

St. John's Good News



The loudest voices we hear are those who advocate conflict, divisiveness. ~ The Rev. Senator John C. Danforth

The sad duty of politics is to establish justice in a sinful world.
~ Reinhold Niebuhr

On Politics and Religion

We live in dangerous times. The words we speak and the opinions we share are often an offense to others. Many of us have to choose our words very carefully lest they be taken out of context and used against us. This is becoming more evident as we approach Election Day in a couple of months. As a priest, I struggle to be an instrument of reconciliation at a time when the loudest voices we hear have a vested interest in fanning the flames of conflict and divisiveness.

I have recently re-read the book *The Relevance of Religion* by John Danforth, retired senator of Missouri. Senator Danforth is also an Episcopal priest who endeavors to balance his political engagement and his Christian faith. Though his book was written over 10 years ago, it speaks even more directly to our current social and political situation.

As we enter into potentially heated conversation with persons with whom we disagree, I offer four basic principles as suggested guidelines:

See every human being as Christ sees them. Listen to them with humility, love, and curiosity.

Do not embrace assertions from political pundits uncritically. Research the more inflammatory statements to discern that they are rooted in facts.

Prayerfully seek to more fully understand the values which God has laid upon your heart. Values such as fairness, kindness, hard work, creativity, and humor are some of the many things which make life both exciting and holy.

Be open to the possibility that your opponent has an insight which you might not otherwise encounter. Know that every person in the world has something to teach us.

September
2024

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

Twitter (now X.com):
@StJohnsSaugus

Facebook: St. John's Episcopal Church Saugus

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We will be hosting an Election Night Prayer Vigil at St. John’s Church on **Tuesday, November 5th from 6:30pm - 7:30pm**. We gather to pray for our country. I will be advertising this around Saugus as we approach the election. You are all warmly invited to join us.

I am inspired and comforted by the observation of Reinhold Niebuhr who wrote in his work, *The Irony of American History*,

“Nothing that is worth doing can be achieved in our lifetime; therefore we must be saved by hope. Nothing which is true or beautiful or good makes complete sense in any immediate context of history; therefore we must be saved by faith. Nothing we do, however virtuous, can be accomplished alone; therefore we must be saved by love. No virtuous act is quite as virtuous from the standpoint of our friend or foe as it is from our standpoint. Therefore we must be saved by the final form of love which is forgiveness.”

Peace,
John+

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Diocesan Event Reminders

[Celebration for Bishop Alan Gates and Tricia Harvey](#)

**Sunday, October 6th ~ 12pm – 4pm
New England Aquarium, 1 Central Wharf, Boston**

Come for all or part of this family-friendly celebration and reception. Aquarium admission is included – RSVP is required by **Sept. 20th**, see Diomass.org for more information.

[Ordination of Bishop-elect Whitworth](#)

The ordination and consecration of The Reverend Julia Whitworth, our 17th Bishop Diocesan, will take place **Saturday, October 19th, at 11am in Trinity Church, Boston**. The Most Rev. Michael B. Curry, Presiding Bishop and Primate of the Episcopal Church will officiate.

Seating is available as capacity allows; to attend in-person, please register in advance at Diomass.org, or for additional details to watch the live stream of this event.

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Steeple Repair

Have you seen our church steeple lately? In early August, Fritz White volunteered time to work on a lift for better than a week to restore and paint portions of the belfry, spire, etc. It looks great (see pic)! Heartfelt thanks to Fritz, Steve White, Stephen Sikorski, and T.J. Martin, who also lent a hand during the process.





Greetings !!! It is never too early to think about the smiley faces when the children open the Operation Christmas Child gift boxes. Thanks to everyone's generosity, we sent out 63 boxes last year and they went to :

The Dominican Republic

Shipped on: Wed Nov 29 2023

and

South Africa

Shipped on: Sat Nov 25 2023

The boxes sent from St. John's church had already reached many children in different parts of the world including the Dominican Republic, South Africa, Honduras, Mali, Benin, Guatemala, Ukraine, Columbia, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, and Togo.

Let's send 60 more boxes out to the project this year. We are looking for new items to fit in the shoeboxes such as water bottles, toothbrushes, bars of soap, knit hats, t-shirts, toys and school supplies. This is a great time to pick up these items from back-to-school sales or holiday sales. Other gift suggestions:



Gift Suggestions for Boys

A "WOW" ITEM

- Soccer ball and pump
- Stuffed animal
- Musical instrument
- Large toy truck or car
- Other large toy

PERSONAL CARE ITEMS

- Comb or brush
- Toothbrush
- Washcloth
- Fun adhesive bandages
- Eating utensils



Gift Suggestions for Girls

A "WOW" ITEM

- Doll
- Large toy
- Soccer ball and pump
- Stuffed animal
- Musical instrument

PERSONAL CARE ITEMS

- Comb or brush
- Toothbrush
- Washcloth
- Fun adhesive bandages
- Eating utensils



Each shoe box will cost \$10 to process through Samaritan's Purse. If you would like to donate funds to the project to purchase items for the shoeboxes or towards the processing fee, please send your donations to St. John's Church and mark the funds for "Operation Christmas Child".

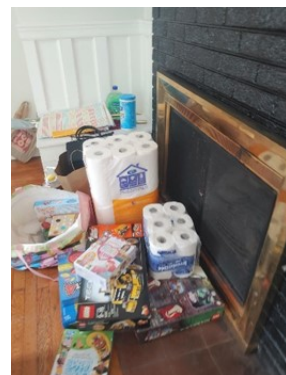
The packing party will take place on **November 17, 2024**, after the church service.

Thank you very much for your support.

Diana White

Outreach update - Mirzai Family (Family from Afghanistan)

I had a great visit with the Mirzai family in Springfield MA. Thank you for the generous donations, everyone got new beddings. I also dropped off some toys, school supplies, and household goods for their new home. They are settling well in the new city. Please keep them in your prayers. ~ Diana White



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Community Garden Update

The Community Garden has been thriving despite a period of extreme heat in July. The garden was planted and maintained by Laura Eisener, Dee LeMay, and Rev. John, along with a few volunteers. We have been taking turns watering. The vegetables include several types of tomatoes, sweet peppers, Jalapeno peppers, cucumbers, eggplant, as well as basil and oregano. We also have some squash and beans coming along. We have been harvesting every Friday morning and donating to the Saugus Food Pantry. One of the workers at the Food Pantry said that people's eyes light up when they see the fresh veggies – that brings us much joy! We look forward to continued harvests for several weeks to come. ~ Dee LeMay

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Lobster Roll Sale

Friday, Sept. 20th ~ 7am - 12pm (pick-up at church)

\$15.00 Each – includes one lobster roll, condiments, a bag of chips, and one brownie.

Order deadline: Tuesday, Sept. 17th

Contact the parish office: call 781-233-1242 or email us at StJohnsSaugus@gmail.com

(Free local delivery for orders of 5 or more)

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Church School

Church school begins **Sunday, September 15th** – please contact Debbie Cox (through the parish office) if you have any questions or wish to register your child.

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Every Child Deserves to Smile

Thank you for your generous summer donations! During July and August we delivered 4 boxes of food items, fresh fruit, bottled water, clothing items, 10 backpacks, and 4 boxes of back-to-school items to the motel for the children and their families.

Back-to-school supplies will gratefully be accepted through the month of September.

Other items being collected in September: mac and cheese, soup, crackers, canned meats, small bottles of laundry detergent, non-perishable food items, toiletries, and everyday needs (paper plates, napkins, plastic utensils, baggies, etc.), Stop & Shop and Market Basket gift cards, and Halloween candies and trinkets.



The next quarterly meeting will be held **Thursday, September 5th at 11am** in the Hurl Room. All are welcome to attend.

Donations may be left in the donation baskets in the vestibule. Any questions may be directed to Jeanne Seaboyer.

Founders Day, Saturday, Sept. 14th - It's almost here!



Have you volunteered to be a part of this year's festivities? It's not too late to sign up! Whether you have 15 minutes to spare or all day we would love your company to help out scoop and top ice cream or share what makes St. John's special with an inquisitive Founders Day crowd! What could be sweeter than having some fun enjoying the company of fellow St. John's members and the community! The sundaes are FREE and patrons have an opportunity to visit our ALS information table to learn more about this fatal disease. An opportunity to make donations to support ALS* in memory of longtime St. John's member, Chris Senftleben is provided. Come, join us to scoop ice cream, eat sundaes and greet Saugus on **September 14th, 10am - 2PM** (or until supplies last!) for a few minutes or all day. You'll be glad you did!

Contact Jeanne Seaboyer to put your name on the volunteer list and help the community see what's so special about St. John's!

*Unable to attend Founders Day but wish to donate to ALS

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The Season of Creation Care



September 1st begins the season of Creation Care, when we focus to better preserve and protect God's amazing gift to us, our earthly home. During this time we ask for everyone to consider ways in which we as individuals and as a congregation can help the environment; by improving daily recycling of plastics and paper, maintaining (or planning) a vegetable or wildlife garden, or reducing our carbon footprints, for starters. Feel free to share your own methods or ideas!

Word Search

Can you find these words associated with fall and school?

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

Activities ~ Apples ~ Bookmark ~ Chrysanthemums ~ Classmates
Educators ~ Equinox ~ Goldenrod ~ Gourds ~ Harvesting ~ Inspire
Kindergarten ~ Orchard ~ Playground ~ Reading ~ Science
Students ~ Textbooks ~ Tuition

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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)