



The Tower

December 2024

Beloved in Christ,

Earlier this year I had hoped we would have our Director of Music Programs position filled by the beginning of the fall. As summer was ending and it was clear that wouldn't be happening I was hoping for someone to be in place for Advent. Unfortunately that did not happen either.

The search committee and I have interviewed three candidates. At the end of October we made an offer to the candidate we felt was best qualified for the job. This candidate discerned, however, that this position was not the right one for him. He loved working with our choir and search committee, and he was very clear his decision was not about anything negative about St. John's but mostly coming from his lack of experience in traditional liturgical worship. His experience in church music was very different from what we do so he thought it best to decline our offer.

Given the time of year we are aware we will not be filling the position before 2025. With the holiday season approaching we are aware that church musicians are especially busy right now. After the holidays we plan to pick up the search again.

I want to thank Christine Wallis for leading us on the piano over these past months. Our lack of applicants for the permanent position mirrors the lack of organist subs as well. There are many weeks we would not have had music without Christine's willingness to step in for us. She has done a wonderful job leading our worship music over the past months and I am incredibly thankful for that.

For the month of December, including, Christmas Eve, we will have a long term sub, Jean-Marc Schweizer. In January, Jean-Marc will be beginning a permanent position at a Congregational Church in Massachusetts. As you see Jean-Marc on Sundays this month and on Christmas Eve please make sure to welcome him to St. John's. Our music programs may not be what we have come to be used to this Advent and Christmas, but I assure you we will continue, as the Psalmist writes, to make a joyful noise to the Lord.

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DIRECTORY

Clergy

The Reverend Patrick Greene

Rector

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Staff

Dale West

Parish Administrator

Dale@stjohnsbarrington.org

Ext. 11

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Director of Children & Family

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Ext. 15

David Murray

Head of Buildings and Grounds

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Ext. 12

Vestry

Steve Primiano, Warden

Wendy Smith, Warden

John Cavanagh, Clerk/Secretary

Susan Taylor, Treasurer

Dan Barlow

Matthew Heffner

Anne Massa

Pixie Medeiros

Carl Seadale

Judy Tavares

401-245-4065

www.stjohnsbarrington.org

STEP DOWN TO ENCORE

Hours

Tuesday & Thursday

10:00am—4:00pm

Saturday

1st & 3rd Saturday

of the month



Encore

Encore will open on the following

Saturday's:

December 7th and 21st.

Encore will be closed Christmas Week.

Please call 245-7380 to make an appointment
for consignments.



ST. JOHN'S TOWER

Please consider writing for The Tower.

Personal reflections, articles, poetry,
essays and commentary are always welcome!

Next Tower Deadline: December 17th.

**The January Tower will be mailed on
December 27th**

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 on Sundays in December at 10am, with the exception of Sunday, December 29th.

Our meeting dates are:

December 1st- 10am

December 8th- 10am

December 15th- 10am

December 22- 10am

December 29th- No meeting

FAMILY SERVICE- On Tuesday, December 24th we will have our family service during the 4pm Christmas Eve service. Please reach out to me at caitlin@stjohnsbarrington.org if you or your child would like to participate in this service.



Potluck Dinner

We will be having an all-parish holiday potluck on *Sunday, December 15th at 6:15*. There will be a sign-up sheet for dishes on the bulletin board in Field Hall. Please bring your favorite dish to share! We will also have gingerbread house decorating for the Church School and Youth Group kids. Please let me know if you plan on attending so I can ensure we have enough gingerbread houses!



COMMISSION ON CHILDREN'S FORMATION

The Mitten Line

We will be starting the mitten line again for the month of December. This season we are asking for adult size hats, gloves, mittens and sweatshirts to donate during the St. John's Loaves and Fishes RI run on December 29th . We collected tons of items last year that went out to Rhode Islanders in need and we look forward to doing the same this year!



Epiphany Pageant

Looking ahead to January, we will have our **Epiphany Pageant** on **Sunday, January 5th**, with a quick dress rehearsal Saturday, January 4th. The kids had so much fun with this last year. If your child is interested in participating, please email me at caitlin@stjohnsbarrington.org

Thank you all for being part of our community this past year. I wish you all a happy and healthy 2025.

COMMISSION ON ADMINISTRATION

Advent Quiet Day

You are invited to join us for a day of quiet reflection and prayer on Saturday, December 7th from 9am-2pm. Fr. Patrick will offer a few reflections throughout the day, materials such as journals, prayer bead kits, and coloring books will be provided to aid in quiet reflection and prayer. A light lunch of soup and bread will also be provided. We are asking for a suggested donation of ten dollars to take part. Please let Fr. Patrick know if you plan on attending by Tuesday, December 3rd .

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, December 12th and will be pulled pork sandwiches with a chickpea salad. If you would like to attend we ask you to RSVP to patrick@stjohnsbarrington.org by Tuesday, December 10th.

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 September we will start with the introduction to the series, Finding Our Way Again written by Brian McLaren. This series looks at seven practices common to the major world 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, December 8th – The Liturgical Year: The Spiraling Adventure of the Spiritual Life, Joan Chittister

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 if needed.

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 December 1st . On December 15th there will be a parish potluck dinner at 6:15 following the 5:30 service. At this dinner our Youth Group members are invited to join in our church school families in making ginger bread houses. Our 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

Coffee Connections

You can find Fr. Patrick nearly every Wednesday at Starbucks from 11am-12:30pm, drop on by to chat with him. Every so often he may be running a little late or unable to make it, usually when this is happening our Facebook and Instagram pages are updated with that info.

Monday Bible Study

Our Monday Bible Study group will begin reading and discussing The Book of Isaiah on December 2nd . If you would like to join us we gather in the Living Room and Zoom.

Morning Prayer

Come start your day off with a little prayer, scripture and silence. Monday through Thursday we gather around the altar for Morning Prayer at 8:45, the service lasts around fifteen minutes.

You Tube

Our Worship services can be found on our YouTube Channel. Make sure to subscribe to receive notifications when we are streaming. Our YouTube channel can be found here: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCoC6LP37Ql_ovQTMm9Qw9wQ

EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN ~ ECW

Happy Holidays ECW Friends!

Save the Date!
Monday, December 9th
5:30 PM
St. John's Field Hall



Special thanks to Debbie Jerome, Emily Reade, Denise Javery and Charlotte Tracy for planning a delightful ECW Christmas Party! They've organized a delicious catered holiday supper to celebrate this joyous season together. A \$10 donation sent to Charlotte Tracy or Dale West will gladly reserve your spot and we'll see you there!!



COMMISSION ON ADMINISTRATION

This Old Church: See Ya Next Year!

By David M. Murray

Our creche is a wonderful representation of the Nativity, the birth of Jesus Christ, the whole reason for the season. Oh, sure, there's Santa Claus, Mrs. Claus, elves, reindeer, stockings, trees, and of course gifts! Many of which are promptly returned on the 26th .

But the real Christmas is a time for celebrations, when family and friends come together to enjoy the day, and it all makes us feel good. But the creche; no blinking lights, no "Santa Got Run Over by a Reindeer," no ribbon candy or eggnog, just figurines, staring, motionless. Some, like our figurines, are nestled in a creche, out of the wind and snow. And when we stop all the hustle and bustle, and pause at our Nativity, something warm and wonderful wells up inside us. You can't stop it. There is an inner peace that seems to bloom deep within our beings, regardless of our age, and time seems to stand still.

Ah-ha... we just experienced the Child Jesus, along with Mary and Joseph, like it was always meant to be, simple, quiet, peaceful, and loving.

Each year, as the volunteers (Mike Javery and Bob Mitchell) help to erect the creche, everyone has a job to do (we've done this before). Perhaps Fr, Pat would begin the task with a prayer, but for us laymen, it's cold, and we've got a fairly big job to do. As with anything that is hand-made, we worry, each year, if it'll all go together without issue. Now, while we do have a 3-ring binder with colored photos and detailed instructions, it is widely known that real men don't read instructions! We'd rather fray our nerves, hoping for the best outcome. And every year, it's the same thing... perfection, a beautiful creche to help place the Nativity at the forefront of the season. We always step back, pause, and congratulate each other for a job well done, never verbally acknowledging who is always watching over us.

And that reminds me of the lady who is frantically driving around the mall, looking for a place to park, when out of frustration, she beckons God for assistance, saying "Dear Lord, if you find me a parking space I'll put a hundred dollars in the Christmas plate." As she rounds the next aisle, she finds the perfect spot and quickly declares, "Never mind God, I found one!"

Well, perhaps that's a wee bit harsh to talk about our volunteers like that. I'm sure they feel the warmth emanating from the creche when we're all done with our work. We feel good, peaceful and promise to return next year.

We invite you to steal a moment this season and visit our creche and think about that first Christmas. It really is magical!

Hey, it's all in a day's work... Merry Christmas!

COMMISSION ON OUTREACH

Reverse Advent Calendar 2024 is Here!

This year St. John's will celebrate Advent by sharing our blessings with the wider community by shopping for non-perishable items to stock the food-pantry shelves of TAP-IN. To get started, pick up a reusable grocery bag with your attached shopping list and instructions. Then, each day of Advent, use our special shopping list to purchase an item used by families served by TAP-IN and add it to your bag while you pray for those families. Then bring your filled bag to church on Sunday, December 15th, so this food can be blessed before it's delivered to TAP-IN. Be sure to take your shopping list with you this week and, while you're shopping get a head start on your Reverse Advent Calendar groceries!

Items needed include:

Peanut Butter

Canned Vegetables

Canned Tomatoes

Canned Beans

Canned Fruits

Cranberry Sauce

Stuffing

Brown Rice

Tuna

Macaroni & Cheese

Biscuit or Cornbread Mix

Parmelot

Dessert Mix

In addition to this list of suggested items do consider adding items for a favorite dish at your holiday table. Our goal is to provide not only nutritious staples but to add a bit of holiday cheer as well!

All items due in Field Hall by December 14th. Thank you!!

Loaves & Fishes RI

Once again we will be taking the Loaves & Fishes truck and helping out those in need in Providence. On Sunday, December 29th we will be loading the truck with bagged lunches, socks, toiletries and other personal items. The shiny white-and-silver Loaves & Fishes RI truck is a gathering place for poor and homeless individuals throughout Rhode Island.

Those in need are drawn to the truck for fresh sandwiches, fruit, cookies, and more. "With kindness and compassion, we serve food and provide clothing to our neighbors in need, while honoring their dignity." This is the mission of LFRI.

During the month of December we will be looking for donations to help fill the truck. The church school kids are doing their part with a mitten line to be filled with adult size hats, gloves, mittens and sweatshirts! If anyone is interested in going on the truck of helping with the bagged lunches please give me a call 401-245-4065 X11 or email me at dale@stjohnsbarrington.org. I hope to see you on the 29th.

COMMISSION ON ADMINISTRATION

Transitions

December Anniversaries ~ Congratulations!

Stephen & Kerri Payne ~ December 27, 1997 ~ 27 years
Mary & Richard Glenn ~ December 30, 1965 ~ 59 years
Robert & Katherine Hart ~ December 30, 2007 ~ 17 years

The Life Eternal

The Reverend Shirley Andrews ~ November 1, 2024
William Anderson ~ October 26, 2024

Christmas Week Services

Mark your calendars and make sure to join us for one or more of our many services planned for the week of Christmas this year.

Tuesday, December 24th: 9:00am - Holy Eucharist
12 Noon – Holy Eucharist
4:00pm – Holy Eucharist ~ Family Service
6:00 pm – Festival Eucharist
10:00 pm – Festival Eucharist

Wednesday, December 25th: Christmas Day **ONE SERVICE ONLY**
9:00 am – Holy Eucharist

COMMISSION ON ADMINISTRATION

December 2024

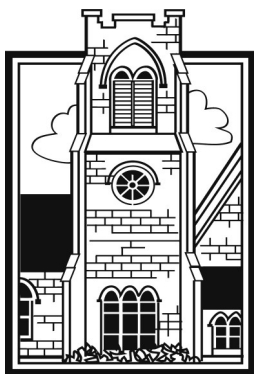
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8:00, 10:00am & 5:30pm Holy Eucharist 9:00am Adult Formation 10:00am Church School 6:30pm Youth Group	2 8:45am Morning Prayer 12:00pm Book/Bible Study	3 8:45am Morning Prayer 9:00am Zoom Coffee Hour 10:00am Encore Open 10:30am Staff Meeting	4 8:45am Morning Prayer 9:30am Holy Eucharist 10:00am BWCM Meeting 6:30pm STJ Book Club 8:00pm Compline Online	5 David Off 8:45am Morning Prayer 10:00am Encore Open 1:00pm Knitting Group 5:00pm Zoom Happy Hour	6 6:30pm Movie & Discussion With Jay	7 8:30am John's Meals 9:00am Advent Quiet Day 10:00am Encore Open
8 8:00, 10:00 am & 5:30pm Holy Eucharist 9:00am Adult Formation 10:00am Church School 6:30pm Ancient Practices Meeting	9 David Off 8:45am Morning Prayer 10:00am BWC Board Meeting 12:00pm Book/Bible Study 6:00pm Finance Meeting 5:30pm ECV Dinner	10 8:45am Morning Prayer 9:00am Zoom Coffee Hour 10:00am Encore Open 10:30am Staff Meeting	11 8:45am Morning Prayer 9:30am Holy Eucharist 6:30pm STJ Book Club 8:00pm Compline Online	12 8:45am Morning Prayer 10:00am Encore Open 12:00pm Silver Spoons 1:00pm Knitting Group 5:00pm Zoom Happy Hour	13	14 8:30am John's Meals
15 8:00, 10:00 am & 5:30pm Holy Eucharist 9:00am Adult Formation 10:00am Church School 6:15pm All Parish Pot Luck 6:30 Gingerbread House Decorating	16 8:45am Morning Prayer 12:00pm Book/Bible Study 7:00pm Vestry Meeting	17 8:45am Morning Prayer 9:00am Zoom Coffee Hour 10:00am Encore Open 10:30am Staff Meeting	18 8:45am Morning Prayer 9:30am Holy Eucharist 8:00pm Compline Online	19 8:45am Morning Prayer 10:00am Encore Open 1:00pm Knitting Group 5:00pm Zoom Happy Hour 7:00pm Choir Practice	20	21 8:30am John's Meals 10:00am Encore Open
22 8:00, 10:00 am & 5:30pm Holy Eucharist 9:00am Adult Formation 10:00am Church School	23 8:45am Morning Prayer 12:00pm Book/Bible Study	24 Christmas Eve 12:00pm Holy Eucharist 4:00pm Holy Eucharist ~ Family Service 6:00pm Festival Eucharist 10:00pm Festival Eucharist	25 Christmas 9:00am Holy Eucharist	26 Parish Office Closed	27	28 8:30am John's Meals
29 8:00, 10:00 am & 5:30pm Holy Eucharist 9:00am Adult Formation 10:00am Baptism 10:30am LFRI	30 8:45am Morning Prayer 12:00pm Book/Bible Study 6:00pm Property Meeting	31	Church - Red Living Room - Blue Choir Room - Purple Church School Wing - Green Field Hall - Brown Encore - Pink Off Site - Orange Outside - Turquoise Online - Aqua			
MAIL TOWER						

After Christmas our search committee will resume our work and I would love to have the position filled in early 2025. If you have any questions or thoughts about this process please do not hesitate to reach out. As we continue in this process I ask that you please continue to pray for our parish's search for a new organist and choir director.

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.*

December 2024

The Reverend Patrick Greene, Rector
St. John's Episcopal Church
191 County Road, Barrington, RI 02806
Phone: 401-245-4065
Website: www.stjohnsbarrington.org

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