



All Saints'
Memorial Church
674 Westminster St., Providence RI

December 31, 2020 Parish messenger

Come and worship
Rejoice in fellowship
Love and serve the Lord!

Dear All Saints' Family,

I have been asked several times in the past few weeks about how I feel about getting the vaccine. I can unequivocally say that as soon as the vaccine is offered to me I will roll up my sleeve to receive it. I trust the scientists. The vaccine is the path to end this pandemic. My husband, a hematologist, was vaccinated last week. My daughter, an ICU nurse in Nashville, is supposed to be vaccinated today. I am deeply grateful that the vaccination process has finally begun.

As the New Year approaches, I much appreciate the words of Christian Gonzales in today's *Providence Journal*: "Pandemics are a time of illness.

This one has exposed the various illnesses from which we all suffer. Their ends are times of healing. So let us heal, not just by taking a vaccine, but through conceptualizing anew why we are all here."

This Christmastide and New Year's Eve let us pray together:

*As we are glad Creator God,
when the dawn reveals the world to us,
innocent and fresh,
so may we discover the infant in the manger,
and in delight be ready to start anew
(New Zealand Prayer Book, p.557).*

Please join us Sunday, at 9:30 AM via Zoom for the second Sunday of Christmas.

Here is the Zoom link for this Sunday's Service:

Sunday 9:30 a.m. Service

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85484006164?pwd=ZzAvZVFUM2pKekorMGVzMFFeclFiUTo9>

Meeting ID: 854 8400 6164

Passcode: 674674

Here is the program

link: **http://www.allsaintsmemorial.org/uploads/1/1/7/4/117437355/service_bulletin_sunday_january_3_2021.pdf**

On the topic of the vaccine, I pass along a thoughtful facebook post about the vaccine written by Dr. Courtney Hofman (Marybeth's daughter) who teaches at the University of Oklahoma. Courtney participated in the Pfizer trial and reflects on that experience.

Christmas Blessings on this eve of the New Year,
Julie

Courtney's Facebook Post:

Today, after an incredible amount of work by scientists, support staff, physicians, trial volunteers and others, the first non-trial COVID-19 vaccine was given in the US. After months of staying at home to support those on the front lines of the pandemic, the end is in sight. As some of you know, I am a participant in the Pfizer COVID vaccine trial. In September, I received two doses of the vaccine or placebo 21 days apart. I experienced mild (as expected with most vaccines) side effects. My arm was sore and I felt pretty tired. This is a GOOD thing as it suggests that my body was mounting an immune response. I've been closely monitored

for the last several months with follow-up appointments and I report weekly about potential COVID symptoms on an app.

This vaccine was developed and tested incredibly fast. Please do not let this stop you from receiving this vaccine (or another) when it is available to you (follow your physicians guidance). Researchers have been studying mRNA technology for more than a decade. In fact, this technology is so exciting because of exactly this- it can be designed and implemented rapidly in the face of emerging pandemics. I put my body in this trial because I trust the technology and I want to help move forward this work so that it can be deployed quickly for this pandemic and future outbreaks.

I spent last Thursday watching the FDA advisory hearings on the Pfizer vaccine. I am confident that the physicians and researchers have thoughtfully considered just about every aspect of the vaccine development and deployment. In fact, there was a lot of discussion about to do with people like me, who participated in the trial. While continuing to collect efficacy data is important, there is debate about the ethics of continuing a placebo group if the vaccine is available. I'm patiently (well maybe not patiently) awaiting the FDA and Pfizer's decision on trial design but I intend to continue participation for the next two years as both the FDA and Pfizer's proposed plans include providing the vaccine to trial participants.

You might be wondering if I have changed my behavior since there is a good chance that I've received the vaccine. NO! I'm still wearing a mask, avoiding crowded places and getting takeout. Until most people are vaccinated, the risks are still too high. There is also a lot we don't know: How long will the vaccine last? Will we need annual boosters like the flu vaccine? Are there groups that shouldn't receive this vaccine? Given the history of abuse in medicine, especially for people of color, how can we instill trust in vaccines and public health in general? There are lots of researchers (including anthropologists!) trying to address these questions right now. But we don't have the answers yet. And that is okay. We have to move forward with the best available knowledge we have now to stop this pandemic before it takes more lives.

This semester, HALF of my students had COVID, several lost family members and others were quarantined at one point or another due to exposure. I'm looking forward to a time when I can teach a class where students can work in groups, see each others full face, and be in the same space without risk to their health. Many of us know someone who has been sick or lost a loved one and we have all made big sacrifices this past year. Today is a big deal because I can see the end in sight.

Please reach out if you have any questions about COVID vaccines, participating in trials (several vaccine trials are enrolling now!) or want to

learn more about my experience with the Pfizer vaccine.

—Dr. Courtney Hofman

Wednesday Noonday Prayer and Bible Study

Next Wednesday, we will discuss Chapters 4 and 5 in the Book of Esther.

Here is the link for Noonday Prayer and Bible Study:

Wednesday Noonday Prayer (12 p.m.) and Bible Study (12:30 p.m.)

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84955593827?pwd=akNZeTlmSCtTb1BoUU9hcWQrZk5xZz09>

Meeting ID: 854 5559 3827

Passcode: 674674

Here is the link to the service program:

http://www.allsaintsmemorial.org/uploads/1/1/7/4/117437355/order_of_service_for_noonday_epiphany_january_6_2021.pdf

2021 Pledges and Annual Giving

Our deepest thanks and gratitude for those who have already pledged for next year!

If you haven't returned your 2021 pledge card yet, please do so.



Holiday Hours

Please note that the office will be closed Friday, January 1 for New Year's Day.



Giving Opportunity in 2020

Our church building is beautiful and historic. From time to time we need to attend to some rather large repairs. We recently had an estimate for badly needed masonry work. The contractor identified an "Immediate Maintenance Attention Option" (see photo) for \$12,400. Now this is much better than the longer-term option (\$216,480), to be sure. However, even the smaller amount is a more than we have in our Capital Fund (\$3,523).

With this masonry work in mind, here is some tax information that applies only for 2020 giving that may be helpful; All Saints' is considered a public charity.

- For those who no longer itemize, the CARES Act allows individual taxpayers to deduct donations to charity of up to \$300 on their 2020 federal tax return, even though they take the standard deduction. Married-filing-jointly taxpayers will get an above-the-line deduction of up to \$600.
- The CARES Act temporarily removes the adjusted gross income (AGI) limitations on charitable deductions for cash gifts to public charities in 2020. Now, a donor may claim a charitable income tax deduction up to 100% of AGI for cash gifts, meaning you would pay no federal income tax. Previously, the donor would have had to limit deductions to 60% of AGI. The 100% limit is reduced dollar-for-dollar by other itemized charitable deductions. This means that a donor who deducts 30% of AGI in long-term appreciated asset gifts (stocks, mutual funds, real estate) will be able to also deduct up to 70% of AGI for cash gifts, for a total deduction of up to 100% of AGI. Donors should consult their tax or financial advisor about these issues.

Regardless of the size of your donation, All Saints' accepts donations of cash or via credit card and check. In addition, we are able to accept donations of appreciated stock or mutual funds. For that option, please

contact Becky Silliman for more information (rsillima@bu.edu or 401-946-3562).

Help us fix this crack by Spring! Thank you.



Food Collection

Each week All Saints' collects food to be distributed monthly to food pantries in our area. We welcome donations of any pre-packaged, non-expired food.

- January: canned pasta
- February: peanut butter
- March: tuna fish

Thank you for your generosity!

Upcoming Events

- **Jan 1:** Office will be closed for New Year's Day.
- **Jan 6:** Wednesday Noonday Prayer & Bible Study.
- **Jan 13:** Wednesday Noonday Prayer & Bible Study.
- **Jan 13:** Vestry reports due to the office. Reports may be emailed to **asmcri@verizon.net**.
- **Jan 13:** Vestry meeting, 6 p.m. via Zoom.
- **Jan 31:** Annual meeting, immediately following service.

Keeping up with Your Pledge in These Times

While we are limited in the number of worshippers we can have in church, we ask that you keep up with your pledge as you are able.

There are three ways for you to do so.

- Give online - it is easy and secure. Here is how:
 1. Go to our website—**allsaintsmemorial.org**—our home page.
 2. Below the "Coronavirus Update" section on the home page, click on the Donate button.

3. You can either sign in to ChurchTrac or give as a guest.
- Make out a check and send it by mail to the church:
All Saints' Memorial Church
674 Westminster Street
Providence, RI 02903
 - Place your sealed offering envelope with check or cash in the mailbox outside the office door. To open the mailbox, tug on the knob on the front side, and pull the door down. Deposit mail through the slot that is revealed. Please close the mailbox door when you are finished.

If you have questions, please email me (rsillima@bu.edu) or call me (946-3562).

-Thank you,
Becky

PRAYERS

Those for whom prayers have been asked:

We pray for our fellow parishioners Derek, Alice, Gus, Ernie, Ruby, Marie, and Trish. We also pray for Dorothea Evans Gordon, Eric and Irene T., Mary Tryforos, Joan, Maribeth

Sneddon, Margaret Barney, Carolyn, Michael Blake, Clarence Scott, Germaine, Naida Thomas, Merynn Flynn, and Teresa Clinton.

Celebrating a birthday this week: Musa Goll and Patricia Blake.

We pray for all who work for peace and members of our armed forces, especially Matthew Degree.

We pray for all healthcare workers, first responders, and those who are in public spaces such as pharmacies, grocery stores, and other vital services in these times.

Share All Saints' With Friends



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Forward

SCRIPTURE READINGS

January 3, 2021

Second Sunday after Christmas

First Reading: Jeremiah 31:7-14, Eric Hirsch

Response: Psalm 84:1-8, Monika Kraemer

Second Reading: Ephesians 1:3-6,15-19a, Wilmar Jennings

Prayers: Dan Mechnig

Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

January 10, 2021

First Sunday after the Epiphany

First Reading: Genesis 1:1-5, Becky Silliman

Response: Psalm 29, Chip Smith

Second Reading: Acts 19:1-7, Anne Tait

Prayers: Lyndsey Wells

Gospel: Mark 1:4-11

Publishing information:

The next regular edition of the e-messenger will be emailed on Thursday, Jan 7.

The deadline to submit information and articles for this edition is Tuesday, Jan 5.

Please submit any articles or info you may have to ReeRee at

asmcri@verizon.net.



Websites:

**All Saints' Memorial Church
Diocese of RI · The Episcopal Church**

Contact information:

**All Saints' Memorial Church (Episcopal)
674 Westminster St
Providence, RI 02903**

Parish phone: 401-751-1747*

online office hours: 10 a.m.—2 p.m., Tuesday-Friday

*please use **asmcri@verizon.net** for urgent questions

The Rev. Dr. Julianne Hanavan, Priest-in-Charge
revjulhan@gmail.com

Dr. Barry Turley, Director of Music
401-751-1747

Newsletter submissions:
asmcri@verizon.net

The Vestry:

Senior Warden

Monika Kraemer

Junior Warden

Dan Mechnig

Treasurer

Becky Silliman

Clerk

Anne Tait

Finance Chair

Robert Wells

Members

Maryann Darbeh

April Donahower

Agnes Fox

Musa Goll

Charles Smith

Elizabeth Toby

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