

Beloved,

One of my favorite underused pieces of our tradition is our practice of blessing homes. I've written in here before about how we have a few forms for blessing homes. The primary, and most involved, form involves gathering with friends and family members, processing from room to room with prayers said in each room, culminating with a service of Holy Eucharist in the living room. It is such a pleasure and a privilege for me to be able to take part in these services.

We also have a brief form we in January use around the Epiphany. Where there are a couple prayers and then we have the option to chalk the door frame. Chalking the door frame means taking some blessed chalk and writing 20+C+B+M+25 along the door frame. The numbers on the end make up the year, and the C, M, & B, stand for both the traditional names of the magi (Caspar, Melchior, & Balthasar) as well as the Latin phrase *Christus mansionem benedicat* (Christ bless this home).

There's another form, similar in length to the Epiphany blessing, but with no chalk involved. That one can take place anytime during the fifty days of Easter. Easter began on Sunday, April 20th and goes until Pentecost which this year is on Sunday, June 8th. This form includes the recitation of a psalm and a few prayers, lasting around five minutes.

(continued on back)

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Carl Seadale

401-245-4065

www.stjohnsbarrington.org

STEP DOWN TO ENCORE

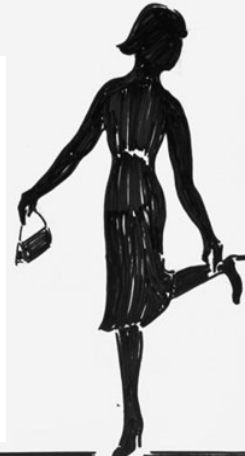
Hours

Tuesday & Thursday

10:00am—4:00pm

Saturday

*1st & 3rd Saturday
of the month*



Encore

Time is running out to bring your spring and summer clothes to Encore and find some new ones to freshen your wardrobe! The last day to consign will be May 17th, at which point there are only three weeks left to sell. The half price sale begins on Saturday, June 7, continuing to June 10, 12 and 14, the final day.

Encore has an amazing selection of bright and colorful spring and summer clothes to choose from! We look forward to seeing you soon! Encore closes for the summer on June 14 and will reopen for consignments on September 9.

If you would like to consign any items, please call 401-245-7380 to make an appointment.



ST. JOHN'S TOWER

Please consider writing for The Tower. Personal reflections, articles, poetry, essays and commentary are always welcome!

Next Tower Deadline: May 15th.

**The June Tower will be mailed on
May 28th**

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

COMMISSION ON BUILDING & GROUNDS

This Old Church: Thursday's can be Exciting – but then again.

by David M. Murray

It was just another Thursday morning, like so many others here at St. John's. I unlocked the door at exactly 7AM and went straight to work. (I always go straight to work.) On Thursdays I make sure all is in order for our weekend services because I have Fridays off. Oh, I know what you're thinking... *How does this guy get Fridays off?* Well, when you work for forty-five years in the advertising biz. *You can have Friday's off, too.* The church, et al has to be spick n' span for your weekend visits. But sometimes the days doesn't always go as planned so I have to address the unplanned and still attend to my daily duties.

Well, this Thursday morning someone must have left in a hurry the night before. There were dishes in the sink, and more. I wanted to surprise Dale, you remember Dale. I quickly did the dishes, dried and put them away. That'll make Dale happy I thought. I headed into Field Hall only to discover that all the chairs and tables were left out, half the shades were pulled down, and trash cans were over-flowing. Well, I thought, they must have really been in a hurry. As today's youth would say, "Heeey, no probblem." I stowed the chairs, folded the tables, upped the shades, emptied the trash and dry mopped the floor.. Humm, I'm tired already.

It's now 8:40 and I'm just beginning my routine work. After trash removal, it was time to clean the church, but as I entered, I could see old bulletins, tissues, crayons, pencils, and a half box of Cheerios all over the floor. We've been all through my *"finding money in the pew cushions"* but today was a bonus... *eight cents!*

Ahhh, the youth room was next. A haven for the youth of our parish. *But what happened HERE?* This'll take all morning to straighten out! Pizza and donut boxes, games strewn across the floor, an orphaned jacket left behind, and a three-foot-tall juice box pyramid on the table. Oh, and of course, the lights were all left on! This cleanup might be easier if I called a trash hauler to back up to the door! WAIT... WHAT'S THAT? A large pizza, with everything on it, face down on the rug! Forget the trash hauler, *I'm gonna need a backhoe!*

Well, I settled down to collect myself, got a glass of water, put my rubber gloves on and with putty knife in hand, I went to work. It's now 10:00 AM and I have a huge pizza stain halfway down my brand-new pants. My wife's gonna kill me! But ya know what? It's the gratification of a job well done - that's what I say.

By 11:08 I encountered my first big problem that required immediate attention. The ceramic tiles at the side door were cracking and the threshold ties were loose. Things like this are dangerous, so regardless of my planned workday, this was gonna take priority. *Orange cones, I need orange cones,* so no one trips over me as I work. I grabbed ten. Five for inside and five for outside and I began the arduous task of chipping out the broken tiles. Well, doncha know it – that's just the time everyone wants to come in. STOP EVERYTHING. I went into my shop, grabbed some cardboard, markers, and tape... it's sign time! *"Sorry for the inconvenience. David is repairing the threshold and he's too big for you to crawl over. Please use office door."* There, that outta do it, I thought.

Back to work. Up came the old tiles, down went the adhesive, in went the tiles (lots of them) and finally, skim coat with a quick-set grout to match. Beautiful. That lasted all of 20 minutes when someone (whom you know) wandered up to the door carrying three boxes. Yup, you guessed it, right through my fresh tile job. *Good thing I work for a church!* I just smiled but wore some enamel off my teeth. So, up came the new tiles, out came the grout, removed all the adhesive...and down went David, dog-tired!

Well, it looks like I'll have to clean the restrooms tomorrow. *BUT I DON'T WORK ON FRIDAYS!* Just then my bedroom alarm went off. As I sat on the edge of the bed, head in hands, **I thanked God that it was just a dream.**

Hey, it's all in a day's work! Or a night's dream.

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, May 8th and will be tacos. If you would like to attend we ask you to RSVP to Patrick@stjohnsbarrington.org by Tuesday, May 6th .

St. John's Youth Group

In May our Youth Group will once again be meeting only on the first Sunday of the month. Any middle and high school aged students are invited to join us Sunday, May 4th from 6:30-7:30pm in the Youth Room (at the back of the church school wing). Our meetings consist of time to check in and catch up with one another, a short discussion on a topic related to our faith and lives, and plenty of time to hang out and have fun together, and of course snacks are provided. If you have any questions about the Youth Group please be in touch with Fr. Patrick.

Coffee Connections

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

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!

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.

The St. John's Book Club

St. John's book club: Spring has sprung and the St. John's book club is beginning a new book. Please join us in reading *Swim that Rock* by John Rocco and Jay Primiano. We will be meeting Wednesday, May 14th at 6:30pm in the church library and via Zoom. We will be reviewing the entire book at this meeting. If you are not yet on the email list for book club and would like to be, please send an email to wjacsmith@gmail.com and we'll get you added to the list.

Introducing...

There's a new face on the St. John's office team, Stefanie Caliri is our new part time communications coordinator, so our Tower and many other communication initiatives are going to change. Stefanie is already hard at work with some new ideas for the Tower. Her office is just outside Dale's, and we invite you to stop by and make Stefanie feel welcome. Stefanie will be in the office on Tuesdays and attend our staff meeting. She may be hard to connect with, but we hope you will try. She can always be reached via email. Her email address is Stefanie@stjohnsbarrington.org.

COMMISSION ON CHILDREN'S FORMATION

May Children Ministries

Our class will meet on Sunday mornings in May at 10am, with the exception of May 25th which is our Family Service. Our schedule is as follows:

May 4- 10am
May 11-10am
May 18-10am
May 25-10am

Ceramics Project

We have a guest visitor coming to church school for the next two meetings to work on a special project. Parishioner Peter Reid was kind enough to volunteer his time and talents to teach our students about ceramics and help them work on a special creation. We will be working on this project Sunday, May 4th and Sunday May 11th during our meeting time. If a student is unable to make the first session, we will make extra during the first week so they can glaze during week two. If they are going to miss the second week, I will have them tell me what colors they want and we can finish it for them!

Family Service

Our Family Service will take place on Sunday, May 25th at 10am. We have open roles for readers, ushers and acolytes. Please let me know if your child is interested in participating in this service.

West Place Visit



We are planning a visit to tour West Place Animal Sanctuary on Saturday, June 7th at 10am. This is the animal sanctuary in Tiverton that our students collected pumpkins for last October. West Place is home to 15 different species of animals, from Cows and Pigs to Alpacas and Emus. There is a fee per person for this tour, which St. John's is trying to cover most of, but because of this, we need to know how many children and adults we will have total for the visit. If you plan on coming,

please RSVP to Caitlin@stjohnsbarrington.org by Friday, May 9th with the number of people who will be attending.

Mother's Day Diaper Drive

St. John's Church School is hosting a diaper drive in honor of Mother's Day. All collections will benefit mothers and children receiving support from the Women's Resource center. They need diapers of all sizes and pull-ups. Donations can be left in the box in Field Hall or brought to Church School on Sunday mornings at 10am, until Sunday May 11th. If you have any questions please contact Caitlin at Caitlin@stjohnsbarrington.org

COMMISSION ON OUTREACH

St. John's Mobile Loaves and Fishes

The food truck for Mobile Loaves and Fishes will depart from St. John's again on June 29th. To prepare for that trip we'd like to begin collecting T-shirts and underwear to be distributed that Sunday. Donations of large and extra large men's and women's t-shirts and underwear (men's boxers please) would be greatly appreciated. Donations can be dropped off to the church office during the week or dropped off in the donations bin in the hallway to the right of the kitchen on Sundays. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

WELCOME TO ST. JOHN'S NEWCOMERS' DINNER

If you have joined us in the past year you are invited to come learn a little more about St. John's and meet some fellow parishioners



Please email dale@stjohnsbarrington
by May 19th if you can join us.

COMMISSION ON OUTREACH

Unsung Hero's

Some of you may not know that we have a wonderful program here at St. John's called "John's meals." The program was named for Mr. John Crenson, who was one of the founding members of the program.

Each Saturday morning a handful of very special volunteers gather in our kitchen and prepare between 11 to 20 home cooked, hot meals for delivery to those in need in our community. This isn't just a sandwich and a bag of chips, this is enough food for two meals of soup, entre, starch and a veggie, a roll, dessert, and sometimes even fruit.

The meals are delivered by the John's Meals crew piping hot before noon each Saturday. We share this most worthwhile ministry with our friends and neighbors at St. Matthew and Mark's.

Our parish administrator, Dale West has dedicated much of her time over the years and this year, she struck gold. Back in March, Dale sent a letter to our Director of Episcopal Charities NOW grant program, outlining our most worthwhile effort. Below is their response:

Hi Dale,

Thanks for the information about the collaborative meals program... The Charities NOW grant program invites each of our churches to apply for a grant of up to \$1,000. I am happy to put St. John's on the list. On behalf of Episcopal Charities, please extend our thanks to those who are feeding our neighbors in need each week.

Peace, Betsy

Canon Betsy Fornal

Director of Episcopal Charities

Our volunteers are: Debbie Jerome, Liz Hallenbeck, Mau Ossa, Dale West, Peter Kanarian, Guy Comfort, Joyce Marabello, Joanne Tainsh, Bobbi Wexler, Denise Javery, Luther & Kathy Spoehr, Linda Poole, Pat Anderson, Charlotte Tracy, Lori Miranda, Lori, Codega, Jodie Weaver, Jane Nightingale, Debbie Allen, Martha Fish and Lynne Clark.

If you would like to volunteer they can always use people provide soup or dessert and to deliver the meals to the folks in Barrington and Riverside. Please contact Dale at 245-4065 or Dale@stjohnsbarrington.org.

Congratulations and thank you to Dale and the Team for their selfless work!

MISCELLANEOUS

Easter Week Recap at St John's Church

Easter Week at St John's was a deeply meaningful and joy-filled journey, marked by powerful liturgies, active participation, and the faithful presence of our community. Here's a look back at all that took place:

Palm Sunday (April 13)

Holy Week began with a moving Palm Sunday service, featuring a palm procession and the reading of the Passion. The congregation entered the church waving palms and singing "Hosanna," setting the tone for the days to come.

Maundy Thursday (April 17)

We gathered for the Maundy Thursday liturgy, which included foot washing, Holy Communion, and the solemn stripping of the altar. This intimate service reflected on Jesus' commandment to love and serve one another.

Good Friday (April 18)

The Good Friday service focused on the Passion narrative, prayers for the world, and the veneration of the cross. The sanctuary remained bare and quiet, inviting all into the mystery of Christ's suffering and death.

Holy Saturday & The Great Vigil of Easter (April 19)

On Saturday evening, we gathered for the Great Vigil of Easter, beginning in darkness with the lighting of the Paschal fire. Scripture readings traced salvation history, leading into the first "Alleluia" of Easter and joyful Eucharist by candlelight.

Easter Sunday (April 20)

The celebration continued Easter morning with a festive Holy Eucharist, joyful music from the choir and a beautifully decorated sanctuary. Following the service, families enjoyed an Easter egg hunt on the church lawn, with fellowship and refreshments in the parish hall.

Special thanks to all who served—clergy, musicians, readers, acolytes, altar guild, flower guild, and volunteers—who helped make this holy week a powerful experience for all.

He is risen! Alleluia!



MISCELLANEOUS

Sunday Morning Breakfast Recap

We had a wonderful turnout at this past Sunday's breakfast, where we enjoyed a delicious home-made meal and the chance to connect with fellow parishioners. It was a great time of fellowship, food, and friendly conversation.

We sincerely appreciate the thoughtful donations that help keep this tradition going and look forward to seeing you at our next breakfast gathering.



Help Wanted: A Community Board for Needs and Gifts

Welcome to our new **Help Wanted** section—a space where congregants can offer services, request assistance, and find ways to get involved with the life of the church. Whether you're looking for a piano teacher, offering your skills in gardening, or want to help with church communications, this is your place!

From the Congregation

Need something? Offering something? Let us know!

- **Looking for a ride ?**
- **Piano Lessons Offered?**
- **Yard Help Needed ?**
- **Pet Sitting Available ?**
- **Interns Needed For Your Business?**

To submit a personal "ad" for next month's newsletter, email Stefanie@stjohnsbarrington.org with a short description and contact info.

From the Church

We need helping hands and creative minds!

- **Photos** – We're building a photo archive of church life. If you enjoy photography and can take photos at services or events, we'd love your help.
- **Writers & Storytellers** – Do you enjoy writing? Help us share stories from the congregation or recap events in future newsletters.
- **Choir Members Wanted** – All are welcome to come and sing, and enjoy some fellowship with us. Rehearsal time is Thursdays at 7-8:30pm. Choir call on Sunday mornings are 9:00am.

If you're interested in volunteering or learning more, contact Dale@stjohnsbarrington.org

COMMISSION ON MUSIC

"Alleluia Christ is Risen"! The words that most church musicians love to hear!

It means that Holy week is over, and the organist can take a nap. All joking aside, we turn from a more penitential and somber time of worship to a joyous fanfare of music that most of us all know by heart. With these hymns comes an array of anthems from various composers as well as different genres. This Easter season we will be singing the psalm using double chant which is an Anglican tradition from which the Episcopal church has evolved from. You also will be hearing anthems from the 18th century to more current times. Some of which are in Latin, Elizabethan language or modern English.

So, pull up and pew and I invite all of you to listen, sing and enjoy the wonderful music that we work on every week to assist you with your worship. If you are a person who enjoys singing and would like to contribute your time and talent to this ministry, please feel free to speak with me. All are welcome.

~Adam Schneider

Organist & Choir Director

Transitions

May Anniversaries ~ Congratulations!

Dan & Hope DuBois ~ May 1, 1976 ~ 49 years

Lou & Anne Massa ~ May 8, 1983 ~ 42 years

Michael & Denise Javery ~ May 10, 1986 ~ 39 years

Sherburne & Bonnie Cameron ~ May 12, 1984 ~ 41 years

Mark & Mary Heffner ~ May 14, 1983 ~ 42 years

Leeds & Pattie Mitchell ~ May 14, 1977 ~ 48 years

Mauriao Ossa & Bethany Duffy ~ May 17, 2021 ~ 4 years

Arthur & Linda Marcello ~ May 21, 1983 ~ 42 years

Nathan & Sarah Bergholtz ~ May 26, 2014 ~ 11 years

John & Karen Cavanagh ~ May 27, 1995 ~ 30 years

Stephen & Diana Turgeon ~ May 29, 1993 ~ 32 years

Jay & Cherry Cumming ~ May 30, 1970 ~ 55 years

Edward & Jennifer Rakeman ~ May 30, 1999 ~ 26 years

The Life Eternal

Charles F. Gladding III ~ April 22, 2025

Joan Harper ~ April 25, 2025

George Gregory ~ April 27, 2025

May 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Church - Red Living Room - Blue Choir Room - Purple Church School Wing - Green Field Hall - Brown Encore- Pink Off Site - Orange Outside - Turquoise Online - Aqua						
				1 8:45 am Morning Prayer 10:00am Encore Open 1:00pm Knitting Group 5:00pm Zoom Happy Hour 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	2	3 10:00am Encore Open
4 8:00, 10:00am & 5:30pm Holy Eucharist 9:00am Adult Formation 10:00am Church School 6:30pm Youth Group	5 8:45 Morning Prayer 12:00pm Zoom Book/Bible Study	6 8:45 Morning Prayer 9:00am Zoom Coffee Hour 10:00am Encore Open 10:30am Staff Meeting	7 8:45 Morning Prayer 9:30am Holy Eucharist 8:00pm Compline	8 8:45 Morning Prayer 10:00am Encore Open 12:00pm Silver Spoons 1:00pm Knitting Group 5:00pm Zoom Happy Hour 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	9	10 8:30am John's Meals
11 Mother's Day 8:00, 10:00am & 5:30pm Holy Eucharist 9:00am Adult Formation 10:00am Church School	12 8:45 Morning Prayer 12:00pm Zoom Book/Bible Study 6:00pm Finance Meeting	13 8:45 Morning Prayer 9:00am Zoom Coffee Hour 10:00am Encore Open 10:30am Staff Meeting	14 8:45 Morning Prayer 9:30am Holy Eucharist 6:30pm STJ Book Club 8:00pm Compline	15 8:45 Morning Prayer 10:00am Encore Open 1:00pm Knitting Group 5:00pm Zoom Happy Hour 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	16	17 8:30am John's Meals 10:00am Encore Open
18 8:00, 10:00am & 5:30pm Holy Eucharist 9:00am Adult Formation 10:00am Church School 6:30pm Youth Group	19 8:45 Morning Prayer 12:00pm Zoom Book/Bible Study 7:00pm Vestry Meeting	20 8:45 Morning Prayer 9:00am Zoom Coffee Hour 10:00am Encore Open 10:30am Staff Meeting	21 8:45 Morning Prayer 9:30am Holy Eucharist 6:00pm Newcomer Dinner 8:00pm Compline	22 8:45 Morning Prayer 10:00am Encore Open 1:00pm Knitting Group 5:00pm Zoom Happy Hour 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	23	24 8:30am John's Meals
25 8:00, 10:00am & 5:30pm Holy Eucharist 9:00am Adult Formation 10:00am Family Service	26 Memorial Day Parish Office Closed 6:00pm Property Meeting	27 Summer Office Hours Start 8:45 Morning Prayer 9:00am Zoom Coffee Hour 10:00am Encore Open 10:30am Staff Meeting	28 8:45 Morning Prayer 9:30am Holy Eucharist 8:00pm Compline	29 8:45 Morning Prayer 10:00am Encore Open 1:00pm Knitting Group 5:00pm Zoom Happy Hour 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	30	31 8:30am John's Meals 10:00am Harper Funeral

May Calendar

As I mentioned, this is one of my favorite pieces of our tradition and I am always happy to celebrate these services. Our homes are such important pieces of who we are. The time we spend in them, the hopes and dreams they hold for us, there are so many reasons why we ought to invite God into this piece of our life and ask God's blessings on it. If having your home blessed, whether it be the full service with communion or the brief Easter blessing, is something you would be interested in please reach out to me and we can make that happen.

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.*

May 2025

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 Office Hours (Summer Hours Begin May 27)
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