

# Third Sunday of Advent



December 11, 2022

# *Welcome to St. Mark's and St. John's*

*Name tags are available. We'd love to  
make one for you if you do not have one already.*

*Just fill out a form in your pew. Help yourself  
to coffee in the "cafe" and feel free to bring it  
to your pew. We're casual. We invite children to make  
themselves at home at our children's table where  
there are weekly activity bulletins, crayons, etc...*

*Our live YouTube broadcast begins at 9:15am.*

*As always, the link to our YouTube channel*

*is available on our website,*

*[stmarksandstjohns.org](http://stmarksandstjohns.org)*

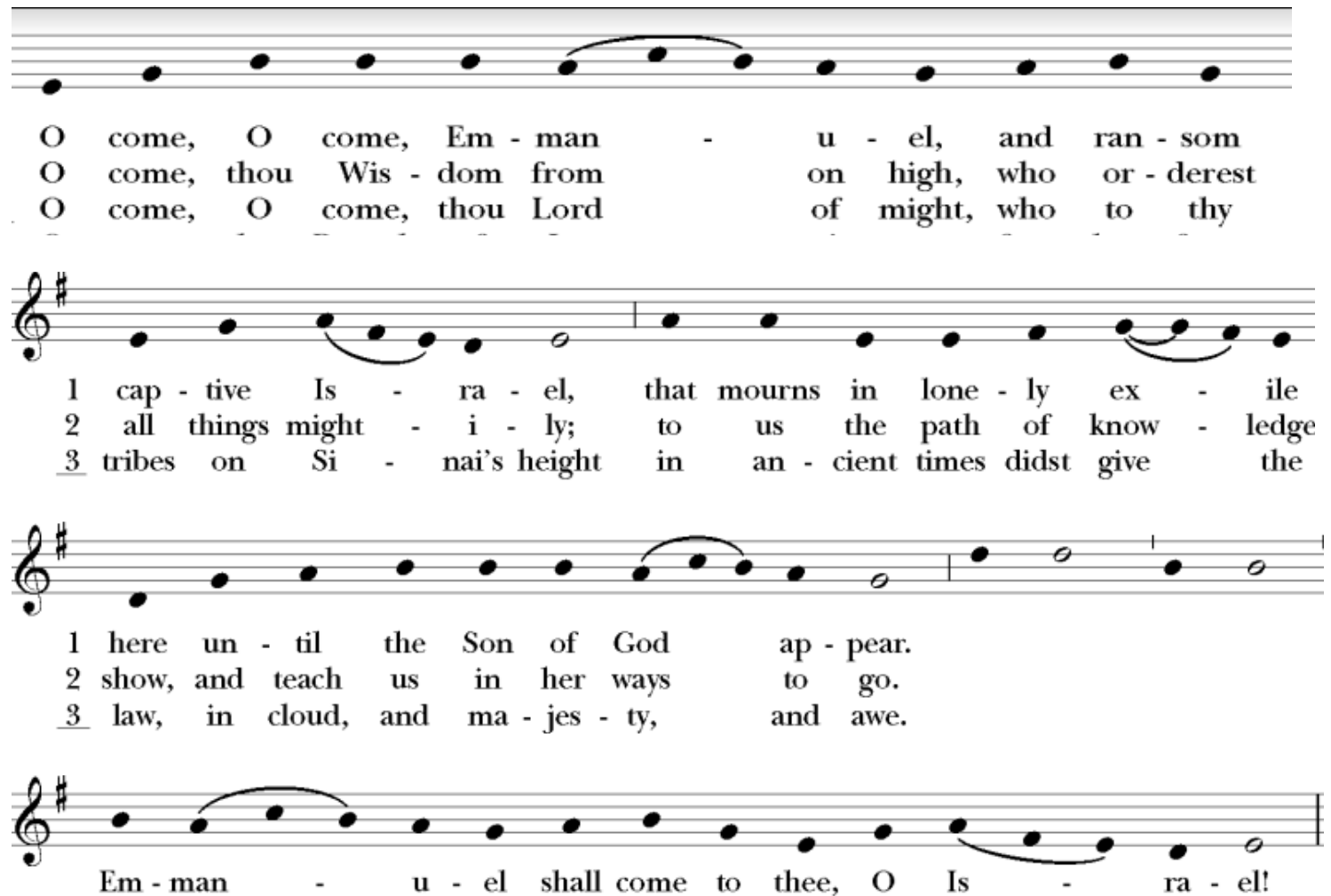
## OPENING SENTENCE

*Please stand*

Celebrant: Arise, O Jerusalem, stand upon the height and look toward the east, and see your children gathered from west to east at the Word of the Holy One.

## ENTRANCE HYMN

“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”



The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp). The first staff is a vocal line with lyrics: O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, who or - derest O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy. The second staff has three vocal parts: 1 cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile; 2 all things might - i - ly; to us the path of know - ledge; 3 tribes on Si - nai's height in an - cient times didst give the. The third staff continues the three parts: 1 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear. 2 show, and teach us in her ways to go. 3 law, in cloud, and ma - jes - ty, and awe. The fourth staff is a vocal line with lyrics: Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som  
O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, who or - derest  
O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy

1 cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile  
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3 tribes on Si - nai's height in an - cient times didst give the

1 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
2 show, and teach us in her ways to go.  
3 law, in cloud, and ma - jes - ty, and awe.

Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

## THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

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 COLLECT OF THE DAY

*Deacon:* The Lord be with you.

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

*Deacon:* 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.**

## LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

*People:* **Blessed are you, O Lord our God,  
You call each of us to walk in your light and to seek your  
ways of justice and peace for the night is passing,  
and the dawn of your coming is near.  
Bless us as we light the second candle of this wreath –  
the candle of joy.  
Wake us from our sleep, that we may be ready to  
greet our Lord and help us welcome God  
into our hearts and homes, for Christ is our light  
and our salvation. Amen.**

## FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 35:1-10

A reading from the book of Isaiah -

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,  
the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom  
abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing.  
The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and  
Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees.

Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you."

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

*Lector:* Hear what the Spirit is saying

*People:* **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 146:4-9

*Lauda, anima mea*

Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help!  
whose hope is in the Lord their God;

**Who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them;  
who keeps his promise for ever;**

Who gives justice to those who are oppressed,  
and food to those who hunger.

**The Lord sets the prisoners free;  
the Lord opens the eyes of the blind;  
the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;**

The Lord loves the righteous;  
the Lord cares for the stranger;  
he sustains the orphan and widow,  
but frustrates the way of the wicked.

**The Lord shall reign for ever,  
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations.  
Hallelujah!**

## SECOND LESSON

James 5:7-10

A reading from the book of James -

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

*Lector:* Hear what the Spirit is saying

*People:* **Thanks be to God.**

## ADVENT HYMN: "PEOPLE LOOK EAST"



3. Birds, though you long have ceased to build, guard the nest that must be  
4. Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim one more light the bowl shall



3. filled. E - ven the hour when wings are fro - zen God for fledg - ling time has  
4. brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er, bright as sun and moon to -



3. cho - sen. Peo - ple, look East and sing to - day: Love the bird is on the way.  
4. geth - er. Peo - ple, look East and sing to - day: Love the star is on the way.

## GOSPEL

Matthew 11:2-11

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John:  
“What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written,

‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.’

“Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”

The Gospel of the Lord  
**Praise to you, Lord Christ**

SERMON

Pastor Cindy Rasmussen

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH - THE NICENE CREED

**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.

**SPECIAL MUSIC FOR PRAYER AND MEDITATION** *Please be seated*

*You're invited to light a candle at our prayer table and write your prayer intentions on one of the Prayer Boards during the music. The Covid positivity rate in Monroe County around 4% - making masks optional.*

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God of many names, God beyond all names; the beginning and the end of every story, the meaning of every life; infinite Mystery both hidden and revealed.

God of joy

**Hear our prayer**

O Desire of every heart, the answer to every longing: You are the strong force that draws us into the mystery your love. Forgive us those things which distract and delay us, and lead us ever deeper into your embrace.

God of joy

**Hear our prayer**

God who has come, God who does come, God who is yet to come: Make us an Advent people, ready and alert to welcome and receive You in the stranger's face, the loving act, the moment of grace, the presence of healing, the birth of possibility, the gift of wonder. Let every heart prepare You a place.

God of joy

**Hear our prayer**

Compassionate One, hold us in your mercy: heal the sick, mend the broken, protect the vulnerable, shelter the immigrant, strengthen the weary, rescue the lost, and give courage to all who struggle. We pray today for.....

God of joy

**Hear our prayer**

Closing Collect: Gracious God, You show us the face of the Divine, and reveal the fullness of our humanity. Come: renew your creation, restore us all in Christ, and enable us to continue to become more of who and whose we are. We pray in the name of Jesus. **Amen.**

## CONFESSION OF SIN

*Deacon:* Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

**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.**

*Celebrant:* 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

*Deacon:* The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

## GATHERING AROUND GOD'S TABLE

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

*Eucharistic Ministers bring the Communion elements and Offering to the altar.*

### MUSIC

### "Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee"



1 Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love;  
2 All thy works with joy sur-round thee, earth and heaven re - flect thy rays,  
3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,



hearts un - fold like flowers be - fore thee, prais - ing thee, their sun a - bove.  
stars and an - gels sing a - round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.  
well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean - depth of hap - py rest!



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness; drive the dark of doubt a - way;  
Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, bloom - ing mea - dow, flash - ing sea,  
Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our Bro - ther: all who live in love are thine;



giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day.  
chant - ing bird and flow - ing foun - tain, call us to re - joice in thee.  
teach us how to love each o - ther, lift us to the joy di - vine.

## OFFERTORY

### *"Crowded Table"*

*by Brandie Carlile, Natalie Hemby, and Lori McKenna  
Text adapted for worship*

**Refrain: I want a church with a crowded table  
And a place at the altar for everyone  
Let us take on the world while we're fed and able  
And bring us back together when the day is done**

**Verse: If we want a garden we're gonna have to sow the seed  
Plant a little happiness - let the roots run deep  
If it's love that we give - then it's love that we reap  
If we want a garden we're gonna have to sow the seed**

## HOLY EUCHARIST

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 indeed right that we should praise you, God of love, our source and our fulfillment, for you create all things, and in you we live and move and have our being. Your wonder is manifest in land and sea and sky. When the times had at last grown full and the earth had ripened in abundance, you made us in your image for yourself.

Even though we've turned from you, again and again you call us to yourself, and in every age, promise liberation. As a parent tenderly gathers her children, you embrace us as your own. From your own being you sent Jesus among us, incarnate of the Holy Spirit and born of Mary our sister and Joseph our brother.

Now we join hands around your table, and with all creation we sing your hymn of unending love,

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

To you indeed be glory, almighty God, on the night before he died, your Son, Jesus Christ, took bread; when he had given you thanks, he broke it, gave it to his disciples, and said:

**Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you; do this to remember me.**

After supper he took the cup; when he had given you thanks, he gave it to them and said:

**This cup is the new covenant in my blood poured out for you; do this as often as you drink it to remember me.**

And so in this sacrament we celebrate and proclaim the mystery of our faith.

**Christ has died,  
Christ is risen,  
Christ will come in glory.**

Therefore, loving God, recalling now Christ's life, death and resurrection, we ask you to send your Holy Spirit upon us and this celebration, that we may be fed with the body and blood of your Son and be filled with your life and goodness. Strengthen us to do your work, and to be your resurrected body offering hope to the world.

Unite us in Christ and give us your peace. Through your Holy Spirit, burning as a flame, gentle as a dove, may we who receive these gifts live lives of justice, love, and prayer.

**Blessing, honor and glory be yours, here and everywhere, now and forever. Amen**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray,

**Our Father in Heaven,  
hallowed be your Name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those  
who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial,  
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and for ever. Amen**

## THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.

**We who are many are one body, for we share in this one bread.**

The feast of life has been prepared for you -  
partake and be filled with the goodness of God.

## WELCOME TO THE TABLE

*ALL are welcome to receive communion.*

*Please be seated. The Priest and our Eucharistic Ministers will come to you. As they approach, please stand as you are able. Gluten-free wafers and grape juice are available. If you would like to receive a blessing instead of communion, simply cross your arms in front of you.*

# COMMUNION MUSIC

## "Taste and See"

*Refrain*

The musical score is written for a single melodic line in 4/4 time, using a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are distributed across five staves. The first staff begins with the word 'Taste' and includes a 'Refrain' marking above the first measure. The second staff continues the melody with a long note on 'Lord.' followed by a whole rest. The third staff repeats the phrase 'taste and see, taste and see the'. The fourth staff continues with 'good - ness of the Lord,' followed by another long note and a whole rest. The fifth staff concludes the phrase with 'of the Lord.' and a final melodic flourish.

Taste and see, taste and see the  
good - ness of the Lord. \_\_\_\_\_ O  
taste and see, taste and see the  
good - ness of the Lord, \_\_\_\_\_ of the  
Lord.

### POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of life to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to your Son's resurrection that we may show your glory to all the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### ADVENT HANDBELL CHOIR

*"Il Est Ne"*

### THE BLESSING

### DISMISSAL

Deacon: Alleluia. Alleluia. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

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

## **St. Mark's & St. John's Staff**

**Rector:** The Rev'd Cynthia Rasmussen  
crasmussen@stmarksandstjohns.org

**Operations and Missions Director:** Maria Hartz  
mhartz@stmarksandstjohns.org

**Deacon:** The Rev'd Mike Finn  
wetlandnomad88@gmail.com

**Musician:** Andy Lacey  
andrewlacey20@gmail.com

**Audio and Video Producer:** Robert Thornton

## **SMSJ WEEKLY CALENDAR (12/12/22-12/18/22)**

### **Monday**

### **Tuesday**

9:00 am	Food Shelf Prep & Foodlink Delivery ( <i>Maria &amp; Sharon</i> )
Afternoon	Freedom Scholars After School Program
Evening	Food bagging ( <i>Borneman Family</i> )

### **Wednesday**

10:30-12pm	Food Shelf ( <i>Sharon &amp; Mary Ellen</i> )
12 pm	YouTube Healing Service

### **Thursday**

Afternoon	Freedom Scholars After School Program
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### **Friday**

9:30 am	Staff Meeting
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### **Saturday**

### **Sunday**

8:15 am	Drop-In Advent Handbell Rehearsal
9:15 am	Worship with Eucharist
10:30 am	Ministry & Mission Family Fun Celebration

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**We are still accepting pledges!** We are about **\$20,000 short** of our 2023 pledge goal. Ask for a pledge card or fill out online at [stmarksandstjohns.org](http://stmarksandstjohns.org). We thank you for your generosity to support the mission and ministry of SMSJ.

**Next Sunday (December 18th)** we will be celebrating Deacon Mike Finn, outgoing Vestry members, and our 2022 Mission & Ministry volunteers. Join us for a special coffee hour, cookie decorating, and help us decorate the sanctuary for Christmas.

**Healing Sundays** will take place on the second Sunday of the month. We will offer special prayers and the laying on of hands and anointing with holy oil at the 9:15 am service.

**Christmas Eve Candlelight Service** will be on December 24th at 7:30 pm and on **Christmas Day** we will hold our annual 10 am pajama service.

**Update your information with us!** If you have moved, gotten a new email address, or changed your phone number, we want to update your contact information in OnRealm. Text any information changes to the church line at 585-654-9229.

**The Diocesan Standing Committee** will be holding its last in-person session for the season at St Paul's in Rochester on Tuesday December 13th from 2pm to 4pm. It is not only for vestries but anyone who belongs to our diocese and has interest. A document highlighting our sessions will be made available to all in the new year.

## Worship Leaders of November 2022-January 2023

Date	First Lesson and Psalm	Second Lesson	Prayers of the People
12/11	Theresa H	Samantha G	Joe C
12/18	Bob C	Walt S	Sharon K
12/24 <small>Christmas Eve 7:30pm</small>	Michele H	Terri C	Dave E
12/25 <small>Christmas Day 10am</small>	Sharon K	Joe C	Tom F
1/1	Mary E	Dave E	Samantha G
1/8	Bob C.	Heather G.	Terri C.
1/15	Deb S.	Paula V.	Mary Ellen F.
1/22	Joe C.	Michele H.	Dave E.
1/29	Heather G.	Tom F.	Sharon K.

Date	Hold Cup Tray	Give Single Cup	Collect Cups
12/11	Bob C	Dave E	Deb S
12/18	Heather G	Theresa H	Dorothy B
12/24 Christmas Eve 7:30pm	Tom F	Samantha G	Mary E
12/25 Christmas Day 10am	Sharon K	Mary Ellen F	Bob C
1/1	Theresa H	Tom F	Joe C
1/8	Sharon K.	Michele H.	Dorothy B.
1/15	Samantha G.	Terri C.	Mary E.
1/22	Bob C.	Dave E.	Heather G.
1/29	Michele H.	Joe C.	Paula V.



**ST. MARK'S &  
ST. JOHN'S**



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