

Calendar

Sunday September 8 (16 Pentecost)	10:30 a.m.	Mass ~ Rite II ~ Baptism (In-person/ FBL) <i>Breakfast Club Brunch</i>
Monday September 9 (Constance and Her Companions)		
Tuesday September 10 (Alexander Crummel)	10:00 a.m.	St. Clare's Guild
Wednesday September 11 (Feria)	5:00 p.m.	Summer Book Club
Thursday September 12 (Holy Cross Day Tr.)	12:00 p.m.	Mass & Anointing
Friday September 13 (Cyprian of Carthage)		
Saturday September 14 (<i>Holy Cross Day</i>)	4:00 p.m.	Mass ~ Rite II
Sunday September 15 (17 Pentecost)	10:30 a.m. 12:15 p.m.	Mass ~ Rite II ~ Baptism (In-person/ FBL) Green Team

This Week at St. John's

September 8, 2024

About the Readings

Isaiah 35:4-7a

The first 39 chapters of Isaiah emerged during the beginning of Israel and Judah's spiritual decline. The overriding theme is God's call to come out of sin—with its inevitable punishment—and into right relationships. In chapter 35 Isaiah imagines a future day when talk of anger and suffering is over and God's people are restored. Then God will bring salvation and wholeness for all who are physically and spiritually disabled. The people will be restored like a watered desert. Long after these verses were first written, they then became a well-known sign of the messianic age. Jewish political leaders who made messianic claims—including Jesus—may have been measured against these standards of physical healing.

James 2:1-10, 14-17

James here focuses on favoritism shown to the rich and on the relationship of faith and works. God regards all people as equal and so should we. This is consistent with God's special concern for the poor, a major theme in the Old and New Testaments. The early Church was composed mostly of the poor. In looking at the section on faith and works, keep in mind that James and Paul use the word *faith* in different ways: James means intellectual assent to theological statements; Paul means a total loving relationship with God. Thus James's "works" are the practical counterpart of Paul's "fruit of the Spirit," the result of "faith working through love." James points out that living faith is demonstrated by works.

Mark 7:24-37

Today's gospel contains two miracles. The first includes Jesus' shocking encounter with a Syrophenician woman, whom he clearly insults. In the context of first-century Judaism, however, it is Jesus who is scandalized when the woman — who is also a foreigner that tradition held was at the bottom of the social ladder — dares to approach without invitation and address him publicly. Jesus' response, then, is about his preserving his public honor and also, clearly, the scope of his mission. Her remarkable response, however, turns his heart and seems to even change his mind. Mark, as do the other authors of the Synoptic gospels who include this story, signals that Jesus' salvation is universally available — possibly staking a claim for the salvation of Gentiles as the early Church struggled with the place of Gentiles among the Jewish followers in the Way. The second miracle story in this passage is told only by Mark, not the other gospel writers, as is the story of the blind man of Bethsaida, with which it has many features in common. Spittle was believed to have curative qualities. The choice of the word translated he "had an impediment in his speech" creates a direct reference to Isaiah 35:6, the only other place in the Bible where this word occurs. Thus, the messianic promises of that passage would come to the minds of those who had already heard of the healing of the paralytic and would hear of the healing of the blind. Mark may also intend the story as a comment on the disciples, who so far have been "deaf" to Jesus' word. However, at Caesarea Philippi they will have their tongues loosened as Peter confesses his faith. Yet the time for open proclamation of Jesus' messiahship has not yet come. That will come only in Jesus' suffering and death.

Saint John's Episcopal Church

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The Reverend David Kendrick, Rector

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

(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 J.J. & Mary Sand from The Perpetual Flower Fund.

SAVE THE DATE: The Chili Cook-Off will be October 20. Be sure to mark it on your calendar.

Outreach Ministry Group: Rare Breed provides assistance to homeless and at-risk youth from 13 to 24 years old. Their drop-in center model is located close to public transportation. They provide necessities and support services so the youth can become self-sufficient. You can support this organization by donating trash bags, disinfectant wipes and paper towels during September.

Applications to serve on the Search Committee for a new Rector are available to pick up on the information table by the glass doors. Applicants will need to include your name, contact information, the number of years you've been a member at St. John's, a list of activities in which you have served this parish, prior experience you've had serving on a search committee, and a short statement explaining why you wish to serve on this committee. Completed applications may be returned to the parish office or sent directly to Victor Matthews, Senior Warden, at — VictorMatthews@missouristate.edu.

The Nominees for Bishop of West Missouri will be visiting St. John's on September 17. They will be doing a brief walk through our parish at 12:00 p.m. As their visit will be brief, parishioners wishing to greet the nominees and represent St. John's should arrive by 11:30 a.m.

Intercessions

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, we pray for The Church of the Province of Myanmar (Burma).

In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, we pray for St. Peter & All Saints, Kansas City; The Rev. Jonathan Frazier, Rector; The Rev. Donna Stanford, Deacon; and for the Diocesan Chancellor; Mr. Mark Galus, Vice Chancellor; Mr. David Powell & Chancellors and Attorneys in the Diocese.

	Birthdays	Prayer Requests	
September 7	David Nelson Mary Yarber	Clara Bill	Sarah Deidre
September 8	Ron Daniel, Jr.	Sandy	Kristen
September 10	Larry Goforth	Patty	Casey
September 11	Danny Madson	Nikki	Pat
September 12	Jason Becker Michelle Sage	Jessica Katy	Jenn Diana
	Anniversaries	Elaine	Tiffany
September 7	Rob & Bridget Close	Darrel	
September 8	Ben & Pat Schultz	Jerry	
September 12	Eric & Jill Vahldick	Pat	
September 13	Blake & Cinnamon Smith	Ann	
	Faithful Departed		
September 8	Vickie Snider		
September 9	Bill Gamel		
September 10	Arthur W. Beck Jim Burroughs J. J. Sand		
September 11	Charles H. Evans		
September 12	William R. Webb, II		
September 13	Vincent Bondi		

And immediately the man's ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. (Mark 7:35)

The deaf man with the speech problem experienced immediate relief. Sometimes our stewardship, our charity, our giving, our intervention, has an immediate impact. Sometimes it takes a while. But whether immediate or over time, no kind deed of ours goes without an impact.