St. John's Good News

December 2025

Christmas Craft Fair
Saturday, Dec. 6th
9am—2pm
Assorted crafters and vendor tables, Jewelry, Baked goods, Raffle, Yard sale & Snack bar (downstairs), and much more - great gift ideas!

Phone: 781-233-1242

Email: StJohnsSaugus@gmail.com

X.com (formerly Twitter): @StJohnsSaugus

Facebook: St. John's Episcopal Church Saugus

In this issue **Page**

From Fr. Walter 1

Stewardship, Advent & Christmas Worship Schedule, Christmas Prayer List, ECDS/Outreach 2

Word Search 3

Advent Calendar (insert)

From Fr. Walter...

Greetings St. John's Saugus!

It is truly a joy for me to be joining you in ministry, especially as we begin the Advent season. The hymns and readings of Advent call us scan the horizon for new opportunities to greet the presence of Jesus in the world. Yes, indeed, we are called to welcome the inbreaking future as an arena of possibility to serve Jesus and his mission. I would contend, and I am highly biased in this regard, that we are embarking on such a possibility. The partnership between St. John's Saugus and St. John's Winthrop will better enable each parish to maintain a vital and viable presence in their respective communities. After all, that is why are here, to gather people into a relationship with God. We cannot do that without the bricks and mortar presence, the flesh and bloody reality of God's gathered people. And that's where I come in as the glue to this Advent proposal.

So, what about me? I grew up on the other side of the great chasm, the South Shore, aka the Irish Riveria. My family used to joke about visiting my uncle in Marblehead as journeying to Canada. But fear not, I still have my Boston accent.

I have twelve years of Jesuit education under belt and a good twenty -five years working in construction. So, you could say that I am an overeducated fool who isn't afraid to work with his hands.

Also a local boy, my spouse Danny and I met in 1995 and were married in 2005. He's my staunchest defender and my harshest critic. He works the graveyard shift at Boston Police 911. Needless to say, he's a creature of the night who makes limited morning appearances. Together though we make a great team, especially when it comes to caring for our three border collies, which takes multiple shifts.

I have served at the Bristol Cluster, St. Matthew and the Redeemer in Southie, and for the last seventeen years St. John's Winthrop. I have an extensive background working in diocesan structures, and I am presently serving on the Standing Committee. But make no mistake, I am no diocesan darling. I have been called the diocesan contrarian, and I can live with that. Bottom line: when it comes to the life of the church, we need to look at questions and proposals from multiple perspectives. I am not afraid to play devil's advocate.

Cont'd.

But hear this: I am many things to many people, and I actually do some things well, but one thing that I am not is a mind reader. Please, please, do not assume that I know or understand everything. God did not bless me with such vision. So speak up; sometimes I just need to be hit with a clue by four.

Advent Blessings,
Father Walter

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Stewardship Update as of 11/19/25

As of 11/19/25 St. John's has received 29 pledges (58 were sent out) for a total amount pledged for 2026 of $48,942.00 - that's a great start towards our budgeted goal of $80,000.00!

If you haven't returned your pledge card, please do so as soon as possible. I know it's a busy season with lots on everyone's mind, so I will be sending out reminder notes in early December. Thank you for your support of St. John's with your Wealth, Works, and Wisdom!

Julia Aston, Stewardship

Christmas Prayer List

Please forward names for remembrance or in thanksgiving to the office no later than **Wednesday, December 17th** – thank you.

Advent & Christmas Worship

The Sundays of Advent ~ November 30th, December, 7th, 14th, and 21st, at 9am

Christmas Eve Service ~ Wednesday, December 24th, at 4pm

Christmas Day Eucharist ~ Thursday, December 25th, at 9am

Lessons & Carols Service ~ Sunday, December 28th, at 9am

Warmth Tree Collection

Our warmth tree is up and collecting donations until **December 31, 2025**!

This year the donations will be made available to the Saugus United Parish Food Pantry recipients on select days in December and January. We hope to warm the heads, hands and hearts of our Saugus neighbors in need during this holiday season. Donations may be placed on the warmth tree in the church. Questions may be directed to Jeanne Seaboyer.

Fire Department Christmas Collection

November 7 - December 7, 2025

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, X-box, Visa, Amazon, etc.) for teens and tweens are gratefully accepted. For those wishing to make a monetary contribution toward the purchase of gift cards, envelopes are available in the vestibule and may be dropped off at the church office or placed in the *Every Child Deserves to Smile* /Outreach box near the office. Please direct any questions to Jeanne Seaboyer at 781-662-4342.

Word Search

Find these words associated with Advent! :)

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

Arrival ~ Bethlehem ~ Candles ~ Divine ~ Gabriel ~ Gathering ~ Gifts
Goodwill ~ Hope ~ Jesus ~ Joy ~ Love ~ Messiah ~ Nativity ~ Noel
Omnipresent ~ Peace ~ Yuletide

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May you have a very blessed and joyous Christmas season!

Officers: Donna Manoogian, Sr. Warden, John Rogalski, Jr. Warden, Phil Littlehale, Treasurer, Paul Felci, Asst. Treasurer, and Brenda Caggiano, Clerk of the Vestry

Vestry: Bill Bidmead, Sr. (2026), Rose Holt (2027), Joanne Lancaster (2027), M. Dibby LeBlanc (2026), Colleen Marcotte (2028), and Sandy St. Clair (2028)