Welcome to St. John's Church



The Fourth Sunday of Easter: *May 3rd, 2020*

The health and safety of our congregation and community is the highest concern of St. John's. Consequently, we have heeded the recommendations of our Bishops, the Standing Committee, and our government to suspend public events, to aid in the mitigation of the coronavirus in our state. We are "live streaming" our 10:00 a.m. Sunday morning worship on the St. John's Facebook page, at

https://www.facebook.com/StJohnsChurchWashingtonCT/.

Our church buildings are closed.

The Parish Office is closed.

The Parish Administrator is working mostly from home, as directed.

Parishioners are asked to contact her by office email or voice mail.

stjohnschurch@snet.net ~ 860.868.2527

PO Box 1278, Washington, CT. 06793

Liturgy notes:

EASTER: Liturgical practices at St. John's have changed during the Season of Easter in a variety of ways, to reflect the theme of renewal of life and the focus on Christ's resurrection. For instance, the opening acclamation is different, viz. "Allelulia, Christ is risen."

Moreover at St. John's, we are using Rite II throughout the season, with its shift of focus away from Christ's death and sacrifice onto the larger history of the salvation story. The High Altar has been moved out, with the celebrant facing the people, as symbolic of God's immanent presence among us as we consecrate the bread and wine at Eucharist

We return to using the Prayers of the People written by Bishop Wolf, which change weekly to reflect the lessons of the day. The priest dresses more celebratory, wearing cassock/alb, stole, and chasuble, and again chants the Sursum Corda and Preface.

On Easter Sunday, the Priest chanted the Gospel and the congregation renewed their Baptismal Vows *in lien* of the Nicene Creed. Incense may be used. 'Christ our Passover' has become our seasonal Fraction Anthem. The silver vessels on the Altar have replaced the simpler ceramic Chalice and Paten used during Lent, and the brass candlesticks have returned to their places. Sanctus bells will be continued, and flowers will appear at the High Altar again. And until the day when our parishioners can again all come to the church physically to worship as one, the basket of blessed Palms, will be visible in the live streaming of our Services as a prophetic symbol of that day, yet to come.

The Fourth Sunday of Easter

May 3rd, 2020

Order of Worship

Worship lies at the heart of the Christian life. It is in worship that we express our theology and define our identity. It is through encountering God within worship that we are formed and transformed as the people of God. One of the glories of the Episcopal Church is its liturgical worship. Liturgy refers to the patterns, forms, words, and actions through which public worship is conducted

A prayer to be quietly prayed by all before the Service begins:

Sanctify, O Lord, those whom you have called to the study and practice of the arts of healing, and to the prevention of disease and pain. Strengthen them by your life-giving Spirit, that by their ministries the health of the community may be promoted and your creation glorified; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

When the service is accompanied by music, it often begins with an instrumental piece of music, during which the congregation can prepare for worship

PRELUDE

The Good Shepherd
The Lord is My Shepherd

Dale Wood (1934-2003) Raymond Haan (b. 1938)



THE OPENING ACCLAMATION

Celebrant Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

BCP, p. 355

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.**



COLLECT FOR THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER BCP, p. 225

The collect is the prayer appointed for each Sunday that "collects" or captures the theme of the day or season of the Church year. It summarizes the attributes of God as revealed in the scriptures for the day

The Celebrant says to the people

The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, whose Son Jesus is the good shepherd of your people: Grant that when we hear his voice we may know him who calls us each by name, and follow where he leads; who, with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

THE WORD OF GOD

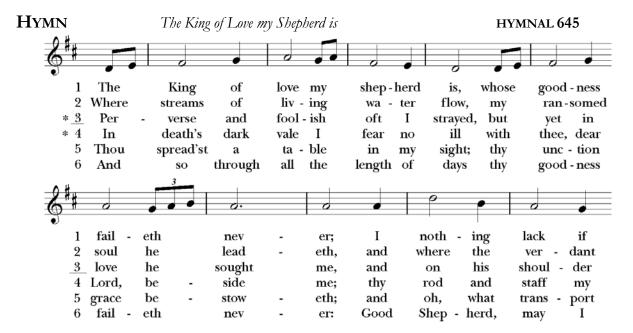
A READING FROM THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES [Acts 2: 42-47]

The new community of believers in the resurrected Jesus devote themselves to teaching and fellowship, to sharing in Eucharistic meals, and to the prayers. There are many signs and healing as the church grows. Followers of Christ express their commitment to one another even to the point of pooling their possessions. Their fellowship is characterized by joy and generosity, and many are drawn to them because of the richness of their common life.

Those who had been baptized devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

The choir chants the psalm.





A READING FROM THE FIRST LETTER OF PETER [2:19-25]

In this reading we learn that disciples are called to bear undeserved suffering with patience, even as Christ has set an example for us, so that we might die to sin and live for righteousness. This word is addressed primarily to those who are servants, but can well be applied to all Christians who endure pain despite having done no wrong. Their Lord has transformed the meaning of suffering and through his wounds brought healing. This letter was evidently written at a time when Christians in Asia Minor were experiencing various forms of persecution.

It is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps. "He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth."

When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.



O love that casts out fear

HYMNAL 700



Words: Horatius Bonar (1808-1889) Music: Moseley, Henry Thomas Smart (1813-1879)

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO ST. JOHN [10:1-10]

Our gospel presents two related images in which Jesus is first the shepherd in charge of the sheep and then the gate through which the sheep enter. These teachings are set in the context of controversy. Jesus' words are directed against religious officials who do not know or truly care for their people. But Jesus knows his own sheep by name. They hear his voice and find fullness of life.

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, "Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers." Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

So again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."

After the Gospel, the Reader says

The Gospel of the Lord

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE SERMON

The Rev. Dr. Geoff Hahneman

THE NICENE CREED

BCP, p. 358

The word "creed" comes from the Latin "credo" for "I believe." First formulated at the Council of Nicaea in 325 A.D., and confirmed in 381 A.D., the Nicene Creed is said at the Holy Eucharist and reflects what Christians believe regarding the relationship between the Father, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit: The Holy Trinity.

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: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man.

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 and the Son.

With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He 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

Leader We offer our prayers to Jesus, who is the Good Shepherd and guardian of our souls, responding to each petition by saying, "Hear us, O risen Christ."

Remembering Suheil, Archbishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem, Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury, Bartholomew, Patriarch of Constantinople, Francis, Bishop of Rome, Michael, our Presiding Bishop, Ian our Bishop, Geoffrey our Priest, all members of this congregation, and for the parishes and missions of our diocese, that we will devote ourselves to the teaching and fellowship of Christ, to the breaking of bread, and the offering of prayers; let us pray.

People Hear us, O risen Christ.

Leader Inform our hearts as we reflect on what we miss most from our Church in this time of physical distancing, isolation, unemployment, and food scarcity, that an outpouring of generosity will flow from the gratitude and thanksgiving that dwell in our hearts, moving the Church, the household of faith, to provide relief to those in any want or need; let us pray.

People Hear us, O risen Christ.

Leader Help us overcome our hesitation to reach out to the others in our midst in new ways, give us the courage to share the faith we hold, and the willingness to listen humbly to those whose interpretation of the faith differs from our own; let us pray.

People Hear us, O risen Christ.

Leader Remembering especially Antonio, Secretary General of the United Nations, Donald, our President, Ned our Governor, James, the First Selectman of the town of Washington, our Congress and our Courts, and for all who exercise leadership, that their actions may reflect the ways of the Servant, whose obedience to God released the power to overcome every darkness, and whose sacrifice opened the gates to eternity; let us pray.

People Hear us, O risen Christ.

Leader We pray for the sick, that they may be comforted in their times of need, derive strength from the prayers of others, and be supported by the presence of family and friends, especially all suffering from the COVID-19 virus as well as those on our parish prayer list, including Rebecca Bent, Caroline Thompson, Ed White, Katy Coe, Eileen and Thom Hearn, Dick and Connie Kaylor, Jay Lafleur in hospice care, the staff and clients at Aspetuck Animal Hospital in Marbledale, and all who are housebound especially Janet Chenery and Ken Hecken.

(You may add your own petitions, either silently or aloud)

We also pray for those who tend to the needs of the sick and suffering; that they may be renewed by God's love and that they minister from the strength of Christ's healing power, and reveal the light of hope that never fades away.

People Hear us, O risen Christ.

Leader Help us lean into the solace of participating in spiritual communion, without the benefit of physical presence, that we may not fear the day of judgment, but entrust ourselves to the one who judges justly; let us pray.

People Hear us, O risen Christ.

Leader And finally, for all the faithful departed, who now behold the Lord Jesus in his risen glory; let us pray.

People: Hear us, O risen Christ.

Leader Let us continue our prayers in the Name of the One in whom we sing the triumphant strain, "Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia."

Leader and People pray the "Prayer in the Midst of a Pandemic" together

Heavenly Father, hear our prayer.

May we who are merely inconvenienced at this time,

remember those whose lives are at stake.

May we who have no risk factors,

remember those who are most vulnerable.

May we who have the luxury of working from home,

remember those must choose between preserving their health or paying their rent.

May we who have the flexibility to care for our children while the schools are closed, remember those who have no other options.

May we who have to cancel our trips,

remember those who have no safe place to go.

May we who are losing money in the tumult of the economic market,

remember those who have no savings at all.

May we who must self-quarantine at home,

remember those who have no homes.

And finally as fear grips our nation,

let us choose love during this time of pandemic when we cannot physically wrap our arms around one and another,

let us find other ways to be the loving embrace of God to our neighbors in our communities. Amen.

THE CONFESSION OF SIN

BCP, p 360

Celebrant Let us confess our sins to God.

Silence may be kept.

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. **Amen.**

THE ABSOLUTION BCP, p. 360

The Priest alone stands and says

The Almighty and merciful Lord grant you absolution and remission of all your sins, true repentance, amendment of life, and the grace and consolution of his Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Having listened to the Word of God, affirmed our faith, confessed our sins, received forgiveness and shared in the peace, we are prepared for the drama and miracle of the Holy Communion.

At the offertory, we gratefully offer back to God some of what God has given us, symbolically in the bread and wine, and in the money we give. All are invited to make a gift to support the ministry of St. John's by visiting http://stjohnswashington.com/stewardship/



OFFERTORY SENTENCE

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

(Ephesians 5:2)

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Victimae Paschali laude

Plainsong, melody att. Wipo of Burgundy

Translation:

To the Paschal victim may Christians offer songs of praise.

The Lamb has redeemed the sheep; The innocent Christ has reconciled sinners to the Father.

Death and life have clashed in a miraculous duel: The Leader of Life is dead, yet reigns alive.

Tell us, Mary, what did you see on the way? I saw the tomb of the living Christ, and the glory of His rising,

the angelic witnesses, the shroud and His clothes. Christ, my hope, has risen: He will go before his own into Galilee.

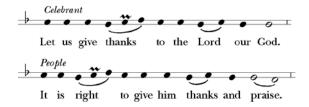
> We know that Christ has truly risen from the dead. O Conqueror and King, have mercy on us. Amen. Alleluia.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

In the Great Thanksgiving, we do what Jesus himself asked us to do: thank God and recall all that God has done for us in the life, death, and resurrection of Christ. The Great Thanksgiving, or Eucharistic Prayer, is a long prayer with four parts. Each of these four parts corresponds to a different action of Jesus at the Last Supper, where he took, blessed, broke, and gave bread and wine as sacraments of his body and blood. We begin the Great Thanksgiving with the Sursum corda, meaning "Lift up your hearts."

The people remain standing.





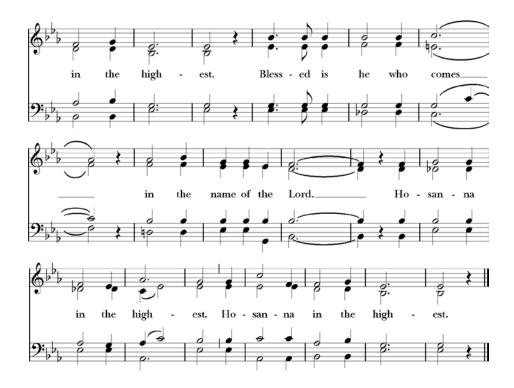
Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant continues

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth; But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us, and has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has won for us everlasting life. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

SANCTUS & BENEDICTUS

HYMNAL S130





We recall God's acts of salvation history. The presider says the "Words of Institution" that Jesus said at the Last Supper. At the Memorial Acclamation we remember Christ's death, resurrection, and promise to return at the end of the age. During the prayer, the Holy Spirit is invoked to bless and sanctify the gifts of bread and wine.

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it or lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, 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; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, 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."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People

We remember his death, We proclaim his resurrection, We await his coming in glory;

The Celebrant continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with St. John, our Patron, and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **Amen**.

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

THE LORD'S PRAYER

BCP, p. 364

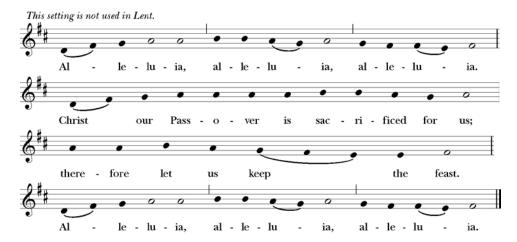
We pray together the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples to pray. The link between our daily bread and the spiritual food we receive in the Eucharist is an ancient connection.

And now, as our Savior Christ hath 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.**

FRACTION ANTHEM

HYMNAL S154



THE INVITATION BCP, P 364

Facing the people, the Celebrant may say the following Invitation

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.

THE PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

A spiritual communion is a personal devotional that anyone can pray at any time to express their desire to receive Holy Communion at that moment, but in which circumstances impede them from actually receiving Holy Communion.

My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I love you above all things, and long for you in my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As though you have already come, I embrace you and unite myself entirely to you; never permit me to be separated from you. **Amen.**

(St. Alphonsus de Liguori, 1696-1787)

After Communion, the Celebrant says

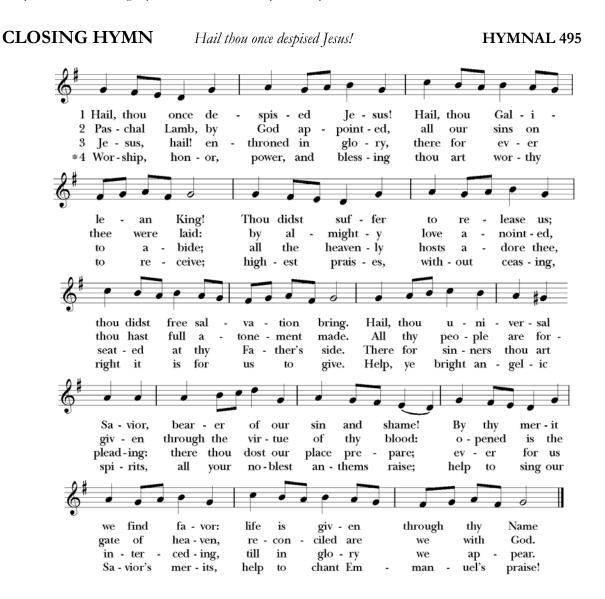
Let us pray.

The People may join in saying this prayer

Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever...**Amen.**

The Priest gives the blessing

The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**



THE DISMISSAL HYMNAL S175



Let us go forth in the name of Christ, al-le-lu - ia,





POSTLUDE Recessional Raymond Haan

A PRAYER IN THE MIDST OF A PANDEMIC

Heavenly Father, hear our prayer.

May we who are merely inconvenienced at this time, remember those whose lives are at stake.

May we who have no risk factors, remember those who are most vulnerable.

May we who have the luxury of working from home, remember those must choose between preserving their health or paying their rent. May we who have the flexibility to care for our children while the schools are closed,

remember those who have no other options.

May we who have to cancel our trips, remember those who have no safe place to go.

May we who are losing money in the tumult of the economic market,

remember those who have no savings at all.

May we who must self-quarantine at home,

remember those who have no homes.

And finally as fear grips our nation,

let us choose love during this time of pandemic when we cannot physically wrap our arms around one and another,

let us find other ways to be the loving embrace of God to our neighbors in our communities.

Amen.

Assisting With This Morning's Liturgy

Celebrant The Reverend Dr. Geoff Hahneman, Priest-in-Charge

Music Director Dr. Marguerite Mullee

Organist Jon Lafleur

Lector The Reverend Dr. Lisa DiNunno Hahneman

Cantors Dr. Marguerite Mullee Donna Castaner

Staff

Priest-in-Charge Fr. Geoff Hahneman Music Director Dr. Marguerite Mullee

Parish Administrator Sarah Eyre Foundation Administrator Joan Burgess

Vestry

Warden David Gillespie Warden Susan McFeely Clerk Joan Beattie Treasurer Larry Littlefield

Assistant Treasurer Hunter Brown

Class of 2020Class of 2021Class of 2022Rebecca LambertRobert FuthSara ColesDarcy CampbellLarry LittlefieldMary DavisCharles DubowMB WittAndris Kalnins

Office Hours and Emergencies

The Parish Office is OPEN Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday from 10:00AM to 3:00PM. If you have a pastoral issue, please call the Parish Administrator who will arrange for someone to meet your needs.

Voice: 860-868-2527 Fax: 860-868-2823

stjohnswashington.org