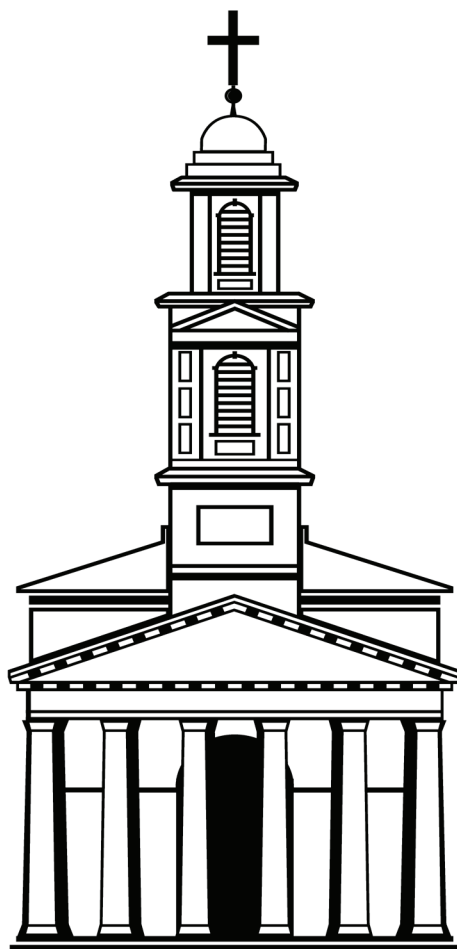


# THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

December 28, 2025 ♦ Holy Eucharist at 9 and 11 a.m.



## SAINT JOHN'S CHURCH

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LAFAYETTE SQUARE • WASHINGTON, DC

*St. John's is a church for people of all races, ethnicities, genders, sexual orientations,  
and viewpoints grounded in love. Whoever you are, we welcome you.*

*Welcome to St. John's Church, Lafayette Square.*

*All are invited to participate in the service as able. Congregational responses appear in **bold**.*

*Prayer cards are provided at the entrance of the church. You are invited to write your prayers and place them in the collection plate. Your prayers will be blessed and will be prayed for by a priest during the week.*

*Please refrain from taking photos or videos during services.*

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## VOLUNTARY

Noël cette journée

André Fleury (1903–1995)

## HYMN 107

Good Christian friends, rejoice

*Sung by all. Please stand as you are able as the procession enters.*

1 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;  
2 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;  
3 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;

give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;  
now ye hear of end - less bliss; Je - sus Christ was born for this!  
now ye need not fear the grave: Je - sus Christ was born to save!

ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man - ger now.  
He hath o - pened hea - ven's door, and we are blest for ev - er - more.  
Calls you one and calls you all to gain his ev - er - last - ing hall.

Christ is born to - day!  
 Christ was born for this!  
 Christ was born to save!

Christ is born to - day!  
 Christ was born for this!  
 Christ was born to save!

Words: John Mason Neale (1818-1866), alt. Music: In dulci jubilo, German carol, 14th cent.; harm. Charles Winfred Douglas (1867-1944).

## THE WORD OF GOD

*Please remain standing as you are able.*

*Priest* Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

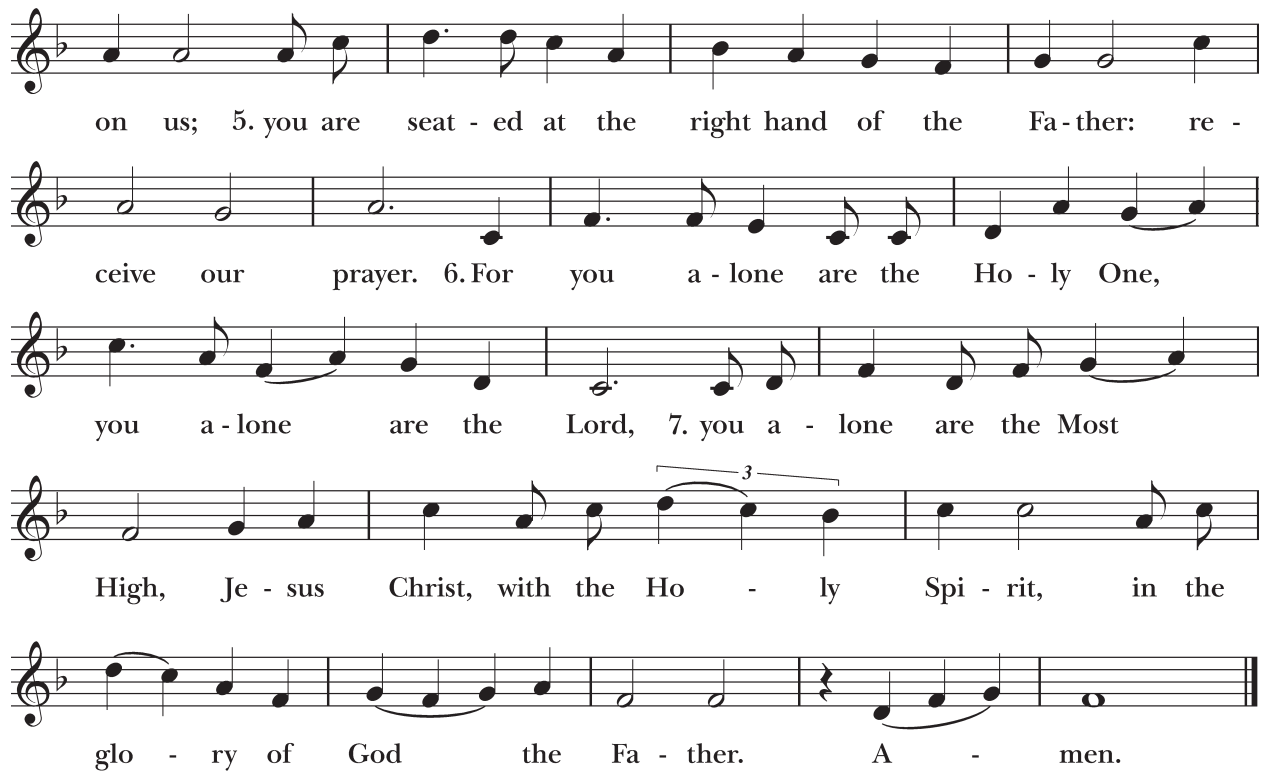
*People* And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

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.

## GLORIA (S-280) *Sung by all.*

Robert Powell (1932–2025)

1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and  
 peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly  
 King, al - mighty God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we  
 give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus  
 Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you  
 take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy



## THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

*Priest* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Priest* Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## THE FIRST READING

Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7

*Please be seated.*

*9 a.m. Read by Beth DuMond.*

*11 a.m. Read by Laurie Adams.*

Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian.

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM 147:13-21

9 a.m. Led by Laura Herzog, said responsively by half verse.  
11 a.m. Chanted by the choir; setting by George Thalben-Ball (1896–1987)


Worship the LORD, O Jerusalem; \* praise your God, O Zion;  
For he has strengthened the bars of your gates; \* he has blessed your children within you.  
He has established peace on your borders; \* he satisfies you with the finest wheat.  
He sends out his command to the earth, \* and his word runs very swiftly.  
He gives snow like wool; \* he scatters hoarfrost like ashes.  
He scatters his hail like bread crumbs; \* who can stand against his cold?  
He sends forth his word and melts them; \* he blows with his wind, and the waters flow.  
He declares his word to Jacob, \* his statutes and his judgments to Israel.  
He has not done so to any other nation; \* to them he has not revealed his judgments. Hallelujah!

## HYMN 92

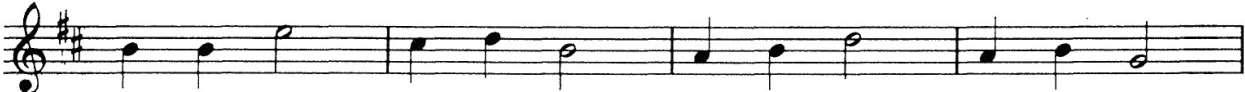
On this day earth shall ring

*Sung by all, standing as you are able. Stanzas 1 & 2 will be sung before the Gospel, stanzas 3 & 4 after.*

*Introduction*



1 On this day earth shall ring  
2 His the doom, ours the mirth;  
3 God's bright star, o'er his head,  
4 On this day an - gels sing;

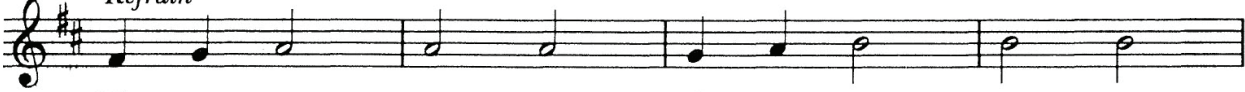


with the song chil - dren sing to the Lord, Christ our King,  
when he came down to earth Beth - le - hem saw his birth;  
Wise Men three to him led; kneel they low by his bed,  
with their song earth shall ring, prais - ing Christ, hea - ven's King,



born on earth to save us; him the Fa - ther gave us.  
ox and ass be - side him from the cold would hide him.  
lay their gifts be - fore him, praise him and a - dore him.  
born on earth to save us; peace and love he gave us.

*Refrain*



Id - e - o - o - o, Id - e - o - o - o,



Id - e - o glo - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o!

Words: *Piae Cantiones*, 1582; tr. Jane M. Joseph (1894-1929)  
Music: *Personent hodie*, melody from *Piae Cantiones*, 1582

## THE HOLY GOSPEL

John 1:1-18

*Please remain standing as you are able.*

*Priest* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

*People* **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

*Priest* The Gospel of the Lord.

*People* **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

*Following the Gospel, all sing stanzas 3 & 4 of the gradual hymn.*

## THE SERMON

The Rev. Robert W. Fisher

## THE NICENE CREED

*Please stand as you are able.*

Let us affirm our faith in the words of the Nicene Creed.

**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

*9 a.m. Led by Ucheora Onwuamaegbu.*

*Please remain standing as you are able.*

*11 a.m. Led by Paul Barkett.*

*Intercessor* Father, we pray for your holy catholic Church;

*People* **That we all may be one.**

*Intercessor* Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;

*People* **That your Name may be glorified by all people.**

*Intercessor* We pray for the communities of St. John's and our companion relationships with the Anglican Church of Southern Africa\* and the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem. In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, for Christ Church King & Queen Parish, Chaptico; Christ Church, Clinton; Christ Church Durham Parish, Nanjemoy; Christ Church, Georgetown; Christ Church, Kensington; Christ Church Port Tobacco Parish, La Plata; Christ Church, Rockville; Christ Church Washington Parish, D.C.; and Christ Church Wayside, Newburg. For Sean, our Presiding Bishop; Mariann, our Bishop; Eugene, our Assistant Bishop; and all bishops, priests, and deacons.

*People* **That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.**

*Intercessor* We pray for Donald, our President; for the leaders of Congress and the nations, for the Supreme Court, and for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;

*People* **That there may be justice and peace on the earth.**

*Intercessor* Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

*People* **That our works may find favor in your sight.**

*Intercessor* Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;

*People* **That they may be delivered from their distress.**

*Intercessor* Give to the departed eternal rest;

*People* **Let light perpetual shine upon them.**

*Intercessor* We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;

*People* **May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.**

*Intercessor* Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

*Silence.*

*Priest* O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**



## CONFESSION OF SIN AND ABSOLUTION

*Priest* Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence.*

*All* 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.

*Priest* Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. Amen.

## THE PEACE

*Please stand as you are able.*

*Priest* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People* And also with you.

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Please be seated.*

## THE HOLY COMMUNION

*You may make an offering by placing your donation in the plate, or use this QR code to pay electronically. A donation via this code can go only to offerings and not to pledges or any other specific funds.*



## OFFERTORY ANTHEM

What cheer?

William Walton (1902–1983)

*Sung by the choir.*

What cheer? Good cheer! Be merry and glad this good New Year!

Lift up your hearts and be glad in Christ's birth, the angel bade.

Say each to other, if any be sad: "What cheer? What cheer?"

Now the King of heav'n his birth hath take, joy and mirth we ought to make:

Say each to other, for his sake: "What cheer? What cheer?"

I tell you all with heart so free right welcome, welcome ye be to me:

Be glad and merry, for charity! What cheer? Good cheer! Be merry and glad this good New Year!

—Text from Richards Hill's *Commonplace Book* (16th century)



# HYMN 93

Angels, from the realms of glory

*Standing as you are able.*

1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er  
 2 Shep - herds in the field a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your  
 3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions; bright - er vi - sions  
 4 Saints be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, watch - ing long in

all the earth; ye, who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry,  
 flocks by night, God with you is now re - sid - ing;  
 beam a - far: seek the great De - sire of na - tions;  
 hope and fear, sud - den - ly the Lord, de - scend - ing,

*Refrain*  
 now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:  
 yon - der shines the in - fant Light: come and wor - ship,  
 ye have seen his na - tal star:  
 in his tem - ple shall ap - pear:

come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.

Words: James Montgomery (1771-1854), alt. Music: *Regent Square*, Henry Thomas Smart (1813-1879).

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

*Please remain standing as you are able.*

*Priest* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Priest* Lift up your hearts.

*People* **We lift them to the Lord.**

*Priest* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People* **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

*The priest 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, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Because you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children. 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 (S-129) *Sung by all.*

Robert Powell

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and  
might, hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.\_\_\_\_\_

*Please stand or kneel as you are able. The priest continues*

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.

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 all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

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

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 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.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

*Priest* And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

*All* **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.**

## THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

**FRACTION ANTHEM (S-163)** *Sung by all.*

Robert Powell

Lamb of God, you take a - way the

sins of the world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you

take a - way the sins of the world: have mer - cy on us.



## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

*Priest* 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.

*All persons, including children, are welcome to receive Holy Communion with us. Wait for an usher to call your pew to come forward. You will first be handed a wafer by a priest (gluten-free wafers are available by request) and then offered wine by a lay server. You may either sip the wine or dip your wafer into the wine. Receiving the bread alone is a valid way to share in the Eucharist. Parents may decide if their children receive the bread and/or wine. All may instead signal their desire to be blessed by the priest by crossing their arms over their chest.*

## COMMUNION ANTHEM

Love came down at Christmas

John Rutter (b. 1945)

*Sung by the choir.*

Love came down at Christmas, Love all lovely, Love divine;  
Love was born at Christmas, star and angels gave the sign.

Worship we the Godhead, Love incarnate, Love divine;  
worship we our Jesus: But wherewith for sacred sign?

Love shall be our token, Love be yours and Love be mine,  
Love to God and all men, Love for plea and gift and sign.

—*Christina Rossetti (1830–1894)*

## HYMN 82

Of the Father's love begotten

*Sung by all, seated.*



he the source, the end - ing he, of the things that  
bore the Sa - vior of our race; and the Babe, the  
and ex - tol our God and King; let no tongue on  
and un - wea - ried prais - es be; hon - or, glo - ry

are, that have been, and that fu - ture  
world's Re - deem - er, first re - vealed his  
earth be si - lent, ev - ery voice in  
and do - min - ion, and e - ter - nal

years shall see, ev - er - more and ev - er - more!  
sa - cred face, ev - er - more and ev - er - more!  
con - cert ring, ev - er - more and ev - er - more!  
vic - to - ry, ev - er - more and ev - er - more!

Words: Marcus Aurelius Clemens Prudentius (348-410?); tr. John Mason Neale (1818-1866) and Henry Williams Baker (1821-1877), alt.  
Music: *Divinum mysterium*, Sanctus trope, 11th cent.; adapt. *Piae Cantiones*, 1582; acc. Bruce Neswick (b. 1956), harm. Copyright ©1984, Bruce Neswick.  
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## THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

*Please stand or kneel as you are able.*

*Priest* Let us pray.

*All* 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.

*When scheduled, the Priest offers a communion kit to any Lay Eucharistic Minister doing a home visit, saying*

On behalf of God and St. John's Church, I send you forth bearing these holy gifts that those whom you will visit may share with us in the communion of Christ's Body and Blood. Amen.

## THE BLESSING

*Priest* Life is short. And we do not have too much time to gladden the hearts of those who travel the way with us. So be swift to love. Make haste to be kind. And the blessing of God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always. Amen.

HYMN 87 *Sung by all, standing as you are able.*

Hark! the herald angels sing

1 Hark! the her-ald an - gels sing glo - ry to the new - born King!  
 2 Christ, by high-est heaven a - dored; Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord;  
 3 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,

Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!  
 late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of the Vir - gin's womb.  
 born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, join the tri - umph of the skies;  
 Veiled in flesh the God - head see; hail the in - car - nate De - i - ty.  
 Risen with heal - ing in his wings, light and life to all he brings,

with the an - gel - ic host pro - claim Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!  
 Pleased as man with us to dwell; Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!  
 hail, the Sun of Right - eous - ness! hail, the heaven - born Prince of Peace!

*Refrain*

Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing glo - ry to the new - born King!

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788), alt. Music: *Mendelssohn*, Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847); adapt. William H. Cummings (1831-1915).

## THE DISMISSAL

*Priest* Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

*People* Thanks be to God.

## VOLUNTARY

Fantasia on *Joy to the World*

Emma Lou Diemer (1927–2024)



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## THE FLOWERS IN THE CHURCH ARE GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD.

Pat Dalby, Jamie Finch, Ellie Fullerton, Julia Koster, Katherine Kyle,  
Elizabeth Lewis, and Sherill Mason, *Flower Guild*

### ASSISTING AT THE 9 A.M. SERVICE

Mike DuMond, *Crucifer* | Robyne Johnston, *Chalice Bearer*  
Richard Young, *Assistant Head Usher* | Martha Ellison and Anne Stewart, *Ushers*  
Susan Valskovic and Susan Welch, *Greeters*

### ASSISTING AT THE 11 A.M. SERVICE

Eric Peters, *Crucifer* | Gloria Burkhardt and Walt Ehrich, *Acolytes*  
Laurie Adams and Doug Estes, *Chalice Bearers*  
Matt Bode, *Assistant Head Usher*  
Tony Anikeeff, Bill Wright, and Zhijun Yang, *Ushers*  
John Lucio and Marty Williams, *Greeters*  
Seth Gilmore, *Livestream Technician*

Please help us be good stewards of the environment.

**If you do not wish to take this bulletin home after the service,  
you may leave it at the end of the pew as you depart or place it in a blue recycling bin.**

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## ARE YOU NEW TO ST. JOHN'S?

*Please let us know who you are and how we can best serve you by filling out a "Welcome" card and leaving it in the offering plate or with an usher or greeter. Free valet parking is available from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Sundays; look for the valet sign at the corner of 16th and H streets, NW. Find us on Instagram at @stjohnschurchlafayettesquare or visit [stjohns-dc.org](http://stjohns-dc.org) for more about our offerings and how to get in touch.*

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# Announcements for the Week of December 28

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## TODAY AT ST. JOHN'S

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*Children's Chapel is offered during the sermon at 9 and 11 a.m.*

*Preaching this morning: The Rev. Rob Fisher*

- 8 a.m. Eucharist with Sermon  
Parish Choir (Parish House Fourth Floor)
- 9 a.m. Choral Eucharist with Sermon
- 10 a.m. Coffee Hour (Plaza, weather permitting,  
or Parish House First Floor)  
St. John's Choir (Parish House Fourth Floor)
- 11 a.m. Choral Eucharist with Sermon
- Noon Coffee Hour (Plaza, weather permitting,  
or Parish House First Floor)

### FLOWER DELIVERIES

Help us brighten the day of parishioners by taking them flowers, located in the side chapel most Sundays of the year. A card is attached to each vase with contact information.

Please take a moment to check the side chapel for this week's flower delivery needs.



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## SERVICES | December 29 through January 4

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*No noontime service on Monday: Parish Office closed.*

**Tuesday**—12:10 p.m.—Eucharist

**Wednesday**—12:10 p.m.—Eucharist

*No noontime service on Thursday: New Year's Day.*

**Friday**—12:10 p.m.—Noontime Prayer

**Sunday**—The Rev. Sarah Akers-Cardwell, preacher

8 a.m. Eucharist with Sermon

9 a.m. Choral Eucharist with Sermon

11 a.m. Choral Eucharist with Sermon, Incense,  
and Three Kings procession

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## THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

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**Monday, December 29**—Parish Office closed

**Tuesday, December 30**—Normal office hours

1 p.m. Staff Meeting (Togo West Parlor)

**Wednesday, December 31**—New Year's Eve

1 p.m. Parish Office closes

**Thursday, January 1, 2026**—New Year's Day

All Day Parish office closed

**Friday, January 2**—Normal office hours

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*Visit [stjohns-dc.org/connect/newsletters](https://stjohns-dc.org/connect/newsletters) to subscribe to our weekly email newsletter (The Word) or other interest-based email lists. While you're there, why not check out our ministry directory and calendar of upcoming events. Then join us in person and get to know what makes this such a wonderful, welcoming church community.*

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## THREE KINGS' PROCESSION

**Sunday, January 4, at 11 a.m.**

We will celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany on January 4 with our annual, costumed procession to "We three kings of Orient are." Members of the choir will play the kings, and young people from our congregation will accompany them as the star and pages. Join us for this special offering during the 11 a.m. service. *Note: This service will include incense.*

## PARISH POTLUCK

**Sunday, January 4, at noon**

After the 11 a.m. service on Sunday, January 4, we will enjoy a special Three Kings-themed parish potluck. You are invited to bring your favorite New Year's or Epiphany dish—or any other favorite food—or just your good cheer—to share as we celebrate the arrival of the magi and the year 2026.

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## STEWARDSHIP

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### PLEASE MAKE A 2026 PLEDGE TO ST. JOHN'S

Your 2026 pledge is a commitment of financial support to St. John's for the upcoming year. It can be a one-time annual payment, or it can be paid weekly, monthly, or on the schedule of your choosing. Pledges enable us to plan for the work we will undertake in the mission and ministry of St. John's in 2026. You can make your pledge online on our website ([stjohns-dc.org/give/pledge](http://stjohns-dc.org/give/pledge)) or by returning a pledge card either by mail to the church office or by placing it in the offering plate on Sunday. Thank you for your financial commitment to our parish!

*Pledge envelopes are available for pickup at the reception desk.*

## THE 1816 SOCIETY

Planned giving is another way to sustain the mission and ministry of St. John's. The 1816 Society honors those who remember St. John's through a planned gift, such as a bequest in their will, a life-income gift, or a gift of real estate or life insurance. Check out the Episcopal Church Foundation ([episcopalgifts.org](http://episcopalgifts.org)) to learn more about your options for planned giving, and contact Lisa Kirchenbauer via the Ministry Directory at [stjohns-dc.org](http://stjohns-dc.org) with questions or to join the 1816 Society.

## HERE'S ANOTHER WAY TO GIVE

As part of fulfilling an annual pledge or any other special gift, we welcome a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) directing your annual Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) to a qualified 501(c)(3) charity such as St. John's.

Individuals aged 70½ or older may contribute up to \$108,000 per year from their IRA to charity. This amount may include all or part of your RMD if you are subject to one. Those with inherited IRAs who are over age 70½ may also direct up to \$108,000 annually to a qualified charity.

Always consult with your financial and tax advisors to confirm the best strategy for you, and remember that these distributions can be made **only** from IRA accounts, **not** from a 401(k), 403(b), Thrift Savings Plan (TSP), or other non-IRA retirement plans. Contact Lisa Kirchenbauer via the Give tab of our website with any questions.

## YEAR-END MATCHING GIFTS

**Here's how to make your gift to St. John's do a bit more**

Many employers in the area want to make a positive impact in the community by offering matching gifts for various charitable programs. Matches are mostly focused around community support, education, and other 501(c)(3) entities, with gifts handled through portals such as Benevity, DoubleTheDonation, Global Giving, and YourCause.

To find out whether your organization has a matching gift program, please contact your company's corporate giving officer, who can help you navigate the gift portal and make sure that St. John's is listed as a verified recipient. (You can also contact the Parish Office for assistance.) Using your company's matching gifts program is a wonderful, easy way to make a meaningful difference at and through St. John's.

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## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

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### LATROBE YOUNG ADULT FELLOWSHIP

**Wednesday, January 7, at 6:30 p.m.**

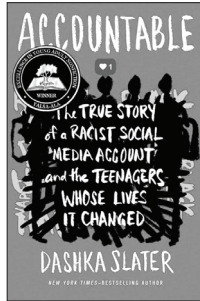
The Latrobe Fellowship is an active and engaged group of adults, primarily in their 20s and 30s. We typically gather at St. John's at 6:30 p.m. on the first Wednesday of the month for a short worship service followed by an activity. Contact the Rev. Eric Bailey, our minister for youth and young adults, via the About: Leadership tab of our website for more information.



## ST. JOHN'S BOOK GROUP

Thursday, January 8, at 7 p.m.

Please join us via Zoom to discuss *Accountable: The True Story of a Racist Social Media Account and the Teenagers Whose Lives It Changed* by Dashka Slater. This award-winning book raises difficult questions about accountability and the very real harm that can be caused from behind a screen. The book group typically meets the first Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. For information and the link, contact us via the directory at [stjohns-dc.org/connect/directory](http://stjohns-dc.org/connect/directory).



## GRACE'S TABLE

Third Saturdays, from 10:30 a.m to 12:30 p.m.

Upcoming dates: January 17 and February 21

Grace's Table is an outreach partnership between St. John's and Grace Episcopal Church in Georgetown. Every third Saturday of the month, a group from St. John's prepares and serves a meal at Grace to folks who are unhoused or at risk of losing their housing. This is a wonderful opportunity to get to know other St. John's parishioners and to spread God's loving kindness in our community. Contact leader Elizabeth Field using the Connect: Ministry Directory tab of our website with questions or to volunteer.



PHOTO: PAUL LEW/FICKR/CC-BY-NC-ND 2.0

## EPIPHANYTIDE LESSONS AND CAROLS

Sunday, January 18, at 5:30 p.m.

The combined professional choirs of St. John's, Lafayette Square, and Christ Church, Georgetown, will offer a joint service of Epiphanytide Lessons and Carols at St. John's on Sunday, January 18. The service includes readings interspersed with seasonal hymns and choral anthems. A reception follows. We hope you'll join us for this annual collaboration with a neighboring parish as we observe the joyous season of Epiphany.

## SPEAKER SERIES

The Speaker Series is held most Sundays from September through May at 10 a.m. in the Togo West Parlor on the first floor of the Parish House. An audio recording will be available on our website the week after each talk.



**January 11:** Jeff Selingo, New York Times best-selling author and college admissions expert, talks about his books *Who Gets In and Why: A Year Inside College Admissions* and *Dream School: Finding the College That's Right for You*.

**January 25:** Vestry Candidates Presentation. Hear from those seeking election to the Vestry, in preparation to cast your vote at Annual Meeting on Sunday, February 1.

**February 1:** No Speaker Series—Annual Meeting

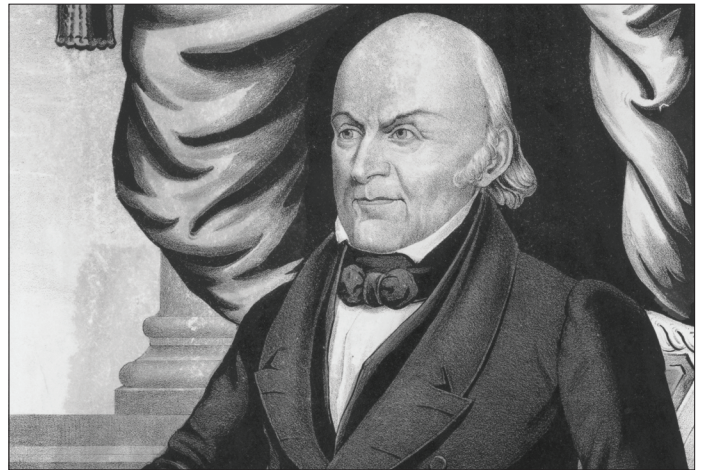


IMAGE: LIBRARY OF CONGRESS, PUBLIC DOMAIN

## THE PRESIDENCY OF JOHN QUINCY ADAMS



**February 8:** Ronald C. White, best-selling author on Abraham Lincoln and Ulysses S. Grant, will kick off our annual presidential series, this year focusing on John Quincy Adams, our nation's sixth president.



**February 15:** Randall B. Woods, author, biographer, and Distinguished Professor of History at the University of Arkansas, will share insights gained from the writing of his book *John Quincy Adams: A Man for the Whole People*.

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## NEWS & NOTICES

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### SAVE THE DATE | Annual Meeting is February 1

#### FOR THOSE SEEKING TO BE BAPTIZED

If you are interested in baptism for yourself or for a child, please contact Lisa Koehler via the About: Leadership tab on our website. Please note that the parents or grandparents of children being baptized must be active, pledging members of St. John's. Adults interested in baptism must also attend an Adult Inquirers' Class, offered twice a year, and be active, pledging participants in the life of the parish. Upcoming dates for baptism and required pre-baptismal classes with the clergy at St. John's include:

**Sunday, January 11, 2026, at 11 a.m.**

*Class: Saturday, January 10, at 10 a.m.*

**Sunday, February 15, at 9 a.m.**

*Class: Saturday, February 14, at 10 a.m.*

**Sunday, April 12, at 9 a.m.**

*Class: Saturday, April 11, at 10 a.m.*

#### HEARING AID RECYCLING DRIVE

##### Place donations in the box near the reception desk

As you may be aware, hearing aids are extremely expensive. One study conducted by the National Institutes of Health determined that hearing aids were unaffordable for three-fourths of Americans with functional hearing loss. And the evidence is clear that hearing affects mental acuity as we age. For his Eagle Scout project, Cooper Thesmar is organizing the collection of hearing aid devices that are no longer needed, which will be cleaned, restored or refurbished, and given to those in need. All brands, models, and ages are welcome, and donation receipts can be provided on request.

#### PARISH LUNCH SCHEDULE AND HOSTS

##### Most Sundays after the 11 a.m. service

Sunday lunch at St. John's is a longtime tradition in which every member and every visitor can participate. It's a great opportunity to catch up with old friends and make new ones—a time for fellowship and for hearing another's story. The lunch is held most Sundays in the Parish House. Contributions of \$5 for adults and young people 13 and over and \$2 for children under 13 are requested to help defray the costs of the lunch. All are welcome. Valet parking is extended to 2 p.m. any Sunday with a parish lunch.

The Sunday lunch tradition relies on volunteers to prepare and serve the meal—which is why we encourage individuals, families, groups, or ministries to host at least once per program year. Hosts may be reimbursed for expenses or receive a tax receipt. Not sure what's involved? Want to claim a future date? Contact Parish Lunch coordinator Holly Sukenik at [stjohns-dc.org/connect/directory](http://stjohns-dc.org/connect/directory).

*December 28 No Lunch*

January 4 Three Kings' Day Potluck (see page 2)

January 11 Latrobe Fellowship

**January 18**

January 25 St. John's Book Group

February 1 Annual Meeting and Reception

February 8 Refugee Committee

February 15 Will Yale, Craig & Barbara Burkhardt,  
Karen Zachary, and Miller Winecoff

February 22 Bishop Walker School

**March 1**

**March 8**

**March 15**

**March 22**

*March 29 No Lunch: Palm Sunday*

#### FEDERAL WORKERS | Giving or receiving support

Many of our parishioners have been affected by layoffs in the federal government. If you are seeking help—or if you have help to offer—please complete our survey at [bit.ly/sjc-federal-survey](http://bit.ly/sjc-federal-survey) with the details of what you need or can provide. Or reach out to Jordan Baugh, our point person for this ministry, via the Ministry Directory on our website.

#### SECURITY MEASURES AT ST. JOHN'S

St. John's identity as a congregation is shaped by our urban location in the nation's capital. We seek to welcome all to our services and activities, treating everyone with dignity. We are also mindful of ensuring the safety and well-being of all who worship in our facilities. In coordination with the Vestry and our Usher Guild, we have hired security personnel to attend our Sunday and holiday/special services. They will provide a low-key, proactive presence and respond quickly and respectfully to any arising situations in coordination with our ushers, staff, and, as needed, law enforcement/first responders. We will provide additional training for our staff, who interact with the public every day, and our ushers, so they have shared approaches for all who come to our church. Fortunately, we are able to take these steps prayerfully and proactively, and as we go forward we will continue to assess what best serves our church's needs.



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## FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

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### NURSERY HOURS

**Sundays, 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.**

Infants and children are welcome at all worship services. Nursery care is also available most Sundays for infants and children up to age three. The nursery meets in the Godly Play Classroom #2 on the second floor of the Parish House.

### CHURCH SCHOOL CLASSES

**Sundays, 10–10:50 a.m., from September through May**

Children in pre-K through fifth grade may participate in Church School on the second floor of the Parish House. For information, contact the Rev. Sarah Akes-Cardwell via the About: Leadership tab on our website.

### YOUTH GROUP

**Sundays, 10–10:50 a.m., from September through May**

Most Sundays from September through May, middle and high school youth are invited to the second floor of the Parish House for an exploration of life and faith with their peers. Questions? Contact the Rev. Eric Bailey via the About: Leadership tab on our website.

### CHILDREN'S CHAPEL

**Sundays during the sermon at 9 and 11 a.m. worship**

Most Sundays, kids from birth through grade 5 are invited to participate in a special liturgy just for them during the sermon at 9 and 11 a.m. services. Children gather by the pulpit during the gradual hymn and process to the Parish House for a song, homily, and prayer time, returning to the sanctuary at the Peace. Parents may accompany their children and are encouraged to do so for those younger than three. Children are also welcome to stay and worship in the main sanctuary. Questions? Contact the Rev. Sarah Akes-Cardwell via the About: Leadership tab on our website.

### THE ACOLYTE MINISTRY | September through May

Youth in 6th grade and above are welcome to participate during worship services, serving as torch bearers or crucifers and helping set the altar for communion. Contact Vincent Scauzzo via [stjohns-dc.org/connect/directory](http://stjohns-dc.org/connect/directory) for details.

### CHORISTER PROGRAM | September through May

We offer a choir for children and youth with unchanged (treble) voices. Through a custom-made curriculum, singers receive training in sight reading, vocal production, music theory, liturgy, and leadership, and become part of a vibrant community of music makers. To learn more or express interest, contact Brent Erstad via the About: Leadership tab on our website.

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## REMINDERS

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### ONLINE OFFERINGS TO DESIGNATED FUNDS

To make a monetary offering toward your pledge or a specific fund, scan the QR code at right, or visit our website, then select the desired destination using the “Fund” drop-down menu.



### ADULT BIBLE STUDY | Most Sundays at 10 a.m.

This group gathers most Sunday mornings, using a hybrid approach, with some joining via Zoom and others in person. Conversations explore the connections with the Sunday lectionary lessons and sermons. We are currently studying the first chapters of Matthew, and the book of Genesis. For information, notes, and the Zoom link, contact Jack Reiffer via the Ministry Directory at [stjohns-dc.org](http://stjohns-dc.org).

### MAKE A PLEDGE TO ST. JOHN'S

A pledge is a commitment of financial support payable over the course of a year that enables us to plan the work that we undertake in mission and ministry. You can indicate a pledge commitment using this QR code or by visiting the Give tab on our website.



### LISTEN AGAIN TO SUNDAY SERMONS

To listen to past sermons or speaker series, visit our website, scan this QR code or search for “St. John's Church, Lafayette Square” in the Podcast app on your device.



### JOIN A MINISTRY GROUP

Explore our many ministry groups at [www.stjohns-dc.org](http://www.stjohns-dc.org), and contact the leaders via our online Ministry Directory for details or to sign up.

## FLOWER MEMORIALS AND THANKSGIVINGS

Flowers in the church and Parish House are made possible by gifts and are often dedicated to the memory of a loved one or to mark a birth or birthday, wedding, anniversary, graduation, or other special event. To make a dedication, pick up a flower card at the entrance to the church and return it either to the offering plate or to Sharlyne “Charley” Griffin in the Parish Office.

## LIVESTREAMED SERVICES

The weekly 11 a.m. Sunday service is broadcast on our website and available for replay, as are evensongs and occasional other special services and events.

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## PRAYER & PASTORAL CARE

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Praying for those in need is an important part of our life together. Contact the Pastoral Care team via the Connect: Ministry Directory tab at stjohndc.org to add yourself, family, or friends to our prayer list. Names of friends and family who are not members of the congregation are followed by the name of the parishioner making the request.

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**Our prayers are requested for the special needs and concerns of this congregation, especially:**

### THOSE WHO ARE SICK, RECOVERING, OR GRIEVING

**From our parish:** Margo Arnold, Cay Buser, Pat Czerwonky, Hyman Field, Dolph Hatfield, and Mary Wilson.

**Friends and family of our parish:** Conor Barry (Sarah Wood), Billy Beardsley Conderman (Margo Arnold), Robert Bliss (Katherine Bliss and Mark Dennis), Gisela Block (Sigi Block), Jim DeBello (Grace Barrett), Walt Eccard (Margaret Depue), Ed Eder (Joanne and Powell Hutton), Sue Edmonds (Sarah and Jeff Agnew), Julie Ellis (Preston Cherouny), Laurie Feldon (Eleanor and Peter Odom), Blair Fiore (Debby Hailey), Peggy Fisher (Debby Hailey), Bob and Heather Gilbert (Andrea Winchell), Chantay Griffin (Charley Griffin and Gee Gee Bryant), Linda Young Gsell (Rick Young), Morgan Hickenlooper (Livy More), Doug Holy (Joanne Hutton), Jack (Marta Cook and Cal Trepagnier), Latithia and Charles Jones (GeeGee Bryant), Sean Josey (Bill and Sara Josey), Charlotte Crowley Junilla (Margo Arnold), Olivia Kehoe (Kat Kehoe),

Elizabeth Lee (Clayton Crawford), William hymn to them Markiewicz (Matthew Taylor), Jim Martella (Livy More), Tammy McCleaf (Matthew Taylor), Nell Montgomery (Brandon Montgomery), Teri Nelson (Lisa Koehler), Ann Petrosky (Johnathan Miller), Scott (Marta Cook and Cal Trepagnier), Connor Smith (Patrick and Cameron Smith), Pam Snyder (Sarah Agnew), Nancy Stephenson (Ann and John Gardner), Patsy Swain (Margo Arnold), Sallie and William Wilkie Thompson (Cecelia Thompson), Ashley Smith Thomson (Marta Cook and Cal Trepagnier), Mackenzie Toland (Wendy J. Fibison), Caleb Williams (Alfred Thesmar), Darrel Williams (Caleb and James Hays-Reilly), Edward Leland Williams II (Virginia Bader), Bess Williamson (Wendy Fibison), Andrew Woods (Johnathan Miller), Linda Woolley (Blount and Charlotte Stewart), and Judith York (Caroline Fisher).

### THOSE WHO ARE IN ASSISTED LIVING

**From our parish:** Milton Chamberlain, Janet Helgert, Marcella Odom, and Becky Schergens.

**Friends and family of our parish:** David Brown (Lisa Koehler), Bob Chrystal, Sr. (Chris Jones), Veronica Jones (Chris Jones), Lori LaPoint (Brent Erstad), Yvonne Reiffer (Jack Reiffer), and Carl Wright (Frank and Nancy Klotz).

### THOSE WHO ARE IN HOSPICE CARE

**Friends and family of our parish:** Wilma Daubs (Kay Gilley).

### THOSE WHO HAVE DIED

**From our parish:** Eve Atkeson.

### THOSE IN OUR PARISH CELEBRATING A BIRTHDAY

Tony Anikeeff, Gwendolyn Cunningham, Jack Garland, Robert Johnston, Lisa Koehler, Katherine Kyle, Marisol Lovelace, Denise Northrup, Lizzie Rigby, Adelle Simmons, and Todd Smith.

### THOSE IN OUR PARISH CELEBRATING AN ANNIVERSARY

Rob Fisher and Sarah Wood, Ann and John Gardner, and Anne Stewart and Tony Tambasco.

### THOSE ON THE FRONT LINES

**Friends and family of our parish:** Janie Abernethy (Elizabeth Lewis and David Abernethy), Philip L. Faris (Caroline and Steve Faris), and Charles Lewis, Jr. (Charles Lewis, Sr.).



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*Contact Pastoral Care at Connect: Ministry Directory on our website to add, remove, or change a status on the prayer list.*

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# WELCOME!

**At St. John's Church, we believe** Christ is calling us to be a renewed church in a changing world. Empowered by the Spirit of God, we respond to Jesus' call as we deepen our bond with Christ through worship, become a community where all are accepted, and work together as laity and clergy to do God's work in the world.

**St. John's was organized in 1815** to serve as a parish church for Episcopalians residing in the neighborhoods in the west end of the District of Columbia. Its cornerstone was laid on September 14, 1815, and it was consecrated on December 27, 1816. Beginning with James Madison, every person who has held the office of President of the United States has attended a service at the church. Several Presidents have been communicants. Thus, St. John's is often referred to as the "Church of the Presidents." Pew 54 is the President's Pew. The architect of the church was Benjamin Henry Latrobe, who assisted in the rebuilding of the U.S. Capitol and the White House after the War of 1812. Twenty-five of the stained glass windows in St. John's were designed and executed by artisans of the noted Lorin firm of Chartres, France.

**If you are visiting**, please fill out the visitor information card found at the end of each pew to enable us to welcome you personally into the life of our parish.

**St. John's website ([www.stjohns-dc.org](http://www.stjohns-dc.org))** has up-to-date information about the church including the Sunday service schedule, Speaker Series speakers and topics, and newsworthy events.

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## **Vestry Leadership & Members**

Nora Rigby, *Senior Warden*

Alfred Thesmar, *Junior Warden*

Tony Anikeeff, Brian Cordova-Brookey,  
Kaye Edwards, Casey Evans, Debby Hailey,  
Fruzsina Harsanyi, Julia Koster,  
Ucheora Onwuamaegbu, Jack Reiffer,  
Matthew Taylor, and Jess Unger, *Members*

Anya Kleymenova, *Treasurer*

Allie Raether, *Secretary*

Harker Rhodes, *Parish Counsel*

**Head Usher**—James H. Czerwonky

**Head Greeters**—Eleanor and Peter Odom

## **Heads of Flower Guild**

Pat Dalby and Katherine Kyle

## **Clergy & Staff**

The Rev. Robert W. Fisher, *Rector*

The Rev. Sarah Akers-Cardwell, *Associate Rector*  
*for Family Ministry and Pastoral Care*

The Rev. Eric Bailey, *Assistant Priest for Parish Life*  
*and New Member Ministry*

The Rev. William Morris, *Assisting Priest*  
*for Engaging Local Communities*

Brent Erstad, *Director of Music and Organist*

Linda Morgan Stowe and John Chappell Stowe,  
*Interim Assistant Organists*

Preston Cherouny, *Chief Operating Officer*

Charley Griffin, *Parish Administrator*

Lisa Koehler, *Program Associate and*  
*Executive Assistant to the Rector*

Javier Obregon, *Sexton*

GeeGee Bryant, David Gamboa, and John Queen,  
*Assistant Sextons*

Anne Stone, *Publications*

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## **ST. JOHN'S MISSION STATEMENT**

St. John's shines as a beacon of God's love through faith, worship, care, and community,  
and offers a place of grace at our historic corner in the nation's capital.

## **Parish House**

1525 H Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005-1005  
(202) 347-8766 ♦ [www.stjohns-dc.org](http://www.stjohns-dc.org)