

# St. John's Good News



October  
2024

Q. What is the ministry of a bishop?

A. The ministry of a bishop is to represent Christ and his Church, particularly as apostle, chief priest, and pastor of a diocese; to guard the faith, unity, and discipline of the whole Church; to proclaim the Word of God; to act in Christ's name for the reconciliation of the world and the building up of the Church; and to ordain others to continue Christ's ministry. (from the Catechism found on page 855, *Book of Common Prayer*)

In 1785, while James Madison was busy writing the U.S. Constitution, the Episcopal Church was given its name. The name shift was very symbolic. Until that time, these churches were called *Anglican* - also called *The Church of England*. There were many patriots who had been spiritually nurtured by Church of England in the American Colonies. Over half of the signers of the Declaration of Independence were devout Anglicans. Our understanding of scripture, ministry, sacraments, and liturgy were central to their understanding of what it meant to be a Christian.

King George III was humiliated by the loss of his colony in the new world. As the defender of the faith (one of the titles ascribed to the monarch), he saw to it that the Church of England distanced themselves from these rebellious colonists. Political forces were advocated for a total divorce between Anglicans in England and those in America. History revealed that God had other plans for the church.

The Anglicans in America wanted to strengthen their historic ties to Church in England. We were not welcome in England, so we sent a faithful priest and scholar, Samuel Seabury to Scotland to be consecrated at the Cathedral in Aberdeen and later return as our first Bishop in Connecticut. Like America, Anglicans in Scotland were also striving to express an identity separate from the monarchy, and embraced the name *Episcopal Church*. The name is derived from the Greek word *episcopus*, meaning *bishop*.

Cont'd.

**Sunday worship remains at 10am, in-person and virtually—all are welcome to participate. The service also broadcasts through Zoom, with weekly dial-in and link options shared by email.**

Phone: 781-233-1242

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The Episcopal church, by definition, is a church with Bishops. In this way we stand in contrast to the Puritans (which gradually morphed into Congregationalists), the Baptists, and the Presbyterians. It is the function of the bishop to bind us together. Congregationalists understand each church community to be independent for each other. Episcopalians, on the other hand, understand each individual congregation as being united by the office of the bishop. It is the bishop which exercises discipline and encouragement to our church leadership. It is the bishop which mentors those seeking ordination and, God willing, ordains them. Though Episcopal congregations in this country establish search committees to seek clergy, it is only with the bishop's blessing that clergy take on the spiritual leadership of a church.

This month, we are all looking forward to consecrating The Rev. Julia E. Whitworth as the 17<sup>th</sup> bishop of the Diocese of Massachusetts. In this glorious celebration, bishops from across the country will join with Bishop Curry, our presiding bishop, in laying hands on her. This ancient symbolic act not only demonstrates that our congregations are intricately and intimately linked. It also represents our historic connection to the ancient church. Every bishop is consecrated by other bishops. You are warmly invited to join us in person (though you need to register in advance to insure seating), on Zoom, or in prayer.

We live in an age in which many social, political, and economic forces work to separate us from each other. I encourage and invite you to celebrate in this expression of God's unity to remember that our lives are interwoven with each other.

Peace,  
John+

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Looking ahead....

Roast Beef Dinner

While very much in the planning stages, the dinner is scheduled for **Saturday, November 9th**. Details to follow – please visit our website and Facebook page for updates.

Christmas Fair

**Save the date!** Our Christmas Fair is **Saturday, December 7th**.

Keep an eye on our website and FB page for more details.

We will begin accepting contributions for the jewelry table in the first week of November. Gently-worn pins, earrings, bracelets, necklaces, and watches are all welcome. Your donations will help to create an interesting assortment for our popular jewelry table – thank you!

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Every Child Deserves to Smile

Thank you for all the fabulous donations that have been sent in during the month of September! The items we will be collecting in October are:

Disposable flashlights, microwaveable and non-perishable foods, tuna fish or canned meats, instant noodles, can openers, bottled water (gallons and single bottles), paper plates, natural fruit juices, disposable utensils, and hot/cold cups. Clothing for cold weather: sweaters, pants, socks – all sizes infants, children and adults - freshly laundered and new or gently worn will be gratefully accepted.

🎃 In anticipation of the cooler temps we've been known to experience in fall, the warmth tree will go up in early October for the collection of warm articles of clothing (hats, mittens, gloves, etc.), making distribution prior to a cold snap possible.

On **October 27**, Halloween treat bags will be created during coffee hour in Ashworth Hall – 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 2024** – Many thanks to all who turned out to make Founders Day a resounding success! We scooped up about 404 ice cream sundaes on a beautiful fall day! It takes many hands on the street greeting people at the booth and inside at the ice cream sundae bar. Thanks to team leaders Diana White and T.J. Martin at the booth, and all who volunteered to assist them and at the ice cream emporium...you made St. John's sparkle on September 14th. Thank you everyone!

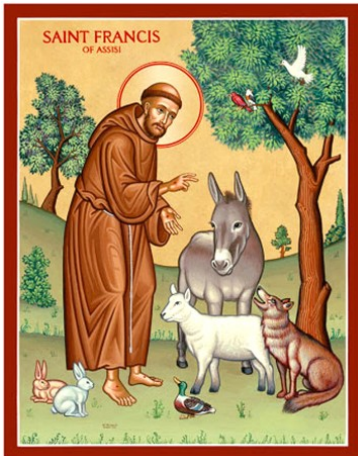
ALS Donation update: In lieu of a charge for ice cream, patrons were offered the opportunity to donate to ALS in memory of long-time St. John's member, Christine Sentfleben. Our thanks to the very generous patrons who donated \$416 to ALS research!

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Lobster Roll Sale Results

In case you have not heard, our lobster roll sale was went well – we raised over \$1,700! Countless thanks again to event organizer T.J. Martin and the set-up crew, as well as volunteers who purchased items, gathered orders, delivered rolls, baked brownies, and did all those little (and no-so-little) tasks required to pull everything together for this bi-annual fundraiser. And, of course, deep appreciation to everyone who supported St. John's by placing orders...thank you!

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**The Feast of St. Francis**  
**Blessing of the Animals ~ Sunday, October 6th**  
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!

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Operation Christmas Child

Packing Party will be on November 17th, after the 10 AM service.

Thank you for your generosity, as we have received some cash donations this year. We are still looking for items to fill the 60 shoeboxes for age group 2 through 14. Small toys are always welcome. You can find the *Operation Christmas Child* update board by the coffee hour sign up, right before the stairs to the basement. There are many donations we need help with - you can find donation slips for one of below items on the board:

- 10 bars of soaps
- 10 toothbrushes
- 10 packs Pencils/ Pens
- 10 Crayons/coloring pencils
- \$20 Cash donations for supplies/toys or postage
- (\$10 postage per shoebox is needed )

Please take as many slips as you would like to donate, and feel free to see Diana White if you have any questions. Thank you for your support.

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**Officers:** The Rev. John T. Beach, Priest-in-Charge, Brenda Caggiano, Sr. Warden, Daniel Casey, Jr., Warden, Phil Littlehale, Treasurer, Paul Felci, Assistant Treasurer, and Kristina Palazzo, Clerk of the Vestry & Sexton

**Vestry:** Bill Bidmead, Sr. (2026), Rose Holt (2027), Joanne Lancaster (2027), M. 'Dibby' LeBlanc (2026), Sandy Mears (2025), and John Rogalski (2027)