



# The Lampstand

A Periodic 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. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven."

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All Saints-Advent

Autumn 2020

St. John's Episcopal Church

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## Weekend Worship Moves Indoors

### New Saturday Evening "Vigil Eucharist"

After several months of holding our Sunday celebrations of Holy Eucharist outdoors on Rogers Field, we returned to the Sanctuary inside St. John's in the early days of October. Presently, we are offering **two weekend Eucharists: Saturday at 5:00 pm and Sunday at 9:00 am.** Also, each Sunday, we are offering a 'live feed' of the 9:00 am Sunday Eucharist on St. John's website at: [www.stjohnsniantic.org](http://www.stjohnsniantic.org).

We continue to observe our Covid-19 Protocols for the safety of all who attend. Everyone who plans on attending either of these two masses are requested to wear a **cloth face covering/mask, use hand-sanitizer and observe social distancing.** Untested parishioners who are experiencing possible Covid-19 symptoms are urged to remain at home.



Holy Communion is distributed in the form of consecrated bread host only.

The chalice containing consecrated wine is not being offered in a common

cup at this time. Prayers for Spiritual Communion for those refraining from receiving Holy Communion are available in each Sunday Bulletin. We have suspended Sunday childcare in the nursery during the Pandemic. Protocols for the complete cleaning and disinfecting of all mandated surfaces is performed following each liturgy.

## Sunday is All Saints Day



All Saints' Day, also known as **All Hallows' Day**, or the Feast of All Saints, is celebrated in honor of all the saints, known and unknown. It is also the day *before* **All Souls' Day**. One of the Episcopal Church's *Principle Feasts*, All Saints' Day was founded by Pope Gregory III. The festival of All Saints was retained after the English Reformation in the calendar of the Anglican Church. It is celebrated on Nov. 1<sup>st</sup> as All Saints' Day, as we are doing this year, or on the Sunday between Oct. 30<sup>th</sup> and Nov. 5<sup>th</sup> as All Saints' Sunday. Traditionally, the familiar hymn "*For All the Saints*" by Walsham How is sung, as we will this year WITH TRUMPET AND ORGAN. The day before All Saints' Day or *All Hallows' Day*, **Halloween**, or *All Hallows' Eve*, is celebrated in connection with All Saints' Day. The Jack-o'-lantern, traditionally carried by "trick-or-treaters" was said to frighten evil spirits. A popular Irish Christian folktale holds that the jack-o'-lantern represents the spirits of the dead.





## “Loose Change Sunday” is this Sunday

Several weeks ago, when we were still worshipping on Rogers Field, it was suggested that we resume our periodic “*Loose Change Sundays*” in support of our Youth Ministry outreach projects. So.....if you remembered to start collecting your loose change back then, PLEASE BRING YOUR LOOSE CHANGE CUP to church on Sunday. Before the pandemic, our parish children took up a collection of LOOSE CHANGE periodically at the 10:00 am Sunday Holy Eucharist. Since many of our families are staying safe in their homes on Sundays, we didn’t want this activity to be forgotten. Thank you.

## Next Vestry Meeting is Monday, Nov. 9<sup>th</sup>

The next regular monthly meeting of Saint John’s Vestry is scheduled to meet ‘virtually’ by ZOOM at 7:00 pm, **Monday November 9<sup>th</sup>**. Unless otherwise announced each regular monthly meeting of the Wardens and Vestry is held on the **2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month**. Monthly Vestry meetings at St. John’s are open to *all parishioners* to attend as observers. During the Pandemic, we have omitted the customary celebration of Eucharist and offer an opening prayer instead. The Vestry meetings are conducted in the Parish Hall, while observing social distancing and wearing cloth face coverings/masks and using hand sanitizer.



## Modified Sunday Hospitality Begins This Week

Beginning this Sunday, All Saints’ Day, we are bringing back “**Sunday Hospitality Time**” following the 9:00 am Sunday Holy Eucharist. Instead of gathering in the Parish Hall, we’re going to set up a coffee and refreshment table at the rear of the church just inside the narthex\*. (\*front entry way). Please join us for a socially distance time of hospitality and take advantage of a brief time of visiting with your fellow parishioners.

## Monthly SSKP Food Collection Bins are Back!!

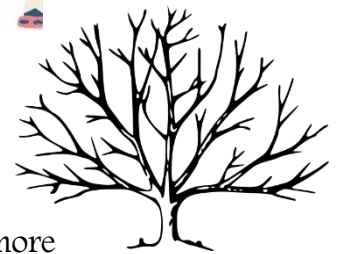
Before the Pandemic struck, back in March, St. John’s was collecting a “Food of the Month” for the Shoreline Soup and Kitchens Food Pantry. Well, beginning on Sunday, Nov. 1<sup>st</sup> and running through the month of November we’ll be asking you to donate **BREAD STUFFING** as this months item. Collection bins are located in the slype and in the narthex. **In addition St. John’s Vestry voted to donate \$2,000.00 to SSKP in support of their annual Thanksgiving and Christmas basket outreach.**



## Saint John’s Giving Tree



Christmas is just “around the corner” and **St. John’s Christmas Giving Tree** stands empty at the rear of the church. Again this year, we’re inviting parishioners and friends to decorate the St. John’s Giving Tree with knitted hats, scarfs, earmuffs, gloves, mittens and socks to be donated in the community to our neediest neighbors. With the effects of the Pandemic on employment income being felt by so many, there has never been a more critical need for us to respond to this need with generous gifts. Please do not wrap your contributed items. They may be attached to the bare branches with clothes pins (provided) or placed at the base of the tree.



# Women's Bible Study – Season of Advent

*Tuesdays from 9:30-11:30 am-Begins 11/29*

All women are welcome to join us for a program entitled “*Advent of the Heart- A Heart Encounter with the Scripture of Advent*”. While loosely following a framework called “*Lectio Devina*”, we’ll open our hearts to God’s presence and voice through the Scripture of Advent. A program journal will be needed and provided, so please sign up and register at the following link- <http://www.stjohnsniantic.org/book-studies/advent-of-the-heart>



## Christmas Eve at Saint John's-2020 - 5:00 pm

The Pandemic is affecting just about every aspect of our lives, both at home and at church. Christmas will be no exception. This year, St. John's will celebrate Christmas with **ONE Christmas Eve service-a Festival Holy Eucharist on Christmas Eve. at 5:00 pm. There will be NO service on Christmas Day. The logistics of having to thoroughly clean and disinfect all surfaces according to our Protocol Plans for Covid-19 between services has meant the elimination of the Christmas morning Eucharist.** Plans are being formulated to design a “**VIRTUAL CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT**” for the Fourth Sunday of Advent-final details will be coming soon 😊  
A “Live-Feed” of the Service will be available in the Parish Hall for the OVERFLOW.

## Niantic Light Parade in a Pandemic

*A strictly “Drive-by” Event-No Pedestrians in McCook Park*

This year marks the **32<sup>nd</sup> year of the Niantic Light Parade** and some major changes are in store due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The parade will not take place on Main Street, but will be held within the confines of McCook Point Park. Organization's floats will be on display in the upper part of McCook Park while viewers will be able to drive through the park to view the stationary floats. Parade viewers in cars will be allowed to drive through the entrance to the park starting at 5:00 pm on December 12<sup>th</sup>.

**NO PEDESTRIANS WILL BE ALLOWED IN THE PARK.**



Saint John's is **NOT PLANNING TO ENTER A FLOAT** in the 2020 Niantic Light Parade, which promises to be the “Mother of All Traffic Jams, but there is a rumor that Saint Nicholas may make an appearance at McCook Point Park.

## A SAFE Return to Indoor Worship-Addressing Family Concerns



St. John's Vestry- approved COVID-19 Protocols for re-opening are being followed after each worship service. Every family with or without children should know that St. John's is committed to providing a safe, clean and disinfected environment in which to gather and worship. **Face masks are REQUIRED** of all who attend services and social distancing is to be observed. Presently attendance at both the 5 pm Sat. Eucharist and the 9 am Sun. Eucharist has been about 1/4<sup>th</sup> of our Covid-19 attendance limit of 126. We look forward to seeing you soon.



# Gathering Submissions for “St. John’s Episcopal Church’s Pandemic-2020 Journal”

Every St. John’s Parishioner is invited to submit a written contribution to what we’re calling: “Saint John’s Pandemic 2020 Journal”. How does this work? How can you participate? Here’s how.

The plan is to collate individual written responses (photos optional) from Parishioners to three questions about the Pandemic and to preserve a permanent record for St. John’s Church Archives of these historically challenging times in the life of the Parish.

1. What have you **found to be the most difficult** aspects of the Pandemic on your life, and how have you coped with it?
2. What have **you missed most about** the way you lived your life pre-Pandemic and what have you learned from that?
3. What is it **that you most look forward to** once the Pandemic finally runs its course and a vaccine is made available?

We encourage as many folks as possible to give some thought to these questions as a guide to framing your response. Certainly, responses may be expanded beyond the confines of these three questions. Submissions may be made anonymously or with attribution. The goal is to preserve a ‘snapshot’ of the unprecedented times and challenges that each of us has faced during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

We ask that Journal submissions be made at the end of January 2021. Please contact Fr. Tony if you have any questions regarding this project.

