

St. John's
Episcopal Church
Oklahoma City, OK

Fab Friday, November 17, 2023

EVERYTHING HAPPENING AT ST. JOHN'S THIS WEEK (AND MORE)



HAPPY THANKS GIVING

Okay - I admit that when I say Happy Thanksgiving to friends and families, and strangers too, I don't think of Thanksgiving as two words.

But really - just think about it. When we celebrate Thanksgiving each year, we give thanks for our families, our bounty, and all that God has given us. I wonder if during our Thanksgiving blessings, we should thank God for all that we are able to GIVE TO THE CHURCH AND OTHERS in need. There's an interesting concept.

We are in the middle of our annual stewardship campaign. So, maybe to mix it up, I will consider this holiday as Thanks Giving. I think I can do that.

Right now, you are being asked to consider what you will be able to pledge for the coming year. Most of us decide our giving based on an estimate of income and expenses. Often the giving to church or others in need is based on what is left over. I salute those who consider their giving first and the needs of their budget second.

Also, when we determine our budgets, we base our expenses on our projected income. That's what the church does too. The Bishop's Committee sets the budget largely based on projected income. That's why pledging is so important to maintaining and growing our church. As you

consider pledging this year, please consider how important making a pledge really is.

No matter the amount you can promise to St. John's, all gifts given make our lives richer and increase our capacity to serve our community. We can't do our good work in the community without you!

So, I am adopting the Thanks Giving model this year and I thank God for your giving. For your pledge and the special contributions you have made this year in giving of your time, talent and treasure - I thank God for you. For all the love and joy, spiritual nourishment, and sustenance I have found at St. John's, I thank God for you, one and all.

Here is your [Sunday bulletin](#). We hope to see you on Sunday as we gather to give thanks to the God that watches over us, no matter what!

Peace be with you,
Nancy

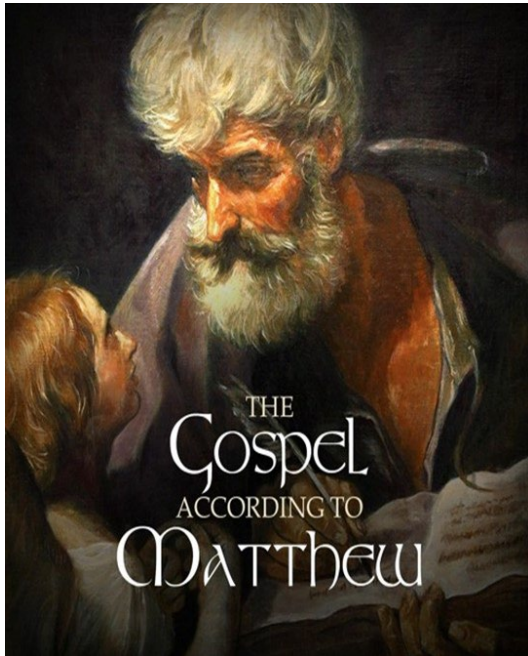


The graphic features a light yellow background with a decorative border of autumn leaves, blue flowers, and red berries at the top and bottom. The central text reads: "Tis the Season for Giving", "2023 Stewardship Campaign", "November 5 through 26", and "Ingathering Service November 26". Below this is a dark brown rectangular box containing a photograph of hands holding wheat on the left, the word "Stewardship" in a white serif font with a cross for the letter 't' in the center, and the tagline "sharing the gifts we have been given" in a smaller white font at the bottom. The phrase "Pledging Matters" is written in a large, black, serif font below the dark box.

Tis the Season for Giving
2023 Stewardship Campaign
November 5 through 26
Ingathering Service November 26

Stewardship
sharing the gifts we have been given

Pledging Matters



Upcoming Adult Forum

Sunday, November 19—Matthew 25:14-30. (Proper 28). Building your Judgment.

Working for the Kingdom. Questions:

- How do you connect this scripture with Matthew 10? How are Jesus' instructions to his disciples (Mt.10) reflected in the "Parable of the Talent"?
- How can this scripture be changed or give another perspective to the debate between Faith and Deeds?

Calendar of Upcoming Events

Sunday, November 19, following morning worship –

Birthday Party for Nema Maney in the WD Hall

All are invited to help Nema celebrate her birth

Sunday, November 19, Noon – BC Meeting at special time/date

Thursday, November 23 – Thanksgiving Day

Sunday, November 26, following morning worship – Advent Event on front lawn

Thursday, November 30, 5:30 pm -- Feast of St Andrew the Apostle

Evening Prayer – 5:30 Wednesdays, Nov 15, 22 and 29



For our Christmas outreach project this year, we are again collecting items for distribution at the Food Pantry at St. James Episcopal Church. To help complete 50 holiday meals for their customers, they are in need of:

- 50 boxed stuffing
- 50 instant mashed potatoes
- 50 instant gravy packets

That's a lot, but we can do this! Please look for the collection basket in the narthex. Thank you in advance for your generosity!

The last day to bring donations to St. John's is December 10 for distribution at St. Jame's on December 16.



Cookies, Bars, Cakes, Breads, and Scones, Oh My!

Help us raise money for a new adult-size changing table for St. John's Church. As our congregation grows, we want to be ready to welcome people of all ages and abilities. This is an important addition to our church to make this goal possible.

Bring your favorite sweet treat to sell at our Sunday bake sale and help us with this project.



New St. John's Security Measures:

In light of recent events, the Bishops Committee has been reviewing our safety and security guidelines. **As a safety precaution, a member of Bishop's Committee (BC) will lock the front door of the church after the Sunday service begins.** The BC member will remain near the door, for the duration of the service, to provide access for anyone arriving late for the service. Safety precautions are under review for other services. More to come.
