

# St. John's Episcopal Church

*A place to discover connections with God and one another in Christ*

[www.sjparish.net](http://www.sjparish.net)



*The First Sunday after the Epiphany:  
The Baptism of Our Lord*

HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II

*January 12, 2025*

*10:30 a.m.*

# Welcome!

It is our custom to be silent before the service, so as you take some time to pray, please turn off all electronic devices. All you need to participate in the service is found in this bulletin and in the blue hymnals in each pew.

If you are new to St. John's, or have been attending a while but the parish office doesn't yet have your information, please fill out our online newcomer form by scanning the QR code or going to [sjparish.net/newcomer](http://sjparish.net/newcomer)

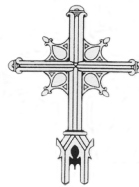


*Scan to fill out online newcomer form.*

Our ushers are here to create a welcoming and safe space for worship; please let them know if you have questions, need assistance, or become aware of a health or safety concern. They have hearing assist devices available for those who need them. We're glad you're here!

Children are always welcome to be in church with their families. We encourage you to sit up front, as children will be more engaged if they can see and hear what's going on. Children are welcome here just as they are; please don't feel you must leave every time your little one makes a sound! We have children's bulletins, books, and other quiet activities available in the narthex (the entrance with the red doors) for children's use during the service. Our professionally staffed nursery located in the Education Wing is open on Sunday mornings from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. Parents/caregivers are welcome to drop off children in the nursery for part or all of the service. The Education Wing and nursery also have changing tables and seating that parents/caregivers may use as needed.

Cover art: Baptism of Christ, 2015 by Ivanka Demchuk



## ORDER OF SERVICE

THE ORGAN VOLUNTARY Three Settings of *Vom Himmel hoch* Ernst Pepping (1901-1981)  
(From heaven high)  
1. Allegretto cantabile 2. Scherzando 3. Pastorale

THE HYMN IN PROCESSION 126 The people who in darkness walked DUNDEE  
*All stand and sing.*

### THE OPENING ACCLAMATION AND COLLECT FOR PURITY

*Celebrant* Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.  
*People* **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**  
*Celebrant* 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.**

## HYMN OF PRAISE

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.

Title: *Canticle 20, Glory to God: Gloria in excelsis*

Music: Robert Powell (b. 1932), rev. Copyright © Church Publishing, Inc

## THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Celebrant* Let us pray. Father in heaven, who at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit: Grant that all who are baptized into his Name may keep the covenant they have made, and boldly confess him as Lord and Savior; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting.  
**Amen.**

## THE WORD OF GOD

## THE FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 43:1–7

*All sit.*

**T**hus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. I give Egypt as your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you. Because you are precious in my sight, and honored, and I love you, I give people in return for you, nations in exchange for your life. Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you; I will say to the north, "Give them up," and to the south, "Do not withhold; bring my sons from far away and my daughters from the end of the earth—everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made."

*Reader*      The Word of the Lord.

*People*      **Thanks be to God.**

## THE PSALTER

Psalm 29

*The people say the words in **bold** and sing the antiphon as indicated.*



- 1 Ascribe to the Lord, you gods, \*  
**ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.**
- 2 Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his Name; \*  
**worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.**
- 3 The voice of the Lord is upon the waters;  
the God of glory thunders; \*  
**the Lord is upon the mighty waters.**
- 4 The voice of the Lord is a powerful voice; \*  
**the voice of the Lord is a voice of splendor.**
- 5 The voice of the Lord breaks the cedar trees; \*  
**the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon;**
- 6 He makes Lebanon skip like a calf, \*  
**and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.**
- 7 The voice of the Lord splits the flames of fire;  
the voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness; \*  
**the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.**
- 8 The voice of the Lord makes the oak trees writhe \*  
**and strips the forests bare.**

- 9 And in the temple of the Lord \*  
**all are crying, "Glory!"**
- 10 The Lord sits enthroned above the flood; \*  
**the Lord sits enthroned as King for evermore.**
- 11 The Lord shall give strength to his people; \*  
**the Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace.**

## THE SECOND LESSON

*Acts 8:14–17*

**W**hen the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit (for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.  
*People* **Thanks be to God.**

## THE SEQUENCE HYMN 121 Christ, when for us you were baptized

CAITHNESS

*All stand and sing.*

## THE GOSPEL

*Luke 3:15–17, 21–22*

*Minister* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Luke.  
*All* **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

**A**s the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

*Minister* The Gospel of the Lord.  
*All* **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

## THE SERMON

Margie Baker

*All sit.*

## THE RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL VOWS

*All stand. The people say the words in bold.*

*Priest* Through the Paschal mystery, dear friends, we are buried with Christ by Baptism into his death, and raised with him to newness of life. I call upon you, therefore, to renew the solemn promises and vows of Holy Baptism, by which we once renounced Satan and all his works, and promised to serve God faithfully in his holy Catholic Church.

*Priest* Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil and renew your commitment to Jesus Christ?  
*People* **I do.**

*Priest* Do you believe in God the Father?  
*People* **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**  
*Priest* Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?  
*People* **I believe in Jesus Christ, the only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

*Priest* Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?  
*People* **I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.**

*Priest* Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?  
*People* **I will, with God's help.**

*Priest* Will you persevere in resisting evil, and whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?  
*People* **I will, with God's help.**

*Priest* Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?  
*People* **I will, with God's help.**

*Priest* Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?  
*People* **I will, with God's help.**

*Priest* Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?  
*People* **I will, with God's help.**

*Priest* Will you cherish the wondrous works of God, and protect the beauty and integrity of all creation?  
*People* **I will, with God's help.**

*Priest* May Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, and bestowed upon us the forgiveness of sins, keep us in eternal life by his grace, in Christ Jesus our Lord.  
*All* **Amen.**

## THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*The people say the words in bold.*

Let us worship the Savior with joy and make our prayers to God.

The magi came from the east to worship your Son: Grant to Christians everywhere the spirit of worship and a readiness to seek and follow you always. Lord of glory, **hear our prayer.**

The infant Christ received gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh: Accept the offering of our hearts and minds as we strive to faithfully follow Jesus in the year ahead. Lord of glory, **hear our prayer.**

The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ: Grant an abundance of peace to your world and strengthen all peacemakers, especially in the Holy Land, Ukraine, Sudan, and all places of turmoil and conflict. Lord of glory, **hear our prayer.**

The Holy Family lived in exile and in the shadow of death: Look in mercy on all who are poor and powerless, and comfort and be present to all who suffer, especially those on our parish prayer list. Lord of glory, **hear our prayer.**

Your Son shared the life of his home and family in Nazareth: Protect in your love our neighbors, especially those affected by the California wildfires, our families, and this community of which we are a part. Lord of glory, **hear our prayer.**

Jesus reigns with you in eternal life: Welcome those who have died, especially Dennis Freeouf, Deborah Lifton, and Joe Duffy, into your realm of everlasting love and peace. Lord of glory, **hear our prayer.**

*Celebrant* God, we rejoice in our fellowship with the shepherds, the angels, the magi, Mary and Joseph, and all the faithful departed. In your unfailing love for us and for all people, hear and answer our prayers through your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

## THE CONFESSION OF SIN

*Celebrant* Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*All remain standing or kneel.*

*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.**

*Celebrant* 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

*Celebrant* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*All* **And also with you.**

## THE WELCOME

*All sit.*

## THE HOLY COMMUNION

THE OFFERTORY ANTHEM As I went down to the river to pray arr. Robert A. Harris (b. 1938)

Attributed to George H. Allan in the *Slave Songbook*, 1867



*Dr. Robert A. Harris is professor emeritus at Northwestern University's Bienen School of Music. He also serves as director of music and choirmaster at the Winnetka Congregational Church in Winnetka, IL. Dr. Harris held the position of professor of conducting and director of choral organizations at NYU from 1977 to 2012. Still active as a conductor, composer, clinician, lecturer and adjudicator, he has also held guest professorships in conducting at Wayne State University in Detroit, the University of Texas in Austin, and the University of South Africa in Pretoria.*

## THE PRESENTATION HYMN

OLD 100<sup>TH</sup>*All stand and sing.*

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
 Praise him, all creatures here below;  
 Praise him above, ye heavenly host:  
 Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

*All stand.*

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.  
*People* **And also with you.**  
*Celebrant* Lift up your hearts.  
*People* **We lift them to the Lord.**  
*Celebrant* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
*People* **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Because in the mystery of the Word made flesh, you have caused a new light to shine in our hearts, to give the knowledge of your glory in the face of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. 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:

## THE SANCTUS

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. \_\_\_\_\_

*Setting: Robert Powell (b. 1932)**All remain standing or kneel.*

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 many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

*Celebrant and 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 all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your children; 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

*Celebrant* 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

*The Celebrant breaks the consecrated bread. A period of silence is kept.*

*Celebrant* Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

*People* **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

## THE FRACTION ANTHEM

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.

Setting: Robert Powell (b. 1932)

## THE INVITATION TO COMMUNION

*Celebrant* 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.

*Everyone is invited to receive Holy Communion at St. John's. To receive, please kneel or stand at the altar rail. You may choose to receive bread only, intinct (dip) your wafer in the wine, or drink from the cup.*

*If you would like a blessing, cross your arms over your chest.*

*If you have mobility limitations and would like a priest to bring Communion to you in your seat, please let an usher know.*

*If you would like to pray with our healing prayer volunteer, go to the baptismal font at the back of the church after receiving Communion.*

## THE COMMUNION ANTHEM Jesus so lowly

Harold Friedell (1905–1958)

Text: Edith Williams

Jesus, so lowly, child of the earth:  
Christen me wholly, bring me new birth.  
Jesus, so lonely, weary and sad;  
Teach me that only love maketh glad.



*Harold Friedell was well-known as an organist and educator, serving as a teacher at Juilliard and Union Seminary, a composer of choral anthems and solo organ pieces, and a prominent leader in the American Guild of Organists. He was appointed as organist and choirmaster at New York's Calvary Church in 1939, and then moved to the same position at St. Bartholomew's Church in 1946, where he remained until the end of his career.*

## THE COMMUNION HYMN 512 Come, Gracious Spirit, heavenly Dove

MENDON

*All remain seated and sing.*

## THE POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

*All stand or kneel.*

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

*People* **Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**THE BLESSING**

*The Celebrant gives the blessing and the people respond, Amen.*

**THE HYMN IN PROCESSION 135** Songs of thankfulness and praise

SALZBURG

*All stand and sing.*

**THE DISMISSAL**

*The Minister dismisses the people, and the people respond. Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!*

**THE VOLUNTARY** Two Settings of *Gelobet seist du, Jesu Christ*  
(Be you praised, Lord Jesus Christ)

Johann Pachelbel (1653–1706)

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)

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Psalm Antiphon from A HymnTune Psalter, Revised Common Lectionary Edition ©2007 Carl P. Daw, Jr., and Kevin R. Hackett. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

**THE PARTICIPANTS IN THE LITURGY****Celebrant:** The Reverend Todd FitzGerald**Preacher:** The Reverend Margie Baker**Seminarian:** Robin Brown**Layreader:** Matteo Donnelly**Psalterer:** John Nowacki**The St. John's Adult Choir****Organist:** Douglas Johnson**Choirmaster:** Patrick Reardon**Acolytes:** Danielle Branco, Eden Baker, Luke Yelland**Ushers:** Robert Eikel, Mary Honyotski, Enid Oberholtzer, Don Polk, Laura Roche**Livestream Operator:** Margaret Blume**Altar Guild:** Buffy Ineson, Bill Lockery**Healing Prayer Minister:** Chris Byrd**Nursery Staff:** Nichole Segar, Lilah Lorenzo, Livvy Lorenzo**Sunday School Teachers:** Robert Eikel, Enid Oberholtzer, Margie Baker, Jeff Verney

**The altar flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of Margaret Somervell Berry Thomas.**

**Join us for coffee hour in Hubbard Hall after the service!**

This Sunday, food is provided by those with last names starting G through L.  
Next Sunday, food will be provided by those with last names starting M through R.

**In your prayers this week, please pray for:**

Peace in our world, for those serving our country in the armed services, and for all victims of war and violence. Residents of the Caleb Hitchcock Center at Duncaster, and the George Beach Apartments, Allen Place, Hartford. All those whose hurts, burdens, and fears are unspoken or unknown.

**Those in need of healing, help, and comfort:**

Kim Green	Susan	Ellie Brown	Wendy
Brad Babbitt	Sue	Anita Winters	Bob Norton
Virginia Skeele	Whitney Lynch	Joyce Flynn	Joseph
Grant Loevenbruck	Tessa Trussell Wolf	Rachel Boccio	Sarah Carroll
John & Barbara Spannaus	The Yelland family	Joan Ackley	Greg Highland
Jennifer Blean	Harry Barber	Guy Russo	Rachel
Hale Walkoff	Doug Larson	Jon Nelson	Lucas
Rod Farrell	Jeff Lewis	G.F.	Amy Bittinger
Hillary Lord	Miranda	Ned	William Bittinger
Helen Rosen	Allison and Family	Roger	Mike
Nick Willke	Linda	Rich Lammlin	Rick
Wayne Gollenburg	Jacob Latranica	Daniel Zoltan	Richard Myers
Uncle Rich Alpin	Tom Tata	Jim & Kathlyn Schofield	Carol
Tracie O'Brien	Timothy Foga	John Scott	Paul Thaxton
Naya	Miriam Myers	Mindy	Frank Higginbotham
Dennisse Salazar	Shoemaker Family	Eric Zoltan	Todd
Amy	Ken & Ellie	Elizabeth Myers	Peter Stanton & family
Cora	Elsa	David J. Beisler	Stephanie
John & Anne Walsh	Heidi	Carole Buttner	Lisa
Stephan			

**Those serving in the military:**

Alex Thaxton

**Those celebrating birthdays this week:**

John Church	David Vandermeulen	Sam Verney
Nancy Scheetz	Caleb Peck	Giselle Genece
Bobby Eikel	Liz Marchion	Sophie Hart

**Those who have died:**

Dennis Freeouf, *uncle of Margie Baker*  
 Deborah Lifton, *friend of the Crocker family*  
 Joe Duffy, *member of St. John's*

**In our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer:**

Pray for St. James', Danbury; St. Luke's, Darien; St. Paul's, Darien; and for healthcare and frontline workers.

**In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer:**

Pray for the Church of the Province of West Africa.

**Midweek contemplative Eucharist, every Wednesday at 5:30 p.m. in the chancel.**

**Jazz Eucharist, Sunday, January 19 at 10:30 a.m.** Next Sunday we will welcome the Hot Cat Jazz Band, a local band specializing in jazz worship music, to the 10:30 service. This annual tradition will feature such favorite hymns as *Shall we gather at the river*, *This little light of mine*, and *When the saints go marching in*, along with jazz prelude and postlude.

**Looking for a simple but important and rewarding volunteer role?** We need volunteers each Sunday to remove the altar flowers from their urns after the 10:30 service, divide them into smaller bouquets (for which we supply florist foil and vases), and give them away to someone at coffee hour (a friend, a newcomer, someone whose birthday or anniversary is listed in the bulletin) or deliver them to one of our homebound parishioners on your way home. Ideally, we'd like two to four volunteers who can take turns and coordinate with one another to be sure each Sunday is covered during the program year (September to early June — we don't have altar flowers over the summer). This job only takes a few minutes but is a huge help to our Altar Guild and ensures that the altar flowers don't go to waste. Contact Ellen in the parish office if you can help.

**Annual Meeting, Sunday, January 26 from 9 to 10:15 a.m.** All parish adults and youth age 16 and older are encouraged to attend the parish annual meeting on January 26, where we will elect new vestry members, review the year just past, and look ahead to the new year. A potluck continental breakfast will be served—sign up to bring something at [sjparish.net/annualmeeting](http://sjparish.net/annualmeeting). The meeting will end in time for the 10:30 worship service, and after the service, we will host a special dessert coffee hour in honor of Walden Moore's last Sunday as our interim music director.

**St. John's book club will meet online on the first Thursday in February, March, and April at 7 p.m.** The winter/spring book club meetings will be online only, in Zoom. The book club will discuss *Small Things Like These* by Claire Keegan on February 6 at 7 p.m.; *My Name is Asher Lev* by Chaim Potok on March 6 at 7 p.m.; and *A Wrinkle in Time* by Madeleine L'Engle on April 3 at 7 p.m. The April meeting is intergenerational, for both youth and adults. We have several copies of each book available in the parish office on a first-come/first-served basis.

## Vestry Nominees 2025

*Below is the slate of nominees to be presented for election at the Annual Meeting on January 26, 2025, at 9 a.m. Bios and photos are provided for first-time nominees for a particular position. If you would like more information about any of the nominees up for re-election whose bios are not included here, please contact Ellen in the parish office.*

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### **Nominated as co-wardens (one-year term; can serve up to three consecutive terms)**

**Eleanor Barnes (nominated for her second one-year term)**

**Stewart Murchie (nominated for his third one-year term)**

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### **Nominated as co-treasurers (one-year term; can serve up to three consecutive terms)**

**David McCary (nominated for his third one-year term)**



**John Wilcox (nominated for his first one-year term)** — John was baptized at St. Alban's Church in Simsbury and confirmed here at St. John's, serving as an acolyte during his middle school years. Having moved out of the area during high school, John returned to West Hartford and St. John's in 2010 with his wife Virginia Van Dyk and daughters Eleanor and Caroline. Since returning, John and Virginia have both been active members of the parish, with John previously serving on the vestry and as stewardship chair and currently serving as finance committee chair, and Virginia having served as warden (among other roles). Professionally, John has been in the insurance industry for the past 15 years and is currently head of corporate development for Everest Group. Prior to working in insurance, John was a partner with McKinsey & Co. in New York. While in New York, John and his family were members of St. Bartholomew's Church. In his free time, John enjoys spending time with his family, traveling, hiking, and playing tennis and golf.

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### **Nominated for a two- or three-year term on the vestry**

**Kimberley Byrd (three-year term)** — Kim and her family have been active members of St. John's for more than 30 years and live in West Hartford. Kim has served in a wide variety of roles, having previously served on the vestry and as chair of the stewardship, rector search, and outreach committees. She has also participated in the Education For Ministry (EFM) program, taught Sunday School, and been involved with various church activities. Currently she is a layreader and participates with our Loaves & Fishes ministry. Kim grew up as an Episcopalian attending many different Episcopal and Anglican churches as she moved with her family. She graduated from Bates College with a BA in Economics and has an MBA from the University of Connecticut. She had a 35-year career in the insurance industry, and was the co-founder of Tennant Risk Services, a specialty professional liability insurance broker with which she remained actively involved until her retirement in 2018. Kim is married to Chris Byrd, a former warden and vestry member, and is the mother of Ned and Kent, both of whom were baptized at St. John's and participated as acolytes and youth group members. In addition to her time at St. John's, Kim has also been actively involved in civic affairs in the Hartford area and in Boothbay Harbor, Maine. She is currently serving on the boards of the Larrabee Fund of Greater Hartford, The Boothbay Region Student Aid Fund, and the Boothbay Region Land Trust. She enjoys running, exercising, reading, and cooking. Kim looks forward to serving St. John's in her new capacity as a vestry member.



**Matteo Donnelly (three-year term)** — Matteo and his family have been members of St. John's Episcopal Church since 2019. Born and raised as Catholic on Long Island, NY, Matteo then moved to Florida, where he met his husband, Marcos. Marcos was born and raised Baptist, and their desire was to share a religious space that would meet both of their needs for a life in faith. They became Episcopalian in 2010 and joined St Gregory's Episcopal Church, which they loved. They were the first same-sex couple to be married in their parish. In 2012, they adopted their two children, Jayden and Mason. In 2016, they moved to CT and searched for their new church home. After visiting and participating in seven parishes to find the right one with no success, they finally

discovered St. John's and made it their new church home. Matteo is honored to be nominated for a vestry position. He serves as a layreader and with the Altar Guild ministry. He is also chair of the Christmas Festival and the coffee hour ministry. Matteo volunteers and participates in other ministries and as a choir parent. Most recently, Matteo and Marcos hosted one of the church cottage meetings that encouraged thought-provoking ideas and great discussions around many needs within the church and the community the church serves. Matteo graduated from the University of Central Florida with a BS in psychology with studies in microbiology. He currently works as an area manager with Barnes and Noble. Matteo enjoys traveling, reading, crafting, entertaining, and decorating his house for Christmas, including more than 22 Christmas trees.

**Susan Fay (three-year term)** — When Susan and her family first moved from Toronto to West Hartford in 2001, she sought out the Episcopal church with “the best youth group” and was pointed in the direction of St. John's. The EYC helped ease the transition for her three teens, and Susan enjoyed participating in the book club, choreographing the Christmas pageant, and serving as a layreader. When life took her to Chicago, she continued her career in dance and theatre while becoming involved in Grace Episcopal Church in the Loop. There Susan served on the vestry for several years, was a layreader, and participated in the women's group and the food ministry. She also served two terms on her condo board of directors. But the pull of the granddaughters proved too strong to resist, so Susan is once again in West Hartford and finds St. John's even more vibrant and welcoming! She is honored to be nominated and looks forward to serving.



**Stacey Samuel Bannon (two-year term to complete an unexpired term)** — Stacey was born and raised in the Mar Thoma Church of Los Angeles, where she led the youth and young adult committees for several years. After moving to Connecticut, Stacey met her spouse Kelsey while they were studying at UConn School of Law in 2016. Together, they found that the Episcopal church matched their values and desire for a traditional service. Stacey and Kelsey joined St. John's in 2021 and solidified their church membership through pledging, participating in Bible study and the Community Service Committee, and baptizing their son in the church. Stacey also recently spoke at the Faith@Work adult education series, where she discussed her career as claim counsel with Travelers Insurance Company. Outside of her day job, Stacey works as a pro bono attorney for Lawyers for Children America and also serves on the board of directors of the Bridge Family Center in West Hartford. Stacey loves reading, playing board games, and cooking.

**Jeff Verney (three-year term)** — Jeff Verney, the Troubadour of Happiness, is the owner of Perpetual Happiness Tour LLC through which Jeff offers his songs, stories, and seminars, all with a common goal of bringing people happiness, positivity, gratitude, purpose, and hope. Prior to creating Perpetual Happiness Tour LLC, Jeff held various leadership positions in the insurance/healthcare business throughout his career. He most recently was the regional vice president of the Northeast Region of Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield National Accounts (ANA), leading a team that was responsible for ANA's largest 90 commercial group healthcare clients in the Northeast that comprised 1 million members. Before joining Anthem, Jeff spent 12 years holding various leadership roles in UnitedHealth Group's United Retiree Solutions, a division of UnitedHealthcare, that provided group Medicare benefit programs to employers. Jeff has also worked for CIGNA, where he held sales, client management, and technology leadership roles, as well as for WebMD, where he was part of the senior leadership team. Jeff currently serves on the board of the Hartford Symphony Orchestra, where he was the chairman of the board from 2015 to 2022. He is also currently president of the Music at the Red Door board at St. John's, as well as a member of the Simsbury Meadows Performing Arts Center board. Jeff has previously served as board chairman at Renbrook School, as well as warden at St. John's. He was also previously on the board of the Northern Connecticut chapter of the American Heart Association, co-chairing the annual Northern Connecticut HeartWalk in 2011 and 2012. Jeff grew up in Simsbury, where he graduated from Simsbury High School. He holds a bachelor's degree in economics from Williams College and an MBA in finance from the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School. After living in Los Angeles, Philadelphia, and San Francisco for 15 years, Jeff returned to West Simsbury in 1994, where he and his wife Pam have lived ever since. During this time Jeff has served on the Town of Simsbury Insurance



Committee, coached Little League, and assisted with Cub Scouts. Jeff and Pam have a son Sam, who lives in Brooklyn.

### **Nominated for a one-year term as convention delegate**

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#### **Eleanor Barnes (nominated for her second one-year term)**



**Sharon Henes (nominated for her first one-year term)** — Sharon has been a member of St. John's Episcopal Church since fall of 2023, when she moved to Newington. She is involved in youth and children ministries, and serves as a layreader and healing prayer volunteer. At the diocesan level, Sharon serves as North Central leadership team convenor and a Title IV advisor. At the national level, she serves as vice president on the Court of Review, which is an appellate court for clergy discipline and investigates bishop election objections. In her prior diocese, Sharon served as diocese convention delegate for many years, Province IV Synod deputy, and General Convention deputy. Sharon worked for 28 years for the State of Wisconsin on a prosecution team for professional licensure discipline, administered the Impaired Professional Program, and wrote administrative laws. She moved to Connecticut to be closer to her three grandsons. She has two children, a son who teaches at Windsor High School and a daughter who is a curate serving in a parish in Northern Indiana. Sharon is a self-proclaimed church governance geek and has attended the last two ECCT conventions. She would be honored to serve as convention delegate representing St. John's Episcopal Church.



## Sunday flower volunteers needed!

AN EASY AND REWARDING VOLUNTEER ROLE

- **Remove the altar flowers** from their urns after the 10:30 service.
- **Divide them into smaller bouquets** (we supply florist foil and vases).
- **Give them away** to someone at coffee hour (a friend, a newcomer, someone whose birthday or anniversary is listed in the bulletin), **deliver them** to one of our homebound parishioners on your way home, or **take them home** for a friend, family member, or yourself!

We'd love to have 2 - 4 volunteers who will take turns and coordinate with one another to be sure each Sunday during the program year (September to June) is covered. This job only takes a few minutes but is a huge help to our Altar Guild and ensures that the altar flowers don't go to waste.

**Contact Ellen in the parish office if you can help.**

## Choir School and EYC Dinner Angels

Did you know that the Choir School (and some adult choir members) have dinner most Wednesdays at 6:00? And did you know that our youth group (EYC) share a meal most Sundays at 5:00? You can help feed our younger members by signing up to provide a meal for Choir School or EYC!



Choir School Dinner Signup  
([sjparish.net/choirdinner](http://sjparish.net/choirdinner))



EYC Dinner Signup  
([sjparish.net/eyc](http://sjparish.net/eyc))



# ST. JOHN'S BOOK CLUB

Join us monthly to discuss a novel with theological flair! We read one book per month, and our April read is for youth and adults. First Thursday of the month in zoom.

## SPRING 2025 NOVELS

**February | *Small Things Like These* | Claire Keegan**  
February 6 at 7pm

**March | *My Name is Asher Lev* | Chaim Potek**  
March 6 at 7pm

**April | *A Wrinkle in Time* | Madeleine L'Engle**  
April 3 at 7pm

Look for the zoom link in our weekly e-news. Not on our email list? Sign up at [sjparish.net](http://sjparish.net).



ST. JOHN'S  
EPISCOPAL  
CHURCH

[sjparish.net](http://sjparish.net)



## ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, January 26  
9 to 10:15 a.m.  
in Hubbard Hall

*Sign up to bring food for a light continental breakfast at  
[sjparish.net/annualmeeting](http://sjparish.net/annualmeeting)  
Child care provided.*

# CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

WITH  
THE RIGHT REVEREND JEFFREY MELLO  
BISHOP DIOCESAN  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN CONNECTICUT

PLAN TO ATTEND THIS WONDERFUL EVENT IN THE LIFE OF  
OUR PARISH, AS A NUMBER OF OUR YOUTH MEMBERS WILL  
BE CONFIRMED BY THE BISHOP.

SUNDAY,  
FEBRUARY 23 10:30 A.M.

# St. John's Episcopal Church

*A place to discover connections with God and one another in Christ*

www.sjparish.net

679 Farmington Avenue, West Hartford, Connecticut 06119

860 523 5201 office@sjparish.net



## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sundays at 8 a.m.: Spoken Holy Eucharist

Sundays at 10:30 a.m.: Choral Holy Eucharist

Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m.: Spoken Holy Eucharist

## STAFF

The Rev. Todd FitzGerald (todd@sjparish.net)..... *Rector*  
The Rev. Margie Baker (margie@sjparish.net)..... *Associate Rector*  
The Rev. Walter McKenney ..... *Deacon*  
Ellen Painter Dollar (ellen@sjparish.net)..... *Director of Operations & Communications*  
Dwight Latif (dwight@sjparish.net)..... *Sexton*  
Walden Moore (rwmoore56@gmail.com)..... *Interim Director of Music*  
Peggy O'Toole (peggy@sjparish.net)..... *Financial Administrator*  
Robin Brown ..... *Seminarian Intern*  
Christa Rakich..... *Organ Artist-in-Residence*  
Ralph Valentine ..... *Organist and Choirmaster Emeritus*

## VESTRY

Eleanor Barnes ..... *Warden*  
Stewart Murchie ..... *Warden*  
Anne Harney and David McCary ..... *Co-Treasurers*

2022–24: Lissie Brooks, Marcos Donnelly, Rosa Guzzo, Mary Honyotski

2023–25: Angela Allen-Peck, John Nowacki, Tom Oberholtzer

2024–26: Lauren Mascola, Brenda Zanta