

NOVEMBER 30, 2025

The Crossbeam

A NEWSLETTER FOR OUR ST. JOHN'S PARISH MEMBERS
AND FRIENDS



Sunday, November 30, 2025
1st Sunday of Advent,
Year A

THE NEW CHURCH YEAR BEGINS WITH A WAKE-UP CALL: CHRIST IS COMING SOON! IN TODAY'S READINGS BOTH PAUL AND JESUS CHALLENGE US TO WAKE FROM SLEEP, FOR WE KNOW NEITHER THE DAY NOR HOUR OF THE LORD'S COMING. ISAIAH PROCLAIMS THE DAY WHEN GOD WILL GATHER ALL PEOPLE ON THE HOLY MOUNTAIN AND THERE WILL BE NO MORE WAR OR SUFFERING. THOUGH WE VIGILANTLY WATCH FOR THE PROMISED DAY OF SALVATION, WE WAIT FOR WHAT WE ALREADY HAVE: CHRIST COMES AMONG US THIS DAY AS THE WORD AND MEAL THAT STRENGTHENS OUR FAITH IN THE PROMISES OF GOD.



From the Pastor's Desk

PSALM 122

1 I WAS GLAD WHEN THEY | SAID TO ME,
“LET US GO TO THE HOUSE | OF THE LORD.”
2 NOW OUR | FEET ARE STANDING
WITHIN YOUR GATES, | O JERUSALEM.
3 JERUSALEM IS BUILT | AS A CITY
THAT IS AT UNITY | WITH ITSELF;
4 TO WHICH THE TRIBES GO UP, THE TRIBES | OF THE LORD,
THE ASSEMBLY OF ISRAEL, TO PRAISE THE NAME | OF THE LORD.
5 FOR THERE ARE THE | THRONES OF JUDGMENT,
THE THRONES OF THE | HOUSE OF DAVID.
6 PRAY FOR THE PEACE | OF JERUSALEM:
“MAY THEY PROS- | PER WHO LOVE YOU.
7 PEACE BE WITH- | IN YOUR WALLS
AND QUIETNESS WITH- | IN YOUR TOWERS.
8 FOR THE SAKE OF MY KINDRED | AND COMPANIONS,
I PRAY FOR | YOUR PROSPERITY.
9 BECAUSE OF THE HOUSE OF THE | LORD OUR GOD,
I WILL SEEK TO | DO YOU GOOD.”

“A NEW STUDY BY PEW RESEARCH HAS FOUND THAT PEOPLE WHO PRACTICE A RELIGION ARE HAPPIER AND MORE ENGAGED IN THEIR COMMUNITIES THAN THE REST OF THE POPULATION.

THE STUDY ALSO FOUND THAT RELIGIOUS PARTICIPATION, AS OPPOSED TO SIMPLY BEING AFFILIATED WITH A RELIGION, MADE A DIFFERENCE TO LEVELS OF HAPPINESS.

IN THE U.S. AND MANY OTHER COUNTRIES AROUND THE WORLD, PEW'S ANALYSIS REVEALED A CLEAR LINK BETWEEN REGULAR PARTICIPATION IN A RELIGIOUS COMMUNITY AND HIGHER LEVELS OF HAPPINESS AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT, SPECIFICALLY, VOTING IN ELECTIONS AND BEING PART OF COMMUNITY GROUPS OR OTHER VOLUNTARY ORGANIZATIONS.

‘THIS MAY SUGGEST THAT SOCIETIES WITH DECLINING LEVELS OF RELIGIOUS ENGAGEMENT, LIKE THE US, COULD BE AT RISK FOR DECLINES IN PERSONAL AND SOCIETAL WELL-BEING,’ PEW SAID.”

—“RELIGIOUS PEOPLE ARE HAPPIER THAN OTHERS, ACCORDING TO RESEARCH,”
FEBRUARY 1, 2019. CHRISTIANITYTODAY.COM.

SOMETHING TO PONDER TODAY.

PEACE AND BLESSINGS THIS DAY.

PASTOR V.



IN-PERSON WORSHIP

THE HOLY SPIRIT GATHERS PEOPLE AROUND THE MEANS OF GRACE—
THE SAVING WORD OF GOD AND THE SACRAMENTS.

FEATURED THIS WEEK:
SATURDAY SPOKEN WORD
5 P.M. - IN-PERSON

THE SUNDAY ASSEMBLY
9A.M.-IN-PERSON SERVICE W/ SCS
10:30A.M. - IN-PERSON SERVICE AND LIVESTREAM
BROADCAST ON OUR [FACEBOOK PAGE](#) AND ON OUR WEBSITE!



[This Weeks Bulletin \(click here\).](#)

ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPCOMING EVENTS

BIBLE STUDY

DECEMBER 4TH, 11TH, 18TH @ 6PM

DECEMBER 7TH, 14TH, 21ST @10:30AM-1PM

YOUTH GIFT WRAPPING

DECEMBER 14TH @ 9AM

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

SOUP SALE

DECEMBER 21ST

CHRISTMAS COOKIE SALE



IN THANKS FOR MANY BLESSINGS

BY BARBARA KWIECINSKI

YOU CAN REMEMBER OR HONOR A LOVED ONE OR A SPECIAL OCCASION
BY ORDERING A FLORAL ARRANGEMENT USING THE ALTAR FLOWER
CALENDAR LOCATED IN THE NARTHEX.



Assisting Ministers

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 29 @ 5P.M.
VICKY WIENKE- ASSISTING MINISTER

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 30 @ 9 A.M.
NADINE BROWN-ASSISTING MINISTER

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 30 @ 10:30A.M.
PAT LIPKA- ASSISTING MINISTER



SUNDAY NOVEMBER 30 @ 9 A.M.
LEE DELANEY- USHER

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 30 @ 10:30 A.M.
LAURA LOEHR- USHER

SUNADY NOVEMBER 30 @ 10:30 A.M.
JOEY TOSETTO- ACOLYTE

ALTAR GUILD FOR NOVEMBER:
NANCY WEBER
JUDY KELLY

THIS WEEK 11/30 - 12/6

TODAY:

9A.M. WORSHIP W/SCS
10:30 A.M. WORSHIP
7 P.M. TRY AGAIN (AA)

MONDAY:

10 A.M. SPROUTS
1 P.M. ARTHRITIS WALKING GROUP
6 P.M. SPROUTS
6 P.M. KNITTING MINISTRY
6:45 P.M. ZUMBA
7:30 P.M. AL-ANON

TUESDAY:

9 A.M. ZUMBA
12 P.M. TAI-CHI
6 P.M. ROCK VOICES
6:30 P.M. SA BUFFALO

WEDNESDAY:

1 P.M. ARTHRITIS EXERCISE GROUP
7 P.M. CHOIR REHEARSAL

THURSDAY:

9 A.M. ZUMBA
12 P.M. NA
5 P.M. ZUMBA
6 P.M. BIBLE STUDY
7 P.M. WORSHIP & MUSIC
7 P.M. NA

FRIDAY:

10 A.M. SPROUTS
10 A.M. ENJOY LIFE (NA)
7:30 P.M. GARDENVILLE GROUP (AA)

SATURDAY:

9 A.M. ZUMBA
5 P.M. WORSHIP



WELCOME

THIS WEEKEND WE WELCOME REV. IMANI OLEAR TO WORSHIP AND PREACH HERE AT ST. JOHN'S WITH THE CONGREGATION

OFFICE CLOSED

THE OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED THURSDAY NOVEMBER 27
AND FRIDAY NOVEMBER 28

THANK YOU

THANK YOU TO ALEX AND KATHY WILL FOR RUNNING THIS YEARS TURKEY BOXES. AND ALL WHO DONATED IN ANY WAY FOR THE TURKEY BOXES. THIS WAS A GREAT YEAR FOR ALL THE DONATIONS!

ADVENT

THERE ARE ADVENT 2025 POUCHES ON THE COUNTER IN THE FOYER. THEY CONTAIN 25 CARDS WITH A DIFFERENT VERSE FOR EACH DAY. PLEASE TAKE 1 PER FAMILY.

UPCOMING AGAPE MEAL DATES:

DECEMBER 7

JANUARY 4

DEAR FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF ST. JOHN'S,

AS WE APPROACH THE CLOSE OF ANOTHER BLESSED YEAR, WE WANT TO TAKE A MOMENT TO EXPRESS OUR DEEPEST GRATITUDE FOR YOUR UNWAVERING SUPPORT, GENEROSITY, AND DEDICATION. YOUR COMMITMENT TO OUR CHURCH COMMUNITY HAS BEEN A BLESSING BEYOND MEASURE, ENABLING US TO SERVE, GROW, AND REACH OUT TO OTHERS WITH LOVE AND COMPASSION.

THIS YEAR, TOGETHER, WE'VE ACCOMPLISHED SO MUCH—WHETHER THROUGH INSPIRING WORSHIP SERVICES, OUTREACH PROGRAMS, CHARITABLE INITIATIVES, OR SIMPLY BEING A SOURCE OF ENCOURAGEMENT AND HOPE TO THOSE AROUND US. IT'S BECAUSE OF YOUR FAITHFUL CONTRIBUTIONS AND HEARTFELT PARTICIPATION THAT WE CONTINUE TO THRIVE AS A CHURCH FAMILY.

AS WE LOOK FORWARD TO THE NEW YEAR, WE REMAIN HOPEFUL AND EAGER TO SEE WHAT GOD HAS IN STORE FOR US. WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR YOUR PARTNERSHIP IN THIS JOURNEY, AND WE PRAYERFULLY ASK FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT AND BLESSINGS.

MAY YOUR HOLIDAY SEASON BE FILLED WITH PEACE, JOY, AND THE WARMTH OF HIS LOVE. THANK YOU FOR BEING AN ESSENTIAL PART OF OUR CHURCH FAMILY AND FOR HELPING US MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF MANY.

IN FAITH AND GRATITUDE,
RICK LIPKA
PARISH ADMINISTRATOR/ TREASURER.