

St. John's Episcopal Church

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

www.sjparish.net



The Baptism of Our Lord

HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II & THE BAPTISMS OF

Wesley Wayne Chase & Bryce David Chenail

January 11, 2026

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



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: The Baptism of the Christ with Dove by Daniel Bonnell



ORDER OF SERVICE

THE ORGAN VOLUNTARY

THE HYMN IN PROCESSION 120 The sinless one to Jordan came

SOLEMNIS HAEC FESTIVITAS

All stand and sing.

THE OPENING ACCLAMATION

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

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

Celebrant There is one Body and one Spirit;

People **There is one hope in God's call to us;**

Celebrant One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism;

People **One God and Father of all.**

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 42:1–9

All sit.

Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. He will not cry or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his teaching. Thus says God, the Lord, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it: I am the Lord, I have called you in righteousness, I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations, to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness. I am the Lord, that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols. See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

THE PSALTER

Psalm 29

*The people are invited to chant the verses in **bold**.*

Robert Knox Kennedy
(b. 1945)



- 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 10:34–43

Peter began to speak to them: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

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

Matthew 3:13–17

Minister The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Matthew.

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

Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him

and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

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

THE SERMON

Todd FitzGerald

All sit.

THE PRESENTATION AND EXAMINATION OF THE CANDIDATES

The Priest says

The Candidates for Holy Baptism will now be presented.

Parents and Godparents I present [Wesley Wayne/Bryce David] to receive the sacrament of baptism.

Priest Will you be responsible for seeing that they are being brought up in the Christian faith and life?

Parents and Godparents I will, with God's help.

Priest Will you by your prayers and witness help them to grow into the full stature of Christ?

Parents and Godparents I will, with God's help.

Then the Priest asks the following questions of the parents and godparents, who speak on behalf of the children.

Question Do you renounce Satan and all the spiritual forces of wickedness that rebel against God?

Answer I renounce them.

Question Do you renounce the evil powers of this world which corrupt and destroy the creatures of God?

Answer I renounce them.

Question Do you renounce all sinful desires that draw you from the love of God?

Answer I renounce them.

Question Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Savior?

Answer I do.

Question Do you put your whole trust in his grace and love?

Answer I do.

Question Do you promise to follow and obey him as your Lord?

Answer I do.

The Priest addresses the Congregation saying

Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support these children in their life in Christ?

People **We will.**

Priest Let us join with those who are committing themselves to Christ and renew our own baptismal covenant.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT

All stand.

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.**

THE PRAYERS FOR THE CANDIDATES

- Leader* Let us now pray for these children who are to receive the Sacrament of new birth. Deliver them, O Lord, from the way of sin and death.
People **Lord, hear our prayer.**
- Leader* Open their hearts to your grace and truth.
People **Lord, hear our prayer.**
- Leader* Fill them with your holy and life-giving Spirit.
People **Lord, hear our prayer.**
- Leader* Keep them in the faith and communion of your holy Church.
People **Lord, hear our prayer.**
- Leader* Teach them to love others in the power of the Spirit.
People **Lord, hear our prayer.**
- Leader* Send them into the world in witness to your love.
People **Lord, hear our prayer.**
- Leader* Bring them to the fullness of your peace and glory.
People **Lord, hear our prayer.**
- Priest* Grant, O Lord, that all who are baptized into the death of Jesus Christ your Son may live in the power of his resurrection and look for him to come again in glory; who lives and reigns now and for ever. **Amen.**

THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER

Priest The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Priest Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

We thank you, Almighty God, for the gift of water. Over it the Holy Spirit moved in the beginning of creation. Through it you led the children of Israel out of their bondage in Egypt into the land of promise. In it your Son Jesus received the baptism of John and was anointed by the Holy Spirit as the Messiah, the Christ, to lead us, through his death and resurrection, from the bondage of sin into everlasting life. We thank you, Father, for the water of Baptism. In it we are buried with Christ in his death. By it we share in his resurrection. Through it we are reborn by the Holy Spirit. Therefore in joyful obedience to your Son, we bring into his fellowship those who come to him in faith, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Now sanctify this water, we pray you, by the power of your Holy Spirit, that those who here are cleansed from sin and born again may continue for ever in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Savior. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE BAPTISM

The Priest says to the candidate

[Wesley Wayne/Bryce David], I baptize you in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Then the Priest places a hand on the candidate's head, marking on the forehead the sign of the cross and saying

You are sealed by the Holy Spirit in Baptism and marked as Christ's own for ever. **Amen.**

Priest Let us pray. Heavenly Father, we thank you that by water and the Holy Spirit you have bestowed upon your servants the forgiveness of sin, and have raised them to the new life of grace. Sustain them, O Lord, in your Holy Spirit. Give them an inquiring and discerning heart, the courage to will and to persevere, a spirit to know and to love you, and the gift of joy and wonder in all your works. **Amen.**

Priest Let us welcome the newly baptized.

All **We receive you into the household of God. Confess the faith of Christ crucified, proclaim his resurrection, and share with us in his eternal priesthood.**

THE BAPTISMAL HYMN 295 Sing praise to our Creator

CHRISTUS, DER IST MEIN LEBEN

All sing as the baptismal party and clergy return to their seats.

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 *Vidi aquam*

Marty Wheeler Burnett (b. 1961)

Text: Traditional Latin

Vidi aquam egredientem de templo, a latere dextro.
Et omnes ad quos pervenit aqua ista, salvi facti sunt,
Et dicent: Alleluia.

Confitemini Domino, quoniam bonus,
quoniam in saeculum misericordia ejus.

*I saw water flowing from the right side of the temple,
and all to whom that water came have been saved,
and they will say, Alleluia.*

*Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
His mercy endures forever.*

THE PRESENTATION HYMN

OLD 100TH

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

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 our thanks and praise.**

We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant. From before time, you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing. You made us in your image, and taught us to walk in your ways. But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away; and yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us. Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love.

And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices as we sing:

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



Setting: Robert Powell (b. 1932)

All remain standing or kneel.

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God. Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw the world to himself yet we were heedless for his call to walk in love. Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again, he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said: "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice.

Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made. In the fullness of time bring us, with all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and 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 Take this bread, share this wine. In these Christ comes to us with love from God. The gifts of God for the people of God.

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 instead of receiving Communion, 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 Listen sweet dove

Katherine Burk (b. 1990)

Text: George Herbert (1593–1633)

Listen sweet dove unto my song,
 and spread thy golden wings in me;
 hatching my tender heart so long,
 till it get wing and flie away with thee.

Such glorious gifts thou didst bestow
 the earth did like a heav'n appeare,
 the starres were coming down to know
 if they might mend their wages and serve here.

The sunne which once did shine alone,
 hung down his head and wisht for night,
 when he beheld twelve sunnes for one
 going about the world and giving light.

Lord though we change thou art the same,
 the same sweet God of love and light:
 restore this day for thy great name,
 unto his ancient and miraculous right.

THE COMMUNION HYMN 132 When Christ's appearing was made known ERHALT UNS, HERR
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

The Bible texts of the Old Testament, Epistle and Gospel lessons are from the New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Church of Christ in the USA, and used by permission.

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THE PARTICIPANTS IN THE LITURGY

Celebrant: The Reverend Margie Baker

Preacher: The Reverend Todd FitzGerald

Seminarian: Katherine Leary

Lector & Chalice Bearer: Jane Harris

Intercessor & Chalice Bearer: Dave Derby

Acolytes: Atticus Finkell, Alice Yelland, Luke Yelland

The St. John's Adult Choir & Choir School

Choirmaster: Patrick Reardon

Organist: Elijah Morris

Ushers: Jo Anne Burgh, Robert Eikel, Julia O'Brien (greeter), David Vandermeulen

Livestream Operator: Elijah Clapp

Altar Guild: Eti Akpan, Kate Eikel

Healing Prayer Minister: Chris Byrd

Sunday School Teachers: Robert Eikel, Jeff Verney, Akilah Williams, Matt Ciscel,

Leah Lorenzo, Angela Allen-Peck, Buffy Ineson

Nursery Staff: Nichole Segar, Caroline Thaxton, Olivia Thaxton

The altar flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of Nancy Pedersen.

Join us in Hubbard Hall after the service for coffee hour.

This week, coffee hour food is provided by those with last names starting G through L.
Next week, 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, those serving our country in the armed services, and 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	Joyce Flynn	Wendy
Virginia Skeele	Sue	Rachel Boccio	Bob Norton
Grant Loevenbruck	Tessa Trussell Wolf	Joan Ackley	Joseph
John & Barbara Spannaus	Harry Barber	Jon Nelson	Sarah Carroll
Jennifer Blean	Doug Larson	Ned	Greg Highland
Hale Walkoff	Miranda	Roger	Rachel
Rod Farrell	Allison and Family	Daniel Zoltan	Lucas
Hillary Lord	Linda	Jim & Kathlyn Schofield	Amy Bittinger
Helen Rosen	Tom Tata	John Scott	Mike
Nick Willke	Timothy Foga	Eric Zoltan	Rick
Tracie O'Brien	Shoemaker Family	Elizabeth Myers	Richard Myers
Naya	Elsa	Rob Roy	Carol
Amy	Heidi	Meghan	Paul Thaxton
Cora	Alondra	Bonnie Evans	Frank Higginbotham
Beth	Andrew Worrell	Barbara	Stephanie
Katie	Sam Wiley	Dennis	Ann
Anne	Gracie	John Murray	Chris
Martha Babbitt	Jackie Harding	Spencer Rothman	Alberto Guzman
Linda	Cynthia Wannace	Rosow Family	Kathy & Pete Beynor
Jamie Blean	Lisa Sheehan	Stacy Wagner	Sara Enright
Emily Brielle Clark	Ken Potter	Meg	Bob Norton
Brendan	Will S.	Tom Lauterbach	

Those serving in the military:

Alex Thaxton

Those celebrating birthdays this week:

John Church	Caleb Peck
Nancy Scheetz	Liz Marchion
Bobby Eikel	Eleanor Kilelee
David Vandermeulen	Giselle Genece

In our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer:

Pray for Trinity, Collinsville; St. James', Danbury; St. Luke's, Darien; and for the Journey of Discovery with Indigenous Peoples Ministry Network, and Prayer & Healing Ministry Networks.

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer:

Pray for Iglesia Anglicana de la Region Central de America.

Midweek contemplative Eucharist, every Wednesday at 5:30 p.m. in the chancel. All are welcome to attend this brief weekly service including scripture readings, prayer, silence, and communion.

Upcoming Events

More information in each week's Thursday e-news and in the graphics in this bulletin.

- **"Perpetual Happiness Tour" event** — Friday, January 23 at 5:30 p.m.
- **St. John's Annual Meeting** — Sunday, January 25 from 9 to 10:15 a.m.

As you clean up from Christmas, donate your unwanted items to the next Christmas Festival!

Now is a great time to get rid of any Christmas items you no longer want or need that we can use for the 2026 Christmas Festival. We welcome donations of gently used or new holiday décor and items for our annual wreath decorating (ornaments, ribbon, etc.). Did you receive a gift that isn't quite right for you but could be perfect for someone else? Donate it for next year's mystery gift pull or one of our themed raffle baskets! Items may be brought to the parish office or given to Matteo Donnelly, festival chair.

**Save the date:
The 2026 Christmas Festival will be
November 20 to 22.**

PLEASE JOIN US FOR
JEFF VERNEY'S
Perpetual Happiness Tour

**JANUARY 23
5:30PM
HUBBARD HALL**

The Parish Life Committee and parishioner Jeff Verney (aka the "Troubadour of Happiness") will present the Perpetual Happiness Tour Experience, on Friday, January 23rd, at 5:30pm. This event includes original songs, stories, and discussion on how to enhance happiness in our lives! The event will last approximately one hour. Light refreshments and beverages will be provided.




ST. JOHN'S
EPISCOPAL
CHURCH

sjparish.net



ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, January 25
9 to 10:15 a.m.

Sign up to bring something for a light continental breakfast at sjparish.net/annualmeeting

Vestry Nominees 2026

Below is the slate of nominees to be presented for election at the Annual Meeting on January 25, 2026, 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.

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



Susan Fay (nominated for her first one-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.

Tom Oberholtzer (nominated for his first one-year term) - Upon graduation from Hamilton College, Tom enrolled at Officer Candidate School at Ft. Sill, Oklahoma, and was commissioned Second Lieutenant in the United States Army. He taught gunnery for a year, and then completed a tour in Vietnam, serving with the 1st Battalion, 7th Artillery, 1st Infantry Division. Released from active duty, he joined the Ametek Corporation as district manager for distributor operations in the midwest. He then moved to Connecticut to join the Meriden Cooper Corporation, a distributor of process instrumentation, became a principal, and served as president for 43 years. Through his avocational love of music, he has served as post organist at Ft. Leonard Wood, Missouri, and organist and choir director at the Marlborough Congregational Church; sung with the choir of men and boys at Christ Church Cathedral and the choir of Trinity Episcopal Church; served as president of The Hartford Chorale; and participated in yearly summer programs through the Royal School of Church Music in America. In support of the Episcopal Church he has served on the Cathedral Chapter, the vestry of Trinity Church, and as warden at Trinity. He and his wife, Enid, joined St. John’s in 2021. Since then, has completed a three-year term on the vestry, serving as liaison to the finance and house committees, both of which he continues to serve. In his spare time he volunteers at the Veterans Hospital in Newington, and enjoys cooking. He looks forward to continuing to serve St. John’s in whatever capacity he may be called.



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



Jeff Kinney (nominated for his first one-year term) - Jeff joined St. John’s two years ago with his wife Rebecca Bourret. He is a lifelong Lutheran and has lived in Cincinnati, Cleveland, Chicago, New Britain, Glastonbury and Boston before moving to West Hartford four years ago. He currently serves on the community service and finance committees. In prior parishes, Jeff served as stewardship chair, was on property committees, and sang in choirs. Jeff spent the majority of his career in corporate banking, most recently with Wells Fargo in Boston. In the last five years of his career, he transitioned to a nonprofit role as chief of strategic development with Ascentria Care Alliance, a large human services agency based in Worcester. Jeff has served on numerous nonprofit boards; recently, he has been active with the Third Age Initiative of Leadership Greater Hartford and is currently board chair of Integrated Refugee and Immigrant Services – IRIS. He also recently established a charitable fund at the Greater Cincinnati Foundation, along with his brother, to honor their mother’s volunteer and philanthropic legacy. Jeff enjoys traveling, reading, biking, kayaking, and just being outdoors. Jeff and Rebecca have three married children, one living in Simsbury and the other two in southern California.

John Wilcox (nominated for his second one-year term)

Nominated for a three-year term on the vestry

Betsy Chicares - Betsy grew up in West Hartford, where she was very active in the girls' choir, youth group, teaching Sunday School, and playing her flute at St James's Church, just up the street. After returning to the area after completing her studies at University of Rochester, Betsy found Grace Episcopal Church fit her well for more than 30 years with its Anglo-Catholic mass, parish choir, and food pantry. In addition, she served more than 25 years on the vestry at Grace Church in a variety of roles and also as a layreader. About three years ago, after attending St John's for a year and despite living "on the other side of the river," Betsy was inspired by the welcoming spirit at St. John's to join in worship, outreach, and fellowship.



Matthew Ciscel - Matthew Ciscel was raised at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in Memphis and joined St. John's in 2010, when his children, Elsa June and Dorian, were baptized here. He has enjoyed watching them grow through St. John's and participating in the Choir School, as acolytes, and in EYC. Matt has served as a youth leader in the Christian formation and EYC programs for many years, currently leads an usher team, and also serves on the stewardship committee, which he co-chaired for a few years. In his professional life, he is a professor of linguistics and chair of the English department at Central Connecticut State University. His wife, Alina Ciscel, is also an English professor and comes from an Orthodox background. He enjoys cycling, reading, and traveling in his free time.

Young Hee Derby - Young Hee and her husband, David, have been faithfully attending St. John's since 2023. Their spiritual journey in the Episcopal Church began in 1982. Young Hee is a regular volunteer at Loaves and Fishes ministry and recently undertook the flower ministry, delivering altar flowers to an assisted living facility residents where she volunteers. Young Hee recently spoke at the Faith@Work series where she discussed how faith manifested in her work life as a clinical nutrition manager. Prior to joining St. John's, Young Hee and David attended St. John's, East Windsor, where they served in various leadership capacities. Young Hee is recently retired but still serves as a board member of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. She is honored to be nominated to serve on the vestry.



Don Polk - Don considers life an adventure. He was born and raised in Indiana, where he attended a non-denominational church during his childhood. His family included members who were Baptists, Nazarenes, and Pentecostals. He spent two years at Indiana University after finishing high school, then began working in the printing industry, retiring in November 2024 after more than 40 years. He lived in Illinois and New Orleans before moving to Connecticut in 2005. Hurricane Katrina was the catalyst for his move to Connecticut, as his New Orleans place of employment was closed by the company and there was a job opportunity in Connecticut. Don met his husband John in 2015, and they were married in October 2016. They started attending St. John's in 2016, mainly because of John's interest in the choir program. Don was persuaded that he had found his church home by the warmth and hospitality of the St. John's congregation, leading him to become an Episcopalian in April 2017. Since joining the church, Don has taken part in and completed the Education for Ministry program. He currently serves as an usher, becoming co-chair a couple of years ago, and is also the keeper of the hymn boards in the nave. This past summer, he helped with the upkeep of the Cloister Garden. Don enjoys reading, traveling, collecting stamps and antiques, and gardening. He is a big fan of the St. John's choir and considers himself a "choir groupie." Don is humbled and honored to be asked to serve on the vestry.

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
Katherine Leary	Seminarian Intern*
Ellen Painter Dollar (ellen@sjparish.net)	Director of Operations & Communications
Dwight Latif (dwight@sjparish.net)	Sexton
Nick Capozzoli (nick@sjparish.net).....	Director of Music
Peggy O'Toole (peggy@sjparish.net).....	Financial Administrator
Elijah Morris.....	Organ Scholar
Christa Rakich	Organ Artist-in-Residence*
Ralph Valentine	Organist and Choirmaster Emeritus*
The Rev. Rebecca Bourret	Priest Associate*
The Rev. Mary Lynn Dell.....	Priest Associate*
The Rev. Joseph Pace	Priest Associate*
The Rev. Nancy Wright.....	Priest Associate*

*These positions are non-stipendiary.

VESTRY

Eleanor Barnes.....	Warden
Stewart Murchie	Warden
Tim Goetz and John Wilcox.....	Treasurers

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

2024–26: Lauren Mascola, Stacey Samuel Bannon, Brenda Zanta

2025–27: Kim Byrd, Matteo Donnelly, Susan Fay, Jeff Verney