

Calendar

Sunday August 4 (11 Pentecost)	10:30 a.m. 12:15 p.m.	Mass ~ Rite II (In-person/ FBL) Hospitality Meeting
Monday August 5 (Feria)	4:00 p.m.	Stewardship Committee
Tuesday August 6 (Transfiguration of Our Lord Jesus Christ)		
Wednesday August 7 (Ignatius of Loyola)		
Thursday August 8 (Transfiguration of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Tr.)	12:00 p.m.	Mass & Anointing ~ Rite II
Friday August 9 (Dominic)		
Saturday August 10 (Laurence at Rome)	4:00 p.m.	Mass ~ Rite II
Sunday August 11 (12 Pentecost)	10:30 a.m.	Mass ~ Rite II (In-person/ FBL)

Saint John's Episcopal Church

515 E. Division Street, Springfield, MO 65803, (417) 869-6351

The Reverend David Kendrick, Rector

website: www.stjohnsspringfield.diowestmo.org

<http://www.facebook.com/stjohnsepisiscopalspringfield>

This Week at St. John's

August 4, 2024

About the Readings

Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15

Today's reading recounts one of the many instances of the people's murmuring during the time of the exodus as the Israelites demand that God live up to the divine demands of covenant partnership. As their God, Yahweh must demonstrate that he can provide and protect them as a household leader or father was required to do. As their wilderness trip becomes more extended, the Israelites long for the meat and bread they ate in Egypt. God responds by providing for them both flesh and bread, but on God's own terms, one day at a time. Thus God provided for them but at the same time tested their faith. God acts, saying: "You shall know that I am the Lord your God." This statement of recognition occurs in the priestly writings, in Isaiah (45:3, 6) and in Ezekiel (7:27, 11:10). God's actions disclose, to believer and unbeliever alike, the Lord of our world and life. God provides from nature's bounty for the Israelites, reliably supplying the needs of an unreliable people.

Ephesians 4:1-16

This reading continues the ethical exhortations from last week. It examines the basis for the new life of the Gentile converts, contrasting it with their former lives. Their new life is not a result of their own discoveries and efforts but originates from God. It is the new life God recreates, through Jesus, in the Christian. The passage is very similar to Colossians 3:1-17 and may have been drawn from the pre-baptismal instruction of the early Church that led to the renunciation of the "former way of life" and through baptism, as illustrated by putting off one's clothes and putting on white baptismal robes. The convert is thus part of the new creation of the body of Christ, which includes both Jews and Gentiles. He or she is "created according to the likeness of God" exhibiting right relationships and holiness, which are distinctively divine characteristics. And this incorporation into Christ will always demand specific behavioral consequences.

John 6:24-35

Today's passage from John is the preface to the bread of life discourse. It illustrates John's favorite ways of shaping a dialogue. One is the use of misunderstanding; another is that a question asked on one level is answered on a higher level. Set in the synagogue at Capernaum, this discourse relies on concepts and structures common to rabbinic sermons at the time. The crowd addresses Jesus as "Rabbi" or teacher, often the first title of respect given to Jesus by strangers. The crowd's factual question: "When did you come here?" is answered theologically in terms of Jesus' origin. Jesus here identifies himself as "Son of Man...from heaven." Jesus charges the crowd with having responded only to the material meaning of the feeding, not to its spiritual significance. They answer by picking up the theme of works, asking what the works are that God desires them to do. The reply is that there is only one work that God desires to accomplish in them, obedient trust in Jesus. This is John's contribution to the faith/works issue: faith is itself a work, the acceptance of God's work in Jesus. The crowd requests a sign from him to validate his teaching so that they may "believe" (rather than "believe in") him. They challenge the prophet-like-Moses to produce manna. Jesus answers that their desire has already been fulfilled. Bread was, in rabbinic writings, a symbol of the Torah given to Moses. Jesus' teaching is the bread they should crave. The bread God gives in the present is "that which comes down from heaven," the revelation of God made personal in the incarnation of Jesus. Verse 35 is the first of the many "I am" statements in the Gospel of John. Jesus uses the "I am" statements to reveal the dimensions of his relationship to humankind.

(Commentaries from *Preparing for Sunday*)

Announcements

Welcome! We are glad to have you here to worship with us at St. John's today or with us online.

The flowers at the Altar are given to the glory of God and in memory of Charles & Natalie Petterson and Charles A. Petterson, Jr. from the Pertual Flower Fund.

Hospitality Ministry Team: The Vestry has authorized the creation of a Hospitality Ministry Team. Join us today at 12:15 p.m. in the library to discuss this new ministry. Our team will provide refreshments for fellowship after Sunday services and assist at times with other events. Eating together and sharing conversation provide an opportunity to know each other better and welcome visitors to St. John's. "Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality" (Romans 12:12-13).

Outreach Ministry Group: "Undie Sunday and Socks Too" is an opportunity to provide basic items for those less fortunate. During August, we're collecting new underwear and socks. All sizes and colors are needed for women, men, teens and children. They will be distributed to Safe to Sleep and other organizations in our community. Let's continue our "Holy Habit" of helping others.

Sundae Sunday: The Outreach Ministry group will provide ice cream, cookies and a variety of toppings after the 10:30 service on August 25. We will have ice cream treats for the August 24 service also. We want to thank you for your wonderful support of our many outreach projects.

Books and Bubbly is a new iteration of the book club that was meeting semi-monthly before the pandemic. We are trying a summer reset open to anybody and everybody who is interested. We will meet every other Wednesday evening at 5 p.m. at the church, starting on July 3, and continuing the 17th, 31st, August 14th, and 28th, and September 4th. Snacks, wine, beer, and non-alcoholic beverages will be provided. Feel free to bring a contribution of snacks or beverage to share. We will be reading and discussing a small book from the Church Teaching Series called *Faith for the Future*, by Rev. Jesse Zink, that approaches theology through the Nicene Creed that we proclaim every Sunday. This will be an opportunity for questions, conversations, and practice in talking about what we believe. Sign up on the bulletin board across from the parish hall and note whether you want to order a book through the gift shop or want to obtain your own through Church Publishing (churchpublishing.org) for \$14.95. See Fr. David's article in the June/July newsletter for more information.

https://s3.amazonaws.com/dfc_attachments/public/documents/3192457/Newsletter.pdf

Intercessions

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, we pray for The Anglican Church of Kenya.

In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, we pray for Grace and Holy Trinity Cathedral, Kansas City; The Very Rev. Dr. Andy Keyse, Dean; The Rev. James Yazell, Associate Clergy; The Rev. Barbara Wegener, Deacon; The Very Rev. Peter DeVeau, Dean Emeritus; and for the Congregational Vitality Committee.

Birthdays

August 3 Shirley Rogers
August 4 Mary Jane Robertson
August 5 Richard Cadanau
August 6 Candace Iott
August 7 Charles Bowers

Anniversaries

August 6 Russell & Rhonda Axtell
August 9 Philip & Elizabeth Mothersead

Faithful Departed

August 4 Arlene F. Schmidt
August 5 Lafayette Herd
August 6 Edna Coley
August 7 Donna Gamel
Terri Price
August 8 Myrna Berry
Frank Leathers
Julius Seifert
August 9 Wilbur Wickizer
Charles Winn

Prayer Requests

Clara	Sarah
Bill	Deidre
Sandy	Kristen
Patty	Casey
Nikki	Joe
Jessica	Megan
Katy	Catherine
Elaine	Heather
Darrel	Jennifer
Jerry	Britaney
Pat	Joe
Ann	Barbara & Family
	Neal
	Rose
	Buena
	Aubren
	Catherine
	Jenn

Jesus told the people, "You are looking for me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life." (John 6:26-27)

Jesus invites his followers to determine what is really important in life, and to seek after that. We today have so many distractions, so many opportunities to miss what God is calling us to be and do. Let's make a renewed effort to seek that which endures for eternal life.