

St. John's Good News



From Rev. John...

Octave of All Saints

Commencement of every member canvas at St. John's

As we enter November we celebrate the feast of All Saints. It is at this time that we remember the great saints of the church and of our lives. It is not just the few who are gathering to share the Eucharist. We are joined with the *angels and archangels and all the company of heaven*. We remember those who in their words and lives have born witness to the love of God at work in our midst.

When I was consumed with grief the days following the death of my father, I participated in a bereavement group sponsored by our church. An exercise we are asked to perform was to make a list of some of the *negative* qualities of the deceased loved one. I found this very difficult - most of us find it difficult to speak ill of the dead. Consequently, we airbrush our memories. This is true not only with those we have known intimately, but it also true of historical figures. We tend to embellish their positive attributes and to ignore their flaws. This has two negative affects:

First, we construct a fiction out of the past from which harmful things have been eliminated.

Second, we come to view the saints of the past as being creatures of a different species than those who now walk the earth. They become so unlike the living that they cease their ability to teach us. We remember the saints with the knowledge that if they had something to teach us when we could still see their faces, they have something to teach us now.

On All Saints Sunday (November 6th) we will remember by name a few of these saints and consider how the world is a better place because they have lived.

In addition to All Saints, we also celebrate the beginning of our annual every member canvass. You should have received a letter from the church inviting you to consider your financial support of St. John's in 2023. If you have not received a letter, please let me know, and I will ensure that you will get an envelope with your

November 2022

Sunday worship remains at 10am, in-person and virtually on Zoom. All are welcome to participate, and seating capacity is 75. Please note: we continue to monitor community Covid cases and will keep you updated about worship. The Zoom link is shared weekly via email.

Phone: 781-233-1242

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name on it. You will also receive a pledge card, and I invite you to prayerfully consider your financial support for the ministry of St. John's for 2023.

We remember our theme this year **More Than Enough**. We celebrate that God has blessed us with those things which sustain us and will continue to do so in the years to come.

Peace,
John+

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An All Saint's Day Prayer

By William Sloan Coffin, Riverside Church, New York

O God, we gather once more to acknowledge that the good things of this world still outweigh the bad, that we can therefore live gratefully, not dutifully; joyfully, not with grim determination.

We thank thee for this our church, and we remember especially today the rare and radiant people of its past who gave voice and life to its best aspirations. May we, who follow, not forget the lessons they taught: that where there is doubt there is more considered faith; that self-pity and bitterness are diminishing emotions; and that the price of hating others is to love oneself less.

Grant, O God, that we may be loyal to their memory by furthering their highest hopes. In the spirit of Jesus Christ we pray.

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The Communion of Saints

Frederick Buechner

HOW THEY DO LIVE on, those giants of our childhood, and how well they manage to take even death in their stride because although death can put an end to them right enough, it can never put an end to our relationship with them. Wherever or however else they may have come to life since, it is beyond a doubt that they live still in us. Memory is more than a looking back to a time that is no longer; it is a looking out into another kind of time altogether where everything that ever was continues not just to be, but to grow and change with the life that is in it still. The people we loved. The people who loved us. The people who, for good or ill, taught us things. Dead and gone though they may be, as we come to understand them in new ways, it is as though they come to understand us – and through them we come to understand ourselves – in new ways too. Who knows what "the communion of saints" means, but surely it means more than just that we are all of us haunted by ghosts because they are not ghosts, these people we once knew, not just echoes of voices that have years since ceased to speak, but saints in the sense that through them something of the power and richness of life itself not only touched us once long

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ago, but continues to touch us. They have their own business to get on with now, I assume – "increasing in knowledge and love of Thee," says the *Book of Common Prayer*, and moving "from strength to strength," which sounds like business enough for anybody – and one imagines all of us on this shore fading for them as they journey ahead toward whatever new shore may await them; but it is as if they carry something of us on their way as we assuredly carry something of them on ours. That is perhaps why to think of them is a matter not only of remembering them as they used to be but of seeing and hearing them as in some sense they are now. If they had things to say to us then, they have things to say to us now too, nor are they by any means always things we expect or the same things. (Originally published in *The Sacred Journey*)

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Pot Luck Supper ~ Thursday, November 10th

St. John's members and friends are welcome to our second **Pot Luck Supper** on **Thursday, November 10th**. Please contact the parish office or Elizabeth Littlehale if you plan to attend, as she is coordinating the food. Dan Casey will be arranging the evening's entertainment. We look forward to an evening of food and fun—hope you will join us!

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Every Child Deserves to Smile



Thank you to all who have contributed to the ongoing collection of non-perishable food items and everyday needs, Halloween treats, warm clothing and diapers. Your generosity is deeply appreciated by those receiving these gifts!

November 1 – December 31: In addition to non-perishable food items and paper goods, we will also be collecting \$10 gift cards to Stop & Shop and Market Basket.

Contributions may be left in the donation baskets in the vestibule. Please contact Jeanne Seaboyer if you have questions or would like to make a gift card donation.

Our next quarterly meeting will be **Wednesday, November 30th at 9:30am**, in the Hurll Room. All are welcome!

Community Outreach

Saugus Fire Dept. Gift Card Appeal ~ November 1 – 30, 2022

As in years past, we are participating in the Saugus Fire Department's annual appeal to help make Christmas more enjoyable for families in need. Donations of gift cards (pizza, Xbox, Visa, Amazon, etc.) for teens and tweens are gratefully accepted. For those wishing to make a monetary contribution toward the purchase of gift cards, please contact Jeanne Seaboyer.



2023 Stewardship Ministry

The 2023 Stewardship package is being sent out the week of Nov 1st. The package includes my introductory note, a 2023 pledge card for you to fill in and return, an ACH form which is the form you fill in and return with your pledge card, if you would like your pledge to be taken out monthly from your bank checking or savings account.

Please prayerfully consider the amount you are able to pledge to St. John's for 2023. And it would be most beneficial for the church finance committee if you sign up for monthly auto withdrawal so that the church receives your pledge each month.

We would ask that, if you are able, you increase your pledge for 2023 in order for St. John's to continue being a presence in the community.

Thank you!
Julia Aston, Stewardship Ministry

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Annual Fair and Roast Beef Dinner Update

Proceeds from the fair and dinner are currently estimated at over \$4,000, not including any possible adjustments for expenses. Again, St. John's is deeply grateful for the help of our committed volunteers.

We wish to thank members of the White Family: Fritz, Steve, and Nancy, Bill Bidmead, Linda Casey, Laura Geary, T. J. Martin, Jeanne Seaboyer, Brendan Sharwood, and Tammy & Paul Watts for their invaluable assistance and hard work to make our annual roast beef dinner possible.

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Happy Thanksgiving!



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

Vestry: Duana 'Dee' LeMay (2024), Sandy Mears (2025), Donna Manoogian (2024), and Kenneth Webber (2023)