

My Sisters and Brothers in Christ;

As we enter November and approach our celebration of The Feast of All Saints, I am mindful of those that we've lost. Those that have gone on to their eternal rest before us. And I'm also mindful of those that we've lost to the pandemic. Estimated at more than 5 million souls worldwide. *Lord have Mercy.* I'm also grateful that vaccine rates are increasing and that new Covid cases are decreasing. All that said, here in Onondaga County we lost 7 souls in the last three days. Including one under the age of 20. So, while things are moving in the right direction, this is no time to let our guard down, we must remain vigilant.

On a brighter note, my wife and I were able to go to NYC a couple of weeks ago. It was our first small trip to NYC since December of 2019. New York holds a special place in our hearts and we usually go there 3 or 4 times a year. Not so recently, so it was a real treat to spend a few days there. We went to see a great Christian author named Rob Bell speak at small theater in Greenwich Village called Webster Hall. It was a great presentation and then we stayed an extra day just to take in some sights and good food. Joy O'Donnell led worship in my absence and preached as well. I've gotten nothing but great reports about her efforts. Thanks again to Joy for this, and all of her ministries at Ss. Peter and John.

Looking forward to Advent, which starts soon, Nov. 28, we will again change up some of our worship practices. Don't worry, nothing major, and all from the Prayer Book and other approved sources. I, like my predecessor Kathlyn, like to mark the different seasons of the Church. And like I said before, none of these changes will last forever.

I'd like to recommend a small book of daily devotions for Advent by the great Old Testament scholar Walter Brueggemann called 'Celebrating Abundance – Devotions for Advent'. These are short, usually about a page or so, devotions and prayers for the Season. A lovely way to develop a daily discipline of waiting and preparation, which is so appropriate for the Advent season.

As I move into the beginning of my second year with you good people, again, I give thanks to God for this ministry in which we are all participating. I wouldn't want to be anywhere else.

Grace and Peace,

John +

Father John ✠

ON-LINE WORSHIP

Sundays - 9am Worship Service

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/97774056978?pwd=ZytJSVZjWmt3MUdSMk13U1JaaGNLZz09>

Meeting ID: 982 7706 2680

Passcode: 435902

Dial by your location

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Other Zoom Worship Schedule and Numbers

Tuesdays – 10am Bible Study

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/94333886777?pwd=WnNKSnycQkkzS1g0Yjc3ZGIVbk1PQT09>

Meeting ID: 943 3388 6777

Passcode: 577455

Dial by your location

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Wednesdays – 12pm Worship Service

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/95528786615?pwd=Z01DVGdvcG5XeVBIUVRMKzFFVVBjZz09>

Meeting ID: 955 2878 6615

Passcode: 634665

Dial by your location

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Thursdays – 10am Coffee and Conversation

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/97366952412?pwd=WUtQVFMycWlFKWmRBT1UyTHQ2Rm5Rdz09>

Meeting ID: 973 6695 2412

Passcode: 120228

Dial by your location

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Monday – Tuesday – Wednesday – Thursday – Friday

MORNING PRAYER – RITE II

Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/john.rohde.16/>

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/92662278952>

Meeting ID: 926 6227 8952

Dial by your location

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 926 6227 8952

Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/u/ac4XCk34Dn>

Vestry Voice

The October Vestry meeting began with an opening devotional. The September minutes and financials were approved.

It was discussed about a church credit card. Father John has reached out to other churches and the diocese to find out how they handle this. This will be discussed again at next month's meeting.

Audit paperwork has been sent in to the auditor. Terry Beyor will contact them about when they will begin the actual audit.

All of our SBA Loans have been turned into grants and do not need to be repaid. A big thank you to Terry Beyor for all his work on this matter.

There was some concern and worry when a member of the Soup Kitchen tested positive for Covid. There was communication with the health department and some workers and staff were tested but were negative. The Montessori school was notified of the situation but they had not had any contact with the infected person. At this time the Montessori school is being rapid tested twice each week.

We purchased 2 crowd control gates to keep unauthorized people from getting downstairs or upstairs. There is concern that the new crowd control gates are blocking fire exits. It was suggested that we contact the fire department and ask them about this situation and what would be the best solution.

A contractor was brought in to give an estimate on the plaster work and painting needed in the tower room. He will get back to us with a quote.

A fall clean-up day is scheduled for Oct. 16th @ 9:00 am with a rain date of Oct. 17th @ 1:00 pm.

The plaque for John McLane will be ordered this week.

Joy O'Donnell, Cailin O'Donnell and Father John met with Michael Larkin from St. James in Skaneateles at various times to discuss their system for live streaming and what we would need to do at St. Peter & John to begin live streaming. He was very helpful and made recommendations and even helped to do a budget sheet for the various equipment.

Joy wrote and submitted a grant proposal to the diocese to cover the cost of the equipment and subscription services we would need. We are waiting to hear if it will be approved.

Joy and Cailin have volunteered to run the equipment.

Since Father John has been here a year, a Mutual Ministry Review needs to be done. Father John has reached out to several people to determine how this is done. He will have more information at the next vestry meeting.

As a possible fund raiser, it was discussed having masks printed with the church's logo or some other design. Several of the vestry members stated they will bring in various items they have with the church's logo on Sunday so we can see what has been done in the past. Father John and Denise Whalen will ask at the services on Sunday what people would be interested in – masks, aprons, t-shirts, sweatshirts, etc.

Father John would like to purchase 2 subscriptions – Rite Brain and Rite Song. Rite Brain has copies from any liturgical book and Rite Song has our Hymnal, Lift Every Voice and 3 other books. With these Vincent has a wider selection of music for Sundays. This also would mean that everything would be in the bulletin eliminating the need for people to be constantly opening different books and trying to find the right pages. Mary and Jim Kahn offered to pay for these subscriptions for the first year.

The meeting closed with compline. Next Vestry meeting November 10, 2021.

From the great Presbyterian Minister and Author, Frederick Buechner – a short thought on Saints

“IN HIS HOLY FLIRTATION WITH THE WORLD, God occasionally drops a pocket handkerchief. These handkerchiefs are called saints.

Many people think of saints as plaster saints, men and women of such paralyzing virtue that they never thought a nasty thought or did an evil deed their whole lives long. As far as I know, real saints never even come close to characterizing themselves that way. On the contrary, no less a saint than Saint Paul wrote to Timothy, "I am foremost among sinners" (1 Timothy 1:15), and Jesus himself prayed God to forgive him his trespasses, and when the rich young man addressed him as "good Teacher," answered, "No one is good but God alone" (Mark 10:18).

In other words, the feet of saints are as much of clay as everybody else's, and their sainthood consists less of what they have done than of what God has for some reason chosen to do through them. When you consider that Saint Mary Magdalene was possessed by seven devils, that Saint Augustine prayed, "Give me chastity and continence, but not now," that Saint Francis started out as a high-living young dude in downtown Assisi, and that Saint Simeon Stylites spent years on top of a sixty-foot pillar, you figure that maybe there's nobody God can't use as a means of grace, including even ourselves.

The Holy Spirit has been called "the Lord, the giver of life" and, drawing their power from that source, saints are essentially life-givers. To be with them is to become more alive.”

-Originally published in [Wishful Thinking](#) and later in [Beyond Words](#)

Fundraising

We are looking for new ideas for fundraisers. If you have an idea, please speak to a vestry member or Father John. We are continuing to accept sneakers for our latest fundraiser.

Volunteers Needed

Since the Soup Kitchen has gone to 4 days a week, they are in need of volunteers. The Soup Kitchen now operates Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Saturday serving from 11:30 am to 12:30 pm. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the church office at 315-252-5721.



Syracuse Brass Concert

December 5, 2021

3:00 pm