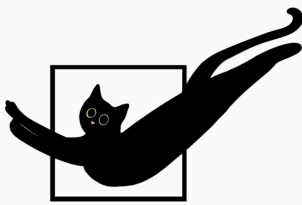


St. John's Episcopal Church

"Our mission is to know and to share the love of Jesus Christ"



Have you checked the CAT
Box?



<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SJJOHNECBANGORME>



Have you completed the CAT?

Have you checked off the Church Assessment Tool (CAT) yet from your to-do list? The CAT is a parish survey tool that gathers data, benchmarks it against other churches of similar size, and presents the data in an easily understandable format. The survey began on May 3 and continues to May 17. All church members can access it online through [this link](#). The Vestry will use the data collected for strategic planning purposes so we need a high level of participation from the congregation! 100% participation by active members would be ideal! Help to shape the direction of your church by sharing your perspective and observations through this easy to use tool. If using a computer is an obstacle for you please contact Vanessa in the office or the Rector and one of us will sit down and help you out either during the week or on a Sunday.

Rector's Essay

Liberality, Liberalism, Illiberalism

The current conversations about the limits of liberalism and the dangers of illiberalism speak to me on a personal level. Growing up in the 1960s and 1970s during a period of social breakdown and rampant relativism, I grew up craving trustworthy guidance, stable communities, and wise, respected traditions. "Free to Be, You and Me" by Marlo Thomas is, for me, a symptom of an excess of relativism and the Boy Scout Oath and Law were symbols of a moral vision that could be feasible.

Why would I be so critical of a beloved children's book? Because, for me, this book puts a terrible burden on self and identity which I call 'liberal subjectivism'; the unfortunate idea that my individual subjective thoughts, experiences, and feelings are the final arbitrator of all value, meaning, and truth. We might call this the raw end of the Enlightenment idea that the interior thoughts of the individual are how the person legislates their life and therefore the ultimate source of authority is the individual.

The only problem: this is not actually how meaning, truth, value, and authority actually function. There is no self without a pre-existing tradition that forms the framework we use to navigate the world and understand ourselves. Our interior life is the product of our outer relationships with a culture, family, and traditions that are ongoing, powerful, and determinative of our possibilities. We arrive at our ideas and commitments from a shared vocabulary and a shared reality. We also critique, create, and adapt our ideas out of this existing vocabulary.

To continue reading this essay, scroll down.

Great Wednesday

Join us for Worship + Supper + Bible Study. 5:30pm Eucharist, 6:00 pm Bible Study and Food. The Beatitudes in Matthew & Luke. May 6th-27th. The class is also available on [Zoom](#).

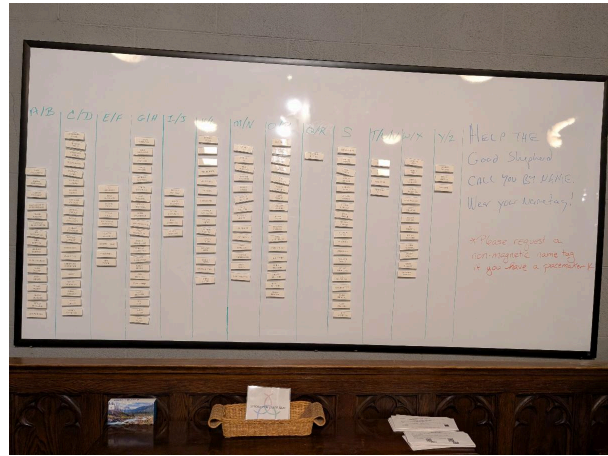
Ministry Opportunity Fair

On May 17 the many ministries of St. John's will be present at Coffee Hour to tell you about what they do and to see if you want to join their ministry. Each ministry will have a table featuring a delicious snack or beverage to entice you, an activity to engage you, and information about what they do. We will have a bingo card for each member. The person who visits all the tables gets a prize! The vital mission and ministry of St. John's totally depends on volunteers and our hope is that everyone will find an opportunity for joyful service here.

Name Tags

The new name tags are ready to be used. We hope you love them! If we missed you, we're sorry, please add your name to the sign up sheet and we'll get one made for you for next week.

If you have a pacemaker, please request an alternative name tag. The new ones have magnets and cannot be used by people with a pacemaker.



Summer Music at St. John's

Hello parishioners of St. John's Church. It is hard for me to believe that summer is close upon us and thus, the conclusion of the 2025-2026 choir season is on May 31st.. This means that, while choir members are always encouraged to vest and join Josh and I, we will have openings for musical offerings during the Offertory portions of our summer services. Please let me (Colin - choirdirector@stjohnsbangor.org) or Josh (jbachsing@gmail.com) know if you would like to make a musical offering this summer!

Blessings, Colin Graebert, Choir Director

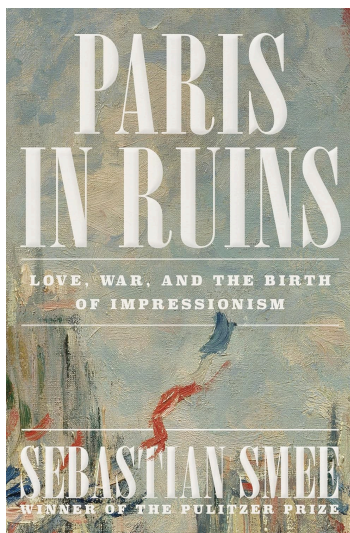
Parish Picnic on the Lawn with Our Neighbors

On May 31 we will enjoy our parish picnic on our lovely lawn after the 10:00 am service. Many thanks to the Men's Breakfast group for volunteering for grill duty! And thank you in advance to everyone who will bring a dish for potluck sharing! As someone said, the Kingdom of God is like a potluck. Even with little planning there is always enough food! Beverages will be provided. If someone could bring a corn hole set up that would be fun for the kids.

Faith, Fly-Fishing & Fellowship

On June 5th at 6 pm the Rector will show the movie *A River Runs Through It* in the Undercroft. We will serve a simple meal and follow the screening with conversation about this deeply theological movie. The Rector loves movies, fly fishing and theology. All are welcome whether you fish for fish or fish for people. Thank you to the Men's Breakfast group for sponsoring! This is a *Reeling with the Rector* event.





Women's Book Group

The Women's Book Group invites you to the May 19th meeting at 2:00pm on **Zoom** when they'll be discussing "[Paris in Ruins: Love, War, and the Birth of Impressionism](#)" by Sebastian Smee.

"The Pulitzer Prize-winning art critic's gripping account of the "Terrible Year" in Paris and its monumental impact on the rise of Impressionism.

From the summer of 1870 to the spring of 1871, famously dubbed the "Terrible Year" by Victor Hugo, Paris and its people were besieged, starved, and forced into surrender by Germans—then imperiled again as radical republicans established a breakaway Commune, ultimately crushed by the French Army after bloody street battles and the burning of central Paris. As renowned art critic Sebastian Smee shows, it was against the backdrop of these tumultuous times that the Impressionist movement was born—in response to violence, civil war, and political intrigue."

Announcements and Prayer Requests

Please be sure to submit all announcements and prayer requests to [the office](#) by noon on Thursday for them to be included in the weekly announcements and bulletins. Please submit photos / posters as a JPEG, and announcements in Word (not in a PDF).

Rector's Essay - Liberality, Liberalism, Illiberalism - Continued

The consistent failure of utopian communities created by small groups of idealists who think they can create culture ex nihilo is a good proof of my point. The bloody debacles of the French Revolutions, Maoism and Stalinism are other examples.

On the other hand, the break up of rigid traditional moral codes did create space for crucial liberation movements for women, queer people, and people of color. I would argue that those gains also came with an ongoing need to repair our social fabric into a coherent and substantial ethical code for the good of all.

One final observation, liberalism rubs up against our Christian understanding of the self as divided, broken, fragmented and scattered. We have all fallen short. We are sinners and internally corrupt until God's grace repairs and realigns our attention and will to the righteousness of God's way, truth, and light. Once again this notion of what is right can be used oppressively but it is also hard to love someone without loving what is best for that person. Quite a dilemma!

The idea that I subjectively judge God's ways based on my own internal standards that I derive from something else than God is the height of confusion. The idea that there are no better or worse arguments, theories or conclusions, only my opinion and your opinion, your perspective and mine, is also unfeasible and a recipe for endless frustration. We have felt this frustration first hand when a person disagrees but refuses to give reasons. Or disagrees and gives fanciful reasons such as conspiracy theories. Humans are creatures of a kind that give reasons to one another.

So where do we go from here. For me, I turn to the virtue of liberality as a port in the storm. Traditionally, liberality meant "demonstrating the virtues of a citizen, showing devotion to the common good and respecting the importance of mutual connectedness." I also turn to a renewal of reasonableness, which is the virtue of acknowledging that the most reasonable case does have bearing on my choices and beliefs. There are better and worse cases that govern our thoughts and behavior. We do not like this fact because we prefer unfettered freedom to relational accountability which can feel confining.

Illiberalism can be a huge threat as it proposes a coercive authority that stops all debate in its tracks. This is paralyzing and sterilizing for the pursuit of truth and for life in a robustly pluralistic society. However, churches are actually illiberal in one important respect. We have a core of beliefs that are not up for grabs.

The Nicene Creed enshrines these core teachings in a skeleton form. Without a skeleton we are just a pile of mush! As they say, if you don't stand for anything you will fall for everything.

-Jarrett

Serving on Sunday May 10th at 8:00am:

Lectors – TBD

Chalice Bearer – Patricia S.

Serving on Sunday May 10th at 10:00am:

Lectors – Ruth G., Jacqueline C. and Evan T.

Acolytes – Grant P., Isaac P. and David C.

Chalice Bearers – Grant P. and David C.

Ushers – Andy H. and Patty H.

Counters – Jim B. and Hilary G.

Serving on Sunday May 17th at 8:00am:

Lectors – TBD

Chalice Bearer – Patricia S.

Serving on Sunday May 17th at 10:00am:

Lectors – Jacquie W., Shannon W. and Michele V.

Acolytes – Dakota M., Robert F. and Edmund H.

Chalice Bearers – Robert F. and Cindy L.

Ushers – Mary W. and Sheila S.

Counters – Ken H. and Don L.

Thank you to all who volunteer as Lectors, Acolytes, Chalice Bearers and Ushers. If you would like to serve in one of these positions, please let the [office](#) know.

***Sunday's
Readings***

[Acts 17:22-31](#)

[1 Peter 3:13-
22](#)

[John 14:15-
21](#)

***Sunday
Worship:
[Worship
Bulletin](#)
[YouTube](#)***

***Morning
Prayer
Monday -
Friday:***

What's Happening This Week

Saturday, May 9th, 12:00pm: Second Saturday in the Undercroft. Come at 9:30am to help set up and cook, then stay and help serve a warm meal at noon available to all in our community. For more information, contact [David C.](#)

Sunday, May 10th: Happy Mother's Day.

Sunday, May 10th, 8:00am: Rite II Eucharist spoken service, in person, followed by Coffee Hour in the Undercroft.

Sunday, May 10th, 10:00am: Rite II Eucharist with Choir, in-person and on [YouTube](#), followed by Coffee Hour in the Undercroft. Nursery and Sunday School are available during the service.

Sunday, May 10th, 7:00pm: [AA](#) meeting in the Undercroft.

Tuesday, May 12th, 7:00am: Men's Breakfast at the Coach House Restaurant on Wilson Street in Brewer. For more information, contact [Jim B.](#)

Wednesday, May 13th, 5:30pm: Great Wednesday - 5:30pm Eucharist in the church, 6:00pm Dinner and Bible Study in the Undercroft, class is also available on [Zoom](#).

Thursday, May 14th, 5:30pm: Choir rehearsal.

Friday, May 15th, 5:00pm: Young Adult Hike and Dinner.

Sunday, May 17th, 8:00am: Rite II Eucharist spoken service, in person, followed by Coffee Hour in the Undercroft.

9:00am
Morning
Prayer

[Zoom](#)
[Facebook](#)

**Tuesday-
Friday:**
in person in
the Bethlehem
Chapel

**Evening
Prayer
Monday -
Friday:**
5:15pm
live on [Zoom](#)

Sunday, May 17th, 10:00am: Rite II Eucharist with Choir, in-person and on [YouTube](#), followed by Coffee Hour in the Undercroft. Nursery and Sunday School are available during the service.

Sunday, May 17th, 7:00pm: **AA** meeting in the Undercroft.

For more information about these and future events, as well as ways to get involved, check out www.stjohnsbangor.org.

Nursery Care and Children's Chapel

Children should arrive between 9:45 and 10:00 am in the Undercroft on Sunday mornings for Nursery care, ages 0-3, and for Children's Chapel, ages 4-10.

In **Children's Chapel**, we celebrate the boundless curiosity and wonder of our young ones as we delve into the stories and lessons of the Bible. We aim to cultivate a nurturing and engaging environment that teaches our youngest members the stories of their faith and promotes spiritual growth and a strong sense of community. For inquiries or to register, please contact Mary-Frances Beesorchar at children@stjohnsbangor.org.

Opportunities to pray together:

Sunday Morning Eucharist

8:00am in person and at 10:00am in person and on [YouTube](#)

Wednesday Eucharist

5:30pm in person

Morning Prayer

Mon-Fri, 9:00am on Facebook and on [Zoom](#)
and in person Tuesday - Friday in the Bethlehem Chapel

Evening Prayer

Mon-Fri, 5:15pm on [Zoom](#)

Volunteering is a wonderful way to give. Looking for the right Ministry Opportunity for you? Just click the link below for more information.

[OPPORTUNITIES FOR MINISTRY](#)

Parish Prayer List:

If you would like to add or reinstate a name or concern for our parish prayer list, please contact the church office or prayers@stjohnsbangor.org.

For the Sick, Injured, or Distressed, and for those who have requested prayer: Earlene B., Doreen W., Mikenzy, Lyla C., Dustin, Hunt and Allison, Haley, and Mary W. **Continued prayers for** – Susan J., Elena B., Jay B., Susan S., Loretta, David B., Jane P., Henry L., Anna-Claire, Kelly M., D., M., L., Katie B., Ross M., MarLynne M., Kent C., Ann C., Esther R., Victoria Sirota+, Our friends at Fresh Start, Robert H., Brian M., Fred K., Marcia & Richard, Russell M., Kyra H., Donald K., and Jane Z.

For our Homebound Members: Bonnie A., Kathy C., Ginny F., Carolyn L., Evelyn L., Roberta D., Carolyn S., Esther R., Gary S., Deborah T., LeeW., Donna W., Lura W., Lilly P., Earlene B., and Eileen H.

For the World: for Peace and Goodwill among Nations and for peoples in places of violence or oppression, and for the many places in our world where there is danger and desperation. We continue to pray for the people in Ukraine and for the innocent people in Gaza, Sudan and Iran. For those suffering in other countries in the Middle East. For an end to war and all forms of violence. For all who suffer for conscience's sake. For our enemies and those who wish us harm.

For all suffering effects of climate change and of natural disasters. For refugees, immigrants, and those who are displaced.

For our Nation: For the healing of divisions and the celebration of diversity; for the recognition that no single viewpoint on any issue, no matter how important, is without human error; and for all who struggle to change our world and its systems of oppression and exploitation.

For the Leaders of our Country, State and Community: Donald J. Trump, President; Members of Congress, especially, Susan Collins, Angus King, Chellie Pingree, Jared Golden of Maine; Janet Mills our Governor; and Susan Hawes our Mayor; for those who administer justice in the courts of this land, that they all may serve our nation and the world with wisdom, civility, and compassion.

For our Military Personnel, especially those of this Parish: Sarah M., Dillan L., and Joshua M. For all members of our military currently in harm's way. We pray for peace. We also give Thanksgiving for all veterans and their willingness to lay down their lives for our country.

With Thanksgiving for the lives of those celebrating birthdays during the coming week including: Samuel A., Libby B., Anna C., Jennie H. and Mary I.

For the Departed: Renee Ordway, for our service members killed in the current conflict.

The Altar Flowers are given in honor of Steven Griffith by Mary and George Wright.



St. John's Episcopal Church

225 French Street, Bangor, Maine 04401

207-947-0156

<http://www.stjohnsbangor.org>



St. John's Episcopal Church | 225 French Street | Bangor, ME 04401 US

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