Cookout (weather permitting) ~ Homemade Candy**

**Knit Table ~ Jewelry ~ Silent Auction ~ Bid Board ~ and much more!**

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### Volunteers for the Fair...

**\* Pies for the Social:** Got pie-making skills? Pumpkin, Apple, Blueberry, Chocolate Cream, Lemon Meringue, or whatever you're good at—the Social is our fair kickoff gathering and all contributions are *greatly* appreciated!

**\* Fair Baskets:** The fair is just around the corner and we are still looking for new items for the fair baskets. Kindly offer your clever donations for the girls, boys, Christmas, Italian and recreation baskets.

Contributions are also welcome for Silent Auction Table: new, quality used, collectable or antique items. Please bring them to the parish office during regular business hours or on Sunday after worship. Many thanks to those who have already donated!

**\* Table Monitors Needed:** Even for just two hours, your participation would mean so much to the success of our annual fair. Please email or call the office if you can lend a hand. Thank you!!

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Every Child Deserves to Smile



During the month of October we are collecting paper towels, paper plates, plastic utensils, microwaveable meals, granola bars and snacks. Also in need are travel-sized shampoo, soap, lotion, lip balm, deodorant, toothbrushes, toothpaste and emergency rain ponchos. Donations may be left in the Every Child Deserves to Smile collection container in the vestibule.

The next meal will be Sunday, October 1st at 3PM in the kitchen. If you would like to volunteer to help prepare or deliver the meal, please contact Jeanne Seaboyer 781-662-4342 or jmseaboyer@gmail.com.

GIVING BACK TO THE SAUGUS COMMUNITY:

Founder’s Day, September 9, 2017—Many thanks to all who volunteered and made Founder’s Day a delightful event! The day was filled with good fun and fellowship as we passed out ice cream sundaes, hosted the first of what we hope is an annual art exhibit featuring the talents of the Belmonte Middle School Students, and greeted friends, old and new, at the booth on the street. Thank you Sandy St. Clair, Diana, Fritz & Nick White, Nancy & Steve White, Nancy & Steve Belyea, Jane Selvitella, Evelyn Bangs, T.J. Martin, Ray & Sandy Mears, Linda Graves, Jenna, Olly, Kieron, Rowan and Brendan Sharwood, Karen Riccio, Tyler Seaboyer and Bill Bidmead.



During the ice cream give away, our guests were given the opportunity to contribute to two causes—The Saugus Food Pantry to purchase Thanksgiving turkeys and the Red Cross to help victims of Hurricanes Harvey and Irma. A donation of \$200 will be sent to the Saugus Food Pantry and a donation of \$328 will be sent to the Red Cross. Community spirit thrives in Saugus!

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## Roast Beef Dinner

This year our annual roast beef dinner will be held on Saturday, November 11th.  
Details are as follows:

One Serving—Limited Seating

Adults: \$12 ~ Children 12 & Under: \$6 ~ Children 6 and Under: Free

Served Family Style: Roast Beef, Roasted Red Potatoes, Green Beans Almondine Salad, Roll, Beverage, and Homemade Pie

**Please contact parish office to RSVP: 781-233-1242**

# Word Search

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BROOMSTICK ~ CHRYSANTHEMUM ~ COBWEB ~ COSTUME ~ EQUINOX  
 FALL ~ GOODIES ~ GOURDS ~ GNOME ~ HAUNTS ~ HARVESTED ~ HOWL  
 MOONLIGHT ~ PARTY ~ PHANTOM ~ PUMPKINS ~ RAKING ~ SPOOKY  
 SQUASH ~ TREATS

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Officers: The Rev. 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: Nancy Belyea (2019) ~ Alison Coppola (2018) ~ Armand Couture (2018) ~ Paul Felci (2020) ~ Sandy St. Clair (2019) ~ Jeanne Seaboyer (2020) ~ Jenna Sharwood (2020) ~ Nick White (2018)