

“Mass on Grass” Sunday

St John's celebrates the fall season with “Mass on the Grass” this Sunday, October 22nd on the Jensen's lawn overlooking the Gulf (315 Front Beach) beginning at 11:15 AM. The Fall Picnic follows...and picnic-ers are asked to bring a covered dish of a vegetable, salad, or dessert. The church will provide the main dish, drinks, and picnic ware. It's always a good time and a great opportunity to bring a neighbor to church. The picnic and Mass on the Grass will be held on the Jensen's huge porch in the event of inclement weather. Come and praise the Lord...rain or shine!

A Letter to St John's from Reverend Anne

Dear People of St John's

The pathway of discipleship sometimes leads us in surprising directions! I have been led around the world to Ocean Springs and to one of the warmest and most loving congregations that there is; but being a follower of Jesus means that you have to remain open to the movement of His Spirit.

In response to a call from Bishop Gray and the people of St Paul's, Columbus, who have been without a Priest for some time, I have accepted the call to become the Priest in Charge of that congregation, beginning December 11th, 2011. My last service at St John's will be December 4th.

The hardest part for me will be saying goodbye to all of the good people at St John's. You welcomed me from the very beginning with loving arms. I have learned such a lot from you about compassion, acceptance, hospitality, and grace. You have big hearts! I pray that you continue in the good work you are doing, remembering that we owe thanks to our awesome and loving God for all that have and all that we are.

With gratitude,

Reverend Anne

“FACES OF ST JOHNS” means that together we are the Church! For the next few weeks we will hear from members of the church who each have their own reasons for supporting their church. Remember to return your pledge for the coming year so the Vestry can plan a budget for the coming year. Drop your family pledge card in the offering plate at any service of the church and provide for your church in the coming year.

Food Donations Welcomed

St John's partners with several Ocean Springs churches to gather and distribute food to the needy of our community. Our Deacon Jim Lancaster will transport food donated on Sundays to the Food Pantry to get the food into the hands of those who need it. There is a basket labeled “Samaritan Food Donations”. Canned meats, pasta, as well as paper products (including diapers) are very helpful donations. Many, many thanks.

ST. JOHNS CHRISTMAS ORNAMENTS

We have had special Christmas ornaments made commemorating St. Johns in pewter. They will be going on sale this upcoming Sunday, October 23rd, in the Parish Hall and at the “Mass on the Grass” on front beach. We plan on selling them for several Sundays leading up to Christmas, but the supply is limited so... make sure you purchase yours soon to get these wonderful ornaments commemorating our beloved St. Johns. The ornaments are 2.5 inches in diameter and are fabricated in pewter. They are beautiful additions to any Christmas tree! The cost will be

\$20.00 per ornament or two for \$35.00 with **ALL** proceeds going towards funding St. Johns' outreach program. These are one of a kind ornaments and make great keepsakes and gifts. Please support our outreach program with your purchase. Samples of the ornament will be available for view soon.

ANNOUNCEMENTS...Baptisms will be offered on Sunday October 30th at 9 AM and on November 6th at 11:15 AM (all Saints' celebration)...**The St John's Religious Book Group** is reading *The Tent of Abraham* which traces the origin of all three of the great religions—Judaism, Christianity, and Islam from the same basic witness of Abraham. Copies of the book are available through the church office...**Budget Requests for 2012** are needed from each program and ministry leader in the congregation by November 7th as the Finance Committee begins to formulate the budget for next year... **All Saints' Day** will be observed on Sunday, November 6th...**The Reverend Bruno Schroeder** will preach at all services on "Reformation Sunday" October 30th...**Daylight Savings** begins the first Sunday of November, remember to "Fall BACK"... **St John's Labyrinth**...is a prayer space for the whole community of Ocean Springs. In coming weeks, the long awaited landscaping (with both plants and new stone benches, etc) and paving from the street and driveway will take place. Soon a diagram with the total project will be put out for the parish to see the intended completed picture...**Clergy will be away** at the annual Clergy Conference at the Gray Center Monday, Oct. 24th and returning Thursday, October 27th. Evening Prayer will be the service on Wednesday night, October 26th.

EYC News

Congratulations to Nathalie Gault and Melissa Baker who will be the Coast Convocation Youth Delegate and Alternate Delegate for Diocesan Council next year! Coming events for EYC include a visit to a Corn Maze next Sunday. Contact Nick Gault at 327-7041.

Wonderful Wednesday Halloween Party - Bring **all the family** on Wednesday Oct 26, in costume, for our annual celebration. Service at 5:30, dinner and program at 6:00pm.