

ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST

ANGLICAN



CHURCH

SEPTEMBER 10, 2020 WEEKLY UPDATE

We're back! In-person Worship has Resumed!

Remember – Please call the parish office to “register” your attendance.

We want to be ready for you! We are limited to 50 people total in the building for worship, so call ahead and let us know which service you are going to attend (8am or 10:30am) and how many in your social “bubble” will be coming.

Screening

In the pastoral mailing, there was a self-assessment screening tool for you to review before coming to church. We’re relying on you to self-screen before you come to church, and make sure you’re “good to go.”

Masks

Please don’t forget to bring you mask, and put it on before entering the building, making sure it covers your mouth and nose. If you forget yours, there will be one here for you. For some, wearing a mask for an hour simply isn’t possible, and we are sorry about that being a barrier.

Coming & Going

Please *enter* from the *parish hall* front door. One of the friendly greeters will be there and will “check” you in and direct you through the link. A second greeter will be at the Canterbury Room station to check in those entering via the ramp. If you’ve checked in already on arrival, you don’t need to check in again at this second station. A friendly usher will escort you to your pew. When you *leave*, make your way out via the side aisles to either the north or south door of the church onto George St.

If the stairs are an issue and you need to access the ramp from the parking lot, *let the office know when you call* so we know to expect you there.

While it is important to maintain physical distancing, people in a social bubble do not need to be 6-ft apart from one another. You can move together.

It is hard to resist connecting with folks for a visit, but keeping the line moving and avoiding roadblocks is important, so please try to refrain from blocking aisles or standing in front of passageways which makes it hard for others to distance.

On-line is still an option

We are still going to be offering on-line worship so that you can stay connected. We had a few glitches on September 6, but hopefully things will run a bit more smoothly with the upload this week.

Pastoral Offices: Weddings, Funerals, Baptisms

We can start holding funerals in the church again, in accordance with our worship guidelines (maximum 50 in the building, no congregational singing, masks, etc.). Same goes for weddings and baptisms.

We are trying to figure out the best way of accommodating those seeking baptism or bringing their children for baptism. They are to be celebrated when the community gathers at a service, as it is the right of initiation or welcoming into the Christian family. The congregation has a very important role when the Church welcomes a new member into the Body of Christ in baptism. It is the beginning of a life-long journey together. Canon Catherine is thinking and praying about how we can best celebrate together with the directives currently in place.

Office Hours

The office is "open" 9am – 12noon but by appointment only – no drop-ins. Please call ahead. To keep staff and parishioners safe, we are limiting foot traffic in the building. Access will be via the parish hall entrance at George St. Contact information will be required for everyone entering for tracing purposes in the event of an outbreak. Please remember your mask!

Sunday School

Sunday School Live happens on the St. John's Sunday School Facebook page at 11:30am starting this Sunday (St. John's Anglican Sunday School). For more information, contact Emily at emduberville@hotmail.com

Events

Pint & a Passage resumes Mon September 14 at 7pm

We won't gather at the pub but we can spend time with the Word in our own homes on Mondays at 7pm. Pour yourself a pint, or a cup of tea and dig into the Gospel for the upcoming Sunday with friends "virtually". To register, contact catherine-ascah@ottawa.anglican.ca. You will receive co-ordinates for the on-line meeting.

Walking Pilgrimage Sat October 3 10am – 1pm

Canon Catherine will be leading a pilgrimage walk at Millpond Conservation area combining silence, reflection, companionship and lunch. If you can walk 4-5 kilometres and climb up 20 steps with relative ease, then please consider joining in. The walk will happen rain or shine. Physical distancing protocols will be observed.

Location: Millpond Conservation Area Briton-Houghton Bay Rd. (Take Hwy 15 south from Smiths Falls to Briton-Houghton Rd. between Lombardy & Portland; Turn right and follow past Old Kingston Rd. Millpond CA on the right) We will gather at the parking lot at Briton-Houghton Bay Rd. Hike will start at 10am.

- Wear:** Clothing suitable to the weather & very sturdy footwear for walking on developed but uneven and potentially slippery trails, which include exposed tree roots, stones and up and down climbs. Masks are optional.
- Bring:** Hand sanitizer, water and your own lunch in a pack that is easy for you to carry and leaves your hands free. Because of the pandemic, we cannot share food and snacks at this time.

Church Calendars

The Canadian Church Calendars have arrived and are available for purchase through the parish office. The cost is \$5. Pick up is not possible on Sunday mornings. If you cannot pick up your calendar in the office during office hours, then please let Louise know and we will arrange to get yours delivered to you.

Offerings

Thank you for your generous financial support. Offering envelopes can be mailed to the parish office or dropped off in the mailbox. Perhaps consider signing up for PAR (pre-authorized remittance) if that would work for you. Information was about PAR was included in the Easter mailing or you can contact the Envelope Secretary for an information package: SJSFenvelopesecretary@gmail.com

Communications

Interested in receiving updates right to your inbox? An electronic bulletin will be sent out every other Thursday to those who have subscribed. Subscribe by e-mailing the parish office: stjohns_smithsfalls@bellnet.ca The next edition of the e-bulletin will be September 17.