

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH
IN THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

St. John's Episcopal Church Ministries

2025

Welcome to the Ministries of St. John's

St. John's many ministries are central to our parish life, offering ways to serve God, one another, and our community through worship, fellowship, learning, and outreach. From preparing the altar to welcoming newcomers or serving neighbors in need, these ministries provide opportunities to share our gifts and grow in faith. We invite you to get connected and discover where you may be called to serve—**there is a place for you here.**

LITURGICAL MINISTRIES

Acolytes play an important role in the life of the Church by serving at the altar on Sunday and for other special services during the year. Through training and serving, young acolytes develop a disciplined approach to Christian prayer and service, and a deep sense of the importance of liturgy in the life of a Christian.

Paul Brokaw *(813) 629-1780*
pbro132@gmail.com

Altar Guild members serve one weekend a month as part of a team, lovingly preparing the church for worship and caring for the sacred space after services. This quiet yet vital ministry is a meaningful way to support our parish's worship life and share in the beauty of St. John's liturgy.

Laura Silva *(813) 244-4619*
laurasilva4@yahoo.com

Jan Kelley *(813) 334-6861*
revkelleyjr@gmail.com

Trish McKay *(813) 361-2274*
jmckay05@tampabay.rr.com

Wedding Altar Guild (*Seeking a new Leader*)
Members of the Wedding Altar Guild take turns working in pairs for an hour at the rehearsal and two or three hours on the wedding day preparing the church for the wedding, assisting the bridal party, and reorganizing the altar for Sunday services after the wedding.



Flower Guild members arrange flowers for special services.

Emily Kouris *(813) 842-1091*
emlevy1706@gmail.com

The St. John's Choir enriches our worship through sacred music, leading the congregation in hymns and offering anthems for the glory of God. The choir sings weekly at the Sunday 9:30 a.m. Eucharist, as well as at Choral Evensong, Advent Lessons and Carols, and other feast days and special liturgies throughout the year. Rehearsals are held on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. and Sunday mornings at 8:30 a.m. before the service. All voice parts are welcome. Previous choral experience is helpful but not required—the ability to match pitch, commit to regular rehearsals, and share in the joy of music and worship is most important.

Simon Morley smorley@stjohnstampa.org

Lay Eucharistic Ministers, also known as chalice bearers, assist in the distribution of the wine during Holy Communion. Serving under the direction of the clergy, they help ensure that all worshippers may fully participate in the sacrament, especially when additional ministers are needed at a service.

Nicholas Nitch *(813) 505-2281*
nicholasnitch@gmail.com

Lay Readers/Lectors read the scripture lessons and prayers of the people at regular Sunday and at festival services.

Nicholas Nitch *(813) 505-2281*
nicholasnitch@gmail.com

Lay Eucharistic Visitors bring Holy Communion on Sunday mornings to parishioners on who are homebound or unable to attend worship in person, extending the care and presence of the church family.

Sharon Stoll *(813) 767-3742*
harpwings@aol.com

Streaming Ministry: Volunteers sign up to serve at the 9:30 Sunday service each week and livestream the Sunday service and special services, including weddings and funerals. Full training is provided.

Hugh Cruse *(813) 758-7606*
hugh.cruse@gmail.com
John Edgar *(813) 361-2834*
johnedgar09@gmail.com

Sub-Deacons are lay ministers who assist the clergy during worship by holding the Gospel Book, helping to prepare the altar, and supporting the celebrant throughout the service. This role helps ensure that the liturgy flows smoothly and reverently.

Fr. Chris Wood *(813) 259-1570*
cwood@stjohnstampa.org

Ushers warmly welcome all who come to attend services at St. John's and assist with the orderly movement of the congregation through proceedings on Sundays, feast days, and special occasions.

Stephen Leal *(813) 263-7613*
stephen@mcintyrefirm.com

Vergers are dedicated lay ministers who support the clergy in leading worship. Well-versed in the parish's traditions and liturgy, they help guide the flow of services and play a key role in organizing and leading processions.

Fr. Chris Wood *(813) 259-1570*
cwood@stjohnstampa.org

CHRISTIAN FORMATION

Adult Sunday School Classes, which are held immediately after the 9:30 a.m. service, are clergy-led.

Fr. Chris Wood *(813) 259-1570*
cwood@stjohnstampa.org

The St. John's Book Club offers discussions of books that can change, amuse, teach, or inform readers and meets from September through May in the Lowry Room at 4:00 p.m., the third Tuesday of each month.

Chris McAdams *(813) 624-3772*
chris.mcadams@gmail.com

Children's Chapel meets every Sunday during the 9:30 a.m. service. Children leave before the Gospel to hear a children's sermon, offer prayers, and then return at the Peace. Families are asked to volunteer at least once per semester to help lead this ministry of worship and formation for our youngest members.

Ayana Grady *(813) 391-7743*
agrady@stjohnstampa.org

Confirmation/Adult Inquirers' Class is a six to eight-week program during Lent for those (age 16 and over) seeking Confirmation, Reception into the Episcopal Church, or Reaffirmation of one's Baptismal Covenant.

Fr. Chris Wood *(813) 259-1570*
cwood@stjohnstampa.org

The Contemporary Women's Bible Study (CWBS) is an opportunity for women with busy lives to become involved in an in-depth Bible study. The group is currently meeting weekly on Zoom on Tuesday evenings from 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Sally Thompson *(813) 254-3009*
tampasal@gmail.com
Sharon Stoll *(813) 767-3742*
harpwings@aol.com

Cursillo is a movement designed to help Christians deepen their commitment to Christ, enrich their Spiritual life, and enliven their involvement in the church. The Cursillo experience begins with a three-day weekend at DaySpring Episcopal Center.

Ray Stoll *(813) 258-8725*
sssstoll@aol.com
Sharon Stoll *(813) 767-3742*
harpwings@aol.com

The Daughters of the King (DOK) is a lay order for women who are seeking to deepen their walk with Christ. It is an order rather than an organization in that Daughters live by a Rule of Life consisting of a commitment to prayer and service. Daughters seek to grow through prayer, praying daily for unity in Christ's church, for blessings upon the members of the chapter and for the clergy.

Melissa Ariss *(239) 565-9983*
melissa.ariss@gmail.com

EYC (Episcopal Youth Community) is St. John's fellowship and discipleship program for youth in grades 6–12. We gather on Sunday evenings during the school year for games, discussion, service, and fun—building friendships and growing in faith together. Middle School meets 5–6:30 p.m., and High School meets 6–7:30 p.m.

Ayana Grady *(813) 391-7743*
agrady@stjohnstampa.org

Men's Thursday Bible Study meets each week from 11:45 a.m. - 12:45 p.m. in the Lowry Room to study the lectionary readings for the coming Sunday. "Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them." BCP pg 236.

Lanny Russell *(813) 767-2492*
dlrncrtpa@verizon.net
Ray Stoll *(813) 258-8725*
sssstoll@aol.com

The Saint Michael's Conference is a week-long summer program in West Hartford, Connecticut, for young people ages 14–21 (or 13 if they have completed 8th grade). Combining daily worship, classes, recreation, and fellowship, the conference helps participants deepen their faith, build lasting friendships, and follow the example of Saint Michael the Archangel in serving God with courage and joy.

Fr. Chris Wood *(813) 259-1570*
cwood@stjohnstampa.org

The Wednesday Afternoon Adult Formation Group meets on Zoom on Wednesday afternoons from 3:30 - 4:30 p.m. This is a diverse group that seeks a deeper understanding of Christianity by studying a wide variety of works from past and present Christians.

Hal Wiley *(813) 244-1829*
hwiley3@icloud.com

Wednesday Night programming offers formation, fellowship, and food for the entire family on a monthly basis and weekly during Lent.

Fr. Andrew Lazo *(813) 259-1570*
alazo@stjohnstampa.org

The Women's Mid-Morning Bible Study seeks to expand and enliven our understanding of the Old and New Testaments and meets in the Lowry Room, on alternate Tuesdays, 10:00 - 11:15 a.m.

Sally Wiley *(813) 253-3906*
wiley48sm@gmail.com

Sharon Stoll *(813) 767-3742*
harpwings@aol.com

Margaret Brokaw *(813) 629-0154*
margretb132@hotmail.com

Pat Wilson *(813) 644-4640*
patwilson68@tampabay.rr.com

Youth & Children's Sunday School meets after the 9:30 a.m. service from 10:30–11:15 a.m. for children and youth, Pre-K through 12th grade. Classes offer age-appropriate teaching, discussion, and activities that help students grow in faith and friendship as they learn to follow Christ together.

Ayana Grady *(813) 391-7743*
agrady@stjohnstampa.org



PASTORAL CARE

The Flower Team shares the beauty of our worship by delivering altar flowers to parishioners after the Sunday morning service each week on to those who are ill, grieving, or in need of encouragement.

Miriam Faircloth *(813) 352-3231*
miriam19@verizon.net

The Grace Guild provides a welcoming and comforting experience for our parish families during funeral services at our church. Grace Guild members greet the family upon arrival, ensure that the Lowry Room is set with a simple refreshment, and attend to needs the family may have before and during the service.

Susan Lang *(813) 758-0407*
susan_lang@verizon.net

The Newborn Celebration Ministry welcomes the newest members of our parish family by delivering gift baskets to families with newborns. Please notify the church office of any births so we can share in the joy and extend a warm St. John's welcome.

Lois Smith *(757) 288-6325*
rstlrsmom2@aol.com

The Meals Ministry delivers meals to parishioners who have just returned from the hospital or are experiencing a family crisis. A meal can be purchased or home cooked. Either way the recipient is always so grateful for support from this vital and responsive ministry.

Beth Arthur *(214) 577-3495*
jfaesa@aol.com

Cindy Hadlow *(813) 892-7657*
cynthia.hadlow315@gmail.com

Stephen Ministry provides one-to-one, Christ-centered care for parishioners facing life's challenges, such as illness, grief, job loss, or divorce. Stephen Ministers meet weekly with their care receivers for as long as support is needed, always under the guidance of clergy. The ministry also offers grief booklets to families following a loss.

Marci Thomas *(919) 564-6680*
marcithomas2018@gmail.com

Scott Neumeister *(813) 731-7281*
scottneumeister@hotmail.com

Sharon Stoll *(813) 767-3742*
harpwings@aol.com



OUTREACH

Cornerstone Kids is a ministry of St. James House of Prayer that serves at-risk children in the Tampa Heights area. In a safe, secure, and nurturing environment, the program supports children's educational growth, spiritual formation, and emotional well-being, helping them build a strong foundation for the future.

MC Jenkins *(813) 503-4605*
bucsjenkins@aol.com

Harry Hedges *(813) 253-3444*
hhedges@tampabay.rr.com

Dominican Republic - Dominican Development Group (Our Companion Diocese): Since 1999, St. John's has been involved with mission work in the DR building churches, schools, church furniture, as well as painting and repair work, Vacation Bible School, and other support activities. We have partnered with Tampa Deanery churches and others in and outside of our diocese. Our senior high youth are offering a week of VBS in the summer, and. St. John's will be sending an adult mission team to La Caleta in November 2025.

Sally Thompson *(813) 760-5120*
tampasal@gmail.com

Ayana Grady *(813) 391-7743*
agrady@stjohnstampa.org



Faith Cafe serves our neighbors in need with dignity and respect, offering meals, the opportunity for a shower, and referral to other services. Faith Cafe is located at 1340 Clearview Ave., Tampa, 33607 (I-275 & Himes Ave). St. John Episcopal Church volunteers serve lunch the third (3rd) and fourth (4th) Friday of each month. In addition, St. John's partners with Faith Cafe's Bikes from the Heart ministry each month to provide free refurbished bicycles at Faith Cafe. In the past 20 months, nearly 200 bikes have been given, offering vital transportation to neighbors in need. Many bikes are donated by parishioners, helping to extend mobility, independence, and hope throughout the Tampa community.

Sarah O'Brien *(813) 515-004*
sarahharperobrien@hotmail.com

John Jenkins *(813) 454-6345*
bucsjenkins@aol.com

Jack Wyatt *(813) 789-6445*
jwyatt613@gmail.com

Hillsborough Organization for Progress and Equality (HOPE): HOPE's primary mission is to empower communities of faith to identify problems that affect their communities and effectively encourage public officials to take action to resolve those problems.

Laura Cruse *(813) 494-5862*
lmcruse@gmail.com

Bridge Builder: Shirley Susich *(360) 603-0039*
sjsusich@gmail.com

Kairos Prison Ministry is a Christian, lay-led, ecumenical, volunteer international prison ministry, in which men and women volunteers bring Christ's love and forgiveness to incarcerated individuals, their families, and those who work with them. Kairos assists in the transition to becoming productive citizens.

MC Jenkins *(813) 503-4605*
bucsjenkins@aol.com

Carol Ihrig *(813) 831-3245*
carolihrig@verizon.net

Love INC of Metro Tampa is an organization that mobilizes local churches to transform lives and communities In the Name of Christ. St. John's is proud to be a member church, working alongside others to support this mission. Love INC connects churches, volunteers, and community organizations to meet real needs and bring hope to individuals and families throughout Tampa Bay.

Shirley Susich *(360) 603-0039*
sjsusich@gmail.com

Sandwich Sunday is a ministry the whole family can join in! On the third Sunday of each month, parishioners of all ages help prepare "take-away meal" bags. The meals are delivered to Faith Cafe the following Monday, offering nourishment and kindness to our neighbors in need.

Cindy Martin *(813) 956-5551*
cdmcasa@gmail.com



PARISH LIFE MINISTRIES

The Fathers' Ministry seeks to strengthen the unique bond between fathers and their children, while developing camaraderie between fathers within the church community. The Fathers' Fellowship Breakfast is a monthly gathering every second Wednesday from 8:00 – 9:00 a.m. in the Lowry Room.

Bear Galavis *(813) 966-4338*
agalavis@redwire.com

The Holy Hospitality Team helps make our parish gatherings warm and welcoming. Volunteers bring food, set out plates and napkins, manage refreshments, and assist with simple clean-up alongside church staff. This ministry is a wonderful way to share fellowship and extend hospitality to our parish family.

Norm Allen *(912) 492-6351*
normalleniii@aol.com

The Kitchen Krewe is a wonderful group of parishioners who share their gifts of hospitality and cooking to bring our community together. They prepare and serve our beloved monthly parish breakfasts, the lively Jambalaya & Jazz celebration on Shrove Tuesday, our festive Oktoberfest, and many other special events throughout the year.

Dave Kenyon *(813) 404-5000*
davekenyon@gmail.com



Moms' Meet Up is a fun and relaxed way for moms to connect, share stories, and enjoy time together. We meet on the first Thursday morning of each month for conversation, encouragement, and fellowship, because motherhood is better when we walk it together.

Sarah Bricklemyer *(813) 957-7226*
sarah_milton@hotmail.com
Ayana Grady *(813) 391-7743*
agrady@stjohnstampa.org

The Newcomers' Ministry helps visitors and new members feel at home at St. John's. Each Sunday, a volunteer serves at the Welcome Table to greet newcomers, answer questions, and invite them to fill out a visitor card. In addition, Newcomers' Classes are offered four times a year. These gatherings connect newcomers with one another, introduce them to our clergy and lay ministry leaders, and provide opportunities to learn more about parish life and ways to get involved.

Donna Gem *(813) 601-3419*
dgem@stjohnstampa.org

The Soirée is a casual Friday evening get-together hosted in a parishioner's home. Looking for a fun night out with fellow parishioners? With laughter, conversation, and community, it's the perfect way to connect and make new friends at St. John's.

Mary Hulse *(813) 391-7743*
mmhulse@tampabay.rr.com

Young Professionals (YoPros) is a community for young adults at St. John's to connect, build friendships, and grow in faith. We will gather for casual hangouts—like dinner, happy hour, or exploring new spots around town—as well as for discussions on life, faith, and theology. All are welcome to join this fun and supportive group.

Mthr. Caroline Devitt *(941) 320-6686*
cdevitt@stjohnstampa.org






DAVID




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LEBRATION
The Order of the



A Prayer for the Parish

Almighty and everliving God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth, hear our prayers for this parish family. Strengthen the faithful, arouse the careless, and restore the penitent. Grant us all things necessary for our common life, and bring us all to be of one heart and mind within your holy Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Book of Common Prayer pg. 817