

ST. JOHN'S

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

THE GOOD NEWS

March – April, 2026

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

10: a.m. Bible Study
7:00 p.m. – Choir Rehearsal.

THURSDAY

9:00 a.m. Staff Meeting
6:30 p.m. Ladies AA

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 information.

A WORD FROM THE RECTOR

Looking Ahead with Hope

Dear Friends,

We are in the holy season of Lent, you may have noticed something that feels both small and significant: we do not say or sing "Alleluia." This is not an omission by accident, but a discipline by intention. The word itself means "Praise the Lord," and during Lent the tradition of the Church, invites us into a quieter posture. Lent is a season of reflection, self-examination, and repentance. By setting aside the Alleluia for a time, we create space to feel the weight of longing — longing for redemption, for renewal, and for the joy that is to come. The liturgical return of Alleluia is in the Great Vigil of Easter, however we will be celebrating its return first in our Easter Sunrise mass, then again at the 10:00 service. I invite you to look for its return with power and gladness.



This practice teaches us something important about our spiritual lives. Joy is not denied; it is deepened. We do not silence praise because God is less worthy, but because we are taking an opportunity to be formed. Just as farmers know that soil must rest before planting, so our souls benefit from seasons of quiet discipline. The absence of the Alleluia makes its return so much more significant. In that first triumphant proclamation of Easter, we are reminded that resurrection joy is never casual — it is hard-won and holy.

It is important even in Lent, that we remember we are a Resurrection people. Easter is not merely a single Sunday in the spring; it is the central reality of our faith. When Easter Day

arrives, it is to be celebrated fully with flowers, music, festivity, and praise. The tomb is empty. Christ is risen. That truth reshapes everything.

Every Sunday of the year is a “little Easter.” Each Sunday is a weekly reminder of the Resurrection. Even in Lent, though we are observing a penitent season, Sunday worship always carries the undercurrent of Easter hope. The rhythm of the Church calendar teaches us that sorrow and joy, repentance, and praise all belong in the life of faith, but resurrection has the final word!

As we continue this season together, we are also looking ahead with anticipation. We are planning a church-wide gathering for the month of May, though the details are not yet finalized. It will be an opportunity for fellowship, laughter, and inviting others to see what makes St. John’s such a gift. I hope you will watch for more information in the coming weeks and plan to be part of it. In all seasons — quiet or celebratory — we are on this journey together.

Grace and peace,

Fr. Timothy Rutherford
Rector

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Good News May. – June, 2026 Deadline

The deadline for the next issue of “The Good News” is Tuesday, **May 21**. Drop your additions or changes into the office or email them to office@stjohnsmlb.org by that date.

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Daughters of the King

Saturday, March 7, 11 a.m.

Anglican Rosary Necklace Class

Bring a friend!

Refreshments and supplies are provided.

Lenten Lunch Series

March 4, 11, 18, 25.
at 12 noon

“Dying Well.”

Soup and sandwich lunch provided.

Fellowship Coffee Hour

To continue this much enjoyed ministry a sign-up sheet is in the Parish Hall for volunteers, needed every week to set-up, serve, and clean-up

If you would be a willing volunteer to take the responsibility to organize the Sunday, get - together please speak to Kathy Oas.

Looking Ahead to Holy Week and Easter



Passion/Palm Sunday, March 29

We will begin our 10 a.m. worship in the park, weather permitting, with the Liturgy of the Palms, then into the Sanctuary for the continuation of the service.



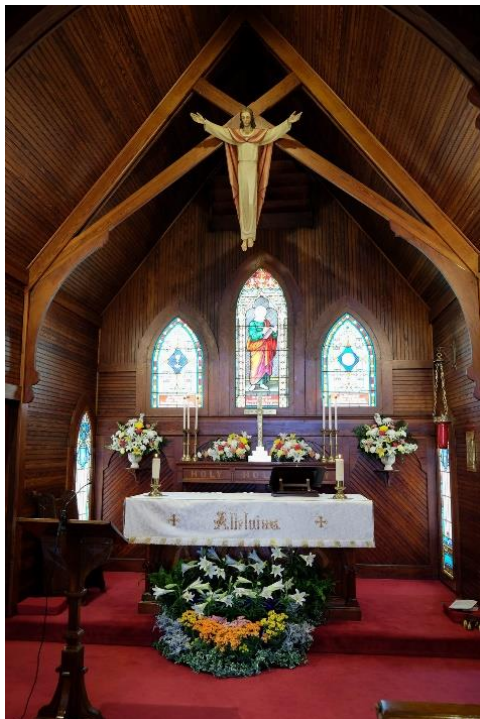
Maundy Thursday, April 2

Worship Service at 7 p.m.
With foot washing and stripping of the altar.



Good Friday, April 3

Liturgy will be held at 7 p.m.



Easter, April 5

Sunrise Service in the park, 7 a.m.
Festival Worship, 10 a.m.



Annual Parish Meeting

The meeting was called to order Sunday, January 25, 2026, by Father Timothy, who gave a brief report on the progress of St. John's. The attendance has grown by 13%, and we have a balanced budget. Two events to attract the community took place in the Fall. Blessing of the Animals, and the Pig Roast, both events well received. Wednesday morning Bible Study started in November, and the Friday men's Bible Study continues.

Outgoing vestry members and the search committee were thanked for their service. At the suggestion of Canon Dan Ellis, canon for the clergy, St. John's has reduced their vestry members from 9 to 6. The newly elected Vestry members are Gary Harrell, Jason Grace, Paul Mitz, and Keith Salmon. They join Peter Fischel, and Ben Kendall. Ben was appointed Sr. Warden.

Kathy Oas, outgoing Sr. Warden, gave a report on the search for a new rector, leading up to Fr. Timothy's first service on May 11, 2025.

Keith Salmon, the treasurer, reported an increase in pledges as the best in six years. The average pledge being \$4,515 compared to \$3,820 in 2022. Revenue for 2025 was \$272,949, with expenditures at \$200,349. The 2025 surplus is \$72,600.

The endowment fund has grown to \$26,008. The Vestry will now monitor the fund rather than by committee.

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A Worshiping Community

Worship Volunteers are needed for a variety of roles. **We will train you!** All that is needed is a willing heart.

- **Greeters:** to welcome the Sunday worshippers.
- **Ushers:** distribute bulletins, gather the offertory, guide the congregation during Communion.
- **Chalice Bearers:** read the lessons, assist with Communion.
- **A/V & Livestream:** to run our sound and livestream systems. Only moderate comfort with a computer is required.

Contact Fr. Timothy, or the church office at office@stjohnsmlb.org for more information.

Music Ministry



Choir Rehearsal

every Wednesday, at 7:00 p.m.
in the church loft.

Contact Sylvia If you are interested
in joining the choir.

Sylvia.Tammen1@gmail.com.

The Children's Nursery at St. John's

The nursery is available
during the Sunday service.

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Stewardship

THANKS TO ALL WHO HAVE PARTICIPATED IN OUR 2026 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN. Pledge cards are available in the church or by contacting the church office. You can also pledge online by going to "stjohnsmlb.org" and clicking on "stewardship."

Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD)

Getting close to April 15, Tax Time. A perfect time to consider using your IRA to pledge to St. John's. 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, using a "qualified charitable distribution" referred to as an 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.

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.

Guided by Scripture

Daughters of the King



The St. John's Chapter meetings are the first Sunday of every month, and we always welcome new members. Training

for four candidates is progressing. If you are interested in joining the Daughters of the King please contact Sallie Razor, Co-President srazor@bellsouth.net; or Pam Davis, sunhatpam@hotmail.com.

New Life Mission has requested paper products and hygiene items for

the mothers and their children. The list is on the Daughters' table in the Parish Hall.

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 they take this vow seriously. All prayer requests are strictly confidential, and they, as Daughters, honor that confidentiality.



Sunday Christian Formation

Adults meet each Sunday at 9:00 a.m. in the Parish Hall. The class is led by Amie Rutherford.

The Youth meet in the Chapel.

Bible Study – Bible-in-a-Year

Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. in the Rector's office.

TGIF Men's Breakfast and Bible Study

Dear Brothers in Christ, we warmly invite you to join us for our Men's Bible Study at LaLoma Restaurant on Friday mornings. Our gathering takes place from 7:30 AM to 9:00 AM, with breakfast served at 8:00 AM.

This is a wonderful opportunity to deepen our faith, share fellowship, and support one another in our spiritual

journeys. As we break bread together and delve into God's Word, we strengthen the bonds that unite us as a community of believers.

Whether you are a long-time member or new to our church, we welcome you to be a part of this enriching experience. Let's grow in faith and friendship as we seek to live out God's will in our daily lives. We look forward to seeing you there!

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Safeguarding God's Church

Fr. Timothy offered St. John's as the host church for the Safeguarding instruction classes in this area. The Diocese will set the date and time. When further information is available it will be found in the announcement section of the weekly bulletin.

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Thank you!

Daughters of the King for sending birthday, and anniversary cards to the St. John's family. Cards and envelopes provided by the individual Daughters.

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Seaside Stitchers

If you are interested in sewing think about joining the Seaside Stitchers. The Stitchers meet in the Parish Hall at 9:00 a.m. on the 1st Monday, and 2nd and 3rd Thursday of the month. Classes are available to help the novice stitcher, and the ladies are more than willing to assist a new member. Sewing machines are available and all materials are free if you sew to donate.

Donated items go to local organizations including Vitas Healthcare; Reflections of St Francis; Alzheimers Foundation; Grand Villa; Brevard Health Alliance; Sarah's Care; Florida Shores of Melbourne; Assisted Living; Community of Hop; Companion Animal Care of Brevard; Palm Bay; Harbor City and Croton Elementary Schools.

For more information contact Shirley Muzzy 321-254-2206 or shirleymuzzy@aol.com.

Sharing His Love

OUTREACH FOCUS

March

The St. John's Outreach focus for March is - Life Recaptured, a local program that assists girls to escape the nightmare of sex trafficking. Their residential safe homes provide refuge and freedom for their residents, and they work closely with local law enforcement as well as contacts in other areas. This vile trade operates right under our noses here in Brevard County, and we are delighted that God has opened a way for us to support this rescue. Florida is #3 in the nation for sex trafficking. Their gift shop and beauty boutique are open Monday through Saturday at 5515 N. Courtney Parkway, Merrit Island, and well worth the visit. Their Connections Café, 3757 N.U.S. 1, open Wednesday through Saturday offers delicious food. On Saturday they also hold a farmer's market. Visit liferecaptured.org. for more information.

April

The St John's Outreach focus for April is - Promise in Brevard, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that was designed to provide affordable, independent housing for adults with cognitive and physical disabilities. Promise in Brevard is an affordable housing community, founded in 2014, and enhanced by Promise's Resident Community Program, which incorporates a variety of services that seek to fulfill the life for each of its residents. The Resident Community Program offers vocational training and employment opportunities; transportation services; independent living courses, health, fitness and nutrition classes. One of the core goals is for all residents who want to be employed will have the opportunity to do so.

Outreach Monthly Meetings

Upcoming Outreach meetings are:



Thursday, March 5, and April 9, at 7 p.m.

Everyone is invited to join the meetings on Zoom.

Click the link in the church calendar on the St. John's web page.

Providence Connects (formerly Daily Bread)

Since Daily Bread joined with the Sharing Center to become Providence Connects they have expanded their access and deepened their impact. Food Pantry hours have doubled and developed into a *fresh choice* model, allowing neighbors to select the foods that best meet their needs. Beyond their walls a new food truck takes meals and groceries directly to access points helping to feed the homeless where they are. For more information, please read the brochure posted on the bulletin board in the parish hall.

Birthdays and Anniversaries



BIRTHDAYS

March:

Amy Lacy	3/4	Marie Salmon	3/14
Michael Scott	3/7	Michael Razor	3/15
Olivia Brotherton	3/9	Sandra Pekar	3/17
Jen Lester	3/10	Ginny Bradley	3/18
Linda Fletcher	3/12	Laure Bennett	3/19
Ray McClendon	3/14	Ryan Hambel	3/19

April:

Pam Putnam	4/1	Clarissa Harrell	4/9
Quentin Campbell	4/3	John Hawkins	4/22
Lorraine Burleson	4/4	David Kaleel	4/25
David Langenbach	4/5	Peter Pedro	4/28



ANNIVERSARIES

March:

Rudy & Nicole Tuten	3/11
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April:

Dick & Pam Jarvela	4/5	Austin & Cati Stitzel	4/20
Doug & Gail Dunbar	4/16	Lee & Nancy Steininger	4/22
Quentin & Debbie Campbell	4/19	Timothy & Amy Rutherford	4/24

Vestry Notes

Vestry approved Minutes and complete Financial Reports are now posted on the bulletin board in the Parish Hall.

December, 2025

Approved Vestry Minutes from December 18, 2025

Treasurer's Report:

- The Financial Report for November 2025, was approved as read.
- Fire & Liability insurance increased 6%.

Budget 2026

- 3% cost of living adjustment for parish employees approved by the vestry. Projected budget surplus with the cost-of-living adjustment is \$6,000.
- Suggestion made that the music ministry receive a budget increase. A caution given on hiring outside musicians as it may overpower the vocalists and organ.
- Postage for pledge letters paid by parishioner. Need to budget for this item in future.
- Vestry Retreat requires \$500 budget.
- The cost for telephone/communications is \$4,900. This will be researched.
- Budget was approved.

Senior Wardens Report:

- The Mutual Ministry Review will be held one hour earlier than the Vestry meeting in January. Questionnaire from the Diocese will be provided prior to the meeting.

Junior Warden Report:

- Additional sprinkler will be added to water the new sod.
- The Scouts have requested a new project at the church and this will be in the park.

Rector's Report:

- Nursery improvements have begun.
- Wednesday Bible Study continues to go well.
- Electric golf cart donated to the church. Need to check insurance coverage.
- Peter Fischel signed the charter for the Boy Scouts for 2026.

St. John's Stewardship Summary for December 2025				
	Dec 2025 Budget	Dec 2025 Actual	2025 YTD Budget	2025 YTD Actual
Income	\$20,933	\$20,538	\$251,192	\$286,548
Expenses	\$17,443	\$25,029	\$242,784	\$200,348
Net	\$3,489	(\$4,492)	\$8408.48,	\$86,200
Outreach	For December: Foreign Missions \$368. – Outreach 2025 (\$10,877)			

January, 2026

Approved Vestry Minutes from January 15, 2026

Treasurer's Report:

- Approved as read. Year to date surplus is \$79,126.47.

Sr. Warden:

- Outgoing Sr. Warden Kathy Oas thanked the Vestry and Search Committee for their support
- Parochial Report is due March 1.

Rector's Report:

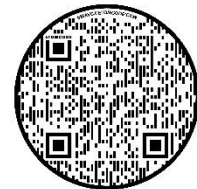
- Christmas Eve service very successful. Fr. Timothy is thinking of two services in 2026.
- *Senior Life* magazine interviewed Fr. Timothy and Kathy Oas, for an article on St. John's which will appear in the next edition.
- A vote will take place at the annual meeting to change the by-laws reducing the number of vestry members from 9 to 6.
- The golf cart is covered by the current church insurance policy.

St. John's Stewardship Summary for January 2026				
	Jan 2026 Budget	Jan 2026 Actual	2026 YTD Budget	2026 YTD Actual
Income	\$22,319	\$21,719	\$22,319	\$21,719
Expenses	\$21,794	\$21,324	\$21,794	\$21,324
Net	\$525	\$395	\$525	\$395
Outreach	For January. The Priest's Discretionary Fund: \$681.			

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Donate to St. John's Online!

You can now make a safe and convenient donation to St. John's via PayPal. Scan the QR code at right or visit stjohnsmlb.org and click on Donate Now!



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 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,"

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

To subscribe or to contact St. John's — email office@stjohnsmlb.org. or phone 321-254-3365.

History of Hot Cross Buns that traditional Good Friday bread.

*"Hot Cross Buns! Hot Cross Buns! One a penny, two a penny, Hot Cross Buns!
If you have no daughter, give 'em to your sons. One a penny, two a penny Hot Cross Buns!"*

Although breads marked with a cross have been around since pagan times, the heavily fruited, sweet and spice filled hot cross buns have been synonymous with Easter celebrations since medieval times, believed to be introduced by a St. Alban's Cathedral monk. Though the original source of the Alban Bun is still being researched, an article in the Hertfordshire Advertiser of 1862 reports it as follows:

It is said that in a copy of 'Ye Booke of Saint Albans' it was reported that;

"In the year of Our Lord 1361 Thomas Rocliffe, a monk attached to the refectory at St Albans Monastery, caused a quantity of small sweet spiced cakes, marked with a cross, to be made; then he directed them to be given away to persons who applied at the door of the refectory on Good Friday in addition to the customary basin of sack (wine). These cakes so pleased the palates of the people who were the recipients that they became talked about, and various were the attempts to imitate the cakes of Father Rocliffe all over the country, but the recipe of which was kept within the walls of the Abbey."

The time honoured custom has therefore been observed over the centuries, and will undoubtedly continue into posterity, bearing with it the religious remembrance it is intended to convey.

Sunday Ministry Schedule

	March 1	March 8	March 15	March 22	March 29
	10am	10am	10am	10am	10 am
Greeters	A. Weeks A. Lacy	A. Weeks B. Rincones	A. Weeks J. Miller	A. Weeks	A. Weeks
Ushers	B.Chernault J. Miller	A. & J. Lacy	B.&T. Chernault	J. Bond L. Miller	A. & J. Lacy
Reader/ LEM	J. Bond	J. McLaughlin Acolyte:TBD	J. Bond	R.Huffman Acolyte:TBD	K. Oas
Altar Guild	K. Oas	L. Bennett	K. Oas	L. Bennett	K. Oas
Counter	K. Wilson	K. Wilson	K. Wilson	K. Wilson	K. Wilson
Audio/Visual	B.Kendall V.Mitz	B.Kendall, V.Mitz	B.Kendall,. V.Mitz	B.Kendall, V.Mitz	B.Kendall, V.Mitz

	April 2 Maundy Thurs.	April 3 Good Friday	April 5 Sunrise Service	April 5 Easter Celebration	April 12
	7pm	7pm	7am	10am	10 am
Greeters				A.Weeks A. Lacy	A. Weeks
Ushers	R. Huffman J. Miller	A. & J. Lacy		B.&T. Chernault	A. & J. Lacy
Reader/ LEM		TBD	J. Bond	R.Huffman Acolyte:TBD	K. Oas
Altar Guild			K. Oas	K. Oas	K. Oas
Counter	N/A	N/A	N/A	K. Wilson	K. Wilson
Audio/Visual	B.Kendall V.Mitz	B.Kendall, V.Mitz	B.Kendall,. V.Mitz	B.Kendall, V.Mitz	B.Kendall, V.Mitz

	April 19	April 26
	10am	10am
Greeters	A.Weeks J. Miller	A.Weeks
Ushers	J. Huffman L. Miller	B.Chernault R.Huffman
Reader/ LEM	J. McLaughlin Acolyte:TBD	J.Bond
Altar Guild	K.Oas	L.Bennett
Counter	K. Wilson	K. Wilson
Audio/Visual	B.Kendall V.Mitz	B.Kendall, V.Mitz

Calendar:

Mar 4, 11, 18 25	Lenten Lunch Series	12 Noon, Parish Hall
Mar 1	Daughters of the King	11:30 a.m. in the chapel.
Mar 5	Outreach Meeting,	7 p.m. on Zoom.
Mar 7	Daughters, Anglican Rosary,	11 a.m., Parish Hall.
Mar 19	Vestry Meeting,	7 p.m. Chapel & Zoom.
Apr 2	Maundy Thursday Worship	7 p.m.
Apr 3	Good Friday Liturgy,	7 p.m.
Apr 5	Easter Celebration e	7 a.m. & 10 a.m.
Apr 9	Outreach meeting	7 p.m. on Zoom
Apr 12	Daughters of the King	11:30 a.m. in the chapel.
Apr 16	Vestry Meeting,	7 p.m. Chapel & Zoom.

ZOOM and Livestream Links

All Zoom meeting and Livestream event links are available by visiting stjohnsmlb.org>Calendar, or by sending an email to office@stjohnsmlb.org.



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