

# St. John's Good News

Dear Friends,

Greetings. I am writing at the tail end of my second bout with Covid. Although the second time around is less severe, it does serve as a reminder that the pandemic is not totally behind us. I am grateful for the words of encouragement and support you have extended me during this time.

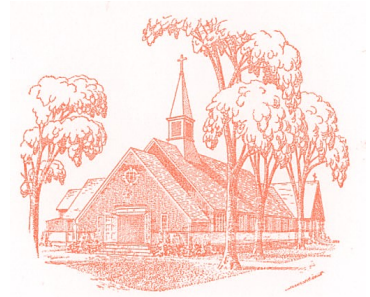
Among the things I have been contemplating while biking across the country this summer, is how we can make our worship at St. John's more meaningful and welcoming. The collect taken from our Book of Common Prayer for Proper 28 offers thanksgiving for scripture;

*Blessed, Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have give us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.*

Scripture is central to all Episcopal worship. We have included four passages of scripture in every Eucharist; Old Testament, Psalm, Epistle, and Gospel. Sometimes there is a theme linking these passages, often there is not. Including such diverse passages in every liturgy makes it hard to focus on anyone of them. It is particularly difficult to compose a sermon which contains reference to all the passages, demonstrates their relevance to our contemporary context, and can be given in less than 12 minutes. Often, each passage of scripture contains disturbing pronouncements which demands a comment and exploration. My choice, as a preacher, is between preaching 40 minute sermons or ignore some challenging scriptural reference. Neither of these options gives Glory to God, edifies the mind, or furthers the Kingdom in this place very effectively.

I have decided that for a season, starting in October, we will focus on only one passage plus the psalm. This will be embracing a practice common to the Presbyterian, Baptist, and Pentecostal traditions. This will provide us with the opportunity to focus on a particular passage in greater depth. For the month of October, we will continue to read passages from Matthew's Gospel. When, in December, we enter the new liturgical year, we will focus on Mark's Gospel. In January we will shift and focus on St. Paul's first Epistle to the Corinthians. During this time, I would like to provide opportunity for members of the congregation to express what

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## October 2023

**Sunday worship remains at 10am, in-person and virtually: All are welcome to participate, and seating capacity is now at 75. The service also continues to broadcast via Zoom, with link options shared by email.**

Phone: 781-233-1242

Twitter:  
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makes worship meaningful to them and how we can be more welcoming to the stranger who has never experienced our liturgy.

I am looking forward to this interesting experience, and I am eager to hear your response.

Peace,

*John+*

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**Diocesan Convention Information**

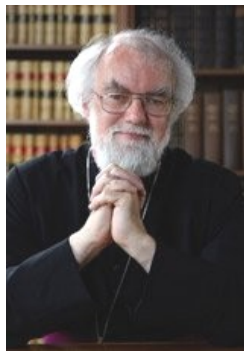
There are two upcoming diocesan Zoom gatherings to which all lay persons are warmly welcomed. The first, to be held on Thursday, October 5<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm and October 6<sup>th</sup> at 2 pm (two meetings covering the same content). This will be to discuss the agenda for upcoming Diocesan Convention.

The second meeting is an open meeting to listen to thoughts in the Diocese concerning the appointment of our next Diocesan Bishop. This will be held October 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30 p.m. To register for any of these gatherings, please contact the Church office.

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***Dr. Rowan Williams***  
***November 4th, 10am***

**THE LEARNING CHURCH: THEOLOGY AND CHRISTIAN MATURITY**



We are thrilled to be hosting Dr. Rowan Williams, former Archbishop of Canterbury and one of the world’s most prominent theologians, for an event which promises to enrich our lives and church communities. Dr. Williams will be speaking on ‘The Learning Church: Theology and Christian Maturity.’

The event will be hosted at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul from 9:30am to 2:30pm, with Dr. Williams’ speaking at 10:00am, and being available for questions and discussion until noon. He will join us virtually from his home in Wales. Those unable to attend in person can attend Dr. Williams' talk and Q&A online (the afternoon events are in-person only).

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The structure of the day will be as follows:

- 9.30am those attending in person arrive and register
- 10am Dr. Williams' presentation
- 10.45am break
- 11am discussion/Q&A session with Dr. Williams
- 12noon online presentation ends; day continues, for those attending in person, with Holy Eucharist
- 12.45 a light lunch will be offered
- 1.30pm afternoon workshop: 'Taking this home to your congregation'
- 2.30pm end

To register, please contact the Church Office.

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**Indigenous Peoples' Day Gathering—Monday, Oct. 9th**

**All Saints Church, Worcester, MA**

Conversation, lunch, and special service of lament and commitment

Visit [diomass.org](http://diomass.org) for more details.

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**Saugus Welcomes Is looking for some help!**

In December 2021, the Saugus community welcomed an Afghan refugee family. The father of the family had been employed by the U.S. government in Kabul; however, the fall of the Afghan government and takeover by the Taliban put the family in jeopardy. Our government evacuated them in the massive airlift in August 2021. They left everything behind, arriving with only what they could bring in a few suitcases. The family of parents and six children is currently being housed by the East Saugus United Methodist Church. Saugus Welcomes, a multi-denominational, volunteer group, is assisting them to resettle in our community. The family spoke almost no English when they arrived.

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Members of Saugus Welcomes are providing English lessons, transportation for medical visits and grocery shopping, and other similar assistance. The four school aged children love school and are doing well as they quickly learn English. Their father works full time at Target. The federal refugee benefits provided for the first year after resettlement expired at the end of 2022. The family relies on the father’s wages, food stamps, and some state aid to pay for rent, food, clothing, and necessities. This assistance is insufficient to support a family of eight in Saugus. Saugus Welcomes asks for your financial support to help our neighbors as they integrate into American life and become self-sustaining, contributing members of our community. Funds raised will go toward rent, utilities, food, and other necessities of life. Donations can be made by check payable to the East Saugus United Methodist Church, with “Afghan Fund” noted on the memo line, and mailed to the church at 85 Chestnut Street, Saugus MA 01906 or via Paypal at paypal.me/eastsaugusumc or @eastsaugusumc and note “Afghan Fund” in the message. If you would like to learn more about this effort, please contact Pastor Pat Oduor at Patriciaoduor(at)hotmail.com.

*For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink. I was a stranger and you welcomed me. (Matthew 25:35)*

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**Events this month and looking ahead...**

**The Feast of St. Francis ~ Blessing of the Animals – Sunday, October 1st**

Join us at 10am and bring your (furry or finned) family member to church to celebrate the patron of animals, St. Francis of Assisi. Please note: appropriate carriers and dog leashes are necessary. See you then!

**Saturday, October 28th ~ Roast Beef Dinner 5–6:30pm (take-out)**

Pricing: Adults \$18 ~ Kids (12 yrs. and under) \$9 ~ **Order deadline: October 24th**  
Includes one serving of roast beef, roasted potatoes, vegetable side, a salad, roll, and a dessert. An Eggplant Parmesan option is also available. Please email or call the church office or visit our Square site ( <https://st-johns-church-saugus.square.site> ) to place an order online.

**Saturday, December 2nd ~ Annual Fair**

Basket raffle, craft tables (knit, candy, card, etc.), vendor tables, and more!  
(w/ downstairs yard sale and snack bar)

**Visit our website for information about worship, and event updates – [StJohnsSaugus.org](http://StJohnsSaugus.org)**

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**Fair Basket Donations**

We are now accepting contributions for the fair baskets. Basket themes: Christmas, chocolate, spa, Italian, breakfast, girl, and boy. We look forward to your help and creative ideas!

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Every Child Deserves to Smile



Thank you for all the fabulous donations that have been sent in! The motel has sent a list of items that the families are in need of and we will be collecting October 1-31. They are:

- Disposable flashlights      Microwaveable & non-perishable foods      Tuna fish/canned meats
- Instant noodles              Can openers                      Bottled water- gallons & single bottles
- Paper plates                  Natural fruit juices              Disposable utensils              Hot/cold cups

Clothing for cold weather: sweaters, pants, socks-All sizes children & adults (2T-Adult)

**October 1-22:** we will also be collecting Halloween trinkets and individually wrapped Halloween candy.



On **October 29**, Halloween treat bags will be created during coffee hour in Ashworth Hall with Karen Riccio. All are welcome to lend a hand!



Donations may be left in the collection baskets in the vestibule. Questions may be directed to Jeanne Seaboyer.

**Founders Day 2023:** Many thanks to all who turned out to make Founders Day a resounding success! It takes many hands on the street greeting people at the booth, inside at the ice cream sundae bar, and new this year, at the luncheon grill on the lawn.



Thanks to team leaders Diana White & T.J. Martin at the booth, Fritz White on the grill, and all who volunteered to assist them and at the ice cream emporium...you made St. John's sparkle on September 9th! Thank you everyone!

**ALS Donation update:** In lieu of a charge for ice cream, patrons were offered the opportunity to donate to ALS in memory of long-time St. John's member, Christine Sentfleben. Our thanks to the very generous patrons who donated \$213 to ALS research.

~ Jeanne Seaboyer

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Stewardship 2024

It's not only the Fall Season - but also Stewardship Season! The time we begin talking about what St. John's means to each of us, how we would feel if it was no longer here. And, how much of our treasure we can offer the church through our monetary pledge, as well as our time volunteering for various programs and activities of the church. I am, once again, 'volunteering' my time to run the stewardship program for 2024 and will be making announcements at church, as well as handling the mailing of our Stewardship package in November. As always, thank you for your support of our church. It's only here because we care and support it!

~ Julia Aston, Stewardship

**Officers:** The Rev'd. John T. Beach, Priest-in-Charge, Brenda Caggiano, Sr. Warden, Daniel Casey, Jr., Jr. Warden, Phil Littlehale, Treasurer, Paul Felci, Assistant Treasurer, and Kristina Palazzo, Clerk of the Vestry & Sexton

**Vestry:** Bill Bidmead, Sr. (2026), Dibby LeBlanc (2026), Duana 'Dee' LeMay (2024), Sandy Mears (2025), and Donna Manoogian (2024)