St. John's Good News

September
October
2026

From Fr. Walter...

St. John's Household,

Last week our stewardship chair, Julia Aston, reviewed with me the upcoming theme for our fall campaign: "Plenty Good Room". It's built on the message of Jesus to his disciples on the night of the last supper. "In my Father's house, there are many dwelling places" (Mt1 4:2). Honestly, I prefer the older translation of "many mansions" to convey the immense hospitality of God's house. Indeed, there is room at the inn! Moreover, God's house is not the exclusive destination of the elite traveler but open to all who would accept the invitation.

While Jesus points beyond the grave in describing God's ultimate hospitality, we also understand that the Father's House with many mansions is the completion of our relationship begun here and now. It is a relationship made possible by Jesus himself and expanded in every generation in and through God's Household, the Church. That is, after all, the foundational mission of the Church: to connect people with God. And that connection with God is the result so many interconnected and overlapping relationships we have within God's household. Relationships are the lifeblood of the Church.

As we begin a new program year this fall, I want to focus our attention and appreciation on this relational dynamic. Every living community has social events and rituals to mark and celebrate its life. St John's is no different. Soon, we will celebrate Founder's Day, the Lobster Lunches, the Roast Beef Dinner, and the Fair, before you know it. This year will shift our Blessing of the Animals to Sunday October 4 at 3pm on the church lawn. This may be an opportunity build new relationships with the Saugus community. Over the years, I am sure that other customs have come and gone, but focus has always been on fostering the community of God's Household. These events are all relationally dependent; they don't emerge in vacuum.

Cont'd.

Holy Eucharist Worship

All are welcome to gather with us Sunday mornings at 9am, and coffee hour follows the service. We broadcast worship on Zoom—a link is forwarded weekly to parishioners and friends.

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Email: StJohnsSaugus@gmail.com

X.com (formerly Twitter): @StJohnsSaugus

Facebook: St. John's Episcopal Church Saugus

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And so, I encourage you to view our upcoming fall events as opportunities to strengthen existing relationships and welcome new ones. I for one am most grateful for the welcome I have received here at St John's, and know that your well of hospitality can model our Father's house in being a household for all.

Blessings,
Father Walter

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Lobster Roll Sale

Friday, September 18th ~ 7am – 12pm

$15/Each – includes one lobster roll, condiments, a bag of chips, and one brownie.

Order deadline: **Tuesday, Sept. 15th, 5pm** – free local delivery for orders of 5 or more. Email, phone, or visit our website for the link to order online. Phone orders: leave a message with your name, phone number, and the amount of rolls (*We will only contact you if there's a question about your order).* Your support is greatly appreciated!

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Blessing of the Animals

As Fr. Walter mentioned, we will celebrate St. Francis of Assisi and our beloved finned and fuzzy family members on **Sunday, Oct. 4th at 3pm** on the front lawn (*weather permitting*) with a blessing. Appropriate pet carriers and dog leashes are necessary – thank you.

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Roast Beef Dinner & Eggplant Option

Saturday, October 10th ~ Limited Seating – R.S.V.P. required

Thinly-sliced, top Round of Beef with mushroom demi-glace, or in-house made Eggplant Parmesan; served with roasted red potato, Green-Bean Almandine, salad, dinner roll, butter, and Apple Crisp.

Seating times: 5:00 PM & 6:30PM, and pick up for 'to-go' orders is from **4:00 - 4:30 PM**. To reserve adult and/or children's seats or place to-go meals, order and pay online through the link at our website, or RSVP to the office no later than **Thursday, October 1st.** This year, in order to streamline to-go orders and reservation processing, we kindly request pre-payment. Please bring a check (*payable to St. John's*) or cash to our office during regular business hours.

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Christmas Craft Fair

Saturday, December 5th ~ 9am – 2pm

SAVE THE DATE! St. John's will again offer several craft and other vendor tables; knit and sewn, handmade cards, candy, baked goods, and many other items, as well as raffle gift baskets. Visit our website for upcoming details and updates!

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Upcoming Stewardship Campaign

The 2027 Stewardship Campaign discussions will begin on **Sunday, Oct 18th**. The theme this year is *Plenty Good Room*. We will be hearing what that means to us and St. John's during the campaign. This is a good time to start thinking about how you can support St. John's in the coming year with your time, talent and treasure!

Julia Aston, Stewardship

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* Operation Christmas Child *

We appreciate your past contributions and are still looking for items to fill 60 shoeboxes for age groups 2—14; small toys for boys and girls (ex: legos, hot wheels, dolls), toothbrushes, knit hats or caps, 10-packs of pencils / pens, etc. Donation slips are available in Ashworth Hall or please contact Diana White with any questions - thank you!

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Word Search

Can you find these fall-related terms?

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

Backpack ~ Bonfire ~ Chrysanthemum ~ Classroom ~ Cornfield ~ Cranberries
Equinox ~ Festivals ~ Football ~ Harvesting ~ Migration ~ Orchard ~ Primary
School ~ Sunflowers ~ Varsity

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Officers: The Rev. Walter J. Connelly, Jr., Priest-in-Charge, Donna Manoogian, Sr. Warden, John Rogalski, Jr. Warden, Paul Felci, Treasurer, James Duracin, Asst. Treasurer, and Brenda Caggiano, Clerk of the Vestry

Vestry: Rose Holt (2027), Joanne Lancaster (2027), M. Dibby LeBlanc (2027), Colleen Marcotte (2028), and Diana White (2029)