



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 2025

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 7

Holy Eucharist at 8 and 10:15

First Sunday for the Parish Choir

Church School Registration and Ministries Fair



St. John's: Celebrating 175 Years Of Faith And Service To God's Community

Mark your calendar and plan to attend. Details to come!

Sunday, September 7: Welcoming Sunday!

Saturday, September 27: It's the St. John's Flower Show

**Saturday, October 4: St. Francis Day Blessing of the Animals
(a parish and town-wide favorite)**

Saturday, October 11: Casino Night! (another parish favorite)

**Sunday, October 19: Paul Robeson: Songs of Faith and Service. A
special presentation in the church featuring Keith Spencer highlighting
Somerville's own Paul Robeson, the international actor and singer.**

**Saturday, November 8: St. John's Anniversary Gala; Noon to 3 pm at
the Bridgewater Manor**

**Sunday, November 9: The Rt. Rev. J. Neil Alexander, IX Bishop of
Atlanta, at St. John's for both services to Celebrate and Preach at Holy
Eucharist; at 10:15 am to administer the Sacrament of Confirmation**

Coming soon – special St. John's 175th Anniversary merch!

SAVE THE DATE! MARK YOUR CALENDARS!
CONFIRMATION AND RECEPTION INTO THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Confirming our faith and receiving the sacred seal showing that we belong to God

We are thrilled to have The Right Reverend J. Neil Alexander, IX Bishop of Atlanta, on Sunday, November 9. Bishop Alexander will preach at the 8am Eucharist. The Confirmation service will be at 10:15am where the Bishop will celebrate and preach.

There will be a special coffee hour following the 8am service as well as after the 10:15am service. You may especially want to invite a friend, neighbor or family member on that Sunday!

Confirmation ("strengthening") completes the initiation (entry) of Baptism, with prayer for the gift of the Holy Spirit who is poured out upon us, to fortify our faith and deepen our Christian commitment. The gift and grace of the Spirit swelling within us moves us from being simply Disciples, followers, of Christ, to being also Apostles of Christ, proclaiming His Good News and making it happen by sharing in His work. In this way Confirmation is a sacrament of ongoing conversion, and a sacrament of mature and adult faith.

For a period of time, both young people and adults will be preparing for Confirmation and/or preparing to be received into the Episcopal Church. Classes will begin in September. Further information is forthcoming. The community here at St. John's will be particularly supportive and excited for those who will be ready to be confirmed and/or received.

Why Be Confirmed?

Confirmation empowers and celebrates our adult faith. It strengthens our growth in Christ.

Confirmed Christians are enabled to take a more full and active part in the life of the Church.

It helps us deal more appropriately with the moral challenges we face in daily life.

Our faith journey is toward God. "Let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice" (Psalm 105:3).

Perhaps St. Augustine said it best: "You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you" (Confessions, 1,1).

They may and should take part and minister at weekly Sunday worship in whatever role the Holy Spirit calls them to and their talents suit them for.

They can and ought to take an active part in the life of their parish and their community, again according to their talents and gifts: The outpouring of the Holy Spirit is the source and strength of their Christian life and vocation, in family or single life, in service and profession, in citizenship and civic responsibility, in social and in cultural life.

The community of faith has an important role to play:

During the Liturgy the Bishop will ask: "Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support these persons in their life in Christ?" (BCP, page 416) Then all are invited to renew their own baptismal vows in the proclamation of the Baptismal Covenant. (page 416-417)

Please do everything in your power to support and nurture our young people and adults as well who will be received into the Episcopal Church. Pray for them. Go out of your way to help them. Find ways to invite and incorporate them into the life of the Church.

I look forward to standing alongside all of those who will be Confirmed and/or Received on Sunday, November 9. I hope to see all of you in Church on that Sunday as well!

Faithfully,
Father Ron



National Disaster / Emergency / Hurricane Preparedness

Fr. Ronald N. Pollock, Rector
St. John's Episcopal Church, Somerville, NJ
Diocese of New Jersey

In the life of the Church, September has been designated as “National Disaster Preparedness Month” by Episcopal Relief and Development. Here is a “plan” to begin with. We need further help to add details to make our National Disaster / emergency / hurricane preparedness plan as best as it can be. We need to focus on when, where, and how you are going to evacuate prior to a storm in your own homes as well as here at St. John's Church. We are to reach out to other parishioners and neighbors who may need your assistance in getting prepared for a storm.

Basic emergency preparedness list:

It is preferable to keep everything together in an easily accessible place and have enough supplies to get you through a minimum of 3 days.

- A gallon of drinking water per person per day
- Non-perishable ready-to-eat food
- Manual can opener
- Medications - see medical preparedness below
- Analog phone – one that does not use batteries or electricity
- Personal hygiene items
- Pillow, blanket, towel
- First Aid Kit, sunscreen, bug spray
- Cash, credit cards
- Important documents: driver's license, social security card, medical cards,
- Insurance policies...all in a sealed plastic bag
- Weather radio or battery-operated AM/FM radio
- Clean clothes, sturdy shoes, hat
- Flash-light and extra batteries
- Unscented bleach for disinfecting water
- Written instructions on how to turn off electricity, gas, water if authorities advise you to do so.

Remember, you'll need a professional to turn back on natural gas service.

Medical Preparedness:

Make a Medical Information List with names and phone numbers of your medical providers and why you see them; list of cognitive or communication difficulties you have; list of allergies and sensitivities; list of medications and dosages -- both prescription and over-the-counter (OTC)

- Keep all medications in their original labeled containers
- Have a 14-day supply of each medication
- Have additional copies of your prescriptions
- List of medications that are in the refrigerator and a reminder to put them in a refrigerated bag or cooler
- List of specific equipment you need -- glasses, hearing aids, body supports, communication devices, canes, walkers. Make certain they are all labeled and have extra batteries and chargers if necessary
- List of out of town emergency contacts with phone numbers; provide the church with a copy.

Somerset County

- Special types of shelters will be provided -- emergency public shelters, special shelters and hospitals
- Transportation will be provided
- Each town is different in providing various assistance emergency programs

Protecting Your Pets

- Keep up-to-date identification on your pets at all times
- Have current color photos of your pets to be kept with your emergency supplies
- Because of a greater threat of disease, it is important that your animal be up to date on their vaccinations
- If you must evacuate, take your pets with you! Your pet's best protection is to be with you!
- If you MUST leave your pets behind, DO NOT leave pets in carriers, as they will not be able to get more food and water when needed.
- Place a notice on your front door advising what pets are in the house and where they are located. Provide a telephone number where you or a contact can be reached as well as the name and number of your veterinarian.

Important phone numbers and web-sites

- Emergency fire and police -- 911

WANTED: NEW SCHOOL SUPPLIES FOR CHILDREN

BY: FATHER RON, ST. JOHN'S CHURCH SCHOOL TEACHERS AND STUDENTS

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 (1 ½ 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 Church Office anytime. Call prior to coming to be sure someone is here. The Church Office number is 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 7 (Welcoming Sunday), we will conduct the Blessing of the Backpacks and Children's School Supplies during both the 8:00am & 10:15pm Eucharists.

SOME UPCOMING DATES TO NOTE:

Sun, July 6: Loose Change Sunday. Donate coins to support the ministry of Discretionary Fund.
175th Committee meeting 9:15am

Wed, July 9: 6:35pm, Somerset Patriot's Baseball Game, Patriot Stadium, Bridgewater.

July 11-Aug 6: Fr. Ron away on vacation

Sun, July 13: The Rev Joseph Leigh, Guest Celebrant & Preacher

Sun, July 20: The Rev Joseph Leigh, Guest Celebrant & Preacher

Sun, July 27 The Rev Joyce Scheyer, Guest Celebrant & Preacher

Sun, Aug 3: The Rev Dave Snyder, Guest Celebrant & Preacher

Wed, Aug 13: 7pm Vestry Meeting

Sat, Sept 6: Diocese of NJ Mass and celebration on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of those ordained to the diaconate, including Deacon Keith McCoy. Details forthcoming.

Sun, Sept 7: Welcoming Sunday: Church School registration

Wed, Sept 10: 7pm, Vestry Meeting

Sat, Sept 20: 10am, Altar Guild meeting

Sat, Sept 27 St. John's Flower Show

Sat, Oct 4: 3pm, Annual Blessing of the Animals

Mon-Wed, Oct 6-8: Clergy Conference, Fr Ron away

Wed, Oct 8: 7pm Vestry Meeting

Sat. Oct 11: Casino Night in Parish Hall

Sun, Oct 19: 3pm, Paul Robeson Event in Church, art & music reception in the Parish Hall

Sun, Nov 2: 5pm, All Souls Evensong service of remembrance

Sat, Nov 8: Noon to 3pm, St John's 175 Anniversary Gala Dinner at Bridgewater Manor

Sun., Nov 9: 8am and 10:15am, Bishop Neil Alexander, IX
Bishop of Atlanta, Guest Preacher.
10:15am, Confirmation Service and reception

Wed, Nov 12: 7pm, Vestry Meeting

Sun, Nov 16: 4pm, Special Concert in the Church sponsored by
The Wallace House followed by a reception in the
Parish Hall

Sat, Nov 22: Diocesan Convention, Diocese of New Jersey

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 Karen Abbatiello at admin@stjohnsomerville.org or Fr. Ron at frronpollock1@verizon.net.

ST. JOHN'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 2025, we extend a sincere thank you. If you have not made a pledge for 2025, would you prayerfully consider making a pledge? ***Our 2025 budget is \$235,000. As of today, there are 80 pledges totaling \$185,828.*** 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*

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 on Sunday, June 8, followed by a reception in the Parish Hall. We will sing for the first time on Welcoming Sunday, September 7 at the 10:15 service. Interested? Contact Tracey Jameson at tkayj@aol.com. *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

Episcopal Church Women (ECW)

We had a lovely afternoon at Keith and Kir's home at the Garden Party. Thank you to everyone who joined us and a huge and heartfelt THANK YOU to Deacon Keith and Kir for taking the time out of their very busy days to host the event.

We are in the process of purchasing chairs for the Parish Hall. Thanks very much to Christine Bean for the extensive research she did to make the process so much easier. Hopefully have them for our next meeting in September.

Wishing everyone a wonderful Summer! Our next ECW meeting is Monday, September 8th at 7:00 P.M. Enjoy your summer! More news to follow in August Good News and September Newsletter.

Clothes Closet

Our July Clothes Closet sale days are Saturday July 5 and Saturday July 19 from 9:00am until noon. PLEASE STOP BY!

If you are not available on our sale days and are interested in browsing or shopping, we can always accommodate you on another day. Just let us know. Our Bag Sale was such a big success we decided to continue it. Fill a bag for only \$5 on select items only. Look for the purple heart stickers.

Blowout summer sales going on! Reduced prices on many items throughout! Our Fun in the Sun rack items are going fast! Beautiful brand new, never worn bathing suits, coverups, summer sandals and beach bags perfect for a day at the beach or just relaxing by the Pool. Check out our cool sunglass and hat display.

Our Mixed Medley rack is back with so many new items! Stop by and check it out. There is always something for everyone at the Clothes Closet! We have a great selection of shorts, tees, tanks and so much more!

Our New Arrivals racks are full of so many beautiful selections and varieties. New items are coming in weekly! We have a great selection of white summer pants and light colorful summer tops to choose from.

Our lovely selection of elegant gowns, shoes and handbags are available for your upcoming special occasion. If you don't see them displayed, please ask someone to assist you.

Check out our New Woman's rack, brand new items at great prices! Our Chico's rack is back with lovely items at reduced prices. We just added some new items. We have **DRASTICALLY** reduced some of our **brand new, never worn, BOUTIQUE** items to **only five dollars**. Lovely and fashionable summer dresses, pants, short sets, tops, and so much more. Please stop by!

You cannot beat our prices! So many of our items still have the original sales tags. Don't forget to check out our jewelry table to add just the right touch to your spring or summer outfit! **We have some beautiful new pieces that just arrived.** Are you 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.

NEWS FLASH: Spend \$50.00 or more and receive 20% off of your purchase.

We are currently accepting donations of Fall items only.

Please contact Linda Willard with any questions or if you would like to make a donation. Cell: 347-276-6491 or email Linda at Nolaandboogie@aol.com or cell phone: 347-276-6491.

See you soon!

Laundry Love News

Third Thursday 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 6 and Sunday, August 3*. Feel free to bring a jar (or a Ziplock) 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. ***Meals to go will be on hiatus for July and August. It will return in September.*** Thank you to Janet Hahn and Linda Willard for shopping and packaging meals. We also thank all volunteers who helped this year: Niki Hoffman, Monica Tascon, and Karen Whitmore. 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. 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.



Flo Mindos
turns 100!!!



Keith and Kir's Garden Party



We welcomed
Hailey Elizabeth Lofton
on June 8, 2025



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 presence of God. Prayer is that which brings us to the presence of the Lord. It is the medium in which our relation to God is celebrated, spoken, felt, sensed and enacted. This makes prayer a very broad concept indeed. Prayer, thus understood, may involve meditation, reflective reading, study, music, poetry, contemplation of the created order, and immersion in loving relationships, all of which may be icons of God, ways of entering God's presence, ways of prayer.

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

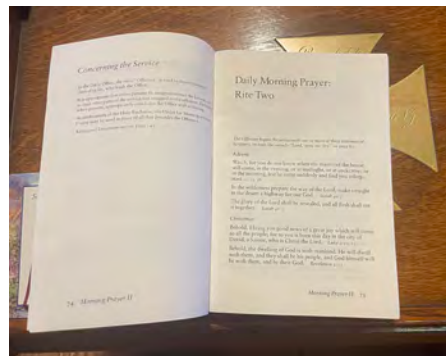
The Book of Common Prayer provides in the Daily Office a cycle of daily prayer for the people of God as individuals and as a community of faith. Its aim is to hallow time: when time stands still, when all that has gone before, and all that lies ahead is caught up in the mystery of a moment. Daily prayer 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 1: 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.
- Time for free intercession follows. There are many 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

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 (1 ½ 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 7 (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 2024. 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;

Need Help?

Anyone in immediate overdose crisis SHOULD CALL 911 or go to the closest emergency room.

If this is a mental health or substance use crisis call 9-8-8.

NOT AN EASY | FIX



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
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 Eisinger
18. 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
8. Daniel Lewis & Erika Daugherty
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

AUGUST 2024

BIRTHDAYS

2. William Vandever, Connor Soucier
3. Crystal Bowden, Thomas Brown, Jason Matyas, Pamela Ansbro
4. Emily Windus Muller, Mia Mlenak
5. Patrick Bower, Shaun Kecker
7. Ivan Rogalsky, Jessica Williams, Erik Franko, Katelyn Scott, Kathy Bakes
9. Karen Pompey, June Rose, Lucas Smith
10. Ava Pokliuha
11. Olivia Kutlow, Carolyn Groff
13. James Robert Van Arsdale, Geoffrey Osinski
14. Edward Manko IV
15. Roopal Tonk, John Nawrath, John Fuhrmann
16. Edward Manko
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, Chris Loree
25. Lynn Giordano, Andino Liberatoscioli, Jaxon McCann, Will Carlson, Chase Chudy
26. Jamie Case, Stephen Osinski
27. Ryan Pierson

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

28. Brian Santostefano, Dorothy Spolarich, Eliana Holerca
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 Brodsky

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

1. Jay Vandever
12. Anna 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 Aiken

July 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4 <i>Fr. Ron's Day off</i> INDEPENDENCE DAY <i>Office Closed</i>	5 <i>9am, Clothes Closet</i>
6 <i>Pentecost 4</i> <i>Proper 9C</i> <i>8am, Eucharist</i> <i>10:15, Eucharist</i> <i>Loose Change</i> <i>Sunday</i> <i>9:15am 175th</i> <i>Committee Mtg</i>	7 <i>12:30-1:30, All</i> <i>Recovery Meeting</i> <i>8pm, AA Meeting</i>	8	9 <i>6:35pm Somerset</i> <i>Patriot's Game (see</i> <i>sign-up)</i>	10	11  Father Ron away 	12
13 <i>Pentecost 5</i> <i>Proper 10C</i> <i>8am, Eucharist</i> <i>10:15, Eucharist;</i> <i>Fr. Joseph Leigh</i> <i>Guest Preacher</i>	14 <i>12:30-1:30, All</i> <i>Recovery Meeting</i> <i>8pm, AA Meeting</i>	15	16	17 <i>5pm, Laundry Love</i>	18	19 <i>9am Clothes Closet</i>
← Father Ron away →						
20 <i>Pentecost 6</i> <i>Proper 11C</i> <i>8am, Eucharist</i> <i>10:15, Eucharist</i> <i>Fr. Joseph Leigh,</i> <i>Guest Preacher</i>	21 <i>12:30-1:30, All</i> <i>Recovery Meeting</i> <i>8pm, AA Meeting</i>	22 <i>St. Mary Magdelene</i>	23	24	25 <i>St. James, Apostle</i>	26 <i>Parents of the</i> <i>Blessed Virgin Mary</i>
← Father Ron away →						
27 <i>Pentecost 7</i> <i>Proper 12C</i> <i>8am, Eucharist</i> <i>10:15, Eucharist</i> <i>Mother Joyce</i> <i>Scheyer, Guest</i> <i>Preacher</i>	28 <i>12:30-1:30, All</i> <i>Recovery Mtg</i> <i>8pm, AA Meeting</i>	29	30	31		
← Father Ron away →						

August 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2 9am, Clothes Closet
					Father Ron away	
3 <i>Pentecost 8</i> <i>Proper 13C</i> 8am, Eucharist 10:15, Eucharist; <i>Fr. Dave Snyder,</i> <i>Guest Preacher</i> <i>Loose Change</i> <i>Sunday</i>	4 12:30-1:30, All Recovery Meeting 8pm, AA Meeting	5	6 <i>Feast of the</i> <i>Transfiguration</i> <i>Fr. Ron returns from</i> <i>his vacation!</i>	7	8 <i>Fr. Ron's Day off</i>	9
	Father Ron away					
10 <i>Pentecost 9</i> <i>Proper 14C</i> 8am, Eucharist 10:15, Eucharist;	11 12:30-1:30, All Recovery Meeting 8 pm, AA Meeting	12	13 <i>7pm Vestry Mtg</i>	14	15 <i>Fr. Ron's Day off</i> <i>Feast of St. Mary the</i> <i>Virgin</i>	16 9 am, Meals to Go 9 am Clothes Closet
17 <i>Pentecost 10</i> <i>Proper 15C</i> 8 am, Eucharist 10:15, Eucharist	18 12:30-1:30, All Recovery Meeting 8 pm, AA Meeting	19	20	21 5 pm, Laundry Love	22 <i>Fr. Ron's Day off</i>	23
24	25 12:30-1:30, All Recovery Meeting 8 pm, AA Meeting <i>St. Bartholomew,</i> <i>Apostle</i>	26	27	28	29 <i>Fr. Ron's Day off</i>	30
31 <i>Pentecost 12</i> <i>Proper 17C</i> 8 am, Eucharist 10:15, Eucharist						

St. John's in Somerville, Leadership

PARISH STAFF

The Rev. Canon Ronald N. Pollock, *Rector*, fronpollock1@verizon.net

The Rev. W. Keith McCoy, *Deacon Associate*, kmccoy1@optonline.net

Karen Abbatiello, *Administrative Assistant*, admin@stjohnsomerville.org

Ministers: The People of St. John's

Altar Guild

Diane Sireci, *Directress*, dianesireci61@icloud.com

Tom Keefer, *Treasurer*, thomasekeefe@yahoo.com

Dana Keefer, *Flowers, Weddings, & Funerals*, dzkeefe@yahoo.com

Bread & Wine and Altar Candles, admin@stjohnsomerville.org



Music Program

Open

Canon Chancellor John W. Goldsack Church Library

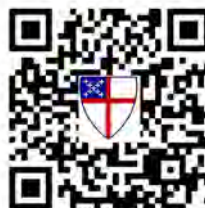
Deacon Keith, kmccoy1@optonline.net

Church School

Michelle Hernandez, chellehernandez1@gmail.com

Tracey Jameson, tkayj@aol.com

Taffy Scherr, tafrika@aol.com



Episcopal Church Women (ECW)

Jennifer Kosensky, *Co-President*, jrkosensky@gmail.com

Linda Willard, *Co-President*, nolaandboogie@aol.com

Mary & Martha Guild

Fr. Ron, convener

Episcopal Youth Community (EYC) Adviser

Fr. Ron

Clothes Closet Council, clothescloset@stjohnsomerville.org

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

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: Fr. Ron

Finance Committee

Stewardship

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

Treasurer

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

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

Vestry

Terry McShane, Sr. Warden	Christine Anobile, Vestry
Steve Sireci, Jr. Warden	Sheila Fuhrman, Vestry
Thomas Albee, Vestry	Barbara Christel, Vestry
Donna Lazartic, Vestry	Janice Williams, Vestry
Ken Miller, Vestry	Kyle Ferris, Vestry
	Carolyn Groff, Vestry

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