



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

St. John's Episcopal Church Ministries 2026



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.**

Find Your Place.

Explore the ministries in this booklet, then scan to let us know what interests you. We'll connect you with the right people to learn more.

Not sure where to start? Explore your spiritual gifts and discover ministries that might be a good fit.



**SCAN TO GET
CONNECTED.**

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.

Trish McKay

(813) 361-2274

jmckay05@tampabay.rr.com

Jan Kelley

(813) 334-6861

revkelleyjr@gmail.com

Wedding Guild: Members of the Wedding 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.

Cindy Hadlow

(813) 892-7657

cynthia.hadlow315@gmail.com



The Funeral Guild assists clergy and staff with funerals and memorial services at St. John's, helping prepare the church before each service and restore it afterward. Members offer practical, behind-the-scenes support to help ensure each service is conducted with care and dignity.

Laura Silva

(813) 244-4619

laurasilva4@yahoo.com

The Flower Guild elevates St. John's worship experience by coordinating the acquisition, design, and arrangement of floral displays for Sunday and special services. By thoughtfully preparing arrangements for both the main and chapel altars, members enhance the sacred space with beauty, reverence, and a deep sense of hospitality.

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 and 11:15 a.m. Eucharists, 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 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

Mthr. Caroline Devitt

(941) 320-6686

cdevitt@stjohnstampa.org



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 3:30 p.m., the third Tuesday of each month.

Chris McAdams

(813) 624-3772

chris.mcadams@gmail.com

The Businessmen's Bible Study meets every Tuesday at 6:30 a.m. for Scripture, conversation, and fellowship. The group reads and discusses the Bible together, with members rotating responsibility for bringing breakfast. Coffee is always provided. All are welcome—just bring your study Bible and join us.

Max Grimard

(904) 233-6527

grimard.max@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

Adult Confirmation Class is a six-week program in the spring 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) 760-5120

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 Order of the Daughters of the King, Saint Clare Chapter (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-Menendez

(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. Through Scripture reading and open discussion, our group explores how the Word offers practical guidance, wisdom, and comfort in daily life. "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. Chris Wood

(813) 259-1570

cwood@stjohnstampa.org

Mthr. Caroline Devitt

(941) 320-6686

cdevitt@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.

Margaret Brokaw

(813) 629-0154

margretb132@hotmail.com

Sharon Stoll

(813) 767-3742

harpwings@aol.com

Sally Wiley

(813) 253-3906

wiley48sm@gmail.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



The Meal Train Ministry provides practical support and pastoral care to parishioners navigating major life transitions, including illness, medical recovery, grief, or welcoming a new baby. When a need arises, volunteers coordinate through a dedicated schedule to prepare and deliver meals directly to families, alleviating daily burdens and offering a tangible sign of parish support.

Sharon Stoll

(813) 767-3742

harpwings@aol.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.

Scott Neumeister

(813) 731-7281

scottneumeister@hotmail.com

Sharon Stoll

(813) 767-3742

harpwings@aol.com



OUTREACH

Cornerstone Kids: For over 25 years, St. John's has partnered with this after-school program at St. James House of Prayer which serves at-risk children. In a safe, secure, and nurturing environment the program supports educational growth, spiritual formation, and emotional well-being.

MC Jenkins

(813) 503-4605

bucsjenkins@aol.com

Harry Hedges

(813) 748-9000

hhedges@earthfirstdev.com

Dominican Republic - Dominican Development Group (Our Companion Diocese): Since 1999, St. John's has partnered with the people of the Diocese of the Dominican Republic to build churches, schools, church furniture, as well as paint and repair work. Our young people have helped facilitate Vacation Bible School and other support activities. We have partnered with Tampa Deanery churches and others in and outside of our diocese. We hope to send an adult mission team to the DR during the 2026-2027 program year.

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's Episcopal Church volunteers serve lunch the third and fourth Fridays 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) 215-4004

sarahharperobrien@hotmail.com

John Jenkins

(813) 454-6345

bucsjenkins@aol.com

Jack Wyatt

(813) 789-6445

jwyatt613@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

John Jenkins

(813) 454-6345

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 fosters a warm, joyful atmosphere across our parish gatherings. Working alongside church staff and the Kitchen Krewe, volunteers assist with hospitality logistics—including setup, meal service, and event tear-down—for signature parish celebrations like Rally Day, Jambalaya & Jazz, Oktoberfest, and Confirmation Sunday. Serving in this ministry offers a meaningful way to extend Christ-like welcome, cultivate fellowship, and nurture the vibrant community spirit that defines St. John's.

Bob Alter

(404) 307-1320

bob.alter@gmail.com

Lynn Fluharty

(813) 503-7997

Lflu52@gmail.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

Mahjong Ladies' Fellowship is a welcoming group for experienced mahjong players to gather for friendship, conversation, and the fun challenge of the game. Participants enjoy time together in a relaxed setting while strengthening connections within the St. John's community.

Page Gritte

(813) 389-9574

pagegritte@gmail.com

Melinda Pendino

(813) 215-3421

mpendino2906@gmail.com

Moms' Meet Up is a fun and relaxed way for moms of all ages and stages to connect, share stories, and enjoy time together. The group meets on the first Thursday morning of each month at 9:30 a.m. at CUP (Coffee Uniting People), located at 3408 S. Dale Mabry Hwy., Tampa, FL 33629. These gatherings offer conversation, encouragement, and fellowship, because motherhood is better when we walk it together.

Sarah Bricklemeyer

(813) 957-7226

sarah_milton@hotmail.com

Ayana Grady

(813) 391-7743

agrady@stjohnstampa.org

The Newcomers' Ministry ensures that guests and new members experience a genuine sense of connection and belonging at St. John's. Each Sunday, volunteers staff the courtyard Welcome Table to greet visitors, share parish information, and facilitate contact cards for ongoing engagement. Additionally, quarterly Newcomers' Classes offer an informal setting to meet clergy, lay leaders, and fellow parishioners while discovering meaningful pathways to integrate into church life.

Donna Gem

(813) 601-3419

dgem@stjohnstampa.org

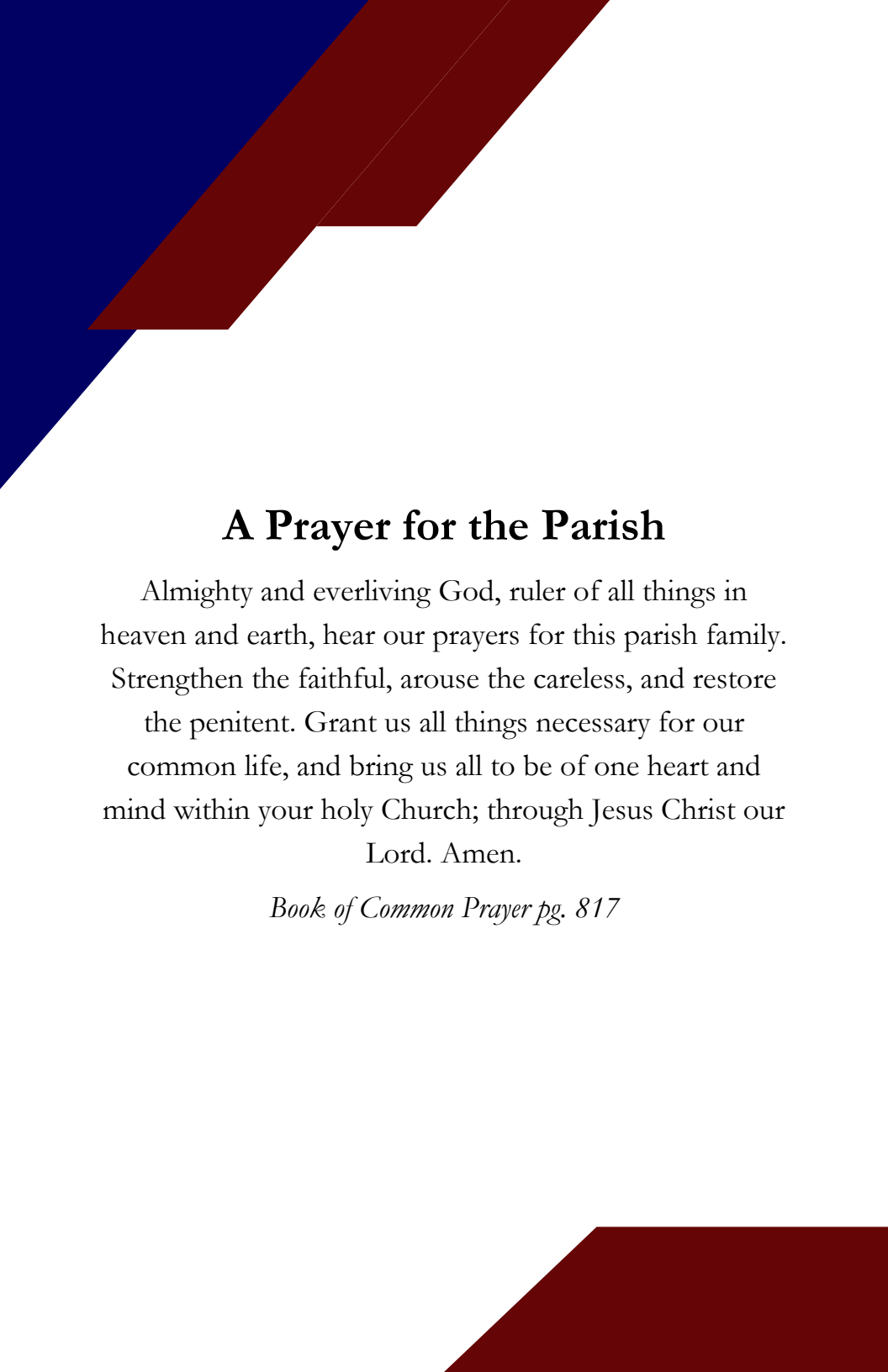
Young Professionals (YoPros) is a community for young adults at St. John's to connect, build friendships, and grow in faith. We gather for casual hangouts—like dinner, happy hour, or exploring new spots around town—as well as discussions on life, faith, and theology. All are welcome to join this fun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

Mthr. Caroline Devitt

(941) 320-6686

cdevitt@stjohnstampa.org





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