



# St. John's Church

*(Founded 1858)*

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## The 166<sup>h</sup> Annual Parish Meeting Sunday, January 25, 2026 Agenda

- I. Opening Prayer
- II. Necrology - Phyllis Lewis, Ruth Glancy, Gail Weedon, Stanislaw Swider, Doris Yee, Ian Blackney, James Newman, Carl Pfadt, Natalie Campbell
- III. Additions to the Agenda
- IV. Minutes of the 165<sup>th</sup> Annual Parish Meeting on January 26, 2025
  - a. Approved and filed by the Vestry in February 2025
- V. Nominations and Election of Parish Representatives to the Vestry
  - a. Vestry - three to elect
  - b. Candidates - Durene Brown, Renee Peck, Charles Roby.
  - c. Thank you to Elizabeth Butler, David Gawrych and Bryan Monaco for their service on the Vestry.
- VI. Treasurer's Report
  - a. 2025 Financial Report
  - b. 2026 Forecast
- VII. Senior Warden's and Junior Warden's Report
- VIII. Choirmaster's Report
- IX. Reports from Parish Ministries, Committees, and Organizations
  - a. Acolytes, Lay Readers, and Ushers
  - b. Altar Guild
  - c. Armitage Club
  - d. Daughters of the King
  - e. Kitchen and Coffee Hour
  - f. Malawi
  - g. Outreach
  - h. St. Catherine's Guild of the ECW
  - i. Sunday School
  - j. Parish Statistics
- X. Rector's Report
- XI. Other Business
- XII. Motion to adjourn
- XIII. Blessing

## **ST. JOHN'S OPERATING POLICIES**

Adopted February 17, 1997

Revised January 14, 2002, December 14, 2015, September 21, 2022

***The following sections pertain to the Annual Parish Meeting and the Election of Members of the Vestry.***

**I. Concerning Annual and Special Meetings of the Parish.**

- A. Annual Meetings or Special Meetings of the parish are to be scheduled by the Vestry, and advertised well in advance. They are to be called in accordance with national and diocesan canon laws.
- B. Annual Meetings may be conducted with an agenda, but in such a way that free and open discussion of any topic is encouraged and allowed. There are to be no limitations on nominations, motions, or length of speeches or discussions.
- C. Special Meetings are to be called for consideration of only specific topics. Free and open discussion of the topic/s is encouraged and allowed. In consideration of the topic/s, there are to be no limitations on nominations, motions, or length of speeches or discussions.
- D. “Voting privilege” at an Annual or Special Meeting of the parish is defined as residing with those persons who:
  - 1. Are baptized.
  - 2. Have attained the age of 16 years.
  - 3. Have attended St. John’s regularly for at least six months immediately prior to the meeting.
- E. An election of four members of the parish to serve as members of the Vestry is to be conducted at the Annual Meeting. Persons who have attained “voting privilege” are eligible for election. Additional guidelines, dated November, 1992, are applicable.

**II. Concerning Vestry membership.**

- A. Three new members of the vestry shall be elected to three year terms at each Annual Meeting of the parish. Those persons who have attained “voting privilege” at Annual Meetings are eligible for vestry membership. (See definition above.) The four persons among those nominated who receive the most votes shall be considered as elected. A tie situation is to be broken immediately by conducting a run-off election.
- B. The three year terms of vestry service shall commence immediately upon the adjournment of the Annual Meeting in which they are elected and terminate upon the adjournment of the Annual Meeting of the third year.

**Finance/Treasurer Report - Jerrid Mooney**

St. John’s Church enters the coming year on solid financial footing, with strong assets, modest liabilities, and significantly improved financial systems and oversight.

At year end, the parish reported **approximately \$12.5 million in total assets, including about \$2.25 million in invested funds**, \$365,000 in liabilities, and net assets of just over \$12.1 million. Our assets include operating cash, invested funds, and the parish’s land and buildings. Day-to-day liquidity remains adequate for operating needs, and the parish carries no long-term debt.

From an operating perspective, ordinary operating income did not fully cover operating expenses, resulting in an operating deficit of about \$376,000. This reflects the true cost of ministry, staffing, and facilities. That deficit was more than offset by other income of approximately \$542,000, primarily lease-related revenue, producing a positive overall change in net assets for the year.

The vestry believes it is important to distinguish clearly between operating performance and non-operating income so that future planning and stewardship decisions are grounded in reality.

Over the past year, the parish also undertook significant behind-the-scenes work to correct and modernize its financial operations.

First, the parish terminated its prior CPA for performance reasons and engaged two new CPAs, which materially improved timeliness, accuracy, and reporting quality.

Second, we completed a major technology and systems modernization, replacing outdated computers, upgrading the network, removing the on-premise server, and moving Servant Keeper and QuickBooks to secure cloud-based platforms. We also implemented Ramp as a formal accounts payable and expense management system. These changes significantly strengthened internal controls, documentation, and oversight.

Third, the vestry formally adopted a clarified and modernized financial architecture. After a comprehensive historical review, the vestry affirmed that, aside from a donor-restricted purpose related to music, the parish does not maintain any legally constituted donor-created endowments. Historically named funds were created by vestry or committee action and remain under vestry authority.

As part of this work, the vestry consolidated banking and investment structures for transparency and efficiency, while preserving donor-restricted purposes and the Rector's Discretionary Fund.

Finally, the vestry adopted a formal Investment Policy Statement, which now governs all parish invested assets. The IPS establishes fiduciary responsibility, long-term investment objectives, spending guidance, ethical safeguards, and regular reporting requirements, providing continuity and accountability across vestry terms.

Looking ahead, the vestry is shifting from a static annual budget model to ongoing financial forecasting. Rather than setting a single fixed number once a year, forecasting allows expectations to be updated as conditions change, so decisions are based on current information rather than outdated assumptions.

Much of this year's work is not immediately visible, but it substantially strengthens the parish's financial foundation. With clearer structure, modern systems, adopted policies, and improved forecasting, St. John's is better positioned to steward its resources faithfully and responsibly in the years ahead.

## **Senior Warden's Report** – Peter Grim

2025 was a busy year for St. John's Church Detroit. For Denise and me, last year brought a new level of experience at St. John's. Denise found out that her brother had passed in July. Right after her older sister, Doris was diagnosed with cancer ... again. Unfortunately, Doris succumbed to the cancer. But, the outpouring of love and support from this congregation was overwhelming! We cannot thank each one of you for your thoughts, prayers, cards, calls and hugs! All of this grows out of a common faith in Jesus Christ our Lord which we celebrate throughout each and every year.

Of course we had all of our usual events like Bake Sales, Giving Trees, St. Michael's Conference ... and the St. Johns Canteen and Pancake Breakfast early on Thanksgiving Day. The last of which Denise and I have enjoyed supporting for the last few years. 2025's St. Johns Canteen was special. First of all, in addition to the usual cast of characters, Isaac and Madison joined the team and were a very welcome addition to the event. Not only contributing to the fun, but also lending very capable hands to our effort. But, secondly ... and delayed a few weeks, I felt there is another reason this particular event was 'special'. In the midst of ironing out a few details in our updating, streamlining, correcting and improving our financial management systems (refer to Jerrid's Treasurer's Report), I asked someone "Why do we host the Canteen? And the Pancake Breakfast?" Fortunately, they responded "to generate good will". "Good!" I said. Yes, we will continue to track expenses and revenue generated by this (and all other) event(s). But, it is NOT about the financial result! It is about our Mission – particularly the latter portion: To know Jesus Christ and **to make Him known!**

A new event that St. John's contributed to as a sponsor and attended was the Brush Park Fall Festival. We funded a petting zoo and Fr. Kelly attended with Jerrid (and others?). Several folks knew St. Johns (of course, what better location), but were unaware that we were "open". This is our renewed emphasis: to make sure St. Johns Church Detroit is recognized as open, active and impactful! Morley will present the status on a significant undertaking St. Johns is taking on to update and improve our electrical infrastructure. And, towards the end of 2024 we engaged a security firm to respond escalating rhetoric and polarization regarding religion and places of worship. These are all steps towards enabling St. Johns to take our presence to a new level in Detroit and on-line (refer to Fr. Kelly's report). The Vestry conducted a SWOT analysis in preparation for formalizing a 5 year strategic plan. Stay tuned for more on this this year!

Please join me in thanking everyone that helps St. Johns continue its Mission: the St. Catherine's Guild led by Debbie Swain & Denise Grim, The Altar Guild led by Sarah Babcock, Daughters of the King led by Lena Nealley, the Outreach Committee led by Debbie Swain & Chris Golembiewski, the Kitchen Team led by Chris Golembiewski & Martina Stevenson, our Sunday School led by Lena Nealley, Martina Stevenson and Melody Huffer, Fr. Kelly and Elizabeth Savage for holding the office together and Jerrid Mooney, our Treasurer who has spent countless hours rectifying decades of historic practices along with our new CPA firm, and everyone from the Acolytes led by Morley Stevenson, to Dr. Lewis, Chanmi Kim and the choir, the ushers, the Lector's Guild led by Brian Campbell and of course Fr. Kelly who make our services so special!

In summary, St. Johns Church Detroit is financially sound, continues to be a beacon of traditional Anglican worship throughout metropolitan Detroit and on-line well beyond. This happens thanks to the efforts of many and relies on consistent and prayerful support of the entire congregation and tenacious stewardship of all we have been blessed with. Please be sure to support your parish's Mission by contributing both financially as you are able and giving of your talents as you may find fulfilling. Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions, comments or suggestions.

May God bless you all and bless St. Johns through 2026 and well into the future!

## **Junior Warden's Report**– Pat Walters

## **Choirmaster's Report** – Dr. Huw Lewis

Last year saw a big change in our program with the departure of our Organ Scholar, Grace Jackson. Grace was awarded the Gerre Hancock Internship by the Association of Anglican Musicians, an internship created to honor one of the founders of the Association. For many years Hancock was the director of music at St. Thomas's 5th Avenue, New York. Since August, Grace has worked at St. John's Church, Houston. She tells me she loves it there, but misses us at St. John's. This Internship was established 10 years ago: Grace is the third John Leigh Edwards Organ Scholar to have received it! In fact, one of AAM's officials quipped that they should make me an honorary life member for my contribution to the cause!

Grace and I interviewed two excellent candidates for our scholarship. We chose Chanmi Kim, whose playing and improvisation were quite remarkable. Chanmi comes to us from South Korea, where she studied piano performance and child psychology before coming to Baylor University where she received her master's degree in organ performance. She's now at Ann Arbor working towards her doctorate.

Our past Organ Scholars continue to enjoy exceptional professional success: Abe Wallace is now the Associate Director of Music at Christ Church Cathedral in Cincinnati - the church where Hancock was Director before going to New York; and David Heinze is the Director of Music at Christ Church, Bronxville, NY. David just became a Fellow of the Royal College of Organists, and garnered several distinctions. I'd say that St. John's can feel proud of its mission to prepare future church musicians..

Over the past year, we added some new music to our choral repertoire, most notably Mozart's *Missa Brevis in D Major* which we sang on Easter Day. The congregational response was overwhelmingly great! All of us 'in the business' are experiencing something of a dearth of enthusiastic and committed choral singers. We cannot figure out precisely what the reasons are, but we deal with the challenge as best we can. At the beginning of December, we lost 2 singers. Despite valiant efforts to replace them in time for Christmas, we couldn't find any takers. This threw me into a bit of a panic because I had planned to sing some music that actually required more than just 4 men. But somehow, we came through and survived Advent and Christmas Eve without too much disaster! Even though it's small, our cadre of singers are fine and flexible musicians.

Over the course of last year, we have experienced continuous mechanical issues with the organ, and faced several emergency situations. Quite a number of parts of our organ date back to the 1930s, and they are beginning to fail. We keep patching things up as best we can, but the truth is that we are looking at some major and costly repair work that will need to be taken care of in the near future.

As always, I'm deeply grateful to Fr. Kelly, our Rector, to our Vestry, and to you, the faithful people of St. John's, who continue to support our music program enthusiasm and generosity. I am privileged to enrich your worship with music, and I'm blessed to be supported by your kindness, your encouragement, and, of course, your prayers.

## **Acolytes, Lay Readers and Ushers**

The Acolytes serve at the altar during the worship services, assisting the clergy. Right now we have a small, faithful core group of Servers and we have welcomed some participants in 2025 are always welcoming new members to the corps. Contact Morley Stevenson for more information about becoming a Server.

The Lay Readers read the Lessons at Holy Communion and Lessons and Psalms at Choral Morning Prayer. Brian Campbell coordinates the schedule. If you would like to join this group please contact Brian.

The Ushers greet people at the door, coordinate people going up front for the reception of Communion during the Service and help with overall flow of people at the Services. Contact John Barge and Peter Grim for more information about volunteering.

## **Altar Guild** – Sarah Babcock, Directresses

The members of St. John's Altar Guild continue to prepare the altars for worship services every Sunday as well as serving for weddings, funerals, and special services when needed.

Some members are assigned to designated Sundays each month. Others help with polishing brass, writing notes of appreciation for memorial donations, mending linens, caring for altar flowers, and maintaining votive candles in the church and chapel. All of these duties are important, and I am thankful for the dedication and faithfulness of each member. This is truly a team effort.

The Altar Guild has worked on two big projects this past year. The new pew cushions throughout the church were delivered just before Easter in 2025. They are beautiful and also comfortable. A special thank you to Bruce and Jane Burton for their generous contribution toward this goal. We are in phase 3 of refurbishing the kneelers. The first batch has been delivered, and the second batch was delivered Friday. The last group of kneelers should be finished this summer – 200 in all!

Thank you to Fr. Kelly for all he does to support the Altar Guild, and to Carolyn Ricca for her work as Treasurer this past year.

There are many opportunities to lend a hand with Altar Guild work. If you would like to become a member, please contact Sarah Babcock – we welcome you!

## **Armitage Club**

Men in the parish are invited to join together for breakfast on Tuesday mornings for fellowship and discussion. The group is currently meeting at *Charlie's Restaurant* in St. Clair Shores. Pat Walter is the coordinator of this group.

## **Daughters of the King** – Lena R. Nealley

St. Margaret's Chapter of the Order of the Daughters of the King continues in its mission of prayer, service and evangelism. As we meet monthly, on the second Saturday, September through May, we are a warm, supportive group of women who work together, pray, study and uplift one another and our parish, for Jesus' sake.

During the past year, our study has been on the Letters of John, (I John, II John, and III John). The strong message of those Bible books is to Love One Another!! We have lived that message with our service projects, the Christmas Giving Tree, the baby shower to benefit Pregnancy Aid, and our special Women's Advent Tea early in December. We are beginning a new series of topics that will challenge and bless us, in a study led by Elizabeth Savage, our newest member.

Our chapter officers currently are: Lena Nealley, president, Janice Baldwin, vice president, Chris Golembiewski, secretary and prayer list coordinator, Suzie Decker, corresponding secretary, and Sarah Babcock, treasurer, with Elizabeth Savage our study leader.

We warmly welcome any interested woman to join us at a meeting. You may visit, with no obligation; we enjoy food, fellowship, and prayer support! To become a member, a three month training period is needed. We hope to sponsor a new training period this spring; just ask any member (look for our silver cross and a smile) for more information.

Prayer is our special gift to our parish. The prayer cards in the pews bring your needs and requests to our hearts and our lips. We consider it an honor to join with you in heartfelt needs.

Blessings to us all, in this new year!

## **Kitchen & Coffee Hour and Fellowship** – Chris Golembiewski

It was another busy year in St. John's kitchen! In addition to hosting coffee hour every Sunday for our wonderful congregation and visitors, volunteers assisted with the following events during the year:

Annual St Patrick's Day Potluck Luncheon,

Assisted Armitage Club in hosting the hot dog lunch before the annual parish Tiger Baseball outing.

Baby Shower luncheon for Cole and Susie Stevenson.

End of year lunch in June

Fr Mike's presentation "The Stained Glass Windows of St. Elizabeth's" (his former parish)

Anniversary celebrations including Andy & Alice Baetz's 55<sup>th</sup> and Ralph & Sarah Babcock's 50<sup>th</sup>,  
Birthday celebrations – including a special day in August when we celebrated Eleanor Simon.

Celebration of a visit by our own Cameron Walker, now known as Fr Cam.

Celebration of our dear organ scholar Grace Jackson as she prepared to move on to her new assignment in Texas.

Celebration of the life of parishioner Gail Weeden, Doris Yee (Denise Grim's sister) and provided a snack break for the family of our dear former parishioner Phyllis Lewis between services at St. John's and St. George's in Windsor.

Annual Welcome Back Luncheon

Annual Homecoming Sunday Luncheon

Although not a specific kitchen function, but definitely a benefit to the parish, Martina Stevenson spearheaded CPR/AED training in which several parishioners participated. Hopefully the training will not be needed, but good to know that we have parishioners trained in these lifesaving procedures.

In 2025, a conscious effort was made to improve our 'carbon footprint' in the kitchen. Whenever possible, paper plates for lunches have been replaced by our vintage luncheon china. Also, this year, soup spoons were added to our flatware service thus eliminating the use of plastic spoons on Soup Sundays.

St. John's continues to be blessed to have so many parishioners involved in the ministries of the church. In the kitchen, I am especially blessed to have Martina Stevenson, Stella Heatley, Debbie Swain and Suzanne Porter at the heart of set up, clean up and stocking the pantry with coffee hour treats. Help from many others through offerings of homemade treats continue to make coffee hour and special events during the year so very successful. Thanks also to Pat Burson who continues to do the heavy lifting of set up of tables and chairs and clean up every Sunday and for special events.

St. John's is far from the definition of a 'neighborhood parish'. As we come together from near and far every Sunday, coffee hour plays a vital part of the heart and soul of parish fellowship. We look forward to another year of serving coffee hour, fellowship and special event luncheons and receptions in the Undercroft. Anyone interested in helping out in the kitchen (men and women!) come on in - we'd be happy to have your help!

## **Malawi** – Fr. Michael Bedford and Chris Golembiewski

The generous offerings of our parishioners in support the Bishop Biggers' Educational Fund. during 2025 totaled \$10,180.

Midway through 2025, our weekly support of the Diocese of Northern Malawi was modified a bit when first Sunday 'loose' offerings designated to Northern Malawi were eliminated. Replacing the 'loose offerings', \$29/wk was entered in the budget for Bishop Biggers Secondary School, along with our continued Spring and Fall Ingatherings which take place in May and November.

Through the continued support of St. John's, work continues on the library at the secondary school and construction of an after school study 'hostel' on the campus of the school. Completion of the library will make an impact on the already outstanding results of young people completing high school and heading to college.

Please keep the Diocese of Northern Malawi, and Bishop Biggers in your prayers, and continue to support Bishop Biggers' Education Fund through your own special offerings throughout the year (noting 'Bishop Biggers Education Fund' on your offering envelope), and continue to support the Spring and Fall Ingatherings. Your continued support is very much appreciated!

## **Outreach Committee** – Debbie Swain and Chris Golembiewski

Every year, this committee assumes responsibility of selecting charitable organizations in the community to which grant funds will be offered. This year 's committee included John Barge, Cindy Edwards, Denise and Peter Grim, Bryan Monaco, Sally Monaco, Elizabeth Savage and Libby Schudel. Debbie Swain and Chris Golembiewski served as co-chairs of the committee. The group was dynamic and energetic in making decisions of organizations to be consider for grants. In 2025, grants were given to the following organizations.

**The Arc Grosse Pointe/Harper Woods** – protect the rights and supports full inclusion of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities in the community by facilitating activities, advocacy, employment, education and meaningful relationships from childhood through adulthood. After school enrichment programs, Friends Group (social and recreational programs for teens and adults), summer camps, family support (information, advocacy and referral assistance).

**Building Beds for Kids** – funds used to purchase lumber, hardware, mattresses and bedding (approx \$137/bed) Developmentally disabled young adults build twin size wooden platform beds, which are distributed along with new mattresses and bedding to families in need.

**Cass Community Social Services** – dedicated to making a profound difference in the lives of the diverse population served by providing basic needs – including serving 700,000 meals annually, housing for 300 men women and children nightly, medical and mental health services, vocational training; promoting self reliance and encouraging community involvement.

**Chance For Life** (new 2025 recipient)- a special program for inmates in Michigan prisons. These folks visit a number of prisons across Michigan to teach and guide prisoners how to transition back into the community. They also connect Returning Citizens to mentors and job training once they are released.

**Corner Shower and Laundry** – Build and operate clean and safe shower and laundry facilities where the homeless and others in need in our community can take showers and launder their clothes.

**Detroit Horse Power** (new 2025 recipient) – provide under-resourced youth a safe and enriching space that furthers their future development. Horses teach children critical traits, including perseverance, empathy, responsible risk-taking, confidence, self-control and taking responsibility for another living being. Through the care of horses, young people learn lessons that can help them succeed in school & life.

**Georgia Street Community Collective(GSCC)** - with the help of volunteers, and the Garden Resource Program, empty lots have be revitalized to become GSCC Gardens/Farm. GSCC helps seniors and youth of the neighborhood through education - using the garden/farm as a way to mentor students and teach others to start their own garden..

**Incarcerated Youth Ministries** – bring God's word to those incarcerated- "locked up but not locked out of God's love and protection". Bible studies, worship services, chaplain visits, on site retreats, basic need to those being released, Christmas & Easter celebrations (Food). Provide clothing, hygiene products to those being released.

**Keep Growing Detroit (KGD)** – promote a food sovereign city where the majority of fruits and vegetables are grown and consumed by residents withing the city. Assist at least 7 community groups in establishing or improving vegetable gardens by installing 27 new 4"x8" raised metal (longer lasting) beds. All sites selected for improvement will receive KGD garden development assistance.

**NOAH Project at Central Methodist** – A central hub for services, resources and relationships assisting individuals on the path to stable housing. Serve as a drop in center for the unhoused community - providing case management, lunch, showers for men and women, street outreach, etc.

**Vista Maria** – Foster restorative relationships and deliver innovative care, treatment and education so that vulnerable youth and families believe in their worth, heal and build skills for success. Funds to be used to support Shepherd Hall Transitional Living Program, serving low-income young women and adults 16-24 aging out of the foster care system and in need of combined affordable housing and supportive services.

**Wayne County Jail Outreach Ministry** – serve individuals affected by crime offenders and their families. Also provide returning citizens with education, job assistance and medical/dental

services. Serve individuals spiritual need and promote emotional and long term goals – including job and life skill training.

During the year, several committee members and interested parishioner visited several of the agencies. Included were Corner Shower and Laundry, Vista Maria and Detroit HorsePower. Much was learned about the work being done by each agency.

In addition to grants, and through the ongoing generosity of our parishioners, the following monthly collections benefited several agencies:

January – Gloves, scarves, blankets – Georgia Street Community Collective

April - Cleaning products - Corner Shower and Laundry

July - Garden tools - Keep Growing Detroit and Georgia Street Community Collective

August - School Supply Drive – Georgia Street Community Collective

October - Canned goods, blankets and coats – Georgia Street Community Collective

Many thanks to all our parishioners for their ongoing support of community ministries.

### **St. Catherine's Guild of the Episcopal Church Women** – Debbie Swain

January – Warm, Fuzzy Tree – collected items which were donated December 14, 2025, through January 18, 2026, for Georgia Street & Mariner's Inn. The tree was loaded with items to keep people warm in the bitter cold!

February – Toiletry Project – over fifty bags were assembled February 22, 2025 for Mariner's Inn & Elli's House to give to people in need.

April – Annual Pie Sale, April 13, 2025

July – Ice Cream Social, July 27, 2025

August – Annual School Supplies drive collected the entire month. The Guild purchased underwear for kids. All of this benefitted Georgia Street.

August – The Guild supported Nashotah House seminarian Jason Flack with a \$10,000 grant.

September – September 19, 2025, A planning meeting for the fall was held in the Undercroft.

October – One workshop to assemble and prepare some of the items for the Pantry Sale.

November – The final workshop for assembling and preparing Pantry Sale items was held. On November 14, set-up for the sale took the better part of the day, and the sale officially opened. This Pantry Sale ran from November 14 – December 14.

Also in November was the Thanksgiving Pie sale and the Annual Thanksgiving Parade Canteen.

December – Advent Trees were set up. The Annual Tree Lighting with Carols was held in the Garden (Narthex due to cold); the Pre-greening of the Church was Friday, December 19 and the finishing touches of the Church and Chapel were completed after the Annual Advent Soup Sunday on December 21. The Warm, Fuzzy Tree began December 14.

This was another productive year for the wonderful women of St. Catherine's Guild. Thank you for their time and talents in supporting St. John's Church!

### **Sunday School** – Lena Nealley

In spite of challenges, we are still meeting for Sunday school weekly. The themes are Old Testament stories through the fall, and learning about Jesus from January through early June. This year we are trying to have a few games, to keep our younger students busy and happy. We love it when extra children visit, and encourage you to bring or invite families with children to join us.

Our numbers for Sunday School are not large; most weeks we have one faithful student, but we have had Sundays with four or five. In addition to our regular Sunday school leaders, Lena Nealley and Martina Stevenson, Melody Huffer is our regular pianist for our songs in worship. We welcome visitors; come and see what is happening in our children's chapel downstairs each Sunday. You could read the Bible story!!

We have a good time with our worship, Bible study, games, discussions, puzzles, coloring pages, and snacks. Special thanks to all who support our Sunday School. Please encourage and invite other young people to come (ages 5-12). Let us all keep working to make St. John's a wonderful place to worship each Sunday.

## Rector's Report to the Annual Parish Meeting

### January 25, 2026

Let me start by expressing my gratitude for the many people of this parish who contribute of their time, talent, and treasure to St. John's! The Vestry and its officers, office and maintenance staff, the various guilds, ministries, organizations, and everyone who joins us for worship both in person and online all contribute in wonderful ways to make St. John's a pillar of faith and a beacon of hope to the neighborhood, city, state and world in need. Time flies, and next month (God willing) I will be completing my 25<sup>th</sup> year as your rector. May God grant us more years to follow.

We continue a full and rigorous schedule of worship at St. John's. Worship is what the Church is primarily called to do! Sunday Masses and Daily Offices, as well as weekday Masses and Evening Prayer, afford ample opportunity to join together in groups large and small to glorify God. Sunday School, the Alpha Course, and now our Anglican Theology Classes help us to hone our faith in the doctrines of the church. Participations in the study of Scripture through podcast, online daily morning meditations, and the Daughters of the King bible study helps us to know our Lord and His will for us.

Things have been very busy this past year in other ways, especially with the work of the Vestry. Processes have been streamlined and updated, including new CPAs, computers and software, so that we can work efficiently as we continue to grow.

Capital improvements have taken a large part of the Vestry's time this year.. 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 state 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 lose, 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 and 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.

I pray that in 2026 we will dive deeper into the life of prayer and study, both corporately and individually, as we seek to become the saints that God desires us to be! And may we share the Good News with others in our lives the Jesus is Lord.

## **Parish Statistics**

	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2000</u>
Average Sunday Attendance	118	102	108+	101+	57
Sunday Holy Communion Services	105	104	106	100	85
Weekday Holy Communion Services	196	196	193	183	44
Home & Hospital Communions	33	31	35	29	4
Sunday Daily Offices	104	104	106	110	39
Weekday Daily Offices	612	618	610	617	1
Other Offices					
(Anointing, Stations of the Cross, Benediction, etc.)	152	115	117	98	1
Baptisms	4	5	1	3	2
Weddings	2	2	2	4	4
Burials	4	7	6	3	3

*+ 2022 and 2023 had Christmas Attendance included as Sunday worship*