



To Grow, Heal, and Serve

Week of May 31, 2026

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Ways to Grow

Sign up for VBS at St. John's!

Vacation Bible School will begin on June 1 and will be offered 6:00-7:30 pm on all five Mondays in June for kids ages 3 to 11. Our VBS theme is Animals in the Bible, and we'll talk about what animals are in the Bible, how God used animals to get someone's attention or to help someone else, how we love and care for animals as part of God's creation, and how some animals are used as a symbol - like us being 'the sheep of God's pasture.' We'll meet Balaam's donkey, Jonah and the whale, St. Francis, and others. We hope your kids or grandkids and their friends will join us for stories, crafts, music, and science at Vacation Bible School, whether they can come for one night, 2 nights, or all 5 Monday nights in June. Sign-up [here!](#)



Adult Formation: Ignatian Spirituality

This summer, we'll continue our exploration of Ignatius of Loyola's approach to Christian spirituality. After refreshing our memories about Ignatius and his principles,

we'll reflect on temptation, discernment, and the practical and spiritual dimensions of simple living. Ignatius always insisted that his spirituality is for everyone, Catholic and Protestant, men and women, ordained and lay, so all are welcome, whether you attended last fall's series or not.

Gia will lead this series, which meets on Sundays June 7, 14, and 28, at 10:15am in Kilbourne Hall. Childcare is available.

Anchored in Mary: Birthing Holy Hope

This year's fall Women's Retreat will be October 9-10th at the Transfiguration Spirituality Center in Cincinnati, OH. We begin at 3 pm on Friday afternoon and end around 4 pm on Saturday afternoon. The retreat house provides private rooms w/shower, fresh linens, bed/blankets/pillows, desk, etc.

In this fractured world we are living in, we often times find ourselves searching for ways to cope and beyond that, to find ways to avoid cynicism and to hold on to being faithful, joyful, hopeful. How do we hold on to hope?

Won't you join us for this women's retreat, which offers a brief respite from the noise of the world and a chance to re-center and re-ground ourselves. Our Blessed Mother Mary serves as a role model and mentor, providing us with a gift - the Way to hope - holy hope that goes beyond wishful thinking to something far deeper and much more sustaining and sustainable.

During our time together, we will look at the example of Mary's life and the gifts of the sacred feminine to discover insights and inspiration. The content and flow of the retreat will include presentations, conversations, contemplation, creativity, and relaxation. Come join us!

For more information regarding this retreat, continue to watch the announcements for updates. If you have questions regarding the retreat, please feel free to contact me at 614-203-3562 Call/Text or email me at donna.hissrich@gmail.com.

Donna DeRemer-Hissrich
Women's Retreat Coordination

Women's Retreat Facilitator, Katherine Murphy Mertzloff Bio

My name is Katherine Murphy Mertzloff. After retiring from a nursing career in health and wellness, I became a Certified Life Coach and, following that, a Spiritual Director. I have had the blessing of being a Spiritual Director for nearly 20 years. It is a humbling, rewarding, and life-giving privilege to accompany fellow travelers on the spiritual journey and the ongoing discovery of God, present in our ordinary everyday lives! I am an active member of St Josephine Bakhita Global Catholic Church, and I am a Paulist Associate.

I am married to Thomas Mertzloff. Together, we have 5 grown children and 6 grandchildren, ranging in ages from 17 to 29. We are blessed to have a wonderful blended family.

We enjoy traveling and love exploring all the wonders of nature. Creative endeavors, including art, writing, and outdoor activities, especially nature walking and gardening, are my pastimes.

My personal conviction is, "Life is a journey of endless possibilities if we open ourselves to the Spirit within, outstretch our arms and say yes to the gift of life." I believe we are all called, broken and gifted as we are, into wholeness.



Ways to Heal

Give Blood, Save Lives, Celebrate Sunday Funday!

St. John's will host a community blood drive on Sunday, June 7, from 12:30 to 5:30 pm, in Kilbourne Hall, with Versiti Blood Center, the main blood supplier for the Ohio State University Wexner Centers and The James Cancer Center. This event coincides with Worthington's Pride Sunday Funday, making it a perfect day to worship, give back, and celebrate! After church, stop by to donate blood, then enjoy the vibrant activities, food, music, and booths celebrating our local LGBTQIA+ community. People need people! When we give blood, we give hope and we save lives! Blood donation promotes the values of solidarity, compassion, and community. Our goal is 20 donors, including both parishioners and Sunday Funday visitors. Together, we could save up to 60 lives! Want to help greet donors? Contact Mary Bailey at 614-619-1803 or mphbailey.3@gmail.com. You can sign up for a time to donate at

donateblood.versiti.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/11637241. Let's show the power of faith and compassion in action!

GIVE HOPE

ST JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Sunday, June 7th, 2025
12:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

30 Blood Donors needed at this event to supply patient need!

versiti[™]
Blood Center of Ohio

Ways to Serve

June 11th Friendship Dinner and Volunteer Opportunity

Thursday, June 11th | 6:00 PM

Join your Worthington neighbors for an evening of good food and fellowship.

Dinner Menu

- Tossed Salad
- Corn Bread
- BBQ Chicken
- Vegetable
- Potato Salad
- Ice Cream

Vegan, vegetarian, and allergen friendly options available

No children's menu this month

Volunteers Needed


We are seeking 9 volunteers:

- 3 for food preparation
- 3 for setup
- 3 for cleanup

Sign up sheet available in the atrium

Questions? Email or text:

 jbross53@gmail.com

 (847) 254 1821

Around St. John's

Adult Formation, May 31—Report on Vestry Retreat

Interested in hearing about what the vestry is up to and what it talked about at its retreat on Saturday, May 16? Then please join us for adult formation this Sunday, May 31, between services. The vestry holds a retreat every year, usually on a Saturday in April or May, at which it spends the better part of the day learning more about what it means to be on vestry and discussing some of the broader issues facing the parish. Come hear about some of the things that were on the agenda this year! As usual, childcare will be available during formation time.

Inniswood Gardens Walk

Relax and connect with nature for an hour! Millennial and X-er women are invited to join us on Sunday, May 31; 2:30-3:30 p.m., for a walk through Inniswood Metro Gardens in Westerville. Poetry selections will be available for meditative reflection, and bring a journal if you like. RSVP to Dana Whitley at danalw3@gmail.com.

Celtic Service Sunday, June 7th at 4:00 p.m.

Weather permitting, this service will be in St. John's Churchyard; otherwise, in St. John's Atrium. Please join us as we participate in a reflection on "Wisdom from the Earth." This service is based on the liturgy of the Iona Abbey Worship Book and a reflection from the Sonoran Desert. There will be music, prayers of concern, a time of silence, and affirmations of faith. It will be helpful if you can bring a chair. We hope you will join our circle for an hour on the first Sunday of June. *The Celtic Fellowship*

Appreciation for Stephen Sollars

Stephen Sollars, who has served as St. John's organist for the past five years, will step down from his staff position this summer as he prepares to begin seminary studies. Stephen's last Sunday on the organ bench will be Sunday, May 31, though we will continue to see him in the pews for a couple more months. We will save the farewell celebration for July 26, right before Stephen's departure for Virginia Theological Seminary in Alexandria, VA.

St. John's will send Stephen off to seminary with some of the books he will need for his degree. To make a contribution, write a check or make an online donation to St. John's by June 30 with the note that it is for the Sollars gift. (And if you'd like to purchase a book for Stephen on your own, that's perfectly fine--just please tell Gia the title so she can avoid duplicate gifts.)

Sacred Stitches

Sacred Stitches will not be meeting on Thursday, June 4, 2026. We will be on summer hiatus from June till September. Our next meeting will be Thursday, September 3, 2026. Please keep on crafting Prayer shawls, Prayer Squares and scarves and hats for the Giving Tree children. See you all in September!

Sunday Funday: Worthington PRIDE Is Just Around the Corner! Sign-up Now!

Sunday Funday: Worthington Pride welcomes all to celebrate diversity and love in all forms. The Outreach and Social Justice Committee hope YOU will join us in the fun by representing St. John's at our table in front of the church on Sunday, June 7th! We will greet visitors and have fun giveaways to hand out.

If you are interested in volunteering, please sign up on the sheet located on the table in the Atrium. List your Name, E-mail contact, and the Timeframe that you wish to volunteer between 1:00 and 4:00. Chairs and bottled water will be available for volunteers, and you will be contacted prior to the event with more details. Please reach out to Jean Duncan at jeanduncan59@msn.com or 215-534-7290 with questions.

The 5th Annual Worthington Pride event is kid friendly and will have lots of great booths highlighting LGBTQIA+ organizations, hands-on activities and crafts, food and local shopping specials, and live music and entertainment!

Consider helping with this outreach ministry or attending this community event. Hope to see you there!



Columbus Pride 2026

VOLUNTEER AT COLUMBUS PRIDE 2026

This summer, the Diocese of Southern Ohio will be back at Stonewall Columbus Pride, showing up the way we try to each year, with openness, care, and a real welcome for whoever comes our way. This year's theme, "Until We're All Free," connects with our call to Becoming Beloved Community and the promises we make to seek justice and respect the dignity of every person. And with Pride weekend beginning on Juneteenth, it feels like an important moment to remember the work of liberation that's still unfolding. If you're able, come be part of it, whether that's marching, volunteering, or just showing up and being there.

**REGISTER BY FRIDAY, JUNE 5, USING THE QR CODE
OR VISIT [TINYURL.COM/DSOPRIDE](https://tinyurl.com/dsopride)**



- **Festival: Friday, June 19, 4:00 - 10:00 PM**
- **Pride March: Saturday, June 20, 10:30 AM**
- **Festival continues: Saturday, 11:00 AM - 8:00 PM**

Questions? Reach out to Darien McCoy (*he/him*) at lgbtq-columbus@diosohio.org



PRIDE Mass 2026



The Episcopal Churches of Central Ohio invite you:

June 11, 6:30 PM

Trinity Episcopal Church on Capitol Square

125 E. Broad St. Columbus, OH 43215

Katie Forsyth, Canon for Communications and Governance,
Diocese of Southern Ohio:

Preacher

The Rev. Olivia Hamilton, Vicar, Grace Episcopal Church,
Cincinnati:

Celebrant



**Diocese of
Southern Ohio**

Reception to Follow
ALL are welcome!

Flowers

Flowers this week are given by Susie Bonnell in thanksgiving for the life of her brother George H. Bonnell III.

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

Readings for This Sunday

Genesis 1:1-2:4a
2 Corinthians 13:11-13
Matthew 28:16-20
Psalm 8

Readings for Next Sunday

Hosea 5:15-6:6
Psalm 50:7-15
Romans 4:13-25
Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26

**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 Mary Bailey (614-619-1803 or **mphbailey.3@gmail.com**) or Jo Pascoe (614-306-7983 or **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, **DavidB@stjohnsworthington.org**. 220 area code is a local number.

People for whom prayers have been asked

And we pray for:

Jeanne
David
Kathy
Jo Anne
Aby
Curt and the family of
Georgia
Michelle
Brian
Sally
Beverley
Louis
Kim
Melissa
Pat
Alan
Ruth
Amya
the Breidenthal family
Vivian
Kyme
Nancy
Jerry and Heather
Eileen
Susan
the Wrigley family
Margaret
Elizabeth

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, Iran, Venezuela and all places of conflict in the world.

Parish Cycle of Prayer

Joe and Karrie Kunkel and family
Alex and Jane Lagusch
James Lee

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer

Ascension, Middletown
Diocesan Council

We Give Thanks

For the people of St. John's and for their ministries
For the life of George H. Bonnell III

The Departed

Nancy Wrigley

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

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