St. John's Good News

January 2026

*** ANNUAL MEETING ***
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1ST — 10:30AM
Please mark your calendars and plan to attend this important annual gathering of the church. New officers, vestry, and delegates will be elected, we will review 2025 accomplishments and our financial reports, while considering goals for the New Year. We look forward to everyone's participation!

From Fr. Walter...

Greetings St. John's!

I am glad to report, from my respective at least, that my first Christmas at St. John's was quite enjoyable. Good cheer and hospitality were in the air. And the church was in a glorious state of celebration, in no small part to your communal effort and traditions! Not surprisingly, St. John's both lives the Christmas spirit and exemplifies the hallmark doctrine of Anglicanism: the Incarnation. Yes, we know it as Christmas, or possibly as the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ, but it also goes by the Feast of the Incarnation. "The Word became flesh, and dwelt among us." One famous 20th century theologian, Paul Tillich, would go so far as to name the Incarnation as the "Anglican Heresy". In other words, he thought that we Anglicans (Episcopalians) were overly obsessed with the Incarnation to the detriment of other doctrines. Maybe so. Other Christians focus on Pentecost, Good Friday or Easter, and we Anglicans just love Christmas. I also suspect that Tillich did not quite accept that God could or would take flesh and dwell among us.

But that, my friends, are the glad tidings of great joy: that God not only could but willingly and lovingly chose to take flesh, to share our messy human life in Jesus. Indeed, life in the flesh, in the here and now, matters to God. "For God so loved the world!!!" And if it matters to God, it matters to us. As a consequence, we are committed to this world as an arena of God's grace and presence, and by implication we are vehicles of God's presence as Christ's body in the world.

And so, as Anglican Heretics we embrace the messiness of this world, celebrate its worthiness, and focus on it's beauty with every Christmas carol and poinsettia. If life in the flesh matters, then the life of St. John's matters, in the here and now. Let us embrace and celebrate the joy of the Incarnation, and in the New Year renew our commitment to God's life among us so that we may continue as vehicles of God's presence in Saugus and beyond.

Blessings for the New Year,
Father Walter

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Christmas Fair Update

As a wrap-up for December's Annual Christmas Craft Fair, we are happy to report a profit of $4,800. St. John's also thanks the following area businesses for their support through gift card donations for our raffle: Kowloon Restaurant, Hammersmith Restaurant, Jimmy's Steer House, and Harrows Chicken Pies. An anonymous donor also contributed a gift card from Trader Joe's.

We thank these local businesses again for their generosity, and of course, our profound thanks to the many parishioners and friends of the church who gave of their time and efforts.

In closing, our congregation and friends offer heartfelt appreciation to longtime parishioner and current Senior Warden, Donna Manoogian. She has been St. John's Fall and Christmas Chairman for many years and is stepping down. Donna's commitment, organization, and diligence has been instrumental in the success of our annual fairs. We now welcome Jeanne Seaboyer as our new event Chair!

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Stewardship Update

I am very happy to report that as of 12/31/25 St. John's received 49 pledges in the total amount of $85,702!

17 pledges were able to increase

26 pledges were able to continue last years amount

2 pledges decreased from last year

4 new pledges

27 pledges chose ACH - Monthly auto withdrawal of their pledge.

We thank you all for your generous support of St. John's with your Wealth, Works and Wisdom!

~ Julia Aston
Stewardship

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Looking Ahead....

February 17th – Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper (Details & time TBA)

February 18th – Ash Wednesday Liturgy and the Imposition of Ashes, 12pm

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Community Outreach

Saugus Fire Department Annual Toy and Gift Card Drive

Over the course of four weeks in November and December, we collected gift cards and monetary donations to be used to purchase gift cards in support of the Saugus Fire Department's mission to help the children of families in need in Saugus experience a happy holiday. A total of $680 was collected in gift cards, cash and checks. The generosity of our parish members allowed us to deliver 27 Gift Cards for Target, Amazon, and AMC theaters to (Ret.) Captain Bill and Mrs. Carol O'Malley who spearhead this annual drive each year. Many thanks to all who support this project that brings joy to over 50 families at Christmas.

Warmth Tree

Thank you to everyone who decorated our warmth tree! You have helped to warm the heads, hands, and hearts of neighbors in our community who are in need. In collaboration with the Saugus United Parish Food Pantry, pantry recipients were invited to come to St. John's on December 12 and 19 and January 2 to choose items from our tree. Those who traveled to our door are very grateful for the gifts of warmth.

Mark your 2026 calendars!

January 4 - 25 Get your Prince Pizza **and** help raise funds to offset expenses for future St. John's events. How delicious is that! During our three week fundraiser, support St. John's with your purchase of a box of 3 famous Prince take home pizzas for $27 and receive a coupon redeemable at Prince Pizza whenever you wish. Plan your Super Bowl Sunday party as easy as pizza pie!

January 14 **Saugus Faith Community lunch.** Join us for a social networking event with parishioners of the Saugus faith community. Our goal is to build relationships and create an information highway to share what is happening in the different houses of worship in Saugus. We will meet on **Wednesday January 14, 12pm**. Bring a bag lunch. Beverages and dessert will be provided. All are invited.

March 14 **It's NEVER too early to talk about Spring!** With the joy of the Christmas Craft fair still producing smiles, we are excited to announce that we will be hosting an Artisan Marketplace on **Saturday, March 14**. Our church space will allow us to invite over 40 artisans with unique wares a location to offer their products to the public. Do you love to decorate, have advertising or promotional knowledge, Easter egg filling skills, musical talent or connections? Contact Jeanne Seaboyer with any ideas, questions, or comments.

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Word Search

Can you find these U.S. capitals?

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

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Albany ~ Augusta ~ Boise ~ Cheyenne ~ Concord ~ Dover ~ Frankfort
Harrisburg ~ Indianapolis ~ Jackson ~ Juneau ~ Lansing ~ Madison
Montpelier ~ Nashville ~ Olympia ~ Phoenix ~ Raleigh ~ Springfield ~ Trenton

(Respectively, the capitals of: New York, Maine, Idaho, Wyoming, New Hampshire, Delaware, Kentucky, Pennsylvania, Indiana, Indianapolis, Indiana, Mississippi, Alaska, Michigan, Wisconsin, Vermont, Tennessee, Washington, Arizona, North Carolina, Illinois, and New Jersey)

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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)