



## St. John's Church

# The Parish Chronicle

March 16, 2025

THE SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

### Directory

2326 Woodward Avenue  
Detroit, MI 48201-3431  
Ph: (313) 962-7358  
www.StJohnsDetroit.org

### Rector

Fr. Steven J. Kelly, SSC

### Assisting Priest Emeritus

Fr. Michael J. Bedford

### Dir. of Music, Organist, & Master of the Choir

Dr. Huw R. Lewis, FRCO

### Edwards Organ Scholar

Grace Jackson

### Ministry & Staff

#### Office Manager

Elizabeth Savage

#### Senior Warden

Peter Grim

#### Junior Warden

Pat Walter

#### Treasurer

Jared Moody

#### Acolyte Master

Morley Stevenson

#### Altar Guild Directress

Sarah Babcock

#### Armitage Men's Club

Pat Walter

#### Daughters of the King

Lena Nealley

#### Episcopal Church Women

Debbie Swain

#### Lectors Guild

Brian Campbell

#### Outreach Committee Chair

Debbie Swain and Chris Golembiewski

#### Usher Captains

John Barge & Peter Grim



## Rector's Rambling

Five years ago this week I started my Rector's Rambling with this statement. "This has been the worst Lent for me, ever.

Every year I look forward to Lent; the disciplines, classes, and extra worship opportunities are things I love!"

The reason for my proclamation is that the week before we were informed by the bishops of the 4 Episcopal Dioceses in Michigan that in order to "flatten the curve" (which later became "stop the spread") we were not permitted to have public worship or gatherings at St. John's.

*"In addition to continuing to forgo all public, in-person worship services, we direct you to cease all other Sunday, Saturday and weekday in-person gatherings, including weddings, funerals, memorial services, bible studies, prayer meetings, and non-emergency baptisms, and place all of the groups that gather at your congregation on hiatus for the CDC's recommended eight weeks, or until May 10th, including both Holy Week and Easter."*

In a few weeks that was extended to the building being closed completely and that we weren't even allowed to livestream Masses or worship from an empty building. The closure was extended to July 1st, when other denominations returned in May, and here in the city of Detroit we were the ONLY parish of the diocese to open and have public worship for a full year, with no spread or outbreak.

At first we were all acting out of an abundance of caution. Masses continued livestreamed from here and then from my house. I started the Daily Morning Meditation series to stay in contact with parishioners and are still making them daily, over 1,750 days later. Some of us started new hobbies or fitness routines (I started rowing again, eating keto).

After we reopened we had to navigate various precautions and rules set down for us

like social distancing and only receiving Communion in one kind in the Host but not the chalice. And at one point the parishes were restricted back to "9 people plus the priests" at services (in our 800 seat church) so we had 10 Saturday and Sunday Services every week for 4 over months.

One of the positive results of the shut-downs was the expansion of livestreaming, which we had started experimenting with a few months beforehand. This has expanded the reach of St. John's Church via the internet, and I received emails and phone messages from people around the United States and in England, thanking us for our broadcasts.

One of the negative results of the shut-downs is also partially to blame on livestreaming. People fell out of the habit of weekly worship. Those joining via livestream weren't single-focused participating in the worship online, and of course not able to receive the Blessed Sacrament. Some people never came back.

A few weeks ago I identified that only a small number of people in the pews at 8 AM and 10 AM were here when I arrived 24 years ago. People have moved or passed away over the years, many more have joined us. Another interesting survey would be to see how many people have joined here since covid.

*Continued on page 4*





## ABOUT ST. JOHN'S

### To Our Visitors

Welcome! The parishioners and clergy of St. John's are delighted that you have come to worship with us. We hope this house of prayer provides you with a place in which you can find solace, comfort, and strength. We invite your inquiries about the ministries available here at St. John's.

We offer a barrier-free environment for the infirm and handicapped. An access ramp for wheel chairs is located at the **SOUTHWEST** entrance of the church, near Woodward Avenue in the garden. There is also an elevator in the building which provides access to the undercroft, so everyone may fully participate in activities and fellowship.

We would be very pleased if you plan to return to St. John's on a regular basis, to **WORSHIP** as part of our parish family. Please complete a Visitor's Form located in the Order of Service and place it in the collection plate or give it to an usher.

Thank you for coming! We look forward to greeting you following the service today and hope to chat with you during our time of fellowship in the undercroft.

### Communion Procedure

The Episcopal House of Bishops, in a 1979 teaching, lays out the following guideline for non-Episcopalians to receive communion in an Episcopal Church: The persons should 1) have been Baptized with water in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, 2) believe Christ is present in the sacrament, 3) have been admitted to Holy Communion in their own denomination, and 4) are attempting, by God's grace, to live in love and charity with their neighbor. If you have any questions, please speak to the priest.

To receive the Host, raise your crossed hands, right palm over left. You may also receive directly on the tongue. If you do not wish to receive the Cup, cross your arms over your chest and wait for the chalice bearer to pass by.

If you are not receiving communion, you still may come forward to the rail, cross your arms over your chest, and receive a blessing.

If you are physically unable to approach the rail, please inform an usher and the Sacrament will be brought to you.

### Pastoral Care

Please inform the clergy if you or a family member are ill, hospitalized, or unable to attend the regular worship of the Church so that a pastoral visit can be arranged. Please contact the clergy to discuss arrangements for baptisms, weddings, or burials **before** any announcement or other plans are made.

### Outreach

**Every Sunday:** *Food or clothing* may be deposited in the basket at the entrance of the church to aid the neighborhood ministry to the poor through **Crossroads**.

**First Sunday of the month:** The *loose offerings* collected are given to support the mission work of the Church in Malawi, Central Africa. Please add a cash gift or extra check in the collection plate every first Sunday of the month!

**Third Sunday of the month:** The *loose offerings* collected are given to support the ministry of the Rector's Discretionary Fund.

## THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S MARCH 16—MARCH 25

<b>Sunday</b> 3/16 THE SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT	7:00 A 7:30 A 8:00 A 10:00 A 11:15 A  5:30 P	Morning Meditation (online) Morning Prayer (chapel) Holy Communion (chapel) Choral Holy Communion Coffee Hour  Evening Prayer
<b>Monday</b> 3/17 St. Patrick, Bishop of Ireland, 462 A.D.	7:00 A 12:15 P 4:00 P 5:00 P	Morning Meditation (online) Holy Communion Evening Prayer AA Meeting
<b>Tuesday</b> 3/18 St. Cyril of Jerusalem d. 386 A.D.	7:00 A 12:15 P 4:00 P	Morning Meditation (online) Holy Communion Evening Prayer
<b>Wednesday</b> 3/19 St. Joseph, Spouse of the BVM	7:00 A 12:15 P 4:00 P 5:00 P	Morning Meditation (online) Holy Communion Evening Prayer AA Meeting
<b>Thursday</b> 3/20 St. Cuthbert, B.C. d. 687 A.D.	7:00 A 10:30 A 4:00 P 5:00 P	Morning Meditation (online) Holy Communion Evening Prayer AA Meeting
<b>Friday</b> 3/21 St. Benedict, Abbot d. 543 A.D.	7:00 A 11:00 A 11:15 A NOON	Morning Meditation (online) AA Meeting Holy Communion Stations of the Cross
<b>Saturday</b> 3/22 James de Koven, Priest 1879 A.D.	7:00 A	Morning Meditation (online)
<b>Sunday</b> 3/23 THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT	7:00 A 7:30 A 8:00 A 10:00 A 11:15 A  5:30 P	Morning Meditation (online) Morning Prayer (chapel) Holy Communion (chapel) Choral Holy Communion Coffee Hour  Evening Prayer

*NOTE: The Chronicle went to the printer last Tuesday. Calendar updates or changes can be found at [www.StJohnsDetroit.org](http://www.StJohnsDetroit.org)*

### Collect for the Second Sunday in Lent

**A**LMIGHTY God, who seest that we have no power of ourselves to help ourselves; Keep us both outwardly in our bodies, and inwardly in our souls; that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### THE DAILY OFFICE READINGS (The Lectionary)\*

#### Morning Prayer

SUNDAY	86, 142	1 Kings 8:37–43 Col. 3:12–17
Monday	39	Gen. 27:1–29 1 Cor. 5
Tuesday	41	Gen. 27:30–40 1 Cor. 6:1–11
Wednesday	56	Gen. 27:46—28:4, 10–22 1 Cor. 6:12
Thursday	62	Gen. 29:1–13, 18–20 1 Cor. 7:1–17
Friday	95 & 54, 61	Gen. 32:22–31 1 Cor. 8
Saturday	63	Gen. 35:1–7, 16–20 1 Cor. 9:1–14

#### Evening Prayer

SUNDAY	26, 119:1–16	2 Sam. 12:1–10, 13–14 1 Cor. 6:9
Monday	50	Jer. 4:23 John 10:11–21
Tuesday	51	Jer. 5:1–9 John 10:22–38
Wednesday	65, 67	Jer. 5:10–19 John 11:1–16
Thursday	66	Jer. 5:20 John 11:17–27
Friday	69:1–22, 30–37	Jer. 6:1–8 John 11:28–44
Saturday	72	Jer. 6:9–21

\* If there is no “ending” verse listed, then read to the end of the chapter.

### **WISH LIST** — PLEASE HELP US WITH THESE ITEMS

*New items to come soon.*

### Announcements

#### SUNDAY EVENING PRAYER

Sunday Evening Prayer is prayed at St. John’s at **5:30 PM**. Join us for this 25 minute Service to finish the Sabbath Day as we started it - in worship and thanksgiving.

#### Weekday Services This Week –

#### Daily Morning Meditation

Streamed daily @ 7:00 AM

#### Holy Communion

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday @ 12:15 PM

Thursday @ 10:30 AM, **Friday @ 11:15 AM (Lent)**

#### Evening Prayer

Monday through Thursday @ 4 PM

*Services can be attended in person, or by livestream*

**Stations of The Cross** - Friday at NOON. Join us as we walk our way with Jesus through his trial, carrying of the cross, crucifixion, death and burial. This service is about 25 minutes long.

**Christian Education** – Sunday School is at 10 AM today, and the Dante class after the 10 AM Service.

**Donations Accepted** - we are accepting donations of individually wrapped packages of snacks (e.g., granola bars, cookies, nuts, etc.). While you’re shopping, please consider buying some, and bringing them in for the Church to use for Coffee Hour.

**AED and Narcan** - In case of medical emergency the Automated External Defibrillator and Narcan are located in the hallway between the Church and the Chapel, using the doorway in front to the left of the choir and altar area to get to it.

**Parking Note** - being a member of St. John’s does not mean that we can park in our side lot for free for Lions games, shows at the Fox, etc. The lot is leased to Olympia Development, and we have use of it for our church related events, but not at other times when they are using it.

**Giving** - If you are away on Sunday, you can mail your offering envelope to St. John’s, or contribute online with the our QR code through the GiveButter giving platform.





## LAY MINISTRY SCHEDULES

### March 16

#### Lay Ministers 8:00 AM:

E – Richard Moritz  
S – C. Stevenson

#### Altar Guild 10:00 AM:

Sarah Babcock  
Nancy Donnelly  
Suzanne Porter  
Melody Huffer

#### Lay Ministers 10:00 AM:

Brian Campbell  
Morley Stevenson  
Adrian Leskiw

#### Ushers 10:00 AM:

John Barge  
Peter Grim  
Bryan Monaco  
William Porter  
Libby Schudel  
George Waters  
Terry Donnelly  
Darren Savage  
Elijah Buxo

#### Coffee Hour

Coffee Hour

### March 23

#### Lay Ministers 8:00 AM:

E – Richard Moritz  
S – C. Stevenson

#### Altar Guild 10:00 AM:

Sarah Babcock  
Sarah Jean Babcock  
Helene Waters

#### Lay Ministers 10:00 AM:

Brian Campbell  
Morley Stevenson  
Chelsea Hutchins

#### Ushers 10:00 AM:

John Barge  
Peter Grim  
Bryan Monaco  
William Porter  
Libby Schudel  
George Waters  
Terry Donnelly  
Darren Savage  
Elijah Buxo

#### Coffee Hour

Coffee Hour

### The Vestry and Officers of St. John's

Peter Grim, Senior Warden  
Pat Walter, Junior Warden  
Cynthia Edwards, Secretary  
Jared Moody, Treasurer

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#### *Terms expire January 2026*

Elizabeth Butler                      David Gawrych  
Bryan Monaco

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#### *Terms expire January 2026*

Jared Moody                              Pat Walter  
Helene Waters

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#### *Terms expire January 2027*

Cynthia Edwards                      Peter Grim  
Morley Stevenson

The Vestry typically meets monthly at 6:30 PM in the undercroft, September through June. All St. John's parishioners are welcome to attend.

## Rector's Rambling

*Continued from page 1*

One family started attending because we had sensible rules and were actually open for worship. Another came from another parish in the city because they didn't reopen for another year after we did. And many others have discovered us since then.

Some people stayed for a few months because we were open, and I remember that first Sunday we were allowed to have coffee hour again I was shocked to see that one of the newcomers had a moustache! I had never seen him with his mask off. Up until then I was delivering the Sacrament to people in the pews (coming up to the rail violated the 6 foot separation rule) and he never put down his mask until I moved on to the next person.

So many twists and turns, and unknowns, confronted us while trying to figure out the 'New Normal'. Re-constituting the choir was a task, even with them singing with masks. Convincing people it was safe, and VITAL that they come back to public worship was a chore! When Coffee Hour was shut down again for a period of time, but restaurants were open, we moved our Valentine's Day Coffee hour to a friend of mine's bar down the street! And thankfully we still had no outbreaks in or from the congregation.

What started out as an 'abundance of caution' to keep people safe from infection morphed into a struggle to find common sense and real science. Things we are told was settled truth changed, or was discarded, over time.

I am convinced that the devil took the best of our intentions and twisted it into an irrational fear in order to keep people out of church, away from the Blessed Sacrament, and to draw them away from Jesus. Church attendance around the city, state and country, is still down from pre-covid numbers in most places. Several already struggling parishes in the diocese closed as a result.

5 years was a long time ago, and yet seems in some ways like just yesterday. We still livestream and have a great deal of connection with people beyond Metro Detroit because of it. New people continue to join the parish and didn't have any experience of the shifting rules and regulation imposed for us to stay open for worship. And I am so grateful for the many members of the parish who pivoted as necessary, were flexible through the changes, and have continued faithful to our Lord in his parish on this corner of Woodward Avenue and I-75

May we never in our lifetimes have such a virus affect us. We have learned much in hindsight from the experience. May we never again be tempted to think that withholding the Sacrament or public worship is the solution.

**A DAILY PRAYER FOR  
St. John's Church**

Bless, O Lord, this parish, and grant that Thy Name may be worshipped here in truth and purity, to all generations. Give Thy grace and wisdom to our Clergy, that they may exercise holy discipline, and be themselves patterns of holiness, simplicity, and self-denial. Bless all who worship here; take from us all pride, vanity and self-conceit, and give to us true humility and self-abasement. Enlighten our minds, subdue our wills, purify our hearts, and so penetrate us with Thy Spirit, and fill us with Thy love that we may go forth animated with earnest zeal for Thy glory; and may Thy living Word so dwell within our hearts that we may speak with that resistless energy of love which shall melt the hearts of sinners to the love of Thee. Open, O Lord, the hearts and hands of Thy people, that we may be ready to give and glad to distribute to our necessities. Bless the founders and benefactors of this parish, and recompense them with the riches of Thine everlasting kingdom, for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

**Cycle of Prayer for Malawi, week of March 16:**

Diocese of Lake Malawi—The Rt Revd Francis Kaulanda; Leonard Kamungu Theological College; Diocese of Karonga; St. Ann's Hospital

**Anglican Cycle of Prayer**

*Second Sunday in Lent: The Church of the Province of Central Africa; The Diocese of Malek Rup—Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan; The Diocese of Malindi—The Anglican Church of Kenya; Te Pihopatanga o Te Manawa o Te Wheke—The Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia; The Diocese of Manchester—The Church of England; The Diocese of Mandalay—The Church of the Province of Myanmar (Burma); The Diocese of Manicaland—The Church of the Province of Central Africa*

**Episcopal Diocese of Michigan**

Pleasant Lake—Christ Church  
Ecorse—Church of the Resurrection  
Barahona, DR—Jesus the Pilgrim

**BIRTHDAY GREETINGS**



**March 16**

Stella Heatley

**March 17**

Brian Finocchiaro

**March 20**

Sarah Burton  
Elaine Didier  
Judy Lees

**This Week's ANNIVERSARIES**

Have you given us your  
Anniversary Date?



**OUR PRAYER LIST**

**Healing and Comfort:** Alice B., Sarah B., Al F., Bonnie B., Brianna W., Christopher B., Daria R., Durene B., Endolyn C., Elaine D., Eleanore S., Gail W., Gordon D., George W., Helene W., Jessica W., Jimmy J., Jim Z., Johnny C., Julie B., Lawrence A., MJ B., Michael Z., Michael P., Paul M., Rexina M., Robert H., Sabrina H., Sandra Z., Sandy D.

*If you would like to add a name to the Prayer List, please call the Church Office at 313-962-7358.*

**Serving in the United Nations:** Sharon G. Lowery

**Police Officers and Firefighters:** For parishioner officers – Federal Service: Pat Walter; Orange County, NC: Michael Walter; and Fairfax County, VA: Stephen A. Shillingford.

**Those Serving in the Military:** Especially for Alan Mullin, Andrew Timpner, Brian Shea, Damon Dalby, Elijah Buxo, Ian Bass, Jonathan Walter, Kurt Helfrich, Nick Myers, Nick Norville, Steven Campbell, Joseph J. Sharpe, Ted Decker, Brian Finocchiaro, Catherine Finocchiaro, Zachary Livingston, & John R. Nicholson, III, graduate of West Point

**Diocese and the National Episcopal Church:** That there may be a greater understanding of the Authority of Holy Scripture, and our submission to that Authority.

**Year's Mind of Death:**

Hilda Rockseth	March 16, 1977
Frances Alma Fairchild Calhoun	March 16, 1994
Benjamin Nelson Arnold	March 17, 1957
Gordon Culvernell	March 17, 1978
Eleanor L. Williams	March 18, 1961
Roland Bischoff	March 18, 1968
Harriet Thomas	March 19, 1952
Hertha Brede Wegener	March 19, 1987
Mabel C. Brown	March 20, 1970
Mary Mc Donald Harris	March 20, 1989
Josephine A. Johnson	March 21, 1933
Estella Gertrude Steward	March 21, 1969
Vera Brabb	March 22, 1960
Mabel L. Sullivan	March 22, 1972