

Sunday School for Kids – All offerings are led by two Safe Church trained adults.

- During the 9 am service we'll offer Children's Church, including interactive children's sermons, and led by a pair of adults with Safeguarding God's Children training.
- Between services, at 10:15 am, we'll offer Godly Play, a Montessori-style Sunday school program. We'll meet in the atrium after the first service before going upstairs.

Youth Ministry at St. John's (for Middle & High Schoolers)

- On Sunday mornings between services (about 10:20 am), teens are invited to Youth Roundtable, where we get snacks from downtown Worthington and talk about one of the readings for the day. Meet in the atrium next to the sanctuary.
- Every other Sunday afternoon our youth group meets from 2 pm to 3:30 pm to share some snacks, talk about an aspect of faith, and play games. On Sunday, **December 8**. Got a question? Email David the associate rector, at davidb@stjohnsworthington.org.

A Nudge from the Stewardship Committee - As our Finance Committee begins its work to prepare our 2025 budget in earnest, your continued support of St. John's and its mission to grow, heal, and serve with God's wisdom, love, and joy is vital! If you've not yet been able to submit your estimate of giving – or maybe just forgotten - it's not too late! "Estimate of Giving" – or "pledge" forms for those more familiar with that term – are available on the information table in the Atrium; you may also scan the QR code here to make your pledge online. Estimates of giving may always be adjusted by contacting the church office, but are helpful in forecasting our budget for the year ahead. On behalf of this year's Stewardship Committee, *thank you!* It is through your faithful gifts each year that St. John's is able to be Christ's heart, hands, and feet in a world hungry for hope and meaning.

Create a Food Pantry Advent Calendar - As the Magi brought gifts to the Christ Child, we can bring gifts to our hungry neighbors. Find a sturdy box and add one item to the box each day from December 1 to December 24. If you have children, let them help pick out the items for the box. As you add a can, box, or bottle to the box, say a prayer for the person or family who will receive the box. You may bring your completed box to the atrium any time from Christmas Eve through January 5, and they will be delivered to the Worthington and Gladden pantries early in January. Pick up a page of food suggestions on the table in the atrium, or find it on page 7 of the December-January Crossroads.

Celtic Service December 1, 4:00 pm in the Atrium - We invite you to the next Celtic service on December 1 at 4:00 pm in the Atrium. This will be an Advent Taize Service, Waiting and Listening. The Celtic service is a quiet, meditative service with music, prayers of concern with the lighting of candles, a time of silence, and affirmations of faith. It is based on the liturgy of the Iona Abbey Worship Book and is always followed by a time of fellowship and hospitality. We hope you will join our circle for an hour on Sunday and you will be out before the sun sets! *The Celtic Service Fellowship*

The Annual Christmas Giving Project Updates - Our Giving Tree project is off to a terrific start! Thank you to those of you who have supported KMS and chose tags from our display! If you would still like to be a part of this project there are more ornaments available in the Atrium or you can visit our online Giving Tree by clicking [here](#). The ornaments contain the holiday wishes from some of the students at Kilbourne Middle School and their siblings. Please know that there are several gift wishes for each child, including needed clothing, outerwear, and fun items. Gifts should be returned by **December 8th** unwrapped (with a gift receipt and box if possible) and with the tag from the ornament.

If you prefer not to shop, we have another option for you! Instead of taking a tag, we are also collecting cash and gift cards to places like Walmart, Target, or Kohl's. Please put your check or gift card in the weekly collection plate or send it in to the office by **December 1st** so our helper elves have time to finish up needed shopping. Thank you in advance for helping some very needy families make this year a very special Christmas!! ***If the link above does not work for you, please go to signupgenius.com and search for the list under the email christiner@stjohnsworthington.org.

Advent Series Begins December 4 - David and Gia will lead our Advent series this year, "What's the Deal with Revelation?" We'll explore the historical context of the book of Revelation, wrestle with some of its nastier parts, and soak our weary souls in the profound hope at the heart of this book. The series meets on Wednesday evenings from 7:00 to 8:30pm on December 4, 11, and 18. Bring a Bible and a Book of Common Prayer, if you have them. Childcare is available by advance request; please let Gia or David know as soon as possible if you need it.

For December 12th Friendship Dinner Volunteers, we will be serving a Tossed Salad, Shepherd's Pie, Vegetables, and fixings plus dessert as well as our alternative children's and Allergen / Vegan/ Vegetarian menu. Sign-up sheet is in the atrium. A special Thank you to all the volunteers of the November dinner! You really stepped up to help cook and serve a wonderful meal to our guests, since my hand is still healing and I'm not 100%. If you have any questions, text or email me at (847) 254-1821 / jbross53@gmail.com. - John Ross

Greening the Church for Christmas - Please join us for the "Greening" of the church for Christmas. "Greening" will take place after the 11:15AM service on **December 22, 2024**. This is a fun activity to get our church home ready for Christmas. The more hands helping the easier it is to complete. All ages are welcome. Please plan to assist. Thank you.

The Outreach and Social Justice Committee (OSJ) received a request from the Kilbourne Middle School counselors concerning the need for hygiene supplies for their students. As described, middle schoolers are still very much figuring out puberty. Some of their students, with less support at home, do not always get some of these basic needs met. Consequently, OSJ purchased and delivered items on behalf of St. John's to assist in the middle schoolers' needs. These items included 20 men's and 20 women's deodorants, women's always ultrathin pads, foot spray and powder, ivory and dial body washes, and 24 pairs of men's athletic socks. The counselors were relieved to receive our gift and very grateful!

It's time! Time to bring your ornament to church! - Help adorn our St. John's family Christmas tree. Beginning December 1st, bring in an ornament that represents you, your family, a loved one, or has a special sentiment. The ornament can be handmade, store bought, old, or new. There is a table set up by the coat rack in the corner of the Atrium where you can place your ornament. The Atrium tree will be decorated on Sunday, December 22nd following the 11:15 Service. Feel free to retrieve your ornament before the tree is taken down on January 6th. All ornaments left on the tree will be carefully packed away for next year. These ornaments and the ones that we add each year will reflect on the ties we have with our church family.

The Outreach and Social Justice Committee (OSJ) wants to hear from you! - St. John's offers parishioners a variety of hands-on and donation opportunities throughout the year. OSJ is seeking your input about outreach and social justice causes that YOU want to support in the future. Our mission to **grow, heal, and serve with God's wisdom, love, and joy** calls us to reach out locally, nationally, and internationally to support programs and provide services to those in need where the need is the greatest. Where do you see that need and where would you like to commit your heart and hands? Please contact OSJ Committee members Lily Balukjian Thompson (lillianbalukjian@sbcglobal.net or 847-612-1301) or Jean Duncan (jeanduncan59@msn.com or 215-534-7290) to discuss your passions for service and giving. We would love to hear from you!

The Risk and Safety Task Force is seeking additional members who are interested in helping us assure the safety of the funds, property, and most especially people of St. John's. This task force is designed to be efficient (We zoom and aim for 30 minute meetings). If you are interested, please contact Rebecca McCauley at mccauley.90@osu.edu or 802-999-3128.

Suggested Grocery Items for Food Pantry Donations – for next week: rice, toothpaste & a Christmas dinner item. You can place your food, toiletry, and baby donations in the food baskets in the atrium. You can also give online at www.worthingtonresourcepantry.org/donate/ or www.gladdenhouse.org/food-pantry.

Flowers this week are given by Jane and Alex Lagusch in thanksgiving for the life of the Rev. William Worman.

Centering Prayer – Mondays, 1:00 pm. [Click this Zoom link](#) (Meeting ID: 865 0593 1410; Passcode: 922699; +13017158592,,86505931410#,,,*922699#). If you are interested, contact Teri Foley-Nelson, at foleynelson1@sbcglobal.net.

Readings for Next Sunday – Baruch 5:1-9, Philippians 1:3-11, Luke 3:1-6, Canticle 4 or 16

Do You Have Family or Friends Who You Want Included on the Weekly Prayer List? If so, please contact the

office at Bellao@stjohnsworthington.org or 614-846-5180, with their first names. Names will remain on the list for three weeks unless there are additional instructions. If you want longer term prayer by the intercessory prayer group, please contact Jo Pascoe at 614-306-7983 and leave a message or send email to twopas@aol.com.

Pastoral Care Concerns - If you have a pastoral care concern, please contact one of the clergy. Gia may be reached at 614-846-5180, ext. 302, 220-219-1880, or GiaHM@StJohnsWorthington.org. David may be reached at 614-846-5180, ext. 308, 220-219-1880 or, or DavidB@stjohnsworthington.org. 220 area code is a local number.

If you are seeing this as a paper copy, the links are available on: <https://www.stjohnsworthington.org/news-updates/>

Scan for online giving



People for whom prayers have been asked

And we pray for:

Aubrey
Bev
Amirah
Leatrice
Yolanda
Chauncy'ona
Kimberly
Sean
Sharon
Dick
Andrea
Louis
Julie
Christi
Joey & Kaci
John

Nancy
Peter
Jery
Kathy
Jo Ann
Amanda
Jamie
Jeremiah
Amelia
Jim
Frank

**For those who are
unemployed or
underemployed**
*(Allow time for
others to pray)*

**For all who experience fear or
exclusion**
*(Allow time for
others to pray)*

**For those in prison or bondage
– in body or spirit**
*(Allow time for
others to pray)*

**For peace and for all those
who suffer from war, including
the people of Ukraine, Sudan,
Afghanistan, Armenia, Israel,
Palestine, Lebanon and all
places of conflict in the world.**

**For our service men and
women and all first
responders**
*(Allow time for
others to pray)*

Parish Cycle of Prayer

Karlah and Wendell Gibbs
Len Gibler
Fritz Graf and Sarah Iles Johnston and family

We Give Thanks

For the people of St. John's and for their ministries
For the life of the Rev. William Worman

The Departed

Notes:

St. John's has two separate prayer lists.

To add names to the "public" prayer list as seen above, please call the church office at 614-846-5180, or send an email to Bellao@stjohnsworthington.org. Names added to that sheet will remain on the prayer list for three weeks, or shorter if requested. Last names are not used. If you wish prayers to be continued, simply list the name on the prayer list again. Of course, you may always add names aloud during the prayers of the people.

There is also a "private" intercessory prayer group staffed by several volunteers from within the parish. To have your prayer request included on the prayer chain, please contact Jo Pascoe at 614-306-7983 or send email to twopas@aol.com.