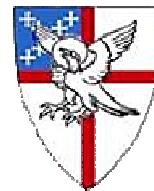




THE MESSENGER



Parish News of St. John's Episcopal Church, Saginaw, Michigan

Volume 27, Issue 10

November 2009

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Equipping the Saints...all of us!

Sunday, November 1st is All Saints' Day and is truly an incredible day for the life of the Church and especially here at St. John's! All Saints' is the day in which we commemorate the entire Communion of Saints, those heroes that we recall from the Bible as well as Church history. This is also a day in which the Church celebrates Holy Baptism, by which we welcome the newest members of the family of God, and renew our own Baptismal identity and promises. All of this helps to remind each of us that we are asked to follow where the Saints have led the way and realize our own particular place within the mission of God. Part of our continued 'turn-around' for St. John's has been an increased effort to equip "the saints for the work of the Church," especially you! St. John's is committed to live into our vision and discover creative and bold new ways of *being* the Church, the Body of Christ, here and now; and so inasmuch as the day is an occasion to reflect and give thanks, All Saints' provides the opportunity to focus on the journey ahead.



In November, as our nation prepares to gather once again for Thanksgiving, chief among my own praise to God is the opportunity we continually are given to live out in example what we proclaim in our faith. "St. John's Episcopal Church is called and committed to care, share, worship, celebrate and love" is more than a slogan, this is our core purpose, our reason for being. But let me be frank, this is about you! Without you, we are not as effective. As pithy as the saying is that appears on many church signs, I believe it true that "Without U there's no ch_rch!" It is too easy to think that we are not needed and someone else can take care of it. Let me tell you, "Someone Else" has either moved out of state or has died; but there is someone who can help keep our mission focused and grow: you! Actually, there is you, me and our committed parish who continue to demonstrate what we affirm on All Saints' and with every Baptism, "I will, with God's help." Perhaps among the biggest insights we have gained from our Vision Process, and now begun to live into, is that whatever new initiatives we try, treasured programs we continue, and budgets we adopt, it will take the time and talents of all of us – no matter how big or small, young or old, new or long experienced – in order to realize the new day God is calling us to.

How is God asking you to help? It all begins with your participation and an invitation. I firmly believe that there's something that people we each know are desperately longing to hear and seek to know – how the love of God and our community of faith can make a difference in their daily lives. People you already know want to know why St. John's is special to you and what makes a difference from what we take away each week in our worship. In these past couple of years now, we have celebrated some of the heroes of our life and faith with our chair stories, and while we will continue to remember, the time is upon us to also tell our story to those around us and to those we can welcome next. As disciples of Jesus, you are heroes of the faith and heralds of the Good News, beginning with those closest to you. When we sing hymn #287, "For all the saints'," and #293, "I sing a song of the saints of God" on All Saint's Day, we are more than recalling figures from history, we are affirming our own unique calling to the Church – that Christ is calling you!

Equipping the saints for the work of the Church is what we proclaim on All Saints' and live into beyond the day. This is the time for you to come, participate and celebrate what God is doing among us and by the ministry we share. Join us as we continue to meet in our Cottage Meetings and then let us offer our thanksgiving to God in a very special service on November 15th when we gather for our Festive Sunday Celebration of the Community and Commitment to St. John's and each other. See you in church!

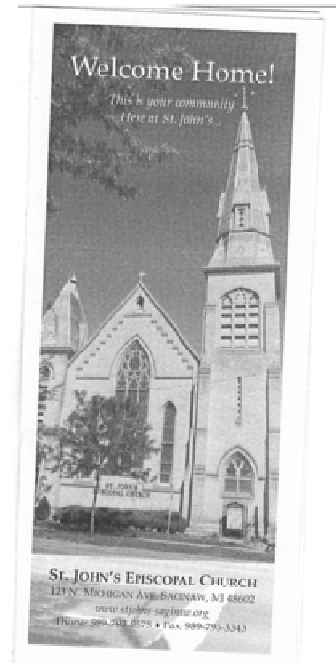
"Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever." (Ephesians 3:20–21 NRSV)

Susan Clinton

Welcome Home... it's important enough to say twice!

You may have noticed an updated *Welcome Home Brochure* in the pews in the last few weeks so I wanted to take the opportunity to encourage you to open it up and remind yourself what is there. "Welcome home" - a greeting usually reserved for our family and closest friends, perfectly embodies the message we want to relay to our guests at St. John's. It's the title phrase on our brochure and it is important enough to be said twice.

It's true that as a whole, Episcopalians can be a "cool" sort of people rather than a "welcome" sort of people. We would rather offer help than receive it, quote the Book of Common Prayer before the Bible, love our liturgy, and the word "evangelism" can sometimes put a lump in our throat. But in spite of quirky habits, we also feel a deep responsibility and commitment to our community. We mean it when we say "Welcome Home." So how do we share these sentiments with our guest on Sunday morning? Well, they'll just pick up this handy brochure, won't they? Maybe. But say it twice.



Next Sunday, I challenge you to look around the pews and take responsibility for proper hospitality. If you see someone you don't know... use the tools around you to help bridge the introduction. **Having a plan can make all the difference. Try:**

- Introducing yourself (even if they are not "new" - isn't this a good idea anyway?)
- Offering them a *Welcome Home Brochure* and tell them what to do with it! (Filling it out and putting in the offering plate is ideal)
- Ask what brought them here.
- Ask if you can introduce them to anyone else (Darren+ is a good place to start.)
- Invite them to Coffee Fellowship
- Just be sincere!

Give it a try and get a little practice in before the busy Christmas season. It gets easier as you go along. And remember... our guests have already chosen us! They are already here! The hard part is over and now it's up to us to be polite and reciprocate beyond the printed word. "Welcome Home" is a message we all want to hear.

Amy Simons

	Is your financial life too complex?					
	<table><tr><td>◆ Financial Planning</td><td>◆ Trust Services</td></tr><tr><td>◆ Brokerage Services</td><td>◆ 401 (k) Plans</td></tr><tr><td>◆ Retirement Plans</td><td>◆ Investments</td></tr></table>	◆ Financial Planning	◆ Trust Services	◆ Brokerage Services	◆ 401 (k) Plans	◆ Retirement Plans
◆ Financial Planning	◆ Trust Services					
◆ Brokerage Services	◆ 401 (k) Plans					
◆ Retirement Plans	◆ Investments					
1004 N. Michigan Ave. Saginaw, MI 48602 www.tristartrust.com	<i>Let Tri-Star Trust Bank help you Simplify Your Life. Contact Jerry Young, Vice President: jerry@tristartrust.com</i>					
	○ Simplifying Life.					

Happy Birthday!

- 1 Julia Burdis
- 2 Margaret Maul
- 4 Frederick Blake
- 6 Marion Koeplinger
- 7 Burris Smith
- 9 Berney Jones
- 9 Ellee Wilson
- 10 Robert Adams
- 10 Harold Wilber
- 12 Patricia Bassett
- 15 Edward Majask
- 15 Camille Daugherty
- 15 Valerie McDonald
- 16 Madeline Kostal
- 17 Miranda Garza
- 18 Dennis Greenwood
- 21 Hazel Stoner
- 22 Bill Vlassis
- 23 Kevin Simons
- 25 Sallie Swanson
- 26 T.C. McLeod
- 30 Mary Tupes

Happy Anniversary!

- Patricia & Ralph Jackson
- 28 Louise & Jerry Smith

Thank You

A big thank you to **Sue Luxton** and all who helped with the Festive Sunday Parish Potluck including but not limited to: **Jack Luxton, Sharon Kaylor, Lou Smith, Ruth Samura, Kay Moore, & Ida Smith.** Also thanks to **EVERYONE** who brought a dish.

Thank you to **Pat Lynes, Sallie Swanson, Jan Young, Sue & Jack Luxton, Josephine Lee, Val McDonald, Keith Birdsall, Bill Frederick, Sue Ludwig, Sue & Josh Daugherty, Kim Burau, Jane Girdham, Michael Keenan, Sharon Kaylor, Ida Smith, Joan Wendland, Sperry Garber,** and many others in your dedicated effort to make our new parish photo directory it's very best.

Thank you **Lou Smith** for your efforts with the Crop Walk.

Thank you **John & Barb Roberts, Bill Frederick, Sue Brigham, and Pat Lynes** for your help with The Messenger each month.

Is there someone in our parish who has gone above and beyond? If you would like to offer thanks, please call the office at 793-9575.

Good Samaritans:

Nov 1 - Nov 14	Roz Berlin	792-8160
Nov 15 - Nov 30	Lou Smith	799-5583

Rest in Peace:

Gertrude Adams	Guy Beauregard
Ronald Bonner	Ruth Boquette
Shirley DeLand	Fay English
Richard Hansen	William Hoag
Marjory Kendrick	David Kessel
Richard Lingenfelter	Mary MacConnel
Frank Mason	Robert Maul
William Miller	Jane Moore
Evelyn Morrow	Charles Strattard
Doris Strattard	Donna Sullivan
Marcia Swarthout	Nate Trask
Fred Yockey	



Angel Food Ministries

St. John's has recently received the opportunity to participate in a program called Angel Food Ministries. This program helps over 500,000 families each month to buy quality food at a drastically discounted price. This ministry is open to any one--there are no income requirements. People may participate each month. The menu varies with the seasons, and is centered around the "signature box" which costs 30 dollars, and provides 60 dollars worth of food--enough to feed a family of four for a week. There is a "senior box" made up of individual meals prepared and frozen, designed for people who might have smaller appetites and prefer less seasoning. Several specialty boxes are also offered each month, from meats to seasonal fresh fruit and vegetables to allergen free food.

In our diocese, St. Mark's in Bridgeport operates as a host site, meaning they distribute each month's menu of available food, collect orders, money, and then pick up the orders, and bring them back to St. Mark's. Those who have ordered can then pick up their groceries from St. Marks. St. Mark's, in return, gets one dollar for each box ordered, which pretty much covers the cost of fuel to Flushing.

In keeping with the Christian ministry, with each order you are also given a newsletter with stories of faith and testimony, recipes based around the particular food for the month, prayers and other information. ***This is something that we can offer to anyone.*** Many of us can use the help with food costs or even the convenience of the prepared senior meals. You can tell your friends and neighbors as well!

I will soon be getting the menu for November's order. Would this benefit your family? Do you need to stretch those food dollars? Are there people you might wish to help out with food costs? Are you interested in a new and satisfying way to be a part of our outreach/inreach programs? Please feel free to ask for more information. Catch me at church, or give me a call at 482-6098, or 799-1067. You can also visit Angel Food's website at AngelFoodMinistries.com.

Thank you!
Karen Parr

angelfood

MINISTRIES



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GRILL

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HOUSE-SMOKED BBQ MENU!

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989-792-0123
www.gosomeplaceelse.com

Make your All Saints' Day even more special... travel with our choir

The Choir of St. John's is traveling to Mt. Pleasant, MI. to help celebrate a special All Saints' Evensong with St. John's Episcopal of Mt. Pleasant.

The service begins at 5:00pm so if you are in the area, looking for another way to celebrate All Saints' Day, or simply want to support the choir this is it!



Directions and details can be found on our online calendar.

Flu Vaccine Clinic

The wonderful women of Lutheran Home Care Agency are back again this year to help make getting your flu shot the as easy as coming to church!

On Sunday, **November 8th.** roll up your sleeve and help protect yourself and those around you from the flu. Shots are \$25.00 and yes, some insurance is accepted.



See all the details online on our Current Events page!

First Annual Bazaar - Saturday, November 7th

St. John's will be hosting our First Annual Bazaar fundraiser Saturday, November 7th and you can help make it a huge success! And with the proceeds going to support Outreach, Formation, and other programs at St. John's why wouldn't you?

How to help:

1. Donate Baked Goods to sell
2. Donate Household Items to sell
3. Volunteer to work the day of the event
4. Volunteer to help sort and price items Nov.4-6

What to donate:

- Baked Goods
- Household/kitchen utensils, etc.
- Knick-knacks & decorative items
- Books
- Costume Jewelry
- Coats, gloves, scarves, accessories
- Boots & Shoes
- Linnens & Blankets
- Toys & Games



Sorry, no: Clothing (other than what is listed above), Fabric, Electronics, or Sports equipment.

Developing New Means to Fulfill Our Mission

Many of you may not be aware, but St. John's has a fund at the Saginaw Community Foundation that is a sponsor-designated fund. The St. John's Fund is an outreach fund, whereby St. John's has the opportunity to receive an annual dividend that, in accordance with Saginaw Community Foundation guidelines, will then be directed toward outreach programs in the community.

If you are a current Cornerstone Club member or other contributor to the Saginaw Community Foundation, you have the option of designating a specific fund to where your contribution will go. Pledge cards will be coming out soon from the Saginaw Community Foundation and I would ask you to consider designating the St. John's Fund for all or a portion of your contribution. In this way, we can gain much-needed dollars for our Outreach programs.

There something that makes these contributions special! Contributions to the Saginaw Community Foundation qualify for a state income tax credit of up to 50% or \$200, whichever is larger. That means if you give \$400 or more to the Saginaw Community Foundation and file a joint return, you will receive a tax-credit of \$200 when you file your Michigan State Income taxes, plus the tax-deduction of the donation itself, AND you help St. John's continue to help others in need. A win, win, win! Please contact the church office at 793-9575 if you have questions.



Two opportunities to experience the service of Compline this November!

Sunday, November 15th at 7:30pm, St. John's will be offering a service of Compline. This service, reoccurring on the third Sunday of each month, is a brief and wonderful way to experience some of the real treasures at St. Johns. The gift of music within our priest, choral scholars, and music director all come together in a quiet and reflective service. Keeping with its tradition, Compline is offered when the work of the day is completed and the quietness of evening settles over our hearts and minds. Unlike our traditional Sunday morning services (which are always a celebration of the resurrection) Compline can be an opportunity to calmly offer thanks for the blessings of the day which has passed and in anticipation of God's gift of tomorrow.



Sunday, November 29th at 7:30pm, St. John's will be hosting a special guest choir. Gaudeamus, a group organized at Trinity Episcopal church gathers to sing and study Gregorian Chant. These talented members will put their skills to work as they lead a Compline service and include works such as the Marion Antiphon "Alma Redemptoris Mater" and more.

Come, help us welcome our guests and see for yourself how Compline can change the way you start your week!

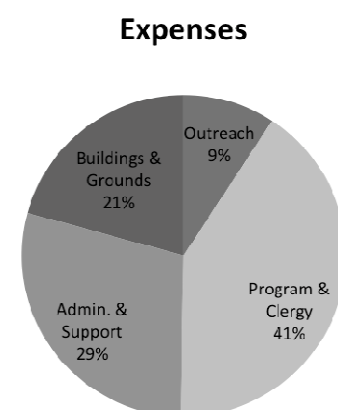
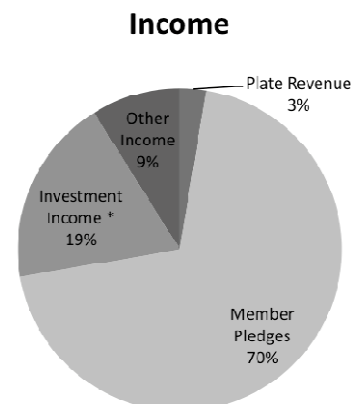
The 2010 Budget – Keeping Our Commitments!

As you are well aware by now, St. John’s is not immune from the challenges that have come along with recent market fluctuations and overall decreasing population in and around Saginaw. Two years ago, we faced a projected budget deficit of \$160,000; as we approach 2010, we are targeting a deficit of around \$49,000. We have made tremendous progress towards eliminating our recurrent operating deficit, while at the same time continuing to reach out in more ways. These next two years are critical!

In the Budget for 2010, provisions have been made which will enable our recurring deficit to be reduced by an additional 38% from last year (over 68% of its amount in 2006). While this is, indeed, good news, this coming year will see changes at all levels in order to meet our fiscal objectives. Already we know that these next two years will call for the creativity, commitment and bold initiatives of all of us!

Frankly speaking, as much as we have been able to restructure and reduce costs overall, the remaining difference will not be met by cuts alone. What is clear is any further reduction of expenses will affect the overall viability of our ministry. In gardening, there’s a difference between pruning and cutting too far back that life cannot be sustained, let alone grow. So it is with the church as we face the final years of our deficit reduction plan. We are well pruned, but can we afford to cut anymore? In order to meet our goals for 2010, we have cut or eliminated positions on staff and everyone is affected. We will not be able to sustain this in the long-run. We simply cannot do all that God is calling us to do if we don’t have the funds to pay our employees, fund our programs and take care of our church facility.

Bottom-line: Income versus expenses. We need to close that gap but we need to do it for the right reasons. We are doing more than paying bills at St. Johns. **We are supporting God’s ministry.** Talking about money is not an easy topic to discuss, but we are asking that we all examine our priorities through prayer and careful consideration. We need to reflect on where we put God in our lives and share our treasures accordingly. **How is God asking you to support St. John’s?**



Budget-At-a-Glance Comparisons	2008 Budget	2009 Budget	2010 Budget
Income			
Plate Contributions	\$7,500	\$7,500	\$7,500
Member Pledges	\$215,000	\$200,000	\$200,000
Investment Income	\$57,500	\$57,500	\$57,500
Other Income	\$13,000	\$27,000	\$25,500
Total Income	\$293,000	\$292,000	\$287,000
Expenses:			
Outreach	\$47,900	\$36,388	\$30,894
Program & Clergy	\$166,428	\$157,230	\$138,640
Administration & Support	\$126,032	\$108,893	\$97,428
Buildings & Grounds	\$72,000	\$69,473	\$69,800
Total Expenses	\$412,360	\$371,984	\$336,763
Surplus or (Deficit)	(\$119,360)	(\$79,984)	(\$49,763)

Spiritual Formation For All

Spiritual Formation For All – Experience is central to spiritual formation, especially as it relates to children, which is why we always encourage families to worship together. It is our goal to provide resources that you and your family need to help grow in your faith throughout the week as well as on Sundays.

Once a month, the church community gathers for a “Festive Sunday,” when after worship, we enjoy a meal and fellowship together, along with an inter-generational program / activity about the particular season or major celebration of the Church.

In consideration of children and families we will help make each Sunday Eucharist that much more connective to your child. Besides the modeling that you as a parent (or grandparent) can provide, we have ‘equipped’ activity bags available for Pre & Kindergarten, as well as Elementary grade levels. Inside are fun activities to do during the service as well as devotional resources to share as a family based on that particular week’s lessons that you are welcome to take home. Similarly, the **nursery** is available on a self-service basis, meaning that parents are free to use the nursery with their child, as they need to; knowing that children are always welcome to be in the midst of the worship first and foremost.

Adult Opportunities for Life-long learning – In addition to worship, adults are invited to participate in one of our several small groups, such as our “Brown Bag Book Group,” Centering Prayer, seasonal classes and other gatherings throughout the year.





JAKE'S OLD CITY GRILL

Steak ♦ Seafood ♦ Spirits

*Bring this copy of the St. John's Messenger to Jakes Old City Grill for **Sunday Brunch** (10:30am till 2:30pm) and 10% of your **food** purchase will be donated back to St. John's!*

100 SOUTH HAMILTON ♦ OLD SAGINAW CITY, MI 48602 ♦ 989-79-STEAK
www.jakesforsteaks.com

Come Celebrate Our Community and Commitment to St. John's and Each Other

November 15th will be our next *Festive Sunday* when we will gather for worship, fellowship, share a family meal and celebrate our commitment to our ministry and one another in God's Name. This will be a day that focuses on *Thanksgiving* in so many ways and it just would not be the same without **you!**

Throughout the fall, we have had occasions to share information and the next steps in realizing our vision. We have presented the Budget and have outlined how we continue to restructure to meet the vision, needs and calling entrusted to us along with the resources we are blessed with. Each of us has been invited to participate in a smaller conversation, as part of our Cottage Meeting Series. On Sunday, November 15th all of our conversation, prayer and consideration come together when we celebrate how God is calling each of us to participate in the full life and ministry of St. John's.

In the days ahead, you will be receiving information and a pledge card. Please prayerfully consider what has been presented this fall and the spirit of the ongoing conversations and then indicate how you feel God is calling you to help. In these times, it is essential that we hear from **you** in order to develop a complete picture and to adequately plan to meet the mission to which we are a part. Bring your pledge card on Sunday, November 15th and join us as we celebrate our Commitment and Community!



Holidays in the City

On Friday, November 20st, St. John's will be participating in the city wide event "Holidays in the City." This event, sponsored by several business associations on both the West and East side of Saginaw is intended to bring a bit of light hearted and festive family entertainment to the city.

Some featured programming for Holidays in the City include: visiting Santa Clause, a reindeer petting zoo, a variety of live musical entertainment, street vendors, and fireworks at dusk, just to name a few.

St. John's is offering our Community Room as a warming rest-stop for festival goers as well as hosting the Saginaw Area Concert Band for a special holiday concert in the church. You can be involved by:

1. *Volunteering to usher the concert for the SACB*
2. *Volunteering to greet and welcome the festival goers who to choose St. John's to warm up.*
3. *Volunteer to make cookies for our guests that evening.*

If you would like to be involved in this terrific opportunity to show the community what a wonderful treasure it has in St. John's contact *Amy Simons* at amy@stjohns-saginaw.org.



Christmas Outreach Baskets

Sure, we haven't celebrated Thanksgiving yet but it's not too soon to start thinking about one of the most meaningful and anticipated outreach projects of the year!

The St. John's Christmas tradition of preparing, packing and delivering gift boxes to the residents of Rosein Towers has become a way of meeting and greeting our neighbors. One of the gifts we receive after giving of our time, talent and treasure is the opportunity to meet face to face with the people that benefit from our labor. Without a doubt, the people who participate in the lunch bag program feel the same way. However, just as important as giving... we have FUN!

Outreach is important and needed and vital. But that doesn't mean it has to be serious and glum. Ask Jan about the open bag of women's gear, if you get my drift! Or talk to Sperry about the knit hat that

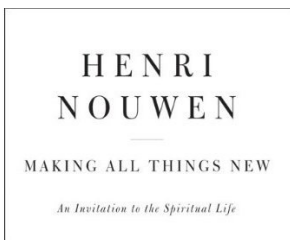


was such a horrid color we felt the recipient might be offended. Every year we have new ideas, form new alliances with area vendors. It is a time of growth on all accounts. And although the holiday season tends to be difficult for many... one of the best ways to cope with those feelings of sadness or loneliness is to get out there and concentrate on others and *let others encourage you!*

Come join the fun as we make a difference in the lives of our neighbors this Christmas!

Brown Bag Book Discussion Group – Wednesdays (12:45—1:30pm)

Get a copy of this great book and join us as we read and discover together about:



Making All Things New: An Invitation to the Spiritual Life – Henri J. Nouwen [November's Book of the Month]

Ever wondered what is actually meant by 'the spiritual life?' This little book by Henri Nouwen not only explains what the spiritual life is but also creates a desire to live into it for yourself.

Amazon.com Review – *Michael Joseph Gross* – “A short, clean, clear book about how to begin finding the peace of mind to hear the voice of God. [Nouwen] explains, with devastating directness, the destructive effects of busy-ness and its attendant habit of worrying, then shows how Jesus responds to these worries, and finally describes some disciplines that "can cause our worries slowly to lose their grip on us, and which can thus allow the Spirit of God to do his recreating work." Nouwen's voice sounds like that of the mentor or spiritual director that many people have always wished for....”

Can't make it in November? December's reading is *Love Came Down: Anglican Readings for Advent and Christmas* – Christopher L. Webber

All books are available through Amazon.com, Barnes & Noble, or your favorite book retailer (call Darren+ in the Church office for additional information / assistance).

Can Mittens... and hats, and YOU!

Have you been working on yarn items - mittens, hats, scarves, blankets &/or hangers - for children in foster care? If so, thank you! The children and foster parents are delighted with them. As you work, your prayers for the children are an extra bonus.

Please bring your yarn creations to church on either of the first two Sundays in November: Nov. 1st or 8th, put them on the table provided in the Community Room, and sign your name onto the list. The items will then be taken to the Child Abuse and Neglect (CAN) Council office to be distributed.

Thank you again for helping to bring warmth and love into these children's lives.



Festive Sunday - November 15th

Be sure to join us for a Festive Sunday and Parish Potluck November 15th following the 10:30 service! This will be a meal full of fellowship as well as spiritual formation for the whole family.

Members with the last names beginning with A-L please bring a hot side or salad. And members with last names M-Z please bring a one of your favorite desserts.



Getting the most of our website

St. John's has a great parish administrator that is almost always on the other end of the line when you call our offices. But did you know that everyone on staff has a "St. John's" email address as well?

This can be a great tool to use when you have a lot of information to deliver that may be too cumbersome to leave in a voice message or when a staff member is out of the office.



You can find each person's staff email address on our parish website on the "Staff" page any time you may need it.

Thanksgiving Eve - November 25th

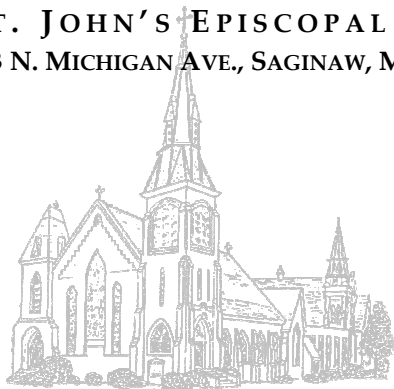
Sometimes in an effort to share the holiday spirit with everyone we meet, we can become worn down and lose our appreciation for all of the wonderful opportunity that surrounds us during this time of year.

This Thanksgiving Eve, treat yourself to a calm moment of worship and music at our 6:30 Holy Eucharist. This ecumenical service is perfect for bringing your family or bringing whoever is in town and taking an hour to share with your loved ones all that is part of our community here at St. John's.



ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
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NOVEMBER AT ST. JOHN'S...

Compline Service

Sunday, November 15th
7:30pm

**Holidays in the Heart
Of The City**

Friday, November 20th
6:00pm

**Festive Sunday
Parish Potluck**

Sunday, November 15th

**Special Compline
w/ Guest Choir
"Gaudeamus"**

Thanksgiving Eve Service

Wednesday, November 25th
6:30pm

Sunday, November 29th
7:30pm