



The Weekly Compass

St. John's Episcopal Church and Parish Day School

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 1, 2024

Worship at St. John's Today

8:00 a.m. The Holy Eucharist (Rite I) in the Parish Hall

9:30 a.m. The Holy Eucharist (Rite II) in the Parish Hall.

Children's Chapel will take place in the Lowry Room during the 9:30 a.m. service

Sunday School for children takes place after the 9:30 a.m. service (except the fourth Sunday), as does expanded Coffee Hour fellowship for adults

Worship and Formation During the Week

The Holy Eucharist

The Holy Eucharist is celebrated **in the Lowry Room** at 12:15 p.m. on Wednesdays and at 10:00 a.m. on Thursdays with Healing Prayers.

Adult Faith Formation

Women's Mid Morning Bible Study: 10:00 a.m. on Tuesdays

This group meets on alternate Tuesdays in the Lowry Room during the school year. Contact Pat Wilson at patwilson68@tampabay.rr.com to learn more.

Contemporary Women's Bible Study: 6:00 p.m. on Tuesdays

CWBS holds a weekly study on Tuesday evenings at 6:00 p.m. on Zoom. Contact Sally Thompson at tampasal@gmail.com to get the link.

Wednesday Afternoon Adult Formation: 3:30 p.m.

The group meets on Wednesdays on Zoom. Contact the Parish Office at parish@stjohnstampa.org for more information and the link.

Men's Interactive Bible Study and Lunch: 11:45 a.m. on Thursdays

The group meets in the Lowry Room to discuss readings for the upcoming Sunday. Questions? Contact Lanny Russell at dlrncrtpa@verizon.net.

Youth and Children's Ministries

EYC meets on Sunday afternoons during the school year. The nursery is open at both services year-round. Sunday School for children takes place following the 9:30 a.m. service during the school year. Contact Youth Minister Ayana Grady at agrady@stjohnstampa.org to learn more!

Service Notes

Our regular Sunday services are the Holy Eucharist, Rite I, at 8:00 a.m. and the Holy Eucharist, Rite II, at 9:30 a.m. The 9:30 a.m. is streamed live [on Facebook](#), [on our website](#) and [on YouTube](#).

Sunday Sermons

Available [on our YouTube channel](#) and from the link in our bio [on Instagram](#).

Pastoral Care

Parish Office: 813.259.1570

Pastoral Emergencies:
813.726.3108

Fr. Chris: 917.822.9741

Deacon Lopez: 813.493.8337

Fr. Dale: 607.481.4702

Fr. Goodheart: 321.446.4934

Giving to St. John's

There are many ways to make a one-time or recurring gift to our parish. Visit stjohnstampa.org/stewardship to give online.

You can give safely by text.

In the "To" field of the text message, type **73256**.

Then in the message, type **SJE**. You will immediately receive a text back with a link to complete payment. Or use the QR code!



Stay in Touch with St. John's!

Want to receive our e-newsletter, the *Weekly Wednesday Scroll*? Contact us at lowry@stjohnstampa.org. You can also stay in touch on [our Facebook page](#) or [Instagram](#) and subscribe to [our YouTube channel](#), all @stjohnstampa!

Compass Points

St. Nicholas Celebration this Wednesday!

Join us this Wednesday, December 4, at 5:30 p.m., in the Parish Hall for our second annual St. Nicholas Celebration! We will have festive food and music (and if we are lucky, a visit from good Ol' St. Nick himself!)

Children are encouraged to bring a donation of NEW sheets and blankets for St. John's FYI (Foster Youth Initiative). All sizes from crib to king are welcome, but of particular need are queen and full. St. Nick will give each child a gift in return!

As Christmas draws near, let's get into the spirit of giving and remember the true meaning of the season!

Advent Wreath Making Next Sunday

Our annual Advent Wreath Making is Sunday, December 8, after the 9:30 a.m. service in the Courtyard! Frames, candles, and greenery will be provided by the Parish. Please bring gardening shears from home if possible to help cut your branches to size as well as your old frames if you have them.

Cornerstone Christmas

Thanks to everyone who showed interest in our Giving Tree effort! All 30 children are spoken for, but no need to despair, you can still contribute by purchasing \$20 Walmart gift cards for the parents. Our goal is to give each family two cards, for a total of 50 cards collected. Please return the cards AND labeled, wrapped gifts to the Parish Office no later than December 10. Happy shopping! Questions? Contact MC Jenkins at 813.503.4605. Thank you!

A Note about Music from Simon and Fr. Chris

The musical shape of our services during the Advent and Christmas season will look a little different this year, given the construction work in the Church and associated uncertainty surrounding the timeline on where we will be. The Parish Hall is serving us well temporarily but is not at all conducive for sound or services that center on music, and the choir has to work very hard simply to be heard at all. Therefore, there will not be a stand-alone service of Advent Lessons and Carols this year. Instead, we will hold an abbreviated Lessons and Carols on Sunday, December 15 at the 9:30 a.m. service, to include the Eucharist, Rite II. The Annual Christmas Concert will also not take place this year, for the same reason.

We are committed to providing as much notice as possible pertaining to schedule and venue for our Christmas services, and have agreed as a staff to make a decision in good time in order to be able to communicate with the parish and beyond. Thank you for your patience!

Moving Forward In Mission: Stewardship 2025

In Fr. Chris' letter about this year's stewardship campaign, he notes: "Saint John's has spent much time, talent, and treasure figuring out what our future will look like. It is now time for us to begin to look outward into our community, and *Move Forward in Mission*. To accomplish these goals, we first must establish a budget, and to do that, we need to have your commitment to St. John's for this coming year. Please give generously so that we can give generously back to our community. [You can find all the options for giving on our website.](#) Let's begin *Moving Forward in Mission*."

Faith Café's Bikes from the Heart

Faith Cafe and Bikes from the Heart (BfH) are in need of used bicycles for our un-homed Tampa neighbors. We have given away more than 100 bicycles, and added a new bicycle rack to accommodate our (mobile) guests. If you have a used bicycle in any condition to donate, call the Parish Office at 813.259.1570 and leave me a message. I will personally arrange to come pick it up. We are making a huge difference and the demand is stronger than ever.

- Jack M. Wyatt II

Prayer Requests

Your prayers are bid today and throughout the week for:

All bishops and other ministers: Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury; Michael, our Presiding Bishop; Douglas, our Bishop; the clergy and staff of our parish.

Those who govern: Joseph, our President; Ronald, our Governor; and Jane, our Mayor;

The sick and others for whom our prayers have been especially requested:

Maureen and Ken Johnston; Jackie Faircloth and family; Jeff LeVines; Pam and Shailee; Anna, her family and her medical team; Jayce Hicks; Richard; Michael Wood; Tor, Angie, Nancy, Collin, Lee, David, Sam, Absley, Karin, Jim B., Katy, Tom, Sue J., Jim H., Mike M., David S., Kitty D., Patrick D., McKenzie N., Hillary M., Eloise, Marjorie, Greg C., Nancy M., Peggy C., Ron, Rev. John Peterson, David R., Yvonne S. and all those who in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity.

The departed:

Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord; and let light perpetual shine upon them. May their souls, and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

Our Companion Diocese in the Dominican Republic

Our Parish Day School

Our Pastoral Care Team

Those celebrating the anniversary of their birth:

December 1, Caroline Nolen, Lorien Johnson, John Reffue, Beth Meyers

December 2, Christopher Lykes, Laurie Calfee, Max Borland, Elizabeth Hanley, Maggie Welch, Justin Matos

December 3, Ray Stoll, Doug Tozier, Jr., Gavin Moore, Vincent Shellgren, Camille Corcell

December 4, John Few, Aiden Yarnell

December 5, Robin Gonzalez, Larry Heisel, Peter Spencer

December 6, Gail Dee Russ, John Gerber

December 7, Jim Voss

The members of our armed forces deployed abroad and their families, especially Rich, Mike, Jake, Matthew, and Rusty.

The people and peace in the Ukraine and the Holy Land.

Healthcare workers, first responders, and all others whose work puts them in danger. We give thanks for their many sacrifices for the common good. Protect them from injury and illness; renew their wisdom, compassion, and strength.

In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: Diocese of Southwest Florida — The Rt. Rev. Douglas F. Scharf; Companion Diocese of the Dominican Republic; Companion Diocese of Georgia; Companion Diocese of South Carolina; Companion Diocese of Western Louisiana; Church of the Epiphany, Cape Coral; Iona-Hope, Fort Myers; Lamb of God, Fort Myers; St. Hilary's, Fort Myers; St. Luke's, Fort Myers; St. Raphael's, Fort Myers Beach; Good Shepherd, LaBelle; St. Anselm's, Lehigh Acres; All Souls', North Fort Myers; St. Michael and All Angels, Sanibel, and St. John's, Pine Island.

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer: Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan

ASSISTING IN THE SERVICES

ALTAR GUILD: Laura Silva, Francie Brooks, Lelia Clewis, Katey Brown, Lois Smith, Jennie Kenyon, Pam Divers, Miriam Faircloth

LINENS: Laura Silva, Pat Wilson

ACOLYTES: 8:00 Donna Gem 9:30 Olivia Gray, Tommy Bricklemyer, Caroline Little, Witt Graff

LECTORS: 8:00 Michael Eachon, Donna Gem; 9:30 Dallas Coffield, Lisa Leal, Pam Scruggs

CHALICE BEARERS: 9:30 Clergy

USHERS: 8:00 Ben Nelson, Jr., Sandy Rief, III; 9:30 Jim Whittlesey, Lee Casey, Tom Cassedy, Brett Divers, John Marston, Jeff Mitchell

VERGER: Donna Gem

FLOWER & CANDLE DEDICATIONS

The Church Altar Advent Greenery is given to the Glory of God by Kari Power in memory of Mark R. Power, beloved husband, stepfather, and PeePaw.

The Church Altar Advent Greenery is given to the Glory of God by John, Thomas and Jessie Reffue in loving memory of Mary-Teresa Reffue.

"And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring;" - Luke 21:25

Image Credit: <https://bible.art/gallery/luke-21:25>

