



This Week at St. John's
December 8, 2024

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**, the youth group will meet at St. Stephen's, and on Sunday, **December 15**, the youth group will meet at St. John's. Got a question? Email David the associate rector, at davidb@stjohnsworthington.org.

Christmas at St. John's

December 24, Christmas Eve

Children's Pageant and Eucharist for All Ages, 4:00 p.m.

Festive Eucharist, 7:00 p.m.

Festive Eucharist with choir prelude, 9:00 p.m.

December 25, Christmas Day

Eucharist with carols, 10:00 a.m.

December 29, First Sunday after Christmas Day

Eucharist, 9:00 a.m.

Eucharist, 11:15 a.m.

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 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.

Our Annual Christmas Giving Project – is wrapping up! Thank you to all of of you who have supported students from Kilbourne Middle School and their siblings with gifts, gift cards, or cash donations. Gifts should be returned by **Sunday, December 8th** unwrapped (with a gift receipt and box if possible) and with the tag from the ornament.

Advent Series Continues on December 11 – 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 8:30 pm on December 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.

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.

For Our December 12th Friendship Dinner – we will be serving a tossed salad, shepherd's pie, vegetables, plus dessert, as well as our alternative children's and allergen/vegan/vegetarian menu. A sign-up sheet for volunteers is in the atrium. A special Thank You to all the volunteers at 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

Christmas Pageant - Do you have a kiddo who'd like to be cast in our Christmas Pageant? Please bring them to our rehearsal on Sunday, **December 15th** at 10:15am between the services in the Kilbourne Hall. If you'd like your kid to be in the pageant but can't make it on Dec 15th, please let David Burman know at davidb@stjohnsworthington.org. The pageant itself will be part of the 4pm service on Christmas Eve, Sunday, Dec. 24th.

Lessons & Carols, December 15, 5:00 PM - St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in the University District (30 W. Woodruff Avenue) will be holding a Lessons & Carols service on December 15 at 5:00 PM. The service will feature the music of choral group Lucis Stellarum, and readings from W. H. Auden's Christmas oratorio *For the Time Being*.

In the Garden - This month St. John's will be serving dinner at Trinity Church downtown on the Sunday before Christmas, **December 22**. Since we know how busy everyone is during the holidays, the Outreach and Social Justice Committee has planned to purchase ham as the main dish. For those who are baking Christmas cookies this month, we would appreciate it if you could make extra and donate them for this meal! We are still finalizing the rest of the menu, so please check the signup sheet on the atrium table for the food items we are requesting. If you prefer to contribute by serving the meal, please also note your name on the signup sheet. Please drop off food at St. John's by 11:15 am on **December 22**. We ask those serving the meal to arrive at Trinity by noon and we will be done by 2:15 pm. If you have questions, please contact Karen Graham (614.378.2008 or kgraham.ohio@gmail.com)

Greening the Church for Christmas - Please join us for the "Greening" of the church for Christmas. "Greening" will take place after the 11:15 am service on **December 22**. 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!

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: chunky soup, deodorant & 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 Ruth and Rebecca McCauley in thanksgiving for the lives of their parents Fred and Priscilla McCauley.

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 – Zephaniah 3:14-20, Philippians 4:4-7, Luke 3:7-18, Canticle 9

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:

Kimberly
Sean
Sharon
Dick
Andrea
Louis
Julie
Christi
Joey & Kaci
John

Nancy
Peter
Jery
Kathy
Jo Ann
Amanda
Jamie
Jeremiah
Amelia
Jim
Frank
Craig, Mellie and family
Patrick and Gayle
Lora

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

Karen Graham
Lisa Graupmann
Katherine Haines

We Give Thanks

For the people of St. John's and for their ministries
For the lives of Fred and Priscilla McCauley

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.