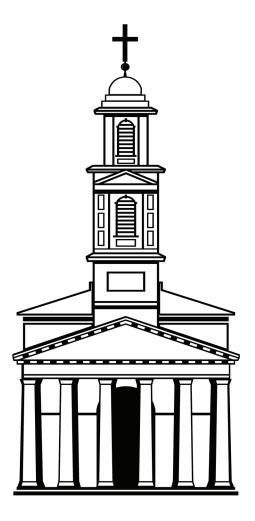
ASH WEDNESDAY March 5, 2025 + At noon and 7 p.m. Holy Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes



SAINT JºHN'S CHURCH

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 stand as you are able as the procession enters in silence.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Priest Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing you have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent: Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

THE FIRST READING

Please be seated.

noon Read by Caroline Faris.

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 7 p.m. Read by Powell Hutton.

Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on my holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the LORD is coming, it is near—a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness! Like blackness spread upon the mountains a great and powerful army comes; their like has never been from of old, nor will be again after them in ages to come. Yet even now, says the LORD, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the LORD, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing. Who knows whether he will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind him, a grain offering and a drink offering for the LORD, your God? Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast; call a solemn assembly; gather the people. Sanctify the congregation; assemble the aged; gather the children, even infants at the breast. Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her canopy. Between the vestibule and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep. Let them say, "Spare your people, O LORD, and do not make your heritage a mockery, a byword among the nations. Why should it be said among the peoples, 'Where is their God?''

Reader The Word of the Lord. *People* Thanks be to God.

PSALM 103:8-14

Chanted by the choir.

The LORD is full of compassion and mercy, * slow to anger and of great kindness.

He will not always accuse us, * nor will he keep his anger for ever.

He has not dealt with us according to our sins, * nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.

For as the heavens are high above the earth, * so is his mercy great upon those who fear him.

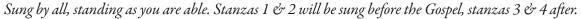
As far as the east is from the west, * so far has he removed our sins from us.

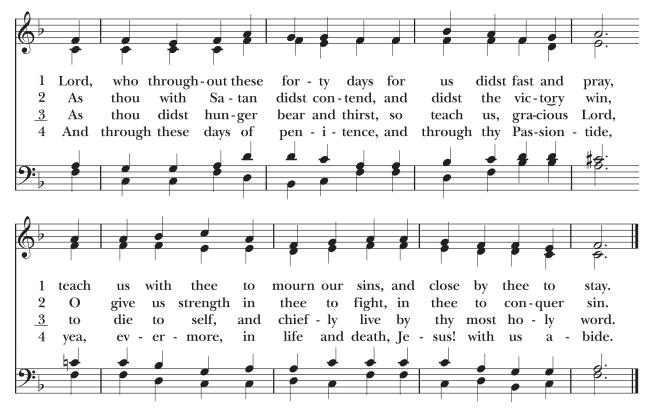
As a father cares for his children, * so does the LORD care for those who fear him.

For he himself knows whereof we are made; * he remembers that we are but dust.

GRADUAL HYMN 142

Lord, who throughout these forty days





Words: Claudia Frances Hernaman (1838-1898). Music: St. Flavian, melody from Day's Psalter, 1562; adapt, and harm. Richard Redhead (1820-1901).

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Please remain standing as you are able.

GospellerThe Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.PeopleGlory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, "Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven. So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

GospellerThe Gospel of the Lord.PeoplePraise to you, Lord Christ.

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

THE SERMON

The Rev. Dcn. Eric Bailey

THE LENTEN EXHORTATION

Please stand as you are able.

Dear People of God: The first Christians observed with great devotion the days of our Lord's passion and resurrection, and it became the custom of the Church to prepare for them by a season of penitence and fasting. This season of Lent provided a time in which converts to the faith were prepared for Holy Baptism. It was also a time when those who, because of notorious sins, had been separated from the body of the faithful were reconciled by penitence and forgiveness, and restored to the fellowship of the Church. Thereby, the whole congregation was put in mind of the message of pardon and absolution set forth in the Gospel of our Savior, and of the need which all Christians continually have to renew their repentance and faith.

I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word. And, to make a right beginning of repentance, and as a mark of our mortal nature, let us now kneel before the Lord, our maker and redeemer.

Silence is then kept for a time, all kneeling, as they are able.

Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth: Grant that these ashes may be to us a sign of our mortality and penitence, that we may remember that it is only by your gracious gift that we are given everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES

All who wish to receive ashes come forward to the altar steps. Ashes are imposed with the following words

Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

PSALM 51:1-18

Sung in Latin by the choir. Have mercy on me, O God, according to your loving-kindness; * in your great compassion blot out my offenses. Wash me through and through from my wickedness * and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, * and my sin is ever before me. Against you only have I sinned * and done what is evil in your sight. And so you are justified when you speak * and upright in your judgment. Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth, * a sinner from my mother's womb. For behold, you look for truth deep within me, * and will make me understand wisdom secretly. Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure; * wash me, and I shall be clean indeed. Make me hear of joy and gladness, * that the body you have broken may rejoice. Hide your face from my sins * and blot out all my iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, * and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence * and take not your holy Spirit from me. Give me the joy of your saving help again * and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit. I shall teach your ways to the wicked, * and sinners shall return to you.

noon Carlo Gesualdo (1566–1613) 7 p.m. Gregorio Allegri (c. 1582–1652) Deliver me from death, O God, * and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness, O God of my salvation.

Open my lips, O God, * and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Had you desired it, I would have offered sacrifice; * but you take no delight in burnt-offerings.

The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit; * a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

THE LITANY OF PENITENCE

Please kneel as you are able.

Priest Let us pray.

- All Most holy and merciful Father: We confess to you and to one another, and to the whole communion of saints in heaven and on earth, that we have sinned by our own fault in thought, word, and deed; by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.
- *Priest* We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others, as we have been forgiven.

People Have mercy on us, Lord.

Priest We have been deaf to your call to serve, as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

People Have mercy on us, Lord.

Priest We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness: the pride, hypocrisy, and impatience of our lives,

People We confess to you, Lord.

- *Priest* Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people,
- *People* We confess to you, Lord.

Priest Our anger at our own frustration, and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,

People We confess to you, Lord.

Priest Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work,

- *People* We confess to you, Lord.
- *Priest* Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,

People We confess to you, Lord.

- *Priest* Accept our repentance, Lord, for the wrongs we have done: for our blindness to human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,
- People Accept our repentance, Lord.
- *Priest* For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,
- People Accept our repentance, Lord.

Priest For our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us, *People* Accept our repentance, Lord.

Priest Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us;

People Favorably hear us, for your mercy is great.

Priest Accomplish in us the work of your salvation,

People That we may show forth your glory in the world.

Priest By the cross and passion of your Son our Lord,

People Bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.

The priest stands and, facing the people, says

Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who desires not the death of sinners, but rather that they may turn from their wickedness and live, has given power and commandment to his ministers to declare and pronounce to his people, being penitent, the absolution and remission of their sins. He pardons and absolves all those who truly repent, and with sincere hearts believe his holy Gospel.

Therefore we beseech him to grant us true repentance and his Holy Spirit, that those things may please him which we do on this day, and that the rest of our life hereafter may be pure and holy, so that at the last we may come to his eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **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

Sung by the choir.

 At noon
 Remember not, Lord, our offenses
 Henry Purcell (1659–1695)

 Remember not, Lord, our offenses,
 nor the offenses of our forefathers;
 Henry Purcell (1659–1695)

 nor the offenses of our forefathers;
 neither take thou vengeance of our sins,
 Henry Purcell (1659–1695)

 but spare us, good Lord.
 Spare thy people, whom thou hast redeemed
 Henry Purcell (1659–1695)

 with thy most precious blood,
 And be not angry with us for ever.
 Henry Purcell (1659–1695)

 Spare us, good Lord.
 Formas Cranmer (1489–1556)

At 7 p.m.

O Jesus, my Savior, my song in the night, come to us with thy tender love, my soul's delight. Unto thee, O Lord, in affliction I call, my comfort by day, and my song in the night.

O why should I wander, an alien from thee, or cry in the desert thy face to see? My comfort and joy, my soul's delight, O Jesus, my Savior, my song in the night.

—American folk hymn

Please stand as the gifts are brought forward in silence following the offertory anthem.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Please remain standing as you are able.

PriestThe Lord be with you.PeopleAnd also with you.PriestLift up your hearts.

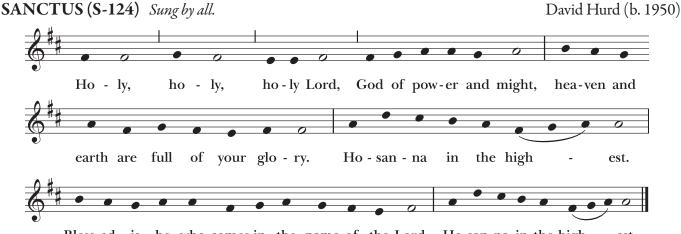
People We lift them to the Lord.

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. You bid your faithful people cleanse their hearts, and prepare with joy for the Paschal feast; that, fervent in prayer and in works of mercy, and renewed by your Word and Sacraments, they may come to the fullness of grace which you have prepared for those who love you. 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:



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

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

People Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

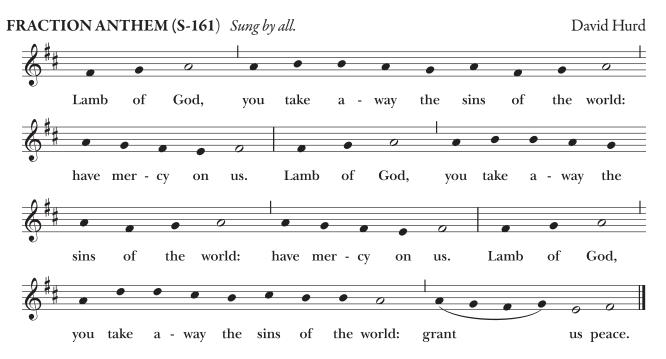
All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN**.

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



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 Thou knowest, Lord, the secrets of our hearts

Henry Purcell

Sung by the choir.

Thou knowest, Lord, the secrets of our hearts; shut not thy merciful ears unto our prayers; but spare us, Lord most holy, O God most mighty. O holy and most merciful Savior, thou most worthy judge eternal, suffer us not at our last hour, for any pains of death, to fall from thee. Amen.

-Funeral sentence from the Book of Common Prayer

HYMN 318 Sung by all, seated. Here, O my Lord, I see thee face to face 0 Here, Ο Lord, Ι thee face face; 1 my see to 2 Here would Ι feed up on the Bread of God; 3 I have no help but thine; nor do I need thine 4 Mine is the sin, the right - eous but ness; would Ι touch dle here and han things seen; un here drink with thee the rov al Wine of heaven; _ an oth er arm save thine to lean up on; thine cleans - ing mine is the but the Blood. guilt, with here grasp firm er hand ter nal grace, e lay here would Ι а side each earth - ly load, it is nough, deed; e my Lord, e - nough in Here is robe, re - fuge, and peace; my my my all lean. and my ri ness up _ on thee wea _ here taste a fresh the calm of sin for given. is thy might, thy might lone. my strength in a Blood, thy thy right - eous - ness, 0 Lord, my God.

Words: Horatius Bonar (1808-1889). Music: Nyack, Warren Swenson (b. 1937). Copyright © 1970, Warren Swanson.

THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Please stand or kneel as you are able.

Priest Let us pray.

All Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. 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.**



Words: Thomas H. Cain (b. 1931) Copyright ©1982, Thomas H. Cain. Music: Old 124th, melody Pseaumes octante trois de David, 1551; harm. Charles Winfred Douglas (1867-1944) Copyright © The Church Pension Fund. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

THE DISMISSAL

Deacon Let us go forth in the name of Christ. *People* Thanks be to God.

All depart in silence.

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ASSISTING AT THE NOON SERVICE

Jack Reiffer, *Crucifer* Doug Estes and Sylvia Martin Estes, *Chalice Bearers* Robyne Johnston, *Assistant Head Usher* Brian Cordova-Brookey and Fruzsina Harsanyi, *Ushers* Katherine Kyle, *Flower Guild*

ASSISTING AT THE 7 P.M. SERVICE

Kevin Cordova-Brookey, *Crucifer* Joanne Hutton and Jack Reiffer, *Chalice Bearers* Julia Koster, *Usher* Katherine Kyle, *Flower Guild*

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.

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 on Sundays from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Look for the valet sign at the corner of Black Lives Matter Plaza (16th Street) and H Street, NW. + Follow us on Instagram at @stjohnschurchlafayettesquare. See photos from St. John's musical performances, special events, meetings, Sunday services, and more. Relive the moment or experience it for the first time through the touch of a button on your smartphone.

LENT AT ST. JOHN'S



THREE-PART LENTEN SERIES ON PRAYER Speaker Series: Sundays at 10 a.m. in Togo West Parlor

March 9: The Rev. Professor Sarah Coakley—"What *is* prayer and what does the New Testament teach on it? Re-thinking the challenges and difficulties of prayer this Lent."

March 16: The Rev. Professor Sarah Coakley—"Early monastic prayer in the desert: Constant prayer, silence, and distractions—A practical guide."

March 23: The Rev. Martin L. Smith—"Beingemotionally honest in prayer: Who does God want to be for us as we pray?"



LENTEN DAILY DEVOTIONAL SERIES: "PATHWAYS THROUGH LENT"

"Pathways through Lent" is a daily email giving you Bible readings, a prayer, and a reflection to help with your Lenten practices. If you were on the distribution list for Pathways last year, you will automatically receive these again this year; if you would like to be added to the distribution, you may subscribe at bit.ly/sjc-pathways.

Pathways will be published in the morning on all weekdays now through Good Friday, April 18. For Saturdays and Sundays during Lent, we encourage you to read the reflection that our clergy send to remind us of the Sunday services, and, of course, to participate in worship either in person or via livestream at bit.ly/sjc-livestream.

DISCOVER THE PRACTICE OF SILENT PRAYER Tuesday evenings in Lent, 5–6 p.m.

Join us on the evenings of March 11, 18, and 25, and April 1 and 8, for an opportunity to discover a simple practice of silent prayer in community, for which the three Sunday Speaker Series discussions will provide initial teaching and encouragement. Newcomers to this practice are particularly welcome, and the cumulative effect of several weeks of this form of prayer together may be surprising.

There will be three in-person locales each week, but we shall be conjoined via the internet, and each session will be very briefly opened by the Rev. Professor Sarah Coakley in Alexandria. The last of these events (April 8) will involve 15 minutes of shared silence followed by a very simple contemplative Eucharist in each locale. The locations are:

St. John's Church (1525 H Street, NW) Convened by the Rev. Robert W. Fisher

The Oratory, Immanuel Chapel, Virginia Theological Seminary (3737 Seminary Road, Alexandria) Convened by the Rev. Professor Sarah Coakley

Northwest D.C. (near the Tenleytown Metro) Convened by the Rev. Sarah Akes-Cardwell

Sign up at bit.ly/silent-prayer-lent-2025. Please plan to arrive at your preferred location by 5 p.m. Sessions will begin promptly at 5:15 p.m. and end promptly at 6 p.m.

Visit our website for more news and the full calendar of upcoming events. You can find us at www.stjohns-dc.org.

Visit stjohns-dc.org/connect/newsletters to subscribe to our weekly e-newsletter (The Word) and other parish email lists.

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) has up-to-date information about the church including the Sunday service schedule, Speaker Series speakers and topics, and newsworthy events.

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, Elizabeth Cavert Morrison, Ucheora Onwuamaegbu, Jack Reiffer, Matthew Taylor, and Jess Unger, *Members*

> Nora Haugh, *Treasurer* Anya Kleymenova, *Assistant 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

Worship & Program Staff

The Rev. Robert W. Fisher, *Rector* The Rev. Sarah Akes-Cardwell, *Associate Rector* The Rev. William Morris, *Assisting Priest for Engaging Local Communities* Brent Erstad, *Director of Music and Organist* Lyn Loewi, *Associate Organist* The Rev. Dcn. Eric Bailey, *Minister for Youth and Young Adults*

Staff

Preston Cherouny, *Chief Operating Officer* Charley Griffin, *Operations Manager* 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*

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