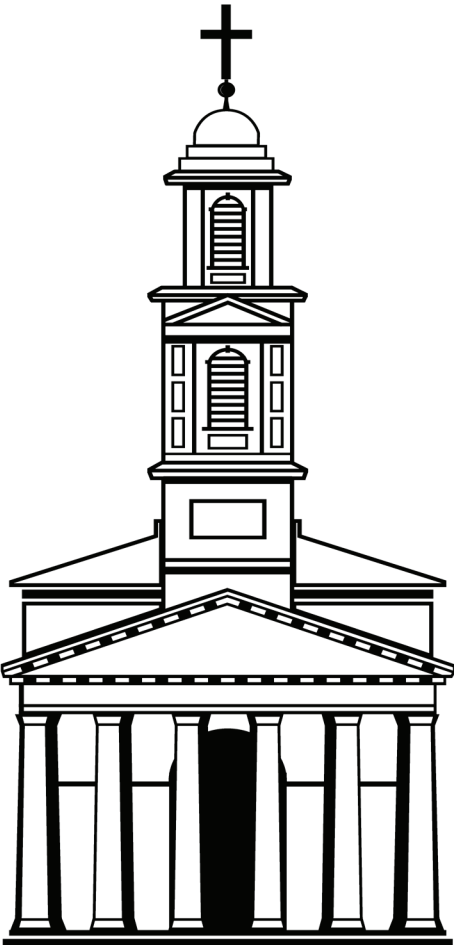


THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

December 29, 2024 ♦ Holy Eucharist at 9 and 11 a.m.



SAINT JOHN'S CHURCH

LAFAYETTE SQUARE • WASHINGTON, DC

*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.*

Welcome to St. John's Church, Lafayette Square.

*All are invited to participate in the service as able. Congregational responses appear in **bold**.*

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.

VOLUNTARY

Divinum mysterium

Raymond Weidner (b. 1949)

HYMN 107

Good Christian friends, rejoice

Sung by all. Please stand as you are able as the procession enters.

1 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
 2 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
 3 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;

give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;
 now ye hear of end - less bliss; Je - sus Christ was born for this!
 now ye need not fear the grave: Je - sus Christ was born to save!

ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man - ger now.
 He hath o - pened hea - ven's door, and we are blest for ev - er - more.
 Calls you one and calls you all to gain his ev - er - last - ing hall.

Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!
 Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
 Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

Words: John Mason Neale (1818-1866), alt. Music: In dulci jubilo, German carol, 14th cent.; harm. Charles Winfred Douglas (1867-1944).

THE WORD OF GOD

Please remain standing as you are able.

Priest Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

GLORIA (S-280)

Robert Powell (b. 1932)

Sung by all.

1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and
peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly
King, al - mighty God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we
give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus
Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you
take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy
on us; 5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -
ceive our prayer. 6. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One,

you a - lone are the Lord, 7. you a - lone are the Most
 High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the
 glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Priest The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Priest Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE FIRST READING

Isaiah 61:10–62:3

Please be seated.

9 a.m. Read by Ucheora Onwuamaegbu.

11 a.m. Read by Paul Barkett.

I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations. For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will give. You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

PSALM 147:13-21

9 a.m. Led by Chad Petersen, said responsively by half verse.
11 a.m. Chanted by the choir; setting by George Thalben-Ball (1896-1987)

Worship the LORD, O Jerusalem; *
praise your God, O Zion;

For he has strengthened the bars of your gates; *
he has blessed your children within you.

He has established peace on your borders; *
he satisfies you with the finest wheat.

He sends out his command to the earth, *
and his word runs very swiftly.

He gives snow like wool; *
he scatters hoarfrost like ashes.

He scatters his hail like bread crumbs; *
who can stand against his cold?

He sends forth his word and melts them; *
he blows with his wind, and the waters flow.

He declares his word to Jacob, *
his statutes and his judgments to Israel.

He has not done so to any other nation; *
to them he has not revealed his judgments.
Hallelujah!

HYMN 92

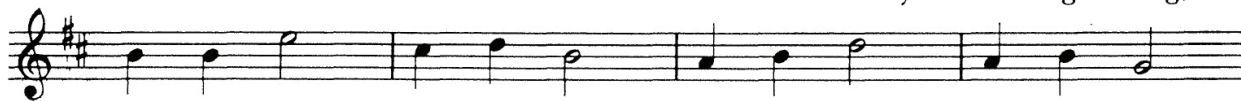
On this day earth shall ring

Sung by all, standing as you are able. Stanzas 1 & 2 will be sung before the Gospel, stanzas 3 & 4 after.

Introduction



1 On this day earth shall ring
 2 His the doom, ours the mirth;
 3 God's bright star, o'er his head,
 4 On this day an - gels sing;



with the song chil - dren sing to the Lord, Christ our King,
 when he came down to earth Beth - le - hem saw his birth;
 Wise Men three to him led; kneel they low by his bed,
 with their song earth shall ring, prais - ing Christ, hea - ven's King,

born on earth to save us; him the Fa - ther gave us.
 ox and ass be - side him from the cold would hide him.
 lay their gifts be - fore him, praise him and a - dore him.
 born on earth to save us; peace and love he gave us.

Refrain

Id - e - o - o - o, Id - e - o - o - o,
 Id - e - o glo - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o!

Words: *Piae Cantiones*, 1582; tr. Jane M. Joseph (1894-1929)
 Music: *Personent hodie*, melody from *Piae Cantiones*, 1582

THE HOLY GOSPEL

John 1:1-18

Please remain standing as you are able.

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

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

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

Gospeller The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Following the Gospel, all sing stanzas 3 & 4 of the gradual hymn.

THE NICENE CREED

Please stand as you are able.

Let us affirm our faith in the words of the Nicene Creed.

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

9 a.m. Led by Martha Ellison.

Please remain standing as you are able.

11 a.m. Led by Caroline Faris.

Intercessor Father, we pray for your holy catholic Church;

People **That we all may be one.**

Intercessor Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;

People **That your Name may be glorified by all people.**

Intercessor We pray for the communities of St. John's and our companion relationships with the Anglican Church of Southern Africa* and the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem. In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, for Christ Church King & Queen Parish, Chaptico; Christ Church, Clinton; Christ Church Durham Parish, Nanjemoy; Christ Church, Georgetown; Christ Church, Kensington; Christ Church Port Tobacco Parish, La Plata; Christ Church, Rockville; Christ Church Washington Parish, D.C.; and Christ Church Wayside, Newburg. For Sean, our Presiding Bishop, and Mariann, our Bishop; and for all bishops, priests, and deacons.

People **That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.**

Intercessor We pray for Joseph, our President, and Donald, our President-elect; for the leaders of Congress and the nations, for the Supreme Court, and for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;

People **That there may be justice and peace on the earth.**

Intercessor Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

People **That our works may find favor in your sight.**

Intercessor Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;

People **That they may be delivered from their distress.**

Intercessor Give to the departed eternal rest;
People **Let light perpetual shine upon them.**

Intercessor We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;
People **May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.**

Intercessor Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

Silence.

Priest O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**

CONFESSION OF SIN AND ABSOLUTION

Priest Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence.

All **Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

Priest Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

Please stand as you are able.

Priest The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please be seated.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

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.



OFFERTORY ANTHEM

The glory of the Father

Egil Hovland (1924–2013)

Sung by the choir.

The Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us. We beheld the glory of the Father, full of grace and truth. In the beginning was the Word. The Word was with God. In him was life; and the life was the light of men. He came to his own, and his own received him not.

—Adapted from John 1

HYMN 84

Love came down at Christmas

Standing as you are able.

1 Love came down at Christ-mas, love all love - ly, love di - vine;
2 Wor - ship we the God - head, love in - car - nate, love di - vine;
3 Love shall be our to - ken; love be yours and love be mine,
love was born at Christ - mas: star and an - gels gave the sign.
wor - ship we our Je - sus, but where - with for sa - cred sign?
love to God and neigh - bor, love for plea and gift and sign.

Words: Christina Rossetti (1830-1894), alt. Music: *Gartan*, melody from *Petrie Collection of Irish Melodies, Part II*, 1902; harm. David Evans (1874-1948). By permission of Oxford University Press.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Please remain standing as you are able.

Priest The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Priest Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Priest Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

The priest continues

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Because you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and
 might, hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
 san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est._____

Please stand or kneel as you are able. The priest continues

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

People **We remember his death,
 we proclaim his resurrection,
 we await his coming in glory.**

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all, presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with St. John and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. AMEN.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Priest And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

All Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

FRACTION ANTHEM (S-163) *Sung by all.*

Robert Powell

Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sins of the world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you
take a - way the sins of the world: have mer - cy on us.
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Priest The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

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.

COMMUNION ANTHEM

O magnum mysterium

Nicholas White (b. 1967)

Sung by the choir.

O magnum mysterium, et admirabile sacramentum, ut animalia viderent Dominum natum, jacentem in praesepio! Beata Virgo, cujus viscera meruerunt portare Dominum Christum.

O great mystery, and wonderful sacrament, that animals should see the new-born Lord, lying in a manger! Blessed is the Virgin whose womb was worthy to bear Christ the Lord.

—*Christmas Matins Responsory*

HYMN 82

Of the Father's love begotten

Sung by all, seated.



1	Of the	Fa - ther's	love	be - got -	ten,	ere	the	worlds	be -
2	O that	birth	for	ev - er	bless -	ed,	when	the	Vir - gin,
3	Let the	heights	of	heaven	a -	dore	him;	an -	gel
4	Christ, to	thee	with	God	the	Fa -	ther,	and,	O
									Ho - ly



gan	to	be,	he	is	Al -	pha	and	O -	me -
full	of	grace,	by	the	Ho -	ly	Ghost	con -	ceiv -
prais -	es	sing;	powers,	do -	min -	ions,	bow	be -	fore
Ghost,	to	thee,	hymn	and	chant	and	high	thanks -	giv -
									ing,



he	the	source,	the	end -	ing	he,	of	the	things
bore	the	Sa -	vi -	or	of	our	and	the	Babe,
and	ex -	tol	our	God	and	King;	let	no	tongue
and	un -	wea -	ried	prais -	es	be;	hon -	or,	glo -
									ry



are,	that	have	_____	been,	and	that	fu -	ture
world's	Re -	deem	-	er,	first	re -	vealed	his
earth	be	si	-	lent,	ev -	ery	voice	in
and	do -	min	-	ion,	and	e -	ter -	nal



years	shall	see,	ev -	er -	more	and	ev -	er -	more!
sa -	cred	face,	ev -	er -	more	and	ev -	er -	more!
con -	cert	ring,	ev -	er -	more	and	ev -	er -	more!
vic -	to -	ry,	ev -	er -	more	and	ev -	er -	more!

Words: Marcus Aurelius Clemens Prudentius (348-410?); tr. John Mason Neale (1818-1866) and Henry Williams Baker (1821-1877), alt.
Music: *Divinum mysterium*, Sanctus trope, 11th cent.; adapt. *Piae Cantiones*, 1582; acc. Bruce Neswick (b. 1956), harm. Copyright ©1984, Bruce Neswick.
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THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Please stand or kneel as you are able.

Priest Let us pray.

All Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

When scheduled, the Priest offers a communion kit to any Lay Eucharistic Minister doing a home visit, saying

On behalf of God and St. John's Church, I send you forth bearing these holy gifts that those whom you will visit may share with us in the communion of Christ's Body and Blood. Amen.

THE BLESSING

Priest Life is short. And we do not have too much time to gladden the hearts of those who travel the way with us. So be swift to love. Make haste to be kind. And the blessing of God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always. Amen.

HYMN 87

Hark! the herald angels sing

Sung by all, standing as you are able.

1 Hark! the her-ald an - gels sing glo - ry to the new - born King!
2 Christ, by high-est heaven a - dored; Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord;
3 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,

Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!
late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of the Vir - gin's womb.
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, join the tri-umph of the skies;
 Veiled in flesh the God - head see; hail the in-car - nate De - i - ty.
 Risen with heal - ing in his wings, light and life to all he brings,

with the an - gel - ic host pro - claim Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!
 Pleased as man with us to dwell; Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!
 hail, the Sun of Right - eous - ness! hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace!

Refrain

Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing glo - ry to the new - born King!

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788), alt. Music: *Mendelssohn*, Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847); adapt. William H. Cummings (1831-1915).

THE DISMISSAL

Priest Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

People Thanks be to God.

VOLUNTARY

Noël VIII

Louis Claude Daquin (1694–1772)

THE FLOWERS IN THE CHURCH ARE GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD.

ASSISTING AT THE 9 A.M. SERVICE

Mike DuMond, *Crucifer* ♦ Robyne Johnston, *Chalice Bearer*
Richard Young, *Assistant Head Usher* ♦ Patricia Leslie and Anne Stewart, *Ushers*
Eleanor Odom and Peter Odom, *Greeters*
Katherine Kyle, *Flower Guild*

ASSISTING AT THE 11 A.M. SERVICE

Eric Peters, *Crucifer* ♦ Walker Crochet and Lily Venzke, *Acolytes*
Laurie Adams and Wendy J. Fibison, *Chalice Bearers*
Anthony Pegues, *Assistant Head Usher*
Linda Chen, Doug Estes, Nora Rigby, and Bill Wright, *Ushers*
Mark Cardwell and Christine Davies, *Greeters*
Katherine Kyle, *Flower Guild*
Matthew Taylor, *Livestream Technician*

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.**

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.

Reading 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. ♦ Music images reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-701275.

Announcements for the Week of December 29

TODAY AT ST. JOHN'S

No Adult Bible Study. No nursery, Church School, or Youth Group. Children's Chapel will be offered at the 11 a.m. service.

- 8 a.m. Eucharist—Sermon by the Rev. Sarah Akes-Cardwell
Parish Choir (Parish House Fourth Floor)
- 9 a.m. Choral Eucharist—Sermon by the Rev. Sarah Akes-Cardwell
- 10 a.m. Coffee Hour (Plaza, weather permitting, or Parish House First Floor)
St. John's Choir (Parish House Fourth Floor)
- 11 a.m. Choral Eucharist—Sermon by the Rev. Sarah Akes-Cardwell
Children's Chapel (children begin in church)
- Noon Coffee Hour (Plaza, weather permitting, or Parish House First Floor)
Church Tour (see below)

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.

Please take a moment to check the side chapel for this week's flower delivery needs.

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 Richard J. Price.

SERVICE SCHEDULE

December 30 to January 5

- Monday**—12:10 p.m.—Eucharist
Tuesday—12:10 p.m.—Eucharist
Wednesday—*No noonday service: New Year's Day*
Thursday—12:10 p.m.—Eucharist
Friday—12:10 p.m.—Noonday Prayer
Sunday—The Rev. Rob Fisher, 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

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

Monday, December 30

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

Tuesday, December 31—New Year's Eve

1 p.m. Parish office closes

Wednesday, January 1—New Year's Day

All Day Parish office closed

Thursday, January 2

4:30 p.m. Chorister Rehearsals

7 p.m. Parish Choir Rehearsal

Saturday, January 4

10 a.m. Three Kings rehearsal (Sanctuary)

COMING UP IN THE NEW YEAR

EPIPHANY PARTY FOR KIDS

Sunday, January 5, at 10 a.m.

During the Church School hour, which begins at 10 a.m., infants, toddlers, and elementary aged kids are invited to the second floor of the Parish House, where we'll decorate stars, enjoy King Cake, and reflect on the story of the magi. Then, stay to watch the Three Kings' procession during the 11 a.m. service.

THREE KINGS' PROCESSION

Sunday, January 5, at 11 a.m.

We will celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany on January 5 with our annual, costumed procession to "We three kings of Orient are." Members of the choir will play the kings, and young people from our congregation will accompany them as the star and pages. Join us for this special offering during the 11 a.m. service.

LATROBE YOUNG ADULT FELLOWSHIP

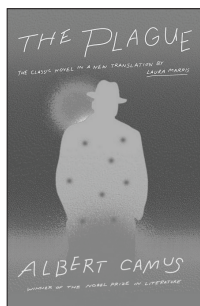
Wednesday, January 8, at 6:30 p.m.

The Latrobe Young Adult Fellowship will host a Three Kings' celebration on Wednesday, January 8. We'll kick things off at 6:30 p.m. with Evening Prayer, followed by a presentation on the history of Three Kings' Day, its connection to Epiphany, and how the tradition is celebrated today. Food and drinks will be served. If you're in your 20s and 30s, please come! The Latrobe Fellowship typically gathers 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. Questions? Contact Eric Bailey, St. John's minister for youth and young adults, via the About: Leadership page of our website.

ST. JOHN'S BOOK GROUP

Thursday, January 9, at 7 p.m.

Join us via Zoom to discuss *The Plague* by Albert Camus, translated by Laura Marris. Marris's translation brings new insight into Camus' story of the townspeople of Oran, who are in the grip of a deadly plague, condemning its victims to a swift and horrifying death. Forced into quarantine, the town is gripped by fear, isolation, and claustrophobia. Each



person responds in their own way to the lethal disease: Some resign themselves to fate, some seek to blame, and a few, like Dr. Rieux, resist the terror. 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.



ERIC BAILEY ORDINATION

**Saturday, January 11, at 10 a.m.,
Washington National Cathedral**

All are invited to the diaconal ordination of Eric Bailey, St. John's Minister for Youth and Young Adults. The service will take place at Washington National Cathedral on Saturday, January 11, beginning at 10 a.m.

Eric has been serving at St. John's since the summer of 2024. He is in his senior year at Virginia Theological Seminary, graduating with his M.Div. in May 2025. During his short time at St. John's, Eric has made a meaningful impact in our parish community, especially among our youth and young adults. This ordination for Eric is to the transitional diaconate; after a minimum of six months, he will then be ordained to the priesthood.

Deacons play an important role in keeping the gathered community connected to the needs of the world outside our church walls. This period of the transitional diaconate gives all those seeking ordination to the priesthood a unique period of practical experience rooted in servanthood. We are grateful that Eric will be able to live into this call in our midst.

On Sunday, January 12, Eric will serve as a deacon at our 9 and 11 a.m. services. Liturgically this means he will proclaim the gospel, bid the confession of sins, help prepare the altar for Communion, and offer the dismissal. Please keep Eric in your prayers, and join us in celebrating this joyous occasion.

SPEAKER SERIES

Presidential Transitions: Sunday, January 12, at 10 a.m.



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. The Speaker Series is held most Sundays from September through May. An audio recording will be available on our website the week after the talk.



GRACE'S TABLE

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

Upcoming Dates: January 18 and February 15

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 to volunteer.

EPIPHANYTIDE LESSONS AND CAROLS

Sunday, January 19, at 5:30 p.m.,

at Christ Church, Georgetown

The combined professional choirs of St. John's, Lafayette Square, and Christ Church, Georgetown, will offer a joint service of Epiphanytide Lessons and Carols on Sunday, January 19. The service includes readings interspersed with seasonal hymns and choral anthems. A reception follows. Note that this year the service will be held at Christ Church (3116 O Street, NW). We hope you'll join us for this annual collaboration with a neighboring parish as we observe the joyous season of Epiphany.

STEWARDSHIP

PLEDGE TO ST. JOHN'S

Thank you to all who have already pledged for 2025. Pledging today, if you have not yet done so, will help determine what the budget will be in the coming year. 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 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.

YEAR-END 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.

THE 1816 SOCIETY

Planned giving is another way to sustain the mission and ministry of St. John's. 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. Check out the Episcopal Church Foundation (episcopalgifts.org) to learn more about various options for planned giving. Contact Lisa Kirchenbauer via the Ministry Directory at stjohns-dc.org with questions or to join the 1816 Society.

NEWS AND NOTEWORTHY

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.

continues next column

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.

December 29 No Lunch

January 5 Three Kings' Day Potluck with
King Cake (see box below)

January 12 Refugee Committee

January 19

January 26 Susan Cardwell

February 2 Annual Meeting and Reception

February 9

February 16

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

HELP US RING IN THE NEW YEAR

Sunday, January 5, at noon

On Sunday, January 5, after the 11 a.m. service, we are hosting a special Three Kings-themed parish potluck. You are invited to bring your favorite New Year's or Epiphany dish—or any other favorite food—to share as we celebrate the arrival of the magi and mark the beginning of 2025.

FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

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.

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.

REMINDERS

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.

JOIN A MINISTRY GROUP

Explore our many ministry groups at 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.

PRAYER & PASTORAL CARE

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 stjohns-dc.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.

Due to staff vacations, the prayer list does not appear in this week’s print or electronic publications, but will be prayed as usual at services and is available from the parish office by request.

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

WE PRAY ESPECIALLY FOR THOSE IN OUR PARISH CELEBRATING BIRTHDAY THIS WEEK

Case Anderson, Tony Anikeeff, Logan Arnold, Matt Berlin, Lee Buddendeck, Emerson Coxe, Gwendolyn Cunningham, Becky Fontaine, Jack Garland, Frances Hampe, Robert Johnston, Lisa Koehler, Katherine C. Kyle, Caroline Littleton, Marisol Lovelace, Nicole Neufeld, Lizzie Rigby, Christopher Semkow, Adelle Simmons, Todd Smith, and Phil Swartzfager.

AND FOR THOSE IN OUR PARISH CELEBRATING AN ANNIVERSARY THIS WEEK

Rob Fisher and Sarah Wood, Ann and John Gardner, Jack Kinsey and Becky Schergens, and Anne Stewart and Tony Tambasco.



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) has up-to-date information about the church including the Sunday service schedule, Speaker Series speakers and topics, and newsworthy events.

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 Akes-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 Queer
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