

St. John's Good News

From Rev. John...

Dear Friends,

As you may know, I have informed the vestry and the Bishop that I plan to retire on April 30th, 2025. Denise and I have been thinking about this for some time. I will be 67 years old and will have served as an ordained person for 42 years. We will be moving to Montreal to be closer to family members.

We are saddened about the prospect of leaving this parish. This has been a loving, healing, and joyous community. Serving here has been a great blessing.

Over the next several months, the wardens and vestry will work on discerning the next chapter in the life of St. John's. We have already met with our parish consultant, Lynn Smith and our regional canon, Martha Hubbard, to consider some options available to us.

For the first few months after my departure, there will likely be a bridge priest to take services and offer pastoral support. While I was on leave last year, St. John's was fortunate to have The Rev. Paul Dalzell join us from Australia. He and his wife Robyn enjoyed their time here a great deal. Perhaps inviting a foreign priest to have a similar experience would be an option you would like to consider.

In the long term, you will have to discern the shape which pastoral oversight will take. St. John's has concluded that our finances only allow us to pay a half-time priest. We will have to be creative in discerning how to ensure clerical leadership. Among the options we could consider are:

We could collaborate with a neighboring congregation and have a full-time priest responsible for both parishes. We have seen this locally in Saugus where the two Catholic parishes (Blessed Sacrament and St. Margaret) share a priest. There is much we can learn from collaborative initiatives in our Diocese as well as from our ecumenical friends. The wardens have already had an initial conversation with All Saints, Danvers and the Canon Martha. All Saints is also seeking a half-time priest and a collaborative relationship might serve both our congregations well.



June
2024

Sunday worship remains at 10am, in-person and virtually—all are welcome to participate. The service also broadcasts through Zoom, with weekly dial-in and link options shared by email.

Phone: 781-233-1242

Twitter (now X.com):
@StJohnsSaugus

Facebook: St. John's
Episcopal Church
Saugus

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We could seek a half-time priest. We have had two examples in the recent past (Sarah Van Gulden and myself). Part of our discernment process will need to determine how to be good stewards of the rectory.

The vestry will be having a meeting over the course of the summer with Canon Martha to discuss and consider these options. Change can be scary. It can also be an exciting time to see what new possibilities God has in store for us. Please be assured of my prayers during this time, and I ask your prayers for Denise and me also.

Peace,
John+

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Diocese of Massachusetts elects the Rev. Julia E. Whitworth

(Excerpt from diocesan website announcement)

The people of the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts have elected an Indianapolis priest to be their next bishop.

At the special electing convention held on Saturday, May 18, clergy and lay delegates elected the Rev. Julia E. Whitworth to succeed the Rt. Rev. Alan M. Gates as the 17th bishop of the Diocese of Massachusetts. The electing convention took place at Trinity Church in Boston. In order to be elected, a nominee needed to receive a simple majority of votes from both the clergy and lay delegates, voting separately as “orders,” on the same balloting round. Whitworth secured election on the fourth ballot, receiving 118 clergy votes and 155 lay votes, with 110 and 146 needed, respectively, for election.

Whitworth, the rector of Trinity Church in Indianapolis since 2016, is the first woman to be elected to lead the Diocese of Massachusetts as diocesan bishop. Her election must now receive consent from a majority of The Episcopal Church’s diocesan bishops and a majority of its dioceses via their Standing Committees. Pending that consent, the bishop-elect’s consecration is scheduled to take place on Saturday, Oct. 19 at Trinity Church in Boston.

“The diocese is eager to embrace a hopeful future and a pragmatic present. Julia Whitworth brings gifts of creativity and joy, along with solid experience and accomplishments at the diocesan and parish levels, which have prepared her for Spirit-driven leadership in our midst,” Bishop Alan M. Gates said. “I look forward to having our bishop-elect join me and Assistant Bishop Carol Gallagher over the summer to serve together in preparing for a healthy and faithful transition in October.”

Gates became the 16th bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts in September 2014. In preparation for retirement, he plans to resign his office at the time of the bishop-elect’s consecration in October. The Diocese of Massachusetts, established in 1784, is among the Episcopal Church’s oldest and largest, in terms of baptized membership, and comprises 180 parishes, missions, chapels and chaplaincies in eastern Massachusetts. Additional information and more detailed biography of the Bishop-elect is available online at Diomass.org.

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The Nelson Scholarship

Any active, contributing member of St. John's Church who is graduating from high school and plans to continue their education is eligible to apply for this scholarship. Applications are available by contacting Rose Holt at mamarosie119(at)aol.com or 781-727-six-eight-seven-nine. If you have any questions or would like to request an application, please feel free to contact Rose Holt.

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Every Child Deserves to Smile



During June and July, we will be collecting fresh fruit, snack items, and single serve beverages such as fruit juice, water, lemonade, iced tea, etc. We will also continue to collect non-perishable food items, toiletries, and everyday needs (paper plates, napkins, plastic utensils, baggies, etc.).

Back to School Supplies

During July and August, we will be collecting school supplies for the children served by our *Every Child Deserves to Smile* ministry.

Donations may be left in the *Every Child Deserves to Smile* collection basket in the vestibule or by contacting Jeanne Seaboyer.



The next quarterly meeting will be held at 9:30am, Thursday, June 6 in the Hurl Room. All are welcome to attend.

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Looking for New Members for Altar Guild

We are looking for 4 people who would be interested in joining the Altar Guild - learning how to set the altar for Sundays and how to clean up after the service. We have found that having teams of 2 people is best so you are doing it with someone.

Members sign up for one week a month (maybe twice if there is a 5 week month, and it would only be once every 5 weeks, if we added two more teams of 2). Please speak to any of the present Altar Guild members to find out what it's all about to see if this is a way you would like to serve St. John's. Maybe you and a friend?

Thank you,
Julia Aston, Kristina Palazzo, Dibby LeBlanc, Jeannine Cutter, Dee LeMay, and Sandy Mears

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Word Search

Several of the signers of our Declaration of Independence are here—can you find them?

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

Adams ~ Bartlett ~ Chase ~ Clark ~ Ellery ~ Franklin ~ Hancock ~ Harrison
 Jefferson ~ Livingston ~ Middleton ~ Paine ~ Ross ~ Rutledge ~ Stockton
 Taylor ~ Wolcott ~ Wythe

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Reminder! Annual Yard Sale Saturday, June 8th, from 9am—1pm

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

Vestry: Bill Bidmead, Sr. (2026), Rose Holt (2027), Joanne Lancaster (2027), M. ‘Dibby’ LeBlanc (2026), Sandy Mears (2025), and John Rogalski (2027)