



THE NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST JULY 26, 2026 10:00 AM

A warm welcome to all who come to worship at St. John's this beautiful day. If you are visiting with us, we would like to get to know you better, so please fill out a visitor's card found in the pew and place in the offering plate.

There is no wrong way to worship. The people's responses are in bold and instructions for sitting, standing, and kneeling are in italics. We invite you to participate in the way that feels most comfortable and authentic to you.

Prelude

The Word of God

Hymn 388

O worship the King, all glorious above

Sung by all.

Hanover

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

People And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. 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 S280

Gloria (next page)

Sung by all.

Powell

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray. O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy: Increase and multiply upon us your mercy; that, with you as our ruler and guide, we may so pass through things temporal, that we lose not the things eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The people are seated.

Hymn S280

Sung by all.

Powell

Gloria

1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and
peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly
King, al - mighty God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we
give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus
Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you
take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy
on us; 5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -
ceive our prayer. 6. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One,
you a - lone are the Lord, 7. you a - lone are the Most
High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the
glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

The First Lesson

Genesis 29:15-28

¹⁵Laban said to Jacob, “Because you are my kinsman, should you therefore serve me for nothing? Tell me, what shall your wages be?” ¹⁶Now Laban had two daughters; the name of the elder was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. ¹⁷Leah’s eyes were lovely, and Rachel was graceful and beautiful. ¹⁸Jacob loved Rachel; so he said, “I will serve you seven years for your younger daughter Rachel.” ¹⁹Laban said, “It is better that I give her to you than that I should give her to any other man; stay with me.” ²⁰So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed to him but a few days because of the love he had for her.

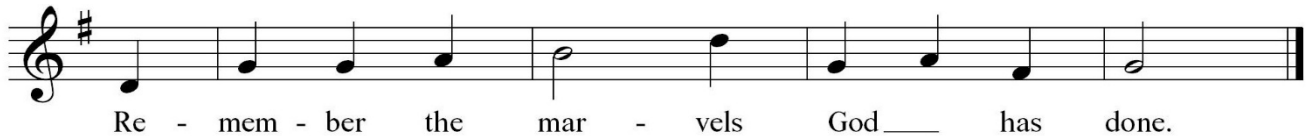
²¹Then Jacob said to Laban, “Give me my wife that I may go in to her, for my time is completed.” ²²So Laban gathered together all the people of the place, and made a feast. ²³But in the evening he took his daughter Leah and brought her to Jacob; and he went in to her. ²⁴(Laban gave his maid Zilpah to his daughter Leah to be her maid.) ²⁵When morning came, it was Leah! And Jacob said to Laban, “What is this you have done to me? Did I not serve with you for Rachel? Why then have you deceived me?” ²⁶Laban said, “This is not done in our country—giving the younger before the firstborn. ²⁷Complete the week of this one, and we will give you the other also in return for serving me another seven years.” ²⁸Jacob did so, and completed her week; then Laban gave him his daughter Rachel as a wife.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Psalm 105:1-11, 45b

All sing according to antiphon



¹Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his Name; *
make known his deeds among the peoples.

²Sing to him, sing praises to him, *
and speak of all his marvelous works.

³Glory in his holy Name; *
let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.

Antiphon

⁴Search for the Lord and his strength; *
continually seek his face.

⁵Remember the marvels he has done, *
his wonders and the judgments of his mouth,

⁶O offspring of Abraham his servant, *
O children of Jacob his chosen.

Antiphon

⁷He is the Lord our God; *
his judgments prevail in all the world.

⁸He has always been mindful of his covenant, *
the promise he made for a thousand generations:

Antiphon

⁹The covenant he made with Abraham, *
the oath that he swore to Issac,

¹⁰Which he established as a statute for Jacob, *
an everlasting covenant for Israel,

¹¹Saying, “To you will I give the land of Canaan
To be your allotted inheritance.”

Antiphon

Hallelujah!

The Second Lesson

Romans 8:26-39

²⁶The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. ²⁷And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

²⁸We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. ³⁰And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

³¹What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³²He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? ³³Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. ³⁵Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all day long;
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.”

³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The people stand as able.

Sequence Hymn 635 verse 1

If thou but trust in God to guide thee

Sung by all.

Wer nur den lieben

The Gospel

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

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

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

³¹Another parable Jesus put before the crowds: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field;³²it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.”

³³He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.”

⁴⁴“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

⁴⁵“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; ⁴⁶on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

⁴⁷“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; ⁴⁸when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. ⁴⁹So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

⁵¹“Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” ⁵²And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.
People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sequence Hymn 635 verse 2

If thou but trust in God to guide thee

Sung by all.

Wer nur den lieben

The people are seated.

The Sermon

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

Celebrant Sisters and brothers, give thanks to the Lord and call upon God’s name! Let us pray to God, saying, “Spirit, help us in our weakness. *Intercede for us.*”

Intercessor God of the Church, may your people be as persistent as the mustard shrub. May we spread your love and grace to all people and in all places. May we do our kingdom work with the confidence that nothing can separate us from your love. *Silence* Spirit, help us in our weakness.

People Intercede for us.

Intercessor God of the world, make known your deeds among the peoples. Bring peace in places of conflict and violence. *Silence* Spirit, help us in our weakness.

People Intercede for us.

Intercessor God of creation, all of your works are marvelous. Everything in creation with which you have surrounded us speaks to your goodness. Give us eyes to see your fingerprints in our world.
We give special thanks for the blessings which we name silently or aloud. *Pause.*
Spirit, help us in our weakness.

People Intercede for us.

Intercessor Present God, you did not withhold your own Son, but gave him up for all of us. May we all come to know and experience the depths of your love. By your love, transform hearts and change lives. *Silence* Spirit, help us in our weakness.

People Intercede for us.

Intercessor God of wholeness, neither hardship nor distress can separate anyone from your love. Assure the suffering and sick, the hurt and sorrowful, that you care for them. May they remember that you are God who does marvelous things. We pray especially for those on our parish prayer list and those we name silently or aloud. *Pause.* Spirit, help us in our weakness.

People Intercede for us.

Intercessor God of our ancestors, you have always been mindful of your promises. You promise that not even death can separate us from your love. May all those who have died grow in your eternal love. *Silence* Spirit, help us in our weakness.

People Intercede for us.

The celebrant adds a concluding collect.

Confession of Sin and Absolution

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

The people kneel as able. Silence is kept for reflection.

Together 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.

People And also with you.

The people greet each other with a sign of God's peace and are seated.

Announcements

The Holy Communion

The Offertory

Having listened to the Word of God, affirmed our faith, confessed our sins, and shared in the peace, we now prepare ourselves for the gift of the Holy Communion. At the offertory, we gratefully offer back to God some of what God has given us, both in the bread and wine, and in the money we give. Here at St. John's, it is tradition that people stand as the elements are brought forward and are seated once the bread and wine are on the altar.

Offertory Anthem

Doxology

Hymn 380 (verse 3)

Sung by all.

Old 100th

**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.**

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 him thanks and praise.**

Celebrant It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, through Jesus Christ our Lord; who on the first day of the week overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. 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:

Together

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might, _____

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might, _____

Hea-ven and earth are full _____ full _____ of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na

in the high - est. 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. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The people kneel or stand as able.

Celebrant Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world. On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Together **Christ has died.**
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

Celebrant We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all our saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom. All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. 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 forever.

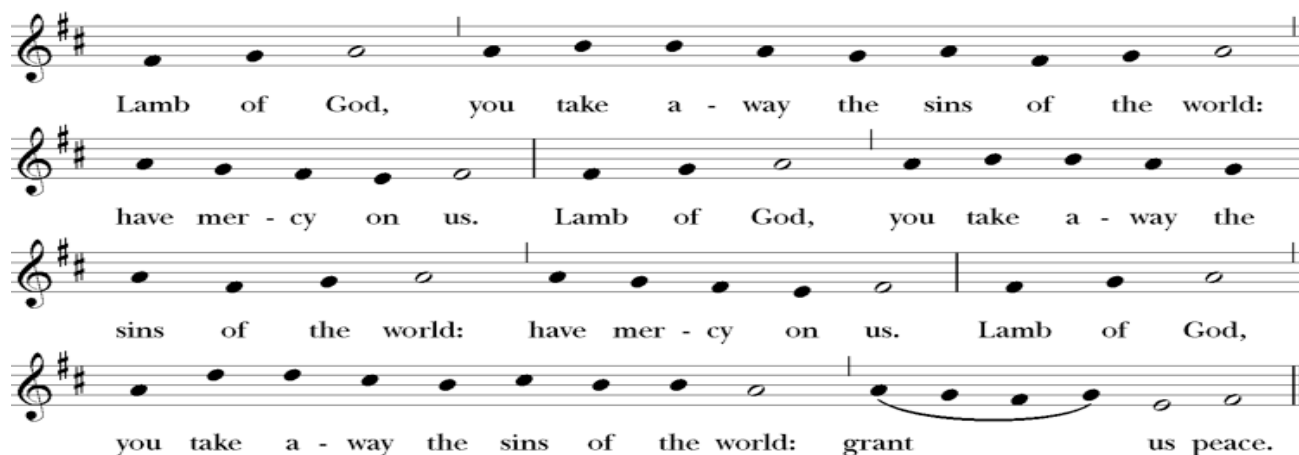
People **AMEN.**

The Lord's Prayer

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

People **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 Fraction Anthem



Invitation to Communion

The people are seated.

All who seek God and a deeper life in Christ are welcome to receive Holy Communion. While we believe that it is most meaningful when done as a baptized Christian, no one will ever be turned away from God's table. Please move at the direction of the ushers. You may receive the bread in open and outstretched hands. Gluten-free wafers are available; please make your need known to the priest.

Receiving the bread only is full participation in the Eucharist. Wine is also available. If you prefer to receive a blessing instead, please indicate your choice by crossing your hands across your chest. Those who wish to have Holy Communion brought to them at their seat should notify an usher.

Post Communion Prayer

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 people stand as able.

The Blessing

Closing Hymn 594

God of grace and God of glory

Sung by all.

Cum Rhondda

The Dismissal

The celebrant dismisses the people who respond,

People **Thanks be to God!**

The Postlude

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*St. John's Episcopal Church
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NEWS FOR THE PEWS

Events, Announcements, Calendar, and Prayers for St. John's and Beyond

July 26, 2026

Welcome! We are thrilled to have you celebrating the joy of the resurrection with us today and every day. We strive to be an open community and safe place where you can receive God's grace, grow in faith, experience fellowship, and serve our world. Whether it is your first service with us or you have been attending your whole life, you are beloved in this family. Take a look at all the ways the Spirit is moving at St. John's.

NEWS FROM THE VESTRY - JULY

As you are aware, we currently have only five Vestry members, and four of us will rotate off the Vestry at the beginning of the new year. This reality has been weighing heavily on my mind.

I would love to see us return to a full Vestry of seven members. With that number, we will have a stronger cross-section of our congregation represented, helping to shape the future of St. John's in thoughtful and meaningful ways.

The Vestry term is two years. We have been working toward strengthening the role of Vestry members as facilitators and liaisons between our parish committees and the Vestry. Our hope is that each committee will continue to grow and develop additional leaders who can carry the vision forward.

If you are a confirmed communicant in good standing and are willing to share your time, gifts, and perspective, **I encourage you to prayerfully** consider serving on the Vestry. No special expertise is required--only a commitment to our parish, a willingness to collaborate, and a desire to help guide the ministry and mission of St. John's.

Please speak with me or any current Vestry member if you have questions or would like to learn more about what serving on the Vestry involves.

God' Peace
Kim Courington, Senior Warden

OUTREACH SPECIAL PROJECTS

A big thank you to Nancy Fast, Thea Shoop, and Sue Whiteman for helping to sort the clothing Mary Margaret rescued from a hoarder's former home. The brand-new items were sorted by size and re-bagged for delivery to Mercy Mall. The Robinsons delivered the goods on Tuesday morning and all was gratefully received.

Last call for to return Baby Bottles!

ONGOING OUTREACH

Current requests for unhoused Chesterfield school children to be distributed by local school nurses: deodorant and black leggings, but all donations are welcomed.

Bring in your label-free, rinsed Rx bottles to be reused by doctors in underserved areas and countries via Matthew 25 Ministry.

Pop-tops for the Ronald McDonald House.

All above donations accepted in the church office lobby.

FELLOWSHIP COFFEE HOUR

Lemonade, coffee and conversation will be provided in the Parish Hall after the 10 o'clock service during July and August to replace the usual Coffee Hour. Birthday Sundays will continue as always. Hopefully, you will enjoy this small change. Pat Dvorak, Parish Life

ORGAN INSTALLATION COMING ALONG

Take a peek in the choir loft and you will see major progress on the organ! The work is both meticulous and back-breaking, so we continue to ask your prayers over all those doing this important work. This week, we pray for Gabe as he constructs the new console, from which the entire organ is controlled.

HELP WANTED!

We need someone to spray the weeds growing up in the cracks of the church parking lot, so we don't have to mow them. Herbicide will be provided. Please contact Chris Day or Larry Maher.

FAMILY TIME WORSHIP

Family Time Worship will return next Saturday. We will be **back on August 1st!** Look forward to seeing you.

ALTAR GUILD

The flower arrangement on the retable today are to the Glory of God in loving memory of Gil Carlson, Paula Saddler's father and Jacqueline Ziskind, Bryan Saddler's mother.

Are you a flower fanatic looking for an opportunity to showcase your talent for flower arranging? We are currently expanding our five-person flower team and would love your assistance. Please contact Val Paredes (804-748-4012) if you are interested in learning more.

The 2026 Flower Calendar is now posted in the narthex just waiting for you to select your dates for memorials, birthdays, anniversaries, etc. for the coming year. Our recommended donation is \$50. Stop by and select the special dates important to you.

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Please call the church office with any changes or additions for the prayer list.

JULY BIRTHDAYS

2 Andrew Day 3 Jim Colonna
4 Chris Day, Jim Puckett, Barbara Fischer
5 Coleman Mueller 6 Becky Farr
8 Jen Fideli 10 Margaret Twilley,
Herb Marsh, Bernie Lotti
12 Erin Daugharthy
13 Tamara Evans 15 Larry Maher
16 Joseph Smythe, Phillipa Smith, Floyd Jarvis
18 Brenda Wood 20 Jay Ellington
24 Donna Neely 26 Arlene Lotti
31 Vivian Burgwyn, Val Paredes

Those in Need of Healing

Judi Heggie, Ruby DiVittorio, Fr. Keith & Carlene Gentry, Kim Gentry, Dick Pitman, Linda DeBell, Tim Pahlick, Annette Blankenship, James Robinson, Arlene Lotti, George Starke, Terry & Bill Fields, Jim Colonna, Jaydon Robinson, Jordyn Prophett, Cathy Frazer, Marguerite Alley, Britt Young & Family, Marianne Branigan, Gene Thompson, Rita & Billy Johnson, Melissa Fields, Jim Krech, Una Harrison, Joy Maughan, The Macri Family, Martha & Joe Sheridan, The Sweeney Family

Those Who Serve

Col. Ernesto M. DiVittorio, Rear Admiral Brett W. Mietus, Colonel Amalia DiVittorio, Staff Sergeant Reade Whitner Enochs, Staff Sergeant Ryan Steidel and Petty Officer 3rd Class Damien Carter, Deputy Sheriff Donald H. Farr

Those Who Have Recently Died

Gene Furness (Jim Colonna's brother)
Michael Likavec
Walter Roy Winn

Parishioners @ Home

Maggi Twilley, Julie Johnson,
Sandy Weilbacher, and Millie Johnson

St. John's Vestry

Kim Courington, Senior Warden
Larry Maher, Junior Warden (Property)
John Maxwell, Junior Warden (Strategy)
Catherine Mueller, Congregational Vitality
Don Raybould, Liaison for Parish Life

Hazel Sloane, Register
Lalin Peiris, Treasurer

WORSHIP LEADERS FOR JULY 26, 2026

The People of St. John's
Aubrey Lindsey, Organist and Choirmaster
Carlton Smith, Live Streaming
Larry Maher, 8 AM Inside Security
Alan Thibault, 10 AM Inside Security
Larry Maher, 10 AM Outside Security
Pat Robinson, 8 AM LEM
Lin Corbin-Howerton, 10 AM LEM
Tanya Scott & Pat Robinson, 8 AM Readers
Kent Horner & JoAnn Maher, 10 AM Readers
Pat and Hank Dvorak, Ushers
Larry Cody & Guy Smith, Tellers
Mary Smith, Becky Farr & Donna Horner, Altar Guild
Valerie Paredes, Flowers
Rev. Mary Margaret Winn, Rector

CONTACT US

The church office is open Tuesday—Friday, 9:15 AM to 3:15 PM. Reach out to Rev. Mary Margaret directly for an appointment. Call: 804-748-2182.

Rev. Mary Margaret Winn, Rector
rector@stjohnscheester.com

Aubrey Lindsey, Organist and Choirmaster
office@stjohnscheester.com

Donna C. Thibault, Parish Office Administrator
office@stjohnscheester.com

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

Sun., July 26	8:00 AM	Holy Eucharist
	8:30 AM	Choir Rehearsal
	9:00 AM	Adult Forum
	10:00 AM	Holy Eucharist
	11:15 AM	Fellowship Coffee Hour
Mon., July 27	7:00 PM	Boy and Cub Scouts
Tues., July 28	7:00 PM	AA/AI-Anon
Wed., July 29	7:30 PM	NO Choir Rehearsal
Sat., Aug. 1	4:30 PM	Family Time Worship
Sun., Aug. 2	8:00 AM	Holy Eucharist
	8:30 AM	Choir Rehearsal
	9:00 AM	Adult Forum
	10:00 AM	Holy Eucharist
	11:15 AM	Fellowship Coffee Hour



We can't do this without your help!
Scan this QR code with your smart
phone to make a donation to St. John's.