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September Happenings

St. James Episcopal Church, Amesbury

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Reflections from Fr. John

Noted theologian David Lose writes "in recent years, lots and lots of people are not remotely hostile to church but simply don't consider it a particularly compelling option in light of all the other things they might do on any given Sunday. Which is why I'd like to shift the conversation from coming to church out of a sense of duty to one of coming out of a sense of delight, and desire, and anticipation. But that will only happen if we're clear and honest about what we - as individuals and a community - need in order to flourish and be the people God has called us to be."

This Fall season, the vestry and I would like to invite everyone to attend a morning of "Conversation and Light Brunch with Father John." These events will be small, informal gatherings on Saturday mornings beginning in October at the homes of different parishioners. These gatherings will give us the wonderful opportunity to know each other

better. I am anxious to share with you more about who I am, my call to the priesthood and how I came to Saint James. I am also excited to hear why our parishioners have made Saint James their Church home and to learn more about what they would like to see from Saint James as we move forward. I invite us to ponder, what we need and what might the community need, in order to engender the same excitement others have felt throughout the centuries living out the Gospel of Jesus Christ - maybe weekly Bible and study groups, weekday services, new ways to promote our existing ministries such as altar guild, altar servers, choir, Church School, youth group; perhaps there is interest to start new ministries, an opportunity to serve on mission trips, maybe you have heard from community members about community needs that we could help address. By listening to our needs and offering ministries and programs that meet those needs, we will help to make our Church a vibrant, thriving and exciting place. The sky is the limit!

Sign-up sheets with the hosts, their residence and the dates are at the back of the Church. We hope you will be able to sign up for the event closest to where you live. There will be a total of five gatherings in the fall with more to come in January so do not worry if you can't make one of the first five. I am looking forward to getting to know you all better as we strive together continuing to make Saint James a place of hope, excitement and inspiration to each other and our community all in the Blessed name of Jesus Christ.

Please know you are all in my daily thoughts and prayers.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. John

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Fr. John's schedule is Monday through Thursday. His office "stop-by" day is Tuesdays from 10am to 3pm. If you wish to "stop-by" on another day, you may; however, with scheduled appointments, off-site meetings or homebound visitations he may not be available. You may also call before arriving or you are always welcome to schedule an appointment.

Beginning on Tuesday, September 8th the Parish Office will be open on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 10-4pm, until the end of November.

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Birthday Celebration



On Sunday, August 30th we celebrated Jean Macey's 100th Birthday with cake and refreshments in the Parish Hall.
Thank you to all who were able to come and enjoy the celebration.

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Vestry Meeting



The September Vestry Meeting will be held on Tuesday the 8th at 7pm in Fr. John's Office at St. James. All church members are invited to attend and observe our vestry meetings.

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St. James Choir



Oh come, let us sing to the Lord! Let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation. *Psalm 95:1*

It is time to sing! If you are interested in joining the choir, now is your chance. Choir is open to anyone from high school to 100. Weekly Choir rehearsals are held and we sing every Sunday morning at the 10am worship service.

Our first rehearsal will be on Thursday, September 3rd at 7:15 in the Parish Hall. Our first Sunday to sing will be Sunday, September 13th.

For more information feel free to contact Ruth Eifert, Choir Director via stjames.office@verizon.net.

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The Blessing of the Backpacks

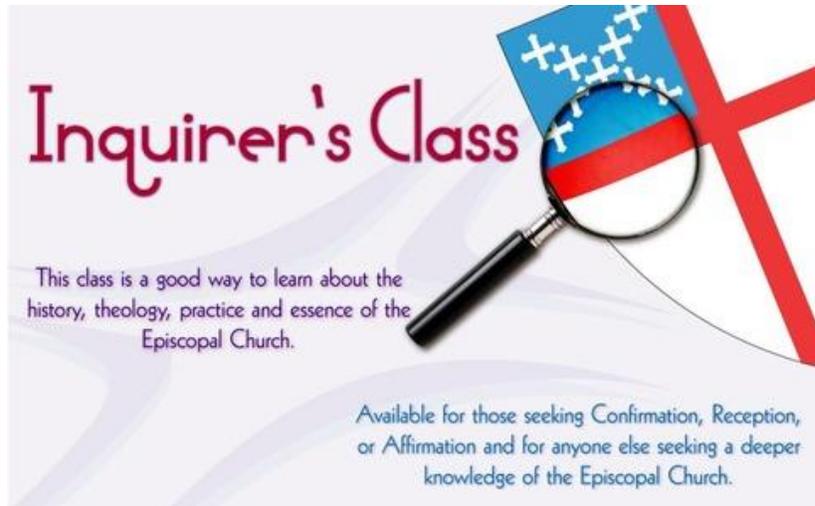


Our annual "Blessing of the Backpacks" is Sunday, September 13th during the 10am service. Bring your backpacks and Fr. John will bless them for the new school year. Fr. John will also have a special blessing for anyone involved in the school such as teachers, bus drivers, school nurses and school administrators.

Following the service there will be a meet and greet with the Christian Education team in the parish hall during coffee hour. Registration forms,

schedules and classroom tours will be available. Christian Education classes begin on Sunday, September 20th at 9:45am.

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*Are you considering Baptism or having a loved one Baptized?

*Interested in being Confirmed?

*What about Reaffirmation or perhaps Reception?

*Interested in knowing about Confirmation, Reaffirmation, Reception?

*Maybe you are just interested in learning more about the Episcopal Church; our traditions, customs, quirks.

*Maybe you have specific questions such as why the Altar candles are always lit in a specific order or why the colors of our Church hangings change?

If you are 16 years old and older, Fr. John welcomes your inquiries. Beginning on Wednesday September 30 from 7:00-8:00PM at St. James and continuing through the next few months, Fr. John will be leading an Inquirers Class which is designed to answer those burning questions as well as to teach us more about our faith.

All are welcome whether you are an Episcopalian, a Church member or just an inquiring mind and please, bring a friend or two.

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MSPCA
Angell Walk for Animals



Take the lead-walk with your best friend! You can make a difference in the lives of thousands of animals. The MSPCA-Angell Walk for Animals will be held at MSPCA Nevins Farm in Methuen on September 26, 2015 (registration begins at 11:00am, the Walk begins at 12:00pm).

Protecting animals is a serious business, but this is a day when we all let our love for animals dissolve into pure joy! Get creative, get a little crazy, but most of all get going! If you start now you have the best chance to help the most animals.

Encourage your friends, family and fellow animal lovers to do the same. Or urge them to support the cause by donating or becoming one of your sponsors.

For more information, to register to walk or to donate visit [MSPCA Nevins Farm in Methuen.](#)

If you would prefer to send a check, please make it out to MSPCA Walk for Animals and mail to: MSPCA Walk for Animals, 400 Broadway, Methuen, MA 01844. Remember to include if your donation is for a specific individual or team!

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Registration for 2015/2016 Christian Education Program will be held on Sunday, September 13th beginning at 9:30.

Upcoming Events

The annual Diocesan Youth Council "Kick-Off" at Barbara C. Harris Camp is scheduled for Friday September 11th thru the 13th. All DYC members are required to attend.

Youth Leadership Academy (YLA) 2015-2016 applications are due September 8th. If you have questions, please contact Rev. H. Mark Smith at hmsmith@diomass.org.

Acolyte training with Fr. John will be held on September 19th at 10am in the Sanctuary. If you are in grade 5th thru 12th and are interested in serving at the Altar, please join us. Learn about the history of the Acolyte and how to serve at the Altar. Donuts and fellowship will follow in the parish hall. Commissioning of Acolytes and Lay Ministers will be held on Sunday, September 20th during the 10am service.

DYC members: Please plan to attend the Lower Merrimack Valley Deanery meeting on Wednesday, September 23rd from 6pm to 8pm located at Trinity in Haverhill. Due to limited parking, carpooling is suggested.

If you have questions, please contact Jenn Collins at stjames.christianed@verizon.net.

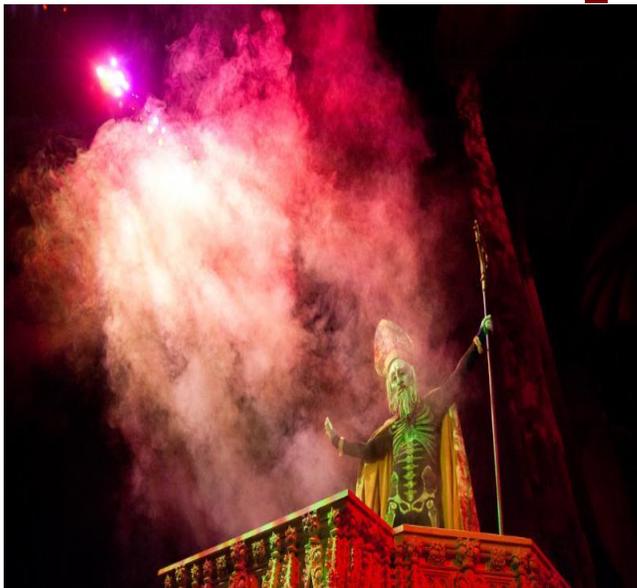
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Pizza & Bowling

Youth Group "Kick Off" at Leo's Super Bowl will be held on Sunday, September 27th from 12:30pm to 2:30pm. Join us for bowling, pizza and fellowship!

Procession of the Ghouls



Halloween at the Cathedral, St. John the Divine in Manhattan will be infused with new energy. The full stretch of the nave is at the disposal of Mr. Lee's fantastic creatures of the night, and visitors are encouraged to brace themselves for increased ghostly mischief and ghoulish tricks. Seats closest to the action are for the bravest at heart, who may find themselves directly confronted with the hooked, expressive nose of a demon, the mossy nails of a witch, or the bulging, flushed cheeks of a ghostly manchild.

If you are feeling brave enough, to encounter these ghostly characters, this is for you. Parents, it will involve your daughter/son missing a day (or

perhaps a half day) of school. This is a Church event at a Church so we are hoping you will not mind letting your youth miss the day of school. Chaperones will drive us into NYC for the 7PM show. After the show we would stay for pictures with the ghouls and then head to Larchmont, NY, where I grew up, which is about 30 mins outside NYC. We would visit the Church I grew up in, St. John's, and spend the night there in the Parish Hall. In the morning we would go out for breakfast/lunch and then head home to Amesbury arriving probably between 4-5pm. If need be we can always leave earlier on Saturday if any of you want to get back to trick or treat.

The cost of the tickets is \$20 plus you will need to bring spending money and money for dinner and breakfast. St. James will cover the cost of gas and parking. Tickets sell out fast so I need to hear by September 19th if you would like to come so that I can purchase our tickets. You are always welcome to bring a friend as well as wear a costume to this event. Chaperones/drivers are needed. This is an event for 6th to 12th graders.

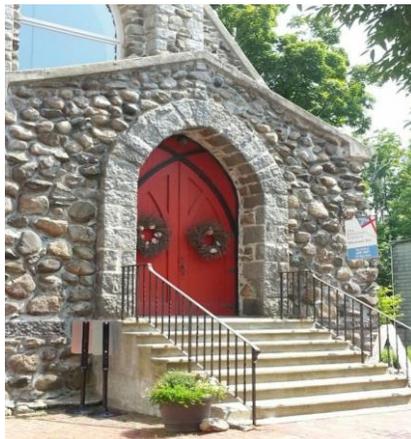
More information can be found at stjohndivine.org under their October calendar. As we get closer to the event we will hand out permission slips as well as firm up logistics.

I hope to see you all at Procession of the Ghouls.

Fr. John Satula

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Building & Grounds Ministry



The Building and Grounds Ministry is beginning several exciting projects to help beautify and make St. James all the more welcoming to our community. The ministry is hoping to recruit some new members as the planning of these projects begin.

If you are interested in joining this vital ministry of our parish or would like more information please speak with Liz Iacobucci, Joe Fahey or e-mail the parish office at stjames.office@verizon.net

Building our foundation and fellowship together.



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Altar Flowers



Are you interested in providing floral tributes? You may sign up to provide funds or supplies for our altar flowers and other ways of beautifying our church. Our Altar Guild volunteers will work with you, or for you, to create a beautiful tribute.

Please contact the Office to reserve your choice of dates and to schedule a time to speak with an Altar Guild representative.

As a reminder, the Office is open Tuesday and Thursday 10-3 or as needed. Office telephone number is 978-388-0030 or contact via e-mail at:

stjames.office@verizon.net

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The Ministry of Hospitality



Gathering for Coffee Hour after the 10am service is an important part of our life together here at St. James.

Hosting a Coffee Hour is an important ministry. It is more than just feeding people, it also helps people feel welcome in our church. Coffee hour gives us an opportunity to introduce ourselves to visitors and newcomers. It gives us the chance to catch up with other members of our parish family. Breaking bread together--even in this very ordinary way--helps strengthen us as a parish and renew us as individuals.

Could you help host a Coffee Hour? Just one Sunday every so often and share in the hosting with another parish member! Please talk with [Kelly Bennett](#), our Hospitality Chair, about how and when you can help.

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Men's Group at St. James

The Men's Group at St. James meets Saturday mornings to read aloud and discuss appointed selections in the Holy Bible and related resources. They learn about the circumstances of biblical events, their significance and the people involved. We encourage men of St. James and their friends to join the group.

Meetings are held either in the Parish Hall or hosted at a member's home. Contact Arthur Yarranton or Mort Gilbert at stjames.office@verizon.net if you are interested in participating in the Men's Group and to confirm meeting location and time. Please reference "Men's Group" when sending e-mail.

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The St. James Visual Arts Gallery

Mort Gilbert encourages parishioners to take photos, make paintings or do drawings for display in the St. James Visual Arts Gallery. The Gallery Art Committee, consisting of Fr. John, Ron Jones and Mort will find ways to get parishioners represented whether or not their works are matted, glassed, framed and wired. Alleluia!

For example, photos can be emailed to mortgilbert@comcast.net. He'll edit them into a collage that includes the photographers' names, then have collage prints made. The modest cost for each collage is to be shared by those whose work is contained thereon. Or camera memory cards can be submitted to Mort and collages made selectively of images contained on them.

Lightweight art, whether drawings, paintings or photos can be supported clipped to a gallery-situated wire or bulletin board instead of the usual grid panels.

Thankfulness is the basic theme for displayed artwork. And if art representing thankfulness can be tied to events that have taken place in the calendar months March through October, so much the better,

Questions? See Mort.

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ONT is in need of shampoo, soap, deodorant, powder, razors, toothpaste, toothbrushes, canned: fruit, chicken, tuna, ravioli and spaghetti & meatballs, as well as hardy soups & stews. If you are able to donate, please bring in your item(s) and leave in the basket in the back of the church.

Click [here](#) to view ONT's website.

Let us give thanks for God's many blessings to us.

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Retaining Wall

This summer the St. James retaining wall was removed and a new retaining wall was built. The contractors did a great job with the stone work and the fencing. When you have a moment, check it out.

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Thought for the Month

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"I have for many years endeavored to make this vital truth clear; and still people marvel when I tell them that I am happy. They imagine that my limitations weigh heavily upon my spirit, and chain me to the rock of despair. Yet, it seems to me, happiness has very little to do with the senses. If we make up our minds that this is a drab and purposeless universe, it will be that, and nothing else. On the other hand, if we believe that the earth is ours, and that the sun and moon hang in the sky for our delight, there will be joy upon the hills and gladness in the fields because the Artist in our souls glorifies creation. Surely, it gives dignity to life to believe that we are born into this world for noble ends, and that we have a higher destiny than can be accomplished within the narrow limits of this physical life." ~ Helen Keller -

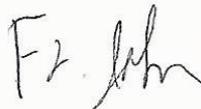
QUICK LINKS

[St. James Website!](#)

[Episcopal Diocese of
Massachusetts](#)

[Send us an E-mail](#)

Blessings and Peace to All!



The Rev. John Satula