



### Directory

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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 28, 2025

## THE HOLY INNOCENTS



### Rector's Rambling

Merry Christmas! I hope that you haven't already tired of hearing that phrase since today is only the fourth day of Christmas! Christmas is a SEASON, which runs from December 25 until January 5. The 12 days of Christmas are these 12 days, not the days preceding the Feast.

After Christmas there are three immediate Feast Days on the Church calendar. December 26 was the Feast of St. Stephen, the first martyr. December 27 was the Feast of St. John the Evangelist, our patron because the parish was incorporated on that day in 1858.

Today's Feast Day is tragic. The event itself, chronologically, occurred much later after the birth of Christ. Herod, jealous that the wise men told him that a new king was born, and angry that they did not come back to tell him where Jesus was, orders the destruction of all children under the age of two. St Augustine says of the slaughter "they are the first buds of the Church killed by the frost of persecution; they died not only for Christ, but in his stead ." ("Sermo 10us de sanctis")

These three Feasts are placed on the calendar so close to Christmas because "These dates have nothing to do with the chronological order of the event; the feast is kept within the octave of Christmas because the

Holy Innocents gave their life for the newborn Saviour. Stephen, the first martyr (martyr by will, love, and blood), John, the Disciple of Love (martyr by will and love), and these first flowers of the Church (martyrs by blood alone), accompany the Holy Child Jesus entering this world on Christmas day."

On the revised calendar, this Feast Day is no longer observed on Sunday. It is transferred to Monday. Most members of the Episcopal Church and the other churches using the new lectionary will most likely know nothing of these innocents who died for and in the place of Christ, since not many attend weekday Masses (if they are held at all).

And as the Collect for today reminds us, we should pray that God will "mortify and kill all vices in us, and so strengthen us by thy grace" so that we glorify Jesus this Christmastide, and all our lives.

~ Portions excerpted from [www.catholic.org/encyclopedia](http://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia)





## 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

<b>Sunday</b> 12/28 <b>THE HOLY INNOCENTS</b>	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> 12/29 Thomas Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury and Martyr 1170 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> 12/30	7:00 A 12:15 P 4:00 P	Morning Meditation (online) Holy Communion Evening Prayer
<b>Wednesday</b> 12/31 St. Sylvester I, Pope, c. 335 A.D.	7:00 A 12:15 P 5:00 P	Morning Meditation (online) Holy Communion AA Meeting
<b>Thursday</b> 1/1 THE CIRCUMCISION OF OUR LORD	7:00 A 10:39 A	Morning Meditation (online) Holy Communion and Benediction  <b>Office closed today</b>
<b>Friday</b> 1/2	7:00 A 11:00 A	Morning Meditation (online) AA Meeting  <b>Office Closed today</b>
<b>Saturday</b> 1/3	7:00 A	Morning Meditation (online)
<b>Sunday</b> 1/4 <b>SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS</b>	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](http://www.StJohnsDetroit.org)*

**Collect for the First Sunday after Christmas**

**A**LMIGHTY God, who hast given us thy only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and as at this time to be born of a pure virgin; Grant that we being regenerate, and made thy children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by thy Holy Spirit; through the same our Lord Jesus Christ, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the same Spirit ever, one God, world without end. Amen.

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

SUNDAY	8, 26	Jer. 31:1–6, 15–16 Matt. 18:1–14
December 29	27	Isa. 56:1–8 1 John 1
December 30	33	Isa. 59:1–3, 15b–21 1 John 2:1–17
December 31	147	Isa. 62 1 John 2:18
CIRCUMCISION	103	Deut. 30:1–10 Eph. 2:11
January 2	37:26	Isa. 63:7–14 1 John 3:1–11
January 3	66	Isa. 64:4 1 John 3:13

**Evening Prayer**

SUNDAY	19, 126	Isa. 54:1–13 Mark 10:13–16, 23–31
December 29	20, 21:1–6	Isa. 57:13 Heb. 1
December 30	111, 112	Isa. 60:13 Heb. 2
December 31	90, 150	Deut. 10:12–11:1 Heb. 3
CIRCUMCISION	148	Deut. 30:11 Rev. 19:11–16
January 2	2, 110	Isa. 63:15–64:1 Heb. 4:1–13
January 3	34	Isa. 65:8–16 Heb. 4:14–5:14

\* 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, Wednesday @ 12:15 PM

Thursday @ 10:30 AM

**Evening Prayer**

Monday and Tuesday @ 4:00 PM

**Christian Education** – Sunday School and Anglican Christianity 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 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

### January 4

#### 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  
Suzanne Nicholson

#### 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

### The 167th Anniversary of St. John's

On Monday evening December 6, 1858, Mr. Henry Porter Baldwin brought together in his home on Woodward Avenue above George Street (*now Fisher Freeway—ed.*) twenty-one of his neighbors, to discuss with them the formation of a new parish. Mr. Baldwin had removed to his present home in 1856, and had realized more and more the urgency of planting the Church in this rapidly growing neighborhood. Frequently he had pressed it upon the Churchmen of the city. When, in the spring of 1858, Mr. Cargill offered for sale his property at the corner of High Street (now Fisher Freeway - ed.), occupied by a brick residence, Mr. Baldwin at once purchased it, for \$12,000. When, therefore, he invited these gentlemen to a meeting in his house, it was not for the exchange of expressions as to the necessity or the desirability of a new venture, for the creation of a sentiment to result at some future day in an actual undertaking. He offered a splendid piece of ground, 125 feet on Woodward Avenue and 175 feet on High Street, for the site of a church, a chapel, and a rectory; further, he had obtained plans for these three buildings, which contemplated the removal of the residence on the corner, to admit of putting the church. Moreover, he pledged \$1,000 toward the chapel, and a brick rectory to be built entirely at his own expense on the south side of the lot, provided a subscription of \$7,500 in all could be raised to erect the chapel.

This first meeting was speedily followed by another. One week later, at the same place, reports were received, and action taken, the Rt. Rev. Samuel A. McCoskry, D. D., D.C.L., Bishop of Michigan, presiding. The subscription committee showed pledges amounting to \$7,600. Articles of Agreement were drawn up, and signed by twenty of those present; the day following five more names were added. St. John's was organized.

The Articles of Agreement being thus signed, attested, and duly recorded, **the first parish meeting was held on St. John's Day, December 27, 1858**, for the election of a Vestry. Messrs. Baldwin and Roberts were made Wardens; Mr. Stimson, Secretary; Mr. Rose, Treasurer. The same evening the (building) plans of Messrs. Jordan and Anderson were formally adopted; a Building Committee was appointed and instructed to proceed.

~ Edited by Fr. Kelly from St. John's 50th Anniversary Book



**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 28:**

Diocese of Northern Malawi: The Rt Revd Fanuel Emmanuel Magangani; Sisters of Saint Mary; Diocese of Mangochi; Diocese of Mzuzu; St. Peter's Hospital

**Anglican Cycle of Prayer**

*First Sunday of Christmas: The Anglican Church of Canada; The Diocese of Sebei—The Church of the Province of Uganda; The Diocese of Sekondi—The Church of the Province of West Africa; The Diocese of Seoul—The Anglican Church of Korea; The Diocese of Seychelles—The Church of the Province of the Indian Ocean; The Diocese of Sheffield—The Church of England; The Diocese of Shinyanga—The Anglican Church of Tanzania*

**Episcopal Diocese of Michigan**

Ann Arbor—Church of the Incarnation

Jalongo, DR—St. Matthew's

**BIRTHDAY GREETINGS**

**December 31**

Steve Langmuir

**This Week's ANNIVERSARIES**

**Have you given us your Anniversary?**

**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