



The Tower

January 2025

Beloved,

The days leading up to this past Christmas were a little more stressful than usual. This is largely due to this being the first major celebration without a settled organist. I knew that Christmas at St. John's would still be glorious, and it was, but I felt the weight of that a little more than usual leading up to it. Our choir, assisted by Hailey, Orlando, and Jake, accompanied by Jean-Marc on the organ did an absolutely phenomenal job. We are incredibly blessed with some truly remarkable choir members here, and I am so thankful for that. Our choir and music weren't the only thing that made Christmas so special. Our Flower Guild and Altar Guild put in extra work to make our sanctuary was beautifully and appropriately adorned. Our ushers, readers, intercessors, acolytes and Eucharistic Ministers helped to lead our worship. And so many members of our community joined us as we celebrated this most holy night. What a truly glorious Christmas we had, thank you all so much for making that happen!

One other thing that made Christmas special despite my increased stress was something I recognized about halfway through our Christmas Eve services and then continued to notice throughout the night. I have been back at St. John's as Rector now for over six years. This is a year and a half longer than I was at Saints Matthew & Mark and over two years longer than I was at St. Paul's. I was struck at our services looking out at the congregation and seeing so many faces I have had the privilege to minister with and to over these past six years. On my first Sunday back at St. John's, All Saints' Sunday in 2018, I baptized a baby. That baby is now a second grader, and he was at our family service at 4pm. With the amount of baptisms we've been doing lately, it's no surprise that there were a lot of people with us, kids and adults, that I have baptized over the past six years. We also had a number of our young adults who I have seen through Confirmation with us. There were people I've visited in the hospital and families of loved ones whose funerals I have officiated.

This Christmas was especially meaningful for me not just because of all the amazing people who came together for our worship, but because of how tied together this community is. Because of how we share in one another's lives. I am so thankful and happy to be serving at St. John's. So thankful that you all let me share in such important moments in your lives

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STEP DOWN TO ENCORE

Hours

Tuesday & Thursday
10:00am—4:00pm

Saturday
1st & 3rd Saturday
of the month



Encore

Encore will be closed for the month
of January.

Happy New Year and we hope to see you in
February!



ST. JOHN'S TOWER

Please consider writing for The Tower.
Personal reflections, articles, poetry,
essays and commentary are always welcome!
Next Tower Deadline: January 15th.
The February Tower will be mailed on
January 29th

Please send articles, announcements and
"Letters to the Tower" to dale@stjohnsbarrington.org

COMMISSION ON CHILDREN'S FORMATION

Children Ministries News

Church School will meet each Sunday in January at 10am, with the exception of January 26th, which will be our Family Service. Our meeting dates are:

January 5th- 10am

January 12th- 10am

January 19th- 10am

January 26th- Family Service 10am

Epiphany Pageant

Please join us for our Epiphany Pageant on Sunday, January 5th at 5:30 p.m. The kids are excited to participate in the retelling of the Christmas story and the Magi's journey to bring Jesus gifts.



Mitten Line

Thank you to everyone who donated to our mitten line. Your generosity is appreciated and many hats, mittens, sweatshirts and scarves went to help Rhode Islanders experiencing homelessness during this winter season.



Family Service

Please reach out to me at Caitlin@stjohnsbarrington.org if your child is interested in participating in our Family Service on January 26th at 10:00am.

We are looking forward to a wonderful 2025!



FROM THE VESTRY

HOPE

Hope is a good thing, maybe the best of things, to quote a popular movie.

A new year brings hope that manifests itself in past year reflections and new year's resolutions. Prayers are devoted to world peace, a unified nation, and that God's will be fulfilled in our daily lives to truly love our neighbors as ourselves.

We look to the Bible for hope in the book of Romans 12:10-12 (NASB 2020).

Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor, not lagging behind in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, devoted to prayer.

May this message resound in hearts through the new year.

In love and peace,

Carl Seadale, St. John's Vestry Member

COMMISSION ON ADMINISTRATION

Advent Food Drive

Deepest and heartfelt thanks to everyone who took the time out of all the holiday bustle to procure groceries to donate to our Advent food drive for TapIn. Thanks to your contributions, families in need were able to enjoy warm nourishing meals this season - a gift that goes far beyond the food itself. It represents hope, care, and a reminder that they are not alone. Your support truly embodied the spirit of the season and we are humbled by the compassion of our community. Again, thank you!!



COMMISSION ON ADMINISTRATION

Silver Spoons

Silver Spoons is a monthly gathering with lunch for any of our parishioners over the age of sixty. Each month lunch will be prepared and served by Fr. Patrick. This month's lunch will take place on Thursday, January 9th and will be baked ziti and a Caesar salad. If you would like to attend we ask you to RSVP to patrick@stjohnsbarrington.org by Tuesday, January 7th.

Neal Goldsborough will be featured at Trinity Rep

Trinity Rep's first play this year, *Someone Will Remember Us*, "interlaces the real-life testimonies of U.S. military veterans, a Gold Star family, Iraqi civilians, and refugees living in Rhode Island." One of the voices that will be featured in this play is that of a former St. John's Rector, the Rev. Neal Goldsborough. Check out Trinity's website for more information about *Someone Will Remember Us*.

Epiphany Pageant

On Sunday, January 5th we will gather together at 5:30pm to celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany with an Epiphany Pageant with Holy Eucharist led by our Church School Children. Our Epiphany Pageant will tell the story of Christmas up through the rising of the star and journey of the Magi. Please come out and support our Church School kids as we celebrate this Principal Feast Day.

Epiphany Holy Eucharist

On Monday, January 6th we will gather together at 7pm to celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany with a service of Holy Eucharist led by our Church School Children. On this day we remember the Magi recognizing and responding to God's message to all of creation that God had become incarnate in Jesus Christ.

Compline on Zoom

Every Wednesday you can find a group of us gathering on Zoom at 8pm to close our day together in prayer with a service of Compline. If you're unfamiliar with this service I cannot recommend it to you enough, it is one of the most beautiful services we offer.

St. John's Youth Group

All High School and Middle School students are invited to join our Youth Group. We normally meet on the first and third Sundays of the month from 6:30-7:30. This month, however, we will only have a regular meeting on January 19th. In place of our meeting that would take place on January 5th we will be helping the Church School out with the Epiphany Pageant. If you would like to help out with the Pageant please let Fr. Patrick know. Our regular Sunday gatherings include time for a short discussion on issues of our faith and lives, time to hang out and have fun together and plenty of snacks.

COMMISSION ON ADMINISTRATION

Ancient Practice Series

Over the coming months you are invited to join Fr. Patrick in reading and discussing the books from the Ancient Practice Series. Once a month we will gather on a Sunday evening at 6:30 for one hour to discuss that month's book. In December we will discuss, *The Sacred Journey* written by Charles Foster. This series looks at seven practices common to the Abrahamic religions and examines them in light of Christian faith and practice. We will meet according to the following schedule:

We will meet according to the following schedule:

Sunday, January 12th – *The Sacred Journey*, Charles Foster

Sunday, February 9th – *Sabbath*, Dan B. Allender

Sunday, March 9th – *Fasting*, Scot McKnight

Sunday, April 13th – *The Sacred Meal*, Nora Gallagher

If anyone is interested in taking part in this please talk to Fr. Patrick. There are a few copies of each book available to borrow.

Morning Prayer

Join us on Mondays-Thursdays as we begin our day with Morning Prayer. This service includes scripture readings, short prayers and a brief period of silence, lasting around fifteen minutes total. We gather around the altar at 8:45am. We hope to see you there!

Coffee Connections

Nearly every Wednesday you can find Fr. Patrick holding "office hours" at Starbucks from 11-12:30. If you're around on a Wednesday stop by and say hello.

Transitions

January Anniversaries ~ Congratulations!

Albert & Marion Colella ~ January 18, 1986 ~ 38 years

Mike & Nancy Morrissette ~ January 25, 1997 ~ 27 years

January

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Happy New Year Parish Office Closed	2 8:45am Morning Prayer 1:00pm Knitting Group 5:00pm Zoom Happy Hour		
Church - Red Living Room - Blue Choir Room - Purple Church School Wing - Green Field Hall - Brown Encore - Pink Off Site - Orange Outside - Turquoise Online - Aqua						
5 8:00am, 10:00am & 5:30pm Holy Eucharist 9:00am Adult Formation 10:00am Church School 5:30pm Epiphany Pageant	6 Epiphany 8:45am Morning Prayer 12:00pm Zoom Book/Bible Study 7:00pm Holy Eucharist	7 8:45am Morning Prayer 9:00am Zoom Coffee Hour 10:30 Staff Meeting	8 8:45am Morning Prayer 9:30am Holy Eucharist 6:30pm STJ Book Club 8:00pm Compline Online	9 8:45am Morning Prayer 12:00pm Silver Spoons 1:00pm Knitting Group 5:00pm Zoom Happy Hour		
12 8:00am, 10:00am & 5:30pm Holy Eucharist 9:00am Adult Formation 10:00am Church School 6:30pm Ancient Practices Series	13 8:45am Morning Prayer 12:00pm Zoom Book/Bible Study 6:00pm Finance Meeting 7:00pm Vestry Meeting	14 8:45am Morning Prayer 9:00am Zoom Coffee Hour 10:30 Staff Meeting	15 8:45am Morning Prayer 9:30am Holy Eucharist 8:00pm Compline Online	16 8:45am Morning Prayer 1:00pm Knitting Group 5:00pm Zoom Happy Hour		
			Tower Deadline			
19 8:00am, 10:00am & 5:30pm Holy Eucharist 9:00am Adult Formation 10:00am Church School 6:30pm Youth Group	20 MLK Day Parish Office Closed	21 8:45am Morning Prayer 9:00am Zoom Coffee Hour 10:30 Staff Meeting	22 8:45am Morning Prayer 9:30am Holy Eucharist 8:00pm Compline Online	23 8:45am Morning Prayer 1:00pm Knitting Group 5:00pm Zoom Happy Hour		
26 8:00am, 10:00am & 5:30pm Holy Eucharist 9:00am Adult Formation 10:00am Family Service 11:30am Annual Meeting	27 8:45am Morning Prayer 12:00pm Zoom Book/Bible Study 6:00pm Property Meeting	28 8:45am Morning Prayer 9:00am Zoom Coffee Hour 10:30 Staff Meeting	29 8:45am Morning Prayer 9:30am Holy Eucharist 8:00pm Compline Online	30 8:45am Morning Prayer 1:00pm Knitting Group 5:00pm Zoom Happy Hour 7:00pm COBST Rehearsal		
			Mail Tower			

Those connections were visible in the faces of those who worshipped with us on Christmas Eve. All evening on Christmas Eve I was thinking that this was the moving Christmas I have celebrated as a priest because of all those connections. Celebrating this holy night with so many dear loved ones was such an incredible gift.

Thank you all so very much for being a part of this community and allowing me to minister with and among you all.

Yours in Christ,



Patrick+



*The mission of
St. John's Church
is to be a community of
Christians committed to
the care, nourishment and
spiritual growth of all.*

January 2025

The Reverend Patrick Greene, Rector
St. John's Episcopal Church
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Phone: 401-245-4065
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Parish September Office Hours
Monday – Thursday 8:00am - 4:00pm
Friday - 8:00am - Noon

Worship Services
Sunday ~ 8:00am Holy Eucharist
 10:00am Holy Eucharist
 5:30pm Holy Eucharist
Wednesday ~ 9:30am Holy Eucharist