

St. John's Good News

From the Priest.....

Love with Skin on: the St. John's Community

When our kids were little, I used to tell them that no matter where I was, and no matter what, my love would go with them. (The world out there can be tough, and sometimes all one can do is hope that that's enough, or at least it's something, to send a child out knowing they're loved, however imperfectly.) One night, our younger child, Thomas, came and found me in the middle of the night after a bad dream. I followed him back to his room and snuggled in with him. Spooning there in the dark, he told me, "I know you always say your love is with me, even if you aren't. But sometimes when it's really scary and dark, I need some love with skin on."

Tom's right. We all need love with skin on sometimes. The writer and Franciscan theologian Richard Rohr observed recently that in the Franciscan tradition, the incarnation is even more important than the resurrection. That is because Jesus became human, dwelt with humanity, becoming a part of a family, a beloved member of a community. When Jesus took on our humanity, he literally became love with skin on. Resurrection is about love conquering even death; but incarnation is about how we live—and love—now. In our baptismal covenants, we say that we will try every day to "seek and serve Christ in all persons." In other words, we try to remember that we are not individuals, all alone, but that we have God's spirit within us, and that we are connected to one another because each person also is made in God's image, and is loved by God.

I have seen our community at St. John's live into this incarnational love every day I have been with you. Each one of you has been to me "love with skin on." When I came to St. John's, I knew that I would be serving only as your bridge priest, and that my time with you would be fairly short. As your bridge priest, I have had the joy simply to be with you, and to walk with you as you make the transition to a new priest and as you discern where God may be calling you next. I think it is important for each of you to know how very special this beloved community is, and what you have done for me. I want to tell you how you have loved and held me these last few months.

Cont'd



Summer 2017

Sunday Worship Schedule

June

8am ~ Rite I

10am ~ Rite II

July & August

9am ~ Rite II

Phone: 781-233-1242

Twitter:

@StJohnsSaugus

Facebook: Friends of St. John's Episcopal Church Saugus

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When I arrived at St. John's Church, I was, to say the least, in a challenging time. I had, as my mom said, just had the stuffing knocked out of me. Some of you know this, and some do not, but two days after I accepted the job as your bridge priest, my husband of 27 years moved out of the home we shared, and asked me for a divorce. When I started work at St. John's, to be perfectly honest, I was shaken to my core. I found myself questioning everything I thought I knew and everything I believed to be true. The community at St. John's made me feel so welcome and so loved, that I believe you loved me back together again. I was able to be my authentic self with you, and to become a part of your family. I have learned in ways I never imagined over the past few months that sometimes life deals us unexpected sorrow and surprising joy. And I have learned that God will never leave us in the midst of great suffering, and will share with us in all our joys.

I am so grateful that I have been able to share in your worship, to celebrate the sacraments with you, and mostly just to be with you as a priest, and as a sister in Christ. I don't know where God is calling this church next, and what is in store for St. John's, Saugus. I know that our beloved St. John's is in the midst of a transition, and that change is hard. I also know that the church faces challenges as you try to decide what kind of church you will be and what kind of presence in and ministry to the larger community you will have. I also know that no matter what, God will be with you on this journey, and that St. John's has so very much to offer not just to the people who are already part of the St. John's family, but to the world outside our beautiful sanctuary.

These months with you, working with you as a partner in ministry and serving as your priest have been such a joy, and are so much a part of my formation as a Christian. Words can't express how grateful I am for the opportunity to be a part of this church. Every hug, every thank you, every opportunity to pray and worship with you, have helped to strengthen me in my vocation and have given me a glimpse of beloved community. You fed me with literal food (and I will never find a place with better coffee hours—not to mention, cakes, hotdogs, the occasional taco Sunday, and most delicious pot lucks) but also spiritual food in the form of our shared prayers and study and worship. I am so very glad for your friendship and love, and I want you to know that wherever God call me next (or the bishop sends me), I will always consider myself your sister in Christ, your priest, and your very grateful friend.

---Mary Scott Wagner

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### HIGH FIVE!



**Our second annual Plant Sale** was a huge success! The plants were gorgeous, the day was beautiful, and the fellowship phenomenal! Our success is due to our dedicated volunteers. Many thanks to Donna Manoogian, T.J. Martin, Angela Grabowski, Alison Coppola, Betty & Armand Couture, Ashley Clark, Julia Aston, Ron Seaboyer, Tyler Seaboyer, Brenda Caggiano, Erika Walker, Nancy Belyea, Cheryl Miller, Bill Bidmead, Steve White, Fritz, Diana & Nick White, Jan Stevenson, Jane Selvitella, Dale Coogan, Peggy Gibbs, Laura Geary, Jeannine Cutter, Pam Goodwin, Sandy & Ray Mears, Bea & Bob Simmons, and Mr. & Mrs. Gene Decereau and all who purchased plants. **Our final total is \$1,174.50. Thank you!**

**Planning Ahead ~ Fair Baskets**

We will be having five (5) baskets again for the fair to be held October 20th and 21st. Please start saving new items now for Christmas, Italian, relaxation/spa, and two children's (one boy, one girl). Look for donation baskets the first Sunday in September. As always, we appreciate your help.

~ Sandy St. Clair

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Every Child Deserves to Smile



Thank you to all who have contributed to the Grocery Gift Card collection! As of this writing, we have been able to purchase grocery gift cards totaling \$500 in groceries for the families. We continue to collect microwaveable foods and disposable plates and utensils. Donations of these items may be left in the ECDtS collection box in the vestibule.

GIVING BACK TO THE SAUGUS COMMUNITY:

Back to School Collection - Donations of Back-to-School supplies will be grateful accepted during the months of June & July. Saugus students in need will be benefactors of this collection. Backpacks, pens, pencils, crayons, erasers, calculators, notebooks, etc. may be left in the Every Child Deserves to Smile collection box in the vestibule.

Founder's Day, September 9th, 2017 - St. John's will be giving out complimentary ice cream sundaes and hosting an art exhibit for Belmonte Middle School students. Don't miss out on an opportunity to satisfy your sweet tooth, enjoy some of our famous St. John's fellowship, and celebrate the talents of Saugus youth! Ice Cream scoopers and Art Exhibit monitors are needed.

Contact Jeanne Seaboyer with questions & comments or to volunteer to lend a hand: 781-662-4343 or jmseaboyer@gmail.com.

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**Yard Sale...**

...is *this* **Saturday, June 10th**. Set up is at 8am and the yard sale runs through the day until 2pm. If you have a donation, please bring it to the church this week—kindly leave them in the room next to the nursery downstairs. Thank you to everyone who has contributed already.

We need help on Friday, June 9th, organizing donations and people to volunteer in 2-hour shifts to sell goods. Please contact Donna Manoogian directly at 781-233-5640 for questions and pick up of donations. Thanks!!

Also, a community FYI: The Saugus Historical Society will be having their Strawberry Festival this year at St. John's on Saturday, June 17, from 10-2. The cost of the strawberry shortcakes is only \$5. Hot dogs and beverages will also be for sale. They welcome crafters to rent a table.

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LOBSTER ROLL SALE - FRIDAY, JUNE 30th

\$12.00/ea ~ Bagged lunch includes one lobster roll, a bag of chips, condiments, and one brownie. Order deadline is **Wednesday, June 28th**—delivery available for orders of 5 or more. Please call the parish office to order: 781-233-1242.

Word Search

T F V X A H G R A D U A T I O N A J
 Z A S X H W C L F E E Q N W U G F E
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Acolyte ~ Apostles ~ Camping ~ Cookout ~ Delphinium ~ Father ~ Graduation
 Homily ~ Honeysuckle ~ Minister ~ Pentecost ~ Sailing ~ Seashore ~ Summer
 Thunderstorm ~ Vacation ~ Volleyball ~ Watermelon ~ Whitsunday

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**HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!**



**Clergy & Officers:** The Rev. Mary Scott Wagner, Priest ~ 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)