
The Pious Press

St. John's Episcopal Church, Wilson, NY

January 2026

From The Pastor's Desk...

The baptism of Jesus was one of the pivotal events in his life. Two of the four gospels (including the one written earliest) don't mention a word about his birth or any event before his baptism, but all four gospels record his encounter with John the Baptist. You might call his baptism the official beginning of his public life and ministry.

You only get to be baptized once, and I have always felt sorry I was baptized as a toddler— I have absolutely no recollection of the event. Confirmation and ordination were important events for me, and I would like to have “been there” for my baptism as well. Whatever it meant to God and my parents, it was lost as a conscious milestone in my life with God. Oh, well... God was there, and my parents carried out their promises to raise me to know the Lord. I guess that's what counts.

It very much interests me, though, to see how Jesus' baptism went; or to be more exact, it interests me to see what happens after his baptism. One minute the Holy Spirit alights on him like a dove, and the next minute that same Spirit drives him out into the wilderness for a prolonged period of intense prayer and wrestling with temptation. These two actions are not unrelated.

In baptism (and other events in which we commit ourselves to God) we express our deepest identity and discover our greatest temptations. Our deepest identity is that we were created to love and serve our creator; baptism affirms and expresses that truth. But because we are “free agents”, a profound temptation accompanies that identity: the temptation to serve our own selves instead of God. If our commitment to God is going to have any true depth, it must face and survive this struggle for primacy. Jesus faced it in the wilderness and when he came out of that experience, he was empowered for his work of preaching the kingdom. Thus empowered, he was able to face the many conflicts and temptations of his ministry and remain God's faithful servant through it all.

It is the Church's custom to remember the baptism of Jesus on the First Sunday after the Epiphany— January 11, this year—and to reaffirm our own baptismal vows as part of that liturgy. What is the battleground between serving God and serving self in your life? Have you faced up to your own temptation to sit in God's place? Your reaffirmation will have all the more

impact and meaning if you give it careful thought ahead of time.

† † †



Many thanks to all who contributed to our Christmas Family!

Treasurer's Report...

January – December 2025

Income:	\$ 41,314.70
Expenses:	\$ 32,381.18
Total Income:	\$ 8,933.52
Dividends:	+\$ 4,541.63
Interest:	+\$ 13.41
Total Net Income:	\$ 13,488.56



The Western New York Diocese publishes a newsletter via email. If you haven't signed up for it and would like to please follow these directions:

Go To: episcopalwny.org

Click On: News

Then Click On: Newsletter

Scroll Down To: “To Subscribe Click Here”

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Members of St. John's gathered at the Village Board Meeting, December 18th to recognize and thank our Janet Hoffman for her decades of public service in Wilson.

In 2012 Janet brought back the Food Pantry; helping it to grow into a steady source of care for both the town and village of Wilson. Janet's passion, dedication and leadership has

changed lives and strengthened the community in ways that will last.

Janet acknowledged her husband, Kenneth, all of her helpers, the community and the churches that worked so hard to get the program going.

God is Good.
Priscilla Moot

Christmas Family: Thank you to everyone at St. John's for your generosity of giving to our family that we adopted. You totally filled my SUV with presents and two full totes of food. It was greatly appreciated by mom and dad and I am sure that the children loved everything. Thank you again.

Lois Bateman

Prayer List...

Pray for our Diocese, as we seek a new bishop; and for the renewal of the church. Pray for people throughout the world who are living with war, persecution, and deprivation; pray for peace in the Middle East, Ukraine, Sudan. Pray for our health care workers who are overloaded with flu patients; pray for their patients. Pray for the Minner Family, Stephanie C. & Allison W., Felix, Judith Lee, Priscilla & John, Kenneth, Janet Failla, Barbara, Doloris, Chester, Josh, Edward, Barb & Kali, Michael, Craig, Patrick and Nicole McCartney, Rebecca, Stephanie, Laura, Craig and Nicole, Chris and Ela, Zack, Rose, Donna, Meshawn Telemaque, Miranda & Kaila, Melissa & Jenn, Jane, Randall.

The Parish Administrator will be updating our existing Parish Directory in January. Please make sure your name, address, phone number and email are correct. If you have changes you may give them directly to Jennifer or please email the church at stjohnswilson@gmail.com.



Junior Warden – Lois Bateman...

As the newly elected Junior Warden, I will do my best for St. John's and you. I will be out of state for about six weeks starting January 16th but will be available by phone just as John Frank is. My number is 716-807-5604. I will attend the vestry meetings via phone so that I can keep up on the happenings at St. John's.



We provide Forward Day by Day to parishioners as a simple and effective daily prayer practice. Each day features a Bible verse from the daily readings and a related reflection written by a different author each month, all in less than 200 words. It even includes the daily feast days, as well as prompts to take faithful action in your daily life. These can be found in the vestibule of the sanctuary.

As the new year begins, start 2026 off right and build a habit of prayer and reflection with the Forward Day by Day podcast. Each day begins with a short meditation from our flagship devotional, followed by a prayer. Listen on your morning walk, evening commute, or anywhere in between!

The Forward Day by Day podcast is available on all streaming platforms, including Apple Podcasts, Spotify, Stitcher, and anywhere else you listen to podcasts.

Fellowship Committee...

January 2026

1. Everyone, thank you for all your effort, time and talents in making our fellowship after church so delightful, with various treats including our jello jigglers (they are not just for kids). Many hands make light work and everyone has helped with setting up, refreshments, pouring the second cup of coffee (Frank), dishes, and sweeping up the crumbs left behind so there is nothing for little creatures. We also have special coffee hours; the next one is for Valentine's Day!!
2. The calendar for the year is on the kitchen counter in the parish hall, so don't hesitate to sign up. You don't have to do it alone there is always another helping hand, just ask.
3. The basket at the end of the counter is for loose contributions used for kitchen supplies, paper towels, dish soap etc.

God is Good.
Fellowship committee
(Jerilyn, Anne, Janet & Priscilla – Chair)

Food Pantry....



First and foremost, I personally want to thank everyone for helping with our donations to help with the Holiday Dinner provided by the pantry. Without your help we could not have reached our goal. The dinner was well received and very much appreciated by the friends, families and neighbors in our community.

For the month of January, the Food Pantry is in very good shape as far as needed food. There isn't a specific item at this time for us to collect. With that being said, please feel free to bring in any donations and place in the back of the church. Please make sure to check expiration dates, as the Pantry cannot distribute any outdated foods. Also, as always, if you would like to make a monetary donation, just mark your check with Food Pantry in the memo line, or if giving cash, note the envelope please.

Our continued support of the Food Pantry and their mission is an easy way to keep supporting our neighbors. As always, feel free to reach out to me with questions, concerns or suggestions.

Lucy Kraatz
859-816-6869

Happy
Birthday

Priscilla Moot	1/10
John Carney, III	1/21
Jared Carney	1/28

Susan & Doug Keppy	1/27
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SJC MOMS Group...

January 2026

- Wednesday, Dec. 10th the moms prepared for the holidays starting with making their holiday greenery arrangements led by Vicki. Again this year the moms had another cookie exchange on Dec. 17th. This year we had 8 different cookies to take home. YUMMY



- We had three new moms register for SJC MOMS Group this month. They joined right in with the festivities!! We now have 12 moms with little ones. In order for this group to be a success we are in need of more volunteers to help with childcare. They can be a relative, neighbor or a

friend willing to share 9:30 -11:15 the 2nd and 4th Wednesday, September through May. You just need to come and play with them. We currently have 8 volunteers but many are snowbirds who volunteer, so we are short a few each meeting in the winter.

- Tuesday, February 17th SJC MOMS Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper – watch for more details.

GOD is Good.

Priscilla Moot



The following donated towards the beauty of our Christmas Altar Flowers this season:

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| Lois Bateman | In memory of Family & Friends |
| Maria Carillo | In memory of Uncle Snook (Joseph Maggi) |
| Denise & Bob Failla | In memory of Nick & Tony Failla |
| Jennifer Farwell-Puskas | In memory of Harold & Barbara Farwell & Eugene Kolipinski |
| John & Anne Frank | Thankful for our St. John's Family |
| Vicki Jancef | In memory of Alan Hamilton |
| Rev. Susan & Doug Keppy | In memory of Family & Friends |
| Lucy Kraatz & Priscilla Moot | In memory of the Moot Family |
| Priscilla Moot & Felix Kutrybala | In memory of the Kutrybala Family |
| Cheryl Yourston & Wayne Brown | In memory of Our Parents: Alton & Mary Brown |

The Wreaths on the Front Doors are given in Loving Memory of Pete Dempsey-Sims by Priscilla Moot



Christmas Eve Service With Canon Cathy Dempsey-Sims. What a joy it was to have her with us!

*St. John's Episcopal Church
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