THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT | DECEMBER 14, 2025

THE WEEKLY COMPASS

St. John's Episcopal Church & Parish Day School





Ringing in the Advent season with Advent Wreath Making and Lessons and Carols as we begin our shared waiting for the coming of Christ. Thank you to our choir, to Simon Morley, Organist and Director of Music, and to Ayana Grady, Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministries, for making this beautiful day possible. We are also grateful for our youth, children, and adult readers who faithfully proclaimed the lessons.

PIC OF THE WEEK:

Ringing in the Advent Season

Have a Pic of the Week? We'd love to feature it! Email your photo to Mthr. Caroline at cdevitt@stjohnstampa.org.



THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S





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After the 9:30 a.m. service today, formation for all ages continues. Adult Formation, *The Carols of Advent*, meets in the Parish Hall, with Mthr. Caroline and Fr. Chris leading today's session. This evening, EYC meets for Tacky Christmas Sweater Night from **5:00 to 6:30 p.m.** in the Parish Hall. On Wednesday, the Men's Gathering meets at **5:30 p.m.**, and YoPros gathers for their Christmas Party and PowerPoint Night at **7:00 p.m.** Keep reading *The Compass* for full details.

Worship at St. Johns

Sundays: Rite I at 8:00 a.m. | *Rite II at 9:30 a.m.
Faith Formation is offered for all ages after the 9:30 a.m. service
**Livestream Options: Website | Facebook | YouTube*
Wednesdays & Thursdays: Holy Eucharist at 12:15 p.m.
The Reverend John R. Peterson Chapel
The Chapel of the Resurrection, located in the courtyard, is open 24/7 for prayer

Need a Nametag?

Wearing your nametag each Sunday helps us connect. Keep it in your car so it's always with you! *If you need one, email Donna Gem at dgem@stjohnstampa.org.*

Christmas Eve & Christmas Day at St. John's



Christmas Eve

Wednesday, December 24

3:00 p.m. Children's Christmas Pageant with Holy Eucharist, Rite II *

5:00 p.m. Choral Eucharist with Holy Eucharist, Rite II *

10:30 p.m. Festive Prelude Christmas Concert

11:00 p.m. Midnight Mass with Holy Eucharist, Rite I

** Nursery Available*

Christmas Day

Thursday, December 25

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II with Congregational Carols

Year End Gifts to St. John's: Smart ways to give this season include stock gifts, IRA required minimum distribution gifts, and gifts from Donor Advised Funds. These are all tax-smart ways to give to St. John's this December. They can lower income taxes, raise spendable income, and increase charitable giving. That's a win-win for you and for St. John's! For more information, contact Laurie Lawther at ***llawther@stjohnstampa.org***.

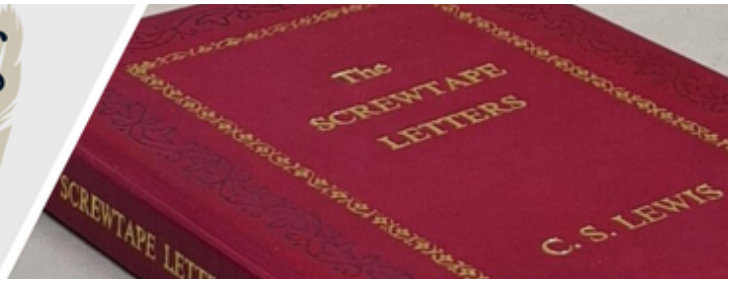
Christmas Flower Dedications

Offering envelopes for Christmas flower dedications are available in the pew pockets. All dedications must be received by the Parish Office by **Sunday, December 21** in order to be included in print. Envelopes may be placed in the offering plate or dedications may be emailed to Sami Santos at ***ssantos@stjohnstampa.org***. Checks may be mailed to the Parish Office. Dedications may be given in memory of or in thanksgiving for loved ones.

The Men's Gathering

Men's meetup—Next Meeting: Wednesday, December 17th, 5:30-7p.m. at Four Green Fields.

Contact: alazo@stjohnstampa.org





Dedications

The Church Altar Advent Greenery are given to the Glory of God
by Susan Boyd in loving memory of Marion and William Boyd;
and by Russel, Melaura, and Elise Olinger in loving memory of their father and grandfather, Ron Meyers.

The Chapel Altar Advent Greenery are given to the Glory of God
by the Grotz, Merritt and Kercher families in loving memory of Dale C. Grotz.

To sponsor altar flowers or the sanctuary candle in memory or thanksgiving, contact ssantos@stjohnstampa.org or call 813.259.1570

Suggested donations: Church Altar Flowers: $50 | Chapel Altar Flowers: $35 | Sanctuary Candle: $20

Available dates: December 21 & 28 and January 11, 18, & 25

A Very

DEC 17 YOPROS 7 PM CHRISTMAS PARTY

CHRISTMAS PARTY & POWERPOINT NIGHT

PIZZA · POWERPOINTS · PARTY

SCAN FOR MORE INFO & TO RSVP

"DO YOU DESIRE TO BE BAPTIZED?"

-BCP pg 301

Holy Baptism is full initiation by water and the Holy Spirit into Christ's Body, the Church—a bond that can never be broken. Our next opportunity for baptism will be on the **Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, January 11.** A baptism preparation class will be held on January 4, with a rehearsal on January 10.

EMAIL SAMI SANTOS (*ssantos@stjohnstampa.org*)
to learn more or to arrange a baptism for yourself or a loved one



St. John's Lenten Devotional

Advent is a wonderful time to begin preparing our hearts for the next penitential season of the Church year. St. John's will again publish a Lenten devotional written by members of our congregation, and you are invited to contribute a reflection of up to one page. A brief Zoom info session with writing tips and Q&A will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 11. Devotionals are due Wednesday, January 21. For details and the Zoom link, please contact Scott Neumeister (*scottneumeister@hotmail.com*) or Marci Thomas (*marcithomas2018@gmail.com*).

ST. JOHN'S
TO GOD BE THE GLORY

2026 PLEDGE REMINDER

Thank you to the 250+ households who have already pledged for 2026. Your generosity supports the mission and ministry of St. John's and helps us plan faithfully for the year ahead. If you haven't made your pledge yet, we invite you to do so. Every pledge, no matter the size, strengthens our shared life in Christ.

Scan the code to make your pledge today:

ADULT FORMATION

Tue.	Zoom	CWBS (Contemporary Women's Bible Study) tampasal@gmail.com	06:00 PM
Wed.	Zoom	Wednesday Adult Formation parish@stjohnstampa.org	03:30 PM
Thurs.	Lowry Room	Men's Bible Study dlrncrtpa@verizon.net	11:45 AM
Alternate Tue.	Lowry Room	Women's Mid-Morning Bible Study harpwings@aol.com	10:00 AM

CHILDREN & YOUTH

Sunday School This Morning!
All Sunday School students and teachers will go first for Communion, and then come into the side hallway for Check-In and nametags.

Tacky Christmas Sweater EYC!
5-6:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall
Join us for a fun celebration as we head into this Christmas season! This will be a combined (6th-12th grade) EYC.

Stay up to date with our newsletters:

Youth:

Children:

SAVE THE DATES

Feast of St. John	Feast of the Holy Innocents	Feast of the Epiphany	Candlemas Eucharist	Jumbalya and Jazz
Dec 27 | The Rev. John R. Peterson Chapel | 10 a.m. Join us as we celebrate the Feast of St. John, Apostle and Evangelist, our patronal feast, with Holy Eucharist, Rite II, and give thanks for the witness of our patron and the life of our parish.	**Dec 29 | The Rev. John R. Peterson Chapel | 12:15 p.m.** Join us as we observe the Feast of the Holy Innocents with Holy Eucharist, Rite II, and hold in prayer the lives of the innocent and the hope of God's redeeming love.	**Jan 6 | Church | 6 p.m.** Join us for a Solemn High Mass for the Feast of the Epiphany as we celebrate the manifestation of Christ to the nations. Chant and beautiful Anglican liturgy will mark this holy evening. All are invited to worship with us as we enter this radiant season of revelation.	**Feb 2 | Church | 12:15 p.m.** Join us for a said mass with hymns to celebrate Candlemas (aka the Feast of the Presentation of Jesus Christ). All are warmly invited to attend.	**Feb 17 | Courtyard** Save the date for St. John's Third Annual Jambalaya & Jazz celebration on Fat Tuesday/Shrove Tuesday. Join us for an evening of food, music, and festive fellowship as we prepare to enter the season of Lent. More details to come.

Scan for online Bulletins, *The Compass*, and *The Scroll*

Parish Office and Weekday Mass Notice: *The Parish Office will be closed Dec. 24 and reopen Dec. 29, and will close again Dec. 31 and reopen Jan. 2. Weekday Masses continue in the Rev. John R. Peterson Chapel on Wednesdays and Thursdays at 12:15 p.m., except* ***there will be no Healing Mass on Jan. 1****.*

Blessing of a Child

Parents of newborns may schedule this brief service of thanksgiving (BCP p.439). The Newborn Celebration Ministry also delivers gift baskets to families with newborns—please notify the office of any births.

Contact: *parish@stjohnstampa.org* |
Lois Smith: *rstlrsmom2@aol.com*

Pastoral Care

If you or a loved one is hospitalized or preparing for surgery, please let us know. Hospitals cannot contact us due to privacy laws.

To notify us or request pastoral care:

Parish Office: 813.259.1570 |
parish@stjohnstampa.org
Pastoral Emergencies: 813.726.3108
Fr. Chris: 917.822.9741
Fr. Andrew: 713.302.6262
Mthr. Caroline: 941.320.6686
Dcn. Mary Alice: 813.493.8337
Fr. Goodheart: 321.446.4934

Stay Connected

Weekly Email – Subscribe to *The Weekly Scroll* and other email lists by emailing Mthr. Caroline at *cdevitt@stjohnstampa.org* or scan the QR code to fill out your SJE email preferences online:

Social Media – Follow us @stjohnstampa on Facebook, Instagram & YouTube

Subscribe to emails:

Watch sermons:

Support our ministry with a one-time or recurring gift:

Give

Online:
stjohnstampa.org/stewardship
Text: Text **SJE** to **73256**
QR Code: *Scan here*