



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

Ms. Chanmi Kim

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

St. John's Church

The Parish Chronicle

December 21, 2025

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT



Rector's Rambling

"Are we there yet?"
"How about now?"
"How much longer?"
"

Those of us who are parents have heard those phrases said from the back seat of the car or mini-van, as children are anxious to be done with a long trip and be at the anticipated destination (or perhaps we remember saying that ourselves). Over on Twitter there is a funny account called, "Is it Henley Regatta time yet?", and every day the person maintaining that account tweets, "no" (this rowing regatta in England is in July).

Well, just as during the car trip an answer of "almost there" is a small consolation, the Fourth Sunday in Advent is our "almost there" Sunday. The church got a head start on the decorating Friday, and today after the service, the sanctuary will be decorated, as well as the rest of the church and chapel. We can sense even more poignantly the "almost there" of Christmas.

So, as you do all the last-minute preparations for Christmas, one thing to

add to that list is to decide which Christmas service you will attend! Though the 4:00 PM Christmas Eve service includes the Children's Pageant, it isn't just for families with children, but for all parishioners and friends. The 8:30 PM Carol Prelude and 9:00 PM Candlelight Mass are our primary services for Christmas Eve, and the Christmas Day 11:00 AM service in the chapel is our smallest attended service (but growing), with a hearty amount of carol singing during the otherwise simpler spoken Communion Service. And the 11 AM Christmas Day Mass has a different set of readings than the ones we do on Christmas Eve. A few parishioners attend both days and you are welcome to do so as well.

If you haven't already done so now is the time to invite friends, family, and neighbors! Your invite may be the way that God is bringing someone back into the practice of attending church, and attending St. John's! Oh, and be sure to come to the great celebration that is almost here!

If you will be out of town be sure to bring us a service bulleting to share.



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

Food may be deposited in the basket at the entrance of the church to aid the neighborhood ministry to the poor through **Crossroads and Georgia Street Community Co-op**.

Dedicated donations for the support of the **Malawi Education Fund** and **Rector's Discretionary Fund** can be put in the collection plate with a note in the memo line or on the envelope.

Collections of school supplies, cleaning supplies, garden tools, Christmas presents, mittens, sweaters, etc. occur throughout the year to support our community.

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S DECEMBER 14—DECEMBER 21

Sunday 12/21 FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT	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 Sunday School Coffee Hour Evening Prayer
Monday 12/22 ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE	7:00 A 12:15 P 4:00 P 5:00 P	Morning Meditation (online) Holy Communion Evening Prayer AA Meeting
Tuesday 12/23	7:00 A 12:15 P 4:00 P	Morning Meditation (online) Holy Communion Evening Prayer
Wednesday 12/24 Vigil of the Nativity of Our Lord	7:00 A 4:00 P 5:00 P 8:30 P 9:00 P	Morning Meditation (online) Family Pageant Service AA Meeting Carol Prelude Choral High Mass
Thursday 12/25 CHRISTMAS DAY	7:00 A 11:00 A	Morning Meditation (online) Low Mass with Carols
Friday 12/26 ST. STEPHEN, DEACON AND MARTYR, 35 AD	7:00 A 11:00 A	Morning Meditation (online) AA Meeting
Saturday 12/27 St. John, Apostle and Evangelist 100 AD	7:00 A	Morning Meditation (online)
Sunday 12/28 THE HOLY INNOCENTS	7:00 A 7:30 A 8:00 A 10:00 A 10:00 A 11:15 A 5:30 P	Morning Meditation (online) Morning Prayer (chapel) Holy Communion (chapel) Sunday School 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

Collect for the Fourth Sunday in Advent

O LORD, raise up, we pray thee, thy power, and come among us, and with great might succour us; that whereas, through our sins and wickedness, we are sore let and hindered in running the race that is set before us, thy bountiful grace and mercy may speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be honour and glory, world without end. Amen.

THE DAILY OFFICE READINGS (The Lectionary)***Morning Prayer**

SUNDAY	80	Isa. 40:1–11 Luke 3:1–17
Monday	116	Isa. 33:13 Luke 1:5–25
Tuesday	130, 131	Isa. 25:1–9 Luke 1:26–38
Christmas Eve	50	Baruch 4:36–5:9 Luke 1:67
CHRISTMAS DAY	89:1–30	Isa. 9:2–7 Luke 2:1–20
ST. STEPHEN	118	2 Chron. 24:17–22 Acts 6
ST. JOHN EVANGELIST	23, 24	Exod. 33:12 John 13:20–26, 31–35

Evening Prayer

SUNDAY	33	Isa. 40:12–18, 21–31 1 Thess. 3:7
Monday	104	Isa. 35 Rev. 10:7
Tuesday	114, 122	Gen. 49:1–2, 8–10 Rev. 21:1–8
Christmas Eve	85	Zech. 2:10 Matt. 1:18
CHRISTMAS DAY	45	Micah 4:1–5, & 5:2–4 1 John 4:7–14
ST. STEPHEN	30, 31:1–6	Wisdom 4:7–15 Acts 7:59–8:8
ST. JOHN EVANGELIST	97	Isa. 6:1–8 Rev. 1

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

WISH LIST — PLEASE HELP US WITH THESE ITEMS

5 new Holy Water Stoops for Church and Chapel
\$200 each

Holy Water storage tank with stand \$630

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, @ 12:15 PM

Wednesday 4 PM and 9 PM (Christmas Eve)

Thursday @ 11 AM (Christmas Day)

Evening Prayer

Monday and Tuesday @ 4:00 PM

Christian Education – Sunday School today at 10 AM in the Undercroft., Anglican History Class resumes January 4.

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 an Automated External Defibrillator and Narcan are located in the hallway between the Church and the Chapel, and also one in the Undercroft.

Parking Note - being a member of St. John's does not mean that we can park in our side lot for free for Tigers, Lions games, shows at the Fox, etc. The lot is leased to Olympia Development, and we have use of it only for our church related events

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.

There may be a tax advantage to **donating stocks, bonds, securities, and property** to St. John's. Speak to your advisor and contact the Treasurer for information on how to donate



LAY MINISTRY SCHEDULES

December 21

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
Huw Lewis

Ushers 10:00 AM:

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

Coffee Hour

Coffee Hour

December 28

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
Tom Edwards

Ushers 10:00 AM:

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

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 2027

Jared Moody Pat Walter
Helene Waters

Terms expire January 2028

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

Today we will sing the classic Advent hymn – *O come, O come, Emmanuel*, number 2 in the Hymnal 1940. It sums up the hopes of the people of Israel that God would send a Saviour. Each verse of the hymn is a paraphrase of a Latin antiphon to be said at Daily Evening Prayer before the first canticle, *The Magnificat*. It is yet another wonderful way the Church is counting down to the Feast of the Nativity (Christmas).

Why am I writing about this hymn here? We have been doing this since December 16.

Listed below are the antiphons for the proper days, with the verses in the hymn to which they correspond:

12/16 – O Wisdom, which camest out of the mouth of the most High, and reachest from one end to another, mightily and sweetly ordering all things: Come and teach us the way of prudence. (v.2)

12/17 – O Adonai, and Leader of the house of Israel, who appearest in the bush to Moses in a flame of fire, and gavest him the law in Sianai: come and redeem us with an outstretched arm. (v.3)

12/18 – O Root of Jesse, which standest for an ensign of the people, at whom kings shall shout their mouths, unto whom the Gentile shall seek: come and deliver us, and tarry not. (v.4)

12/19 – O Key of David, and Scepter of the House of Israel; that openest and no man shutteth, and shutteth and no man openeth: Come, and bring the prisoners out of the prison-house, them that sit in darkness and the shadow of death. (v.5)

12/20 – O Day-spring, Brightness of the Light everlasting, and Sun of righteousness: Come and enlighten them that sit in darkness and the shadow of death. (v. 6)

12/21 – O King of Nations, and their Desire; the Cornerstone, who makest both one: Come and save mankind, whom thou formedst of clay. (v. 7)

12/22 – O Emmanuel, our King and Lawgiver, and Desire of all nations and their Salvation: Come and save us, O Lord our God. (v.1)

12/23 – O Virgin of Virgins, how shall this be? For neither before thee was any seen like thee, nor shall there be after. Daughters of Jerusalem, why marvel ye at me? The thing which ye behold is a divine mystery

Be sure to pray each of these verses every night, and perhaps sing the hymn version too.

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 December 21:

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

Anglican Cycle of Prayer

Fourth Sunday in Advent: The Anglican Church of Burundi; The Diocese of Santiago (Chile) - Iglesia Anglicana de Chile; The Diocese of Santiago (Philippines) - The Episcopal Church in the Philippines; The Diocese of Sao Paulo—Igreja Episcopal Anglicana do Brasil; The Diocese of Sapele—The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion); The Diocese of Saskatchewan—The Anglican Church of Canada; The Diocese of Saskatoon—The Anglican Church of Canada

Episcopal Diocese of Michigan

Ann Arbor—Church of the Incarnation

Jalongo, DR—St. Matthew's

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS**December 22**

John Barge

December 25

Darren Savage

December 26

Elisabeth Johnson

This Week's ANNIVERSARIES**December 24**

Alan & Lena Nealley, Sr.

**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., Harriett M., George W., Helene W., Jessica W., Jim Z., Julie B., Lawrence A., MJ B., Michael Z., Michael P., Paul M., Rexina M., Sabrina H., Sandra Z., Sandy D., Deb B.

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, Charles Lewis.

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:

Violet S. Eurich	December 21, 1959
Lulu P. Sanford	December 21, 1976
Jeanette Weldon	December 22, 1952
Suzanna Karpinski	December 22, 1954
Ethel Ramsey	December 23, 1966
Martha Langley	December 23, 1968
Harold E. Joubert, Jr.	December 24, 1963
Ervin H. Buehler	December 24, 1997
Marie Schell	December 25, 1977
Maryann Crogher Balduf	December 25, 2022
Julia Fisher	December 26, 1960
Dolores Selena Loveless	December 26, 1969
Samuel B. Cummins	December 27, 1952
Ruth M. Loomis	December 27, 2002