



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

# The Newsletter

158 West High Street, Somerville, NJ 08876 • 908.722.1250 • [stjohnsomerville.org](http://stjohnsomerville.org)

---

M A Y 2 0 2 5

*From the Rector*

## Why Do We Serve?

LOOKING FOR WAYS to deepen your faith, engage in social justice issues, mission-outreach, religious education and formation, fellowship and worship? Are you seeking to channel your energy into a creative force for good? How do you incorporate our mission statement in your spiritual life: "To Know Christ and To Make Him Known"?



Service is in our DNA. When we at St. John's Episcopal Church proudly opened up our big red doors in 1850 for the first time, we announced that we would be "shining lights in the Church and blessings to the world." So we have been. From our earliest years, St. John's has welcomed people from all walks of life who faithfully dedicated themselves in their homes, workplace, neighborhoods, their classrooms, within the Diocese of New Jersey, and all over the world volunteering their time, talent and treasure to make the planet a better place.

There's no shortage of challenges in the world. Poverty. Illiteracy. Homelessness. Social justice. Violence. Drugs. Disease. Conflict. Seeking solutions requires creativity, compassion and perhaps most importantly, knowledge grounded in critical thinking and global engagement. Sound familiar? These Christian values, traits and behaviors have been present at St. John's for generations and can be found today in many of our passionate and generous people, in our work and labor, and in our various ministries.

In his book *Servant Leadership: A Journey into the Nature of Legitimate Power and Greatness*, Robert Greenleaf offered one of the most wonderful definitions of service that I know. Genuine service means "that other people's highest priority needs are being served. The best test, and difficult to administer, is this: Do they, while being served, become healthier, wiser, freer, more autonomous, more likely themselves to become servants? And, what is the effect on the least privileged in society? Will they benefit or at least not be further deprived?" In my experience, the most rewarding ministry in serving others, are ones that create a genuine partnerships with solidarity between helpers and those being helped.

At its core, service, ministry and discipleship asks us all to reflect on the impact of what we do.

The people of St. John's Church have an ongoing opportunity to reflect upon how different members have taken actions that get to the heart of Greenleaf's wise observations. My hope for you is to find inspiration here, and to channel that creative energy and passion in serving Jesus Christ and the world. It's who we are. It's in our DNA. Invite a family member, neighbor or friend.

*See you in Church or online!*

*Father Ron*

## COMING UP IN MAY

### Christian Formation

- **Sunday, May 4**, All students will be in Church.
- **Sunday, May 11**, "Children's Chapel" with Father Ron from 10 am to 10:10 am. Following that, students will go to their respective classrooms for instruction. Students will join their families in Church, and the rest of the congregation, after "The Peace."

*Questions? Contact a Church School teacher or Father Ron.*

### Rogationtide

In 1559, the Anglican Book of Common Prayer required a particular prayer to be read in all Anglican Churches on the Sunday before Ascension Day, and on the following Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Some of the more historical among you might know that these days in the Church Year are known as "Rogation Days." In the pre-industrial world, the Church noted with great care the days we should pray for good planting and good harvest, the days we should pray for the earth. This year, Rogation begins Sunday, May 5.



The word "Rogation" comes from the Latin word *rogare* which means "to ask." In the Christian Church, Rogation Days were set aside for special prayer for God's creation and the fruit of the earth. It is a sad pity, a tragedy really, that our industrial and even post-industrial society pays such little attention to that prayer. I pray that we return to those roots, that we return to these days, always just before the Feast of the Ascension (this year on May 9), as Rogation Days. Here is a portion of a particular prayer, the one required by Queen Elizabeth in 1559. Listen to its beauty and truth:

*Almighty God, who has blessed the earth that it should be fruitful and bring forth everything that is necessary and has commanded us to work with quietness and eat our own bread; bless us in all our labors and grant us seasonable weather that we may gather in the fruits of the earth and ever rejoice in thy goodness to the praises of thy holy Name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

God has blessed the earth, that it should be fruitful! In addition to the 1559 requirement mentioned above, the Church required a procession around the Church. The entire Parish was meant to go outside and walk around the Church, in Rogationtide. It's time for us to take another look outside, too, to stop staying inside, cooped up, staring at TV screens and burning energy to stay comfortable, but to walk outside and observe the world. What do we see? Where do we see God at work in Creation? How can we improve our awareness in the stewardship

of God's Creation? Why should the Church be talking about Rogationtide? Quite simply, because the Church is in the business of Salvation. Jesus said, in John 3:16, "For God so loved the world...." That means "the world!" Not just the people in the world. God wants to save not just you and me, but the world itself. Salvation is not meant to be merely personal. It means salvation of others as well. And ultimately, salvation also refers to this very earth itself, to our land and air and water, all that sustains life here. Our ancestors made sure they asked their gracious God for fair and seasonable weather, for good planting and harvest. And so should we!

—Father Ron

### ***The Day of Pentecost and the Sacrament of Baptism***

The Day of Pentecost, this year on Sunday, June 8, is one of the four principal Baptismal days in the Church Year. If you or someone you know desires to receive the Sacrament of Baptism, contact Fr. Ron at [frronpollock1@verizon.net](mailto:frronpollock1@verizon.net). Find out more about the Sacrament of Baptism at St. John's here:

<https://stjohnsomerville.org/baptism>



### ***St. John's Stewardship***

***We currently have 77 pledges, \$184,948 of our \$235,000 goal.*** It is never too late to pledge and ***every*** pledge regardless of the amount makes an impact on the future of St. John's. So also does each volunteers' work and prayers. Let's ensure that St. John's is a place where everyone is welcome as we seek to fulfill our mission: "To Know Christ and To Make Him Known."

### **THE WORK OF MINISTRY**

#### ***Loose Change Sunday, May 4***

Loose Change Sunday is observed every first Sunday of the month. Feel free to bring a jar (or a 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. You Can also 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.

#### ***Clothes Closet—May 3 and 17***

It's our Mother's Day sale. Get an early start shopping for mom, grandma, sister, or just for you! Stop by and receive a free gift in honor of Mother's Day. No purchase necessary. We have a lovely selection of items just perfect for wearing on Mother's Day!

We also have some lovely casual tees for only \$2.00 each. You can't beat our prices! If you want to go casual, we have just what you need with a large selection of capris, jeans, light spring tops and sweaters.

Don't pass up our lovely selection of elegant gowns, shoes and handbags for your upcoming Prom, Graduation or a special occasion, plus our Jewelry table items would make your outfit complete.

Check out our New Woman's rack. There is always something new. Our Chico's Rack is back and the items are going fast! Our Chic Boutique Rack is filled with the chicest Items around!

**NEWS FLASH: We are now offering select BOUTIQUE items.** Lovely and fashionable spring and summer dresses, pants, jackets, short sets, tops, and so much more. Please stop by!

Celebrating your birthday this month? Stop by for a special gift! The Clothes Closet features reasonably priced seasonal clothing and accessories for all ages – men and women, boys and girls, infants, and toddlers. Masks suggested and social distancing is required. Cash only; small bills appreciated.

**Donation info:** We are currently accepting donations of Spring and Summer Items. 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. or more information contact [clothescloset@stjohnsomerville.org](mailto:clothescloset@stjohnsomerville.org).

### ***Laundry Love News***

We are pleased to report that St. John's Laundry Love ministry is now an approved affiliate of the national Laundry Love organization, making us one of four locations in New Jersey and among 240 locations nationwide. We continue to meet at the **Somerville Express Wash Laundry** once a month, 5-6 pm. Quarter rolls can be left in the alms basin on weekends, along with any cash/check donations—indicate *Laundry Love* in the memo line. Each guest receives a \$10 quarter roll and a bag with laundry pods and drying sheets. We always need donations of dryer sheets. These community donations will support the ministry for at least three meetings. 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](mailto:pgrzella@verizon.net) or the Parish Office, 908-722-1250.

### ***Meals to Go—May 3 and 17***

Meals to Go is offered the first and third Saturdays of the month at 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. 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 customers. If you wish to donate online, go to *Meals-to-Go* on the dropdown menu on our For more information or to be added to the volunteer list, please contact Christine Bean, [cbean727@gmail.com](mailto:cbean727@gmail.com) or the Parish Office, 908-722-1250.

## ***Episcopal Church Women News***

### ***Next Meeting***

Please join us on Monday May 5<sup>th</sup> for our ECW monthly meeting at 7:00 P.M. in the Parish Hall.

Our ECW Spring Tea will be on Saturday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall. Doors open at 1:45. Historian, Alisa Dupuy, will be presenting our theme which is the Female Spies of WW2, and celebrating the 80<sup>TH</sup> Anniversary ending WW2. **WE ARE SOLD OUT OF TICKETS!**

We look forward to everyone who will be joining us and thank you if you had signed up to bring a food item. We appreciate you!

We still have some Beautiful Fascinator's and Lovely Velvet Headbands for only \$5.00 to add a special flair to your Tea attire!



### ***Spring Plant Sale on the Lawn, May 10***

Our Annual Spring Plant Sale is Saturday May 10th from 10:00 am until 2:00 pm on the front lawn, rain or shine. We have some great new plants, vegetables and herbs this year. A perfect gift for Mother's Day! Come by early to get the best selections!

\$5.00 for small plants and herbs

\$20.00 for hanging baskets and planters

### ***June Meeting***

Our June meeting will be on Monday June 2nd. We will have a Pot Luck supper. We will meet at 6:00 PM in the Parish Hall and follow with a brief meeting at 7:00 PM. If you would like to sign up to bring a food item, a sign-up sheet will be available on the ECW Bulletin Board. Or, you can just join us.

This will be our last meeting until September.

The Women of ECW

### ***Questions? Contact an ECW officer:***

Co-President Jenn Kosensky (908-386-6152, [jrkosensky@gmail.com](mailto:jrkosensky@gmail.com))

Co-President Linda Willard (347-276-6491, [nolaandboogie@aol.com](mailto:nolaandboogie@aol.com))

Treasurer Karen Whitmore (908-526-7150, [paulawindus@verizon.net](mailto:paulawindus@verizon.net)).



***Climate Blessing: We Hold the Earth***

**We hold brothers and sisters who suffer  
from storms and droughts intensified by climate change.**

**We hold all species that suffer.**

**We hold world leaders delegated to make decisions for life.**

**We pray that the web of life may be mended through courageous actions  
to limit carbon emissions.**

**We pray for right actions for adaptation and mitigation  
to help our already suffering earth community.**

**We pray that love and wisdom might inspire my actions and our actions  
as communities...so that we may, with integrity,  
look into the eyes of brothers and sisters and all beings and truthfully say,  
we are doing our part to care for them and the future of the children.**

**May love transform us and our world with new steps toward life.**

*—from Interfaith Power and Light, Faith Climate Action Month,  
The Episcopal Diocese of Northern California, Beloved Community Resource Newsletter*



## Easter at St. John's







## **WE CELEBRATE, WE REMEMBER: MAY 2025**

### **BIRTHDAYS**

1. Sophia Mandraccia
2. Emma Rose Cardinale, James Thomas Van Arsdale
3. Justin Tyler Agins, Anne Finetto

4. William Marshall, Antonietta Bekir
5. Heather DeSoto, Joseph Polonyi, Doreen Franko, Julianne Newton
6. Brittany Sena
7. Christine Kelly

8. John Cardinale
9. Nicole Boyer
10. Emma Darcy, Robert Marshall, Paige Dillard, Jadesola Olawoye
11. Dennis Mathews, Brad Moor
12. Cherie Pieroni
13. Jeremiah Wiley
14. Danielle Scott, Ita Hines
15. Tim Brown, Rajkumar Nirmal, Dana Keefer, Tyler Kelly, Steven Smith
16. John Kiernan, Staceyann Smith
17. Kerry Edwards, Jasmine Fox, Kenneth Cardinale, Brian Williams, Kerry Keker, Gabriella Nawrath
18. Maxwell Wiley
19. Anna Strano
21. Eric Tipton, Daneka Ann Pieroni, Isabella Grace Fletcher
22. Kayla Marie Agins, Ryan Schofield, Anthony Pieroni
23. Sam Galpin
25. Edward Gilroy, Caitlin Chudy, Sheila Fuhrmann
26. Marielena Cardinale, Jose Rivera, Karen Whitmore
27. Joseph Callahan, Stephanie Soden
28. Erica Daugherty
29. Tony Pieroni, Jennifer Paladini, Jorge Armando Benitez
30. Rebecca Williams
31. Jennifer Yingst

#### **WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES**

- 2 David & Susan Mathews, Dominick & Karen Abbatiello

7. Chuck Agins & Tammy Harimon
16. Mark & Michelle Hernandez
18. David & Amanda Pierson, Stephen & Ann Spolarich
22. Steven & Ruth Roll
24. James Richart & Deirdre Kramer
26. Jose & Gloria Rivera
28. John & Vivien Ellis,
30. John & Julianne Newton
31. Steve & Tina Mandraccia

#### **DEATH ANNIVERSARIES**

1. Walter Miggins Sr.
3. Charles Chittenden
4. Howard H. Demaray
5. Ronald Quagliato Sr.
6. Patrick Gaughan, Elizabeth Holmes
7. Charles Stokes, Gail M. Fredericks
8. Elizabeth Anderson Thomson
9. Sarah Louise Thompson, Phillip Jameson
10. Marie Phyllis Durant Jacobs
13. Valerie Yingst
15. Jim Agins
16. Frederick S. Hallowell
18. Rose Rililghera
19. Emily H. Smith
21. Mary Weill Lawrence, Bishop George E. Councill. Linda Sue Olson
22. Edward F. Schaub, Elizabeth Morrison
23. Bernard T. Bruckner
24. Martha Chapman, Carmelo J. Vadala
25. Henry M. Biggin
29. Daniel Casey Jr.

# May 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				<b>1</b>  <i>St. Philip and St. James, Apostles</i> 10am, Eucharist Mary-Martha Guild	<b>2</b>  <i>Fr. Ron's Day off</i>	<b>3</b>  9am, Meals to Go 9am, Clothes Closet 2-4pm ECW Tea (SOLD OUT)
<b>4</b>  <b>EASTER 3</b> 8am, Eucharist 10:15, Eucharist <i>Loose Change Sunday</i>	<b>5</b>  12:30-1:30, All Recovery Meeting 7pm, ECW 8pm, AA Meeting	<b>6</b>  7pm, Holy Eucharist (chapel)	<b>7</b>  7:30pm Kitchen Mission Mtg	<b>8</b>  10am, Eucharist Mary-Martha Guild	<b>9</b>  <i>Fr. Ron's Day off</i>	<b>10</b>  10am-2pm, Plant Sale
<b>11</b>  <b>EASTER 4</b> <b>Mother's Day</b> 8am, Eucharist 10am, Church School 10:15, Eucharist	<b>12</b>  12:30-1:30, All Recovery Meeting 8pm, AA Meeting	<b>13</b>  7pm, Holy Eucharist (chapel)	<b>14</b>  7pm, Vestry	<b>15</b>  10am Eucharist Mary-Martha Guild 5pm, Laundry Love	<b>16</b>  <i>Fr. Ron's Day off</i>	<b>17</b>  9am, Meals to Go 9am Clothes Closet
<b>18</b>  <b>EASTER 5</b> 8am, Eucharist 10:15, Eucharist, Holy Baptism	<b>19</b>  12:30-1:30, All Recovery Meeting 8pm, AA Meeting	<b>20</b>  7pm, Holy Eucharist (chapel)	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>  10am, Eucharist Mary-Martha Guild	<b>23</b>  <i>Fr. Ron's Day off</i>	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b>  <b>EASTER 6</b> 8am, Eucharist 10:15, Eucharist	<b>26</b>  <b>Memorial Day—office closed</b> 12:30-1:30, All Recovery Mtg 8pm, AA Meeting	<b>27</b>  7pm, Holy Eucharist (chapel)	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>  <b>ASCENSION DAY</b> 10am, Eucharist Mary-Martha Guild	<b>30</b>  <i>Fr. Ron's Day off</i>	<b>31</b>  <i>The Visitation of the BVM</i>

# June 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>1</b>  <i>EASTER 7</i> 8am, Eucharist 10:15, Eucharist <i>Loose Change Sunday</i>	<b>2</b>  12:30-1:30 All Recovery Meeting 7pm, ECW	<b>3</b>  7pm, Holy Eucharist (chapel)	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>  10am, Eucharist Mary-Martha Guild	<b>6</b>  <i>Fr. Ron's Day off</i>	<b>7</b>  9am, Meals to Go 9am, Clothes Closet
<b>8</b>  <i>Day of Pentecost Whitsunday</i> 8am, Eucharist 10:15, Eucharist	<b>9</b>  12:30-1:30, All Recovery Meeting 6:30pm, ECW 8pm, AA Meeting	<b>10</b>  7pm, Holy Eucharist (chapel)	<b>11</b>  <i>St. Barnabas, Apostle</i> 7pm, Vestry	<b>12</b>  10am, Eucharist Mary-Martha Guild	<b>13</b>  <i>Fr. Ron's Day off</i>	<b>14</b>  Deacon Keith's 40 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Original Class Deacons in the Diocese of NJ
<b>15</b>  <i>Trinity Sunday Father's Day</i> 8am, Eucharist 10:15, Eucharist;	<b>16</b>  12:30-1:30, All Recovery Meeting 8 pm, AA Meeting	<b>17</b>  7pm, Holy Eucharist (chapel)	<b>18</b>  7pm, Vestry	<b>19</b>  5pm, Laundry Love Juneteenth Celebration	<b>20</b>  <i>Fr. Ron's Day off</i>	<b>21</b>  9am, Meals to Go 9am Clothes Closet
<b>22</b>  <i>Pentecost 2 Proper 7C</i> 8am, Eucharist 10:15, Eucharist	<b>23</b>  12:30-1:30, All Recovery Meeting 8pm, AA Meeting	<b>24</b>  7pm, Holy Eucharist (chapel)	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>  <i>Fr. Ron's Day off</i>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b>  <i>Pentecost 3 Proper 8C</i> 8am, Eucharist 10:15, Eucharist	<b>30</b>  <i>St. Peter &amp; St Paul, Apostles</i> 12:30-1:30, All Recovery Mtg 8pm, AA Meeting					

## *St. John's in Somerville, Leadership*

### **PARISH STAFF**

The Rev. Canon Ronald N. Pollock, *Rector*, [frronpollock1@verizon.net](mailto:frronpollock1@verizon.net)

The Rev. W. Keith McCoy, *Deacon Associate*, [kmccoy1@optonline.net](mailto:kmccoy1@optonline.net)

Karen Abbatiello, *Administrative Assistant*, [admin@stjohnsomerville.org](mailto:admin@stjohnsomerville.org)

### **Ministers: The People of St. John's**

#### **Altar Guild**

Diane Sireci, *Directress*, [dianesireci61@icloud.com](mailto:dianesireci61@icloud.com)

Tom Keefer, *Treasurer*, [thomasekeefe@yahoo.com](mailto:thomasekeefe@yahoo.com)

Dana Keefer, *Flowers, Weddings, & Funerals*, [dzkeefe@yahoo.com](mailto:dzkeefe@yahoo.com)

Bread & Wine and Altar Candles, [admin@stjohnsomerville.org](mailto:admin@stjohnsomerville.org)



#### **Music Program**

Open

#### **Canon Chancellor John W. Goldsack Church Library**

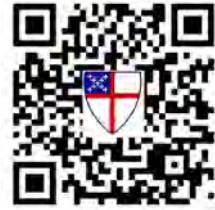
Deacon Keith, [kmccoy1@optonline.net](mailto:kmccoy1@optonline.net)

#### **Church School**

Michelle Hernandez, [chellehernandez1@gmail.com](mailto:chellehernandez1@gmail.com)

Tracey Jameson, [tkayj@aol.com](mailto:tkayj@aol.com)

Taffy Scherr, [tafrika@aol.com](mailto:tafrika@aol.com)



#### **Episcopal Church Women (ECW)**

Jennifer Kosensky, *Co-President*, [jrkosensky@gmail.com](mailto:jrkosensky@gmail.com)

Linda Willard, *Co-President*, [nolaandboogie@aol.com](mailto:nolaandboogie@aol.com)

#### **Mary & Martha Guild**

Fr. Ron, convener

#### **Episcopal Youth Community (EYC) Adviser**

Fr. Ron

#### **Clothes Closet Council**, [clothescloset@stjohnsomerville.org](mailto:clothescloset@stjohnsomerville.org)

Valerie Gibson, Taffy Scherr, Linda Willard, Paula Windus, Barbara Christel

#### **Laundry Love**

Paul Grzella, [pgrzella@verizon.net](mailto:pgrzella@verizon.net)

#### **Meals to Go**

Christine Bean, [cbean727@gmail.com](mailto:cbean727@gmail.com), Niki Hoffman, [nikihoffman@hotmail.com](mailto: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: Fr. Ron

#### **Finance Committee**

#### **Stewardship**

Fr. Ron, *Adviser*; Terry McShane, *Chair*

#### **Treasurer**

Sam Galpin, *Parish Treasurer*, [sam.galpin@outlook.com](mailto:sam.galpin@outlook.com)

Anne Tom, *Parish Co-Treasurer* [annetom@comcast.net](mailto:annetom@comcast.net)



## **Vestry**

Terry McShane, Sr. Warden  
Steve Sireci, Jr. Warden  
Thomas Albee, Vestry  
Donna Lazartic, Vestry  
Ken Miller, Vestry

Christine Anobile, Vestry  
Sheila Fuhrman, Vestry  
Barbara Christel, Vestry  
Janice Williams, Vestry  
Kyle Ferris, Vestry  
Carolyn Groff, Vestry

---

[St. John's Episcopal Church • 158 West High Street, Somerville, NJ 08876 • 908.722.1250](#)