The Evangelist
September 6, 2020
We are ready for you at St. John's!

Sunday: The Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost, Proper 18
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, Sept. 6, 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,

On Thursday, our daughter embarked on her final year in middle school and our son on his first. On Friday, Anne and I are celebrating (though in a very low-key way) our sixteenth anniversary, and this weekend I am taking a bit of a needed break over the Labor Day holiday. I am grateful to Fr. John Alexander for filling in for me on Sunday at both services. I will be back in the office on Wednesday.

This coming Sunday's service ends with a recording of the St. John's choir and congregation singing, "Come, labor on," which is particularly appropriate for Labor Day. As Peter notes in this week's service booklet, "The closing hymn is the school song of the Saint Thomas Choir School in New York. The tune is by the school's founder, choirmaster T. Tertius Noble, who wrote it in 1918 the year before the school was founded. Having recently entered its second century of education and service, the Saint Thomas Choir School sings this at every graduation ceremony. The descant was composed by two boys who graduated in the Class of 1984, and is the version used at Saint Thomas Church every year from then until the retirement of Dr. Hancock. The organ accompaniment is transcribed from the recording of the moving final service played by Dr. Hancock in June, 2004."

My wife, Anne, spent several years in the pews at Saint Thomas with her parents when her brother was a chorister boarding at Saint Thomas Choir School back in the eighties, so naturally seeing this reminded me of that connection. On our very first date, Anne told of how she would get bundled into the back seat of her parents' car while it was still dark, and be driven five hours from their home in Massachusetts into Manhattan to attend morning church! After a long day that included Evensong, Anne and her parents would get back in the car and drive five hours home so that they could go to work and school the next day. Hearing that Anne spent the most formative years of her childhood believing this Sunday commute was normal made me think that perhaps she might find being married to a priest easy by comparison. Yes, I thought that on our very first date. But I didn't vocalize it, because I didn't want to scare her off.

Nowadays, Anne's commute to church takes less than a minute on foot,
but it still requires quite a commitment. Her whole life is now surrounded by the parish, and since she works from home, she gets off campus even less often than I do, particularly since March. So we are looking forward to celebrating Labor Day and our anniversary with a little time off, even if we have no idea whether we can even get away from campus, due to Massachusetts' travel ban on Rhode Islanders, who as a class are by virtue of our residence suddenly rendered unclean. It boggles the mind that we can't visit Anne's parents on Cape Cod.

All this coronavirus business has been getting very tiresome, and you can believe that God and I have been having a few words about this of late. Or rather, God has been getting an earful from me. It's clear that a lot of people are just plain tired, no matter their circumstances, whether they come to church in person, virtually, or simply don't bother with any of it for one reason or another.

In the midst of my cranky tiredness this morning, the Reverend Stephanie Shoemaker dropped by to help me with a project, and as she was leaving, something I said reminded her of a prayer a friend had sent her, written by hipster Lutheran pastor Nadia Bolz-Weber. This stand-up-comic-turned-preacher isn't someone I normally turn to for spiritual sustenance, because she runs with a cooler, younger crowd. She likes to use somewhat colorful language in her sermons, and I get enough of that from secular media. For myself, I don't really feel like I need a lot of sailor talk in a meditation on the love of Jesus. But her down-to-earth style clearly resonates with many, so I rejoice that she is reaching people for Jesus, some if not most of whom probably wouldn't give me the time of day. That said, I'll share an excerpt or two from this prayer that I think might resonate with all of us, hipsters and squares, though admittedly I'm keeping the most earnest bits while shedding the parts of it that I can't pray using my own voice, because they are hers and too cool to be mine. If you want the whole version (which is quite funny in that hipster way) let me know. But here's an expurgated square version I'm praying:

God...we don't know how to feel less tired.
We don't know how to vanquish our own fears.
We don't know how to stop being angry at stupid people...
We don't know how to live through a global pandemic and anti-black
violence and wildfires and hurricanes...
We don't know how to sustain the effort it takes [not to] completely
freak out, and the effort it takes to keep from freaking out is one of
the things that is making us so tired.

So we need some reminders right now, Lord.

Remind us that for every tragedy that's "newsworthy" there are a
million kindnesses, and countless acts of love that go unreported...

But more than anything, remind us of our own souls.

Remind us that there is an essential, holy, un-hurtable part of
ourselves that never tires, that does not know fear, that is un-affected
by other people, that cannot be irritated, that has nothing to achieve.

If taking a few deep breaths reminds us of our truest center, then
nudge us to breathe...If laughing...reminds us of what is most true,
then nudge our friends to send funny texts. If eating a...vegetable
now and then reminds us that our bodies need us, then give us the
will to make a salad.

Amen.

I'd say that's a pretty good Labor Day prayer in a pandemic. The original
is more colorful, but this is the heart of it, at least to squares like me.

But if you're looking for something from our own tradition, or if you
believe, as I do, that to sing is to pray twice (even if we can't sing out for
the time being), check out that hymn we will be hearing, "Come Labor
On." As a good old-fashioned Anglican, I love the Saint Thomas version,
which may be heard here. It's a great recording, even if it does omit my
favorite stanza:

Come, labor on.
Away with gloomy doubts and faithless fear!
No arm so weak but may do service here:
by feeblest agents may our God fulfill his righteous will.
I find these words incredibly encouraging. Despite this pandemic, we remain ready for you at St. John's, where there truly is "no arm so weak but may do service here." Through St. John's, whether online or in person, you can remember that we have souls, that "we are human beings, not human doings," as I've heard it said. St. John's exists to "remind us that there is an essential, holy, un-hurtable part of ourselves that never tires, that does not know fear, that is un-affected by other people, that cannot be irritated, that has nothing to achieve." At St. John's, particularly during our services, we are reminded to be still and know that God is God, and we are not. If we can remember this, our laboring does not lead only to endless drudgery, but becomes an outflowing of the Holy Spirit in our lives, a way of being and doing, because service done in Jesus' name can be powerfully healing, if it reminds us that we are creatures who need to commune with our Creator. Sure, we may still be tired at the end of any given day. We will still labor on. But if we need to rest, we need to know that we can rest from all our labors, take a step back and a deep breath and see that what God has done in our lives and at St. John's is very good, yes, even in the midst of a pandemic.

Now go make yourself a salad.

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**

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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

Or enter 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!

Please Check In
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.
This Sunday is your last chance to catch one of our "Best of Newport County" Quarter Till Organ Recitals, which will be wrapping up the 2020 season this Sunday, Sept. 6. The recitals are performed on Facebook Live at www.facebook.com/SaintJohnsNewport/.

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.

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.

You can view our Quarter Till Organ Recitals Archive here: http://saintjohns-newport.org/quarter-till-organ-recitals/.
TO GIVE:
tinyurl.com/OrganChallenge

$275,000!

$220,000

$165,000

$136,000

$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!

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

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](http://tinyurl.com/SJEreservations) and provide your contact information at [tinyurl.com/SJEcheck-in](http://tinyurl.com/SJEcheck-in). Each one takes just a minute to complete.

You can download the booklet for the services [here](http://example.com/booklet).

And please join us after the service for Zoom Coffee Hour at 11:30 a.m.
Welcome to Mass on the Grass! In case you missed it, you can read all
This Sunday, Sept. 6, at 8:00 a.m., we will hold Low Mass celebrating the Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost, Proper 18. (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.

Low Masses

The following low Masses will take place in September following Evening Prayer at 5:30 p.m. Low Masses will be both in-person and live-streamed.
Tuesday, September 15: Low Mass for the Feast of the Holy Cross (transferred from September 14)

Tuesday, September 22: Low Mass for the Feast of St. Matthew (transferred from September 21)

Tuesday, September 29: Low Mass for the Feast of St. Michael and All Angels
Candle Dedications

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

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

Choir School News
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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**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, Sept. 6
The Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost, Proper 18
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.)

We welcome Father John D. Alexander, SSC, while Fr. Humphrey is on vacation this week.

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

Download the Service Booklet here.

Join us for Coffee Hour at 11:30 a.m. after Mass!
Join Zoom Meeting:
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84223052255?pwd=bGJXMVFJZ05OM3FDd1MydWZzb3ZJUT09

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 birthdays of Mary Berlinghof (9/6), William Bachus (9/7), Karen Champion (9/10), and Nancy Wyatt (9/12); the wedding anniversaries of Susan Taylor & Rick Best (9/6), and Chuck & Mary Berlinghof (9/8); 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, Barbry 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 Odegaard, 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, especially Larry Douglas McKinney, nephew of Doris Little, Mary Pyle, stepdaughter of Barbara Pyle, and Frank Uhlig, longtime editor of the Naval War College Press; and for those whose year’s mind falls this week, especially Richard A. Isaac, priest & associate (9/6), Alan Peter Maynard, priest & rector, & John Irwin Tappen (9/7), Harriet Sheridan (9/8), and Lawrence Perez (9/11); 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.
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.

amazon smile
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.

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:

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