



ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

906 South Orleans Avenue ♦ Tampa, Florida 33606-2941

Our mission is to proclaim, by word and example,
the good news of God in Christ, and to build a spiritual community
forming Christians of all ages through worship, education, and outreach.

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Holy Eucharist Rite II - 9:30am

December 22, 2024

SUNDAY SERVICES

8:00 Holy Eucharist Rite I

9:30 Holy Eucharist Rite II

*Be thoughtful, be silent, be reverent, for this is the house of God.
Before the service speak to the Lord; during the service let the Lord speak to you;
after the service speak to one another.*

The Rector's Welcome

Happy Advent, everyone! This season of preparation is one of the best times of the year. While the world around us celebrates the "Holiday Season," we remember the preparation the Holy Family did as Mary and Joseph anxiously awaited the birth of Jesus. Can you imagine the pressure they must have felt preparing a home for the Son of God?

We also spend time this season preparing for the return of Jesus and the culmination of the Kingdom of God. Advent is a time to consider how we are living out our call as Christians to love each other as Jesus loves us. It is a time to remember the Great Commission that he gave his original disciples, but we continue to abide by God, therefore, and make disciples of all nations in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

I pray that, as we all eagerly await the season of Christmas, we also contemplate the incredible humility of our Lord Jesus Christ, who emptied himself of his divinity to live as one of us and save us from ourselves. I also pray that as we contemplate the Incarnation of God, we consider that we can live in an incarnational way by allowing God's Holy Spirit to shine into the world by loving those around us in the name of Jesus Christ.

Faithfully,



The Rev. Christian M. Wood
Rector

cwood@stjohnstampa.org

The people stand as the Ministers enter

Processional Hymn 65

Beredan vag for Herran



1 Pre - pare the way, O Zi - on, your Christ is draw - ing near!
2 He brings God's rule, O Zi - on; he comes from heaven a - bove.
3 Fling wide your gates, O Zi - on; your Sa - vior's rule em - brace.



Let ev - ery hill and val - ley a lev - el way ap - pear.
His rule is peace and free - dom, and jus - tice, truth, and love.
His tid - ings of sal - va - tion pro - claim in ev - ery place.



Greet One who comes in glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry.
Lift high your praise re - sound - ing, for grace and joy a - bound - ing.
All lands will bow be - fore him, their voic - es will a - dore him.

Refrain



Oh, blest is Christ that came in God's most ho - ly name.

PROPER ACCLAMATION

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

People **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

The people kneel

The Celebrant says

Jesus said, "The first commandment is this: Hear, O Israel: The Lord your God is the only Lord. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these." *Mark 12:29-31*

CONFESSION OF SIN AND ABSOLUTION

The Deacon or Celebrant says

Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

Celebrant and People

Almighty and most merciful father,
**we have erred and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep,
we have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts,
we have offended against thy holy laws,**

we have left undone those things which we ought to have done,
 and we have done those things which we ought not to have done.
 But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us, spare thou those who confess their faults,
 restore thou those who are penitent,
 according to thy promises declared unto mankind in Christ Jesus our Lord;
 and grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake,
 that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life,
 to the glory of thy holy Name. Amen.

Celebrant

The Almighty and merciful Lord grant you absolution and remission of all your sins,
 true repentance, amendment of life, and the grace and consolation of his Holy Spirit.
Amen.

KYRIE S89

Hans Leo Hassler

Unison or harmony

Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.

Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Chri - ste e - le - i - son.

— Chri-ste e - le - i - son. — Chri-ste e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e -

le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The people sit

THE LESSON

Micah 5:2-5a

Lector A reading from the Book of the Prophet Micah.

You, O Bethlehem Eph'rathah, who are little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in travail has brought forth; then the rest of his brethren shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth. And this shall be peace.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

GRADUAL: PSALM 80:1-7

G. J. Bennett

Sung by the choir

Hear, O thou Shepherd of Israel, thou that leadest Joseph like a sheep :

shew thyself also, thou that sittest upon the cherubims.

2 Before Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasses : stir up thy strength, and come, and help us.

3 Turn us again, O God : shew the light of thy countenance, and we shall be whole.

4 O Lord God of hosts : how long wilt thou be angry with thy people that prayeth?

5 Thou feedest them with the bread of tears : and givest them plenteousness of tears to drink.

6 Thou hast made us a very strife unto our neighbours : and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

7 Turn us again, thou God of hosts : shew the light of thy countenance, and we shall be whole.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;

as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

THE EPISTLE

Hebrews 10:5-10

Lector A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

When Christ came into the world, he said, "Sacrifices and offerings thou hast not desired, but a body hast thou prepared for me; in burnt offerings and sin offerings thou hast taken no pleasure. Then I said, 'Lo, I have come to do thy will, O God,' as it is written of me in the roll of the book." When he said above, "Thou hast neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law), then he added, "Lo, I have come to do thy will."

He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

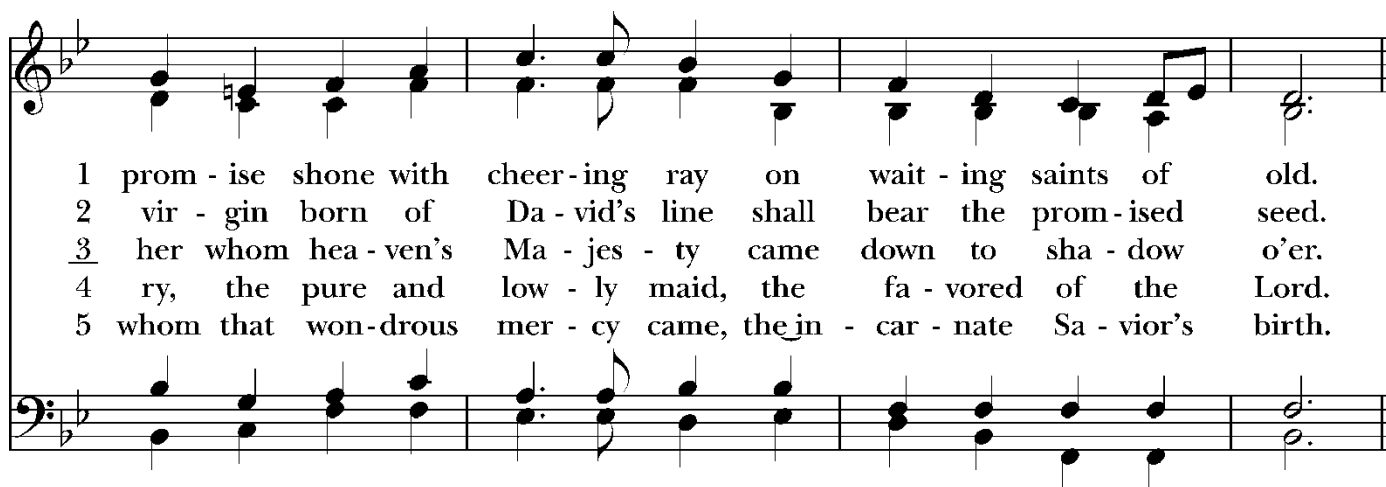
All elementary-age students will now follow the cross down the center aisle and process to Children's Chapel in the parish hall.

SEQUENCE HYMN 267

St. George



1 Praise we the Lord this day, this day so long fore - told, whose
2 The pro - phet gave the sign for faith - ful folk to read: a
3 Ask not how this should be, but wor - ship and a - dore, like
4 She meek - ly bowed her head to hear the gra - cious word, Ma -
5 Most blest shall be her name in all the Church on earth, through



1 prom - ise shone with cheer - ing ray on wait - ing saints of old.
2 vir - gin born of Da - vid's line shall bear the prom - ised seed.
3 her whom hea - ven's Ma - jes - ty came down to sha - dow o'er.
4 ry, the pure and low - ly maid, the fa - vored of the Lord.
5 whom that won - drous mer - cy came, the in - car - nate Sa - vior's birth.

THE GOSPEL

Luke 1:39-55

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

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

In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a city of Judah, and she entered the house of Zechari'ah and greeted Elizabeth. And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the babe leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! And why is this granted me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For behold, when the voice of your greeting came to my ears, the babe in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her from the Lord." And Mary said, "My soul

magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has regarded the low estate of his handmaiden. For behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed; for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name. And his mercy is on those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm, he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts, he has put down the mighty from their thrones, and exalted those of low degree; he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent empty away. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his posterity for ever."

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.

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

THE SERMON

Deacon Caroline Devitt

The people sit

THE NICENE CREED (*standing*)

Celebrant We believe in one God,

All **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 *(Form V)*

Deacon or other leader

In peace, let us pray to the Lord, saying, "Lord, have mercy."

For the holy Church of God, that it may be filled with truth and love, and be found without fault at the day of your coming, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For Sean our Presiding Bishop, for Douglas our own Bishop, for all bishops and other ministers, and for all the holy people of God, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For all who fear God and believe in you, Lord Christ, that our divisions may cease, and that all may be one as you and the Father are one, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the mission of the Church, that in faithful witness it may preach the Gospel to the ends of the earth, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the world, that a spirit of respect and forbearance may grow among nations and peoples, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For those in positions of public trust that they may serve justice, and promote the dignity and freedom of every person, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For all who live and work in this community, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the poor, the persecuted, the sick, and all who suffer; for refugees, prisoners, and all who are in danger; that they may be relieved and protected, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this congregation, that we may be delivered from hardness of heart, and show forth your glory in all that we do, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For ourselves; for the forgiveness of our sins, and for the grace of the Holy Spirit to amend our lives, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For all who have commended themselves to our prayers; for our families, friends, and neighbors; that being freed from anxiety, they may live in joy, peace, and health, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For ____, for those in hospital ____, and those in hospice ____, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the recent faithful departed, _____; [for _____ in whose memory the Altar Flowers are given today;] for all who have died in the communion of your Church, and those whose faith is known to you alone, that, with all the saints, they may have rest in that place where there is no pain or grief, but life eternal, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Rejoicing in the fellowship of the ever-blessed Virgin Mary, blessed John, and all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life to Christ our God.

To you, O Lord our God.

The Celebrant adds this concluding Collect

Lord, hear the prayers of thy people; and what we have asked faithfully, grant that we may obtain effectually, to the glory of thy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE PEACE

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

The people sit

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

Offertory Anthem *Magnificat in D*

E. J. Moeran

Sung by the choir

*My soul doth magnify the Lord, **
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.
*For he hath regarded **
the lowliness of his handmaiden.
*For behold from henceforth **
all generations shall call me blessed.
*For he that is mighty hath magnified me, **
and holy is his Name.
*And his mercy is on them that fear him **
throughout all generations.
*He hath showed strength with his arm; **
he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
*He hath put down the mighty from their seat, **
and hath exalted the humble and meek.
*He hath filled the hungry with good things, **
and the rich he hath sent empty away.
*He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel, **
as he promised to our forefathers,
Abraham and his seed for ever.
*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: **
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

O come, thou Branch of Jesse's tree, free them from Satan's tyranny
that trust thy mighty power to save, and give them victory o'er the grave.

The people stand

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING *Eucharistic Prayer B*

The people 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 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.

Here a Proper Preface is sung or said

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:

Sanctus and Benedictus S128

William Mathias

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.

The people remain standing as they are able

Celebrant

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;**

Celebrant

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 the ever-blessed Virgin Mary, blessed John, and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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

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

People and Celebrant

**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,
forever and ever. Amen.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread after which the following is sung

Fraction Anthem S165

William Mathias

Sung by the choir

*Jesus, Lamb of God: Have mercy on us. Jesus, bearer of our sins: Have mercy on us.
Jesus, redeemer of the world: Give us your peace.*

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God.



*All baptized Christians are welcome to receive Holy Communion at the Lord's Table.
If you are not receiving, you are invited to come forward for a blessing
(indicated by crossing your arms over your chest).*

The Bread and the Cup are given to the communicants with these words

The Body (Blood) of our Lord Jesus Christ keep you in everlasting life. [Amen.]
or with these words

The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven. [Amen.]

The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation. [Amen.]

Communion Motet *The Angel Gabriel*

Basque Carol

1. *The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;
"All hail," said he, "thou lowly maiden Mary,
most highly favored lady," Gloria!*

2. *"For know a blessed Mother thou shalt be,
all generations laud and honor thee,
thy Son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold,
most highly favored lady," Gloria!*

3. *Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head,
"To me be as it pleaseth God," she said,
"my soul shall laud and magnify his holy Name."
Most highly favored lady, Gloria!*

4. *Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born
in Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,
and Christian folk throughout the world will ever
say – "Most highly favored lady," Gloria!*

All stand.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Celebrant Let us pray.

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

The Celebrant

May Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you, scatter the darkness from before your path, and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

THE DISMISSAL

The Deacon gives the Dismissal.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Processional Hymn *Ye who own the faith of Jesus*

Daily, Daily

1 *Ye who own the faith of Jesus
Sing the wonders that were done,
When the love of God the Father
O'er our sin the victory won,
When he made the Virgin Mary
Mother of his only Son.
Hail Mary, full of grace.*

4 *Let us weave our supplications,
She with us and we with her,
For the advancement of the faithful,
For each faithful worshipper,
For the doubting, for the sinful,
For each heedless wanderer.
Hail Mary, full of grace.*

2 *Blessèd were the chosen people
Out of whom the Lord did come,
Blessèd was the land of promise
Fashioned for his earthly home;
But more blessèd far the Mother
She who bare him in her womb.
Hail Mary, full of grace.*

7 *Praise, O Mary, praise the Father,
Praise thy Saviour and thy Son,
Praise the everlasting Spirit,
Who hath made thee ark and throne;
O'er all creatures high exalted,
Lowly praise the Three in One.
Hail Mary, full of grace.*

3 *Wherefore let all faithful people
Tell the honour of her name,
Let the Church in her foreshadowed
Part in her thanksgiving claim;
What Christ's Mother sang in gladness
Let Christ's people sing the same.
Hail Mary, full of grace.*



UPCOMING SERVICES AND NOTICES

Christmas Eve

Tuesday, 24th December

Christmas Pageant and Eucharist – 3:00 p.m.
at St. John's School Gymnasium, Middle Division Campus, 240 S. Plant Ave.

Sung Eucharist *with full choir* – 6:00 p.m.

Midnight Mass: Sung Eucharist *with full choir* – 11:00 p.m.

Christmas Day

Wednesday, 25th December

Holy Eucharist, Rite II – 10:00 a.m.

With Congregational Carols

Christmastide Schedule

26th December – 6th January

✠ *The Parish Offices close Tuesday, 24th December and reopen Monday, 30th December* ✠

Mass in the Chapel on Wednesdays and Thursdays as always

but with special mention of the following:

The Feast of St. Stephen

Thursday, 26th December – 12:15 p.m. *with healing prayers*

The Feast of St. John, Apostle and Evangelist (Patronal Feast)

Friday, 27th December – 12:15 p.m.

Holy Innocents

Saturday, 28th December – 10:00 a.m.

✠ *The Parish Offices close Tuesday, 31st December and reopen Thursday, 2nd January* ✠

The Feast of the Most Holy Name of Jesus

Wednesday, 1st January – 12:15 p.m.

The Epiphany

Monday, 6th January – 12:15 p.m.



Philippe de Champaigne, *The Visitation*, oil on canvas, 1643-1648, Princeton University Art Museum.



ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

AND Episcopal Parish Day School

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STJOHNSTAMPA.ORG

THE DIOCESE OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

THE RIGHT REVEREND DOUGLAS FREDERICK SCHARF

VI Bishop of Southwest Florida

THE WARDENS, VESTRY, AND OFFICERS OF THE PARISH

ELIZABETH S. GRAHAM (2024)

Senior Warden

ANDREW M. BROWN (2025)

Junior Warden

DOUGLAS F. ARTHUR

Treasurer

LAURA V. HOBBY

Clerk of the Vestry

ROBERT O. ALTER (2026)

RODDY D. BELFATTI (2025)

CARY R. BROWN (2026)

C. TWEED ECKHARD (2025)

DONNA A. GEM (2024)

JOHN N. GIORDANO (2024)

JEFFREY M. HUNT (2026)

LISA J. LEAL (2026)

JOHN H. MCKAY (2025)

STEPHEN B. STRASKE, II (2024)

THE CLERGY AND STAFF

THE REVEREND CHRISTIAN M. WOOD

XVII Rector

THE REVEREND DALE W. VAN WORMER
Associate Priest for Liturgy and Formation

THE REVEREND CHARLES E. CONNELLY

Retired Priest in Residence

SIMON J. MORLEY

Organist and Director of Music

LAURIE D. LAWTHER

Parish Administrator

JANICE A. DE PINTO

Parish Secretary

RODERICK MORRIS

Sexton

THE REVEREND JOHN R. PETERSON

Rector Emeritus

THE REVEREND DONALD P. GOODHEART
Retired Priest in Residence

THE REVEREND MARY ALICE LOPEZ

Deacon

THE REVEREND TANIA M. WILKES

Deacon

HUGH A. R. JEBSON

Head of St. John's School

LEE M. LOWRY

Director of Communications

AYANA S. GRADY

*Director of Children, Youth &
Family Ministries*