we are ready for you at St. John's!

Sunday: Trinity Sunday Live-Streamed Sung Mass *
9:00 a.m.

*To attend service in person, please be in touch with Fr. Humphrey ASAP at 
rector@saintjohns-newport.org

https://www.facebook.com/SaintJohnsNewport/live

Watch on Facebook (you don't need an account),
or on our website at saintjohns-newport.org

Download the program book here.

Join us for (virtual) Coffee Hour after the service!
We miss you, too, and look forward to seeing you!

On Zoom:
Sunday, June 7, at 10:30 a.m.
There's nothing to download and you don't have to sign in or sign up for anything!

Join by clicking this link:

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84223052255?pwd=bGJXMVFJZ05OM3FDd1MydWZzb3ZJUT09

Meeting ID: 842 2305 2255
Password (required): Quire

How to reach Father Humphrey:
By phone: 401-500-0042
By email: rector@saintjohns-newport.org
By phone appointment: rector.youcanbook.me

A Letter from Father Humphrey

Dear People, Neighbors & Friends of St. John's,

Have you seen that photograph of that man holding a Bible aloft? This past week, I've seen one that stirred up emotions too powerful for me to put into words, but I'm going to try. This photograph, in fact, made tears
The man holding the Bible aloft that caused such an uncontrollable reaction from the depths of my soul was George Floyd.

In a *Christianity Today* article published on May 28, I read about how George Floyd was described as a "man of peace" for his work among young men caught up in gang violence in his native Houston. Before he moved to Minneapolis, George Floyd volunteered as a mentor in the projects of Houston's Third Ward, working alongside the pastor and members of Resurrection Church. As they recall, he "lent a helping hand as the church put on services, three-on-three basketball tournaments, barbecues, and community baptisms."

And here's where that photograph comes in. The article relates, "He helped push the baptism tub over, understanding that people were going to make a decision of faith and get baptized right there in the middle of the projects. He thought that was amazing."

One of the young men who was baptized that day posted a photo afterwards. In it, the man who pushed the baptism tub over to make that possible is standing there, holding his Bible aloft. On that Bible can be clearly read the embossed gold lettering at the bottom marking it as belonging to "George 'Big Floyd' Floyd."

In Philippians chapter 4, Paul advises the members of that church,
"Whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you."

There are so many things in this world that can take away our connection to the God of peace. The way George Floyd died is one of them. The racism that killed this "man of peace" is deeply disturbing. And I hope it provokes us all to think on what is just and on what is unjust. But it is only when we can name what is true and honorable and pure in this world that we can begin the work of overcoming racism and all the crimes against people of color that it enables.

In grappling with how George Floyd died, I hope we can learn from how George Floyd lived. As we know from Jesus' death and resurrection, God can redeem both the way we live and the way we die. I'm sure George Floyd would be the first to say that he wasn't perfect; but I'm equally sure that, like Jesus, he did not do anything deserving of death. He wasn't divine like our Lord, but, like Jesus, he was fully human, as we all are, whatever race we may be.

That photograph of a man holding a Bible aloft will stay with me. It will bring me to tears again, I know. But I will think on it nonetheless, because when I look at it, I'm moved to ask God to use me and to use St. John's to confront racism in our own community. That photograph depicts a powerful man, a man of peace empowered by the God of peace to bring new life into a place too often claimed by death. George Floyd and his church confronted systemic racism's legacy in the form of gang violence by literally bringing the waters of baptism into its very midst. I hope we can think on his praiseworthy example and be inspired to do something powerful at St. John's in our own community.

That photograph is commendable. I commend it to you. It's the most inspiring photograph of a powerful man holding a Bible aloft I think I've ever seen. It's certainly the most powerful one I've seen this week, because it depicts the power of the God of peace.

Yours in Christ's service,

N.J.A. Humphrey+
Community Engagement

Fr. Humphrey Represents St. John's and the Center for Reconciliation at NAACP Prayer Meeting

The leaders of the Newport Chapter of the NAACP invited Fr. Humphrey to be the opening speaker at their "Peaceful Hour" at Liberty Square this past Monday; the invitation came on Sunday night after the *Hereford Variations* recital, as the decision to hold it had been made only a few hours earlier! Fr. Humphrey joined the chapter leadership, Mrs. Victoria Johnson, retired principal of Rogers High School, and Mr. Jimmy Winters, retired Newport police officer and founder of Housing Hotline, on the square as approximately 150 attendees gathered on the streets surrounding it. (You can see Newport Daily News coverage of it here: [https://www.newportri.com/news/20200601/peaceful-vigil-held-in-newport-in-wake-of-george-floyds-killing](https://www.newportri.com/news/20200601/peaceful-vigil-held-in-newport-in-wake-of-george-floyds-killing).)

This morning, former St. John's Junior Warden (and perpetual civic volunteer extraordinaire) Adrienne Haylor shared this letter to the editor, written by the pastor who spoke immediately after Fr. Humphrey: [https://www.newportnow.online/articles/a-way-forward](https://www.newportnow.online/articles/a-way-forward).

Fr. Humphrey says, "It is one of the better responses I have seen anywhere, and I shared it with the staff and board of the Center for Reconciliation, including the Bishop, who appreciated it very much."

The following are Fr. Humphrey's prepared remarks, which he abbreviated and extemporized somewhat on the square, so they're not quite a transcript of what he actually said, but the spirit of what he said...
My name is Father Nathan Humphrey, and I am the rector of St. John's Church on Washington Street in the Point Neighborhood, an easy walking distance from here.

Friends and neighbors, brothers and sisters, I bring you greetings from Debra Sharpe, the Executive Director of the Center for Reconciliation in Providence, on whose board I sit. The mission of the Center for Reconciliation is to foster racial reconciliation and racial justice by confronting the legacy of slavery.

I bring you greetings as well from the Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Rhode Island, Nick Knisely, who stands with you and the Center for Reconciliation in the important work of rooting out racism in all its forms, as we seek positive change together.

And so that you know that you are not alone in your grief, I wanted to let you all know that the Bishop and the Center are planning a virtual vigil sometime between June 11 and June 16. I hope you will visit the CFR's website at cfrri.org -- Center for Reconciliation Rhode Island dot org -- or find us on Facebook.

Yesterday, those of us who are churchgoers, even if that means going to church online, celebrated the great feast of Pentecost, the day the Holy Spirit descended upon the disciples as tongues of fire and a mighty wind blew through the house where they were praying.

With the global pandemic, we now find ourselves wearing masks and afraid to breathe on others, lest we be the unwitting instrument of sickness and death. But we have no cause to fear the breath of the Spirit of God!

And as I've been praying for this country, for the repose of the soul of George Floyd and countless others who are the victims of racism, a disease more virulent than any virus, a killer we all must be vigilant against, an old hymn came to me about the breath of the Holy Spirit. I couldn't help but think about George Floyd's final words, "I can't breathe!" as I sang this hymn alone earlier this evening. I'm not going to try to sing it to you, but maybe you know the words:
Breathe on me, Breath of God,
Fill me with life anew,
That I may love what thou dost love,
And do what thou wouldst do.

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
Until my heart is pure,
Until with thee I will one will,
To do or to endure.

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
Till I am wholly thine,
Till all this earthly part of me
Glows with thy fire divine.

I want to thank the Newport NAACP, and especially Mrs. Victoria Johnson and Mr. Jimmy Winters to come and address you. When the retired principal of Rogers High School calls to ask you to do anything, the only correct answer is, "Yes, ma'am."

Thank you all for the work you are doing on behalf of our community.
God bless you, and may you be filled with fire divine.

The Life & Times of Blessed Peter Quire
Fr. Humphrey is very pleased to announce that two anonymous parishioners are underwriting a research project, "The Life and Times of Peter Quire," to be undertaken by Keith Stokes and Theresa Guzman Stokes of the 1696 Heritage Group, [http://www.1696heritage.com/](http://www.1696heritage.com/).

The following is adapted from their project proposal:

The first services of what became grew into the Free Chapel of Saint John the Evangelist were held in Peter Quire's Third Street home in 1875. The 1696 Heritage Group believes that his life provides "an important historical narrative that provides an unique interpretation of early American religious organizations, race relations and commerce."

Born in Maryland in 1806, Peter Quire lived the first part of his adult life within the historic 7th Ward of Philadelphia, attending the African Episcopal Church of Saint Thomas, which was founded as the first African heritage Episcopal congregation in America. Peter Quire had worked with his parish and the Quakers in Philadelphia on the Underground Railroad prior to moving to Newport, and by 1870 he had set up shop as a cobbler and was living in the Point neighborhood, first settled by Quakers during the 17th century.
The historical connections between Philadelphia and Newport as centers of America's earliest Quaker and free African heritage communities, along with their shared histories of religious freedom, is dramatically documented through the life experiences of Peter Quire.

The goals of this project are 1) to research the life of Peter Quire before, during, and after his arrival in Newport, 2) present a written report of the research findings, and 3) develop and present an engaging program through video and Facebook that engages the audience to learn more about Peter Quire and the Church of Saint John the Evangelist, particularly its role in the African-American community.

This project is the first step in the process of gathering materials to submit to the General Convention of the Episcopal Church's Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music's Subcommittee on the Church Calendar. (Yes, you read that right.) This is the group that recommends exemplary people for commemoration on the national church's calendar and publishes materials about them. It's time that the entire church learn more about this humble but extraordinary man who, when he died, was lauded in the newspaper as "The Father of St. John's Church."

Father Humphrey admits to sending a prayer up to Blessed Peter Quire from time to time urging him to put in a good word for us, and so far, those prayers are being answered!
As we return to public worship, we will be asking those who attend services or enter the building for any reason whatsoever to provide their contact information, either with the assistance of the ushers, or directly via our website so that we may be in touch with you about any COVID-related concerns, and so that you can be in touch with us, should you or someone close to you fall ill or test positive for the coronavirus.

And in case you missed it, the state of Rhode Island also released an app, CRUSH COVID RI, this week that aims to make contact tracing easier.
This Sunday at 9:00 a.m., we will live-stream Sung Mass for Trinity Sunday at facebook.com/SaintJohnsNewport/live and on our website at http://saintjohns-newport.org/.

If you would like to attend Mass in person, please be in touch with Fr. Humphrey as soon as possible at rector@saintjohns-newport.org.

(Remember, you don't need a Facebook account to watch.)

You can download the booklet for the service here.

And join us after the service for Zoom Coffee Hour at 10:30 a.m. by clicking here:

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84223052255?pwd=bGJXMVFJZ05OM3FDd1MydWZzb3ZJUT09

Meeting ID: 842 2305 2255
Password (required): Quire

Quarter Till Returns!
Our Quarter Till Organ Recitals return this Sunday, June 7, at 4:45 p.m. and continue through Sunday, Sept. 6. The recitals will be performed on Facebook Live at www.facebook.com/SaintJohnsNewport/live.

Our Quarter Till organ recitals this year were named Newport Life Magazine's "2020 Best of Newport County" award winner as "Best Kept Secret: Entertainment"! You can read all about it and all the winners in the latest issue of Newport Life Magazine, or online here:

https://tinyurl.com/NewportCounty2020Best

Quarter Till organ recitals are 15-20 minutes and feature Bach and other composers, with live video feed projected onto a screen showing the organist and a close-up view of the organ's inner workings during the music. This year's concerts will also feature our brand-new and newly installed organ console.

Admission is still just a "quarter" (or more), with proceeds benefiting restoration of our historic 1894 Hook & Hastings pipe organ. This year, in conjunction with the virtual recitals, St. John's is thrilled to announce a
GENEROUS MATCH CHALLENGE of up to $275,000 towards the restoration of the organ!

To donate: https://tinyurl.com/OrganChallenge

ST. JOHN’S ORGAN FUND MATCH

A generous donor has offered a match challenge of up to $275,000 for donations toward the restoration of our historic 1894 Hook & Hastings Pipe Organ

THANK YOU!

Photos of Dad?

We're looking for photos of Dad to put together a video tribute for
Father's day, Sunday, June 21, so please email your photos with caption information to Melanie in the office at parishoffice@saintjohns-newport.org. Deadline for submissions is by the end of the day Sunday, June 14. Happy hunting!

Candle Dedication

The Sanctuary Lamp Candle above the High Altar is given to the greater glory of God and in prayer for Barbara Odegaard.

* * *

The Sanctuary lamp candle above the altar in the Chapel of the Blessed Sacrament is given by Cynthia Sinclair to the greater glory of God and in prayer for Richard.
To arrange to dedicate a candle on a particular date, please be in touch with the Parish Office at parishoffice@saintjohns-newport.org.

---

**Morning Prayer**

Parishioner Melissa Bostrom has generously offered to hold Morning Prayer weekly on Mondays at 8:30 a.m. at her home in the Point.

A half-hour period of Centering Prayer will follow between 9 and 9:30 a.m. Please feel free to join either or both regularly, or as your schedule allows.

Prayer will be held outdoors as weather permits, or indoors using social distancing if not. Cloth face coverings must be worn if anyone in the group desires such; or alternatively, everyone must agree not to.

Please be in touch with the parish office at parishoffice@saintjohns-newport.org if you would like to attend, or call 847-2512 or email...
In addition, Morning Prayer is live-streamed by Deacon Buck Close on the St. John's Facebook page Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 9 a.m., shared with his New Orleans parish of St. Anna's.

Low Masses

Fr. Humphrey will live-stream the following Low Masses at 6:00 p.m. in June at facebook.com/SaintJohnsNewport/live:

**June 11:** Low Mass for St. Barnabas
**June 24:** Low Mass for the Nativity of St. John the Baptist (above)

**June 30:** Low Mass for Sts. Peter & Paul (right)

---

**Choir School News**

---

The Choir School of Newport County

Friends of Music at St. John's

2019-2020
Have you seen the 2019-2020 Second Edition of the Program Book?

To check out our concert listings and to support our donors and advertisers, you can pick up a copy at St. John's or download a copy here.

Thank you for all your help in gathering and showing community support for our programs!

Please note: Dates and times subject to change. Please check our event listings in the Evangelist, on our website or Facebook page, or contact the parish office at parishoffice@saintjohns-newport.org or (401) 848-2561 to double-check dates and times.

---

The Baptism of Jesus

The Baptism of Jesus is depicted in a window above the confessional by the front door of the church.

All four Gospels speak of Jesus' Baptism: Matthew 3:13-17, Mark 1:9-11, Luke 3:21-23, and John 1:29-33. The synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark and Luke) give a description of the event. John the Baptist was in the countryside teaching about the coming of the Messiah and the need to repent. He baptized people saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire."
Jesus approached and asked to be baptized. We are told that after the Baptism of Jesus, the heavens opened and the Spirit descended on Jesus in the form of a dove with a voice proclaiming, "You are my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

The Gospel of John tells us that John the Baptist saw the Spirit descending on Jesus like a dove and that John proclaimed Jesus to be the Son of God. St. John's window displays the central elements of the story. Jesus, in a red cloak, stands in prayer in the water with John on the Jordan's bank.

John is clothed in a rough tunic with a bowl in one hand. Above is a dove, with his beak pointing down to Jesus. A shaft of light shines down on his head. This window is a visible representation of the fact that while baptism is performed by the hands of a person, it is actually the Spirit of God which descends on the baptized to sanctify and call as his own.

You can reach St. John's Director of Adult Christian Formation John Lord at formation@saintjohns-newport.org

---

Service Details

Live-Streamed Services on Facebook
In accordance with state reopening guidelines and in consultation with Bishop Knisely, we welcome the return of parishioners to in-person worship at St. John's! Attendance is limited, however, and we will continue to live-stream our services. If you wish to be added to a small group, please see Father Humphrey's guidelines on returning to church, here.

Sunday, June 7
Trinity Sunday Live-Streamed Sung Mass
followed by Zoom Coffee Hour

Download the Program Book here.

Join us for Coffee Hour at 10:30 a.m. after Mass!

Join Zoom Meeting:
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84223052255?
pwd=bGJXMVFJZ05OM3FDd1MydWZzb3ZJUT09

Meeting ID: 842 2305 2255
Password (required): Quire

This week's intercessions
In thanksgiving for all the blessings of this life, especially for the birthdays of Diane Addison, Samuel Rodman & T.J. Hendron (6/7); the anniversary of Erny & Marian Ramirez (6/11); and all those for whom we offer our thanksgivings now.

In our prayers: Anthony, Elizabeth, Laurie, Michael, Stephanie, John Alexander, William Bachus, Bob & Joann Barczynski, Mary Berlinghof, Karl Berroth, Bruno Bich, Ne’anci Brewer, John Brooks, Barby Brown, Kathleen Sullivan Buck, Stephanie Chase, Roseanne Curry, Liz Davis, Caroline Davis, Pamela Dolan, Shawn Donnelly, Patrick Feighan, Joan Garrison, Joe Goldkamp, David Humphrey, Ruth Kiker, Doris Little, Christine Luciano, Trish Miller, Sherry Moe, Mary Naylor, Heather O’Connor, Barbara Odegaard, Bill Passera, Mary Pyle, Marlene Quarry, Rita Rogers, Rita Scott, John Silvia, John Sawicki, Donald Smith, and Paul & Ruth Stone; for the Sisters of the Holy Nativity: Abigail, Claris & Ellie; for all those affected worldwide by the coronavirus pandemic; and all those we pray for now.

For the repose of the souls of the recently departed, especially George Floyd of Minneapolis and Julian P.W. Turner; for those whose year’s mind falls this week, among them: John S. Amado & John Arnold Cranston, priest (6/7), William Weston (6/8), Jane P. Moore (6/9), Hope Drury Goddard (6/10), and John Victor Cochrane & Howard Roberts (6/13); for the departed members of the Guild of All Souls; for the departed Sisters & Associates of Holy Nativity; for all those who have died in the coronavirus pandemic; and for all those we remember now.

---

Candle Deductions

The Sanctuary Lamp candle above the High Altar is given to the greater glory of God and in prayer for Barbara Odegaard. The Sanctuary Lamp candle above the Altar in the Chapel of the Blessed Sacrament is given by Cynthia Sinclair to the greater glory of God and in prayer for Richard.

---

Support St. John's

Stewardship is a year-round commitment, and we thank you for your investment in our present and in our future, but above all, thank you for simply showing up (when you're allowed to!) and being who you are.
In this time in particular, the Diocese is encouraging parishes to highlight to our supporters and parishioners how easy it is to set up an automatic payment directly from your bank account to the church. If you don't already give online, please consider contacting your financial institution to arrange for automated repeating gifts. Doing so will give everyone some measure of peace of mind in these troubling times.

Thank you for supporting us in prayer when you are unable to be with us, and for the love that you give in so many ways, of which St. John's is merely one recipient and conduit among many.

If you would like to support St. John's with a donation, please click [here](#).

To give by text message:

Text SERIOUSFUN to 73256 to donate in any amount to St. John’s Church

And always, thank you for your generous support!

---

The Zabriskie Memorial Church of Saint John the Evangelist

The Choir School of Newport County