



ST. JOHN'S

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

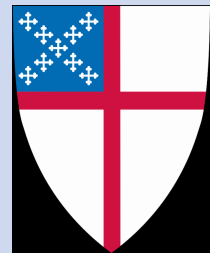
Parish Weekly

Week Ending July 16, 2023

Parish and Community News

"Inclusion, protection and celebration of all": A statement from the bishops

"This week in 2015, in its landmark Obergefell ruling, the Supreme Court established fundamental marriage equality for LGBTQ persons throughout the nation. We greeted that decision with joy, recognizing as it did that equal treatment under the law is not only a democratic principle, but also one that recognizes the inherent, God-given goodness of every human being, and supports societal structures which enshrine our communal recognition of that goodness."



[Read the full statement on the MA Diocese site.](#)



Let's Vision Together for St. John's Future!

Take part in our final Appreciative Inquiry session about our space and next steps in our ongoing renewal

We've had three great sessions in our visioning process for St. John's future. Thank you to the fifteen people who have participated so far! Now it's your turn to come together with fellow parishioners and our user groups to share your best experiences of our space, what you most love and value about it and imagine a vibrant future for us in this place. Ted will be our point person using Appreciative Inquiry to bring us together and work towards a shared vision for our ongoing work of renewing our space.

Take the Doodle poll using the button below to help us find the best time for our last session. *Please indicate all the times that work for you so we can select the time that is best for the most people.* Our goal is fifteen more participants, and we need to hear from you! Once the poll is complete, you will receive a follow up email with the meeting details. Thank you!

[Take the Doodle Poll to help us find the best date](#)

**Pray Without Ceasing -
A Weekly Prayer Circle for the People of**

St. John's Jamaica Plain and Those They Love

Mondays at 7:00pm

St. John's Sanctuary

Our weekly prayer circle has started, facilitated by our intrepid deacon Rev. Cynthia, and you are most welcome to join us! We meet on Monday evenings at 7PM in the St. John's Sanctuary. We are using **Praying for Friends and Enemies** as a source to guide our prayer. If you need a copy of the material, please be in touch with Rev. Cynthia at cynthia@stjohns-jp.org. Feel free to join in!



Share where your summer travels will take you in the Parish Hall

For many of us, summer is a time of traveling away from Boston for vacations and family visits. Share where you are going on our Summer Travels display in the Parish Hall, and remember, when you are away from St. John's, you can keep up with our worship live or on demand on YouTube!



Theo sharing the Cole Family Summer Travels

The Vestry Corner



Each week, we will share updates from the vestry, short bios of vestry members, links to our approved minutes and more.

This week, please find at the button below our approved minutes from our May 2023 meeting.

[View the May 2023 Approved Vestry Minutes](#)

Summer 2023 Preaching Rota

July 2 - Ted

July 9 - Dorie (Ted away)

July 16 - Cynthia (Dorie away)

July 23 - Ted

July 30 - Dorie (Cynthia and Ted away)

August 6 - Cynthia (Ted away)

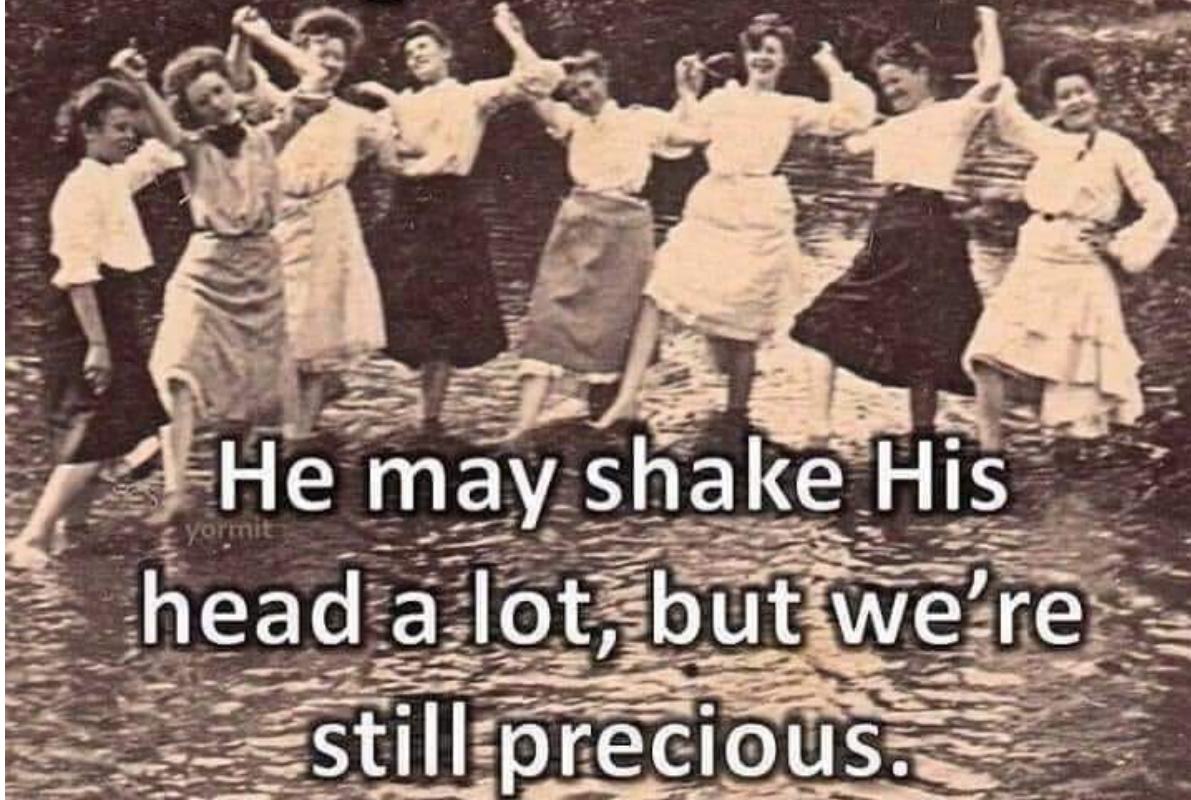
August 13 - Dorie (Ted away)

August 20 - Dorie (Ted away)

August 27 - Cynthia (Ted away)

September 3 - Ted - Blessings Symbols of Our Labor (Cynthia and Dorie away)

We are all precious in the sight of the Lord...

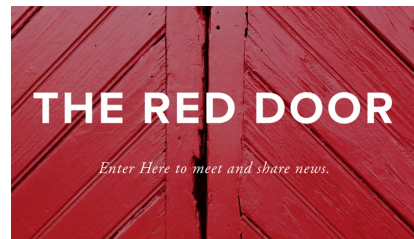


He may shake His head a lot, but we're still precious.

Nurturing Faith

Our blog, The Red Door, offers regular posts to engage with including music, social justice reflections and more.

Some recent posts include the songs Wonder by Nigerian Gospel musician Marizu, Just Give Me Jesus by American band Unspoken, Your Grace in Enough by Chris Tomlin and a recap of the year's Reparations Initiative meditations.



[Check out The Red Door's Latest Content](#)

Psalm 11:8. For the Lord is righteous; he delights in righteous deeds; and the just shall see his face.

Today, we commemorate Benedict of Nursia, a man who delighted in righteous deeds. Benedict is considered the father of Western monasticism. He established a monastic rule that has influenced many Anglican religious orders and been studied by historians, religious people, and others.

FORWARD
DAY *by* DAY

Despite being very demanding, the Rule of Saint Benedict is considered more humane than others. One of Benedict's most remarkable rules relates to hospitality—how guests

should be received as if they were Christ himself. Simply put, this rule is about loving our neighbor just as God taught us. If we see Christ in others, we can only receive them with admiration, love, and devotion.

Benedict was a righteous man. By doing much good and loving his neighbor, he was a living example of what it means to abide by God's commandments.

MOVING FORWARD: Are there rules in your life, formal or informal, that help you get closer to God?

[Find Forward Day by Day Meditations Here](#)



DEVOTIONS

Read: Romans 7:15-25a.

Paul has a deep understanding of our brokenness. We are not what we want to be. Although we know what is the right thing to do, we do not do it, at least not consistently. Paul calls this inconsistency sin. We like to think we are in control of our thoughts and actions. However, Paul experiences the power of sin within him that does not submit to God's goodness. He states clearly, "For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do" (v. 19). He calls this way of life "wretched" (v. 24). It seems there is no hope for us, but that is exactly why we need Jesus. Only sinners can be saved or "rescued" (v. 24). In the language of Jesus in Matthew 11:28, we are "weary and are carrying heavy burdens." In our brokenness, Jesus brings healing, rescues us from the power of sin, and gives us rest and peace. The response of faith is: "Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Romans 7:25a).

Discuss: When have you faced brokenness and become aware of God's forgiveness that heals your heavy burdens?

Pray: Gracious God, we thank you that your mercy endures forever, and your power over sin and death rules in our lives through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

[Download this week's TFH Flyer](#)

Parish Prayer List

To add a loved one to our Parish Prayer List, please email Liz: parish.admin@stjohns-jp.org.

Concerns

Delva Bent

Winnie Lyons and Richard Pettengill

The Lewis and Minick Families

Rev. Dr. Jim Speer

Laurie Speer

Mary Ellen Cahill

Andy and Sally Thomas

Johnny Collins

Kathryn O'Leary

Megan D.

The family and friends of Sofia Puigserver

Jim Grant

Carolyn Whitman

Jerry and Ariella Katz

Sherry Goehring

Lori Reed

Memorials

Ira Katz

Sofia Puigserver

Elberta Stone

Geraldine (Gerri) Romanos

Maria Minick

Jean Marden Cole

Jean O'Leary

Joy Aliss Cochran

Kate Brodeur

Worship With Us

Join us for worship IN PERSON or ONLINE

Meet us at the junction of reverence and free spirit.

Worship This Week in Person or Online



NOTE: This week we will start using a Seasonal Worship Booklet supplemented with a weekly bulletin and reading insert. For online worship, we will not be providing the music in the worship booklet.

We welcome you to join us for our worship service of Holy Communion at St. John's.

For those worshipping in person, please see our COVID Guidelines.

You will be able to [download the bulletin](#) on our website starting Friday. Then you can view the bulletin digitally on a tablet or computer, or you can print it out for use during the service, whichever makes most sense for you. We also encourage folks who prefer to use a device in the church to do so as a limited number of paper copies will be available.

**Bookmark our YouTube Page for
Worship**

Church Office

Our Rector, Ted is on vacation this week.

Our Parish Administrator, Liz is in the office on Wednesday and Thursday this week from 1:15-3:15pm and by appointment Tuesday - Thursday.

Our Curate, Dorie takes Monday as a Sabbath day and is unavailable during that time. You can

send her emails to meet via appointment at dorie@stjohns-jp.org, or call at 617-237-0567.

Our Deacon, Cynthia is available via appointment and can be reached at cynthia@stjohns-jp.org.

St. Johns Episcopal Church | PO Box 300230, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130

[Unsubscribe ted@stjohns-jp.org](mailto:ted@stjohns-jp.org)

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