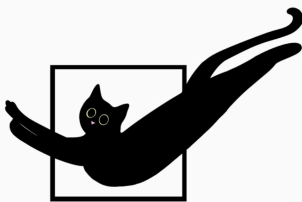


St. John's Episcopal Church

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



Have you checked the CAT
Box?



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



Have you completed the CAT?

Have you completed the Church Assessment Tool (CAT)? 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 concludes THIS SUNDAY, May 17th. 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 Loving like Jesus

How did Jesus love the Pharisees, the Sadducees and the Romans? We all know and confess that God is love and that Jesus is our clearest picture of God's love in action. How did Jesus display that love among the many enemies who surrounded him and wished to do him harm?

Followers of Jesus see his love most clearly in the Cross and Resurrection. By taking on all the consequences of human sin in the Cross and rising again as the vindication of God's faithfulness on the third day we see Jesus reconciling humanity to God. In other words, Jesus restores the bond of love God wants with us but we are not able to establish without God's help. The cross is the Glory of God because in it we see the ultimate act of self-sacrificial love.

After the Resurrection, we know that the way, the truth, and the life of Jesus are the way God favors, the faithfulness God will always vindicate. So, we need to study Jesus and his ways carefully so we can benefit from his example of faithfulness.

To continue reading this essay, scroll down.

Ministry Opportunity Fair

On May 17th 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.

Wet Weather Gear Needed for Neighbors

Our neighbors who are homeless are getting soaked to the bone this Spring and they are asking for wet weather gear. We are collecting raincoats, rain ponchos, umbrellas and rubber boots. If you have any to spare or are willing to purchase new ones we will be collecting these items in the back of the church for the next two Sundays. Some will go to the Public Library where many unhoused people shelter during the day and some will go with me and other members who minister with our neighbors on the street.



Food, Film and Fun

We are so excited that our next Family Film night will be on May 23rd at 5:30pm. We'll be watching Disney's Encanto and dining on pizza.

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](#).

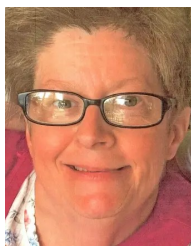
Summer Music at St. John's

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 31st 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.



Kristin Weeks

The Family of Kristin Weeks invites you to join them when Kristin is interred at Mt. Hope Cemetery on June 2nd at 11:00am.

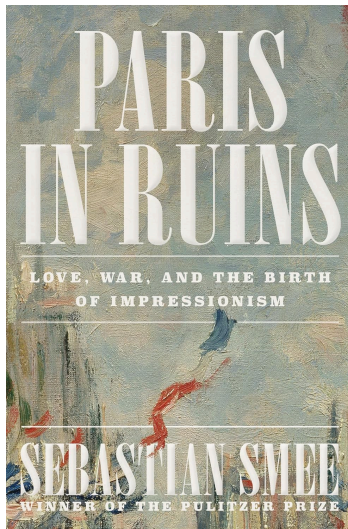
Faith, Fly-Fishing & Fellowship

On June 5th at 6:00 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.



Planting Day

St. John's invites you to our "Planting Day" on June 7th, following the 10:00am service. Wear your gardening clothes, bring a trowel or other gardening tool, and a native plant to help beautify the grounds.



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 - Loving like Jesus - Continued

Which returns me to the question of how Jesus loved his enemies. During the time of his earthly ministry Jesus loved his opponents by engaging them in face to face arguments. Jesus did not shy from a debate as a teaching opportunity and he did not want to leave his interlocutors mis-informed about the Kingdom of God or languishing in fruitless illusions or falsehoods. Jesus loved enough to tell the truth and to correct the misguided.

As a parent, I can relate. How many times have I had to practice tough love with my kids? When they make bad choices the calling of a loving parent is correction. As the mature and responsible adults in the

relationship we do know what is best for the flourishing of our children in most cases, at least when they are minors. To love, is to want what is best for this person, even when they do not see it.

So can we conclude that love is not just affirmation and validation? Fair enough, but love is also complicated by loves that compete and form tensions among our commitments. Jesus teaches us to love God and love our neighbor and love our enemy. Each of us needs to balance the push and pull of various loves: my love for my wife, my children, my siblings, my community, my values and beliefs, the institutions I rely on etc. As a leader I am constantly balancing love for individuals, with love for the church community as a whole, with love for the institution, with love for the faith we confess, and with my love for God.

Love, as Jesus lived it and taught it, is not a simple solution to all problems. For Jesus, love is what pulled him ever deeper into the tensions that tear humanity apart. While he took time to pray on mountaintops, we always returned to the hurley-burly of the human community where he lived out his ultimate love under-pressure, among enemies, and in the face of daunting obstacles.

Finally, Jesus displayed love by forgiving his enemies. From the cross he forgave the people who were murdering him. From the astounding fullness of his love, he forgave them ‘for they did not know what they were doing.’ In other words, he extended grace to his opponents, opening his heart to them and saying; even while you are sinning, I am loving you and making room for you to return to me. Wow!

-Jarrett

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. and Shannon W.

Acolytes – Dakota M., Cindy L. and Obi O.

Chalice Bearers – Robert F. and Cindy L.

Ushers – Mary W. and Zach W.

Counters – Ken H. and Don L.

Serving on Sunday May 24th at 8:00am:

Lectors – TBD

Chalice Bearer – Patricia S.

Serving on Sunday May 24th at 10:00am:

**Lectors – Chris M., Cindy L., Kelsi H., Richard W., Evan T.,
Chaofan C., Ann H., Katharine F., Shannon W., Scott B.,
Robert F., Ben O. and Zach W.**

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

Chalice Bearers – Cassy P. and Grant P.

Ushers – Katharine F. and Eric G.

Counters – Mary W. and Paul J.

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 1:6-14](#)

[1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11](#)

[John 17:1-11](#)

What's Happening This Week

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

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

Sunday, May 17th, 7:00pm: [AA](#) meeting in the Undercroft.

Tuesday, May 19th, 2:00pm: Women's Book Group on [Zoom](#).

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

**Morning
Prayer**
Monday -
Friday:
9:00am
Morning
Prayer
[Zoom](#)
[Facebook](#)

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

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

Wednesday, May 20th, 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 21st, 5:30pm: Choir rehearsal.

Saturday, May 23rd, 5:30pm: Family Film Night.

Sunday, May 24th, 8:00am: Rite II Eucharist spoken service, in person, followed by Coffee Hour in the Undercroft.

Sunday, May 24th, 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 24th, 11:30am: Vestry Meeting

Sunday, May 24th, 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 Beesorchard 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: Will and Neal, Carl H., Earlene B., Doreen W., Mikenzy, Lyla C., and Dustin **Continued prayers for** – Hunt and Allison, Haley, Mary W., Marcia & Richard, Russell M., Kyra H., Donald K., Jane Z., 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., and Esther R.

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: Deej P.

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



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

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!