

# SAINT JOHN'S CHURCH

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LAFAYETTE SQUARE • WASHINGTON, DC

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
December 1, 2024 ♦ Holy Eucharist at 8 a.m.

*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.*

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## 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.

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## ORDER OF SERVICE

*All page numbers reference the Book of Common Prayer. See inside for the readings, psalm, and gospel.*

The Word of God, page 355

The Collect of the Day

The First Reading

The Psalm

The Gospel

The Sermon: The Rev. Robert W. Fisher

The Prayers of the People, Form III, page 387

Confession and Absolution, page 360

The Peace

The Holy Communion

A Prayer for Stewardship (*see page 3 inside*)

The Great Thanksgiving, Prayer B, page 367

Prayer after Communion, page 366

Blessing

Dismissal

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## THE ADVENT WREATH

As we await Christ's Advent, or "coming," we symbolically acknowledge the role of his birth in salvation history through the lighting of our Advent wreath. In the Bible, Christ is referred to as the "Light of the World," contrasted with the darkness of sin. Each week in Advent, as the celebration of his birth draws nearer, we light another candle and dispel the darkness a little more. The candles may be said to represent hope, peace, joy, and love, just as they represent the four weeks of our wait. Thus, the Advent wreath helps us to contemplate spiritually the great drama that surrounds the birth of God Incarnate who comes to redeem the world.

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## THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## THE FIRST READING

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith. Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM 25:1-9

*Said responsively by half verse.*

To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul;  
my God, I put my trust in you; \*  
**let me not be humiliated,  
nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

Let none who look to you be put to shame; \*  
**let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.**

Show me your ways, O LORD, \*  
**and teach me your paths.**

Lead me in your truth and teach me, \*  
**for you are the God of my salvation;  
in you have I trusted all the day long.**

Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love, \*  
**for they are from everlasting.**

Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; \*  
**remember me according to your love  
and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.**

Gracious and upright is the LORD; \*  
**therefore he teaches sinners in his way.**

He guides the humble in doing right \*  
**and teaches his way to the lowly.**

All the paths of the LORD are love and faithfulness \*  
**to those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.**

## THE HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 21:25-36

*Please stand as you are able.*

*Gospeller* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

*People* **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said, “There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

“Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

*Gospeller* The Gospel of the Lord.

*People* **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

## A PRAYER FOR STEWARDSHIP

*Said by all.*

**Gracious and everlasting God, the giver of all good gifts, you have blessed us and our parish abundantly. Grant us the hope to dream and the courage to live into our possibilities. Make us faithful stewards, both for the provision of our necessities and for the relief of those who are in need. Bless the efforts of our annual giving this year to extend the work of spiritual renewal in our church and community of faith. Through Jesus Christ, who gave all of himself, we offer this prayer. Amen.**

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**THE ADVENT FRONTAL ON THE ALTAR WAS GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD,**  
and in loving memory of Avedis Thomas Reid Jr., Joseph Browning Reid II, and Richmond Shackleton Reid.

**THE GREENS IN THE CHURCH ARE GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD.**

**ASSISTING AT THIS SERVICE**

Tony Anikeeff, *Lay Server* ♦ Robyne Johnston, *Assistant Head Usher*  
Pat Dalby, Susan Heil, Katherine Kyle, and Elizabeth Lewis, *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.**

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**OFFERING PRAYER INTENTIONS**

*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.*

**MAKING AN OFFERING**

*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*



**INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION**

*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.*

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Readings and Gospel: From the New Revised Standard Version Bible © 1989 National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. All rights reserved. Used by permission. ♦ Collect and Psalm: From the Book of Common Prayer, 1979.

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# Announcements for the Week of December 1

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## TODAY AT ST. JOHN'S

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- 8 a.m. Eucharist—Sermon by the Rev. Rob Fisher  
Parish Choir (Parish House Fourth Floor)
- 8:30 a.m. Nursery—available until 12:30 p.m.  
(Parish House Second Floor)
- 9 a.m. Choral Eucharist—Sermon by the Rev.  
Rob Fisher
- 10 a.m. Coffee Hour (Plaza, weather permitting,  
or Parish House First Floor)  
Advent Wreath Making (Togo West Parlor;  
see below)  
Youth Group (Parish House Second Floor)  
Bible Study (Parish House Third Floor)  
St. John's Choir (Parish House Fourth Floor)
- 11 a.m. Choral Eucharist—Sermon by the Rev.  
Rob Fisher  
Children's Chapel (children begin in church)
- Noon Coffee Hour (Plaza, weather permitting,  
or Parish House First Floor)  
Church Tour (see next column)

### FLOWER DELIVERIES

Help us brighten the day of parishioners by taking them flowers, located in the side chapel most Sundays of the year. A card is attached to each vase with contact information.

**Today a flower delivery is needed to:  
Cumberland Street, NW.**

### ADVENT WREATH MAKING

**Today at 10 a.m.**

Join in this fun annual tradition at St. John's, suitable for all ages. Using seasonal greens, we will make decorative wreaths that also double as devotional aids throughout the Advent season. Materials will be provided for each household

to make one wreath. A few "take and make" bags will be available for those who cannot stay to make a wreath. This activity takes the place of Church School.



### TOUR OF ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

**Today at noon**

For more than 200 years our church has served as a place of worship for a growing and everchanging city and country. Its structure is a lasting testament to Benjamin Henry Latrobe, who, because of his training in both architecture and engineering, is considered by the American Institute of Architects as our country's first architect. If you are interested in an in-person tour of St. John's Church, meet at the front of the church near the baptismal font after the 11 a.m. service. Today's guide is Susan Cardwell.

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## SERVICE SCHEDULE

*December 2-8*

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**Monday**—12:10 p.m.—Eucharist

**Tuesday**—12:10 p.m.—Eucharist

**Wednesday**—12:10 p.m.—Eucharist

**Thursday**—12:10 p.m.—Eucharist

**Friday**—12:10 p.m.—Noonday Prayer

**Sunday**—The Rev. Sarah Akers-Cardwell, Preacher

8 a.m. Eucharist with Sermon

9 a.m. Choral Eucharist with Sermon

11 a.m. Choral Eucharist with Sermon  
and Children's Chapel

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## THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

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### Monday, December 2

*Last day to submit nominations for Vestry (see next page)*

6:15 p.m. Lawyers' AA (Togo West Parlor)

### Tuesday, December 3

1 p.m. Staff Meeting (Togo West Parlor)

### Wednesday, December 4

4:30 p.m. Advanced Choristers Rehearsal  
(Parish House Fourth Floor)

6:30 p.m. Latrobe Fellowship (see below)

### Thursday, December 5

4:30 p.m. Chorister Rehearsals  
(Parish House Fourth Floor)

7 p.m. St. John's Book Group (via Zoom; see below)  
Parish Choir Rehearsal (Parish House Fourth Floor)

### Sunday, December 8

5 p.m. Advent Party (Togo West Parlor; see next column)

### LATROBE YOUNG ADULT FELLOWSHIP

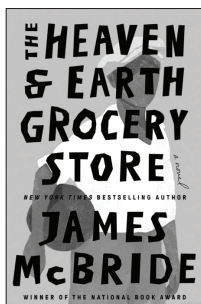
#### Tiki Night: Wednesday, December 4, at 6:30 p.m.

The Latrobe Fellowship is an active and engaged group of adults, primarily in their 20s and 30s. We typically gather at St. John's at 6:30 p.m. on the first Wednesday of the month for a short worship service followed by an activity. Please join us on December 4 for evening prayer followed by fellowship and a light dinner. We will usher in the bright spirit of the season with tiki cocktail/mocktail mixology with the Rev. Rob Fisher. For details, contact Eric Bailey, our minister for youth and young adults, via the About: Leadership tab of our website.

### ST. JOHN'S BOOK GROUP

#### Thursday, December 5, at 7 p.m.

Join us via Zoom to discuss *The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store* by James McBride, about the Black and Jewish residents of Chicken Hill, a neighborhood of Pottstown, Pennsylvania. Taking place in the 1920s and '30s, the novel explores



relationships, racism, redemption, and the American Dream. The book group typically meets on the first Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. For information and the link, contact us online at [stjohns-dc.org/connect/directory](http://stjohns-dc.org/connect/directory).

### ADVENT PARTY

#### Sunday, December 8, at 5 p.m.

All are cordially invited to join us in the Togo West Parlor for an evening of holiday revelry, including decorations, food, music, and a carol sing-along. Special activities and food will be provided for children. Mark your calendar and plan to join us.

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## STEWARDSHIP

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### 2025 PLEDGE TO ST. JOHN'S

Thank you to all who have already pledged for 2025. As of Tuesday, November 26 we had received 209 pledges for a total of \$878,897. Pledging today, if you have not yet done so, will help determine what that budget will be. All pledges are welcome, no matter how big or small. If you are able to increase your pledge this year, it will greatly impact the growth of our programs to better serve our entire parish community. You can pledge either with a physical pledge card, available at the front desk or in the narthex of the church, or by visiting [stjohns-dc.org/give/pledge](http://stjohns-dc.org/give/pledge) to complete an online pledge form. Thank you!

### DID YOU KNOW?

**Required Minimum Distributions can be directed from an IRA to St. John's—something to keep in mind as the year's end approaches!**

We are grateful for all the ways that members support the church. If you are in a position to give from your retirement account, now may be a good time to consider directing some or all of your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) to a charity, including St. John's as a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) as part of your annual giving or as a one-time gift.

If you are interested, please talk to your tax advisor and financial advisor regarding your obligations and options. Questions? Contact Lisa Kirchenbauer, Chair of the 1816 Society, via the Ministry Directory on our website.

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## A WORD ABOUT MATCHING GIFTS

### Here's how to make your gift to St. John's do a bit more

Many employers in the area want to make a positive impact in the community by offering matching gifts for various charitable programs. Matches are mostly focused around community support, education, and other 501(c)(3) entities, with gifts handled through portals such as Benevity, DoubleTheDonation, Global Giving, and YourCause. To find out whether your organization has a matching gift program, please contact your company's corporate giving officer, who can help you navigate the gift portal and make sure that St. John's is listed as a verified recipient. (You can also contact the Parish Office for assistance.) Using your company's matching gifts program is a wonderful, easy way to make a meaningful difference at and through St. John's.

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## SPEAKER SERIES

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The Speaker Series is held most Sundays from September through May at 10 a.m. in the Togo West Parlor on the first floor of the Parish House. An audio recording will be available on our website the week after each talk.

**December 1: No Forum** (*Advent Wreath Making*)



**December 8: G. Derek Musgrove**, a University of Maryland professor of history whose teaching and scholarship focus on African American politics, will give a talk titled "Black Protest Politics in the 1980s and 1990s."

**December 15: Bell Tower Project.** Parishioner Sharon Park will offer a detailed description and visuals of the work that was done to repair and restore our historic bell tower.



**January 12: David Marchick**, Dean of the Kogod School of Business at American University, and former Director of the Center for Presidential Transition at the Partnership for Public Service, will speak about the presidential transition process.

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## NEWS AND NOTEWORTHY

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### VESTRY NOMINATIONS

**The deadline is tomorrow: Monday, December 2**

The Vestry Nominating Committee will meet in early December to select the slate for Vestry elections to be held at the Parish's Annual Meeting on Sunday, February 2, 2025. The role of the Vestry Nominating Committee is to select, from all those nominated, the six candidates who will stand for election; three candidates will be elected. Nominees should be pledging members of the congregation, attend worship regularly, and be active in the life of the parish. Submit your nominations using the form found at [bit.ly/sjc-vestry-nominations-2025](https://bit.ly/sjc-vestry-nominations-2025). The deadline for nominations is Monday, December 2.

### 2024 ANGEL TREE CHRISTMAS GIFT DRIVE

The annual Christmas gift drive is here! We are partnering with the Bishop Walker School, Advocates for Justice and Education, and Cardozo Education Campus to bring joy to children and adults in need this holiday season. Each recipient has provided a wish list of toys, books, or clothes that they are hoping to find underneath the Christmas tree this year.

#### PURCHASING GIFTS:

- **Thank you to those who picked up an angel from our tree!** Please remember to deliver all gifts (unwrapped) to the church by Monday, December 9.
- **You still have time to purchase from our Amazon Wish List** ([bit.ly/sjc-angel-tree-2024](https://bit.ly/sjc-angel-tree-2024)). Gifts will ship directly to the church.

#### THREE IMPORTANT DATES:

- **Gift Delivery Deadline:** Monday, December 9
- **Gift Wrapping:** Saturday, December 14 (see next page)
- **Gift Distribution:** Beginning Monday, December 16 (so please return your gift purchases on time)

Thank you in advance for your generosity and for helping us bring holiday cheer to those in need. Questions? Please contact Kevin Cordova-Brookey via the online Ministry Directory at [stjohns-dc.org](https://stjohns-dc.org).

## SPONSORING CHRISTMAS MUSIC

We invite you to make a contribution to support the special music on Christmas Eve. Our goal is \$3,000. Gifts of any size are gratefully appreciated and will be recognized in the bulletins that evening. If you would like to contribute to the Special Music Fund for Christmas, please contact Brent Erstad via the About: Leadership tab of our website.

## BAPTISMS

If you are interested in baptism for yourself or for a child, please contact Lisa Koehler via the About: Leadership tab on our website. Please note that the parents or grandparents of children being baptized must be active, pledging members of St. John's. Adults interested in baptism must also attend an Adult Inquirers' Class, offered twice a year, and be active, pledging participants in the life of the parish. Upcoming dates for baptism and required pre-baptismal classes with the clergy at St. John's include:

**Sunday, January 12, 2025, at 9 a.m.**

*Class: Saturday, January 11, at 10 a.m.*

**Sunday, February 9, at 9 a.m.**

*Class: Saturday, February 8, at 10 a.m.*

**Sunday, April 27, at 9 a.m.**

*Class: Saturday, April 26, at 10 a.m.*

## SUNDAY PARISH LUNCH

**Most Sundays after the 11 a.m. service**

Sunday lunch at St. John's is a longtime tradition in which every member and every visitor can participate. It's a great opportunity to catch up with old friends and make new ones—a time for fellowship and for hearing another's story. The lunch is held most Sundays in the Parish House. Contributions of \$5 for adults and young people 13 and over and \$2 for children under 13 are requested to help defray the costs of the lunch. All are welcome. Valet parking hours are extended to 2 p.m. any Sunday with a parish lunch.

The Sunday lunch tradition relies on volunteers to prepare and serve the meal—which is why we encourage individuals, families, groups, or ministries to host at least once before the end of May. Hosts may be reimbursed for expenses or receive a tax receipt. Not sure what's involved? Want to claim an open date? Contact Parish Lunch coordinator Holly Sukenik at [stjohns-dc.org/connect/directory](http://stjohns-dc.org/connect/directory).

*December 1 No Lunch: Thanksgiving Weekend*

*December 8 Stewardship*

*December 15 Greeters*

*December 22 No Lunch*

*December 29 No Lunch*

**January 5**

January 12 Refugee Committee

**January 19**

**January 26**

February 2 Annual Meeting and Reception

**February 9**

**February 16**

February 23 Laurie Adams, Matthew Bode,  
David and Liz Gallalee

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## SPOTLIGHT ON OUTREACH: COMMUNITIES IN SCHOOLS

St. John's helped arrange for Amazon to give thousands of backpacks to Communities in Schools (CIS) for distribution to students in need here in D.C. Contact Livy More or Ann Gardner via the online Ministry Directory at [stjohns-dc.org](http://stjohns-dc.org) with questions or to get involved.

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## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

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### LAFAYETTE FELLOWSHIP

**Holiday Dinner & Festive Game Night**

**Tuesday, December 10, 6:30–8:30 p.m.**

The Lafayette Fellowship invites all adults who are looking to be part of and build social community at St. John's to join in an evening of holiday merriment. Prizes will be awarded for the most festive attire and the ugliest Christmas sweater! Please sign up at [bit.ly/lafayette-fellowship-events](https://bit.ly/lafayette-fellowship-events) so we can plan for enough food. Questions? Contact Hilary West via the Ministry Directory at [stjohns-dc.org](http://stjohns-dc.org).

### ANGEL TREE WRAPPING PARTY

**Saturday, December 14, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

To wrap up our Angel Tree gift drive, we will have a special gift-wrapping event for the donations we have received—and you are invited to come spread cheer. This will be a fun gathering with food and music to help us prepare to make someone's Christmas a little extra special this year. RSVP to the Rev. Sarah Akers-Cardwell via the About: Leadership tab of our website.



## ST. JOHN'S PRIDE EVENTS

### ANGEL TREE WRAPPING PARTY & BRUNCH

On **Saturday, December 14**, come celebrate the season of service by wrapping angel tree donations with us in Togo West Parlor. The quicker we wrap, the sooner we can gather nearby for brunch!

### GAY MEN'S CHORUS HOLIDAY SHOW

Our very own Jack Reiffer will be on stage sharing a holiday extravaganza with the Gay Men's Chorus of Washington, D.C., as they celebrate holidays around the world. A group from St. John's plans to attend the performance on **Sunday, December 15**, at 5 p.m. Information and tickets can be found at [www.gmcw.org/the-holiday-show](http://www.gmcw.org/the-holiday-show).

Questions? Contact leaders Brian Cordova-Brookey and John Schutz via the Ministry Directory, found under the Connect tab at [stjohns-dc.org](http://stjohns-dc.org).



### GRACE'S TABLE

**Third Saturdays, from 10:30 a.m to 12:30 p.m.**

*Upcoming Dates: December 21 and January 18*

Grace's Table is an outreach partnership between St. John's and Grace Episcopal Church in Georgetown. Every third Saturday of the month, a group from St. John's prepares and serves a meal at Grace to folks who are unhoused or at risk of losing their housing. Volunteers purchase and prepare food (including casseroles, rolls, salad, and dessert) and/or serve the guests. Typically, as many as 60 or 70 guests come seeking food and fellowship. This is a wonderful opportunity to get to know other St. John's parishioners and to spread God's loving kindness in our community. Contact leader Elizabeth Field using the Connect: Ministry Directory tab of our website with questions, or visit [bit.ly/sjc-graces-table-1224](http://bit.ly/sjc-graces-table-1224) to volunteer.

## FAMILY SERVICE ACTIVITY: CHRISTMAS CARDS AND COOKIES

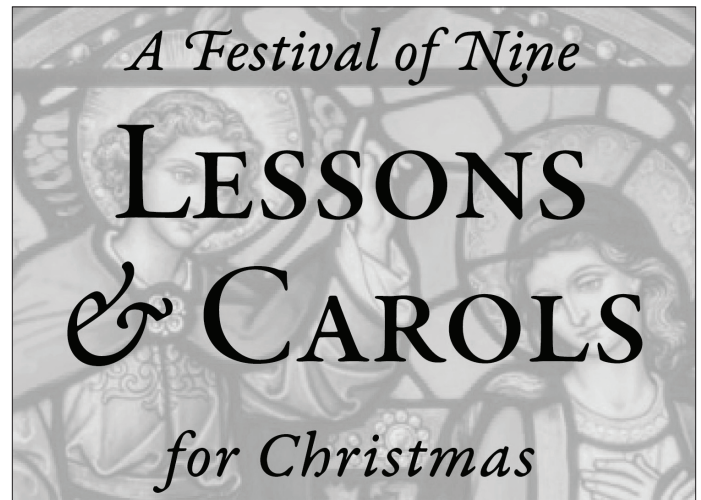
**Sunday, December 22, at 10 a.m.**

Help us spread comfort and joy this holiday season by decorating cookies and making Christmas cards for those who could use some extra cheer. Materials provided. This activity takes the place of Church School. Parents and caregivers are encouraged to join the fun.

## HELP DELIVER CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

**Sunday, December 22**

Please plan to deliver at least one Christmas poinsettia to fellow parishioners who cannot be present with us at worship at this time. The plants will be in the Parish House parlors on Sunday, December 22, with cards addressed to parishioners who live near you in Virginia, Maryland, or the District. Give the gift of your time, love, and cheer.



## LESSONS AND CAROLS FOR CHRISTMAS

**Sunday, December 22, at 5:30 p.m.**

Join the combined choirs of St. John's for one of our most beloved holiday traditions. Sung in the beauty of a candlelit church, the service begins with the singing of "Once in royal David's city," followed by nine lessons interspersed with carols and choral anthems. Complimentary valet parking will be available starting at 4:30 p.m. The service will be followed by a reception in the Togo West Parlor. Invite your friends and family to join us for this special holiday offering. The service will also be livestreamed on our website. Please note: We are unable to offer nursery care for this service.

*Know of someone you'd like to invite? Share with them the full schedule of Christmas services found on the inside back cover.*

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## FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

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### NURSERY HOURS

**Sundays, 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.**

Infants and children are welcome at all worship services. Nursery care is also available most Sundays for infants and children up to age three. The nursery meets in the Godly Play Classroom #2 on the second floor of the Parish House.

### CHURCH SCHOOL CLASSES

**Sundays, 10–10:50 a.m.**

Children in pre-K through fifth grade may participate in Church School on the second floor of the Parish House. The Godly Play class is for children in pre-K through first grade, while kids in second through fifth grade gather in the Spark class. For information, contact the Rev. Sarah Akes-Cardwell via the About: Leadership tab on our website.

### YOUTH GROUP

**Sundays, 10–10:50 a.m.**

All middle and high school youth are invited to the second floor of the Parish House for an exploration of life and faith with their peers. Questions? Contact Eric Bailey via the About: Leadership tab on our website.

### CHILDREN'S CHAPEL

**Sundays during 11 a.m. worship**

Children from birth through grade 5 are invited to participate in a special liturgy just for them during the sermon at the 11 a.m. service. Children gather by the pulpit during the gradual hymn and process to the Parish House for a song, homily, and prayer time, returning to the sanctuary at the Peace. Parents may accompany their children, and are encouraged to do so for those younger than three. Children are also welcome to stay and worship in the main sanctuary. Questions? Contact the Rev. Sarah Akes-Cardwell via the About: Leadership tab on our website.

### THE ACOLYTE MINISTRY

**Sundays during 11 a.m. worship**

Youth in 6th grade and above are welcome to participate during the 11 a.m. service, serving as torch bearers or crucifers and helping set the altar for communion. To learn more, contact us via [stjohns-dc.org/connect/directory](http://stjohns-dc.org/connect/directory).



### CHORISTER PROGRAM

The St. John's Chorister Program offers children and youth exceptional choral training, music theory education, and leadership development. We have a preparatory choir for children in grades 3–6, and an advanced (auditioned) program for young singers with unchanged voices. To learn more or express interest, contact Brent Erstad via the About: Leadership tab on our website.

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## REMINDERS

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### ADULT BIBLE STUDY

**Sundays at 10 a.m.**

This group gathers most Sunday mornings, using a hybrid approach, with some joining via Zoom and others in person. Conversations explore the connections with the Sunday lectionary lessons and sermons. During Year C we are focusing on the structure, audience, and themes of the Gospel of Luke. For class notes and Zoom login information, please connect with leader Jack Reiffer via our online Ministry Directory found at [stjohns-dc.org/connect/directory](http://stjohns-dc.org/connect/directory).

### JOIN A MINISTRY GROUP

Explore our many ministry groups at [www.stjohns-dc.org](http://www.stjohns-dc.org), and contact the leaders via our online Ministry Directory for details or to sign up.

### FLOWER MEMORIALS AND THANKSGIVINGS

The flowers that enhance the beauty of the Church and Parish House are made possible by gifts from our community and are often dedicated to the memory of a loved one or

to mark a birth or birthday, a wedding, an anniversary, a graduation, or another special event. To make a dedication, pick up a flower card at the entrance to the Church.

### MAKE A PLEDGE TO ST. JOHN'S

A pledge is a commitment of financial support over the course of a year, to be paid weekly, monthly, or on another schedule. By making a pledge to St. John's, you enable us to plan for the work we undertake in mission and ministry. It's easy to make a pledge commitment online using this QR code or by visiting the **Give** tab on our website.



### ONLINE OFFERINGS TO DESIGNATED FUNDS

If you want to make a monetary offering toward your pledge or a specific fund, you may do so on our website or by scanning the QR code on the right. In the "Fund" drop-down menu, select the fund to which you wish to donate.



### LISTEN AGAIN TO SUNDAY SERMONS

To listen to past sermons or speaker series, visit our website, scan this QR code, or search for "St. John's Church, Lafayette Square" in the Podcast app on your device.



### LIVESTREAMED SERVICES

The weekly 11 a.m. Sunday service (10:30 a.m. in summer) is broadcast and available for replay on our website, as are the monthly evensong and occasional other special services and events.

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## PRAYER & PASTORAL CARE

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Praying for the sick and those in need is an important part of our life together. We invite you to add yourself, family, or friends to the parish prayer list. **Contact Pastoral Care through the Connect: Ministry Directory tab at stjohndc.org.** Birthdays, anniversaries, births, and deaths are listed for a week. Other names added to the prayer list will be reviewed twice a year to help keep prayer requests current. If you would like a name to be on the prayer list for a specific period of time, please let us know. For family and friends who are not members of the congregation, we list in parentheses the name of the person requesting prayers.

**Our prayers are requested for the special needs and concerns of this congregation, especially:**

#### THOSE WHO ARE SICK, RECOVERING, OR GRIEVING

**From our parish:** Margo Arnold, Yung Chang, Anne Field, Andy McKinnon, and David Springer.

**Friends and family of our parish:** Cathy Ballman (Laura Ballman), Susan Baxter (Rob Fisher), Kiesha Carroll (GeeGee Bryant), Billy Beardsley Conderman (Margo Arnold), Mary Leche Delong (Margo Wiegenstein), Jim DeBello (Grace Barrett), Ed Eder (Joanne and Powell Hutton), Linda Young Gsell (Rick Young), Morgan Hickenlooper (Livy More), Doug Holy (Joanne Hutton), Jack (Marta Cook and Cal Trepagnier), Latithia and Charles Jones (GeeGee Bryant), Charlotte Crowley Junilla (Margo Arnold), Olivia Kehoe (Kat Kehoe), Elizabeth Lee (Clayton Crawford), William Markiewicz (Matthew Taylor), Jim Martella (Livy More), Tammy McCleaf (Matthew Taylor), Nell Montgomery (Brandon Montgomery), Christopher More (Sarah Akes-Cardwell), Luke Morrison (Elizabeth and Greg Morrison), Bruce Mortimer (Nancy Mathis), Lisa Nestor (Sarah Wood), Sophie Panagi (Brian and KayAnn Schoeneman), Paul Peralta (Debby Hailey), Deanne Scanlon (Wendy J. Fibison), Alan Schutz (John and Zachary Schutz), Nancy Stephenson (Ann and John Gardner), Scott (Marta Cook and Cal Trepagnier), Louise Shaughnessy (Sarah Wood), Patsy Swain (Margo Arnold), Sallie and William Wilkie Thompson (Cecelia Thompson), Mackenzie Toland (Wendy J. Fibison), John Walsten (Emily and John Lucio), Richard Waycott (Louisa Waycott), Edward Leland Williams II (Virginia Bader), and Linda Woolley (Blount and Charlotte Stewart).

#### THOSE WHO ARE IN ASSISTED LIVING

**From our parish:** Eve Atkeson, Milton Chamberlain, Jack Kinsey, Barney Malloy, Marcella Odom, Becky Schergens, and Paul and Susan Van Nice.

**Friends and family of our parish:** Wilma Daubs (Kay Gilley), Lori LaPoint (Brent Erstad), Pat Morris (Will Morris), Cawley Scott (Robyne Johnston), and Carl Wright (Frank and Nancy Klotz).

#### THOSE WHO ARE IN HOSPICE CARE

**Friends and family of our parish:** Henry Farrington (Wendy J. Fibison) and Ian Paton (Frances Tyler).

*continues on next page*

**THOSE IN OUR PARISH CELEBRATING  
A BIRTHDAY THIS WEEK**

Shea Bader, Andrew Clarke, Henry Coxe, Diana Duncan, Le Evans, Amanda Eversole, Eric Eversole, Karen Jeffers, Liz Kosobucki, Michael McGregor, Michele Mullins, Javier Obregon, Anthony Pegues, Avo Reid, Annie Simonds, and Jeremy Skog.

**THOSE IN OUR PARISH CELEBRATING  
AN ANNIVERSARY THIS WEEK**

Elizabeth and Gregory Mays, and Stevan Johnson and Brandon Montgomery.

**THOSE ON THE FRONT LINES**

**Friends and family of our parish:** Janie Abernethy (Elizabeth Lewis and David Abernethy), Anna Broadbent-Evelyn (Shawn Evelyn), and Philip L. Faris (Caroline and Steve Faris).



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*Contact Pastoral Care at Connect: Ministry Directory on our website to add, remove, or change a status on the prayer list.*

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## THE 1816 SOCIETY

The 1816 Society honors those who remember St. John's through a planned gift, such as a bequest in their will, a life-income gift, or a gift of real estate and life insurance.

Learn more about giving options at the Episcopal Church Foundation's website ([episcopalgifts.org](http://episcopalgifts.org)).  
Questions about giving or the 1816 Society? Please contact Lisa Kirchenbauer via the Ministry Directory.

*(Members as of November 25, 2024)*

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Douglas & Margo Arnold  
Christine & Thomas Arrasmith  
Paul Barkett  
Matt Bode & Laurie Adams  
Lacy Broemel  
Autumn Brown  
Richard T. Busch  
Andrea Charters  
Andrew Clarke & Chip Sherrill  
Jamie Craft  
Nicole & Stephen Crochet  
James Czerwonky  
Kaye Edwards

Lauren Edwards  
Martha Ellison  
Clark K. Ervin & Carolyn Harris  
Christopher & Elizabeth Gardner  
Carrie & Jim Garland  
Kay Gilley  
Budd & Susan Hallberg  
Everett & Nora Haugh  
Laura & John Herzog  
John Peters Irelan  
Bill & Sara Josey  
Kim Kennedy & Beverly Roberts  
James & Lisa Kirchenbauer

Grant Kraus  
Michelle Mangrum  
Richard Metzger  
Livy More  
Jonathan Nateghi-Asli  
Eric Peters  
Susan & Raymond Petniunas  
Chase Rynd  
Riley Temple  
Pamela & Patrick Venzke  
Renee B. Yancey

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## LIST OF 2025 PLEDGERS

On behalf of the rector, wardens, vestry, and all who share in the grace of God through the worship, ministries, programs, and outreach of St. John's Church, we thank the following for their pledges for the year 2025:

*(As of November 25, 2024)*

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Anonymous (8)  
David Abernethy & Elizabeth Lewis  
Alison Adkins  
John & Renate Alison  
Anthony H. Anikeeff & Tung-lin Wu  
Douglas & Margo Arnold  
Harvey E. & Carolyn L. Bale  
Paul Barkett  
Chandler Battaile  
Robert Beizer  
Laura Belman  
Martha L. & William S. Birdseye  
Diane Bitsberger  
Marion Blakey & William Dooley  
Paul Bledsoe & Celia Boddington  
Thomas Bleha & Natasha Simes  
Katherine Bliss & Mark Dennis

Matt Bode & Laurie Adams  
Jeff Bozman  
Krista & Larry Bradley  
Lacy Broemel  
Sydney Brooks  
Autumn Brown  
Craig & Barbara Burkhardt  
Richard T. Busch  
Susan Cardwell  
Mark Cardwell & Paul Ramos  
Andrea Charters  
Mary Jane Checchi  
Preston Cherouny  
Virginia Chew  
Carlye Christianson & Pascal Joly  
Andrew Clarke & Chip Sherrill  
Gwinneth Ann Clarkson

Brian & Kevin Cordova-Brookey  
Pamela Covington  
Joe Creech & Stephanie Delong  
Garry & Patricia Dalby  
Betsy Danello  
Christine Davies  
LaFawn C. Davis  
William E. Davis  
Justin B. Dean  
Clayton & Margaret Depue  
John Derrick  
Deb & Jeff Dornemann  
James Doyle  
Mike & Beth DuMond  
Diana Duke Duncan  
James Eastwood  
Janet Edmond

Kaye Edwards  
Brandon & Elizabeth Elliott  
Martha Ellison  
Anne & Cliff Elmore  
Clark Ervin & Carolyn Harris  
Sylvia Martin-Estes & Doug Estes  
Allison Herron Eydtt  
Caroline & Steve Faris  
Wendy J. Fibison  
Hyman & Anne Field  
Elizabeth Field  
Rob Fisher & Sarah Wood  
Linda Gaines  
John & Ann Gardner  
Elizabeth & Christopher Gardner  
Kay Gilley  
Donnie & Ronald Goodheart  
Richard & Jeanne Grimmett  
Sandra Hackworth  
Deborah Hailey  
Budd & Susan Hallberg  
Peter & Summer Hardinge  
Barbara Harper  
Robert & Anne Harrington  
Fruzsina Harsanyi  
Dolph Hatfield & Mary Wilson  
Diane Hauslein  
Tim & Susan Heil  
Laura & John Herzog  
Ann Compton Hughes  
Joanne & Powell Hutton  
Marlene Ikeda  
John Peters Irelan  
Wande Johnson  
Ethan Johnson  
Felton Johnson  
Robert & Whitney Johnston  
Bill & Sara Josey  
Carter & Fran Keithley  
William T. Kendall  
Kim Kennedy & Beverly Roberts  
Loren & Anne Kieve  
David Kieve & Kate Bedingfield  
James & Lisa Kirchenbauer  
Anya Klyemenova  
Frank & Nancy Klotz  
Elizabeth P. Koehler  
Elizabeth & Jonathan Kosobucki  
Julia Koster  
Kenny Kraft  
Grant Kraus

Albert S. & Katherine C. Kyle  
Patricia Leslie  
Julie Neff Lippman  
James Longley  
Jeffrey Lovelace  
Emily & John Lucio  
Jan Lupton  
Chip & RJ Lyerly  
Sandy & Nancy Martin  
Paolo Mastrangelo & Perri Warren  
Abbott McCartney & Sigrid Block  
Clayton McCleskey  
Saunders McElroy  
Matthew McMurray & Christine Kennedy  
Jacob McNeill  
Ellen McPeake  
Richard Metzger  
Johnathan S. Miller  
Nathan & Kelly Miller  
Joseph D. Mitchell  
Livy More  
Greg & Elizabeth Cavert Morrison  
Rob Mosbacher, Jr.  
Jim & Michele Mullins  
Dixie & John Noonan  
John C. Northrup  
Peter & Eleanor Odom  
Ralph & Lydia Olson  
Ucheora & Nkem Onwuamaegbu  
Owen & Felicia Owunwanne  
Matthew L. Paeffgen  
Robert Pahnke  
Robert & Sharon Park  
Cami Pease  
Anthony Pegues  
Robin Pennington  
Raymond & Susan Petniunas  
Larry & Connie Pettinger  
Natalie Popovic  
Richard Price & Yung Chang  
William Priest  
Will Rabbe & Brittany Prime  
Carl & Mary Raether  
Allie Raether Ganijan  
Garret & Gigi Rasmussen  
Glenn Reichardt & JoAnn Zuercher  
Sarah & Avo Reid  
Jack Reiffer  
James Reilly & Caleb Hays  
Geraldine & Harker Rhodes  
Steve & Susan Roehrich

Damion Rose  
Chase Rynd  
Alex & Jessica Sanchez  
KayAnn & Brian Schoeneman  
John & Zachary Schutz  
Sandy & Susan Sierck  
Adelle Simmons  
Thom Sinclair & James Kreger  
Jeremy Skog  
Patrick & Cameron Smith  
Diane & Peter Spaulding  
John Staples & Scott Raspa  
Kenneth & Susan Starling  
Anne Stewart  
Toby Stock & Margy Slattery  
Desirée Stolar  
Catherine Stolar  
Alex Stolar  
John & Holly Sukenik  
Patrick J. Summers  
Matthew Taylor  
Veronica Tejera  
Hilary & Alfred Thesmar  
Jocelyn Tichenor  
Laurel & Andrew Tierney  
Roderick & Rebecca Todd  
David Trebing  
Anthony G. Turner  
Susan Valaskovic  
Paul & Susan Van Nice  
Pamela & Patrick Venzke  
Ryan Wagner  
Christopher Wall  
Alis Wang & Amy Stulman  
Carl & Kristin Ward  
Louisa Waycott  
Susan Welch  
Gail West  
Hilary West  
Brainerd H. Whitbeck III  
Suzanne Whitmore  
Trey & Amy Whitworth  
Margaret E. Wiegenstein  
Elena & Marty Williams  
Emma Wilson  
Anita Woehler  
Bill Wright  
Renee Yancey  
Paul & Sitta Zehfuss

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## CHRISTMAS AT ST. JOHN'S

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### LESSONS & CAROLS

Sunday, December 22, at 5:30 p.m.

Join the combined choirs of St. John's for one of our most beloved holiday traditions, sung in the beauty of a candlelit church. The service begins with the singing of "Once in royal David's city," followed by nine lessons interspersed with carols and choral anthems, and a reception afterward in the Togo West Parlor. Complimentary valet parking will be available starting at 4:30 p.m. Invite your friends and family for this special holiday offering. The service will also be livestreamed.

### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24

*Arrive 30 minutes early (at all three Christmas Eve services) to enjoy a prelude of carols and music before worship begins.*

4:30 p.m. Pageant & Choral Eucharist with Choir

7 p.m. Festal Choral Eucharist  
Sermon—The Rev. Rob Fisher

10 p.m. Festal Choral Eucharist  
Sermon—The Rev. Rob Fisher

### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25

11 a.m. Choral Holy Eucharist  
Sermon—The Rev. Will Morris

### THE ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

December 24 at 4:30 p.m.

The annual Christmas Pageant will take place on Christmas Eve beginning at 4:30 p.m. Children ages three and up are invited to participate in the pageant as an Angel, Shepherd, or Friendly Beast. Come 30 minutes early to enjoy a prelude of anthems and carols before the start of the service. All children who wish to participate should attend rehearsal on Saturday, December 21, at 10 a.m. Contact the Rev. Sarah Akes-Cardwell via the About: Leadership tab of our website for more information.

### CHRISTMAS EVE FESTAL EUCHARIST

December 24 at 7 and 10 p.m.

Join with family, friends, and neighbors as we gather at St. John's to celebrate the birth of our Savior. The St. John's Choir and Choristers will be joined by strings and organ in offering George Malcolm's charming "Mass at the Crib," along with many favorite carols. The service will conclude with the traditional singing of "Silent night" by candlelight.

*Visit our website for more news and the full calendar of upcoming services, events, and holiday office closures.*

*[www.stjohns-dc.org](http://www.stjohns-dc.org)*

# 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](http://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.

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## Vestry

Nora Rigby, *Senior Warden*

Alfred Thesmar, *Junior Warden*

Tony Anikeeff, Krista Rimple Bradley, Kaye Edwards,  
Wendy J. Fibison, David Gallalee, Fruzsina Harsanyi,  
Elizabeth Cavert Morrison, Ucheora Onwuamaegbu,  
Jack Reiffer, Matthew Taylor, and Jess Unger,  
*Members*

Casey Evans, *Treasurer*

Nora Haugh, *Assistant Treasurer*

Allie Raether, *Secretary*

Harker Rhodes, *Parish Counsel*

## Head Usher

James H. Czerwonky

## Heads of Flower Guild

Pat Dalby and Katherine Kyle

## Head Greeters

Eleanor and Peter Odom

## Worship and Program Staff

The Rev. Robert W. Fisher, *Rector*

The Rev. Sarah Akers-Cardwell, *Associate Rector*

The Rev. William Morris, *Assisting Priest*  
*for Engaging Local Communities*

Brent Erstad, *Director of Music and Organist*

Lyn Loewi, *Associate Organist*

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](http://www.stjohns-dc.org)