

**ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH AND SCHOOL  
& AFRICAN PALMS USA**

**THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**Sunday, November 30, 2025**

**8am & 10:30am**

**HOLY EUCHARIST**



3427 Olney Laytonsville Rd. Olney, MD 20832  
Phone: (301) 774-6999 | Website: [www.stjec.org](http://www.stjec.org)

*~ CALLED BY CHRIST IN LOVE, TO LIVE IN TRUTH AND ACTION ~*

# Welcome to St. John's Church

*We are a diverse faith community committed to carrying out Christ's mission in the world around us. We love the beauty of worship, and live into the faithful and constant commitment towards seeking social and economic justice and reconciliation among all peoples. We come from across the globe, with varied family configurations, educational backgrounds, occupations, interests, and talents and invite you to join us.*

*If you are visiting our church for the first time, please introduce yourself to an usher or a member of the Clergy. We have a small gift for you from the parish.*

*If you are seeking a spiritual home, please speak with the Clergy.*



## **Please join us for Coffee and fellowship following the worship service**

If you are a guest with us today, please know that you are welcome to enjoy fellowship, coffee, and tea with us in the Parish Hall following the service.

## **Children are welcome at all services**

If you have little worshipers with you today who might enjoy coloring, Play-Doh, or a Rubik's cube, these can be found at either entrance.

**The Nursery is open from 8am to 12pm for children age 5 and under.**

## SUNDAY @ ST. JOHN'S

8am	<i>Worship with Eucharist, no music, in the Sanctuary</i>
9am	<i>Adult Forum in the undercroft Meeting Room</i>
9:45am	<i>Holy Household Half-Hour, Intergenerational "Sunday school" in the Parish Hall</i>
10:30am	<i>Worship with Eucharist and choir in the Sanctuary</i>

## COME JOIN US

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### TODAY

- Advent Wreath Making @ 12pm

### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4

- Christmas Tree Lighting @ 6:30pm - St John's School

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6

- Lessons & Carols / Advent Dinner @ 5pm

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7

- Newcomer's Coffee Hour @ 12pm
- Youth Group Meeting @ 12pm
- T'ween Faith Club Meeting @ 2pm

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14

- Neuro-Spicy Group @ 1:30pm

### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17

- National Cathedral Blue Christmas Service @ 7pm

### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19

- Gift Wrapping & Christmas Cookies @ 6:0pm

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21

- Casserole Club Meeting @ 12pm
- Cookies & Milk Prayer Partner PJ Party @ 12pm

# HOLY EUCHARIST

10:30AM  
Prelude

*The people stand.*

10:30AM  
Hymn #68

Rejoice! Rejoice, believers

1 Re - joice! re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear!  
2 See that your lamps are burn - ing, re - ple-nish them with oil;  
3 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;

The eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.  
look now for your sal - va - tion, the end of sin and toil.  
a - rise, thou Sun so longed for, a - bove this dark - ened sphere!

The Bride - groom is a - ris - ing, and soon he will draw nigh;  
The mar - riage - feast is wait - ing, the gates wide o - pen stand;  
With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see

up, watch in ex - pec - ta - tion! at mid - night comes the cry.  
 rise up, ye heirs of glo - ry, the Bride-groom is at hand!  
 the day of earth's re - demp - tion, and ev - er be with thee!

Words: Laurentius Laurenti (1660-1722); tr. Sarah B. Findlater (1823-1907), alt.  
 Music: *Llangloffan*, melody from *Hymnau a Thonau er Gwasanaeth yr Egbwys yng Nghymru*, 1865

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

### THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

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.**

8AM  
 Gloria

BCP pg. 356

Glory to God in the highest,  
 and peace to his people on earth.  
 Lord God, heavenly King,  
 almighty God and Father,  
 we worship you, we give you thanks,  
 we praise you for your glory.

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
 Lord God, Lamb of God,  
 you take away the sin of the world:  
 have mercy on us;  
 you are seated at the right hand of the Father:  
 receive our prayer.  
 For you alone are the Holy One,  
 you alone are the Lord,  
 you alone are the Most High,  
 Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,  
 in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

10:30AM

Wait for the Lord

Ostinato Chorale

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord: keep watch, take heart!

Text: Isaiah 40, Philippians 4, Matthew 6:33, 7:7; Taizé Community, 1984  
 Tune: Jacques Berthier, 1923–1994  
 © 1982, 1983, 1984, Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent

## THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

*People*

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

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

*Advent candle is lit.*

1. Kin - dle this flame of hope. May it burn bright and true.  
2. God's realm is our de - sire, where peace and jus - tice reign.

Light - ing the way that is of God, the jour - ney we pur - sue.  
Hea - ven and earth com - bined as one, when Christ shall come a - gain.

WORDS: Gary L. Lake Dillensnyder, 2009  
MUSIC: Robert Jackson, 1888

TRENTHAM  
SM

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Heavenly Father, you call us to repent of our sins: soften our proud and stubborn hearts. Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you declared the forgiveness of God: teach us to forgive one another. Christ, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

Holy Spirit, you search our hearts and show us the truth: direct us in your way of righteousness. Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Almighty God, who in Jesus Christ has given us a kingdom that cannot be destroyed, forgive you your sins, open your eyes to God's truth, strengthen you to do God's will, and give you the joy of his kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*The people are seated.*

### **Isaiah 2:1-5**

*Lector* A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

In days to come  
the mountain of the LORD's house  
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,  
and shall be raised above the hills;  
all the nations shall stream to it.  
Many peoples shall come and say,



'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,  
to the house of the God of Jacob;  
that he may teach us his ways  
and that we may walk in his paths.'  
For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,  
and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.  
He shall judge between the nations,  
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;  
they shall beat their swords into ploughshares,  
and their spears into pruning-hooks;  
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,  
neither shall they learn war any more.

O house of Jacob,  
come, let us walk  
in the light of the LORD!

The Word of the Lord.

*People*

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Psalm 122**

1 I was glad when they said to me, \*  
"Let us go to the house of the LORD."  
2 Now our feet are standing \*  
within your gates, O Jerusalem.  
3 Jerusalem is built as a city \*  
that is at unity with itself;  
4 To which the tribes go up,  
the tribes of the LORD, \*  
the assembly of Israel,  
to praise the Name of the LORD.

5 For there are the thrones of judgment, \*  
the thrones of the house of David.  
6 Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: \*  
"May they prosper who love you.  
7 Peace be within your walls \*  
and quietness within your towers.  
8 For my brethren and companions' sake, \*  
I pray for your prosperity.  
9 Because of the house of the LORD our God, \*  
I will seek to do you good."

### **Romans 13:11-14**

*Lector* A reading from Saint Paul's letter to the church in Rome.

You know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

The Word of the Lord.

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

*The people stand.*

## Hymn #69

## What is the crying at Jordan



1 What is the cry - ing at Jor - dan? Who  
 2 Who then shall stir in this dark - ness, pre -  
 3 Lord, give us grace to a - wake us, to  
 4 Now comes the day of sal - va - tion, in



hears, O God, the pro - phe - cy? Dark is the  
 pare for joy in the win - ter night? Mor - tal in  
 see the branch that be - gins to bloom; in great hu -  
 joy and ter - ror the Word is born! God gives him -



sea - son, dark our hearts and shut to mys - ter - y.  
 dark - ness we lie down, blind - heart - ed, see - ing no light.  
 mi - li - ty is hid all heaven in a lit - tle room.  
 self in - to our lives; O let sal - va - tion dawn!

Words: Carol Christopher Drake (b. 1933), alt. Copyright © 1971, Carol C. Stone. Music: *St. Mark's, Berkeley*, Irish melody from *Danta De: Hymns to God, Ancient and Modern*; harm. Norman Mealy (1923-1987).

## The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew (24:36-44)

### People Glory to you, Lord Christ

Jesus said to the disciples, "But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left.

Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour."

*People*      The Gospel of the Lord  
**Praise to you, Lord Christ**

**THE SERMON**

The Rev. Shivaun Wilkinson

*The people stand.*

**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

*Deacon* God calls us to love one another. As a sign of that love, let us lift up our prayer to God for the needs of all people throughout the world, saying: O God, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for the peace of the world, that our instruments of war may be transformed into instruments of peace, and that nations shall cease to learn war any more.

*People* **O God, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

We pray for the church, that we may become more and more a means of grace and peace in the world.

*People* **O God, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

We pray for all people of good will who seek to cast off the works of darkness, that we may be enlightened through our service of others in the name of Christ.

*People* **O God, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

We pray for all who are in need especially **Sara, Sloane, Aurora, Katie, Stephen, Carole, Tom, Ron, Greg, Ivy, Steve, Celeste, and Mary**, that we may be alert to the presence of Christ in them and ready to reach out in love.

*People* **O God, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

We pray for all the departed, that we may be comforted in knowing they are in the nearer presence of God.

*People* **O God, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who are assembled here today, that we may be clothed with the Lord Jesus Christ and go forth from this place to be Christ in the world.

*People* **O God, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

We pray for all who have asked for our prayers, that we may faithfully wait upon God with confidence in that love which sustains us in every moment of our lives.

*People* **O God, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

*Officiant* We praise you, Lord our God, that you have called us to be your people and the instruments of your presence in the world. Grant us grace to discern your will and the strength to do it, through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

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



Use the QR code to donate from your mobile device.

**Anthem:** Out of the Wintry Gloom

Shepherd

**EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**

Samuels Wells

*During Advent our Eucharistic Prayers will reflect the specific readings for each week. We invite you to listen to, rather than read, the prayers. This will also permit you to focus on the bread and the wine during these prayers. Lift your eyes towards the altar and hear our prayers to God.*

*The people stand.*

The Lord be with you.

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

Lift up your hearts.

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

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

*The Celebrant continues.*

8AM

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

10:30AM

**Sanctus 129** Holy, holy, holy

Robert Powell

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.

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

*People* Great is the mystery of faith.  
**Christ has died;**  
**Christ is risen;**  
**Christ will come again.**



*The Celebrant continues.*

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, in the language closest to our hearts, we are bold to say,

**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.**

**Padre nuestro,  
que estás en el cielo,  
santificado sea tu Nombre;  
venga a nosotros tu reino;  
hágase tu voluntad  
en la tierra como en el cielo.  
Danos hoy nuestro pan de cada día;  
perdona nuestras ofensas,  
como también nosotros perdonamos  
a los que nos ofenden;  
no nos dejes caer en la tentación,  
y líbranos del mal.  
Amén.**

## **The Breaking of the Bread**

*The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.*

*A period of silence is kept.*

*People*      Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;  
                 **Therefore let us keep the feast.**

10:30AM

Fraction Anthem: My Spirit Yearns for You

Taizé Community



My spir - it yearns for you in the night, O God; I  
*Ie - de - re nacht ver-lang ik naar u, o God, ik*



seek you, O Lord, with all my soul. My spir - it  
*hun - ker naar u met heel mijn ziel. Ie - de - re*



yearns for you in the night, O God; I  
*nacht ver-lang ik naar u, o God, ik*



seek you, O Lord, with all my soul.  
*hun - ker naar u met heel mijn ziel.*

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## The Gifts of God for the People of God.

*The people are seated.*

*Communion is offered to all who are called by Christ to participate. You can receive in both kinds, bread and wine or in just one. To receive communion, or a blessing, please come forward to the priest at the front of the altar. To receive bread, put your hands out, to receive wine, please drink from the chalice. For health reasons, we do not instinct (dip) the bread. To receive a blessing, cross your arms across your chest. Gluten-free host is available. Please make your needs known to the priest.*

### **Sending Prayers for Eucharistic Visitors**

*Deacon* In the name of God and this congregation, I send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's body and blood.

*People* **We who are many are one body because we all share one bread and one cup.**

### **Post Communion Prayer**

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

*The people stand.*

*Celebrant and 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

## Hymn #57

Lo! He comes, with clouds descending



1 Lo! he comes, with clouds de - scend - ing, once for  
 2 Ev - ery eye shall now be - hold him, robed in  
 3 Those dear tok - ens of his pas - sion still his  
 4 Yea, a - men! let all a - dore thee, high on



our sal - va - tion slain; thou - sand thou - sand  
 dread - ful ma - jes - ty; those who set at  
 daz - zling bo - dy bears, cause of end - less  
 thine e - ter - nal throne; Sa - vior, take the



saints at - tend - ing swell the tri - umph of his  
 nought and sold him, pierced, and nailed him to the  
 ex - ul - ta - tion to his ran - somed wor - ship -  
 power and glo - ry; claim the king - dom for thine



train: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!  
 tree, deep - ly wail - ing, deep - ly wail - ing,  
 ers; with what rap - ture, with what rap - ture,  
 own: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!



Al - le - lu - ia! Christ the Lord re - turns to reign.  
 deep - ly wail - ing, shall the true Mes - si - ah see.  
 with what rap - ture gaze we on those glo - rious scars!  
 Al - le - lu - ia! Thou shalt reign, and thou a - lone.

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788). Music: *Helmsley*, melody Thomas Augustine Arne (1710-1778); harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958), alt.

## Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

*People*

**Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

## TENDING GOD'S FLOCK

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*Use this list to pray and to show your love and concern for the sick, shut-in, bereaved, or those merely in need of prayer. If you wish to submit a name please contact the office at [accounting@stjec.org](mailto:accounting@stjec.org).*

*In case of pastoral emergency, please call 301-774-3619 or email [pastoralcare@stjec.org](mailto:pastoralcare@stjec.org)*

Sara R.  
Sloane Lewis  
Aurora  
Katie Fairbanks  
Stephen Simpson  
Carole  
Tom Dry  
Ron Blackburn  
Greg Downing  
Ivy Choe-Branstetter  
Steve Ruff  
Celeste McGee  
Mary Persinger



*Altar arrangements are given in loving memory of our Granddaughter*

*TAYLOR*

*by*

*John & Kay Flickinger*

*If you are ill for an extended period, are hospitalized, need a visit or Eucharist brought to you, want your home blessed, are celebrating a birth, adoption, or want specific prayers for any number of celebrations or sorrows, please email: [pastoralcare@stjec.org](mailto:pastoralcare@stjec.org).*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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- **ADVENT WREATH MAKING**  
Join us THIS afternoon at 12pm in the Parish Hall to make advent wreaths. Liturgy for household prayers for each week of Advent will be available for you. Wreaths, ribbons and candles will be provided.
- **WOMEN OF ST. JOHN'S SOUP & SALAD/COOKIE EXCHANGE**  
Ladies of St. John's, please join us for our annual Soup & Salad/Cookie Exchange on Monday, December 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm at the home of Mathy Downing - (5712 Stanbrook Lane, Laytonsville, MD). Come and enjoy soup and salads, followed by a cookie exchange. Soup and bread will be provided. Please bring a salad or appetizer to share plus a food item for the food pantry. Questions? Contact [mathy02@aol.com](mailto:mathy02@aol.com).
- **GIFT WRAPPING & CHRISTMAS COOKIES**  
A ladies evening to prepare Christmas magic. Bring your gifts (**for your own family and others on your list**), wrapping paper and other supplies to the Parish hall, along with wine, soda, or snacks of your preference to share, for a casual evening of wrapping and fellowship on Friday, December 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm. Pizza will be provided, along with salad, and wrapping supplies to share.
- **BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE**  
Washington National Cathedral's annual Blue Christmas Service invites us into hope and healing through prayer, music, and reflection on Wednesday, Dec. 17<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm. Join Deacon Nancy to carpool to Washington DC and start the evening off with dinner and fellowship prior to the service. The service will also be livestreamed on <https://cathedral.org/worship/blue/>.

*Lessons Carols- Advent Dinner*  
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2025  
5 O'CLOCK PM

As we enter the season of Advent, we invite you to join us for an evening of readings, hymns and music at the 5pm service of *Lessons & Carols*.

*The Advent Dinner*  
follows with appetizers, beverages, dinner & dessert in the Parish Hall.

See Friday's Bell Tower to sign-up to bring a dish to share or for opportunities to help.

\*Need Childcare? Contact Mo. Shivaun.

The festivities begin in the church with a service of Lessons & Carols, followed by appetizers, beverages, dinner & dessert in the Parish Hall. Wear something festive, bring a dish to share and join us on Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup> at 5pm. Need childcare? Contact Mo. Shivaun @ [associate@stjec.org](mailto:associate@stjec.org). Please see Friday's Bell Tower for the Sign-Up Genius link for opportunities to help and to sign-up to bring a dish. Questions? Contact: Gail Rucker at [lgrucker@verizon.net](mailto:lgrucker@verizon.net) or Anne Gough at [anniebug15@yahoo.com](mailto:anniebug15@yahoo.com).



- **CHRISTMAS ALTAR FLOWERS & MUSIC**

Celebrate Christmas by remembering, honoring, or giving thanks for someone with a Christmas floral tribute or special Christmas music during worship. Names will be printed in the bulletins. Deadline to submit donation form is **Friday, December 19<sup>th</sup>**. Donations can be made online at [www.stjec.org/give](http://www.stjec.org/give) (Christmas Flower OR Christmas Music).

- **PRAYER PARTNERS MILK & COOKIES PJ PARTY**

Join us for Advent Cookies, Milk and Eggnog with your prayer partner on Sunday, December 21<sup>st</sup> from 12-1pm. If you would like a prayer partner, please contact Mo. Shivaun.

- **TOYS FOR LOCAL KIDS**

St. John's School 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade class along with St. John's Church will be collecting new unwrapped toys for children aged Newborn to 16 for Olney Lion's Toys for Local Kids toy drive. A collection box will be outside the Rector's office through December 18<sup>th</sup>.

- **FOOD PANTRY NEEDS**

Food Pantry needs for this week include: Spaghetti Sauce | Sardines Jelly | Meal Helper | Taco Kit | Manwich | Canned Chili | Canned Beef Stew | Pudding Cups | Plastic Knife, Fork, Spoon Sets.



## CHRISTMAS GIVING @ ST. JOHN'S

*The season of sharing gifts is fast approaching...  
this year we have three ways to offer gifts.*

**TOYS** - In partnership with St. John's Episcopal School, we will be collecting new, unwrapped toys for children through Olney Lion's Club Toys for Local Kids. Please bring in new toys for children age newborn through 16 and leave them in the box outside Fr. Henry's office by **December 18th**.

**BARS OF DOVE SOAP** - Last year we packed hygiene kits for the women incarcerated at the Maryland Correctional Institution for Women. This year they are specifically asking for Bars of Dove Soap. We want to provide at least one for every person incarcerated. Please drop boxes of Dove soap in the basket outside Fr. Henry's office by **December 12th**.

**GROCERY STORE GIFT CARDS** - So many families in our area are struggling to put food on the table. Grocery store gifts cards will be collected for families so that they are able to purchase items for their holiday meals. Gift cards may be placed in the collection plate or given to Deacon Nancy. Gift cards will be collected through **December 24th** - Christmas Eve.

*Spirit* of   
—GIVING



# Christmas Altar Flowers

CONTRIBUTION DEADLINE IS DECEMBER 19TH

Return completed form along with your check for **\$50** made payable to:  
**St. John's** (Christmas Flowers on Memo Line)  
place in Sunday's Collection Plate or mail to church office.

GIVEN BY: \_\_\_\_\_

IN THANKSGIVING OF: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

IN HONOR OF: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

IN MEMORY OF: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



# Christmas MUSIC

CONTRIBUTION DEADLINE IS DECEMBER 19TH

Help make St. John's beautiful and festive this joyful season.  
Please make a contribution to assist with the cost of special music on Christmas Eve  
In Memory of / In Thanksgiving of / In Honor of family and friends.  
**Make checks payable to: St. John's (Music on Memo Line)**

GIVEN BY: \_\_\_\_\_

IN THANKSGIVING OF: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

IN HONOR OF: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

IN MEMORY OF: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# SAINT JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH AND SCHOOL & AFRICAN PALMS USA

## Diocese of Washington

The Most Reverend Sean W. Rowe, *Presiding Bishop*

The Right Reverend Mariann Edgar Budde, *Bishop*

## STAFF

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Eoin Benson, *Sexton*

Selva Selvarajah, *Verger*

## VESTRY

Will Lederer, 2026 - *Formation*

Bill Fleming, 2026 - *Sr. Warden*

Mary Kerr, 2026 - *Pastoral Care*

Andrew Hamill - *Treasurer*

Aparna Williams - *Asst. Treasurer*

Julie Metcalf - *Registrar*

Bree Bruemmer, 2027 - *Stewardship*

Carmen Jones, 2027 - *Evangelism*

Becca Roberson, 2027 - *Jr. Warden, Outreach*

Becky Hast, 2028 - *STJES*

Mary Lou McMaster, 2028 - *Worship*

Rob Schellhase, 2028 - *Parish Life*

## ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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~ On the Land of the Piscataway Nation ~