

The Lampstand



The Newsletter of Saint John's Episcopal Church-
Niantic

"You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the Lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house."

October

2019

The Feast of Saint Francis-Sunday, October 6th

St. John's Parish Annual Observance of the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi is scheduled for **Sunday, October 6th, 12:00 o'clock noon to 1:00 p.m.** Please spread the word to your neighbors and friends and extend an invitation to them. This "Blessing of the Animals Service" is **OPEN TO THE COMMUNITY and COMPANION ANIMALS OF ALL DENOMINATIONS.** Weather permitting Animal Blessings will be held on St. John's Green. In case of rain, we'll move indoors to St. John's Sanctuary.

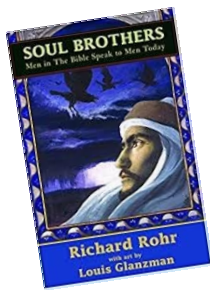
Just Who *Was* Saint Francis of Assisi?

Born Giovanni di Pietro di Bernardone in 1182 at Assisi, Saint Francis was an Italian Catholic "friar" (monk), deacon and preacher. He was a son of a prosperous Italian silk merchant and a French noblewoman. His father was in France on business when Francis was born in Assisi and his mother had him baptized as Giovanni. His father later took to calling his son Francesco ("*the Frenchman*"). The spendthrift son of privilege, young "Francesco" lived the high life and was a fan of the **troubadour movement**; made up of traveling composers and performers of songs about chivalry and courtly love. Many themes were humorous or even vulgar satires. Francis' 'conversion experience' came during his military service. Taken



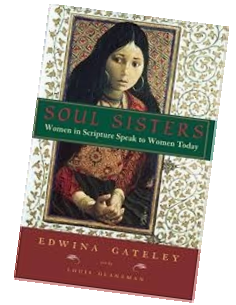
captive, he suffered from a serious illness that caused him to re-evaluate his life. Ultimately, Francis founded a religious order of men that we know now as **Franciscans** or **The Order of Friars Minor**. Francis received the Minor Orders of the Church but never aspired to be ordained a Priest. He was, eventually, ordained a Deacon. In 1219, in the midst of the **Fifth Crusade**, Francis traveled to Egypt to negotiate with Sultan al-Kamil, nephew of the famed

Saladin, during a ceasefire in the Muslim brutality and the atrocities committed by Crusading knights. The Sultan received Francis, as envoy, and allowed him to speak or *preach* to the Muslims. without effect. Late sources record that the Sultan gave Francis permission to visit the contested **sacred places in the Holy Land**. Francis' attempt at rapprochement with Muslim hordes occupying the Holy Land would have far reaching repercussions. To this day, the Franciscan Order remains the sole and "**Official Custodian of the Holy Places**" of the Holy Land for the Catholic Church and all Christianity. St. Francis created the very first "Nativity Scene" at Christmas, using live animals and 'actors'. Francis revered all of God's creation and is known today as the **Patron Saint of the Environment** (*as well as Patron Saint of Italy*) from his preaching about "all creation" and our Christian responsibility to be good stewards of the earth and all life. Folklore surrounding his life describes Francis as having 'conversations' with the birds of the air and called all creatures (*i.e. animals*) his "brothers" and "sisters". (See "*Canticle of the Sun*") Francis' official Feast Day in the Episcopal and Roman Catholic Calendars of Saints is **Oct. 4th**



WEEKLY WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY BEGINS TUESDAY, OCTOBER FIRST

DYEM Faithe Emmerich and Mother Joan Phelps are looking forward to welcoming Women's Bible Study participants on Tuesday, October 1st. We'll be using two books: Richard Rohr's "Soul Brothers", and Edwina Gateley's "Soul Sisters". It's not too late to sign up if you haven't already. The group meets each Tuesday beginning at 9:00 am in the Parish Library.



Saint John's Parish FALL CLEAN-UP Day



Sunday, October 20th

Well, it's almost that time of year again, so we're giving ALL ABLE-BODIED parishioners advance notice of our next scheduled "FALL CLEAN-UP DAY", **Sunday, October 20th**. Junior Warden Chip Flanagan is making a list (*and checking it twice*) of some of the key areas of St. John's Church Property, both **INSIDE** and **OUT**, that can use some attention, cleaning and repair. We'll begin immediately following the 10:00 am celebration of Holy Eucharist on that Sunday. There will be **NO Christian Education for Children**, but we URGE parents, grandparents and guardians to come to Church with their families that Sunday and pitch in. More details in the next edition of "The Lampstand".

Weekly Holy Eucharist with Healing Prayers and Anointing

St. John's weekly celebration of **Holy Eucharist with Healing Prayers and Anointing** is offered each week on Wednesday at 11:00 am. We gather in the Church to offer intercessory prayers for "healing" for those commended to us for special prayer and for one another. A Litany for Healing is prayed together and members of the congregation who wish to, come forward for the Sacramental Laying on of Hands and Anointing with blessed oils upon the forehead. All are welcome to attend and encouraged to invite friends.

HEALING SERVICE



ECCT= Diocesan Convention - Oct. 26 & 27

The Annual Diocesan Convention of the "Episcopal Church in Connecticut" or *ECCT*, is set for October 26th and October 27th. The Convention will be held at the Connecticut Convention Center in Hartford. Each year Episcopalians gather for **Annual Convention** in every diocese of the Episcopal Church. Official Delegates to the Annual Convention include: all Bishops, Priests and Deacons who are "Canonically Resident" in the Diocese of Connecticut (ECCT); 2 duly elected Lay-delegates from each ECCT parish and faith community. ("*Lay*" refers to persons who are **not ordained** to either of the 3 Orders of: *Bishop, Priest or Deacon.*) St. John's **clergy** delegates are: The Rev'd Anthony C. Dinoto, Rector; The Rev'd Joan P. Phelps, Associate, and The Rev'd Steve Hulme, Rector Emeritus. St. John's **Lay** delegates are: Pamela Graham and Gina Lincoln; alternate: Leslee Flanagan.



WIZARD OF ID by Brant Parker



St. John's Confirmation Class Forming

Sunday, October 27th

Junior High age students who wish to be candidates to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation will meet for the first time on Sunday, October 27th following "Hospitality Hour" after the 10:00 am Eucharist. Parents of 7th and 8th grade are asked to speak to Father Dinoto, who will lead the months long series in preparation for Confirmation. Regular attendance will be a requirement.



Annual Parish Christmas Basket Bazaar

Saturday, November 9th

Our Annual Christmas/Basket Bazaar will be held on Saturday, November 9th. Chairman Michael Cairns and Basket Captains Lynne Lersch and Cheryl Rutherford are making plans for another successful event. **ATTIC TREASURES** Coordinator Jean Fleet is accepting donated items for the bazaar. Once again, this year, we're looking for **higher quality items for the SILENT AUCTION**. Silent Auctions may include: Gift Certificates, tickets to sporting events, antiques and collectables, and much more.



New Acolyte Orientation - Saturday, Oct. 12th



Members of St. Alban's Guild of Acolytes at St. John's assist at the 10:00 am celebration of Holy Eucharist each Sunday. Acolytes serve as torchbearers, crucifers, Gospel Book bearers, and thurifers. Father Tony will be leading **NEW ACOLYTE TRAINING/ORIENTATION** on Saturday morning, October 12th at 8:30 am. All interested young people are encouraged to attend and learn more about what acolytes do to assist in our Sunday worship each week.



St. John's Senior and Treble Choirs Looking for New Members

Organist and Senior Choirmaster John Anthony and Susan Worgul, Director of St. John's Treble Choir are always eager to welcome new voices to their respective choirs. St. John's has been blessed for many years with excellent choir leadership and now's the time to check out becoming a member of either our Senior Choir that rehearses each Thursday evening and sings at the 10:00 am Eucharist each Sunday and our Treble Choir that sings throughout the year.



St. John's Episcopal Visitation is Sunday

The Rt. Rev'd Laura Ahrens, Bishop Suffragan of the Diocese of Connecticut/ECCT, will be making her official Episcopal Visitation to St. John's this Sunday, Sept. 27th. Bishop Ahrens will be with us as Celebrant and Preacher at the 10:00 am Eucharist and will speak in the parish hall after the service. Later she'll meet over lunch with St. John's Wardens and Vestry members and Fr. Tony, who is ex-officio chairman of the Vestry. The Wardens and Vestry will meet in the Library at approximately 12:00 noon. Each parish in the diocese is visited by a bishop periodically.

