



## Meet the New Bishop of New Jersey – The Rt. Rev. Dr. Sally French From The Living Church by Kirk Peterson

She grew up in Canada in a committedly secular household, and rebelled as a teenager by finding Jesus. She met her husband at the University of Toronto, and they both became priests in the Anglican Church of Canada. While they were visiting a friend in New York City, her husband got an interim job offer, and they both fell in love with the Episcopal Church. Two decades later, the Rev. Sally French has been elected the 13th Bishop of New Jersey.

“I grew up in a home that did not value church attendance, but was culturally Anglican Communion oriented,” she told TLC. “When I got to university as an undergraduate, I found myself sort of wondering about the bigger picture,” so she started sampling churches, beginning with the Presbyterian church on campus. “After repeatedly asking other students where they went to church — which it turns out is not the most popular question — eventually, somebody dragged me to the Trinity College chapel,” also on the University of Toronto campus.

There she discovered “this profound sense of God’s presence,” she said. “I felt almost instantly like I had come home, and that I was somehow being invited into this community and fellowship.” She stayed for the coffee hour, and “by the end of the month, I think I was mostly running coffee hour.” That was an October Sunday, and she was baptized and confirmed at the next Easter Vigil.

She enrolled in the University of Toronto’s Trinity College seminary, where she met this fellow a year ahead of her named Clarke French. (She was Sally Johnson at the time.) “We were friends for many years before realizing that maybe God was calling us to a different kind of relationship. We both ended up in Edmonton in Western Canada. And we were married there.”

She was thinking about possibly doing some graduate work at General Theological Seminary in New York. She didn’t, but while they were visiting the city her husband was offered a job as interim rector of Christ Church, Staten Island. “We loved the Episcopal Church, we found that we were welcomed and there there were opportunities for connection and ministry that were just amazing,” she said. They were young and childless and living in New York City. “I really loved that season in New York. Our son was born in December 2005, at which point the subways became a whole lot less fun,” she said.

After a few years in upstate New York, the couple moved to North Carolina. Before joining the diocesan staff in 2020, she spent six years as associate rector at St. Philip’s Episcopal in Durham — one of the largest churches in the diocese, with more than 300 worshippers on an average pre-pandemic Sunday.

The Rev. Clarke French currently serves as rector of Church of the Holy Family in Chapel Hill, and TLC asked about his plans when she becomes bishop. “We’re figuring that out. We’re not worried about it in the slightest,” she said. TLC impishly suggested that if he became a priest in the Diocese of New Jersey, she could remind him repeatedly of his ordination vow to obey his bishop. “Well, that might be handy for some things — somebody’s got to take out the garbage,” she said with a laugh. More seriously, she said one benefit of the Diocese of New Jersey is “it’s one of the few places in the Episcopal Church where my husband actually might be able to work and not be in my diocese.” Diocesan headquarters in Trenton is just a few blocks away from the Delaware River, with the Diocese of Pennsylvania on the other side. It’s a little over an hour’s drive to the closest parishes in the dioceses of Newark, Bethlehem, and Delaware.

“We’re not in any hurry. My daughter will be 13 in a few weeks, my son just turned 17. And we want to make sure that they get settled well, and that the move is done in a way that will allow everyone to flourish and allow me to serve and support the diocese without having to worry too much about the home front,” she said.

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### Birthdays: Carl Gincley – June 18 & Raymond Green – June 27

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#### FOR PASTORAL CONCERNS PLEASE CALL:

The Rev. Peter De Franco – 973-886-5104

Warden: Howard Whitmore – 908-577-6569 Warden: Marcel Vaughn Handy – 908 875-9462

Fr. Peter takes a day off on Friday.

Sanctuary Lamp/Flowers: Please contact Parish Office at least two weeks before desired date.

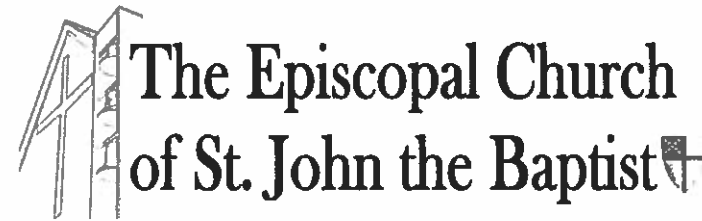
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**This Week –  
June 25, 2023  
St. John the Baptist  
Sunday**



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### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### Professor Richard Alston begins as Director of Music at St. John the Baptist – June 25, 2023

Professor Richard Alston was hired as the Director of Music at the Episcopal Church of St. John the Baptist. Professor Alston brings considerable skill and experience to his work. With a Bachelor and Master of Music from the Julliard School, he recently retired as tenured Professor of Music and Coordinator of the Performing Arts at Essex County College. He served as Minister of Music at St. Mark’s Episcopal Church in Plainfield. A renowned pianist with an extensive history of performances, he accompanied his celebrated series: Classically Black: Composers of African Descent.

#### James Splond Concludes Service as Choir Director – June 25, 2023

James Splond will conclude his service as Choir Director on June 25, 2023. We thank James for his creative work with the choir and for expanding the music we hear for anthems. We are grateful for the talented musicians whom James has invited to join our choir and enhanced the musical experience of the congregation.

#### Sunday Announcements to End

This edition of the announcements will be the final Sunday Announcements. Since Fr. Peter will be on vacation during the month of July, we shall discontinue the Sunday Announcements. We shall post brief announcements on a redesigned Sunday Bulletin.

#### Thank You for Juneteenth Celebration

On June 18<sup>th</sup>, we enjoyed a wonderful Juneteenth celebration. Thanks to the many people who organized the event: Howard to set up the Parish Hall and coordinated the food items, Marcel who assisted him, James who let us use his grill and for cooking, Eric for cooking, and for the many people who brought side dishes to share. Thanks to all who made this a wonderful time of parish fellowship.

#### Upcoming Sunday Clergy Supply

July 9 The Rev. Dr. Henrietta Lavengood

July 16 The Rev. Dr. John Mitchell

July 23 The Rev. Elizabeth Golub

#### Search for a New Rector

Bishop Elect Sally French and the Rev. Canon Joanne Izzo met with the Wardens and Vestry for an initial consultation concerning the call of a New Rector. The Wardens will keep the parish informed on the steps in the process of calling the next priest to serve the church.

# Calendar

## Office Hours

Monday – Friday 9-12  
Call to confirm 908 925-1535

### June 25

The Nativity of St. John the Baptist  
10 AM Holy Eucharist  
Welcome Professor Richard Alston  
In Person, Facebook, YouTube & Zoom

### June 29

7 PM Bible Study  
Zoom

### July 2

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
10 AM Morning Prayer &  
Holy Communion  
In Person, Facebook, YouTube & Zoom

### July 9

6<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
10 AM Holy Eucharist  
In Person, Facebook, YouTube & Zoom

### July 16

7<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
10 AM Holy Eucharist  
In Person, Facebook, YouTube & Zoom

### July 23

8<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
10 AM Morning Prayer &  
Holy Communion  
In Person, Facebook, YouTube & Zoom

### August 1

Fr. Peter De Franco returns from  
vacation

### August 6

The Transfiguration of our Lord  
10 AM Holy Eucharist  
In Person, Facebook, YouTube & Zoom

### August 10

7 PM Bible Study  
Zoom

JUNE 25, 2023  
FOURTH SUNDAY  
AFTER PENTECOST



*Freed from fear, we live in newness of life.*

## DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Matthew 10:24-39	The call and cost of discipleship
Monday	Jeremiah 20:7-13	Jeremiah denounces his persecutors
Tuesday	Romans 6:1b-11	Dying and rising with Christ
Wednesday	Ephesians 4:17-24	The old life and the new
Thursday	Isaiah 12:1-6	Thanksgiving and praise
Friday	Romans 8:9-17	Life in the Spirit
Saturday	Psalms 69:7-18	God can be trusted
Sunday	Matthew 10:40-42	Receiving and serving others

## SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. Romans 6:4 (NRSV)*

## PRAYERS AND BLESSING

### A Prayer for the Week:

Dear God, we thank you for the power and gift of baptism and our new life in Christ that frees us from fear so that we can be Christ's faithful followers in the world. Amen.

### Mealttime Prayer:

Loving God, with this gift of food give us strength to overcome our fears and to serve others through the power of Christ's love. Amen.

### A Blessing to Give:

May the God of steadfast love, bless you with mercy all the days of your life. (Psalm 69:16)



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JUNE 25, 2023

## HYMN OF THE WEEK

*Take My Life,  
That I May Be*



## WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

## CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- How do you describe your own life's goals, values and beliefs?
- If someone were to ask you about your faith and what you believe, how would you respond?

## DEVOTIONS

*Read:* Romans 6:1b-11.

Just before this reading, Paul writes: "where sin increased, grace abounded all the more" (Romans 5:20b). Paul responds to this statement in Romans 6:1b with an understandable question, "Should we continue in sin in order that grace may abound?" Then he answers, "By no means!" (v. 2a). Paul is emphatic that seeking a life of sin is out of the question. He describes this conviction by using the language of baptism. We are joined with Christ through baptism. In baptism, we die with Christ and are raised with Christ "so we too might walk in newness of life" (v. 4b). We are joined to Christ's life. His story of death and resurrection is now our story. We die to a way of living and thinking that finds pleasure in sin and separation from God. The power of sin over our lives dies with Christ through baptism. Our lives are then freed from the power of sin and death to live a new life filled with love and grace for our neighbor and world.

*Discuss:* What questions do you have about baptism?

*Pray:* God of abundant love, we thank you for the gift of baptism that binds us to Christ and gives us new life filled with hope, joy, and love for all. Amen.

## SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings for this week, how might you be freed from fear to joyfully serve those in need?

## RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

"Do not fear" is a recurring theme in Matthew 10:24-39. Think or talk about things that you are afraid of. Naming and talking about your fears can be helpful. Draw a cross on a sheet of paper. Write the fears you named around the cross. Take a moment to look at your list of fears and say them out loud.

*Pray:* Dear God, may our life in Christ draw us nearer to you and free us from our fears. Amen.



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: [www.milestonesministry.org](http://www.milestonesministry.org)