



Directory

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www.StJohnsDetroit.org

Rector

Fr. Steven J. Kelly, SSC

Assisting Priest Emeritus

Fr. Michael J. Bedford

Dir. of Music, Organist, & Master of the Choir

Dr. Huw R. Lewis, FRCO

Edwards Organ Scholar

Ms. Chanmi Kim

Ministry & Staff

Office Manager

Elizabeth Savage

Senior Warden

Peter Grim

Junior Warden

Pat Walter

Treasurer

Jared Moody

Acolyte Master

Morley Stevenson

Altar Guild Directress

Sarah Babcock

Armitage Men's Club

Pat Walter

Daughters of the King

Lena Nealley

Episcopal Church Women

Debbie Swain

Lectors Guild

Brian Campbell

Outreach Committee Chair

Debbie Swain and Chris
Golembiewski

Usher Captains

John Barge & Peter Grim

St. John's Church

The Eagle

Advent and Christmas 2025



Rector's Rambling

As we continue our way through Advent, we are looking forward to the return of Jesus Christ in glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead, and as the weeks of Advent progress we can't help but focus more sharply on the upcoming celebration of His first coming as an infant in the manger in Bethlehem.

Back in March we celebrated Jesus' Incarnation when He took human flesh in the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary. She received the good news from the Archangel Gabriel that this conception would be by the Holy Ghost Himself. We look with anticipation to the celebration of His birth with great joy!

But we still have some Advent left to go and we look to the state of our souls as if Jesus may return today, or we may go to meet Him through our own bodily death. Either way we must be prepared!

In this newsletter there is not only the

Christmas worship schedule but also the things leading up to it like the Advent Soup Luncheon and Greening of the Church. The Warm Fuzzy Tree is ready to receive your gifts of hats, gloves, sweaters, and socks (and thank you for your support of the Giving Tree and St. Catherine's Guild Pantry Sale).

Looking further ahead, God willing, to 2026 we see the celebration of The Epiphany on January 6th, The Annual Parish Meeting on January 25th, The Feast of the Presentation on February 2nd, and on February 15 we welcome Bishop Wendell Gibbs for a celebration of the 25th anniversary of Fr. Kelly's arrival as Rector of St. John's.

Being mindful of First Things First, let us be sure to be in Church this Sunday for worship! And please invite your friends and neighbors to join us Sundays, Holy Days, and the variety of special events offered here at St. John's this season and throughout the year.

AROUND THE PROPERTY @ St. John's

Things have been very busy at St. John's this summer and fall, when it comes to capital improvements. After our big project of the Ministry Center and Undercroft renovations in 2018 and 2019 we have been mostly doing smaller spot projects here and there as needed. In 2025 we tackled several bigger projects.

One project that the vestry has been attentive to this year has been improving the visibility of St. John's buildings through improved signage. Although it is hard to imagine that people don't notice this grand stone building, there are several things we have done to increase recognition. The faded stat historic sign was replaced with updated language. The electronic signboard, which had become faded on the south side through sun exposure, was not only repainted but also the electronic portion upgraded so that we can put photographs onto it. People walking or driving by can now peek into the inside of the church via the signboard!

Other signage that has been upgraded includes the new lighted signs on the sides of the ministry center which is highly visible to those in Brush Park, driving by on the freeway, and those walking to and from Comerica Park or Ford Field. A very large "St. John's" also now adorns the Woodward belltower door which is a striking sight to those on the Fisher Service Drive and Woodward Avenue. Additionally a service schedule sign and chapel entrance sign now adorns the north side of the church for those walking to and from parking for events at Little Caesars Arena and the stadiums. Future visibility work, God willing, will include improved exterior lighting.

Roofing repairs were also made this fall, correcting a few spots where slate tile came loose, and in the ridgecap at the top of the building above where an occasional puddle would form in the church center aisle.

The front doors of the church, which receive a great deal of direct afternoon sunlight, were stripped and refinished.

The alarm system and video monitoring system have also been upgraded.

In 2026 we hope to do a major upgrade to the electrical system in the Church and Chapel, which was last overhauled in 1936 when the building was moved 60 feet to widen Woodward Avenue.

Pastoral Care

Please inform the clergy if you or a family member are ill, hospitalized, or unable to attend the regular worship of the Church so that a pastoral visit can be arranged. Please contact the clergy to discuss arrangements for baptisms, weddings, or burials **before** any announcement or other plans are made.

Outreach

Food may be deposited in the basket at the entrance of the church to aid the neighborhood ministry to the poor through **Crossroads and Georgia Street Community Co-op**.

Dedicated donations for the support of the **Malawi Education Fund** and **Rector's Discretionary Fund** can be put in the collection plate with a note in the memo line or on the envelope.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE AT ST. JOHN'S

Sunday	7:00 A 7:30 A 8:00 A 10:00 A 11:15 A 5:30 P	Morning Meditation (online) Morning Prayer (chapel) Holy Communion (chapel) Choral Holy Communion Sunday School Coffee Hour Evening Prayer
Monday	7:00 A 12:15 P 4:00 P 5:00 P	Morning Meditation (online) Holy Communion Evening Prayer AA Meeting
Tuesday	7:00 A 12:15 P 4:00 P	Morning Meditation (online) Holy Communion Evening Prayer
Wednesday	7:00 A 12:15 P 4:00 P 5:00 P	Morning Meditation (online) Holy Communion Evening Prayer AA Meeting
Thursday	7:00 A 10:30 A 4:00 P 5:00 P	Morning Meditation (online) Holy Communion and Benediction Evening Prayer AA Meeting
Friday	7:00 A 11:00 A	Morning Meditation (online) AA Meeting
Saturday	7:00 A	Morning Meditation (online)

NOTE: The Chronicle goes to the printer on Tuesday. Calendar updates or changes can be found at www.StJohnsDetroit.org

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Collections of school supplies, cleaning supplies, garden tools, Christmas presents, mittens, sweaters, etc. occur throughout the year to support our community.

Supporting St. John's

Thank you for your financial support of St. John's Church. Your contributions are the financial lifeblood of the parish, and are also an outward and visible sign of a spiritual discipline of gratitude and generosity.

You can **mail** your offering envelope to St. John's, or **contribute online** with our QR code through the GiveButter platform. As we wrap up 2025 please try to get in your contributions to us by December 28th so we can get it deposited that week.



There may be a tax advantage to **donating stocks, bonds, securities, and property** directly to St. John's. Speak to your advisor and contact the Treasurer for information on how to donate.

The Minister is ordered, from time to time, to advise the People, whilst they are in health, to make Wills arranging for the disposal of their temporal goods, and, when of ability, to leave Bequests for religious and charitable uses.

- p. 445, Book of Common Prayer (1928)

Wills and Trusts should be drawn up with the aid of proper legal counsel.

If you would like to leave a bequest you can do so to **St. John's Church, 50 E. Fisher Freeway, Detroit, MI 48201**

Announcements

SUNDAY MORNIG WORSHIP

7:30 Morning Prayer

8:00 Holy Communion (Low Mass)

10:00 Holy Communion (Choral Mass)

2nd and 5th Sunday is Morning Prayer with Communion, except in Advent and Lent

SUNDAY EVENING PRAYER

Sunday Evening Prayer is prayed at St. John's at **5:30 PM**. Join us for this 25 minute Service to finish the Sabbath Day as we started it - in worship and thanksgiving. Holy Communion is available after the Service from the Reserve Sacrament for those who were unable to receive it at a morning service.

Weekday Services

Daily Morning Meditation

Streamed daily @ 7:00 AM

Holy Communion

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday @ 12:15 PM

Thursday @ 10:30 AM

Evening Prayer

Monday through Thursday @ 4:00 PM

Check the website or call the parish office for any updates or changes that occur that day.

Christian Education – Sunday School is at 10 AM in the Undercroft.

Donations Accepted - we are accepting donations of individually wrapped packages of snacks (e.g., granola bars, cookies, nuts, etc.). While you're shopping, please consider buying some, and bringing them in for the Church to use for Coffee Hour.

AED and Narcan - In case of medical emergency an Automated External Defibrillator and Narcan are located in the hallway between the Church and the Chapel, and also one in the Undercroft.

Parking Note - being a member of St. John's does not mean that we can park in our side lot for free for Tigers, Lions games, shows at the Fox, etc. The lot is leased to Olympia Development, and we have use of it only for our church related events



Warm & Fuzzy Tree
December 14, 2025– January 18, 2026

This year's DOK Christmas Gift Giving Tree was a great success! Thank you all for the gifts, coats and blankets to Georgia Street Community Collective.

St. Catherine's Guild has transformed the tree to the Warm & Fuzzy Tree, to be decorated with warm

Items: **Mittens, Gloves, Scarves, Hats, Ear Muffs, Socks, (adults and kids), and Men's Underwear.**

Please help decorate the tree with a gift of warmth for children and adults

*Donations benefit Mariner's Inn &
Georgia Street Community Collective.*

Thank you for your support!



ADVENT SOUP SUNDAY
December 21

Plan to join us after the 10:00 service for some delicious soup and fellowship!

A free will donation will be appreciated! Donations support the community outreach programs of St. Catherine's Guild.

Please join us afterward in the main church to finish decorating for Christmas!



The Vestry and Officers of St. John's

Peter Grim, Senior Warden
Pat Walter, Junior Warden
Cynthia Edwards, Secretary
Jared Moody, Treasurer

Terms expire January 2026

Elizabeth Butler David Gawrych
Bryan Monaco

Terms expire January 2027

Jared Moody Pat Walter
Helene Waters

Terms expire January 2028

Cynthia Edwards Peter Grim
Morley Stevenson

The Vestry typically meets monthly at 6:30 PM, September through June. All St. John's parishioners are welcome to attend.

Daily Bible Reading

Advent is the beginning of the Church new year, and very shortly the calendar new year will be upon us as well. And with that comes New Years Resolutions!

In addition to the regular litany of "lose weight, stick to a new diet, and exercise more" there are some great things you can do for your spiritual fitness and health!

- 1) Attend Holy Communion EVERY Sunday, and also on weekdays when possible. Nothing better than the grace of receiving Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, and being obedient in keeping holy the Sabbath by coming to church.
- 2) Pray EVERY day. Whether it is the full prayer book daily office, or 10 minutes set aside to talk to God (preferably both), checking in with the Lord we love is vital!
- 3) Ask Jesus EVERY day how He would have you live and seek to do it.
- 4) Read the Bible EVERY day

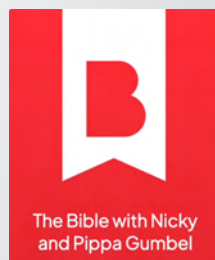
Here are a two suggestions for a Bible Reading Program

The first is to use The Daily Lectionary, with are the lessons listed for Morning and Evening Prayer. This is 4 short sections of the Old and New Testament each day. Read them with the Daily Office in the prayer book, or just read them alone.

The second suggestion is to use a "Through the Bible" podcast which starts on Day 1 with The first lines of Genesis and works its way through the bible each day. These are generally 20 to 30 minutes long, although honestly I listen to them on 1.25 or 1.5 speed so that I can hear it on my ride from my home to the Church in the morning.

I have two suggested podcasts for this.

The first is The Bible in a Year from Ascension Press. I am now finishing my third time through this course and I find it enlightening and even entertaining at times.



The second recommendation is The Bible with Nicky and Pippa Gumbel. Fr. Gumbel is best known from his leadership of The Alpha Course, which we have done several times here at St. John's.

Both of these can be found on most podcast services on Apple and Android phones, or listened to directly from their websites as well.

A DAILY PRAYER FOR**St. John's Church**

Bless, O Lord, this parish, and grant that Thy Name may be worshipped here in truth and purity, to all generations. Give Thy grace and wisdom to our Clergy, that they may exercise holy discipline, and be themselves patterns of holiness, simplicity, and self-denial. Bless all who worship here; take from us all pride, vanity and self-conceit, and give to us true humility and self-abasement. Enlighten our minds, subdue our wills, purify our hearts, and so penetrate us with Thy Spirit, and fill us with Thy love that we may go forth animated with earnest zeal for Thy glory; and may Thy living Word so dwell within our hearts that we may speak with that resistless energy of love which shall melt the hearts of sinners to the love of Thee. Open, O Lord, the hearts and hands of Thy people, that we may be ready to give and glad to distribute to our necessities. Bless the founders and benefactors of this parish, and recompense them with the riches of Thine everlasting kingdom, for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.



GREENING OF THE CHURCH
December 19, 10:00AM - 1:00PM

December 21, following the 10:00 service and the Advent Soup

THERE IS SO MUCH TO DO TO GET ST JOHN'S READY FOR CHRISTMAS. WE NEED VOLUNTEERS TO HELP DECORATE ON **both days** - STRINGING LIGHTS IN THE TREES, HANGING GARLAND, AND MUCH MORE. ON SUNDAY, ENJOY A BOWL OF SOUP, THEN COME BACK UPSTAIRS TO HELP WITH THE FINISHING TOUCHES TO MAKE OUR CHURCH FESTIVE FOR CHRISTMAS.

SEE DEBBIE SWAIN FOR MORE INFORMATION.

YOUR HELP IS APPRECIATED!!

**Anglican Christianity**

An Adult Education Class

December 7 and 14,
 January 4 - February 22

after the 10 AM Service.
 Come for all, or as many as you are able.

Christmas at St. John's

December 24th – Christmas Eve

4:00 PM – Children's Pageant Service



8:30 PM – Carol Prelude Service

**9:00 PM – Festive Candlelight
 Choral High Mass**



December 25th – Christmas Day

11:00 AM – A cappella service in the chapel

*Peace on earth, and mercy mild
 God and sinners reconciled*