



The 23rd Sunday After Pentecost; Proper 23

October 10 and 11, 2026

The Prelude *Choral Chaconne on Mit Freuden Zart*

setting by James Biery

The Processional Hymn Sing *praise to God who reigns above*

The Hymnal 1982, 408

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

The Book of Common Prayer, page 355

People **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

Celebrant: Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Gloria said at 5pm; sung at 9:30

The Hymnal 1982, S 278

Glory to God in the highest,

and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King,

almighty God and Father,

we worship you, we give you thanks,

we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,

Lord God, Lamb of God,

you take away the sin of the world:

have mercy on us;

you are seated at the right hand of the Father:

receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One,

you alone are the Lord,

you alone are the Most High,

Jesus Christ,

with the Holy Spirit,

in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray

The Collect of the Day

Lord, we pray that your grace may always precede and follow us, that we may continually be given to good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The First Lesson

Exodus 32:1-14

In our story from the Hebrew Bible the people worship an idol, but Moses' prayer saves them from the Lord's punishment. In one way or another this pattern is repeated throughout Israel's history. The people have just made a solemn covenant with God, but quickly they lose faith and want to put their trust in some more tangible and useful religion. In this case the object of their worship is a bull-calf, a divinity among the Canaanites and a symbol of strength and virility. Moses intercedes against God's wrath and reminds the Lord of past help and commitment to the people.

When the people saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mountain, the people gathered around Aaron, and said to him, "Come, make gods for us, who shall go before us; as for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him." Aaron said to them, "Take off the gold rings that are on the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters, and bring them to me." So all the people took off the gold rings from their ears, and brought them to Aaron. He took the gold from them, formed it in a mold, and cast an image of a calf; and they said, "These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!" When Aaron saw this, he built an altar before it; and Aaron made proclamation and said, "Tomorrow shall be a festival to the Lord." They rose early the next day, and offered burnt offerings and brought sacrifices of well-being; and the people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to revel.

The Lord said to Moses, "Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf, and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it, and said, 'These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!'" The Lord said to Moses, "I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. Now let me alone, so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them; and of you I will make a great nation."

But Moses implored the Lord his God, and said, "O Lord, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? Why should the Egyptians say, 'It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth'? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people. Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, 'I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.'" And the Lord changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Response, Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23

Confitemini Domino, Et fecerunt vitulum

This Psalm is an affirmation of God's righteousness and favor toward those who love the Lord, and a confession of sins present and sins past. We will read the Psalm responsively, breaking at the half-verse.

1 Hallelujah!

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, *
for his mercy endures for ever.

2 Who can declare the mighty acts of the LORD *
or show forth all his praise?

3 Happy are those who act with justice *
and always do what is right!

4 Remember me, O LORD, with the favor you have for your people, *
and visit me with your saving help;

5 That I may see the prosperity of your elect and be glad with the gladness of your people, *
that I may glory with your inheritance.

6 We have sinned as our forebears did; *
we have done wrong and dealt wickedly.

19 Israel made a bull-calf at Horeb *
and worshiped a molten image;

20 And so they exchanged their Glory *
for the image of an ox that feeds on grass.

- 21 They forgot God their Savior, *
who had done great things in Egypt,
 22 Wonderful deeds in the land of Ham, *
and fearful things at the Red Sea.
 23 So he would have destroyed them, had not Moses his chosen stood before him in the breach, *
to turn away his wrath from consuming them.

The Second Lesson

Philippians 4:1-9

In his letter to the church at Philippi, Paul invites the new disciples to exult in joy in the Lord who is near at hand, and he thanks them for their most recent gift. They need have no anxiety because God's peace, which is beyond human understanding, will keep their hearts and thoughts in Jesus. They should fill their minds with all that is noble and loving, putting these things into practice as Paul has taught them to. A reading from Paul's letter to the church at Philippi.

My brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life.

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

The Gradual Hymn *O Jesus, joy of loving hearts*

The Hymnal 1982, 649

The Gospel

Matthew 22:1-14

Please stand, as able.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Once more Jesus spoke to the people in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The Sermon

The Rev. Alan R. Hesse

The Nicene Creed

Enriching Our Worship I

**We believe in one God,
 the Father, the Almighty,
 maker of heaven and earth,
 of all that is, seen and unseen.
 We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
 the only Son of God,**

**eternally begotten of the Father,
 God from God, Light from Light,
 true God from true God,
 begotten, not made,
 of one Being with the Father;
 Through him all things were made.**

For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the
Virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius
Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the
Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the

living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the
giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father,
who with the Father and the Son is
worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and
apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the
forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen

The Prayers of the People

Lay Leader O Lord our God, help us call upon You with one heart and soul, according to Your will.

We pray for Your created world: You made the universe and all that lives and exists in it. We offer you our prayers.

We remember the victims of gun violence and natural disaster. Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

We remember those on our prayer list: We pray for healing and wholeness for Amy, Mary, MaryAnn, Cheryl, Marilyn, John, Alan, Mia, Jimmy, Jim, Lily, Catherine, Ann, Regina, Gerry, Herb, Al, Olivia, Jessica, Shaun, Bailey, Ellie, Michael, Harper, and Hugh. Have compassion for those who suffer from any grief or trouble. I invite your prayers and petitions either silently or aloud. Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

For all who exercise rule and authority; that they may acknowledge your power and strive to do your will:

For Donald our President, for Maura our Governor, for our Senators Edward and Elizabeth, for our Representative Bill, and for all our elected official. Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

For the Church which is Christ's body; that it may live for the praise of your glory:

In our prayers, we hold our Presiding Bishop- Sean, our Diocesan Bishop-Julia and our Rector Alan. Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

We remember all those who have died in the hope of resurrection, especially Denise Kent Brine. Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

The altar flowers have been given to the Glory of God, in remembrance and thanksgiving for the wedding anniversary of Bud and Mary Palmer, and the birthday of Robert Lowrance, by Christie Lowrance.

We pray for those in our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer. We give thanks for the churches of the North Shore Deanery: **Christ Church** (South Hamilton), **Church of the Holy Name** (Swampscott), **Trinity Church** (Topsfield), and the **Asian and Pacific Islander Americans Ministry Network**. Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others. I invite you to lift up your personal thanksgivings and petitions.

Celebrant offers a concluding collect.

The Confession and Absolution

Celebrant Let us confess our sins to God.

Minister and People

God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives.
We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves, and in the world you have created.
We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf.
Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ,
that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. Amen.

Celebrant Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

The Peace

All stand, in spirit or as able.

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

The Offertory Anthem *Sing A New Song*

Michael Praetorius

The Offertory Prayer, at 5pm and 9:30am then, all standing in body or spirit.

Celebrant Receive, O God, these fruits of the earth and of our hands: bring to completion in them the work of your creation, so that, transformed by the Holy Spirit, they may be for us the food and drink of eternal life. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer C, spoken at 5pm, sung at 9:30am.

The Book of Common Prayer, page 369

Celebrant The Lord be with you

People **And also with you**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

Celebrant God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

People **Glorify to you for ever and ever.**

Celebrant At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

People **By your will they were created and have their being.**

Celebrant From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the stewards of your creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

People **Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.**

Celebrant Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

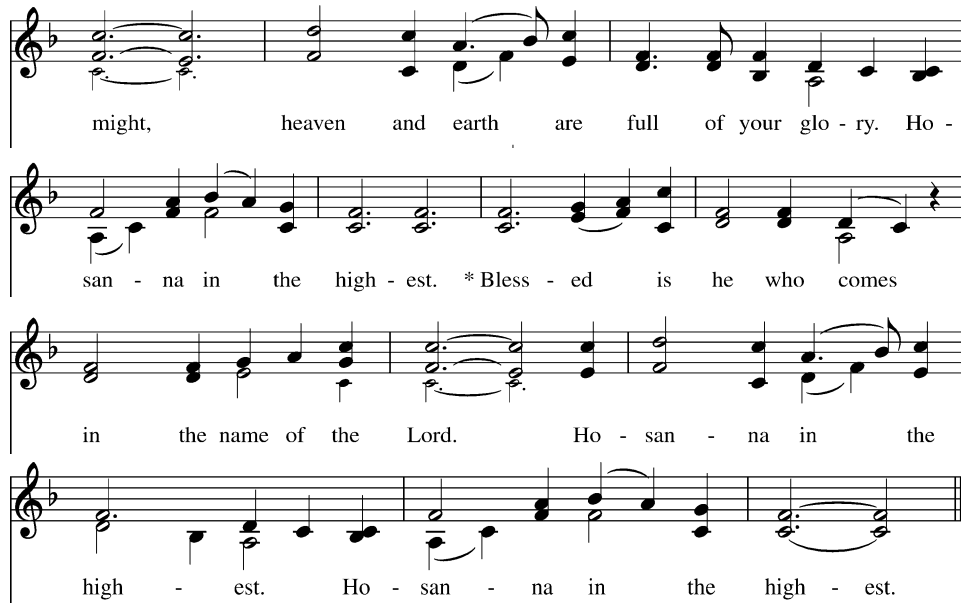
People **By his blood, he reconciled us. By his wounds, we are healed.**

Celebrant And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

The Sanctus said at 5pm, sung at 9:30am

Wonder, Love and Praise, 858





And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring Before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper, he took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Celebrant Remembering now Jesus' work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

People ***We celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.***

Celebrant Lord God of our Fathers: God of Abraham, Sarah and Hagar, Isaac and Rebecca, Jacob, Leah and Rachel.

God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

People ***Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.***

Celebrant Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. **AMEN.**

The Lord's Prayer

The Book of Common Prayer, page 364

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
 hallowed be thy Name,
 thy kingdom come,
 thy will be done,
 on earth as it is in heaven.
 Give us this day our daily bread.
 And forgive us our trespasses,
 as we forgive those
 who trespass against us.
 And lead us not into temptation,
 but deliver us from evil.
 For thine is the kingdom,
 and the power, and the glory,**

for ever and ever. Amen.

Celebrant Christ our Passover is Sacrificed for us;

People Therefore let us keep the feast.

The Fraction Anthem *sung at 9:30am*

Wonder, Love and Praise 875

Cantor or Choir

Be known to us, Lord Je - sus, } in the
The dis - ci - ples knew the Lord Je - sus }

1. *Congregation* 2. *Cantor or Choir*

break - ing of the bread. Be bread. The

bread which we break, al - le - lu - ia, Is the com -
Congregation

mun - ion of the bod - y of Christ. Be
The dis -

known to us, Lord Je - sus, } in the break - ing of the
ci - ples knew the Lord Je - sus }

Cantor or Choir

bread. One bod - y are we, al - le - lu - ia, for though
Congregation

man - y we share one bread. Be known to us, Lord
The dis - ci - ples knew the Lord

Je - sus, } in the break - ing of the bread.
Je - sus }

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

All who seek God and are drawn to Christ, are welcome at the Lord's table.

If you would rather receive a blessing rather than receiving Holy Communion, simply cross your arms. If you do not wish to receive the wine, please cross your arms when the minister comes to you following the bread and wait for the words "The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation."

If you are not able to join us at the communion rail, please indicate to an usher you would like to receive and we will bring communion to you.

Gluten-free wafers are available. Please dispose of your communion cup as you exit, near the first pews on the piano side or in the chapel.

The Communion Hymns *This is the hour of banquet and of song*

The Hymnal 1982, 316

Let us break bread together on our knees

The Hymnal 1982, 325

The Postcommunion Prayer

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Blessing

Welcome, Announcements, Birthdays, and Anniversaries

The Recessional *Savior again to thy, dear name we raise*

The Hymnal 1982, 345

The Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Postlude *Fugue*

Johann Pachelbel

Liturgical Note: Introduction to the readings come from Frederick Borsch's "Introducing the Lessons of the Church Year, 3rd Edition" Morehouse 2009

Serving This Weekend

Celebrant: The Reverend Alan R. Hesse

Director of Music: Misao Koyama

Lay Eucharistic Ministers: Mary Ames and Jared Cohen

Lectors: Mary Ames, Wendy Nevins, and Phyllis Helfrich

Altar Guild: Jann Czarnetzki, Judy Cohen, Dee McLaughlin, and Sharon Therriault

Ushers: Alan Carlson and Mary Howe

Hospitality: Volunteers needed for serving coffee after worship. Sign up in Parish Hall.

Announcements

Mark your calendars:

Walk to End Alzheimer's – October 18th

Halloween on Main Street – October 31 – **3pm Worship Service**

Family and Pet Photos and Mementos due October 28 by 3pm for All Saint's

Thanksgiving – November 26 (Office closed Friday Nov. 27)

Christmas Faire – December 4 and 5

HAPPY BIRTHDAY: This Saturday marks Gail Alcorn's 85th birthday. If you would like to shower her with cards, her new address is: 37 Route 6A, #159, Sandwich, MA 02563.

VESTRY: meets Tuesday, October 13 at 6:30 via zoom link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/71140757470>

COMMON THREADS: meets on the second Wednesday of each month at 1pm in the Parish Hall. All are welcome.

PLEASE CONSIDER SUPPORTING the 2025 Walk to End Alzheimer's Cape Cod: on Sunday, October 18th at Cape Cod Community College, setting off at 9am. Visit the link below to join the walk or make a donation. Look for **Mary's Page** under the Teams heading. We sincerely appreciate your support!

https://act.alz.org/site/TR?team_id=932191&pg=team&fr_id=18639

CANDY NEEDED: The candy donations basket for "Halloween on Main Street" is in the Narthex. Please consider making a "deposit" in the basket for the many, many trick 'or treaters who will visit us on Halloween.

FAMILY PHOTOS WANTED: Bring photos of loved ones for the altar for All Saints' Day. You can leave them in the office, or Narthex by **Wednesday, October 28th** please.

HALLOWEEN: In the interest of safety for parishioners and kids, worship will be celebrated at 3pm on **October 31st**. You are invited to come in costume and stay to help hand out candy to the throngs of kids who Trick or Treat.

OUTREACH QUESTIONNAIRE: St. John's Outreach Committee is asking you to complete the **questionnaire** which is on the table in the Narthex. You can drop it in the collection plate, or leave it in the office. We can email a copy for you to complete and return by mail or email. Thank you!

CHRISTMAS FAIR BAKE SALE: Bakers needed! Melissa Abbott reminds you that baked goods can be frozen ahead of time for the Fair. Let's get a head start on stocking up for the bake sale. Donations can be delivered to the office during business hours.

HOUR OF PRAYER: The church is open for your quiet prayers weekly on Wednesdays from 12noon-1pm.

CARING FOR CREATION COMMITTEE: Join us on Fridays at 10am via Zoom link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86013659293>. Ask Steve Tom or Fr. Al for details.

October 10-17, 2026

Saturday, October 10

9:30am AA, Parish Hall

5pm Worship Service with Holy Eucharist

“Second Saturday Social” follows worship, Parish Hall

Sunday, October 11

9:30am Worship Service with Holy Eucharist with
Sunday School

10:15am Coffee Hour, Parish Hall

Monday, October 12

10am Al-Anon, Parish Hall

4:30-5:30pm, Lasit Theater Group, Parish Hall

Tuesday, October 13

12noon AA, Parish Hall

6:30pm Vestry via Zoom

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/71140757470>

Wednesday, October 14

12noon Open Prayer, Church

1pm Common Threads, Parish Hall

7pm **NO Choir Rehearsal**

Thursday, October 15

12noon AA, Parish Hall

4:30-7pm Lasit Theatre Group, Church

6pm AA, Undercroft

Friday, October 16

10am Caring for Creation Zoom link

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86013659293>

Saturday, October 17

9:30am AA, Parish Hall

5pm Worship Service with Holy Eucharist

Welcome to St. John's!

*Whether this is your first visit to St. John's or you are a long-time member,
please know that there is a warm welcome for you here!*

Please feel free to participate fully in our service today and in the life of the parish. We are glad you have come and hope you leave feeling closer to God! At several points in the service, you may notice that some people are kneeling, some are standing and some are sitting. We are given this choice, and you should feel free to do whichever is most appropriate for you. Please know that you are invited to fully participate in the Holy Eucharist as a Baptized Christian.

If you would like to know more about St. John's and may be interested in membership or interested in being placed on our email mailing list, please contact the church office.



The Episcopal Church of Sandwich Est. 1854

**159 Main St
Sandwich, MA**

Office Hours, Tues-Fri 9am-2pm Parish Office 508-888-2828

Susan Sharpe, Parish Administrator parishadmin@StJohnsSandwich.org

Misao Koyama, Music Director music@StJohnsSandwich.org

The Rev. Barbara Peterson, Priest Associate (retired) **The Rev. Dr. Philip H. Towner, Priest Associate (retired)**

The Rev. Alan R. Hesse, Rector 508-888-2828 extension 2, text 508-505-5668, Rector@StJohnsSandwich.org