The Evangelist
August 16, 2020
We are ready for you at St. John's!

Sunday: The Feast of the Assumption
8:00 a.m.: Mass on the Grass (Low Mass)
10:00 a.m.: Live-Streamed Sung Mass (High Mass)
(followed by Zoom Coffee Hour at 11:30 a.m.)

To attend in person, please register at both of the following locations:

1. tinyurl.com/SJEreservations
2. tinyurl.com/SJEcheck-in

Watch on Facebook (you don't need an account):
https://www.facebook.com/SaintJohnsNewport/
or on our website at saintjohns-newport.org

Download the service booklet here.

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

On Zoom:
Sunday, August 16, at 11:30 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

Or enter this redirect link in your browser window: tinyurl.com/SJEzoomcoffeehour

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

First of all, thank you to those of you who heeded my plea and called into our Zoom Coffee Hour last Sunday. It was all the livelier for your presence and participation. But there's room for plenty more people, and I would love to see it become as second nature to call in, even for ten or fifteen minutes, as dropping in on Coffee Hour in the Guild Hall was "back in the day." Remember way back then? I'm an introvert who doesn't even drink coffee, and here I am getting nostalgic for Coffee Hour. You never know how important something is until you've lost it.

The ability to show our faces without shame or guilt is another thing I never thought was all that important until masking became the norm. Like seemingly everyone else in my little world, I don't want to put anyone at a potentially higher risk of infection by being in my presence, and so I begrudgingly comply with CDC recommendations. It has now gotten to the point that I do not feel like I am in some strange Sci-Fi movie whenever I go grocery shopping and see that every single person in the store is wearing a mask. I'm surprised at how "normal" it's beginning to seem.

Still, I miss seeing people's faces. I'm one of those inveterate people watchers. I love looking at crowds of people as they walk by, studying their faces. I remember that one very cold March, back in 1991, I was enjoying my first Spring Break as a college student by visiting friends in the metro New York City area. I had met a really great group of people the previous summer at Brown University in a program for rising twelfth-graders who wanted to get a taste of life at an Ivy League school. I enjoyed myself so much that I ended up skipping part of my senior year in high school and entered college when I was seventeen years old. (I'm still trying to decide whether that was wise of me or not.)

In any event, in March, 1991 I happened to have a lot of newly made friends living in New Jersey, NYC, and Long Island, and so I asked if I could couch surf with them. They were all seniors in high school still, and most of them weren't on Spring Break, yet. So I'd spend part of the day, if allowed, visiting them in their schools and checking out what 12th grade was like in Babylon, New York or Morristown, New Jersey,
and then I'd head into the Big Apple and explore it on my own, armed with a 35 mm camera and several rolls of black and white film.

I mostly took photographs of buildings, but one day, I spent about an hour or so sitting on a stoop that was tucked away and snapping pictures of the crowd as they walked by. I have a deadline to meet today so I can't go rooting around in my files in the rectory for the contact sheets from that little photo shoot, but it captured a wonderful moment in the life of that city.

All that's to say that I miss seeing people's faces. And I'm aware that the number of people who actually see my face has diminished, though by what magnitude I don't rightly know. Last week I appealed to you not to be a faceless congregation. Today, I'm wondering how I can avoid being a faceless priest.

Another way of putting this question is to ask: Are there other ways I can show up for you that I'm not doing now? What does it mean to have "face time" with your priest? When does that typically happen?

I will admit that these questions arise from revised guidelines from the diocese recommending that all clergy wear a mask 100% of the time during services, whether indoors or outdoors, including when reading or preaching. I'm not sure I've understood that correctly, so I'm waiting until a special Virtual Town Hall meeting of clergy and wardens with the Bishop next Thursday the 20th for clarification before I take it upon myself to implement any further changes to the rather stringent protocols we have already put in place. For my part, I can't imagine becoming even more faceless than I already am. At least those who tune in to the livestream or attend in-person worship can see my face (when I'm not facing the altar, which, in fact, is most of the time). The shape of the liturgy at St. John's already renders me pretty faceless by design, as our focus together is on God and not on me as an individual.

Were it clearly a matter of life and death, if wearing a mask all the time was in fact a significant reduction of the risks inherent in this pandemic, I might buckle under and conform. In fact, if it could be demonstrated that this was the case, I'd gladly comply. But as you may remember, early on in this pandemic I established as a principle that a) we would comply with all requirements issued by the Rhode Island Department of Health, b) we would endeavor to put best practices in place from the CDC based
But should I really wear a mask during my sermon? Maybe. Or perhaps I should just record my sermons and drop them in as videos. But then that presents logistical problems, both on the tech side of things and for those attending services in person. I'm trying to navigate the shifting currents of this pandemic, but just when I think I've found a way forward that's relatively smooth sailing, something else happens to pitch this little vessel called the Church lurching sideways.

The only thing I know for sure is that we need to find more ways to be present to each other, to show our faces, and I'm not convinced that adding one more restriction that renders us faceless to each other is good for our bodies, our minds, or our souls. But then again, I could be wrong. As an Orthodox Jewish friend once told me, every time she asked her rabbi a difficult question, he would simply shrug and reply, "Who knows? God knows."

Who knows? God knows.

P.S. Remember those buildings I mentioned photographing? My absolute favorite was one that I ended up exhibiting in the student art show at my college of the Jefferson Market Library (originally designed as a courthouse). The architect of that building was Frederick Clarke Withers. He also happens to be the architect of a little church on Washington Street in Newport, Rhode Island! Coincidence? Who knows? God knows.
Yours in Christ's service,
N.J.A. Humphrey+
XIV Rector

P.S. I would love to hear from you. You can be in touch by email at rector@saintjohns-newport.org, or, to make an appointment, please visit rector.youcanbook.me.

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Zoom Coffee Hour @ St. John's
Join us after service at 11:30 a.m. for a Virtual Coffee Hour via Zoom. We provide the connection, but you will have to provide your own food and drink, for what we hope are obvious reasons.

**Meeting ID: 842 2305 2255**  
**Password (if prompted to provide one): Quire**

There are several ways to join. From your web browser on any device, join by clicking here:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84223052255?pwd=bGJXMVFJZ05OM3FDd1MydWZzb3ZJUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84223052255?pwd=bGJXMVFJZ05OM3FDd1MydWZzb3ZJUT09)

Or enter [tinyurl.com/SJEzoomcoffeehour](http://tinyurl.com/SJEzoomcoffeehour) directly into your web browser, which automatically redirects to the long URL above!

**Have a telephone but not a computer? No problem!**  
Dial in by landline or mobile phone: **1-312-626-6799**, and when prompted, enter the **Meeting ID: 842 2305 2255**.

**Or via iPhone one-tap**, dial +13126266799,84223052255#.

Hope to see and/or hear from you soon!

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**Please Check In**

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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, that aims to make contact tracing easier.

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The Feast of the Assumption
This Sunday at 10:00 a.m., we will live-stream Sung Mass for the Feast of the Assumption, at facebook.com/SaintJohnsNewport/ and on our website at http://saintjohns-newport.org/. We will also hold "Mass on the Grass," a Low Mass on the lawn, at 8:00 a.m.

In order to attend either Mass, please register at tinyurl.com/SJEreservations and provide your contact information at tinyurl.com/SJEcheck-in. Each one takes just a minute to complete.

You can download the booklet for the services here.

And please join us after the service for Zoom Coffee Hour at 11:30 a.m. Details above!
Welcome to Mass on the Grass! In case you missed it, you can read all about it in The Newport Daily News. [here](#).
This Sunday, August 16, at 8:00 a.m., we will hold Low Mass celebrating the Feast of the Assumption. (At 10:00 a.m., we will live-stream Sung Mass in the church.)

In order to attend either Mass, please register at tinyurl.com/SJEreservations and provide your contact information at tinyurl.com/SJEcheck-in. Each one takes just a minute to complete.

All you need is a chair or blanket (we'll take care of the spacing), hat or umbrella if desired, good cheer and a smile, even if it's covered at all times by a face mask as required by the Diocese at all services, both indoors and out.

Participants will gather on the lawn around the steps in front of the front entrance of the church at 61 Washington St.

Being able to gather again this way is certainly a breath of fresh air, and we can't wait! Thank you for following state and diocesan guidelines to protect all of our loved ones during the global pandemic.

See you Sunday!

If you would like to volunteer to help with setup or breakdown, please let Kristin MacMannis know at engagement@saintjohns-newport.org.
Director of Adult Christian Formation John Lord reflects on his experience of "Mass on the Grass."

For the past two Sundays, the 8 o'clock Mass has been celebrated on the front steps of St. John's. It is a quiet, simple service with readings, prayers, a sermon, and communion. A small altar has been fashioned at the top of the stairs. With the doors open, the nave, high altar, rood screen, and Ascension window serve as a backdrop. Father looks out at a congregation seated on the lawn and folding chairs.

The two copper beech trees serve as canopy that shields us from the sun. A soft breeze off the bay extinguishes the candles. Dogs walking their owners, bicyclers, skate boarders, and others pass by respectfully. A man driving a pick-up truck crosses himself as he passes by at ten miles an hour. One wonders what they are all thinking as they see this small band of Christians who are faithful to this two-thousand-year-old tradition, all while wearing masks and staying distant from each other.

At the peace, we stand, wave, and smile behind our masks to each other and to the priest. It is an intimate, peaceful time of prayer and communion with each other and with Our Lord taking place in the midst of the historic Point neighborhood slowly going about its Sunday awakening.

If you are available and comfortable doing so, please join us. There is
plenty of room under the trees to stay safely distant, yet fully connected. Bring a chair or use one of the folding chairs provided. Wear a mask. (Even though we are in the post-Pentecost season, Father has not required us to use green masks ... yet).

And please sign in at the St. John's website indicating your attendance. You can go to tinyurl.com/SJEreservations to reserve a space at any time, and tinyurl.com/SJEcheck-in to provide information required by the Health Department should the need, God forbid, arise.

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**Quarter Till on the World Stage**

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A new international "live virtual concert hall" platform called Dreamstage (https://dreamstage.live) has been co-developed during Coronatide to meet the needs of performing musicians, by start-up CEO Thomas Hesse and the superstar cellist Jan Vogler. Because Jan happens to be a close friend of one of our Choir School Advisory Council members, and because St. John's has invested heavily in live broadcast technology over the summer, it so happens that for the international launch of Dreamstage in the coming weeks, our very own pipe organ is going to be featured in a special 80-minute edition of **Bach & Friends at Quarter Till**! St. John's goes live to the world on August 30 at 4:45, but you'll only be able to watch this special recital if you buy a ticket
Tickets are on sale now for $25 exclusively at https://tinyurl.com/QuarterTill30August. One ticket is good for all your friends and family watching around one computer.

Best of all, $20 of that ticket price goes directly toward the restoration of St. John's historic 1894 Hook & Hastings organ. Currently, all donations are being matched, so your $25 ticket is worth $40 for the organ! So please spread the word, especially by sharing this post and tagging the producers: @dreamstage.live.

In its direct financial support of artists, in serving as a turnkey box office that takes care of permissions for streaming and the royalties to publishers and composers, and in providing a spectacularly stable high-resolution digital stage, Dreamstage is going to revolutionize live music-making well past the pandemic. It has already been featured on Fox Business News and in Germany's largest newspaper. Make history with Peter Berton as he makes music; someday you'll tell your friends, "And to think, I knew him when..."

For more information, check out this video: https://player.vimeo.com/video/445445553

P.S. Past editions of Bach & Friends may be found on our website's Quarter Till archive, and more will be added soon! Visit the archive at http://saintjohns-newport.org/quarter-till-organ-recitals/.

P.P.S. For parishioners, if the ticket price is outside your entertainment budget, please contact Fr. Humphrey. A number of subsidized tickets are available, and we wouldn't want anyone to miss this exciting event due to cost considerations.

Quarter Till Concerts
Quarter Till Organ Recitals have returned at 4:45 p.m. Sundays and will continue through Sunday, Sept. 6! The recitals will be performed on Facebook Live at [www.facebook.com/SaintJohnsNewport/](http://www.facebook.com/SaintJohnsNewport/).

And, we have a very special performance on the world stage on Aug. 30 -- check out our announcement above!

Our July 5 performance is above, and in case you missed it, check out our July 19 performance celebrating Peter Quire Day, featuring:

J. S. Bach: Prelude and Fugue in C Major BWV 545  
Billy Strayhorn, arr. Alec Wyton: Lotus  
Henri Mulet: Tu es petra

at [https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=573153460239626](https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=573153460239626)

(And our Quarter Till Organ Recitals Archive is here: [http://saintjohns-newport.org/quarter-till-organ-recitals/](http://saintjohns-newport.org/quarter-till-organ-recitals/))

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](https://tinyurl.com/OrganChallenge).

Our Quarter Till organ recitals 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 also feature our brand-new and newly installed organ console.

TO GIVE: tinyurl.com/OrganChallenge

$275,000!

$220,000

$165,000

$115,000

$110,000

$55,000

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!

Low Mass
The next weekday Low Mass at St. John's is scheduled for 5:45 p.m. on Tuesday, August 25, for the Feast of St. Bartholomew (transferred from Monday due to the rector's day off). Evening Prayer will precede it at 5:30. All services by then, unless otherwise advertised, will be both by live-stream and in-person. Stay tuned for further instructions on guidelines for weekday services.

Candle Deductions
The Sanctuary Lamp Candle above the High Altar is given
to the greater glory of God and in prayer for Diana, Jean & Philip.

The Sanctuary Lamp Candle above the Altar of the Chapel of the Blessed Sacrament is given to the greater glory of God and in loving memory of Joseph Sansone & Linda Rogers.

To arrange to dedicate a candle on a particular date, please be in touch with the Parish Office at parishoffice@saintjohns-newport.org.
England Revisited

Two years ago around this time, we were on our two-week training trip to England. This year, we naturally will be observing the same liturgical events which occurred during the first half of August and, with our improved broadcast technology, we have the ability not only to include some of the beautiful recordings from our trip (as we have done already in the past months) but also to show videos within worship.

In the last two weeks' live-streamed services and this Sunday's, we will include just the audio from a special anthem we sang across the pond, so as not to detract visually from our local service and to ease the switchery for those running the equipment while Peter is on vacation.

For Assumption this Sunday, here is Ave Maria (Franz Biebl). Enjoy!
Ave Maria (Franz Biebl)

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.

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**Fifth Sunday Food Drive**

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Now more than ever, members of our community could use a helping hand.

August is a Fifth Sunday Food Drive month!

Because of the COVID crisis, we are asking that instead of food donations, gift cards to Aldi's, Stop & Shop, Shaw's, CVS, Walgreens, or the Dollar Tree, be put in the pledge plate, sent in with your pledge envelopes, or slipped through the Poplar St. mail slot.

Volunteers will deliver your gift cards to the MLK Center at the end of the month. Thank you for your generosity!

Or, donate on Facebook:

[https://www.facebook.com/donate/423632965221106/](https://www.facebook.com/donate/423632965221106/)
You Can Sleep On It

A parishioner has a queen-sized mattress that is only three months old, but being replaced by a King sized mattress, and is happy to donate it to the church to pass on if there's anyone who would like it. Delivery included. If interested, please email Fr. Humphrey at rector@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](https://example.com).

**Sunday, August 16**

**The Feast of the Assumption**

Mass on the Grass at 8:00 a.m.
Live-Streamed Sung Mass at 10:00 a.m.
(followed by Zoom Coffee Hour at 11:30 a.m.)

Register for both services here:
1. [https://reopen.church/r/2oOSjeMo](https://reopen.church/r/2oOSjeMo)
2. [https://forms.gle/qrjPdMyDsTCG6KFg7](https://forms.gle/qrjPdMyDsTCG6KFg7)

Download the Service Booklet [here](https://example.com).

Join us for Coffee Hour at 11:30 a.m. after Mass!

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

Have a telephone but not a computer? No problem!
Dial in by landline or mobile phone: 1-312-626-6799, and when prompted, enter the Meeting ID: 842 2305 2255.

Or via iPhone one-tap, dial +13126266799,84223052255#.

This week's intercessions
In thanksgiving for all the blessings of this life, especially for the Institution of Fr. Nathan J.A. Humphrey as XIV Rector of St. John’s on the Feast of the Assumption, in 2016 (8/14); for the birthdays of Irene Weston & Mason Earle (8/17), Barbara Peters & Stephen Miller (8/20), and Bill Martin (8/21); for the anniversary of Ed & Barbara Carnes (8/20); and all those for whom we offer our thanksgivings now.

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

For the repose of the souls of the recently departed, and for those whose year’s mind falls this week, especially John Hinman (8/18), John Alden Lloyd Hyde (8/22); 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 Dedications

The Sanctuary Lamp candle above the High Altar is given to the greater glory of God and in prayer for Diana, Jean and Philip. The Sanctuary Lamp candle above the Altar in the Chapel of the Blessed Sacrament is given to the greater glory of God and in loving memory of Joseph Sansone and Linda Rogers.

Support St. John's with Amazon Smile
Did you know, you can donate to St. John's through every eligible purchase you make on Amazon Smile?

When you shop at Amazon Smile and choose "St. John the Evangelist" as your charitable organization, Amazon Smile will donate 0.5% of eligible purchases to St. John's. Yes, it's that easy! And, Amazon Smile has the same products and prices as Amazon.

You can shop Amazon Smile via the Amazon Shopping app on your mobile phone by either downloading the app if you don't already have it, via Android here, or iOS here, or, if you already have the app, by going to the Settings menu on the upper left via the three bars (≡), scrolling down, and choosing "Amazon Smile":

Turn on AmazonSmile in the Amazon app to generate donations.

AmazonSmile
If you don't have or don't want to shop via the app, you can shop through your browser on your mobile or your desktop by logging in to Amazon Smile (at SmileAmazon.com) with your regular Amazon account information here: tinyurl.com/SmileAmazonSignin, and choosing St. John the Evangelist when prompted.

You can learn more about how to use Amazon Smile here. To learn more about the Amazon Smile program, click here.

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**Stewardship at 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:

And always, thank you for your generous support!

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The Zabriskie Memorial Church of Saint John the Evangelist

The Choir School of Newport County