

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.

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.

Coffee Hour - Thanks to everyone who has served as a beverage host or snack host over the past few months! New schedules for the next few months have been posted in the atrium. If you've enjoyed coffee or tea or treats during fellowship in the past, please consider serving as a host or co-host sometime in the future! Open to hosting, but not sure what to do or where to find things? Reach out to Star Blackford (blackfords@mindspring.com) to set up a time to 'shadow' an existing coffee hour host. Thank you to all who keep this treasured ministry afloat!

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.

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.

Adult Formation on January 5 - The Christian Year - Wondering why it is still Christmas on January 5? Gia will lead this session for adults on the Christian year, also known as the liturgical year or liturgical calendar. We'll reflect on the seasons of the year, the colors associated with each (including some show and tell), and how the rhythms of the calendar draw us into the patterns of Jesus' life. We'll gather in Kilbourne Hall about 10:15 a.m. Godly Play, Youth Roundtable, and nursery care are offered at the same time.

St. John's Early Education Center - Registration will be opening in January for the 2025-2026 school year. **Registration opens on 1/14/25 for current families, 1/21/25 for alumni families, and 1/28/25 for new families.** Please learn more about our preschool for three, four and five year olds at www.sjpreschool.com or call 614-885-2315 to schedule a tour.

Suggested Grocery Items for Food Pantry Donations – for next week: baby food, formula, large diapers (3-4-5-6). 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.

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 – Isaiah 61:10-62:3, Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7, John 1:1-18, Psalm 147 or 147:13-21

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](mailto: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:

Amanda
Jamie
Jeremiah
Amelia
Jim
Frank
Craig, Mellie and family
Patrick and Gayle
Lora
Vicky
Kim and family
Paul
Kerstin
Jayme & Jacob
Vitoria
Elizabeth & her dad
Lindsey

Bob
Lynn
Jack
Daniel
Art
Wyatt & family
Heather, Jerry, Nicholas, and Rhys
John
Gloria
Ruth

For our service men and women and all first responders

(Allow time for others to pray)

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.

Parish Cycle of Prayer

Greg and Kathy Hayes
Gia and Melville Hayes-Martin
Bob and Helen Hays

We Give Thanks

For the people of St. John's and for their ministries

The Departed

Arthur Scott

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.