

The Grapevine

Ocean Springs, Mississippi

stjohnsoceansprings.dioms.org

Grateful Hearts, Generous Hands



With grateful hearts, over the past weeks, we have shared our vision for the future of St. John's as a vibrant church campus overflowing with ministries to nourish our community. And we asked you to help bring St. John's from post-COVID financial stagnation into a new era of abundance and growth. The response has been inspiring.

To date, we have received 67 pledges (just over half of the 124 pledges received for this year) totaling \$239,296. Most givers (36) increased their pledge, with an average increase of 20%, and we have three new pledgers so far. St. John's parishioners are again turning grateful hearts into giving hands. But we aren't there yet.

If you have not yet pledged, please join this winning team of givers and help St. John's reach its goals. What we build together matters—not just today but for generations to come.

Sunday, November 2, is our in-gathering, complete with a celebratory reception. Please make your pledge as soon as possible so we can consider it in budget planning, which must be completed by Vestry in December. And please come celebrate with us at the reception. Know this: every gift is needed and appreciated. Thank you for your support of St. John's and its ministries. Together, with grateful hearts and giving hands, we will make 2026 a year of renewal, growth, and joy.



Pledge Online

Samaritan Ministries

In October, St. John's parishioners donated 397 food items to the Samaritan Food Pantry and \$525 (September collection) in cash donations. The pantry has been very busy and is grateful for everyone who takes time to shop and/or gives a cash donation. Your help makes such a difference.

Sunday, November 2nd is the next "First Sunday of the Month"

Requested items:

- Canned Meat
- Soup
- Hamburger Helper

The shopping cart will be on the porch from 7:30 a.m. - 11:15 a.m. on November 2nd and is always available in the church across from the water fountain for donations.

Yoga classes

Wednesdays
Parish Hall

Chair yoga - 10:00 a.m.
Mat yoga - 11:30 noon

FOLLOW EVERY RAINBOW



*A Concert
appreciating the
journey, and the sass
it takes to get there*

**SOPRANO
ALY IRELAND**

Accompanied by

DR JONATHAN MITCHELL

NOVEMBER 15, 2025

7PM

Reception to follow

**ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
OCEAN SPRINGS, MISSISSIPPI**

**All Donations will go to Gulf Coast Center for Nonviolence
gccfn.org**

Vestry Nominations

Each year four (4) Vestry members rotate off the vestry at the Annual Meeting in January and four (4) new members are elected. This year Robert Wiygul, Faye Gilbert, Sarah Godsey, and Harriet Perry terms will end. Robert, Faye, Sarah, and Harriet will comprise the nominating committee. If you are interested in being nominated to the ministry of Vestry, please speak to a member of the nominating committee.

Building News

Caring for Our church property is a very busy job, I look at it as caring for my home on a much larger scale. It is a privilege to be able to do this work. These are the things I am working on: Our

precious church is getting a refresh. We now have a new roof on the sanctuary. Power washing made her bright and shiny. Some much-needed repairs are ongoing to the exterior at the present. Wonderful volunteers from the congregation have been working on the preschool to get it ready for its next mission. Ruddiman Hall will soon be getting some needed work as well. Our kitchen has two new refrigerators that are working out very well. Soon we can look forward to a nice new coat of paint on the church and parish hall. I am looking forward to many more updates on the progress of our church property and grounds.

—Lee Armsstrong, Jr. Warden

Saints and Sinners

Saints and Sinners would like to initiate collecting backpacks for the unsheltered. For those who need to carry items with them, backpacks, large or small, are very helpful. A table will be set up in the back of the parish hall that has a sign, Backpacks for the Unsheltered, on it. During the week or on Sunday, you can place your donated backpack on the table. We will end this drive for backpacks on the Sunday before Thanksgiving. We are hoping to donate 100 backpacks. And if you want, you can put items like socks, knit hats, or scarves in them. Thank you for supporting our mission to recognize the needs of others in our community and across the coastline of Mississippi.

Fall Work Day.

Join the Creation Care team for the Fall Work Day on November 1. Saturday, November 1, 2025 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Bring you rakes, gloves, and clippers. Help tidy the gardens and grounds.

Financial Update

Year-to-Date Report: September 30, 2025

	Actuals	vs.	Budget
Tithes, Offerings, etc.	\$343,903		\$338,900
Expenses:	\$334,265		\$361,097

Giving Envelopes

Giving Numbers help the church credit your gifts to your account. If you have a Giving Number, please write this on all donation checks and envelopes. If you need a Giving Number, please contact the Treasurer. A Giving Number is not required to make a donation.

Giving Booklets are optional. If you wish to have one ordered for 2026, please indicate this on the signup sheet in the Parish Hall before December 1, 2025. If you no longer want one, please indicate this as well.

Tai Chi

Classes on Thursdays: 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

Red Cross Blood Drive

Tuesday, January 13, 2026, 10:00 a.m.- 3:00 p.m.

Grapevine St. John's

St. John's Episcopal Church
705 Rayburn Avenue
Ocean Springs, MS 39564

Electronic Service Requested

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
PERMIT NUMBER 20
Ocean Springs, MS 39564

Mailing Address

Fall into Christmas

In order to create 100 Christmas bags for the children of the Samaritan Ministries Food Pantry, the Daughters of the King at St. John's want to get an early start. Please consider contributing to our effort with some of the following items: kids' small comb & brush sets, card games, boxed puzzles, small toys or dolls to fit in an 8" by 10" bag, coloring or activity books for ages 8-10 & 11-12. Most items are at Dollar Tree or Dollar General for easy shopping.

We have completed bags for children 2-4 & 5-7; we plan to create bags for age groups: 8-10 year olds, and 11-12 year olds over the course of a few weeks in October and early November. If you do not wish to shop, monetary donations are greatly appreciated! Theotokos chapter has been providing this ministry since 2005.