ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN SOMERVILLE, NEW JERSEY



The Newsletter

158 West High Street, Somerville, NJ 08876 • 908.722.1250 • stjohnsomerville.org

JULY-AUGUST 2024

From the Rector

THE FIG TREE

In an English story, a detective who has spent several days searching the scene of the crime throws up his hands in disgust: "That was the perfect crime! The person never left a fingerprint anywhere." Could that not also be the perfect crime against life—to go through it without leaving a fingerprint anywhere? Can we see our own clear fingerprints in the world around us?



Summer is a time to think soberly about the fruit of our labors and to be exceedingly grateful for God's divine patience. Hear the grace of God in the parable of the fig tree!

Jesus tells of a fig tree which had not produced fruit for three years. Its outward appearance was impressive. It was green, healthy, strong and sturdy. There was nothing wrong with it, except it had produced no fruit. In its vigor, the fig tree was eating up the goodness of the ground at the expense of the surrounding vines, but still remained barren. So, the owner ordered the tree's removal to provide space for one that would produce. However, the gardener pleaded for a year's respite. He promised to loosen the soil and apply fertilizer—this was trouble usually not taken with fig trees. The owner agreed. He would wait until the next harvest. But this could be the fig tree's last chance.

"Whatever happened to that tree?" we may ask. It was given one more chance, and "maybe" it would produce fruit. The maybe is because of the fig tree, not because of the owner or the gardener. We can only hope that it took advantage of its grace period, for it is such a clear metaphor for each one of us and our gracious God.

Through the Church's ministry of Word and Sacrament, we too, have been given optimal conditions to flourish. Summer is a perfect time to search our souls and evaluate the fruitfulness of our whole lives ... our lives at work, at school, at home, and at play. Are there traces of our generosity and benevolence? Is there a transforming touch of compassion, caring, and concern?

Jesus' message is timeless. He calls us to respond to His Word with heartfelt contrition, confession of our sins, trust in His forgiveness, and the promise to serve God totally with our lives. In His mercy God gives each of us another chance. It is within each of us to bear fruit, just as in the case of the fig tree. How we use the gift of God's love and many blessings is ours to choose.

See you in Church or online! Father Ron



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

WELCOMING SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

Holy Eucharist at 8 and 10:15 First Sunday for the Parish Choir Church School Registration and Ministries Fair

TO OUR GUESTS AND VISITORS

We want to extend a warm welcome to everyone who is visiting with us. Whether you're just having a look, searching for a place of worship, or a guest of a parishioner, we're delighted to have you here. Please know that all baptized Christians are welcome to receive communion. This is not an Episcopal Table—indeed, it is the Lord's Table. Welcome!

Visitors Welcome—Coffee Hour

We welcome all visitors to St. John's. Everyone is invited to the coffee hour held after the 8 am and the 10:15 am services in the Parish Hall. If you are a visitor, please fill out a white Welcoming card found in the pews and put it in the alms basin or give it to an usher or a member of the clergy or mail it to the Parish Office.



Are You A Member?

Have you actually joined St. John's Church, or are you still attending as a guest? Joining the Church is like taking a relationship to the next level. There is something wonderful and different about being committed to *your* parish. If you would like to join St. John's, please contact Mark Trautman at mtrautman@stjohnsomerville.org or Fr. Ron at frautman@stjohnsomerville.org or frautman@stjohnsomerville.org

St. IOHN'S STEWARDSHIP

God brought the Church into being, equipping us with gifts, empowering us with the Spirit, inviting us to be Christ's witnesses to the end of the earth, to make disciples and baptize and teach, to bring Good News to the poor, to join God's transforming mission and work in the world. By participating in



the life and ministry of the Church, by sharing our financial resources to fund this work, we join God's work and mission in the world. In the process, we discover our life's highest meaning and purpose and discover how we may join God's mission in the world today!

If you have made a financial pledge to the church for 2024, we extend a sincere thank you. If you have not made a pledge for 2024, would you prayerfully consider making a pledge? *Our* 2024 *budget is* \$235,000. *As of today, there are* 90 *pledges totaling* \$188,790. To fill out a pledge online visit https://stjohnsomerville.org/pledge-card-form. By the grace of God, we will bridge our gap.

Contact any member of the Vestry, a Warden, Treasurer, Parish Office or myself if you have any questions. "Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the first fruits. Then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine" (Proverbs 3:9-10). May God continue to bless St. John's Church.

Father Ron

Bridge The Gap 2024

To All Parishioners of St. John's Church,

"Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ" — *Philippians* 1:2

WE ALL LOVE ST. JOHN'S CHURCH! It is our spiritual home. Since its incorporation in 1851, St. John's has played a crucial role in the Diocese of New Jersey and in the world. It is a place where men, women, and children are formed and informed for ministries, study, prayer, and common life in community, drawing from a rich variety of diversity and alive with the Good News of Jesus' death and Resurrection.

You are cordially invited to An Ice Cream Social

On Sunday, August 18
Following both 8am and 10:15am Holy Eucharist in the Parish Hall

The Wardens, Vestry, Finance, and
Stewardship Committees are all keenly aware of a \$ 34,500 shortfall in our budget and have been praying what to do. (You may recall there was a \$30k shortfall last year. By the end of last December, thanks be to God, we met our goal, thanks in part for our "2023 Bridge The Gap" efforts). St. John's is rising to the challenge in responding to our Baptismal Covenant in seeking, serving, proclaiming, believing that what we do here makes a difference in the lives of many people. We have faith that at the end of the day, all shall be well. But the cost of our common life continues to rise, expenses in maintaining our buildings, and we are committed to seeing our beloved Church flourish without debt. Your faithful and generous support makes a difference! Therefore, we have kicked off a "Bridge The Gap Campaign for 2024."

Would you prayerfully consider increasing your annual stewardship pledge for 2024 or consider making an additional gift? As an expression of our heartfelt appreciation, you are cordially invited to attend an Ice-cream Social in the Parish Hall on Sunday, August 18 during Coffee Hour following the 8 am and 10:15 am services. We hope that you will continue to partner with us in this important work.

Father Ron

Making A Will—

And Supporting the Ministry of the Church

Sometimes we think we don't have to say certain things in life, and in the life of the Church. These things should be obvious. Most of them are common sense. Other things may be about sharing vital information, communicating important concerns, local custom, tradition or advertising special events.



One of these important items has to do with making a will in your life, regardless of the size of your estate, and no matter what station in life you may be in. We will all die, and one of the most forward-thinking, considerate and helpful things we can do for our families and / or successors is to leave a will.

Our Book of Common Prayer includes a specific direction to reflect and act upon: "The Minister of the Congregation is directed to instruct the people, from time to time, about the duty of Christian parents to make prudent provisions for the well-being of their families, and for all persons to make wills, while they are in health, arranging for the disposal of their temporal goods, not neglecting, if they are able, to leave bequests for religious and charitable uses" (BCP, page 445).

My instruction to you, therefore, is to make a will!

The second item in that instruction is worth repeating: Please *do* leave a bequest to our beloved St. John's Church. The church where you have been baptized, confirmed, and married, the place where you were nurtured in Sunday School, the community where you have been challenged, the place where you have worshipped, the church where you may well have your funeral, does not serve in all those ways without receiving financial gifts, and in particular portions of one's final estate.

St. John's is a very special place where grace and love are known to so many who pass through our big red doors and meet people of hospitality and faith. Many contribute annually to our needs. Thank you! Your stewardship is heart-felt and appreciated. You know that we are called to err on the side of generosity and abundance in order for this parish to flourish. Every dollar given to St. John's helps us continue to serve Christ and His Church. We depend upon a faithful and generous community of people. *Thank you!*

An overwhelming number of people serve with deep love and devotion. And we are better off because of them. Their commitment is beyond reproach. Still, of course, we serve everyone with sincerity and grace God has given us.

Ultimately, of course, the church is a community, not a building. Much goes on here in terms of the ministry to our church, the Diocese and in the world. We are making a difference in the lives of others. And it is that ongoing community of faith that is supported by our financial estate planning and by our financial giving. *Thank you!*Father Ron

MUSIC AT ST. JOHN'S St. John's Parish Choir

Thanks to the Parish Choir for a great year! We ended the season with Choral Evensong on Sunday, July 9, followed by a reception in the Parish Hall. The Parish Choir resumes choir rehearsals on Thursday, September 5 at 7:15 pm, and we will sing for the first time on Welcoming Sunday, September 8 at the 10:15 service. We will sing Evensong for All Souls with



Bound Brook Presbyterian at St. John's on Sunday, November 3 at 5 pm, and Lessons and Carols on Sunday, December 15 at 5 pm. *Everyone is welcome!*

Brent F. Miller Memorial Music Fund

Grateful thanks to all who continue to give to the Brent F. Miller Memorial Music Fund. Your donations help us to expand our musical offerings throughout the year, including our professional section leaders, music supplies, instrumentalists, and more. *Thank you!*

THE WORK OF MINISTRY

Clothes Closet

Step into the new month of July in fashion and with great sales at the Clothes Closet of St. John's Episcopal Church in Somerville on Saturday, July 6 from 9 am to noon. The Clothes Closet features reasonably priced clothing and accessories for all ages—men and women, boys and girls, infants, and toddlers. Shoppers should bring their own bags, masks are suggested and social distancing is required. Cash only.

The Clothes Closet is located in the lower level of the Parish Hall. Free parking is available in the church lot behind the church or on the street. Enter the

Clothes Closet by way of the parking lot. Kindly follow the directions of the crew upon arrival.

All of our items are donated and we do our best to review and evaluate each item to maintain a high level of quality in our shop. Do you have fashionable new or gently used items that you'd like to donate? Contact Linda Willard at 347.276.6491. We are open the first and third Saturdays of each month from 9 am to 12 noon. The upcoming Clothes Closet dates are July 6 and 20; August 3 and 17. Contact clothescloset@stjohnsomerville.org.

Laundry Love News

Second and Fourth Thursdays of the month—Somerset Laundry, Division Street in Somerville. We can always use more quarter rolls and/or monetary support for the quarter rolls. Quarter rolls can be left in the alms basin on weekends, along with any cash/check donations—please just indicate Laundry Love donation in the memo line. Quarter rolls can also be dropped off at the Parish Office (call prior to let us know you are coming, 908-722-1250).

If you have any questions about the ministry, would like to donate or to get involved in some way, just ask Ed Edwards or Paul Grzella in church, call 908.507.8020, or pgrzella@verizon.net.

Loose Change Sunday

Loose Change Sunday is observed every first Sunday of the month, and our next dates are *Sunday*, *July 7 and Sunday*, *August 4*. Feel free to bring a jar (or a Ziplock sandwich baggie) filled with loose change to church and put it in the designated baskets in the Narthex (front door area of church) or on the little table by the side door that leads to the Parish Hall. Or, simply put whatever loose change you may have in the alms basins. This money is placed into the Discretionary Fund and used to help the many who reach out to St. John's for assistance.

Meals to Go

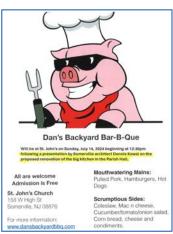
Meals to Go is offered the first and third Saturdays of the month, 9-10 am. If you know someone (including yourself) who would enjoy a meal, stop by the St. John's Parish Hall, use the ramp entrance and bring a bag. Thank you to Janet Hahn and Linda Willard for shopping and packaging meals. For more information or to be added to the volunteer list, please contact Christine Bean or Father Ron. We are grateful for your financial donations to support the ministry. Any amount is very much appreciated—a few dollars, combined with that of others, will go a long way to serving our hungry neighbors. If you wish to donate online, go to Meals-to-Go on the dropdown menu. For more information about volunteering, donations or publicity, call the Parish Office, or contact Christine Bean, cbean727@gmail.com, Father Ron, Frronpollock1@verizon.net.

Parish BBQ and 'Kitchen Mission'— Sunday, July 14

You are cordially invited to a Parish BBQ—and to hear about our 'Kitchen Mission!'

On Sunday, July 14, please join your fellow parishioners after the 10:15 am Eucharist for a special presentation by Somerville architect Dennis Kowal, in which he will lay out the plan for the proposed renovation of the big kitchen in the Parish Hall.

The renovation will bring the kitchen to a fully functional, energy efficient, and attractive state, allowing it to be used to prepare (not just heat up and



set out) meals to support and expand our mission to the community, bring us together in service and for great parish events, and raise donations from private parties hosted in the Hall. The project will bring our kitchen up to the standards of Somerville's construction code (we've gotten a pass on that so far), and include an upgrade of electrical service necessary both to support a fully functioning kitchen, and future air conditioning of the entire Parish Hall—turning it into a year-round venue.

Immediately following the presentation, and a Q&A session (*please ask questions!*), Dan's Backyard Bar-B-Que will open at 12:30 pm, to serve "Mouthwatering Mains (pulled pork, hamburgers, hot dogs) and Scrumptious Sides (coleslaw, mac-n-cheese, cucumber / tomato / onion salad, corn bread, cheese and condiments. For more information about Dan's, please see: www.dansbackyardbbq.com. Admission is free! All are welcome!

Upcoming Events—Take Note

Sunday, July 14: Holy Baptism at 10:15 am

Sunday, July 14: Presentation on the Kitchen Renovation and Dan's Backyard Bar-B-Que (see above)

Sunday, July 14-18: Diocesan Choir Camp at Church of the Advent, Cape May

Monday, July 15-August 5: Father Ron on vacation *Sunday, August 18:* Ice Cream Social (see above)

Tuesday, September 3: Evening Eucharist resumes, 7 pm Thursday, September 5: Eucharist and Mary & Martha Guild resumes, 10 am

Sunday, September 8—Welcoming Sunday

Sunday, October 6—Blessing of the Animals, 3 pm

Sunday November 3—All Saints' Sunday; All Souls Evensong at 5 pm

Sunday, December 1—First Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 15—Advent Lessons and Carols

Welcome to KEELEY JAMES AND BOBBI BELLA—Newly Baptized!





MARK YOUR

CALENDAR

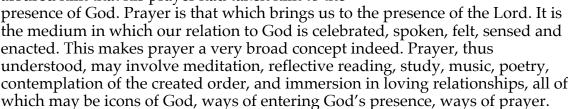
THE DAILY OFFICE

A Guide for the People of God

How might I observe a life of daily prayer? How might God draw me closer to a life a prayer? How might prayer change me?

WHAT IS PRAYER?

When Cornelius the centurion prayed a prayer recounted in Acts 10:1-8, the voice of God assured him that his prayer had taken him to the



One way of prayer is the way which the Church calls the Daily Office. It takes many forms, simple and complex, elaborate and extremely plain, embellished with extensive music or more focused upon silence and meditation. But the principle is the same: the sanctification of time. From the earliest times, the Church, and its Jewish antecedents, has marked the beginning, the midst, and the end of the day with prayer. Time, for Christians, is holy. In Genesis, we recite the story of creation, day by day, in which time is hallowed by God's creative acts. In the Gospels, time is hallowed by God, for in the fullness of time, Christ came to live within human history. As baptized Christians, we are sent forth to love and serve others in the midst of time and history.

THE DAILY OFFICE

The Book of Common Prayer provides in the Daily Office a cycle of daily prayer for the people of God as individuals and as a community of faith. Its aim is to hallow time: when time stands still, when all that has gone before, and all that lies ahead is caught up in the mystery of a moment. Daily prayer draws us deeper into the life of Jesus.

We offer time back to God each day in order that the whole of the day may be made holy. Just as a little leaven leavens the whole loaf, a little prayer sanctifies the whole day.

The Prayer called the *Daily Office* also engages us in dialogue with God. This dialogue takes the form of hearing the word of God in the psalms, the rest of the Old Testament and the New Testament, and then response to the word of God by praise and prayer which lays human concerns before the Lord.

St. Paul wrote, "For me, to live is Christ" (Philippians 1:21). We all long for meaning and purpose in our lives which drives us to go deeper into the mystery of ourselves and Christ until we see that the two are so inseparable, that, for us, life apart from God is not life at all.

It may sound obvious, but in fact this journey into God is something so natural that we've been doing it all our lives. It is what is meant by "prayer." Sometimes prayer is words, sometimes it's actions, sometimes it's a gesture of pure gratitude to God, sometimes it's a petition in asking for something—but every time we pray, we find out a little more about ourselves and a little more about God. Whatever form our prayer takes us—utilizing the various "offices" outlined in the Prayer Book, or even the slightest impulse of the will toward God—God seizes, and bit by bit forms the image of Jesus in us.

Jesus commanded us to pray. Not for the sake of imposing a legal duty, but because we meet Jesus in prayer.

Jesus taught our forebears how to pray, "all...with one mind, gave themselves up to prayer" (Acts l: 14a), and from then until now, prayer, especially common prayer, has been one of the distinguishing activities of baptized Christians.

Prayer is the instinctive response to the love we all know and can identify with in Jesus. This great love we are given helps us to find our true nature in becoming more like Jesus. Love is what will endure when we all experience those moments of doubt, feelings of being adrift and not anchored in the love of Christ.

THE ANGLICAN/EPISCOPAL TRADITION

Anglicans/Episcopalians have a tradition of prayer that is rooted in Scripture. The Book of Common Prayer has always been the focus of our Anglican personal piety, rather than private prayer books of sentimental introspection or going down the slippery slope of being too narrow in praying for our own agendas and not the needs of others around the world. Our private prayers are an important part of our knowing Jesus. The advantage of Daily Prayer is that it takes us out of ourselves and orients us to the larger concerns of the kingdom of God on earth. When we pray the Daily Office, we join our voices with so many others in giving God thanks for the abundance of our lives. We offer praise and thanks to God. We offer God



prayers from many places around the globe and across time. Our prayers are unceasing. The Office is not so much our individual prayer as it is the heartbeat of the Body of Christ itself, which we enter by letting the people of God in the Church pray through our bodies, voices, minds and wills.

Just as the expertise of an individual orchestra member contributes to the equality of the whole, the tenor of our individual prayer life contributes to the whole Church, adding depth and strength to our common life in ways we probably never will know. In addition, the unceasing and loving prayer of the Body of Christ spread all over the face of the earth sustains our prayer too when our prayer seems dry or we don't feel like praying.

All are called to be loved by God in Jesus Christ, and we in turn are called to love all of God's creation. The prayer of the Daily Office is a practical way of living deeper into the mystery of love and praise and gratitude that is Jesus living now.

Ultimately, this rhythm of the daily office leads us to "pray without ceasing" (1 Thessalonians 5:17), as St. Paul says, which is simply to remain constantly in the presence of God through our ordinary experiences, responsibilities, and joys in our daily lives. It is when we recognize that prayer has not become an activity or a chore but rather an attitude of life, that reaffirms again and again that we have willingly and lovingly taken into our hearts the sacred delight of living with Jesus through our prayers for others that we experience a joy we never imagined.

DAILY DEVOTIONS

Following these pages, you will find simple forms for a beginner at the Daily Office. Called the *Daily Devotions*, they are from the Prayer Book of The Episcopal

Church. Each one consists of a selection of psalmody, a short reading, and suggested response and prayers. These shortened forms contain the same basic elements as the full form, yet in an abbreviated and uniform style with fewer variations. (The fuller form of the Daily Office: Morning and Evening Prayer, Noonday Prayer, and Compline are found in the Prayer Book on pages 75-135.)

How to Use the Devotions Book of Common Prayer, pages 136-140

- Begin with silence. Do what feels comfortable in helping to quiet your mind and heart to prepare to engage God and to enter the divine presence.
- The psalm follows. Read the psalm gently, slowly.
- A short reading follows, selected for its suitability for the time of day.
- forms of intercession. One example may be found in the Book of Common Prayer using Form III on page 387. Another style of intercessory prayer is the concentric circle model. Imagine yourself as the center of a range of concentric circles. In the center are yourself, and those with whom you are in intimate relationship. In the next circle you find your larger family, your work colleagues, and best friends. In the next circle are your parish family, and other members of important communities to which you belong. In the next circle is your city and its concerns, and beyond that, the concerns of the state and region. Beyond that in a larger circle are the concerns of our nation and the issues of national life and leadership. In the last circle are the global and cosmic concerns.
- Intercessory prayer can begin with the most intimate circles and move out through the circles of concern, touching upon people and issues which emerge on a daily basis.
- The Lord's Prayer stands at a kind of climactic point of the office, summarizing and exemplifying, as it does, Jesus' teaching on prayer, and summing up our intercessions.
- A prayer for the time of day follows. You may want to add, at this point, a seasonal prayer, reflecting the time of year. A selection of such prayers follows may be found below.

You have just begun The Daily Office, a discipline which has nurtured and sustained Christians through the centuries. The early desert fathers and mothers, the great monastic figures of the seventh and eighth centuries, and the large medieval monastic foundations of the high Middle Ages found the discipline to be the heart of Christian community and individual prayer life. At the Reformation, the English reformers returned The Daily Office to the people, where it should remain as a part of our response to baptism, wherein we promise to "continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers." (BCP, page 304)

—Father Ron

In the Morning, BCP, page 137

From Psalm 51
Open my lips, O LORD,*
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.
Create in me a clean heart, O God, *
and renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from your presence *
and take not your holy Spirit from me.
Give me the joy of your saving help again *
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

A Reading

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy we have been born anew to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

1 Peter 1:3

A period of silence may follow.

A hymn or canticle may be used; the Apostles' Creed may be said. Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others.

The Lord's Prayer

The Collect

Lord God, almighty and everlasting Father, you have brought us in safety to this new day: Preserve us with your mighty power, that we may not fall into sin, nor be overcome by adversity, and in all we do, direct us to the fulfilling of your purpose; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*.

At Noon, BCP, page 138

From Psalm 113

Give praise, you servants of the LORD; * praise the Name of the LORD.

Let the Name of the LORD be blessed, * from this time forth for evermore.

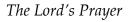
From the rising of the sun to its going down* let the Name of the LORD be praised.

The LORD is high above all nations, * and his glory above the heavens.

A Reading

O God, you will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are fixed on you; for in returning and rest we shall be saved; in quietness and trust shall be our strength. *Isaiah 26:3; 30:15*

Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others.



The Collect

Blessed Savior, at this hour you hung upon the cross, stretching out your loving arms: Grant that all the peoples of the earth may look to you and be saved; for your mercies' sake. *Amen*.

or this

Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your apostles, "Peace I give to you; my own peace I leave with you:" Regard not our sins, but the faith of your Church, and give to us the peace and unity of that heavenly City, where with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and reign, now and for ever. *Amen*.



In the Early Evening, BCP, page 139

This devotion may be used before or after the evening meal.

The Order of Worship for the Evening, page 109, may be used instead.

O gracious Light,

pure brightness of the ever living Father in heaven,

O Jesus Christ, holy and blessed!

Now as we come to the setting of the sun,

and our eyes behold the vesper light,

we sing your praises, O God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

You are worthy at all times to be praised by happy voices,

O Son of God, O Giver of life,

and to be glorified through all the worlds.

A Reading

It is not ourselves that we proclaim; we proclaim Christ Jesus as Lord, and ourselves as your servants, for Jesus' sake. For the same God who said, "Out of darkness let light shine," has caused his light to shine within us, to give the light of revelation—the revelation of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

2 Corinthians 4:5-6

Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others.

The Lord's Prayer

The Collect

Lord Jesus, stay with us, for evening is at hand and the day is past; be our companion in the way, kindle our hearts, and awaken hope, that we may know you as you are revealed in Scripture and the breaking of bread. Grant this for the sake of your love. *Amen*.

At the Close of Day, BCP, page 140

Psalm 134

Behold now, bless the LORD, all you servants of the LORD, *

you that stand by night in the house of the LORD.

Lift up your hands in the holy place and bless the LORD; *

the LORD who made heaven and earth bless you out of Zion.

A Reading

Lord, you are in the midst of us and we are called by your Name: Do not forsake us, O Lord our God. *Jeremiah* 14:9,22

The following may be said

Lord, you now have set your servant free *

to go in peace as you have promised;

For these eyes of mine have seen the Savior, *

whom you have prepared for all the world to see:

A Light to enlighten the nations, *

and the glory of your people Israel.

Prayers for ourselves and others may follow. It is appropriate that prayers of thanksgiving for the blessings of the day, and penitence for our sins, be included.

The Lord's Prayer

The Collect

Visit this place, O Lord, and drive far from it all snares of the enemy; let your holy angels dwell with us to preserve us in peace; and let your blessings be upon us always; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*.

The almighty and merciful Lord, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless us and keep us. *Amen*.

Seasonal Collects

Advent

Almighty God; give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall me again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen*.

Christmas ·

Almighty God, you have given your only begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and to be born this day of a pure virgin: Grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom with you and the same Spirit be honor and glory, now and for ever. *Amen*.

Epiphany

Father in heaven, who at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit: Grant that all who are baptized into his Name may keep the covenant they have made, and boldly confess him as Lord and Savior; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. *Amen*.

Lent

O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy: Be gracious to all who have gone astray from your ways, and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of your Word, Jesus Christ your Son; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen*.

Holy Week

Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain: and entered not into glory before he was crucified: Mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*.

Easter

O God, who by the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ destroyed death and brought life and immortality to light: Grant that we, who have been raised with him, may abide in his presence and rejoice in the hope of eternal glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be dominion and praise for ever and ever. *Amen*.

Ascension Day

Grant, we pray, Almighty God, that as we believe your only-begotten Son our Lord Jesus Christ to have ascended into heaven, so we may also in heart and mind there ascend, and with him continually dwell; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen*.

Pentecost

O God, who on this day taught the hearts of your faithful people by sending to them the light of your Holy Spirit: Grant us by the same Spirit to have a right judgment in all things, and evermore to rejoice in his holy comfort; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen*.

Saints' Days

Almighty God, you have surrounded us with a great cloud of witnesses: Grant that we, encouraged by the good example of your servant *N*., may persevere in running the race that is set before us, until at last we may with him attain to your eternal joy; through Jesus Christ, the pioneer and perfecter of your faith, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

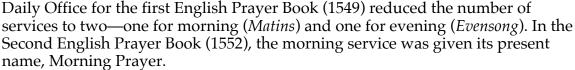
Morning Prayer on Sunday, August 4

While Father Ron is away on vacation, Morning Prayer will be offered in lieu of our usual Celebration of the Holy Eucharist on Sunday, August 4 at both 8 am and 10:15 am. Deacon Keith McCoy will be our Officiant and Preacher.

WHAT IS MORNING PRAYER?

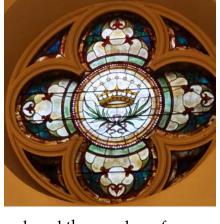
In many times and places, daybreak has been a time of prayer. Jews prayed in their synagogues at sunrise as well as at other times each day. This Jewish pattern of prayer formed the basis of the Christian monastic Daily Office, with its prayers or "hours" at seven times in each day.

Archbishop Thomas Cranmer's revision of the



Many elements of Morning Prayer come from the monastic hours of *Matins* (e.g., *Venite* and *Te Deum*), Lauds (e.g., *Benedicte*, *omnia opera Domini*, a "chapter" of scripture, *Benedictus Dominus Deus*, Collect of the day), and *Prime* (e.g., a second "chapter" of scripture and the Apostles' Creed). Psalms were recited at every one of the offices, with the whole Psalter recited once a week. In the 1549 Prayer Book, psalms were read at both Morning and Evening Prayer, with the whole Psalter read "in course" once each month. In subsequent Prayer Book revisions, psalms have come to be used more selectively, although a monthly cycle of psalms read "in course" is still provided as an option. In the 1549 Prayer Book, the very short monastic "chapters" were lengthened to full chapters of both the Old and New Testaments at both Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer. In the 1979 BCP, only one lesson must be read, and the appointed lessons are not so long.

Morning Prayer once was the chief Sunday service in most Episcopal churches on three out of four Sundays, the First Sunday usually being a celebration of Holy Communion. This practice has not continued because the Eucharist has been recognized as the "principal act of Christian worship on the Lord's Day" in most parishes (see BCP, p. 13), However, Morning Prayer is clearly designated as a daily service for the worship of the church. This usage reflects the ancient tradition of the Daily Office.



Summer Resources for Children and Families

The Diocese of New Jersey is committed to providing resources for all ages and stages in the journey of followers of Jesus Christ. While many of us are accustomed to programming for gathered, traditional faith formation in our churches, we know that faith must be present and practiced in the home in order to be fully realized. It is our ministry as individuals, congregational leaders, and disciples to engage people of all ages in relationship with Jesus: equip people, by resourcing and modeling faith practices, empower people, by giving them space and permission to become disciples of Christ and encourage people, by walking with them in their faith journeys: https://dioceseofnj.org/lifelong-christian-formation.

School Supplies Needed

The new school year is not around the corner and many parents will be shopping for back-to-school supplies. Yet, many parents cannot afford essential items needed for their children. We see many families struggling to make ends meet, and for them, our brothers and sisters in Christ, we want to be able to reach out and help. We hope that parishioners will once again support "Back to School Supplies Collection" and help students get a good start this fall. St. John's Church, along with our Church School, has launched its annual "Children's School Supplies Collection." Children of families here at St. John's and children we know in our local Somerville area community will benefit from donations.

New school supplies, such as: backpacks, notebooks, three-ring binders (1½ to 3 inches), pencil cases that fit inside binders, paper, glue sticks, safety scissors, index cards, rulers, highlighters, markers, pens, pencils and crayons will be accepted. Donations made be dropped off to St. John's anytime—call prior to coming (908-722-1250). Or, bring supplies on a Sunday morning when you come to Church services and put them in the large basket box located in the Parish Hall. On Sunday, September 8 (Welcoming Sunday), we will conduct the Blessing of the Backpacks and Children's School Supplies during both services.

OVERDOSE AWARENESS DAY: August 31

St. John's Church will once again participate in and support several other non-profit agencies and non-profit organizations, such as Community in Crisis, Somerset Treatment Services, *Not An Easy Fix*, and more, in International Overdose Awareness Day which seeks to reduce the stigma of drug-related deaths and spread the message that overdose death is preventable.

Many churches and houses of worship throughout Somerset Count will have a display of purple flags representing the names of those lost to overdose. Fifty flags will represent the 50 mothers, fathers, sons and daughters who tragically lost their lives to overdose in Somerset County in 2023. Seventeen locations across Somerset County are also joining the effort with flags and banners. These include Congregation B'nai Israel and the churches of Somerset Hills Lutheran, Bishop Janes United Methodist, St. Mark's Episcopal, St. James' Catholic in Basking Ridge; Bernardsville Public Library, Bernards United Methodist and St. Bernard's Episcopal in Bernardsville; Liberty Corner Presbyterian Church in Liberty Corner; St John's Church and Somerville Borough Municipal Center in Somerville; Trinity United Church in Warren; Bound Brook Presbyterian Church in Bound Brook; Montgomery-Rocky Hill Municipal Center in Skillman; Clover Hill Reformed Church in Clover Hill; and Hillsborough Reformed Church in Hillsborough.

Following International Overdose Awareness Day, September is National Recovery Month, designed to educate Americans on mental health and substance

use disorders, in addition to celebrating the work of individuals in recovery and providing support to affected families and patients. There will be a sign in front of our church indicating National Recovery Month.

According to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), more than half of individuals misusing prescription opioids bought, were given, or stole the prescription drugs from a friend or relative, often from the home medicine cabinet. Find out more at: Community in Crisis: www.communityincrisis.org; Not An Easy Fix: www.notaneasyfix.org; Somerset Treatment Services: www.stscares.org;

WE CELEBRATE, WE REMEMBER: JULY 2024

BIRTHDAYS

- 1. Roseann Brown
- 2. Carol Boyer, Justin Matyas
- 3. Connie Van Arsdale
- 4. Brian Hewett
- 5. Emerson McTernan, Kenneth Morrison
- 7. Clinton Bowers, Kelly Mehring, Rebecca Wiley
- 9. Nicholas Venet, Gabriel Ruiz
- 10. Cheyenne Britt, Joseph Gaitan
- 12. Kyle Ferris
- 13. Robin Fehring
- 14. Mark Hernandez, Dani Conceicao
- 15. Megan Roth
- 16. Paula Windus, James Barna
- 17. Elizabeth Lande
- 18. Lori Ellis, Aiden Hernandez
- 20. Lia Belle Buchanan, Steven Roll
- 22. Jonathan Marshall
- 23. Jessica Jacob
- 25. Rohan Tonk
- 26. Kristian Fried
- 27. Karl Spolarich, Caryle Steggall
- 28. Lynne Neff, Charlotte Metrokotsas
- 29. Michael Normant
- 31. Cherie Fox, Alice Marshall, Patrick Brienza

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

2. Bob & Buffy Disko, Kelly & Brian Hamer

AUGUST 2024

BIRTHDAYS

- 2. William Vandeveer
- 3. Crystal Bowden, Thomas Brown, Jason Matyas, Paměla Ansbro
- 4. Emily Windus Muller, Mia Mlenak
- 5. Patrick Bower, Shaun Keker
- 7. Ivan Rogalsky, Jessica Williams, Erik Franko, Katelyn Scott, Kathy Bakes
- 8. John Plesniarski
- 9. Karen Pompey, June Rose, Lucas Smith
- 10. Ava Poklikuha
- 11. Olivia Kutlow
- 13. James Robert Van Arsdale, Geoffrey Osinski
- 14. Edward Manko IV
- 15. Roopal Tonk, John Nawrath, John Fuhrmann
- 16. Edward Manko
- 17. Ben Agins
- 18. Amy Vadala 19. Buffy Disko, Graysen Fleming 20. Griff Dowden
- 22. Stuart Steggall
- 23. Gabriela Saenz, Crystal Marshall, Lorraine Westmoreland, Kristen Wawrzyniak
- 24. Cathleen Daniels
- 25. Lynn Giordano, Andino Liberatoscioli, Jaxon
- McCann, Will Carlson, Chase Chudy
- 26. Jamie Rae & Stephen Osinski

- 10. Sue & Russell Tepper
- 13. Cherie & Tony Pieroni
- 16. James & Alison Voss
- 17. Matt & Kimberly Fleming
- 18. William & Nihoko Hoffman
- 19. Robert & Christine Massey,
- Edward & Alison Manko
- 23. Andrew & Kelly Mehring, Steven & Carly Smith,
- 31. Michael & Sinead Normant

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

- 1. Alexis Smith
- 4. Joseph H. Chapman, Beth Ann Manfredi
- 7. George Preston Fleet
- 8. Joseph P. Gaughan
- 9. Grace Vadala, Margaret Wachter, Shirley Rostron
- 10. Thomas L. Berry Jr.
- 11. Theresa Allgair
- 12. Dan Eldon, Salvatore Salzano
- 13. Jean Chittenden
- 19. Walter Miggins Sr., William Marshall Jr., Ben Neal
- 22. Lucy Matthews, Vincentina Frazer
- 25. Theodore F. Richart, Margaret Rogers
- 26. Jessamine & Richard Henderson
- 28. Florence Ellis
- 29. Lavona Oasler, Arthur Van Tassel, Linda Perrone
- 31. Regina L. Spolarich, Ruth Kletz
- 27. Ryan Pierson
- 28. Brian Santostefano, Dorothy Spolarich
- 29. Dominick Abbatiello
- 30. Gloria Bower, Amelia Pieroni, Johanna Alzate
- 31. Karl Watts

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

- 6. Vincenzina & Steve Mlenak
- 11. Paul & Marika Foreman,
- Michael & Katelyn Scott
- 12. Christine & Frank Tardiff
- 13. Johana & Esteban Soriano
- 15. Stephanie & David Soden
- 16. John & Kimberly Nawrath,
- John & Sheila Fuhrmann

28. Marc & Jill Brodsk **DEATH ANNIVERSARIES**

- 1. Jay Vandeveer
- 12. Ånna Recktenwald
- 15. Gertrude Miggins, JoAnn Ivas
- 16. Kermit Saunders
- 18. Florence Ann Jones
- 25. Lawrence Thomason
- 26. Roseann Wawrzyniak
- 28. Etta B. Demaray, Irene McCoy
- 29. Maurice Aikens

July 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	12:30-1:30 All Recovery Meeting 7 pm, ECW			INDEPENDENCE DAY Office Closed	Fr. Ron's Day off	9 am, Meals to Go 9 am, Clothes Closet
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Pentecost 7 Proper 9B 8 am, Eucharist 10:15, Eucharist Loose Change Sunday	12:30-1:30, All Recovery Meeting 8 pm, AA Meeting			5 pm, Laundry Love	Fr. Ron's Day off	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Pentecost 8 Proper 10B 8 am, Eucharist 10:15, HB & HE; 11:30 Kitchen Presentation 12:30 Dan's Backyard BBQ	12:30-1:30, All Recovery Mtg. 8 pm, AA Mtg. Fr. Ron on vacation until August 5; Parish Office Closed until July 19					9 am, Meals to Go 9 am Clothes Closet
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Pentecost 9 Proper 11B 8 am, Eucharist 10:15, Eucharist Rev. Scott Russell, guest Celebrant and Preacher	12:30-1:30, All Recovery Meeting 8 pm, AA Meeting St. Mary Magdelene			St. James, Apostle	Parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary	
28	29	30	31			
Pentecost 10 Proper 12B 8 am, Eucharist 10:15, Eucharist Rev. Scott Russell, guest Celebrant and Preacher	12:30-1:30, All Recovery Mtg 8 pm, AA Meeting					

August 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	9 am, Meals to Go 9 am, Clothes Closet
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Pentecost 11 Proper 13B 8 am, 10:15, Morning Prayer Deacon Keith, Officiant and Preacher Loose Change Sunday	12:30-1:30, All Recovery Meeting 6:30 pm, ECW 8 pm, AA Meeting Fr. Ron returns	Feast of the Transfiguration		5 pm, Laundry Love	Fr. Ron's Day off	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Pentecost 12 Proper 14B 8 am, Eucharist 10:15, Eucharist;	12:30-1:30, All Recovery Meeting 8 pm, AA Meeting	St. Barnabas, Apostle		Feast of St. Mary the Virgin	Fr. Ron's Day off	9 am, Meals to Go 9 am Clothes Closet
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Pentecost 13 Proper 15B 8 am, Eucharist 10:15, Eucharist	12:30-1:30, All Recovery Meeting 8 pm, AA Meeting			5 pm, Laundry Love	Fr. Ron's Day off	St. Bartholomew, Apostle
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Pentecost 14 Proper 16B 8 am, Eucharist 10:15, Eucharist Neva Rae Fox, Preacher	12:30-1:30, All Recovery Mtg 8 pm, AA Meeting				Fr. Ron's Day off	

St. John's in Somerville, Leadership, 2024

PARISH STAFF

The Rev. Canon Ronald N. Pollock, *Rector*, frronpollock1@verizon.net The Rev. W. Keith McCoy, *Deacon Associate*, kmccoy1@optonline.net

Mark A. Trautman, Organist-Choirmaster and Administrator, mtrautman@stjohnsomerville.org

Ministers: The People of St. John's

Altar Guild

Diane Sireci, *Directress*, dianesireci61@icloud.com Tom Keefer, *Treasurer*, thomasekeefer@yahoo.com

Dana Keefer, *Flowers, Weddings, & Funerals,* dzkeefer@yahoo.com Bread & Wine and Altar Candles, mtrautman@stjohnsomerville.org

Music Program

Mark A. Trautman, mtrautman@stjohnsomerville.org

Canon Chancellor John W. Goldsack Church Library

Deacon Keith, kmccoy1@optonline.net

Church School

Michelle Hernandez, chellehernandez1@gmail.com Tracey Jameson, tkayj@aol.com

Taffy Scherr, tafrika@aol.com

Episcopal Church Women (ECW)

Jennifer Kosensky, Vice-President, jrkosensky@gmail.com

Mary & Martha Guild

Fr. Ron

Episcopal Youth Community (EYC) Adviser

Fr. Ron

Clothes Closet Council, clothescloset@stjohnsomerville.org

Valerie Gibson, Taffy Scherr, Linda Willard, Paula Windus

Laundry Love

Paul Grzella, pgrzella@verizon.net

Meals to Go

Christine Bean, cbean727@gmail.com, Niki Hoffman, nikihoffman@hotmail.com

Red Door Ministries

Baby Blankets for newborns and those baptized: Pauline Boyer, 908.722.1832

Loose-Change for Discretionary Fund: position open

Happy Mealers: Parish Office, mtrautman@stjohnsomerville.org

Finance Committee

Terry McShane, tlm49@comcast.net

Stewardship

Fr. Ron, Adviser; Terry McShane

Treasurer

Sam Galpin, Parish Treasurer, sam.galpin@outlook.com

Anne Tom, Parish Co-Treasurer annetom@comcast.net

Vestry (Class year)

Steve Mandraccia, Senior Warden, Smandraccia@verizon.net (2025); Terry McShane, Junior Warden (2026) tlm49@comcast.net, George Mullen, bigbrown11@optimum.net (2025); Megan McNamara, meganmcnamara1@yahoo.com (2025); Leigh Meaders-Robinson, Leigh.meaders1@gmail.com (2025); Barbara Christel, barbarachristel@yahoo.com (2026); Sheila Fuhrmann, jfuhrmann00@aol.com (2026); Janice Williams (2026), jmwbells@icloud.com; Kyle Ferris (2027), kyleferris1@hotmail.com; Carolyn Groff (2027) camy.groff@gmail.com;

Steve Sireci (2027) sireci@comcast.net





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