

St. John's Church

# The Parish Chronicle

February 2, 2025

THE PRESENTATION OF CHRIST IN THE TEMPLE, COMMONLY CALLED THE PURIFICATION OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN

## 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

Today we get a chance to deviate from the regular Sunday rotation of readings, on what would be the fourth Sunday after Epiphany, because it is a Prayer Book Holy Day.

Today's Feast Day is 40 days after the birth of Jesus Christ, which of course we celebrated on Christmas. As it is the custom for the members of the original covenant, the Jewish people, on the 40th day of a child's life they were presented in the Temple as a offering, in remembrance of Abraham's willingness to offer his son Isaac at God's command.

We remember that when Abraham offered to sacrifice his son, God instead, via an angel, stopped the sacrifice – his willingness was proof of his faithfulness – and provided a ram in his son's place.

So as Jewish males reach their 40th day of life, they are offered to the service of God in a representative way, and by bringing with them "a pair of turtle doves, or two young pigeons", offer that as a sacrifice of thanksgiving.

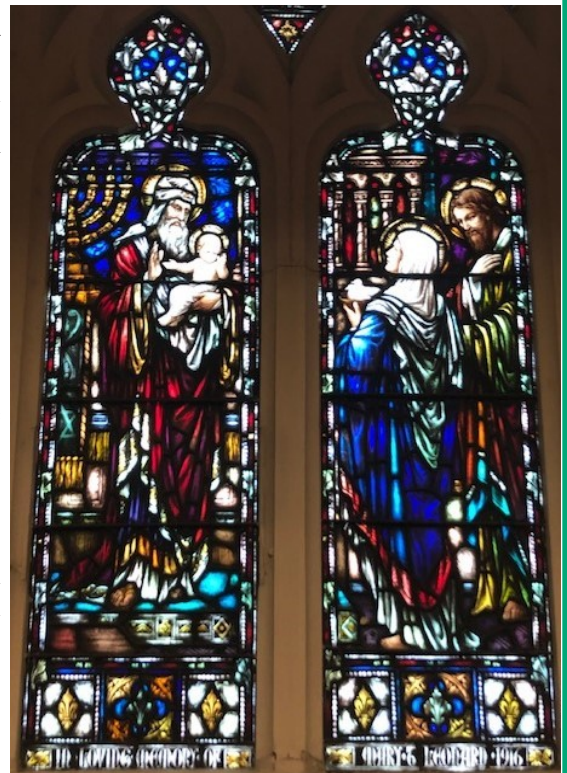
Also according to Jewish custom, it is on the 40th day after giving birth that the woman is re-admitted to public worship. The issue of blood following childbirth was considered "unclean" so they were expected to not attend public worship. This is the first public event the new mother would be expected to attend.

This prohibition sounds funny to us now, but some of us may remember when the due date was called the EDC, which stood for Expected Date of Confinement. This was not for any sort of religious reason, but the acknowledgement of the reality that mothers should have time to recover from the physical work of birth, and have time to bond with their child. Being

"unclean" may sound harsh to us, but it was also a protection of the woman so that she can heal and be well.

Although the church has not had a period of "uncleanness", the tradition of time away after birth is recognized in the 1928 Book of Common Prayer with the service *The Thanksgiving of Women after Childbirth, commonly called the Churching of Women*, found on page 305.

In my 30 years as a priest I have used this service twice. It seems to be something that has passed on with time in our own tradition. The theological emphasis of Simeon and Anna in the Feast are primary today, but we give thanks also for the protection and safe delivery of mothers and their children too.





## 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 FEBRUARY 2—FEBRUARY 9

<b>Sunday</b> 2/2 THE PURIFICATION OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN	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> 2/3 St. Blaise, Bishop and Martyr, c. 316 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> 2/4 St. Gilbert of Sempringham, Abbot, 1189 A.D.	7:00 A 12:15 P 4:00 P	Morning Meditation (online) Holy Communion Evening Prayer
<b>Wednesday</b> 2/5 St. Agatha, Virgin and Martyr, 304 A.D.	7:00 A 12:15 P 5:00 P	Morning Meditation (online) Holy Communion AA Meeting
<b>Thursday</b> 2/6 St. Titus, Bishop and Confessor, d. 107 A.D.	7:00 A 10:30 A 4:00 P 5:00 P 7:00 P	Morning Meditation (online) Holy Communion Evening Prayer AA Meeting Alpha Course
<b>Friday</b> 2/7 St. Romuald, Abbot 1027 A.D.	7:00 A 11:00 A	Morning Meditation (online) AA Meeting
<b>Saturday</b> 2/8	7:00 A	Morning Meditation (online)
<b>Sunday</b> 2/9 FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY	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 Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

**O** GOD, who knowest us to be set in the midst of so many and great dangers, that by reason of the frailty of our nature we cannot always stand upright; Grant to us such strength and protection, as may support us in all dangers, and carry us through all temptations; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

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

#### Morning Prayer

SUNDAY	66	Isa. 61 Luke 4:16–32
Monday	56, 60:1–5	Prov. 20:9–12, 17–22 Col. 1:1–17
Tuesday	61, 62	Prov. 21:21 Col. 1:18–2:5
Wednesday	63, 64	Prov. 22:1–6, 17–25 Col. 2:6–19
Thursday	68:1–19	Prov. 23:20–21, 29–35 Col. 2:20–3:11
Friday	69:1–22, 30–37	Prov. 24:23 Col. 3:12–17
Saturday	77	Prov. 25:11–15, 17–22 Col. 3:18–4:6

#### Evening Prayer

SUNDAY	145	Isa. 45:20 Rom. 10
Monday	65	Ezek. 34:25 John 6:41–59
Tuesday	71	Ezek. 36:22–28 John 6:60
Wednesday	72	Ezek. 37:1–14 John 7:1–13
Thursday	73	Ezek. 37:21b John 7:14–24
Friday	75, 76	Ezek. 39:21 John 7:25–36
Saturday	19, 67	Ezek. 43:1–9 John 7:37

\* 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

#### Evening Prayer

Monday through Thursday @ 4 PM

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

Next Weekend - Saturday CPR and AED Training, Sunday a presentation by Fr. Mike after the 10 AM Service. Check out the fliers inserted in the Order of Service for details.

Christian Education – Sunday School is at 10 AM Today, and the Dante class after the 10 AM Service. The Alpha Course is Thursday at 6:30 PM

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.

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

### February 2

#### Lay Ministers 8:00 AM:

E – Richard Moritz  
S – C. Stevenson

#### Altar Guild 10:00 AM:

Jane Burton  
Elisabeth Johnson  
Carolyn Ricca

#### Lay Ministers 10:00 AM:

Brian Campbell  
Morley Stevenson  
Huw Lewis

#### 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

### February 9

#### Lay Ministers 8:00 AM:

E – Richard Moritz  
S – C. Stevenson

#### Altar Guild 10:00 AM:

Sarah Babcock  
Denise Grim

#### Lay Ministers 10:00 AM:

Brian Campbell  
Morley Stevenson  
Brian Campbell  
Suzanne Nicholson  
Elizabeth Savage

#### 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

---

#### *Terms expire January 2026*

Elizabeth Butler                      David Gawrych  
Bryan Monaco

---

#### *Terms expire January 2026*

Jared Moody                              Pat Walter  
Helene Waters

---

#### *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.

## St. John's Teaching Notes

### “Renewal of the Church”

Five Meditations by Bishop Richard S. Emrich

*Written in 1952, true for all today!*

### Renewal through Fellowship

So far we have said that the renewal of the Church comes through prayer and worship, clear belief, a willingness to venture, and a deep knowledge of the destiny of the Church. Before we turn to our final subject, let me make a suggestion which may be helpful. It is never given to mortal men to have the road of the future brightly illumined by a great searchlight. In this sense the future for all men is hidden in the dark. What is given to us is a knowledge of the next step that we should take; and then as we take that first step a further step is seen. When you return from the stimulus of a large gathering to the simpler and less exciting work at home, it may be that the renewal of the Church will seem far away. Then remember to take the first simple step that you can see. You can form a small prayer group that reads the Bible together. You can deepen your belief by the reading of one book that is right before you, such as Massey H. Shepherd's *The Worship of the Church*. You can venture out in some small way for your Church at home and the distant missionary work of the Church. And then the next step will be seen, and then the next. Do not expect too much too fast. Remember that the best mountain climbers do not begin to run up a mountain, but plod steadily and slowly. Continue the fine work you are doing, and then add to it one more step in the directions we have looked at together.



*The Rt. Rev. Richard S. Emrich, was the Seventh Bishop of Michigan, from 1948 to 1973. This was taken from a booklet called “Renewing the Church” (written in 1952). In his tenure as bishop, the diocese opened 49 Missions and Parishes, at a time the diocese encompassed the entire eastern half of the Lower Peninsular of Michigan.*

**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 February 2:**

Diocese of Southern Malawi: The Rt Revd Alinafe Kalemba; The Rt Revd Jackson C. Biggers, assisting; Archdiocese of Blantyre; Archdiocese of Lilongwe; St. Luke's Hospital

**Anglican Cycle of Prayer**

*The Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia; The Diocese of London—The Church of England; The Diocese of Long Island—The Episcopal Church; The Diocese of Los Angeles—The Episcopal Church; The Diocese of Louisiana—The Episcopal Church; The Diocese of Western Louisiana—The Episcopal Church; The Diocese of Luapula—The Church of the Province of Central Africa*

**Episcopal Diocese of Michigan**

Pontiac—All Saints'  
Carreras, DR—Holy Spirit

**BIRTHDAY GREETINGS**



**February 2**

Clayton Jolley

**February 5**

Robby Burton

**February 6**

Robert R. Hudson

**February 7**

David Boulton  
Malinda Madison

**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., Johny 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:**

Elsie F. Bowman	February 2, 2006
Griffin Causey	February 2, 2006
Dalie Warriner	February 3, 1961
Joseph John Kopera	February 3, 2013
Sheilah Jackson	February 4, 2000
Barbara Ann Matthews Tischer	February 4, 2013
Carolyn J. Campbell	February 5, 2014
Brenda Fay Nichols	February 5, 2016
Helen Taylor	February 6, 1979
Mark Allen Spicer	February 6, 2014
Anna Ellis Grunow	February 7, 1953
Charles Phillips	February 7, 1944
Delbert Giddis	February 8, 1963
Mary Agnes G. Clickner	February 8, 2017