

# St. John's of Lattintown

A window into the life of our parish...



## ANNUAL REPORT

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*May 2, 2021*

# RECTOR'S LETTER



My dear friends,

I am happy to report St. John's of Lattingtown continues to weather this awful pandemic with a good steady hand and a lot of healing prayers. With God's help, we have remained fully open and staffed for daily business and worship throughout most of this year. We have also continued our regular Sunday morning worship services both on-line and in-person. As your rector, I am grateful to so many people who have worked long and hard to accomplish this important ministry for our community.

Speaking of which, I am especially grateful to my wife **Cheri Smith** and our two daughters, **Emma and Ella**. Like most of your families, they have also been challenged this year with their jobs and college schedules.

It continues to be a privilege for me to serve along-side such a tremendously talented staff, and especially our wonderful curate, **Mother Catherine Wieczorek** and her family. We have the best finance team in the Episcopal Church with Business Administrator **Mary Syracuse** and Treasurer **George Edwards-Stimola**. It is very true - God's money is in good hands here at St. John's of Lattingtown. Our volunteer Sexton **Frank Powers**, teams up daily with **Courtney Callahan**, Director of Outreach and Children's Ministry, **Chris Brayne**, Director of Music Ministry and the indispensable and ever-cheerful **Mary Savin**, our Parish Administrator.

**Jay Aston and Stephanie Clark** have served as vestry wardens this year and I am personally grateful for their wisdom and guidance - we have been a good team throughout all of this. For St. John's to thrive and move confidently past this Pandemic and into the future, we must continue to have a clear vision of ministry. Fortunately, we have an extremely gifted leadership team who are mapping out an impressive list of programs and worship offerings for the remainder of this year and into 2022.

You may remember the old metaphor, God's business is always about: "the hatching, of the heart." **Frederic Buechner**, a Presbyterian writer, says: "if the Spirit of God is a work and a force in life, a force for growth and openness in human beings, then that same Spirit works on the heart." The heart of Religion, at least the kind of which Jesus wants us to practice here at St. John's, should be a hatching force. A force which produces healthy disciples who witness to everyone with a loving and peace-filled heart.

It is clear to me the hatching of the human heart has begun in our church through the peaceful power of Jesus' Resurrection. And so, if you want to see St. John's of Lattingtown, your spiritual home, continue to hatch and grow and be here for those who are to come after us, then you and I have an important mission ahead of us.

If you wish to see music, children/youth, and outreach, become more and more a part of our ministry success in this community, then now is the time "to be the change you want to see." None of us are here to be curators of a beautiful museum; rather we are called by God to be active and engaged disciples of Jesus Christ.

As Rector, I need your help to be this change. But, most importantly, God needs you, because, together we are the Body of Christ!



Easter Blessings, **The Rev'd Mark L. Fitzhugh**

# CURATE'S LETTER

Dear St. John's of Lattingtown,

Grace and peace to you all in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ. As we come together for our 2021 Annual Meeting, I would like to express my gratitude and delight in serving as Curate here at Saint John's! While no one anticipates beginning a new call to the priesthood amidst a global pandemic, you have all helped to make this a season of joy, wonder, and appreciation for all of God's mercies.

One of the gifts of St. John's is our amazing staff, and especially our Rector, Father Mark, who has nurtured an environment of creativity and mutual sharing. As a result, our social media presence has blossomed on Instagram and Facebook. We completed a significant assessment of our formation and educational programming, particularly as it applies to children and families that will help us to provide the best worship and formation experiences for our entire St. John's Community in the very near future!

In addition, this year, we offered a robust calendar of Lenten and Holy Week offerings, which included a weekly on-line worship and formation experience that focused on Ignatian Prayer practices. And all of that led us to a spirit-filled day of in-person worship on Easter Sunday as we celebrated the resurrection of Jesus Christ, but also a type of resurrection of St John's as we gathered after a long year of absence!

Following the success of our Ignatian Prayer Series this Lent, we now invite parishioners of all ages to join us for our new "Faith and Families" Spiritual Formation Series on the first Wednesday of the month throughout Summer, 2021. The purpose of this program is to help our St. John's members reintegrate as a part of a community of faith, learn about foundations of our life as Episcopalians, and join together for some much-needed fellowship and fun.

We also anticipate the re-launch of St. John's for Kids Children's Chapel in the Fall! Many of our families, particularly those with young children have expressed their interest in returning to in-person worship, and we look forward to making that service available once again! We are also working to re-imagine how we will provide children and youth formation in an engaging and meaningful way for little ones, middles, teenagers and young adults. Much more to come in the Summer and Fall, so please stay tuned!

Finally, the ongoing pandemic has revealed many of the ways we struggle with the idea and practice of "wellness" in our communities. The term itself can be ambiguous, but in our St. John's context, wellness means a condition of physical, spiritual, psycho-social, vocational, and financial wholeness. Therefore, St. John's of Lattingtown has committed to launching a Wellness ministry that encompasses all five of these components, with offerings for individuals and families by developing partnerships with members of our community. We look forward to providing more information about this exciting ministry in the coming months!

I hope you can see what an exciting time it is for us here at St. John's of Lattingtown! There are so many ways to get involved and our amazing staff is ready to help you get connected! May we all give thanks to God for the many blessings of this wonderful faith community, and may we continue to go forth, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Peace and blessings, **Mother Catherine+**



## 2020 - 2021 MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS – St. John’s of Lattingtown



**The Rev'd Catherine Wiczorek**— On October 1, 2021, we welcomed our new Curate, Mo Catherine! She and her family, husband Scott, daughters Charlotte and Ellie, and dogs Angel and Otis are a wonderful addition to our St. John's Family. We were privileged to host her ordination on September 26, 2020. She has quickly become involved in all aspects of our church, with a focus on Adult Formation, Outreach, our Children's Ministry and the development and implementation of our new Wellness Ministry.

**The Music Program**— Our talented Choral Scholar program, (for high school and college students) continued this year, first via Zoom, and now in person. We look forward to resuming the Junior Choral Scholar Program (ages 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and up) with the children and youth at Glen Gardens in the very near future.

**Little Learner's Playgroup** – As we adjust to the ever changing needs and environment, Little Learner's playgroup continues to grow and thrive. They will offer a summer program during the months of June and July, and look forward to full capacity this September.

**Outreach Ministries**- Courtney Callahan, founding member of NOSH, a community organization of many volunteers formed during the pandemic to serve the food insecure on the North Shore of LI, has helped oversee this organization feed more than 600 families! In addition, a youth internship program called NOSHKids, as well as other initiatives, will continue this summer.

**St John's 68<sup>th</sup> Country Fair** Our annual event continues to support community awareness and raise funds for many parish and local programs. In 2021, we will be back! There will be new and exciting changes to engage all ages - mark you calendars for the weekend of September 24<sup>th</sup>–26<sup>th</sup>, 2021! More news and details coming soon.

**Spiritual Enrichment** -We are thrilled that our Sunday services are back in person (with protocols). We offered a powerful Lenten Wednesdays Ignatian Prayer series via zoom, and a complete Holy Week in person and online schedule, followed by three Easter services and our annual Easter egg hunt. By popular demand, beginning May 30<sup>th</sup>, we will relocate our 10:30 am Holy Eucharist Rite II service to our beautiful Memorial Garden at 9:30 am for the summer. We also livestream on Sunday morning at 10:30 am, for any who prefer to watch us from home. In addition, our weekday services include Monday Morning Prayer at 8:30 am in the church and on Instagram, Wednesday Healing Service at 12 noon in the church and Weekly Devotions on Instagram and Face Book. Individual Spiritual Direction with

Mother Catherine began in March and on May 5th at 6:00 pm via Zoom, we will implement a new “*Faith and Family*” on the first Wednesday of each month, both part of our new Wellness Ministry.

**Sunday School** – we transitioned our traditional Sunday School to an online *Insta Chapel* for families via Instagram during the pandemic. We were able to return to our traditional in person Sunday School in July. Our beloved Christingle Christmas Pageant became a movie this year! Our families and friends completely embraced this new format- and our movie debuted just before Christmas! This Easter, we shared our annual



Easter Egg Hunt in the Memorial Garden with many families! Our 2020 confirmation class of 12 candidates were confirmed here at St. John’s on April 28, 2021. We will introduce our Sunday School summer schedule with an new curriculum soon.

**Church**- beautiful upgrades to the altar lighting offer a magnificent view of our gorgeous wood carvings. Our red altar frontal was hand repaired by Suzi Chase. More improvements are planned for this year!.

**Memorial Garden**- the landscaping and plantings continue to display the serenity of our place of rest and reflection. This year longtime member Suzanne Dillenbeck, donated a beautiful marble bench, loving known as “the blessing bench” to welcome all at the entrance of the allee.

**The Barn**- has flourished and a become a tremendous asset to our church and surrounding community. We will have our season’s Grand Opening on May 23, at 10:00 am! Kate Scefonas (General Manager) along with volunteers Cynthia Murray, Amanda Essex, Bumble Ingham, Jo Ann Browne and many others have renovated the area to include more space and upgrades. The Barn continues to offer more quality, donated, gently used items at a steep discount.

**Technology**- New state of art Livestream capabilities have helped us to bring our message literally around the world! Sunday services, weddings, funerals, and other church events can be viewed live and are taped for future viewing. We have a developed a tremendous following on both our Face Book and Instagram accounts!

**Flags**—our new American and Episcopal Flags were raised by Rich Hagner, just in time for the Easter services. We thank Rich for heading this important ministry.

**Cloister**— to honor the memory of our beloved Lel Gimbel, the cloister will be enhanced with many new flowers and plants to offer a special place of solitude and beauty. All of the work and proceeds are donated by members of the Altar Guild and many of Lel’s friends.

# OUR OUTREACH

SAVE THE DATES!

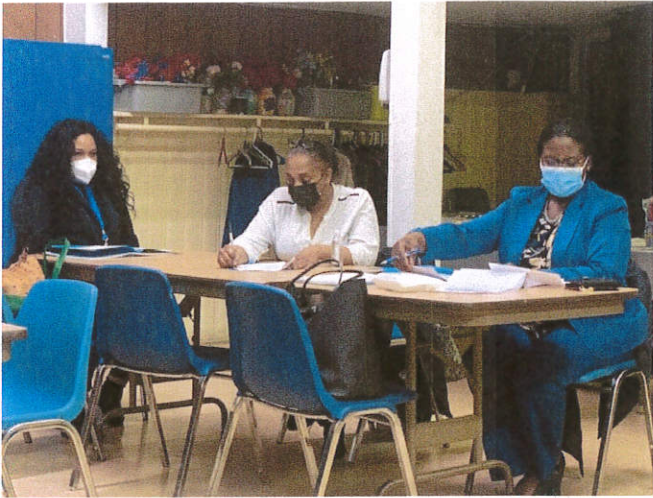
## THE ST. JOHN'S 68<sup>th</sup> COUNTRY FAIR

Friday, September 24<sup>th</sup> - 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm ~ Opening Night Party

Saturday, September 25<sup>th</sup> - 10:00 am to 4:00 pm - The 68<sup>th</sup> St. John's Country Fair  
(Full activity day)

Sunday, September 26<sup>th</sup> - 10:00 am to 2:00 pm ~ St. John's Parish Appreciation Day  
(Mass on the Grass, Barn open, limited food)





We continue our special relationship with our friends at Glen Gardens. This year, we hosted an Old Fashioned Christmas Party with Santa (aka Chris Brayne). Many new programs are coming soon—including an online Homework Helper tutoring program along with the return of our Jr. Choral Scholar Program, ice cream socials and backpack giveaways. - Courtney Callahan, *Director of Outreach*



We are very grateful to all of our NOSH volunteers who tirelessly help support the food insecure on the North Shore of Long Island. We will host a summer intern program called NOSH Kids—Summer of Service— for ages 5th– 12th grades and continue to serve our neighbors and friends! - Courtney Callahan, *Director of Outreach*

# WARDEN'S REPORT

There is little question that 2021 will be marked as a seminal year in the one-hundred- and six-year history of St. Johns of Lattingtown, a year that tested the character of our congregation and the strength of our resolve. Despite the challenges presented by the global pandemic, we persevered, passionately pursuing each of our ministries and serving our community. As we now emerge and the days grow brighter, we are confident we do so with an even firmer foundation – we are excited about the days ahead!

With great leadership, over this past year, we lived our values and delivered on our missions. Our shepherds, Father Mark and Mother Catherine adapted and evolved our entire host of service offerings, implementing technology to allow our congregation to remain connected irrespective of the ever-changing health conditions and protocols. Miss Courtney reframed and extended the spiritual support of our children and inspired our congregation to engage deeply with those in need throughout our community, in particular addressing food insecurity through NOSH. Likewise, Chris Brayne's Choral Scholars program continues to mentor the beautiful voices of young women and men that bless our ears each Sunday, at Evensongs, and other special offerings. We are so fortunate to have each of them in our lives, it is their vision and dedication that blesses our congregation every day.

A silver lining of this dark period has been the consequent reflection on each of our missions and the ways in which they are achieved. Our clergy have spent much time evaluating our programming to be certain it is meeting the expectations of our congregation and community, across all generations. We are pleased and encouraged by the new offerings and opportunities to engage with our spirituality and one another that have been introduced over this past year and very well received. We have elevated our programming and emerge stronger. For example, learning through the challenges, we discovered how popular 10:30am services in our Memorial Garden could be and will be bringing them back this Spring. After months of outstanding online services, we saw two "sold out" in-person Holy Eucharist Easter services and the return of our Easter egg hunt filled with happy (and masked) children scampering about searching for chocolate eggs. Our Social Media messaging has found its voice and is spiritually purposeful to a great end - increasing daily with followers from within our congregation and beyond. Our calendar is filling-up with baptisms, weddings and a full confirmation class to be confirmed next month. Indeed, throughout Summer and into Fall we are excited by the additional programs slated for introduction, providing outlets and spiritual nourishment, and meeting our families where they are. It is our belief, this is a strong foundation for a healthy congregation and look forward to its continued enrichment.

Without the ongoing support of our faithful and generous parishioners, none of this would be possible – particularly as health concerns forced the cancelation of our Annual Gala and Fall Fair. We are hopeful both will return this Fall. We are blessed with incredible Vestry, Ministry leaders and staff. Special thanks to Frank Powers, Sexton, George Stimola, Treasurer, Nancy Sanborn, Clerk, Mary Savin, Parish Administrator, Mary Syracuse, Financial Administrator, and Kate Scefonas, General Manager of the Barn (which gets more amazing every day) – it is your tireless commitment and devotion that keeps all our candles bright.



An additional heartfelt thank you to our outgoing Vestry members: Sarah Blundin and Wayne Chambless and retiring Warden, Jay Aston. It is the tireless service and dedication of this committed group of parishioners that is the lifeblood of St. John's Church.

Stephanie Clark & Jay, Aston, *Wardens*



# OUR MUSIC



**The Music Ministry** – we have had a challenging year with pandemic restrictions and virtually no opportunity for recruitment. However the Choral Scholars have been outstanding and very patient this year as we have negotiated to make them safe and while continuing the opportunity for them to meet and rehearse in person. We have been able to include Choral Evensongs in the schedule as well as regular worship at the 10:30 am Sunday Eucharists.

Investing in equipment to livestream our services has enabled us to reach our parishioners and the wider

faith community during lockdown and will continue post lockdown.

Our online presence via our website, FB, Instagram and Twitter has resulted in a huge increase in our connections with people far and wide.

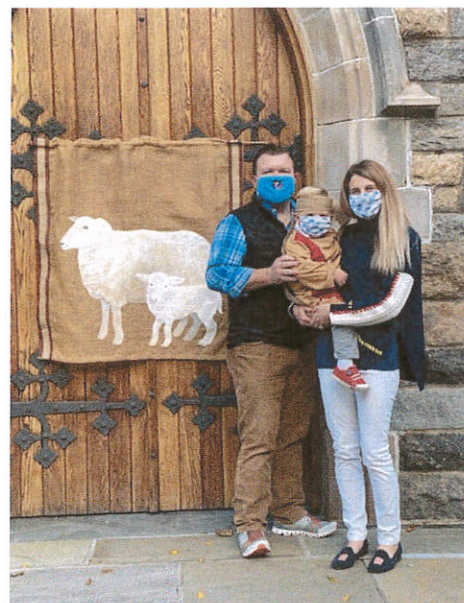
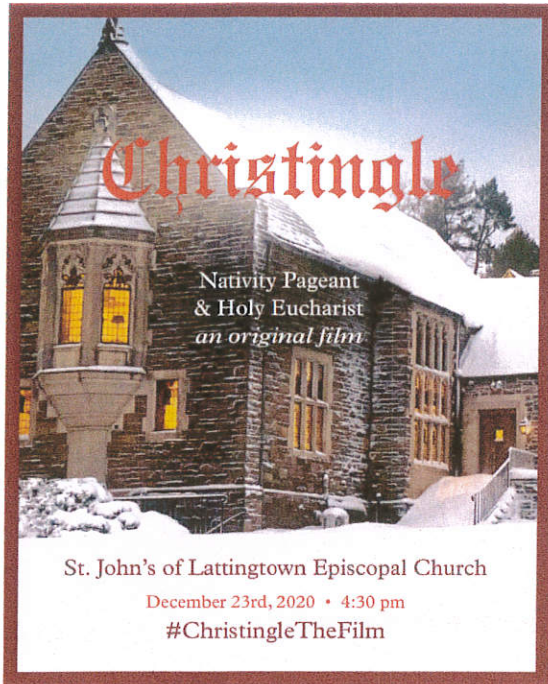
Thank you to our wonderful Choral Scholars for their energy and commitment and all my colleagues on staff for their unwavering support of our mission to touch people’s hearts through our musical offerings. - Chris Brayne, *Director of Music Ministry*



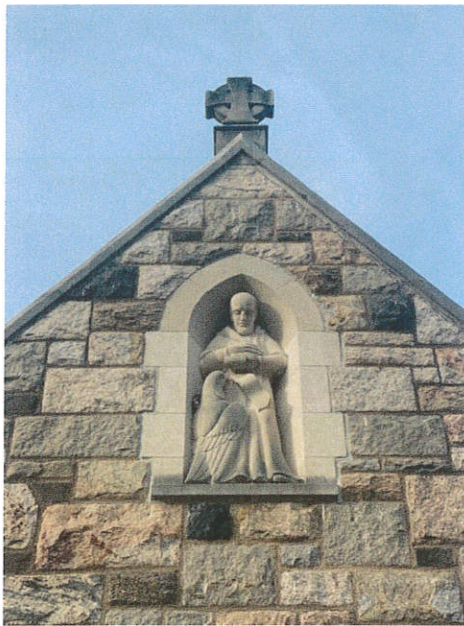
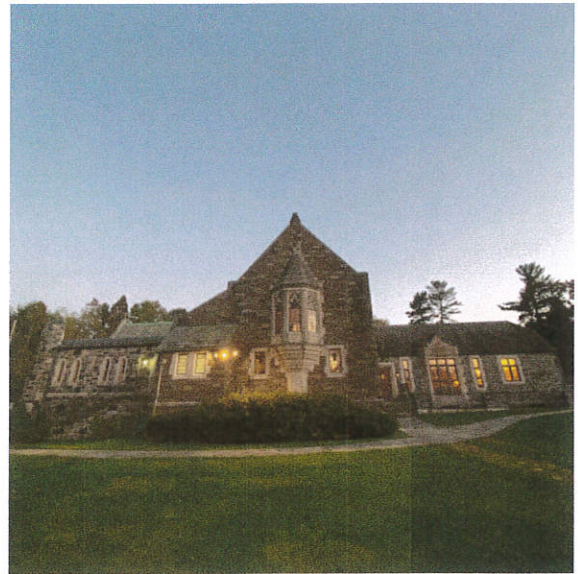
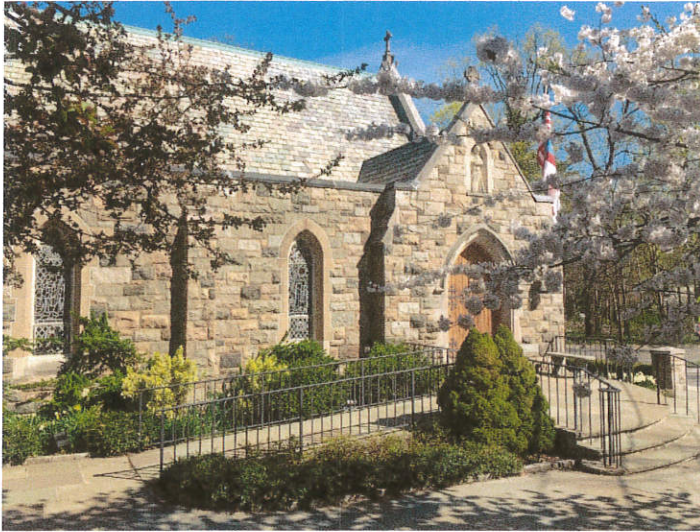
# OUR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES



When in-person services were shuttered, we began Insta-Chapel online for our children. In July we returned to our traditional Sunday School, with protocols in place. We knew that our popular Christingle would be a challenge- so we made it a movie! Look for our summer offerings coming soon!  
-Miss Courtney



# BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS



The Committee's focus during COVID was on safety, together with routine maintenance and asset preservation. Improvements were made to the Gate House to make the Wieczorek Family comfortable. The floors in the Guild Hall were refinished. Landscaping in and around the Memorial Garden remains a priority. The highlight of the year was the installation of the Dillenback Bench at the western end of the allée leading to the Memorial Garden. The Italian, marble, Renaissance style bench dates from the late Nineteenth Century and has been featured in many of our social media posts. Preserving the beauty and history of our building and grounds remains the Committee's top priority.



-Harold Bollaci, *Chairman Buildings & Grounds Committee*

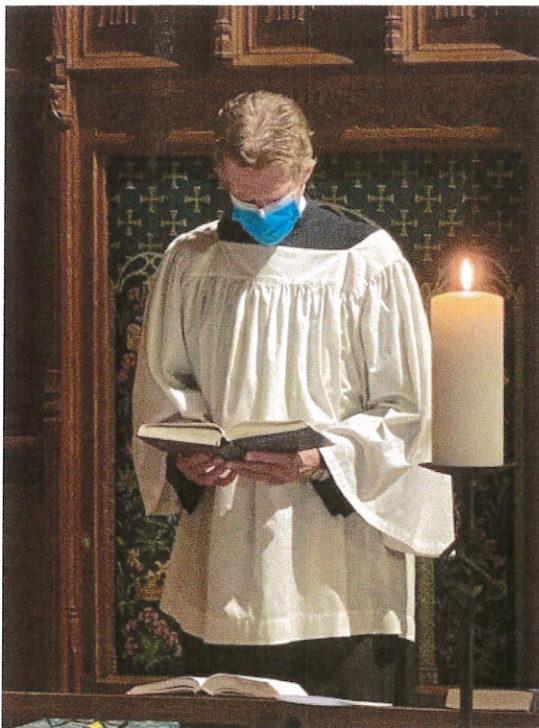
# OUR MINISTRIES



Lectors



Ushers and Greeters



Acolytes



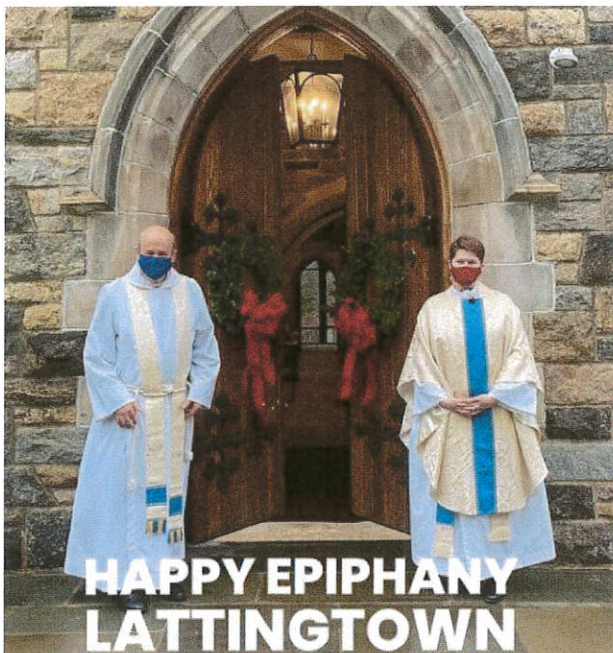
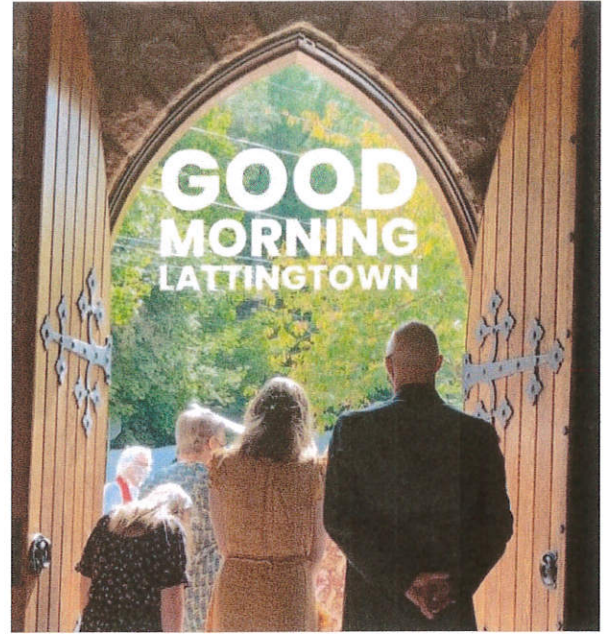
Faith Matters Adult Formation

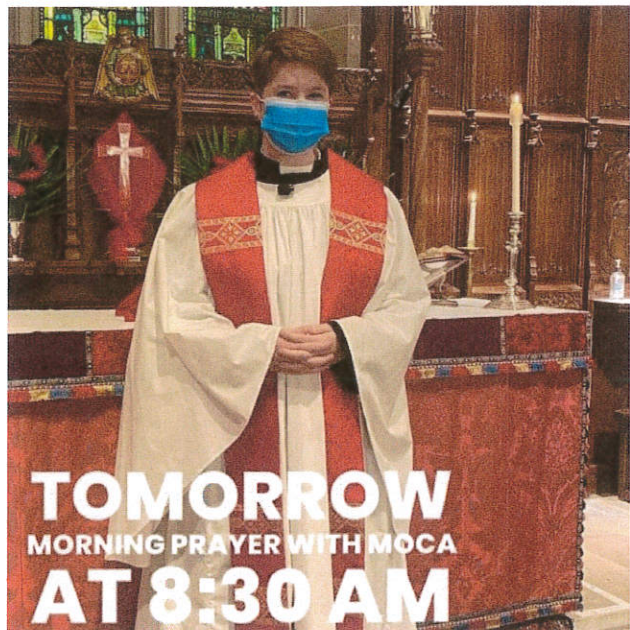
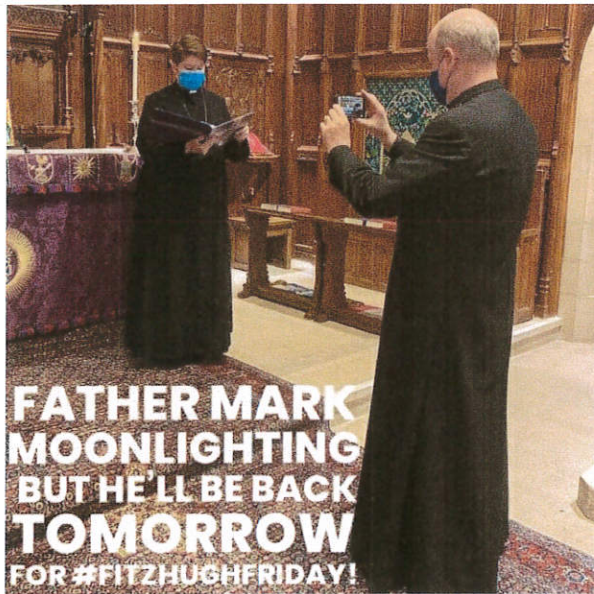
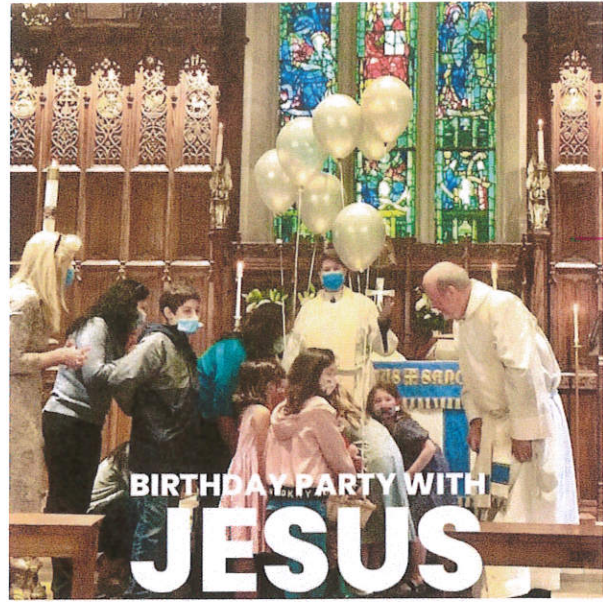


Altar Guild

Our tremendous ministries continued to serve us during some very challenging times! We thank them for their work and look forward to seeing all back here soon!

DO YOU FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM AND FACEBOOK?





**Membership, Attendance and Services of the Reporting Congregation**

**Using Last Year's Report:**

Using the 2019 Parochial Report, record the Number of Baptized Members Reported as of December 31, 2019. (See your 2019 Parochial Report, Box M19)

Active Baptized Members of the Reporting Congregation Reported Last Year

Members Reported Last Year = M19.

**Using the Register of Church Membership and Rites:**

During the Report Year  
Increases in Membership

1. **Increases during year:** All members added to the baptized members section of your congregation's Membership Register during 2020 by: baptism, confirmation/reception, or transfer; and those persons restored from inactive status, or not counted in last year's membership count. Total Increases = 1.

Decreases in Membership

2. **Decreases during year:** All baptized members lost by death, transferred to another congregation, removed to inactive status in the Register of Church Membership and Rites, removed for other reasons, or not removed from last year's membership count. Total Decreases = 2.

Active Baptized Members of the Reporting Congregation At Year-End

M20: Add the increases entered in Box 1 to Box M19. Then subtract the decreases entered in Box 2 for the total active membership as of December 31, 2020  
Total Active Baptized Members (end of report year) = M20.

Communicants in Good Standing of the Reporting Congregation  
Adults

**Communicants in good standing:** All baptized members of the reporting congregation, who "have received Holy Communion at least three times during the preceding year" and are faithful "in corporate worship, unless for good cause prevented," and "in working, praying, and giving for the spread of the Kingdom of God."

3. Adult communicants in good standing (age 16 and over) =

Youth

4. Youth communicants in good standing (under age 16) =

5. Total communicants in good standing (3 + 4) =

Others Active

6. **Others who are active** whose baptisms are not recorded in the Parish Register, or in another Episcopal congregation. Others = 6.

**Using the Service Register:**

Average Sunday Attendance for 2020

7. **Sunday (& Saturday Evening) Attendance:** Divide total attendance by the total number of Sundays when services were held. For 2020, calculate Average Sunday Attendance for January 1 through

Easter Attendance in 2020

8. Average Principal Worship Service Attendance on a Weekday (in congregations without Sunday or Saturday evening services) = 8.

Sacraments & Services:

9. Easter Sunday Attendance (9) n/a

Number of Holy Eucharists Celebrated During 2020

	In-person	Online
10. Total Sunday & Saturday Evening Eucharists	(10) <input type="text" value="31"/>	<input type="text" value="29"/>
11. Total Weekday Eucharists	(11) <input type="text" value="20"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>
12. Total Private Eucharists	(12) <input type="text" value="4"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>
13. Daily Offices Held on Sunday	(13) <input type="text" value="3"/>	<input type="text" value="44"/>
14. Daily Offices Held on Weekdays	(14) <input type="text" value="39"/>	<input type="text" value="51"/>
15. Marriages conducted in 2020	(15) <input type="text" value="3"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>
16. Burials conducted in 2020	(16) <input type="text" value="8"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>

**Using the Register of Church Membership and Rites:**

Baptisms in 2020

17. Baptisms 16 years and older (17)

18. Baptisms under 16 years of age (18)

Confirmations in 2020

19. Confirmations 16 years and older (19)

20. Confirmations under 16 years of age (20)

Received in 2020

21. Received by a bishop (21)

**Education:**

Children and Youth

22. Total Church School Students Enrolled (22)

Adult Education

23. Regular Sunday or weekday adult education programs held? Yes  No

24a. Number of adults engaged in religious education or spiritual formation

24b. Number of children and youth engaged in religious education or spiritual formation



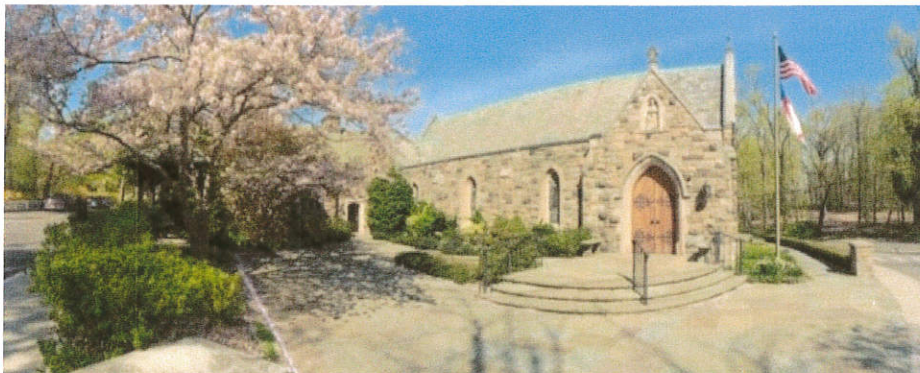
# IMPORTANT DATES

May – December, 2021

May 2	Annual Meeting – 10:30 a.m.
May 5	<i>Faith and Family Series</i> (Adult Formation) begins – 6:00 p.m. – Zoom
May 23	Pentecost Sunday
May 23	The Barn Grand Re-opening – 10:00 am
May 30	Outdoor Summer Services begin – 9:30 am – Memorial Garden
June 6	Vestry Meeting/Retreat -11:45 am–t/b/d
June 13	Choral Evensong – 4:00 pm – church
July 18	Vestry Meeting -11:45 am -Zoom
August 15	Vestry Meeting -11:45 am -Zoom
September 5	<i>St John's for Kids Service resumes</i> – 9:00 am
September 19	Vestry Meeting -11:45 am -Zoom
September 25 – 27	St John's 68th Country Fair
October 3	Stewardship Sunday
October 3	Blessing of the Animals, Fair Lawn – 4:00 p.m.
October 18	Vestry Meeting, 11:30 a.m. – Zoom
November 7	All Saints Sunday, Daylight Saving ends
November 14	Diocesan Convention, 9:00 a.m., Online
November 15	Vestry Meeting, 11:45 a.m.
November 28	First Sunday of Advent
December 24	Family Christmas Service, 4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Services, 6:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m.
December 25	Christmas Service, 10:30 a.m.

# MINISTRY CONTACTS

MINISTRY:	CONTACT:
Acolytes, Eucharistic Ministers & Lectors.....	Mary Savin
Altar Guild .....	Hannah Burns
Building and Grounds.....	Harold Bollaci
Eucharistic Visitors.....	Nancy Roenfeldt
St. John’s Country Fair.....	Cynthia Murray
Finance.....	George Stimola, Mary Syracuse
Flagpole.....	Rich Hagner
HR Committee.....	Evan Bollaci
Investment Committee.....	Michael Powers
Memorial Garden.....	Nicole Stiegelbauer, Mary Syracuse
Music.....	Christopher Brayne
New Member Committee.....	Alexis McAndrew
Nurture Group.....	Vicki Fox
Outreach.....	Courtney Callahan
Parish Library.....	Judy Gallagher
Sunday School.....	Courtney Callahan
Stewardship.....	Tom Gimbel, Jackie Powers, Kearney Staniford
Ushers & Greeters.....	Peter Marshall
Vestry.....	Stephanie Clark
Wardens.....	Jay Aston, Stephanie Clark



# MISSION STATEMENT

As the Episcopal Parish of St. John's of Lattingtown, we are called to the Body of Christ in our time and place by sharing with others the Gospel of Christ and by giving expression to God's love in the world through our giving and caring. Therefore, we seek:

- \* To offer our lives to God's service through regular worship,*
- \* To deepen our relationship with God and nurture our fellowship through openness to God's word as revealed in studying Holy Scripture,*
- \* To reach out to the needs of all people, and*
- \* To be faithful stewards of all we have received.*

We believe that the beautiful church in which we worship is symbolic of the advantages we have inherited which must be used to further the work of Christ throughout the world.



# ST. JOHN'S OF LATTINGTOWN EPISCOPAL CHURCH

325 Lattingtown Road Locust Valley, New York 11560 \* 516.671.3226

Office email: [marysavin@stjlat.org](mailto:marysavin@stjlat.org) | Rector email: [frmark@stjlat.org](mailto:frmark@stjlat.org)

Website: [www.stjlat.org](http://www.stjlat.org)

The Rev'd Mark L. Fitzhugh, *Rector*

The Rev'd Catherine L. Wiczorek, *Curate* (October, 2020)

Christopher Brayne, *Director of Music Ministry*

Courtney Callahan, *Director of Outreach & Children's Ministry*

Frank Powers, *Sexton*

Mary Savin, *Parish Administrator*

Kate Scefonas, *General Manager @The Barn*

Mary Syracuse, *Finance Administrator*

## YOUR ST. JOHN'S VESTRY

Jay Aston *Warden,*

Stephanie Clark, *Warden*

Nancy Sanborn *Clerk,*

George Stimola *Treasurer;*

Harold Bollaci

Sarah Blundin

Wayne Chambless

Robert Copp

Henry Davison

Carolyne Dilgard-Clark

Chad Doerge

Tom Gimbel

Ian Gumprecht

John Sheldon

Kearney Staniford