



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

The Newsletter

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

S E P T E M B E R 2 0 2 5

From the Rector

WHAT IS THE CHURCH FAMOUS FOR?

Not long ago a young couple was strolling along West High Street. They stopped, looked at the gardens and the architecture, and inquired what happens here. They asked, "What is this church famous for?" I went into my practiced "tourist-guide mode" and told them excitedly about our history, architecture, (including Horace Trumbauer the famous architect who built the church and rectory), worship, music, teaching and preaching. I told them that we celebrate our 175 Anniversary this year. I invited them inside for a tour and they were thrilled to be invited inside. They were fascinated by the beautiful Tiffany windows, the old carriage entrance way, and many ornate appointments. They wondered what "Episcopal" meant. I tried to tell them as best I could. I am not sure if my answer made an impression on them, but their question certainly made an impression on me. It is the kind of question which makes me stop to think about the many reasons why this church is so deeply meaningful to me and countless others. It is a healthy question to reflect upon.



As reflected by Neva Rae Fox in a recent 175 Anniversary communication:

Organized in 1850 and incorporated in 1851, St. John's is located in the heart of Somerville, the county seat of Somerset County. The current church is the second house of worship constructed on the same site on West High Street.

Over the past 175 years, St John's has witnessed many names, faces, experienced much happiness as well as sadness, and seen as impressive parade of contributors and friends. Through all the years, there have been constants in the lives of the people of St. John's – a deep commitment to the work of our Lord, a strong faith and devotion to Jesus Christ, and an unblinding focus to our mission, "To Know Christ And To Make Him Known."

Our church stands to remind us there is more to our lives, more to life itself, than the things around which the life of this earthly Borough of Somerville and surrounding towns and cities are organized: the production of wealth, the marketing of products, the supplying of entertainment, the gratification of desires. Our church is a place of challenge and disturbance, holy ground on which we must take off our shoes and listen to the voice of God that calls us to go down into this world's Egypt and tell Pharaoh to let God's people go. Our church is a holy temple in whose worship we hear God's voice saying, "Who will go for us? Whom shall we

send?" This is a place where we find ourselves saying, "Here am I. Send me" (Isaiah 6:8ff). And the angel takes the burning coal from the altar fire and touches our lips so that we can speak the Word of God to men, women and children everywhere. Our church is about disciples and saints. This church, our parish, cannot function as an outpost of heaven without a community, a congregation. Our church is a community of believers dedicated to listening for the Word of God, willing however fearfully to answer God's call and do God's bidding. Our church is a community strengthened by the spiritual disciplines of worship, prayer, and music, study, mutual care, confession and Eucharist. Our church is a community of believers who see our calling from God, our individual and corporate vocation at this time, to be God's people in this place and for God's people. Our church is a community of workers, not consumers.

It seems to me that over the years while external and visible work of restoration with paint and nails, new slate roof, gutters and down-spouts has taken place, always wanting to care for the physical property bequeathed to us, there has also been an on-going inner and spiritual transformation in the life of this church that could easily have got stuck in the past or retreated into a world of make-believe and we are better for it. We will not squander it.

So one day, when the question "What is this church famous for?" is asked, I pray that someone will answer: "Because there I found a ladder set up between heaven and 158 West High Street and "the angels of God were ascending and descending upon it" (Genesis 28:12).

See you in Church!

God bless,

Fr. Ron

RECTOR'S REPORT: August, 2025

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Reminder: Administrative Assistant, Karen Abbatiello works 10 hours per week. Her Office Hours are: Tuesdays and Thursdays between 9am and 1pm and on Fridays between 1:30am and 3:30pm

BEQUEST TO ST JOHN'S

St. John's was recently informed that there is a forthcoming \$10k gift from the Estate of James R. Richart to St. John's Church. Jamie was a long-time faithful member who died on May 11, 2025. We are profoundly grateful for this gift. May light perpetual shine upon him.

BAPTISM

Upcoming baptism: September 7.

FUNERALS

Gloria Miller: August 9. Member of Macedonia Missionary Alliance Baptist Church

Betty Bomberger: August 11. Long-time member of St. John's Church. 96 years old
May light perpetual shine upon both Gloria Miller and Betty Bomberger.

PASTORAL CARE

Marcia Bower, Lee Henderson, Randy Rokiski, Judy Marine, Janet Pizzelli, Ian Fealey, Jean Edwards, Emilie Nawrock, Barbara Meier, Matthew, Edward Woodell, Jr., Christopher Foreman, Mother Susy Norris, Steven Massey, Adriana, Laura, Olivia, Grace, Lisa, Ray Agins, Vincent Sokalski, Chris Henderson, Frank, Liz Rosenberg, John Cardinale, Mary Mansey, Kelly Hamer, Alice Marshall, Lucas, Bernadette, Thomas, Lisa, Angela. Parishioners who have friends or loved ones in need, but do not share publicly.

DISCERNMENT:

CONGRATULATIONS to Mark Hernandez who was just made a "Candidate" for Holy Orders. Mark is on the ordination track leading to the Diaconate. Bishop Sally French anticipates that Mark will be ordained sometime between All Saints and the end of Epiphany season. Mark is concluding his internship at St. Matthew's in Pennington, and will soon begin his second and final internship at All Saints in Princeton, NJ, beginning September 14. Mark and his family continue to be our prayers.

NEW INTERN

St. John's to host an intern student who is currently in the discernment process leading to ordination. Her name is Tiffany Campbell. She will begin here at St. John's on September 7. Look for details below.

NEW AND/OR RETURNING MEMBERS

The Rev. Joyce Scheyer. Many of you were here on Sunday, July 27 when Mother Joyce was our guest celebrant and preacher. In the future she will become involved in teaching a class for those adults to be either Confirmed or Received into The Episcopal Church. We warmly welcome Mother Joyce!

Dieter Bretkopf

Barry and Mollie Van Horn. Son Hudson to be baptized on Sept 7.

Ed and Alison Manko. Children: Ed, Joey and Abby.

Brian and Hunter McGowan

141 Leigh St, Clinton, NJ 08809

Baby Ashton Grae McGowan was baptized on Jan 12. (Hunter's father is Mark Tregoning, owner of Royal Improvements, who has donated significant in-kind work done in the Rectory)

MUSIC MINISTRY

Our discernment process continues. The Steering Committee interviewed a few people but determined that their skills would be better utilized elsewhere. We are fortunate to have substitutes already scheduled for September and October.

Organist/musicians are: Janice Williams, Rachel Gasataya, and Steven Russell. We are especially grateful to Janice Williams for her musical leadership, talent and care.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH: the work of the Church

Meals To Go

Clothes Closet

Laundry Love

OUTSIDE GROUPS USING SPACE

Somerset County Probation Alumni Meeting: monthly meeting

Community in Crisis AA Meeting: monthly meeting

The Somerville Women's Civic League has expressed interest in utilizing some of our space on a more permanent basis. They are willing to make a financial donation to the church. Details forthcoming.

KITCHEN MISSION

The Kitchen Mission Committee continues its work and ministry. Work continues consulting with professionals ultimately leading to the installation of a new kitchen. Stay tuned for exciting forthcoming news !

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

A reminder of those elected at our Annual Meeting on Sun, Jan 12, 2025

Jr Warden: 2 year term: Steve Sireci

Vestry: 3 year term: Thomas Albee

Vestry: 3 year term: Donna Lazartic

Vestry: 3 year term: Ken Miller

Vestry: 2 year unexpired term: Christine Anobile

Diocesan Convention

Deputy: 3 year term: Dee Britt

Alternate: 3 year term: Dana Keefer

Watchung Convocation: 1 year term

Kaitlyn Khan

William Hoffman

Valerie Smith

Karen Whitmore

Linda Willard

Steve Mandraccia



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

IMPORTANT TRAININGS OFFERED FOR USHERS, ACOLYTES, EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS AND READERS

USHERS

A training for ushers will be offered on Sunday, September 14 at 9:15am. This is an important meeting as we will go over procedures, guidelines, and changes that will occur. If you are currently an usher we would like to see you in attendance. If you feel called to this special ministry, please know that you are welcome to attend and learn more about it.

ACOLYTES & LAY EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS, READERS

A training for acolytes, lay eucharistic ministers, and readers will be offered on Saturday, September 20 at 11am. This is a very important meeting as we will go over procedures and guidelines. Also, eucharistic ministers and readers will need to renew their licenses to be signed by the Bishop. If you feel called to this special ministry, please know that you are welcome to attend and learn more about it.

St. John's Church received a bequest of \$10,000

St. John's recently received a \$10,000 gift from the estate of James Robert Richart. Jamie was a life-long member who died on May 11, 2025.

Jamie lived here in Somerville the majority of his life – a town and community he deeply loved, even after moving to Bound Brook in 2022. His life was marked by warmth, integrity, and quiet strength. In 2023, Jamie married the love of his life, Deirdre Kramer, with whom he shared over 2 decades of partnership, laughter, and unconditional love. Jamie was a devoted and loving father to his children, Jon, Annie and Jon's wife, Liz.

Jamie served faithfully on the vestry, as a warden, finance committee, planned-giving committee, endowment committee, and in other ways. We are profoundly grateful for this generous gift. May light perpetual shine upon him.

An Invitation:

To All Adults Who Desire To Be Confirmed Or Received Into The Episcopal Church

Please come to tea (for an hour on Sunday, September 14 at 11:30am – 12:30 in the Parish Hall. We invite all adults who want to be Confirmed or Received into The Episcopal Church on Sunday, November 9 at St. John's. We will briefly review our baptismal vows and then explore the basics of The Episcopal Church. Bring your thoughts and questions about making this mature commitment to God. Assorted teas and healthy snacks will be provided. (Children are welcome to stay in sight but out of hearing with homework or quiet activities).

Mother Joyce Scheyer and Fr. Ron

Questions, contact Fr. Ron frronpollock1@verizon.net

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 confer the sacrament of Confirmation, celebrate, 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*

MEET TIFFANY CAMPBELL

Hello St. John's family! I am excited to have the opportunity to walk alongside you as I continue on my journey to ordained ministry (God willing). I am looking forward to learning from Father Pollock and Deacon McCoy, as well as, learning more about our awesome God through the lens of each of you. I am privileged to be serving my internship at a parish with such wonderful and numerous ministries such as: your work with the food insecure, various outreach programs, youth ministries, and all of the other wonderful work that God and you accomplish together. I have so much more to learn about this wonderful community.

I wanted to introduce myself and tell you a little bit about my journey. I currently reside in Franklin Park, NJ with my wife Jessica, our dog Cody and cat Dylan. We both grew up in the Roman Catholic faith tradition. God guided me to the Episcopal church, and due to the incredible experience of God's welcoming love in this beautiful faith tradition. Jess and I became full members in the Episcopal church at St. Mary's Haddon Heights, NJ. We have both worn many hats including Warden, and vestry and mission committee. I have been in the discernment process since 2019, and formed and graduated from the New Jersey School for Ministry. In 2023, receiving all 7 Canonical licenses. During this process I have had the privilege of experiencing the challenge of 600 hours of clinical pastoral education (CPE) and sitting for the General Ordination Exam (GOE) this past January. My sponsoring parish is Saint Mary's in Haddon Heights NJ, and I just recently completed an internship at St. David's in Cranbury. I have spent over 25 years in Federal Law Enforcement, and I have lived in multiple places in the country and traveled across the globe. I have been humbled by what I have seen across God's world. As I get closer to transitioning to ministry full time, I am deeply grateful to be continuing my preparation with you. You will all remain in my daily prayers, and I cannot wait to meet each of you. Have a blessed and peaceful day/evening!

Tiff Campbell
Intern at St. John's

What to Expect When You Visit
[The Episcopal Church](#)

December 29, 2020

Worship in the Episcopal Church

Sunday is traditionally when Episcopalians gather for worship. The principal weekly worship service is the Holy [Eucharist](#), also known as the Lord's Supper, Holy [Communion](#), or Mass. In most Episcopal churches, worship is accompanied by the singing of [liturgical](#), meaning that the congregation follows service forms and prays from texts that don't change greatly from week to week during a [season of the year](#). This sameness from week to week gives worship a rhythm that becomes comforting and familiar to the worshipers.

For the first-time visitor, liturgy may be exhilarating or confusing. Services may involve standing, sitting, [kneeling](#), sung or spoken responses, and other participatory elements that may provide a challenge for the first-time visitor. However, liturgical worship can be compared with a dance: once you learn the steps, you come to appreciate the rhythm, and it becomes satisfying to dance, again and again, as the music changes.

The Holy Eucharist

In spite of the diversity of worship styles in the Episcopal Church, [Holy Eucharist](#) always has the same components and the same shape.

The Liturgy of the Word

We begin by praising God through song and prayer and then listen to as many as four readings from the [Bible](#). Usually one from the [Old Testament](#), a Psalm, something from the [Epistles](#), and (always) a reading from the [Gospels](#). The psalm is usually sung or recited by the congregation.

Next, a [sermon](#) interpreting the readings [appointed for the day](#) is preached.

The congregation then recites the Nicene [Creed](#), written in the Fourth Century and the Church's statement of what we believe ever since.

Next, the congregation prays together for the Church, the World, and those in need. We pray for the sick, thank God for all the good things in our lives, and finally, we pray for the dead. The [presider](#) (e.g. priest, bishop, lay minister) concludes with a prayer that gathers the [petitions](#) into a communal offering of [intercession](#).

In certain seasons of the Church year, the congregation formally [confesses](#) their [sins](#) before God and one another. This is a corporate statement of what we have done and what we have left undone, followed by a pronouncement of [absolution](#). In pronouncing absolution, the presider assures the congregation that God is always ready to forgive our sins.

The congregation then greets one another with a sign of [peace](#).

The Liturgy of the Table

Next, the priest stands at the table, which has been set with a cup of [wine](#) and a plate of bread or wafers, raises his or her hands, and greets the congregation again, saying The Lord be With You. Now begins the [Eucharistic Prayer](#), in which the presider tells the story of our faith, from the beginning of Creation, through the choosing of Israel to be God's people, through our continual turning away from

God, and God's calling us to return. Finally, the presider tells the story of the coming of Jesus Christ, and about the night before his death, on which he instituted the Eucharistic meal (communion) as a continual remembrance of him.

The presider blesses the bread and wine, and the congregation recites the [Lord's Prayer](#). Finally, the presider [breaks the bread](#) and offers it to the congregation, as the gifts of God for the People of God.

The congregation then shares the [consecrated](#) bread and the wine. Sometimes the people all come forward to receive the bread and wine; sometimes they pass the [elements](#) around in other ways.

All Are Welcome

All baptized Christians' no matter age or denomination are welcome to receive communion. Episcopalians invite all baptized people to receive, not because we take the Eucharist lightly, but because we take our [baptism](#) so seriously.

Visitors who are not baptized Christians are welcome to come forward during the Communion to receive a blessing from the presider.

At the end of the Eucharist, the congregation prays once more in thanksgiving and then is dismissed to continue the life of service to God and to the World.

[UPCOMING EVENTS—TAKE NOTE](#)

- Sat, Sept 6: 3pm, Diocese of NJ Mass and celebration on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of those ordained to the diaconate, including Deacon Keith McCoy.
- Sun, Sept 7: Welcoming Sunday: Church School registration, Loose Change Sunday
- Mon, Sept 8: 6pm, Episcopal Church Women potluck supper and meeting
- Wed, Sept 10: 7pm, Vestry Meeting
- Sun, Sept 14: 9:15am, Usher Training, 11:30am, Adult Confirmation Tea
- Sat, Sept 20: 10am, Altar Guild meeting, 11am, Acolytes & Lay Eucharistic Ministers, Readers Training
- 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 Lunch 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.

Membership

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 frronpollock1@verizon.net.

PLEDGING 2025

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 82 pledges totaling \$189,096.* To fill out a pledge online visit <https://stjohnsomerville.org/pledge-card-form>. Contact any member of the Vestry, a Warden, Treasurer, Parish Office or myself if you have any questions.

Father Ron

STEWARDSHIP 2026—SAVE THE DATE!

Kick-off Sunday for *Pledge Drive 2026* will be *Sunday, November 9* at both services. There will be a special coffee hour and presentations after both services—*Mark your calendars!*



MUSIC AT ST. JOHN'S

St. John's Parish Choir

Do you have a song in your heart? What about a need to enrich your soul through music? Please come and be part of the choir! We are a small but strong and loving family within the church community. And there is plenty of room for you. We practice on Thursday nights at 7pm and sing on Sunday at the 10:15 service. If you would like more information, please feel free to get in touch with Tracey Jameson, text 908-313-5490, email tkayj@aol.com, or any member of the choir. Hope you can join us. *Everyone is welcome!*

~ Tracey Jameson

Brent Miller Memorial Music Fund

Thanks to our many contributors! Your donations and offerings help us to expand our musical offerings throughout the year, including our professional section leaders, music supplies, instrumentalists, and more.

COMING UP—TAKE NOTE!

Welcoming Sunday

Join us for Welcoming Sunday on September 7. Welcoming Sunday is an opportunity to learn about life at St. John's. Ministries Fair will follow after the 8 and 10 am services, and displays and information tables will grace the Parish Hall. There will be a special coffee hour in the Parish Hall following both services, and the Parish Choir returns at 10:15. All groups are urged to participate and share how other people can become involved. We'll be welcoming everyone back from summer vacation. We'll be registering all the Sunday School students for the coming year. We'll be welcoming new members and visitors and guests. *All are welcome!*



Thank you for all of the backpacks collected:

A hearty thanks for the more than 56 backpacks and other back to school supplies. The Blessing of the Backpacks takes place at both services on Sunday, September 7. Although many have already been given away to Agencies, Non-profits, and people in need, Thank you for helping others.

Episcopal Church Women, September 8

Our next ECW meeting is Monday, September 8. We will start at 6pm with a potluck supper in the Parish Hall and a meeting to follow at 7:00. Hope to see everyone there.

You don't have to be a member of ECW to join us. Look for the sign-up sheet on our ECW bulletin board. Desserts and Beverages will be provided. Lots of Exciting events to discuss! Hope to see everyone then!

Please contact Linda Willard at nolaandboogie@aol.com or any of our Council Members with any questions!

Contact an ECW officer:

President Linda Willard (347-276-6491, nolaandboogie@aol.com)

THE WORK OF MINISTRY

St. John's Clothes Closet

Our September sales are too awesome to pass up. Stop by on September 6 and 20 from 9am until noon for great bargains on everything at the Closet.



We have a large selection of women's men's and children's clothing at prices that can't be beat! Back to Schools sales are going on! Buy one get one free! Our free racks are stocked with our final Summer items! Our new arrivals racks are full of so many beautiful selections and varieties. Beautiful new Fall items are coming in weekly!

Check out our new woman's rack. Brand new items at great prices! We have drastically reduced some of our brand new, never worn. Boutique items priced to only five dollars or LESS! Please stop by! Plus check out our lovely Fall selections as well at prices that can't be beat.

Don't forget to check out our jewelry table. There is something for everyone.

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 and Winter items only. Please do not leave any items outside of the church.

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

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: First Sunday of every month

Our next scheduled date is Sunday, September 1. If you would like to participate in this important ministry, please 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 into the baskets. This money will be placed into the Discretionary Fund and used to answer the needs of the many who reach out to St. John's for assistance.

MARY AND MARTHA GUILD

'Pray together—Stay together'

The Mary and Martha Guild will resume their weekly gatherings after the Thursday morning service on September 4. All members of the parish are welcome to join us. It is a perfect chance to get to meet other parish members in a smaller group setting.

Meals to Go

Meals to Go has served our community since early 2021, with a focus on providing simple meals as well as pantry goods, personal care items and other necessities.

Many partners are crucial to this ministry's success – St. Johns parishioners who shop for and prepare meals and who volunteer on Saturdays; various community organizations and local restaurants; and support from the Discretionary Fund.


Meals to Go will resume on Saturday, **September 20** and then resume a schedule of the 1st and 3rd Saturdays, 9-10 am. Volunteers greet our customers, assist with their selections, and provide information about other opportunities here at St Johns and in the community.

This important ministry is a beautiful way to share the welcome and hospitality of St. Johns. We are here for everyone in our community – both our parish family and our wider Somerville family – who can benefit from a simple, nourishing meal.

Please consider supporting this ministry either as a volunteer or through financial donations.

Financial contributions can be made via check, cash or online. Any amount is very much appreciated. Ideally, we would receive enough to support the \$40-50/week in expenses. If you wish to donate online, go to [Meals-to-Go](#) on the dropdown menu.

If you would like to be added to the volunteer list, or if you would like to provide suggestions for this ministry, please contact Christine Bean cbean727@gmail.com, or the Parish Office, Father Ron, Frronpollock1@verizon.net.

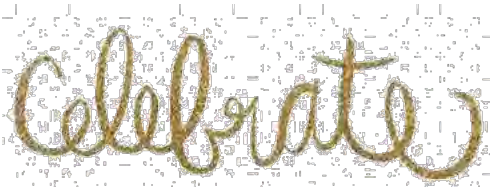



**All are invited to attend the
Holy Eucharist**
Celebrating the 40th Anniversary
of the Diaconate in the
Diocese of New Jersey

Saturday, September 6, 2025
3:00 pm
at Trinity Cathedral
Reception follows in Synod Hall
No registration is required

The entire diocesan community; family, friends, parishioners, former parishioners, and clergy, are invited to celebrate 40 years of the vocational diaconate in New Jersey. The first class of vocational deacons in the diocese was ordained in 1985. To date over 115 vocational deacons have been ordained in the Diocese of New Jersey.

Individually they represent a wide variety of ministries as they "serve all people, particularly the poor, the weak, the sick, and the lonely."



WE CELEBRATE, WE REMEMBER: SEPTEMBER 2025

BIRTHDAYS

1. Verna Tonk, Robert Potts, Thomas Hussey
2. Alexis Siliwono
3. Liam Wawrzyniak
7. Richard Neff
8. Lucas Scott, James Voss
9. Nicholas & Sarah Karmazyn,
Polina Rogalsky, Gino A. DeLuca,
Grace Bancone
10. Sophia Scott, Caleb Hernandez,
Vincenzina Mlenak
11. Lucas Disko
13. Nicholas Lande
14. Kay Halsted, Joanne Polito
15. Fallon Billy, Ella Alcaraz
16. Wislene Augustin
17. Joan Sammartano
18. Martha Healy-Fried, Steve Mandraccia
19. John Caufield, Michelle Golder
20. Linda Bowers, Dean Andricsak
22. Bobbi Agins, George Seminara Jr.,
Raymond Brown
23. Lisa Stebenne
24. Megan McNamara, Brian Spolarich,
Robert Becker
25. Carson Kendall
26. Robert Fox, Robert Hewett, Christian
Carrillo
27. Cassandra Marshall, Jon Anobile
28. Katherine Taylor
29. Christopher Venet, Cortney Lane

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

3. Bill & Karen Wickham,
13. Ronald & Elizabeth Szumigala
14. John & Jill Plesniarski
16. Edward Miller & Anna Palaski
17. Justin Rhymer & Nicholas Williams
19. Patrick & Sonia Brienza,
20. Brian & Jessica Williams
22. Eric & Lisa Tipton
23. Kevin & Megan McNamara,
Sasha & Susan Rogalsky,
Peter & Caitlin Chetwynd
24. Katie & Kyle Fletcher, Manuel &
Michelle
Zambrano
25. Joe & Charissa Poklikuha
26. Rebecca Scott & Christian Kneafsey
27. Joseph & Kimberly Britanek
29. Antonietta Bekir & Christine LoMauro

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

10. Paul Henderson
11. Annie Scoppetta
12. Greg J. Gibson
14. Ed Gimbut
15. Julia Casteliro
17. Ernest Arundell Hewett, Dorothy
Hewett
19. Ruth C. Croll
22. Angelo Marine
25. Carmen Carballo
26. Jane Troup, George Joseph Mullen Jr.,
Mark Lines
30. Joe Edwards



ST. JOHN'S CHURCH IN SOMERVILLE
A PARISH OF THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF NEW JERSEY
158 West High Street, Somerville, NJ 08876
908.722.1250 • stjohnsomerville.org

The Reverend Canon Ronald N. Pollock, Rector

YOUTH REGISTRATION, 2025-26 • CHORISTERS, CHURCH SCHOOL, YOUTH GROUP, ACOLYTES

Child's Name _____

Age _____ Date of Birth _____

School attending this year _____ Grade, Fall 2024 _____

Home Address _____

Parent/Guardian Name _____

Baptized? Yes ☐ No ☐ Confirmed? Yes ☐ No ☐

Parent/Guardian Name _____

Baptized? Yes ☐ No ☐ Confirmed? Yes ☐ No ☐

Email(s) _____

Phone numbers (cell and home) _____

Baptized: Yes ☐ No ☐

Confirmed: Yes ☐ No ☐

Receiving Holy Communion: Yes ☐ No ☐

Interested in Confirmation: Yes ☐ No ☐

How many years of previous enrollment? _____

I give my permission for photographs and/or video footage of my child to be used by St. John's Church and its various programs for promotional purposes (brochures, websites, promotional videos, and the like). I understand that my child's name will not be used. I agree to return all emails, calls, and texts within a 24-hour period, and to keep all contact information up to date to the best of my ability.

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

Please return to St. John's in person, via regular mail, or email to
admin@stjohnsomerville.org

September 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Labor Day Office Closed 12:30-1:30, All Recovery Meeting 8pm, AA Meeting	2 7pm, Eucharist	3	4 10am, Eucharist; Mary & Martha Guild 7pm, Adult Choir	5 Fr. Ron's Day off	6 9am, Clothes Closet 2pm Diaconate 40 th Anniversary Celebration at Trinity Church in Trenton
7 Welcoming Sunday Pentecost 13 Proper 18C 8am, Eucharist 10:15, Eucharist; Loose Change Sunday	8 12:30-1:30, All Recovery Meeting 6pm, ECW 8pm, AA Meeting	9 7pm, Eucharist	10 7pm Vestry Mtg	11 10am, Eucharist; Mary & Martha Guild 7pm, Adult Choir	12 Fr. Ron's Day off	13
14 Pentecost 14 Proper 19C 8am, Eucharist 9:15 Usher Training 10:15, Eucharist;	15 12:30-1:30, All Recovery Meeting 8pm, AA Meeting Holy Cross Day	16 7pm, Eucharist	17	18 10am, Eucharist; Mary & Martha Guild 7pm, Adult Choir	19 Fr. Ron's Day off	20 9am, Clothes Closet & Meals to Go 10am, Altar Guild Meeting 11am Acolyte, Lay Eucharist Minister & Reader Training
21 Pentecost 15 Proper 20C 8am, Eucharist 10:15, Eucharist	22 12:30-1:30, All Recovery Meeting 8pm, AA Meeting St. Matthew, Apostle & Evangelist	23 7pm, Eucharist	24	25 10am, Eucharist; Mary & Martha Guild 5pm, Laundry Love 7pm, Adult Choir	26 Fr. Ron's Day off	27 9am, Flower Show at St John's
28 Pentecost 16 Proper 21C 8am, Eucharist 10:15, Eucharist	29 12:30-1:30, All Recovery Meeting 8pm, AA Meeting St. Michael and all Angels	30 7pm, Eucharist				

October 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2 10am, Eucharist; Mary & Martha Guild	3 Fr. Ron's Day off	4 9am, Clothes Closet & Meals to Go 3pm, Annual St Francis Blessing of the Animals
5 Pentecost 17 Proper 22C 8am, Eucharist 10:15, Eucharist; Loose Change Sunday	6 12:30-1:30, All Recovery Meeting 7pm ECW 8pm, AA Meeting	7 7pm, No Eucharist	8 7pm Vestry Mtg	9 10am, Eucharist; Mary & Martha Guild	10 Fr. Ron's Day off	11 Casino Night
Fr. Ron away on retreat						
12 Pentecost 18 Proper 23C 8am, Eucharist 10:15, Eucharist;	13 12:30-1:30, All Recovery Meeting 8pm, AA Meeting	14 7pm, Eucharist	15	16 10am, Eucharist; Mary & Martha Guild 5pm, Laundry Love	17 Fr. Ron's Day off	18 9am, Clothes Closet & Meals to Go St. Luke, Evangelist
19 Pentecost 19 Proper 24C 8am, Eucharist 10:15, Eucharist 3pm, Paul Robeson Special Event	20 12:30-1:30, All Recovery Meeting 8pm, AA Meeting	21 7pm, Eucharist	22	23 10am, Eucharist; Mary & Martha Guild 5pm, Laundry Love St. James of Jerusalem Brother of our Lord Jesus Christ	24 Fr. Ron's Day off	25
26 Pentecost 20 Proper 25C 8am, Eucharist 10:15, Eucharist	27 12:30-1:30, All Recovery Meeting 8pm, AA Meeting	28 7pm, Eucharist St. Simon and Jude, Apostles	29	30 10am, Eucharist; Mary & Martha Guild	31 Fr. Ron's Day off	

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

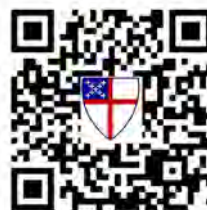
Deacon Keith, kmccoy1@optonline.net

Church School

Michelle Hernandez, chellehernandez1@gmail.com

Tracey Jameson, tkayj@aol.com

Taffy Scherr, tafrika@aol.com



Episcopal Church Women (ECW)

Linda Willard, *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](#)