



To Grow, Heal, and Serve

Week of December 21, 2025

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Christmas at St. John's

December 24, Christmas Eve

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

Festive Service, 7:00 p.m.

Festive Service with choir prelude, 9:00 p.m. (**Online**)

December 25, Christmas Day

Service with carols, 10:00 a.m.

December 28, First Sunday after Christmas Day

Service, 9:00 a.m.

Service, 11:15 a.m.

Ways to Grow

Children's Church at Both Services in December

St. John's has the happy problem of an overflowing Children's Church! To give each child more personal attention and ease the load on adult volunteers, we will experiment with offering Children's Church at both the 9:00 and 11:15 services on December 21. We'll see how this goes, then make a decision about continuing (or not) in January.

Baptism on January 11

The next date for Baptism at St. John's is Sunday, January 11, the feast of the Baptism of our Lord. If you are interested in Baptism for yourself or your child, at either the 9:00 or 11:15 service, please speak with Gia or David. Preparation involves meeting with a priest for about an hour.

Ways to Serve

December 28 ITG Dinner at Trinity

Thank you to all who contributed food and served at the ITG Thanksgiving dinner. It was an overflowing feast and we had wonderful volunteers including four boys ranging from high-school to kindergarten who did a fantastic job! St. John's will be serving dinner next on the Sunday after Christmas. A sign-up sheet is on the atrium table this Sunday and next Sunday. You can bring food and/or join the St. John's team at Trinity to serve this meal. Your support for this ministry is so very much appreciated by hungry folks in Columbus!

Blessing Bags Follow-up

"Inasmuch as ye have done it unto the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

Reflecting on Our Blessing Bag Project

The conclusion of Shoemaker Martin serves as a powerful reminder of the importance of our Blessing Bag initiative. This project symbolizes the compassion and care we extend to our homeless neighbors, and we want to offer heartfelt thanks to everyone who contributed to filling 100 Blessing Bags on December 7th. It was truly an intergenerational event, allowing people of all ages to come together and demonstrate love for those who are less fortunate.

Looking to the Future

We sincerely hope that this project will continue and flourish with the support of the community. To ensure its ongoing success, we invite everyone to participate in future efforts—whether through hands-on assistance in assembling the bags or by offering financial support. Each Blessing Bag costs approximately \$4.50 to fill, and your monetary contributions are vital. Checks can be made out to St. John's Episcopal Church, with "Blessing Bags" indicated in the memo line.

Upcoming Event and Continued Support

As winter brings additional hardship for our homeless neighbors, we aim to organize another Blessing Bag event before the season ends. Your continued support can help make this possible and bring much-needed relief during a challenging time of year.

With Gratitude

Once again, we extend our deepest thanks for your generosity and involvement.

Karlah & Wendell Gibbs and Melissa Stanton

Food Pantries

In Advent, we prepare our hearts and minds to receive God's perfect gift to us, His Son Jesus. As our hearts overflow with thanks and joy and love, may we open our hearts to God's children who need a helping hand at Christmas, giving gifts and serving as Christ's heart and hands and feet in the world. In sharing our gifts, we share the love of Immanuel, God with us.

- Have fun creating a Food Pantry Advent Calendar – pick up a guide on the atrium table for a great way to observe Advent and help a family. Bring completed boxes to the atrium any time from Christmas Eve through January 4.
- If you host a party during the holidays, invite your guests to bring a Food Pantry donation. Bring the donations to church or deliver them to a Food Pantry of your

choice.

- Help our pantries prepare hundreds of Christmas dinner baskets by adding a “Christmas Dinner” donation to your regular food donations each week. Possible items include canned corn, green beans, sweet potatoes, stuffing mix, spices, flour, sugar, gravy, chicken broth, cornbread or hot roll mix, cranberry sauce, canned pumpkin, evaporated milk, pie shells, nuts, mashed potato mix, gingerbread mix, Christmas cookies or candy, turkey cooking bags, and aluminum foil.
- A turkey or ham and some perishable items will need to be purchased for each of the Christmas baskets, and the food pantries can amplify the impact of every dollar donated. You can donate financially to the Worthington Resource Pantry at www.worthingtonresourcepantry.org/donate and to the Gladden Pantry in Franklinton at www.gladdenhouse.org/food-pantry.

Your own Christmas celebration will be more meaningful when you know you have helped others enjoy a festive holiday dinner and healthy meals in December as well.

December 21 – canned fruit, toilet paper & a Christmas dinner item

December 28 – oatmeal, cereal, pet food

Mary Bailey

A Giving Tree Thank You!

Once again, this year, St. John's parishioners bestowed overwhelming, generous support and commitment to our Giving Tree ministry. Your dedication and sharing of God's love provided Christmas joy to Kilbourne Middle School children and their siblings. Aged 9 months to 17 years old, seventeen children will feel the joy and magic of Christmas morning!

With your support, St. John's was able to provide gifts of clothing, winter coats, sneakers, socks/underwear, and toys! In addition, we were able to give each of the 9 families we supported a \$200 Kroger gift card. Adding to the warmth of the season, our Sacred Stitches ministry knitted hats and scarves for all the kids.

We would like to share with you this wonderful thank you note we received from Amanda Cooksey, Mental Health Specialist, and Emma Fry, Guidance Counselor, at Kilbourne Middle School:

Every year, I am amazed by the generosity that St. John's shows to KMS and our families—and this year was no exception. The thoughtful time, care, and effort you put into supporting us is truly overwhelming, not only for our team but for our families as well.

Each year, when our families arrive and we bring out the gifts, the look of amazement and relief on their faces says it all. Your generosity helps ensure that parents can create joyful holiday memories with their children, and that is something we can never thank you enough for.

As we prepare for the birth of Jesus, the Outreach and Social Justice Committee members wish you a very Merry Christmas and blessing of the season!



Around St. John's

Oh Christmas Tree, Oh Christmas Tree!

Our Parish Family Christmas Tree will be decorated on December 21st!

As we continue a tradition that started last year, everyone is invited to adorn our tree with a special ornament. The ornament can be handmade, store bought, old, or new. Choose or make one that represents you, your family, or has a special sentiment that you wish to share.

The ornaments can be placed on the tree when the Nave is decorated for Christmas services on December 21st. Feel free to retrieve your ornament before the tree is taken down on January 6th. If your ornament is left on the tree, it will be carefully stored for use again next year. These ornaments will remind us of special times with family and friends for years to come. The new ornaments that we add each year will warmly illustrate our growth with God's love.



Christmas Flowers

The Altar Guild is asking the congregation for donations for Christmas Flowers. These donations can be in Thanksgiving for someone, in Memory of someone, or in Honor of someone. There are envelopes in pews marked "Christmas Flowers" where donations may be placed and put in the offertory plate. There will be a sheet in the Atrium for you to sign and include with your donation if you have a specific request. These requests will be included in a bulletin after Christmas. We ask all donations be made by December 21, 2025. Any Questions may be directed to Donna Somerville (614)208-8573

SJEEC News and Updates

Last month, we spent so much time celebrating what we are thankful for and I am definitely thankful for each of you. This month, we will be inviting families to join us in a journey around the world to see how the holidays are celebrated by people near and far. Each class will be traveling to Mexico, France and the North Pole. Each class will also be learning about the traditions of a country in each of their classrooms. We have one class going to Germany, one going to England, one going to Israel and one going to Polynesia!

Enrollment will open up for the 2026-2027 school year in January. If you know families considering which preschool might be best for their child, please share a little bit about what makes St. John's so unique. Established in 1964, we are the oldest preschool in Worthington. We are also the only preschool in Old Worthington offering weekly Spanish classes to our three, four and five year olds. We believe in nurturing the whole child and incorporating the arts is an essential part of doing this. For this reason, we have art classes weekly and yoga and music classes bi-weekly for all age groups. And of course, please share your personal experiences. Your personal stories say the most about the high quality programs we provide. Thank you!

Important dates to remember:

January 14th: Enrollment Opens at 7:00 a.m. to the Public

January 19th: No School

Thank you for being a part of our St. John's family, Carrie

Newsletter Submission

Are you looking to submit an article for the newsletter? Click the link below! Deadlines for the articles are due by Tuesdays at 12 noon and can be sent in no earlier than Monday of the same week.

[Submit Here](#)

Flowers

Helen Macdonald is giving the flowers in Thanksgiving for her children Cole, Jonathan, and Spencer Harrington.

Readings for this Sunday

Isaiah 7:10-16

Readings for Next Sunday

Isaiah 61:10-62:3

Romans 1:1-7
Matthew 1:18-25
Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18

Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7
John 1:1-18
Psalm 147 or 147:13-21

[Click here for the Lectionary page](#)

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.

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.

People for whom prayers have been asked

And we pray for:

Frank
Keith
Paul
Michelle
Manny
Bonnie
Daniel
Annette
Jean
Marilyn
Nina
Jeanne
David
Mary
Melissa
Brenda
Jerry
Carol
Tonya
Timothy
Jeff
Kristin
Barbara

The students & teachers of
Brown University
Mark
Shari

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,

Parish Cycle of Prayer

Gene Burch
David Burman
Kala Sue Bush

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer

St. Philip's, Circleville
Our deacons

We Give Thanks

For the people of St. John's and for their ministries
For Cole, Jonathan, and Spencer Harrington

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**.

St. John's Episcopal Church | 700 High Street | Worthington, OH 43085 US

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