



THE MESSENGER



Parish News of St. John's Episcopal Church, Saginaw, Michigan

Volume 30, Issue 11

November 2012

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We Are Links in a Chain of Faith & Service

As we prepare for the Thanksgiving holiday, St. John's can truly be thankful for the growth of its members in ministry and service. Sunday attendance is up by over 25% from a year ago; we are seeing many people devoting themselves to service in our parish and we have been truly blessed to have two from our parish who have responded to God's call to the Holy Orders of Priest and Deacon: The Rev. Pam Renna and Deacon Sharon Voelker. As I was watching The Rev. Pam and Deacon Sharon receive ordination, our bishop laid his hands on them in prayer. Seeing this reminded me of the great chain of faith and service that has continued in the Episcopal Church since the time of the apostles. Each of us plays a vital role in maintaining that chain and passing on what we have received to the next generation. We pass on, through our offering of our time, abilities and resources, the message of Christ: the message of self-sacrifice for God's purposes, obedience to God's will in our lives and joy in God's redeeming love. Through our participation in the life and ministry of our church community, these qualities of Christ can begin to mark and transform our own lives and the lives of those around us. During this month I want to thank each of you for all that you do, both in our parish and in your daily lives, to bring honor to God. The message of Christ goes out to the world because you are here, giving of yourselves to God's glory. Thank you.

Fr. Daniel Cannon | Priest & Rector



In This Issue...

All Saints' / All Souls **Requiem Mass**

St. John's congratulates two of its **newly ordained!**

Stewardship: becoming a strong link in the chain

Happy Birthday!

- 1 Julia Burdis
- 2 Margaret Maul
- 4 Frederick Blake
- 7 Burris Smith
- 8 Mary Slater
- 9 Berney Jones
- 9 Ellee Wilson
- 12 Ken Williams
- 13 Ken Scott
- 15 Edward Majask
- 15 Camille Daugherty
- 15 Valerie McDonald
- 17 Miranda Garza
- 17 Jean Thomas
- 18 Dennis Greenwood
- 22 Bill Vlassis
- 23 Chrissy Cannon
- 23 Dave Humpert
- 23 Sharelle Johnson
- 23 Kevin Simons
- 25 Sallie Swanson
- 26 T.C. McLeod
- 28 Judi Braun
- 30 Mary Tupes

Happy Anniversary!

- 9 Patricia & Ralph Jackson
- 15 Evelyn & Ken Williams
- 18 Virginia & Bob Warner
- 28 Louise & Jerry Smith

Would you like to submit possible content to be included in the parish newsletter? All submissions must be received by the 3rd. Wednesday of the month to be considered.

Thank You

A BIG thank you to **Marcia Hoffman, Sue Marquardt, Sallie Swanson, Ellen Redfield, Barb Ilkka, Diane Grigg, Kathie Smith** and all of the parishioners who made a dessert or otherwise helped with the funeral luncheon for Sue Luxton.

Thank you to the **Thamm family**, our new coffee hour volunteers, for your willingness to serve!

Thank you **Marcia Hoffman** for leading our reception efforts after the Blessing of the Animals.

November 11th is Veteran's Day! Please be mindful to thank our Veterans as well as to keep those on active duty in your prayers: *Almighty God, we commend to your gracious care and keeping all the men and women of our armed forces at home and abroad. Defend them day by day with your heavenly grace; strengthen them in their trials and temptations; give them courage to face the perils which beset them; and grant them a sense of your abiding presence wherever they may be. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Is there someone in our parish who has gone above and beyond? If you would like to offer thanks, please call the office at 793-9575.

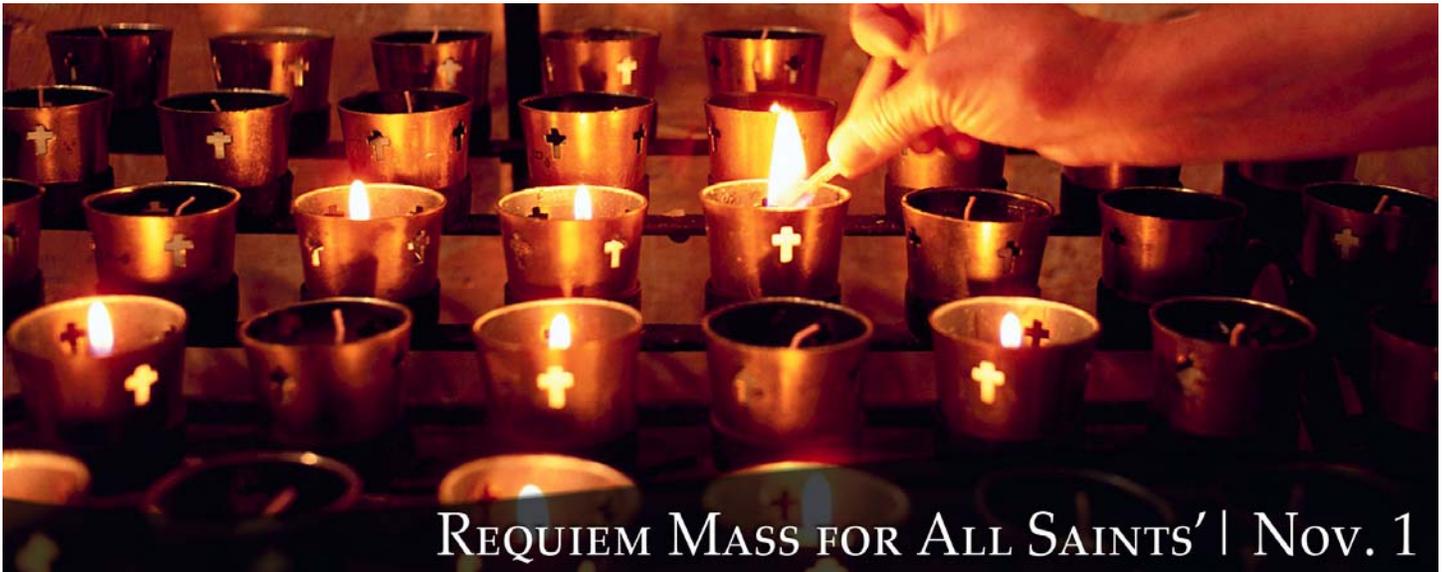
Good Samaritans:		
Oct. 28 - Nov. 10	Sperry Garber	790-4940
Nov. 11 - Dec. 8	Lou Smith	799-5583

Mittens for C.A.N.

For all the knitters and crocheters out there, May Spence will be collecting your scarves and mittens for the CAN Council's Children in Foster Care between Sunday, Nov. 4th, through Sunday, Nov. 11th, in St. John's Community Room. Many thanks to all participants!

Flu Clinic

Haven't had a chance to get your flu shot? They will be offered in St. John's community room on Sunday, November 4th, from 9am to noon for \$25 each. Some insurances are accepted.



REQUIEM MASS FOR ALL SAINTS' | NOV. 1

A Requiem Mass for All Saints / All Souls

Connecting to our Past

On Thursday, November 1st, at 7:30pm the choir and clergy of St. John's will be offering a opportunity to worship according to the style of a **Medieval Requiem Mass** for All Saints' and All Souls' Day.

These two church holidays developed in the Western Church in the Middle Ages as a way of commemorating all the saints, both known and unknown, as well as remembering the departed. The traditional Mass of Requiem was a chance to commemorate and hold our departed loved ones in prayer and to embrace our human experiences of grief and loss knowing that God is with us through it all. This is why the liturgical colors of the Requiem Mass are black or deep purple, to signify mourning and penitence, as opposed to celebratory white of the modern memorial services.

This service will be led by the **clergy and choir of St. John's**, who will chant the ancient prayers for the dead. The prayers will be sung to Gregorian chant, the oldest music of the church and the names of the departed will be chanted at the offertory. This service will include a Holy Eucharist Rite I (traditional language) and all are welcome to participate. **If you would like to submit names to be read, please complete an online form at the address below or contact our parish office.** On All-Saints' Sunday, November 4th, we will be celebrating Christ's victory over death by wearing the joyful white vestments and baptizing a new member into the communion of saints.

http://stjohns-saginaw.org/ai1ec_event/requiem-for-all-souls-day/?instance_id=6266

Congratulations to the Newly Ordained!

St. John's has been truly blessed to have two from our parish who have responded to God's call to the Holy Orders of Priest and Deacon: **The Rev. Pam Renna** and **Deacon Sharon Voelker!**

For each of them, the discernment process has been many years in the making. Although they have had families and careers, they felt the need to strengthen their service to God and the church in a formal way.

The Episcopal Church believes that we all have a ministry. **All believers** are to represent Christ and his Church; to bear witness to Him wherever they may be; according to the gifts given them, to carry on Christ's work of reconciliation in the world. They are to take their place in the life, worship, and governance of the Church. But discerning the possibility of becoming ordained leads to a new level of responsibility. The ministry of a **priest** is to represent Christ and his Church, particularly as pastor to the people, to share with the bishop in the overseeing of the Church, to proclaim the Gospel, to administer the sacraments and to bless and declare pardon in the name of God. The ministry of a **deacon** is to represent Christ and his Church, particularly as a servant of those in need and to assist bishops and priests in the proclamation of the Gospel and the administration of the sacraments.

Pam has completed her discernment process, finding a place here with us at St. John's. She will join the team of staff and clergy by functioning as our assistant priest. She will continue to oversee our pastoral care visiting the sick, to lead our team of Eucharistic Visitors and to assist Fr. Daniel with the liturgy during worship.

Sharon, who has been ordained a transitional deacon, is still walking her journey to becoming a priest. In her own words,

"My ultimate goal, God willing, is to be called to a congregation as their part-time priest-in-charge. Until then, I am looking forward to serving with Fr. Daniel and Rev. Pam in the coming months and I feel that together we will be a strong team that will faithfully minister to the worship and pastoral needs of St. John's."

St. John's is proud to be a community of all people who feel called to God's service and today, particularly proud of the Rev. Pam Renna and the Rev. Sharon Voelker. Congratulations!



Stewardship 2012

This year, we at St. John's have a special reason to be very proud of our vestry and parish finance team. These representatives and leaders of our parish have committed to accomplishing what our national leaders and politicians have been unwilling to do: **to stop deficit spending and live within a balanced budget.** Five



years ago, the vestry at St. John's set into place a plan to have a balanced budget and this year they are doing the final round of cost cutting to make that a reality – trimming our deficit from approximately \$46,000 to \$0. This will allow us to stop borrowing from the principal of our parish endowments and will allow these funds to return to their original purpose of helping to secure our parish's future.

This cost cutting comes with a lot of sacrifice and faith that God will help us continue to be able to serve and minister with growing vitality and to reach the world as Christ has called us. Areas that are proposed to be cut from the budget include the \$1500 rector's discretionary fund for giving assistance to those who come to our parish seeking aid, \$3500 from the choral scholar program, \$6000 from the lunch bag outreach program and cuts to staff salaries and reductions in parish office hours. These cuts to the budget don't mean that these ministries will cease or that we don't value these programs. **To the contrary, these are our some of our most valuable ministries and our best ways of fulfilling Christ's call to ministry.** The reason that we feel able to make these cuts is that we have had wonderful support for these ministries from the congregation, over and above people's pledges which go to the basic upkeep of St. John's. **For 2013 we are asking the you to maintain your pledge from last year and consider offering a special donation to support one these vital outreach and worship ministries of which St. John's is so proud.** The reason that this cost cutting is essential is that our financial means have been dwindling over the past five years and we have been supporting these ministries from monies given by past generations to ensure the church's future upkeep. With our stained glass windows in need of \$70,000 worth of repairs and many other parts of this historic Church building in need of attention, necessity tells us we must start living within our means and using our endowment for its original purpose, not current ministry. So in 2013, I encouraging us all to **support the ministries we love** and to work to ensure that St. John's will be strong and vital for generations to come.

Fr. Daniel Cannon | Priest & Rector

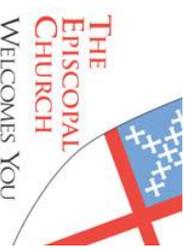


Stewardship Resources:

- Parishioners will receive a **letter and pledge card** in the mail over the next few days.
- Want to support a ministry from the convenience of your computer? Visit <http://stjohns-saginaw.org/support-what-you-love/>

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
 123 N. MICHIGAN AVE.
 SAGINAW, MI 48602
www.stjohns-saginaw.org

NOVEMBER 2012



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 6:00pm – Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm – Requiem for All Saints' / All Souls	2	3
4 <i>The 23rd. Sunday of Pentecost</i> 8:00am – Holy Eucharist 9:00am – Flu Clinic 10:00am – Nursery / Sunday School 10:30am – Holy Eucharist	5	6 4:00pm – Adult Study: The Book of Common Prayer	7 Noon – Morning Prayer w/ Eucharist 6:00pm – Altar Guild Dinner Mtg. 7:00pm – Vestry Meeting	8	9	10
11 <i>The 24th. Sunday of Pentecost</i> 8:00am – Holy Eucharist 10:00am – Nursery / Sunday School 10:30am – Holy Eucharist	12	13 4:00pm – Adult Study: The Book of Common Prayer	14 Noon – Morning Prayer w/ Eucharist	15	16	17
18 <i>The 25th. Sunday of Pentecost</i> 8:00am – Holy Eucharist 10:00am – Nursery / Sunday School 10:30am – Holy Eucharist	19	20	21 Noon – Morning Prayer w/ Eucharist	22	23	24 9:15am – Old Town Christian Outreach Volunteer Day
25 <i>The Last Sunday of Pentecost / Christ the King</i> 8:00am – Holy Eucharist 10:00am – Nursery / Sunday School 10:30am – Holy Eucharist	26	27 4:00pm – Adult Study: The Book of Common Prayer 7:00pm – Finance Meeting	28 Noon – Morning Prayer w/ Eucharist	29 7:00pm – Stitching Fellowship	30	

Care, Share, Worship, Celebrate, & Love