

*Welcome to Saint John's*  
*Episcopal Church*  
COMMUNION UNDER  
SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

*Fifth Sunday after Epiphany*

FEBRUARY 8, 2026

TEN O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING



*Saint John's Church, Mobile*

Welcome to Saint John's! Since its founding in 1853 Saint John's has been an Episcopal church in the heart of Mobile. From our beginning worship has been central to our common life. Originally located ten streets West of Christ Church, Saint John's moved to its current location in 1956, to what was then nearly at the city limits.

If you are interested in learning more about Saint John's or becoming a member of our community, please speak with our priest or call the church office at (251) 479-5474. Our office hours are 9-2pm on Tuesdays. Outside of office hours, or in the event of a pastoral need, you can reach out to Father John Talbert at 205-354-3699. You can also contact us through our website, [www.stjohnsmobile.org](http://www.stjohnsmobile.org).

**Prelude**

**THE ENTRANCE RITE**

**Entrance Song**

*All stand as the organ begins the introduction to the entrance hymn. The Congregation sings the hymn as the ministers of the assembly enter.*

**Hymn 657**

*Hyfrydol*

**Love divine, all loves excelling**

*(see next page)*

1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cell - ing, joy of heaven, to  
 2 Come, al - might - y to de - liv - er, let us all thy  
 3 Fi - nish then thy new cre - a - tion; pure and spot - less

earth come down, fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing, all thy  
 life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er -  
 let us be; let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect -

faith - ful mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion,  
 more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - way bless - ing,  
 ly re - stored in thee: changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry,

pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with  
 serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and praise thee  
 till in heaven we take our place, till we cast our



Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788). Music: *Hyfrydol*, Rowland Hugh Prichard (1811-1887).

*Officiant*

Dear friends in Christ, we have come together in the presence of God to offer praise and thanksgiving, to hear and receive the Word of God, to bring before God the needs of the world and to ask for the forgiveness of our sins. Today the bread and wine for our Communion were consecrated as part of a Eucharist celebrated at another time and place. For centuries, the church has reserved consecrated elements in order to include those unable, because of infirmity or distance, to be present at Eucharist, and also to include worshiping communities on occasions when no priest is available to preside.

## Opening Acclamation

*Officiant* Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

*People* **And blessed be God's kingdom; now and forever. Amen.**

*Officiant*

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid; Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*The people remain standing for the Collect of the Day.*

## The Collect of the Day

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*The Officiant says*

The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Officiant* Let us pray.

Set us free, O God, from the bondage of our sins, and give us the liberty of that abundant life which you have made known to us in your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## The Readings

*The People are seated. The first lesson, Isaiah 58:1-12, is now read*

Shout out, do not hold back!

Lift up your voice like a trumpet!

Announce to my people their rebellion,  
to the house of Jacob their sins.

Yet day after day they seek me  
and delight to know my ways,

as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness  
and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;

they ask of me righteous judgments,  
they delight to draw near to God.

“Why do we fast, but you do not see?  
Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?”

Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day,  
and oppress all your workers.

Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight  
and to strike with a wicked fist.

Such fasting as you do today  
will not make your voice heard on high.

Is such the fast that I choose,  
a day to humble oneself?

Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush,  
and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?

Will you call this a fast,  
a day acceptable to the Lord?

Is not this the fast that I choose:  
to loose the bonds of injustice,  
to undo the thongs of the yoke,

to let the oppressed go free,  
and to break every yoke?

Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,  
and bring the homeless poor into your house;

when you see the naked, to cover them,  
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,  
and your healing shall spring up quickly;

your vindicator shall go before you,  
the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard.

Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer;  
you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.

If you remove the yoke from among you,  
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,

if you offer your food to the hungry  
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,

then your light shall rise in the darkness  
and your gloom be like the noonday.

The Lord will guide you continually,  
and satisfy your needs in parched places,  
and make your bones strong;

and you shall be like a watered garden,  
like a spring of water,  
whose waters never fail.

Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;  
you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;

you shall be called the repairer of the breach,  
the restorer of streets to live in.

*The Reader concludes*

The Word of the Lord.

*People*

**Thanks be to God.**

*The Congregation sings* **Psalm 112:1-9**

**S 411**

**Robert Knox Kennedy**  
(b. 1945)



© 1979, Robert Knox Kennedy.

1 Hallelujah!

Happy are they who fear the Lord \*  
and have great delight in his commandments!

2 Their descendants will be mighty in the land; \*  
the generation of the upright will be blessed.

3 Wealth and riches will be in their house, \*  
and their righteousness will last for ever.

4 Light shines in the darkness for the upright; \*  
the righteous are merciful and full of compassion.

5 It is good for them to be generous in lending \*  
and to manage their affairs with justice.

6 For they will never be shaken; \*  
the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance.

7 They will not be afraid of any evil rumors; \*  
their heart is right;  
they put their trust in the Lord.

8 Their heart is established and will not shrink, \*  
until they see their desire upon their enemies.

9 They have given freely to the poor, \*  
and their righteousness stands fast for ever;  
they will hold up their head with honor.

*The second lesson, I Corinthians 2:1-16, is now read*

When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to you in lofty words or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. My speech and my proclamation were not with plausible words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.

Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to perish. But we speak God's wisdom, secret and hidden, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. None of the rulers of this age understood this; for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But, as it is written,

“What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,  
nor the human heart conceived,  
what God has prepared for those who love him”—

these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. For what human being knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God. Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God. [And we speak of these things in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual things to those who are spiritual.

Those who are unspiritual do not receive the gifts of God's Spirit, for they are foolishness to them, and they are unable to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. Those who are spiritual discern all things, and they are themselves subject to no one else's scrutiny.

“For who has known the mind of the Lord  
so as to instruct him?”

But we have the mind of Christ.]

*The Reader concludes*

*People*           The Word of the Lord.  
                      **Thanks be to God.**

**Hymn 530**

*Gott sei Dank*

**Spread, O spread, thou mighty word**

1 Spread, O spread, thou might - y word, spread the king - dom of the Lord,  
 2 word of how the Fa - ther's will made the world, and keeps it, still;  
 3 word of how the Sa - vior's love earth's sore bur - den doth re - move;  
 4 word of how the Spi - rit came bring - ing peace in Je - sus' name;  
 5 Word of life, most pure and strong, word for which the na - tions long,

1 that to earth's re - mot - est bound all may heed the joy - ful sound;  
 2 how his on - ly Son he gave, earth from sin and death to save;  
 3 how for - ev - er, in its need, through his death the world is freed;  
 4 how his nev - er - fail - ing love guides us on to heaven a - bove.  
 5 spread a - broad, un - til from night all the world a - wakes to light.

*The Gospel lesson, Matthew 5:13-20 is now read*

Jesus said, "You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

"You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

"Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven."

*The Reader concludes*

The Word of the Lord.

*People*

**Thanks be to God.**



**The Nicene Creed**

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*The people stand as the Officiant stands and all join in saying:*

We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father.  
Through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven:  
by the power of the Holy Spirit  
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,  
and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.  
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.  
He has spoken through the Prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

## The Prayers of the People

*All may stand or sit. A minister bids these prayers of the assembly:*

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good.

Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us.

Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles and bring them the joy of your salvation.

Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Receive unto to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

*The Officiant adds a concluding collect.*

Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your apostles, "Peace I give to you; my own peace I leave with you." Regard not our sins, but the faith of your Church, and give to us the peace and unity of that heavenly City, where with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and reign, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## The Confession of Sin

*The Officiant says*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence is observed after which the Officiant and People pray*

**Most merciful God,**  
we confess that we have sinned against you  
in thought, word and deed  
by what we have done and by what we have left undone.  
**We have not loved you with our whole heart;**  
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.  
**We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.**  
**For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,**  
have mercy on us and forgive us;  
that we may delight in your will,  
and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your Name. **Amen.**

*The Officiant says*

Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ,  
strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life.

**Amen.**

**The Peace**

*The Officiant says*

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*The Ministers and People greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

**Announcements**

*The Congregation may be seated for the announcements.*

## **THE LITURGY OF COMMUNION**

**The Preparation of the Gifts**

*The Congregation is seated for the Offertory.*

**Choir Offertory**

**Come My Way, My Truth, My Life**

*Text: George Hebert*

*Music: Malcolm Archer*

*The Congregation stands and sings the Presentation Hymn while the ushers bring forward the people's gifts of bread, wine, money and other gifts.*

**Hymn 380**

*Old 100th*

**All people that on earth do dwell**

*Vs 3 only*

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
praise him, all creatures here below;  
praise him above, ye heavenly host;  
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

*The Officiant says*

Sisters and brothers, on the first day of February, in the year of Our Lord, 2026, the people of St. John's, in Mobile, Alabama, gathered as the Body of Christ to celebrate the Holy Eucharist. A portion of the Sacred Bread and Precious Blood was reserved from that Eucharist, and have been reverently kept for us, that we may this day join with those who gathered then, in communion with God and all Christians of every place and every time to share in this foretaste of the Heavenly Banquet.

*Officiant* Sisters and brothers, the cup of blessing that was blessed

*People* **is the communion of the Blood of Christ.**

*Officiant* For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body

*People* **and all made to drink of one Spirit.**

*Officiant* The Bread that was broken

*People* **is the Communion of the Body of Christ.**

*Officiant* Because there is One Bread

*People* **we who are many are one body, for we all share in the One Bread.**

*All:* **Almighty Father, whose dear Son on the night before He suffered, instituted the Sacrament of his Body and Blood; Mercifully grant that we may receive it thankfully in remembrance of Jesus Christ our Lord, Who in these holy mysteries gives us a pledge of eternal life; and Who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say

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**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread,  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

### **The Invitation**

*The Officiant invites the people to receive the Holy Communion.*

*Officiant* The gifts of God for the People of God.

## **WE ARE ALL INVITED TO THE LORD'S TABLE**

*IN THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH, all baptized persons are invited to receive the Holy Communion. Persons who do not wish to receive Communion are invited to come forward with everyone else to receive a prayer of intercession.*

*During the distribution of communion, the Congregation remains seated and sings the Communion Hymn.*

**Hymn 321**

*Rockingham*

**My God, thy table now is spread**


*(see next page)*



1 My God, thy ta - ble now is spread, thy cup with  
 2 O let thy ta - ble hon - ored be, and fur - nished  
 3 Drawn by thy quick - ening grace, O Lord, in coun - tless  
 4 Nor let thy spread - ing Gos - pel rest till through the



love doth o - ver - flow; be all thy chil - dren  
 well with joy - ful guests; and may each soul sal -  
 num - bers let them come and gath - er from their  
 world thy truth has run, till with this Bread shall



thith - er led, and let them thy sweet mer - cies know.  
 va - tion see, that here its sa - cred pledg - es tastes.  
 Fa - ther's board the Bread that lives be - yond the tomb.  
 all be blessed who see the light or feel the sun.

Words: Sis. 1-3, Philip Doddridge (1702-1751), alt.; st. 4, Isaac Watts (1674-1748), alt. Music: *Rockingham*, melody from *Second Supplement to Psalmody in Miniature*, ca. 1780; adapt. Edward Miller (1731-1807); harm. Samuel Webbe (1740-1816).

## Postcommunion Prayer

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*The People stand or kneel. The Officiant says*

Let us pray.

*Officiant and People*

**Almighty and everliving God,  
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food  
of the most precious Body and Blood  
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;  
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries  
that we are living members of the Body of your Son,  
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.  
And now, Father, send us out  
to do the work you have given us to do,  
to love and serve you  
as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.  
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,  
be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.**

*The people stand and sing the recessional hymn.*

**Hymn 665**

*Michael*

**All my hope on God is founded**  
*(see next page)*



1 All my hope on God is found - ed; he doth still my  
2 Mor - tal pride and earth - ly glo - ry, sword and crown be -  
3 God's great good - ness e'er en - dur - eth, deep his wis - dom  
\* 4 Dai - ly doth the al - might - y Giv - er boun - teous gifts on  
5 Still from earth to God e - ter - nal sac - ri - fice of



1 trust re - new, me through change and chance he  
2 tray our trust; though with - care and toil we  
3 pass - ing thought: splen - dor, light, and life at -  
4 us be - stow; his de - sire our soul de -  
5 praise be done, high a - bove all prais - es



1 guid - eth, on - ly good and on - ly true. God un -  
2 build them, tower and tem - ple fall to dust. But God's  
3 tend him, beau - ty spring - eth out of nought. Ev - er -  
4 light - eth, plea - sure leads us where we go. Love doth  
5 prais - ing for the gift of Christ, his son. Christ doth



1 known, he a - lone calls my heart to be his own.  
2 power, hour by hour, is my tem - ple and my tower.  
3 more from his store new-born worlds rise and a - dore.  
4 stand at his hand; joy doth wait on his com - mand.  
5 call one and all: ye who fol - low shall not fall.

## The Dismissal

*The Officiant dismisses the saying*

*Officiant* Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia, Alleluia.

*People* Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia.

## Postlude





## The Mobile Episcopal Fellowship

welcomes you to  
**"Bear With Me"**



FEBRUARY 25<sup>TH</sup> TO MARCH 25<sup>TH</sup>  
A 5-week **Lenten** gathering for **all people**  
to study the "*bears*" of the New Testament,  
pray and break bread in fellowship,  
and talk about what we "*bear*" in life.



Hosted at Trinity Episcopal Church  
1900 Dauphin Street Mobile, AL

Dinner served Feb. 25<sup>th</sup>, March 11<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> at 6PM  
March 4<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> are Eucharistic Feasts at 7PM

Wednesday Evenings  
FEBRUARY 25 TO MARCH 25

Week 1: 5:30pm Stations of the Cross  
6pm-7:30: Dinner and Discussion  
*John 15:1-8 "Bear much fruit"*

Week 2: Holy Eucharist @ 7PM  
Celebration of New Ministry with Fr. Mark  
(with Bishop Russell Kendrick)  
*Romans 8:14-17 "Bear Witness"*

Week 3: 5:30pm Stations of the Cross  
6pm-7:30: Dinner and Discussion  
*Matthew 20:1-16 "Bearing the burden"*

Week 4: 5:30pm Stations of the Cross  
6pm-7:30: Dinner and Discussion  
*Colossians 3:10-15 "Forbearance"*

Week 5: Holy Eucharist @ 7PM  
*The Feast of The Annunciation*  
Luke 1:26-38 "*Bear a Son*"

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**SERVING IN TODAY’S LITURGY:**

Officiant.....Nikki Shaw  
First Lesson Lector.....Nikki Shaw  
Second Lesson Lector..... Geri Moulton  
Third Lesson Lector.....Kathe Gieseler  
Lay Eucharistic Minister.....Lee Dorsey  
Altar Guild.....Cindy Gass  
Vestry Tellers.....Janet Buckley & Kathe Gieseler  
Assisting Minister .....Lee Dorsey  
Digital Evangelist ..... Kristen Turner

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## **THIS WEEK AT SAINT JOHN'S:**

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|                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| Today, February 8    | 10:00AM Holy Communion: Epiphany 5        |
|                      | 11:15AM Fellowship Time in the Great Hall |
| Next Sunday, Feb. 15 | 10:00AM Holy Eucharist: Epiphany 6        |
|                      | 11:15AM Fellowship time in the Great Hall |
| Wednesday, Feb. 18   | 2:00PM Ash Wednesday Service              |

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### **RECENT ATTENDANCE:**

|    |                        |
|----|------------------------|
| 20 | January 18, Epiphany 2 |
| 25 | January 25, Epiphany 3 |
| 10 | February 1, Epiphany 4 |

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### **THE FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR TODAY**

are given by  
Janet Buckley  
to the glory of God

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## **PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:**

We lift up to you members of this church family, especially:

Cookie and David Rich, Bootsie Cieutat, Eddy Velaski, Julie Garner, Pat Fulford, Marie Brown, Bob Anderson, Helen Guthrie, Mike and Frances Barbour, Carolyn Pearce, Ashley Garris, Jayson Chestang, and Mary Catherine Warren.

We pray for our family and friends, especially:

Chris Velaski, Melanie Velaski, Steve and Janice Garner, Frank Brown, JoAnn McPhearson, Chris Lion, Colin Guthrie, Alilee Pillman, Sheila Velaski, Andy Williams, Nadine Evans, Calvert Johnson, Brenda Goolsby, Larry DeBert, Anne Redd, Louis Bell, Emily Brown, Dennis Clardy, Sarah Guthrie, Morris Levy, Joey Adams, Judy Lynch, John Knight, Adam Strong, Angie Leon, David Hamilton, Sheila Cassity Granger, Barbara Bonner, David Brunner, Mary Horner, Susan Hansen, Karl Gieseler, Randy Dunn, Sharon Lee Nolan, Peggy Sheffield, Eddie Hun, Katelynn Tillman, Karen Twilley, Nancy Payne, Donna Pigg, Betty Williams, Latecia Cushion Knight, Bonnie Jernigan, Britney Butler, Neal Tourné, Sandy Michel, Paul Nelson, Frances LeBlanc (*priest*).

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### **THE CLERGY AND STAFF OF ST. JOHN'S**

The Rt. Reverend J. Russell. Kendrick, *Bishop of the Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast*

The Reverend John Talbert, *Rector* ([frjohn@stjohnsmobile.org](mailto:frjohn@stjohnsmobile.org))

Mr. Louis F. Daniel, *organist & choir director* ([music@stjohnsmobile.org](mailto:music@stjohnsmobile.org))

Ms. Kathe Gieseler, *financial secretary* ([finance@stjohnsmobile.org](mailto:finance@stjohnsmobile.org))

Dr. Nikki Shaw, *office volunteer* ([office@stjohnsmobile.org](mailto:office@stjohnsmobile.org))

### **THE VESTRY AND WARDENS OF ST. JOHN'S**

Class of 2026: Ms. Helen Guthrie. *and* Ms. Kathe Gieseler.

Class of 2027: Ms. Connie McLean, *senior warden*, *and* Mr. Eddy Velaski.

Class of 2028: Mr. Hugh Tomlin, *junior warden*, *and* Ms. Janet Buckley, *clerk*.  
*and* Ms. Cindy Gass, *treasurer*.

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