



ST. JOHN'S

E P I S C O P A L C H U R C H

THE GOOD NEWS

January - February 2025

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

SUNDAY

9:00 a.m. - Christian Formation

10:00 a.m. - Holy Eucharist, Rite II
(In-person and Livestream)

MONDAY

5:30 p.m. - AA. Parish Hall

TUESDAY

5:30 p.m. - Scouts in the Parish Hall

WEDNESDAY

7:00 p.m. - Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY

9:00 a.m. - Staff meeting
6:00 p.m. - Evening Prayer
6:30 p.m. - AA Ladies

FRIDAY

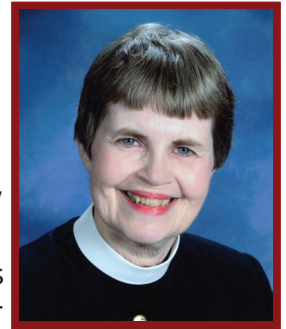
8:00 a.m. - TGIF (Men's Breakfast and Bible study), La Loma Coney Island, 1180 Aurora Road, Melbourne

Visit Stjohnsmlb.org for links and more info.

A WORD FROM THE INTERIM RECTOR:

Dear Friends,

“Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has dawned upon you.” These words begin the Third Song of Isaiah (BCP, p. 87), which is recommended to be recited during Morning Prayer on Wednesdays. They are also a great way to describe our celebration of the season of Epiphanytide – those weeks after the Feast of the Epiphany (Jan. 6). The season of Epiphany is a season of light, reminding us of the light and life of God, which came among us at the birth of Jesus Christ our Lord, and is made manifest to the world in all of his words and actions, throughout his life, death, and resurrection. In 2025, there will be eight Sundays after the Epiphany – it is possible to have nine, but the Church calendar is driven by the date of Easter, which this year will be April 20, almost as late as it can be. There are a couple of major feasts in this season: the Feast of the Baptism of Our Lord, on January 12 begins the account of his ministry with the voice of God, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased,” and concludes on March 2, with a celebration of the Transfiguration and almost the same words: “You are my Son, the Chosen; listen to him!” We also get to celebrate one of the great feasts of the Church which happens this year on February 2: the Feast of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple, sometimes known as Candlemas, a day for the blessing of candles to brighten our homes and lives. Let this time of transition be for us a time to explore the many ways in which our own lives in Christ as members of St. John's may make manifest the light and life of Christ by what we do and say as members of his risen and living Body in this world.



Continued on Page 2...

We pray that God will be pleased with us, also, and that our words and works done in the name of Christ will bring light and new life into the darkness and divisions of this world. "Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has dawned upon you." May it be seen in us this year!

In Christ,

Mother Susan Davidson
Interim Rector



"Good News" March - April 2025 Schedule & Deadline

The deadline for the next issue of "The Good News" will be **Tuesday, February 11**. Please email or deliver your submissions to office@stjohnsmlb.org by **February 11, 2025**.



THE 56TH ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE DIOCESE OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

will take place on January 24-25 at Trinity Church, Vero Beach. St. John's sends three Delegates to Convention. Delegates must be over 18 years of age and confirmed communicants in good standing.

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF ST. JOHN'S PARISH

will take place on Sunday, January 26, following the 10:00 AM Eucharist.

Everyone is encouraged to attend. This year, because the Vestry is "frozen," during the Search for a new Rector, there will be no elections. This is a time to hear reports from various organizations, including the Search Committee, and the 2025 Budget, which by then will have been approved by the Vestry.



THE NEXT OPPORTUNITY FOR HOLY BAPTISM

is Sunday, January 12, the Feast of the Baptism of Our Lord. If you or yours is interested in receiving the Sacrament of Holy Baptism, please contact Mother Susan. The only time of year when Baptism is not administered is during Lent.



From the Senior Warden's Desk

Fellowship Coffee Hour: effective January 1, 2025 Laure Bennett and Peg McRee will be retiring from Fellowship after many years of devoted service to the kitchen and coffee hour.

Starting January 5 I would like folks to bring cookies on a paper plate and place them directly on the serving table (not in the kitchen) this will eliminate all the clean up!

A Worshiping Community



Evening Prayer at St. John's

We look forward to seeing you at our weekly Evening Prayer (Vespers) service on Thursdays, 6 p.m. This brief gathering (about 15 – 20 minutes) will be an opportunity for renewal of focus, in the course of our busy lives.

If you would care to assist as a reader for these services, please email me at mailjbh@gmail.com or speak with Mother Susan. - Jamie Hamilton

Prayer at the Altar

Prayer is available at the altar after Sunday service. If you need prayer, we encourage you to come to the altar. If anyone in the congregation would like to be an intercessor in prayer at the altar after the service, please see Mother Susan.



Guided by Scripture

Daughters of the King

The St. John's Chapter of Daughters of the King welcomed Ellen Huffman as a new member in December. If you are interested in joining the chapter please contact Sarah Kendall at 702-203-6093, 537sarah@gmail.com, or Sallie Razor, 859-585-5836, srazor@bellsouth.net. The Daughters meet the first Sunday of the month after the Worship service.



Prayer Request Box in the Sanctuary

A prayer request box is available in the Sanctuary beside the Daughters of the King banner. The Daughters have taken a vow to pray for others and we take this vow seriously. All prayer requests are strictly confidential, and we, as Daughters, honor that confidentiality.

A NEW KIND OF BIBLE STUDY

will be offered by the Interim Rector during the season of Epiphany. I like to call this "Book and Bible Study," because we will be reading and discussing a work of fiction which is based on the Bible. The book is Christ the Lord: Out of Egypt, by Anne Rice. The story centers around the young Jesus of Nazareth and the return of him and his family to their home after years of exile in Egypt, where they were sent after his birth, to escape the wrath of King Herod. Throughout, Jesus keeps asking "What happened in Bethlehem?" To understand the story, we will read from the Biblical Gospels and from the Gospel of James and other non-biblical sources. A sign-up sheet will be available in the parish hall, and the time will be determined by those who wish to participate.

- SLD+

Tending to your Spiritual Life

Let us resist the temptation to believe that we are all too busy to make time for prayer and devotion in our lives. I encourage you – even urge you – to set aside just a few minutes each day to sit (or walk) in quiet contemplation of

Guided by Scripture

Tending to your Spiritual Life (cont.)

the beauty and wonder of this world which God has created for us and given to us to enjoy and maintain. I encourage you to use the Daily Office as it is given us in the Book of Common Prayer in both the language of Rite I and Rite II: Morning Prayer, Noonday Prayer; Evening Prayer, and Compline (bedtime prayer) are all published in the BCP, both in their formal version and in a shorter version for Individuals and Families (beginning on p. 136). If you wish to join others around the world in the Daily Office, try going to missionstclare.com and you will find the services complete with hymns. It's a delightful way to begin or end the day! The devotional booklet "Forward Day by Day," published by the Episcopal Church is available for daily reading online. I hope you will find them helpful in strengthening your prayer life!

-SLD+

TGIF Men's Breakfast and Bible Study

A Gathering of Faith and Fellowship every Friday morning. The men of our community gather at La Loma Restaurant, 1180 Aurora Road, for the TGIF Bible Study, a time of spiritual growth, fellowship, and delicious breakfast. This weekly meeting is more than just a study group; it's a chance to connect with one another, share our faith journeys, and support each other in our walk with Christ. Attending the TGIF Bible Study offers numerous benefits:



Spiritual Growth: Delve deeper into the Word of God and gain new insights that strengthen your faith.

Fellowship: Build meaningful relationships with other men who share your values and beliefs.

Support: Find encouragement and support in a community that cares for one another.

Inspiration: Be inspired by the testimonies and experiences of others and share your own journey to uplift those around you.

One of the most cherished aspects of our TGIF Bible Study is the sense of camaraderie and brotherhood that develops over time. It's a place where we can be ourselves, share our struggles and triumphs, and grow together in faith.

Join us every Friday for a morning of faith, fellowship, and fantastic food. Let's strengthen our bonds and deepen our understanding of God's Word - one breakfast at a time. For the next few months, we are doing an in-depth study of the Book of Acts.

We start to gather by 7:30 a.m. to solve the world's problems, trying our best to wrap up with final prayer shortly after 9:00. For more information you may contact Paul Burleson (321) 271-1636.

Outreach Focus – Sharing His Love

January

Our Focus this month is the Clergy Discretionary Fund. This Outreach fund provides bus passes and gift cards throughout the year to people in need, making their lives a little easier. Please be generous in your support for this worthy cause. Contributions marked for Outreach in January will go directly to the Clergy Discretionary Fund..

February

Vietnam and All Veterans of Brevard County is the Outreach focus for February. They are located on Fee Avenue, Melbourne, and provide assistance to veterans in their readjustment to life in the civilian community. VAVB has taken specific action to assist in helping homeless vets with The Veterans Transitional Facility, a temporary shelter for homeless veterans, and provide for their immediate needs permitting them to search for work, and once employed, to save enough money to acquire living quarters and transportation. The facility consists of ten apartments housed in two buildings which can accommodate up to nineteen residents. The current cost for maintaining the facility is approximately \$90,000.00 per year. VAVB is a not-for-profit organization incorporated under the laws of the state of Florida. In partnership with the state, county, city government, and Veterans organizations and other supporters they continue to operate this worthwhile program to assist veterans and their family members. More information on the organization may be found at their website, vietnamandallveteransofbrevard.com.



Family Promise



If you would like to help contact:

Contact: Ben Kendall 832-229-0142 (cell),
ben.kendall@gmail.com (email)

Contact: Linda Fletcher 321-704-7100 (cell),
lcalvert1956@yahoo.com (email)

Daily Bread



The upcoming duty days are January 2, and February 6, 10:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. If you would like to volunteer, please email the office.

Solar Light for Africa Summer Mission to Uganda



For the 26th summer SLA will be traveling to Uganda to install solar power and light in rural schools. This year the team will depart Orlando on July 9th, arriving in Uganda on July 12th. We will return to Orlando on July 24th. In addition to enjoying the work and relationships formed, we will take in some of the natural beauty of Uganda. We will travel south across the Equator, visit two National Parks, and float

down the Nile River. We will spend time in rural villages, take a safari and stay overnight in a beautiful resort, and spend a couple nights in a banda overlooking the River Nile. While experiencing all the beauty this country has to offer, we will also see how this light becomes lifegiving in the communities who receive it.

We will get first-hand experience of how we follow through on our mission to Illuminate - Empower - Transform! For more info, please visit solarlightforafrica.org, contact Charlene Turner at charlene@solarlightforafrica.org or speak with Susan Badgio, badgio99@gmail.com.

Stewardship (cont.)

QUALIFIED CHARITABLE DISTRIBUTION (QCD)

If a person is old enough and possesses an IRA or some other tax-deferred account, he or she should be able to realize some tax-saving benefits by donating to St. John's, utilizing a "qualified charitable distribution" referred to as a RMD.

If you are required to withdraw a percentage of your tax-deferred accounts and pay taxes on that withdrawal avoid paying taxes on that required annual withdrawal by donating to St. John's. Your financial advisor can explain the details.

With our current 2025 stewardship campaign in progress, you are urged to consider this tax-saving strategy.

St. John's Endowment Fund

The fund is intended to be managed in perpetuity, meaning the principal will not be invaded. You may want to consider making a gift to the endowment fund as a direct gift of cash or as a planned gift. Consult your financial manager about gifts to the endowment fund to possibly reduce your taxes. Endowment Fund brochures are available in the parish hall.



Vestry Notes

Vestry approved Minutes are now posted on the bulletin board in the parish hall.

October:

Treasurer's Report in absentia: An earlier question concerning the \$2,990.99 in Staff Appreciation in the Restricted Fund of the September Financial Statement is answered. Belated money for Fr. Eric's farewell appreciation purse. The money was sent to him the end of June.

Church credit cards arrived.

Collections have increased.

Treasurer's Report tabled for approval until next month.

Report from the Stewardship team:

Pledge letters will be given to parishioners on Sunday and the rest will be mailed.

November 10th is Stewardship Sunday.

Paul Mitz will speak on Oct 27th and Jack Kenworthy will speak on Nov 3rd.

Senior Warden Report:

The school has replaced a door and an A/C unit and requests reimbursement.

A donation received to replace the kitchen door.

It has been suggested we raise the rent of the Shady Lane house to \$1,000 per month. A letter will be mailed in December.

Sr. Warden will contact a commercial real estate agent regarding the rent for Wavecrest.

Church files will be reviewed and reorganized in the accounting department.

Vestry Notes (cont.)

Junior Warden Report:

Repaired rusted opening to A/C unit on east side of sanctuary.
Repaired a dead bolt on the Rector's office door.
Blocked off a sprinkler head between hall and yellow house.

Interim Rector's Report:

Diocesan Convention is in January at Trinity Church, Vero Beach. Delegates will be decided in December. Our Annual Meeting is January 26th. The Vestry is frozen so there will be no elections.

Search Committee Update:

Sr. Warden mentioned the disappointing parish meeting conducted by Canon Ellis. Search Committee representative agreed.

Search Committee has come to a pivotal point where members have specific duties to put in answers using the 4 H's in bullet form for each question. Eventually this will go to the Diocese. Plans for another parish meeting underway.

Financial Summary for September, 2024				
	Sept 2024 Budget	Sept 2024 Actual	2024 Annual Budget	2024 Annual Actual
Income	\$ 22,405	\$ 27,861	\$ 194,430	\$ 180,765
Expenses	\$ 22,333	\$ 12,968	\$ 198,234	\$ 173,719
Net	\$ 72	\$ 14,893	\$ - 3,804	\$ 7,046
Outreach		\$1,810 for The Children's Hunger Project		



Musings from Dr. D.

When is the last time you listened to music? All of us hear music much of the time—in the mall, in the elevator, in our cars, and in a host of other places—but most rarely listen. We become so anaesthetized to sound in our lives that it tends to become meaningless.

Studies have suggested that listening to music can lower our blood pressure, induce endorphins which promote our sense of well-being, and even help us learn (the so-called “Mozart Effect”).

You are invited to listen to the music at St. John's. It's not always of concert-hall quality, but what we do is prepared and presented with care, with love, and with what skill we all possess. We try to present a wide variety of music to speak to the wide variety of tastes and preferences that are represented in our congregation. Most Sundays there are a prelude, anthem or motet, and a postlude. When's the last time you listened to a prelude...or even a postlude?

You are invited to participate in the music at St. John's. Every Sunday we sing two (or more) hymns, a psalm, and several musical settings of the Ordinary (the texts that do not change from week to week, i.e., Gloria in excelsis, Sanctus and Benedictus, etc.) and that adds up to a lot of music! Even if you feel you can't sing it's important to participate by reading (or saying!) the text. God sometimes speaks very clearly to us through these texts.

Musing from Dr. D. (con't)

The Episcopal tradition has always valued meditation as a preparation for worship. As you come into the nave on Sunday mornings, listen to the prelude, using it as a sort of “airlock” to separate you from the sounds of daily life and usher you into the presence of God. It takes some work on your part to do this, but the rewards are great. As one parish’s bulletin puts it, “Listen to God before the service; speak to God during the service; speak to your neighbors after the service.” - Jerry Davidson

Lent and Easter



Ash Wednesday	March 5
Palm Sunday	April 13
Maudy Thursday	April 17
Good Friday	April 18
Easter Day	April 20

Seaside Stitchers

The Stitchers would welcome you to visit them in the Parish Hall when they meet on the 1st Monday, and 2nd and 3rd Thursday of the month. If you are interested in joining the sewing group contact Shirley Muzzy 321-254-2206 or shirleymuzzy@aol.com for more information.

St. John’s Pet Cemetery

Our Pet Cemetery is located on the East side of the sanctuary and lovingly maintained by Amy Lacy and Laure Bennett. Please contact the office if you would like to have your pet laid to rest there.

Loaning of Church Items

If you would like to borrow tables, chairs, cribs, linens etc. please speak with Kathy Oas, Sr. Warden or Paul Mitz, Jr. Warden, first as there might be an event on the schedule where these items are needed.

And, of course, we need to keep track of the church’s property. Please contact Kathy at kmoas40@gmail.com; Paul at 321-288-4050, or email the church office.

Exit Doors in an Emergency

In the unlikely event of an emergency exit routes from the parish hall are posted on the bulletin board. If you are new to St. John’s please take the time to review these routes.

Apart from the main door into the Sanctuary there are also exit doors in both the right and left sacristy, either side of the altar.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

BIRTHDAYS

January:

Austin Louks	01/02	Marie Johnson	01/09	Dick Jarvela	01/17
Cade Oas	01/02	Jan Louks	01/11	Kathy Oas	01/24
Lory Bittner	01/03	Hasty Miller	01/15	Nicole Tuten	01/24
Dorinda Campbell	01/04	Kyle Louks	01/16	Jan Archey	01/25
Veronica Mitz	01/04	Sallie Razor	01/16	Ashley Campbell	01/29

February:

Tyler Heusinkveld	02/02	Pam Davis	02/09	Debra Ball	02/17
Bill Chernault	02/08	Randy Evans	02/13	John Campbell	02/19
Pam Jarvel	02/08	Chuck Strissel	02/14	Katie Codlin-Wilson	02/24
Mark Schexnayder	02/08	B. Grant Ball	02/15	Dick Martin	02/26
Shannon Brooks-Hamilton	02/08	Susan Davidson	02/16	Ben Kendall	02/27

ANNIVERSARIES

January:

Keith & Marie Salmon	01/14	Gary & Clarissa Harrell	01/10
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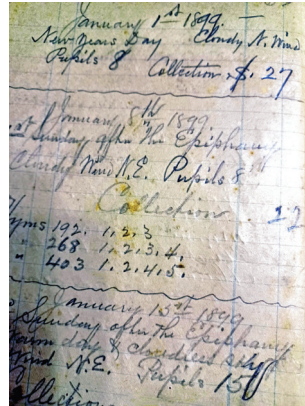
February:

Jim & Amy Lacy	02/03	Carl & Barbara Holliday	02/14
David & Lacey Brotherton	02/12	Joe McLaughlin & Judy Bell-McLaughlin	02/20

History of St. John

The worker bees of St. John's were busy clearing out the back offices and discovered two historical journals.

The first journal was created in 1899 for the Sunday School. On January 1st there were 8 children attending and the collection for that day was \$.27.



They probably didn't use the same Hymn Book as we have today as hymn 192 is for Easter.

Further into the journal Vestry Meetings were added. The last Vestry meeting in the book in 1919 mentioned the church was closed for Sunday services May through October since the Minister and members were either on vacation or absent. It was also pointed out they could not meet for evening prayer since there were no lights.



KEEPING UP WITH ST. JOHN'S ONLINE



St. John's Chat - an email list to receive the latest updates from St. John's. You can also share things with the parish this way.

St. John's Weekly eNews - will be sent periodically to promote events.

St. John's YouTube Channel - you will find worship live streams and sermons, and links to all past and upcoming worship services.

Visit stjohnsmlb.org and click on **Worship Live Stream**.

St. John's Website at stjohnsmlb.org. A variety of information including schedules, the calendar, archives of the "Good News", Sunday Ministry schedules, the latest eNews and much more.

Visit Facebook - search for "St. John's Episcopal Church, Melbourne" and like our page. You will receive updates in your newsfeed, notifications when we are live, and more.

To subscribe or to contact St. John's - email office@stjohnsmlb.org.

Jan 2	.....	Daily Bread, 10:30 a.m.
Jan 5	.....	Daughters of the King, 11:30 a.m., in the Chapel.
Jan 7	.....	Outreach Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Zoom.
Jan 16	.....	Vestry Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Chapel & Zoom.
Jan 24-25	.....	Diocesan Convention, Trinity EC, Vero Beach.
Jan 26	.....	St. John's Annual Meeting, 11:30 a.m.
Feb 2	.....	Daughters of the King, 11:30 a.m., in the Chapel.
Feb 4	.....	Outreach Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Zoom.
Feb 6	.....	Daily Bread, 10:30 a.m.
Feb 20	.....	Vestry Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Chapel & Zoom.

Many meetings include Zoom. Check the web page calendar for details.

ZOOM and Livestream Links: All Zoom meeting and Livestream event links are available by visiting stjohnsmlb.org > Parish Life > Calendar or by sending an email to office@stjohnsmlb.org.



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