It was the summer of natural wonders and natural disasters.

The eclipse reminded us of the majesty and order of the universe that God has made, planets spinning in their courses, wondrously beyond us, too powerful to gaze upon with naked eyes.

The images from Houston are a sobering reminder of the power of wind and water to devastate people and places in a matter of hours.

This summer we saw God's might displayed in the world around us. And God's people at work in the aftermath of destruction.

People often tell me that they don't come to church because they find God so easily on a hiking trail or at the ocean. Fair enough. I find God there, too. God and I spent hours together at the beach this summer. God's sheer otherness is on unmistakable display in the world around us.

But if you want to see God's people in action, and if you want to experience God's mercy, then get yourself to church on Sunday! This week we resume worshipping at 8 AM and 10 AM and Sunday School starts a new year. We will gather to do what God's people do. We feast on God's mercy and so we can go out into the world to participate in God's action.

I truly do look forward to hearing about all the places you discovered God this summer, because I know that God was revealed in ways too many to number.

But also, I have missed you and have missed feasting on God's mercy with you. So come on back!

See you on Sunday!
WORSHIP NEWS

WHAT DOES AN USHER DO?

We love our Ushers at SJOTM! They perform a valuable part of our 10 am worship service each Sunday. Anyone from age 12 to 112 can be an Usher - there is no age limit! The ushers are the first to greet the worshipers as they enter the church. They hand out bulletins, count the number of worshipers and records that number on the usher envelope. The offering is collected and placed the the usher envelope. After the service, the usher greets people as they depart or directs them to coffee hour. It's really that simple!

If you think that you want to give ushering a try, contact the office. You will be assigned a Sunday to usher with a “veteran” to show you the ropes. Being an Usher is a great way to meet members of our community and it’s an easy way to participate in our worship. Most ushers perform this ministry only once a month - and you can pick the Sunday you wish to Usher!

PRAYER LIST

If you would like to have someone added to the Prayer List, please call 908-766-2282 or email the Parish Office office@sjotm.org.

PARISH REGISTRAR

We Pray God to Grant Eternal Rest

Brad Murphy

FLOWER DONATIONS

Please help! The lovely flowers that are on the church altar every week are an important part of our worship services. They can be dedicated for celebratory reasons or to remember a loved one. There are many dates open in September through December for altar flower donations for both the church and the chapel. The cost of the arrangements in the chapel is $70 and the cost for the church arrangements is $100. You can share a week in the church with another parishioner with each paying $50. You can take the flowers home with you after the service to enjoy in your home or donate them to another person in need. There is a calendar in the hallway with a list of all of the available dates. For more information, please call Sue Kennedy at 908-234-0267.
Welcome Back!
September 10th is the first day of Sunday School. We are looking forward to another great year with your kids.

Classroom Times and Locations

- **Confirmation Class of 2017** at 9 am: Meeting Room Parish House
- *Pre-K/Kdg* at 10 am: Classroom #4
- *Grades 1/2/3* at 10 am: Classroom #3
- *Grades 4/5/6* at 10 am: Meeting Room Parish House
- Babysitting: Classroom #2

* Please note all Sunday School children (Pre-K – 6th Grades) should meet in the chapel at 10 am on the 10th. After a welcome, song, and prayer, students will move on to the classrooms listed above.

Registration Forms
If you have never filled out a Sunday school registration form for your children, please consider doing so. You can find forms at sjotm.org, in the narthex, and in the parish office.

2017 Confirmation Class
Classes for the Confirmation Class of 2017 will begin at 9 am on September 17th in the Meeting Room of Parish House.

We are excited to begin confirmation preparation with a fantastic group of young people! Confirmation Class will begin on September 17th at 9 am, and will meet weekly in the Meeting Room of the Parish House. Your daughter or son is welcomed and encouraged to participate in this program, even if she or he is uncertain about confirmation at this time. It’s normal and healthy to struggle with belief, and we welcome doubters! For more information or to learn more about the class, please contact Mother Susan at rector@sjotm.org or Lynn Mitchell at lynnmitchell@sjotm.org.

Best Wishes as you celebrate your birthday in September

Morgan Sikes, Gus Daggett, Jane Lewis, Brynn McKeon, Jack Gibson, Alexander Christie, Bryce Lukacsko, Scott Lukacsko, and Ava DeMarco

CHILD CARE RESUMES
Sunday September 10th

www.sjotm.org
ST. JOHN’S CHOIR

All interested singers are invited to consider joining the St. John’s Choir, which rehearses on Wednesdays from 7:30 until 9:00 p.m. and sings weekly at our 10:00 a.m. Eucharist. Please contact Christopher Jennings for more information. The Choir is open to adults of all ages and high school-aged youth who are willing to make the commitment to attend rehearsal regularly.

MUSIC NEWS

The Boys' & Girls' Choir will have its first rehearsal on September 24th from 11:15 until 11:45 am. All children in grades 3-8 who like to sing are invited to join us or to sit in on rehearsal to learn more. Our first Sunday to sing in church will be on All Saints’ Sunday, November 5th.

Temple Hammen returns to St. John on the Mountain this year as our soprano Choral Scholar, singing with the Choir and offering solos throughout the season.

ORGAN RECITAL
With Christopher Jennings

On October 1st at 3:00 p.m. Christopher Jennings will present a one-hour organ recital using both of the pipe organs at SJOTM. This concert will be the kickoff for Music on the Mountain, a series of musical events that will occur throughout the year. Look for more details in the coming weeks about how you can participate in and support this series.

ST. JOHN’S NURSERY SCHOOL NEWS

The school year is off to a great start with a record high enrollment at SJNS. Our three and four plus year-old classes are filled to capacity, with limited openings in our two and four year-old classes.

Thankfully, all teaching staff is returning this school year. Mrs. Julie Bosworth, 4+ Class; Mrs. Janet Moose, 4’s Class; Mrs. Karen Skoglund, 3’s Class; and Mrs. Susan DeGasperis, 3’s and 2’s Classes. We are thrilled to welcome the newest member to our staff, Mrs. Christina Clark, 4’s Class Teacher’s Aide. Returning Teacher’s Aides are Mrs. Joanne Marcus, 4+ Class; Mrs. Lauren Diemar, 3’s Class; Mrs. Andrea McGee, 3’s Class; and Mrs. Carey Kane, 2’s Class.

This is an exciting time at SJNS as we celebrate the start of the new school year. Our social committee has organized a park play date for all SJNS families, Parent/Child orientation will kick off our first school event, followed by our SJNS Board sponsored “Back to School” night. Our Fundraising committee is offering Mums for sale for all the SJOTM community.

With limited class space available in our 2's and 4's Classes, please contact the nursery school director, Jeanne Williams at jwilliams@sjotm.org, if interested in registration information and a nursery school tour.
Throughout history, people have spoken of “mountaintop experiences” as a way to describe something pivotal or profound that’s happened to them. Some of these have occurred as literal high points (how different the world looks from a summit’s perspective!). Others may have taken place in the lowlands but still made our hearts soar. For three Sundays this fall (October 1, November 12, and December 10), we are offering a new way to know each other better: MOUNTAINTOP MOMENTS. These gatherings provide opportunities for us to share these kinds of stories:

✦ Have you had a Mountaintop Moment that changed your life?
✦ Has a Mountaintop Moment in your life made spirituality more real or personal?
✦ Have you had a Mountaintop Moment right here on our mountain, and could you share what that meant to you?

These meetings will use a facilitator to get things started and will be non-judgmental, non-competitive, and informal. Listeners are welcome—you don’t have to share if you don’t want to. The objective is to hear each other and find things we have in common...to share something important from our respective lives...and to testify to the wonder and mystery of our journeys in faith.

If you have further questions, please get in touch with a member of the Mountaintop Moments committee: Lindy Judd, Hilary Thomas Dorer, Jerry Murphy, or Al Hudgins.

Watch your email for the 2017-18 Coffee Hour Host schedule. Copies of the schedule will be made available in the narthex and kitchen, too. In an effort to involve all families, Coffee Hour will be assigned to each family one time between the months of September 2017 and June 2018. If you can’t make the Sunday that you’re assigned, we kindly ask that you swap with another family. Preparations are minimal and implementation is easy.

We all love Coffee Hour and this is a vital part of Fellowship. By having everyone involved, we can all be a positive force for St. Johns!

If you have any questions, please contact the coordinator, Paul Zanardi.
MISSION OUTREACH

COMMUNITY GARDEN
At Ross Farm

We still need your help at the farm! SJOTM is responsible for harvesting and weeding on the following weeks:
• September 16
• October 7
• October 28
If you cannot help at the garden, you could drop some basic essentials off at church - in the Food Bank bucket just inside the door. We need paper goods, (paper towels, toilet paper), canned meats, tuna, baked beans and veggies, boxed goods such as cereal and oatmeal.

Caroline Lewis shows off 39 lbs of fresh picked vegetables. All produce is donated to the Community Food Bank in Somerville.
In July, we welcomed Lisa McBride, daughter of Pat and Margaret Ann Warlick, who worshipped with us and then spoke to us about Warlick’s Warriors, a foundation established by her brother Peter, who has been diagnosed with ALS. In thanksgiving for Lisa’s visit with us, the parish has made a donation to Answer ALS, a collaborative research effort to identify therapies that can halt ALS.

Please continue to pray for Peter and all those who love and care for this dear family.

HALLOWEEN COSTUME DONATIONS NEEDED
Girl Scout troops 61116, 60318, 61047 and 60111 are collecting like-new and gently used (or brand new too!) Halloween costumes for CASA SHaW, a non-profit organization helping children in foster care. Your donation will help children celebrate the holiday when they otherwise wouldn't be able to so. Costumes can be dropped off at the Bedwell Elementary School lobby between now and Thursday, October 5.

Please put all costumes and their accessories in one bag secured either by tying the bag closed or otherwise sealing it shut. If you have any questions, please contact Rita Gudgion: rita@gudgion.com or Heather Eich: heathermeich@gmail.com. Thank you for your support!

GRACE SOUP KITCHEN
Friday, September 29
600 Cleveland Avenue, Plainfield, NJ

Grace Soup Kitchen serves 1,000 hot nutritious meals the last five days of each month to the hungry of Plainfield. St. John on the Mountain parishioners help on the last Friday of each month. Join us one Friday as we prepare and serve lunch. The next day scheduled for St. John on the Mountain to serve is on Friday, September 29th from 10 am – 1 pm. To sign-up email Graham Argent-Belcher.