ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH & PARISH DAY SCHOOL

We strive to bring all people to a closer relationship with God and each other in Jesus Christ.





Third Sunday of Advent Christmas Pageant & Holy Eucharist

December 14, 2025 • 11:00 a.m. • Historic Church

WELCOME TO ST. JOHN'S!

The third Sunday of Advent is traditionally known as "Gaudete Sunday." Guadete means "Rejoice!" in Latin, and it is meant to emphasize the practice of joy in our Advent season of waiting. We will light the rose colored candle on our Advent wreath today, reflecting in the joyful language of Mary's Song, the Magnificat: "my spirit rejoices in God my Savior." We will sing songs which reflect the joy we have in God as we wait in hope.

And today, we will enter into that joy in a special way by observing a children's Christmas Pageant that tells us this story of great joy. It is a story of God's love of all creation, expressed in God's extravagant gifts of affection and devotion. Experience and discover that God loves us by sharing God's own self through the birth of the son, Jesus. The pageant we see today is witness to joy. As we approach the Christmas season, may we celebrate the wonder of God-made flesh in Jesus the only Son, and Rejoice!

We are thankful to the many parent volunteers who have helped make this pageant possible and successful for our children and the St. John's community. A special thank you to Minister of Faith & Practice for Children & Youth Georgi Funderburk; Music Director Justin Pechulis; and Adult Helpers Emily Brenner, Kate Funderburk, Angela Helder, Cassie Hopwood-Meyer, Beth Jenior, and Lucia Martin

PAGEANT PARTICIPANTS

Ameila Birney
Rory Birney
Madeline Brenner
Rachel Brenner
Auggie Cordell
Cora Cordell
Harriett Cordell
Mary Jane Cordell
Veta Cordell

Aurora Funderburk
Eliada Funderburk
Veronica Funderburk
William Funderburk
Amelia Helder
Emmett Helder
Esme Hopwood-Meyer
Iris Hopwood-Meyer
Asha Miller

Plus those we welcomed today!

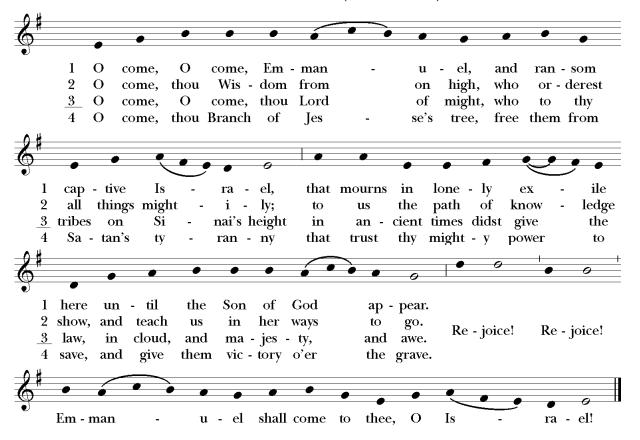
The pageant is a service of worship. Please refrain from photography, so that you and your children may fully join in this celebration of the Christ Child's coming. Please silence all cell phones. Thank You.

THE WORD OF GOD

PRELUDE

OPENING HYMN *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* (H 56, vs. 1-4)

Veni, veni, Emmanuel



WELCOME

OPENING ACCLAMATION & LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

Our King and Savior now draws near.

Come let us adore him.

As the night grows longer, and the shadows settle,

We ponder your marvelous works.

With hearts weary with grief and woe,

We longingly seek your wisdom.

In the ancient story that unfolds this day,

We renew our trust in your promises.

(The first, second, and third candles are lit.)

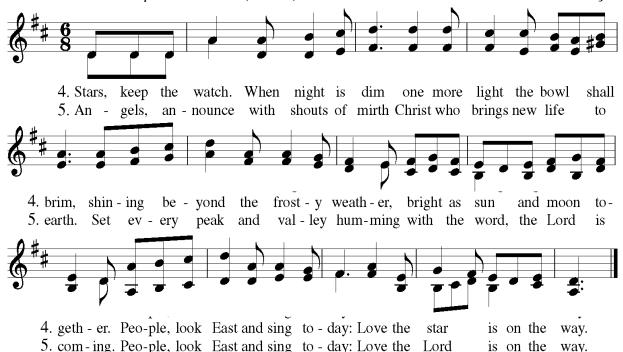
Come, O Christ, and set us free.

Come, Emmanuel, bring your rule of justice and peace.

We wait for a new heaven and a new earth,

Where righteous is at home.





COLLECT OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Today on this third Sunday of Advent, let us dream and sing our way to Bethlehem to remember the story of the birth of Christ, the story of great wonder and mystery...our story of Emmanuel, God With Us.

Our story begins long before today: in covenants and callings, in the promises of God in the voices of prophets, and in the message of an angel:

In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, from the family of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And Gabriel came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you!" But Mary was confused by his words and wondered what they meant. He said, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David. And he will reign...and of his kingdom there will be no end." And Mary said, "How can this be? I am not yet married!" And he said, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called Holy...For nothing will be impossible with God!" And Mary said, "Here I am, the servant of the Lord. Let it happen as you have said!"

Donna Hesson, soprano; Carol Diggs, flute

Now, the town we seek lies in the hill country south of Jerusalem. It is the ancient birthplace of King David. Usually quiet, tonight it is bustling to overflowing. The Roman Emperor has ordered all people back to their hometowns to be counted, so that he may take their money as a tax. But outside it is dark and quiet. In the stable, the barn behind the inn, the animals rest from a long day's work. Nearby in the fields the sheep are nearly asleep. And Bethlehem drifts into night.

Look, coming up the road!

HYMN *O Little Town of Bethlehem* (H 78, vs. 1)

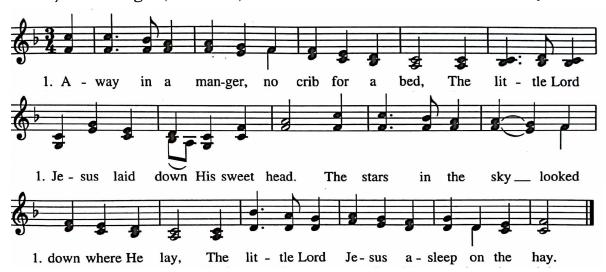
Forest Green



Two last travelers make their weary way into the town. It is Mary and her husband Joseph all the way from Nazareth. They have walked for days to come to Joseph's home, where King David was born so long ago. Where will they rest? There was no guest room for them, and Mary is so close to delivering her child.

They must take shelter in a stable with the animals. The stars brighten in the sky. All creation holds its breath. And suddenly from the stable comes the cry of a newborn child! And Mary wrapped her firstborn son in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger.





See in the hills near Bethlehem, shepherds are watching their sheep. Suddenly the darkness is pierced with light, and a clear voice calls in the night: "Do not be afraid. See, I bring you news of great joy! A joy to be shared by everyone! Today in the town of David, a savior has been born to you. He is Christ the Lord! This will be a sign for you: You will find the child wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger." And suddenly from the light flood the shining faces of angels — a great company of the heavenly host, singing and praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and peace to all in whom God delights!"

HYMN *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* (H 78, vs. 1)

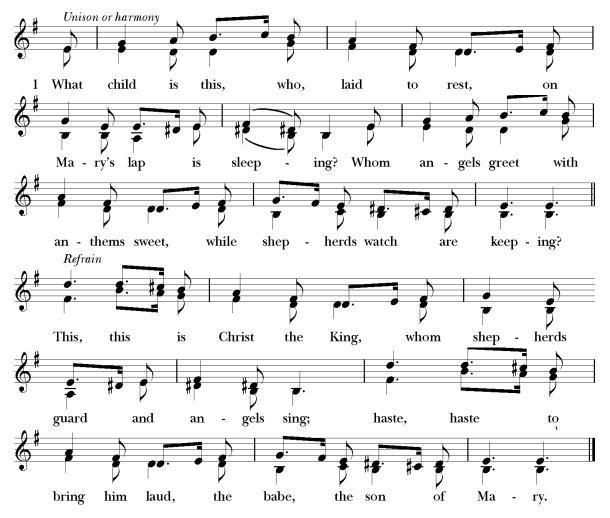
Mendelssohn



The shepherds run with joy across the fields to Bethlehem, to find the barn behind the inn. There they find the Holy Family, just as the angels had said. And coming forward on hands and knees, they see the one they seek: the Christ Child, cradled in the center of all that love. And Mary treasured all of these things and pondered them in her heart.

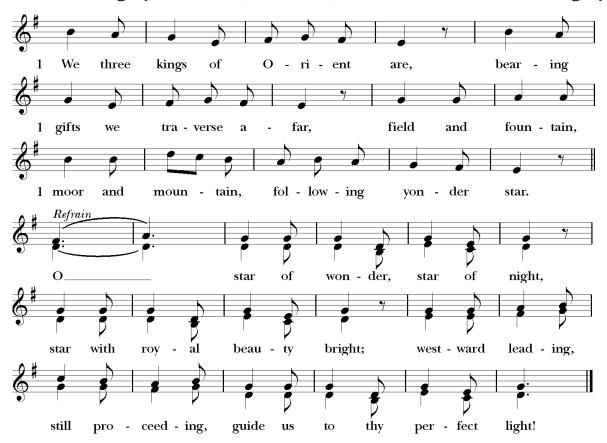
HYMN *What Child is This* (H 115, vs. 1)

Greensleeves



Now see who is plodding up the road. It is the Magi, the wise ones, kings from the East. They have traveled from distant lands in search of the Holy Child, for they saw his star rising at his birth. Following the star, they come to the place where it stops over the child, overwhelmed with joy. And seeing Jesus, they fall on their knees and worship him. Opening their chests, they present him with shining gold, sweet frankincense, and bitter myrrh – gifts to honor the King of Kings!





This is the story of the birth of the Christ Child. The eternal Word, the Son of God, was born into the world as a humble child. Mary gave birth to him and held in her arms, the baby who was the same God who cared for her and cares for us. And just as Mary embraced the infant Jesus, God embraces us all. The Incarnation draws us into God's unconditional love – God who came among us then is, as always, with us now. May the wonder and joy of Christmas open our hearts, that Christ may be born in us again, and we may share God's love!

CONCLUDING PRAYER

God of love, the darkness that covered the earth has given way to the bright dawn of your Word made flesh. Make us a people of this light. Make us faithful to your Word that we may bring your life to the waiting world. Grant this through Christ our Lord. *Amen*.

The pageant participants process out; Children will return to their parents after the Announcements.

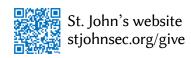
THE PEACE (Please stand as you are able.) The peace of the Lord be always with you. And also with you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.





Text to Give Text "SJEC" to 73256

OFFERTORY ANTHEM Advent Joy

Hal Hopson

St. John's Youth Choir

A star shining in the dark, a song ringing through the night. These are the signs of the Holy birth. These are the wonders of God on earth. We look! We listen! We wait! O come, O come, Emmanuel.

God with us? How can it be? Adam's own Son by God's decree. This is the truth the prophets told. This is the One we soon will behold. God with us! Sing! Rejoice!

A star! A song! Jesus is coming, his star appears. Jesus is coming, the song the earth hears. Veni, Emmanuel. Come, Lord Jesus, come soon!

THE PRESENTATION HYMN *Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding* (H 59, vs. 1-2, 5) *Merton*



- 1 Hark! a thrill-ing voice is sound-ing: "Christ is nigh," it seems to say;
- 2 Wak-ened by the sol-emn warn-ing, from earth's bond-age let us rise;
- 3 Lo! the Lamb, so long ex pect ed, comes with par don down from heaven;
- 4 so when next he comes with glo ry, and the world is wrapped in fear,
- 5 Hon or, glo ry, might, and bless ing to the Fa ther and the Son,



- 1 "Cast a way the works of dark-ness, O ye child-ren of the day."
- 2 Christ, our sun, all sloth dis pel ling, shines up on the morn ing skies.
- <u>3</u> let us haste, with tears of sor row, one and all to be for given;
- 4 may he with his mer-cy shield us, and with words of love draw near.
- 5 with the ev er last-ing Spi rit while un end-ing a ges run.

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER B

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

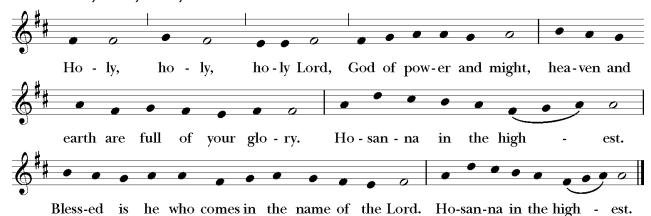
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

9



We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me." Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

We remember his death, We proclaim his resurrection, We await his coming in glory;

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with St. John and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **Amen.**

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

THE LORD'S PRAYER (*Pray in unison.*)

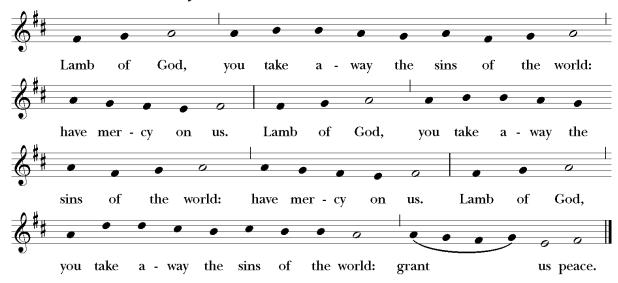
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the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

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

(A silence is held.)

FRACTION ANTHEM Lamb of God

Hurd



The Gifts of God for the People of God.

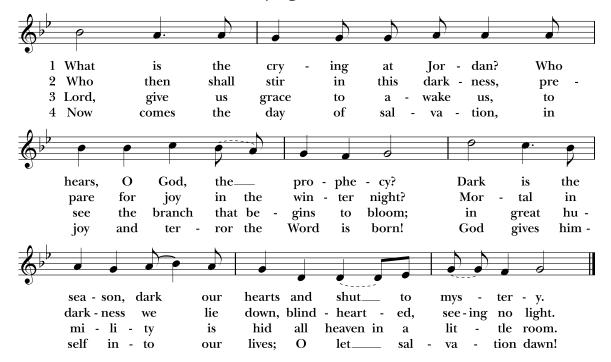
COMMUNION: God Welcomes You to the Table

This is Christ's Table, and God welcomes us all to be fed and blessed here. All those baptized, regardless of church tradition/denomination, background, or age are invited to receive Communion as members of the Body of Christ. Please let the clergy know if you require a gluten-free wafer. If you are not yet baptized, or wish to receive a Blessing instead of Communion, please cross your hands across your chest and the minister will affirm God's blessing on you. If you are unable to come forward for Communion, please let an usher know so that the clergy may come to you. If you are interested in exploring more of what baptism could mean for you, please speak to Rev. Derek, our Rector, and he would LOVE to talk about baptism with you!



COMMUNION HYMN I *What is the Crying at Jordan* (H 69)

St. Mark's, Berkeley



COMMUNION HYMN II Blessed Be the God of Israel (W 889)

Shepherd's Pipes



THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER (*Pray together.*)

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

SENDING FORTH OF THE EUCHARISTIC VISITORS

In the name of God and of this congregation, I send you to those who are homebound, that they may share with us in Christ's body and blood.

We who are many are one body, because we share one bread, one cup.

THE BLESSING

CLOSING HYMN *Comfort, Comfort Ye My People* (H 67)

Psalm 42



DISMISSAL

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

PLEASE KEEP THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYERS: Deb Avant, Steve Belknap, Jim Bruce, Richard Burrows, Leslie Edmonds, Barbara Epke, Loretta Gleason, Sunny Good, Marti Guillet, Janis, Jim, Beth John, Rose Jones, Kathryn, Ruth Keimig, Kelly, Mary Jo Kenney, Mike Kinzel, John Kreft, Terry Kreft, Mary Krzos, Tom & Dorothy Linthicum, Glenda Lovchik, Judy Lovchik, Jean Marlow, Brent & Meg McDorman, Pat Merson, Charles H. Miller, Gordon Nahas, Kathy O'Dunne, Jean Purcell, Rev. C. Dean Pugh, Roland Russoli, Clay Shiflet, Teresa Sinkovich, Andrea Squire, Marion Walker, Allison Ward, Victoria Weimer, Dylan Williams, and Maria, Taylor, & Felicia Wray.

FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED: The Rev. E. Bernard Anderson

THE BIRTH CANDLE IS LIT TODAY in thanksgiving for the birth of Kelly Standeven Mackey, son of Molly Standeven & James Mackey, and grandson of Diane & Dave Standeven and Beth & Ben Mackey.

To have someone included on our prayer list, you may: Contact the Parish Office by phone or email your prayer request to Tracey Stone at tstone@stjohnsec.org. Names will remain on the prayer list for 30 days.



Gather Family & Friends to Bring the Crèche to Life!

Parish and school friends and families of all ages are invited to sign up for an evening shift to wear Biblical costumes and enjoy fellowship time in the stable scene on the lawn near Frederick Road as a witness to Christ's presence for those in our wider community. Costumes are provided, or you can bring your own.

Many time slots to choose from!

Keep this St. John's tradition alive!

https://bit.ly/living-creche-2025

SPECIAL HOLIDAY BASKET COLLECTION

Monies purchase grocery gift cards to be included with our Holiday Baskets for ARC of Howard Co. & The Kirk P. Gaddy Youth Ctr.



Donate online now at https://bit.ly/SJEC-GiveNow Fund=Outreach Ministry Memo=Special Collection





Christmas 2025 at St. John's

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24: CHRISTMAS EVE

3:00 p.m. | All Saints Hall | Preparing the Crèche Service with Holy Eucharist

Wonder at the mystery and meaning of Christ's birth in this worship offering designed especially for families with young children and open to all.

Children will bring to life the Crèche for Christmas.

5:00 p.m. | Historic Church & Livestream | Festival Holy Eucharist

Rejoice at the message of the angels as the Good News of Christmas is proclaimed through scripture and music. Traditional Christmas carols and special music are featured.

5:30 p.m. | All Saints Hall | Celtic Christmas with Holy Eucharist

Celebrate Christmas through Irish, Scottish, and English carols and traditional instruments.

10:00 p.m. | Historic Church | Festival Holy Eucharist

Traditional Christmas music by the Adult Choir, Handbell Choir, and Instrumental Ensemble. Music begins at 9:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25: CHRISTMAS DAY

11:00 a.m. | Historic Church | The Holy Eucharist with Carols

The Feast of the Nativity celebrated with carol singing.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28: CHRISTMAS I

11:00 a.m. | Historic Church | Lessons & Carols with Holy Eucharist

(There will be no other services on the weekend of Dec. 27 & 28.)

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH & PARISH DAY SCHOOL

9120 Frederick Road 🔊 Ellicott City, MD 21042

Church Office: 410-461-7793 Clergy On-call Phone: 443-538-2806
Church Office Hours: Mon. - Thurs. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., or by appointment; Fri. Closed www.stjohnsec.org www.stjohnspds.org

WEEKEND WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Saturdays, 5:00 p.m.: Contemplative Worship, Historic Church Sundays, 9:00 a.m.: Family-friendly, Contemporary Worship, All Saints Hall Sundays, 11:00 a.m.: Traditional Worship, Historic Church (11:00 a.m. is livestreamed whenever possible on YouTube — https://bit.ly/SJEC-YouTube) 주일 성찬예배 오전 10:30, 한국어 성찬예배는 Resurrection 채플에서 드립니다.

Find more worship information at https://www.stjohnsec.org

CLERGY & STAFF

The Rev. Derek H. Miller Rector

The Venerable Ruth Elder
Deacon

The Rev. J. Joseph Hart Assisting Clergy

The Rev. Gigie Sijera-Grant
Assisting Clergy

Ms. Georgi Funderburk

Minister of Faith & Practice for Children & Youth

Ms. Kathy Hahn *Director of Finance*

Mr. Warren Harris
Facilities Tech

Mr. Brad Jones *Director of Facilities*

Ms. Annie Kao Stewardship Assistant

Mr. Justin Pechulis
Director of Music Ministries & Organist

Mr. Mike Ritonia Facilities Tech

Ms. Tracey Stone *Director of Communications*

VESTRY

Gordon Knox Senior Warden

Scott Geist *Junior Warden*

Doug Hall
Treasurer

Clare Brooks
Registrar



Scott Geist Katie Kelel Lucia Martin Marsha Trant Class of 2026

Susan Fedors David Hale Kim Kerry Janet Loughran Class of 2027

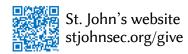
Paul Casasco Rick Conover Tim Loomis Dawn Rea Class of 2028

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Text to Give
Text "SJEC" to 73256

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