

# Calendar

<b>Sunday</b>	9:15 a.m.	Church School (Library)
<b>January 12</b>	9:30 a.m.	Adult Bible Study
(1 Epiphany)	10:30 a.m.	<b>Mass ~ Rite II</b> (In-person/ FBL)
<b>Monday</b>		
<b>January 13</b>		
(Hilary of Poitiers)		
<b>Tuesday</b>		
<b>January 14</b>		
(Kentigern)		
<b>Wednesday</b>	6:00 p.m.	<b>Mass</b>
<b>January 15</b>	6:30 p.m.	Dinner
(MLK)	7:00 p.m.	Adult Bible Study, Choir
<b>Thursday</b>	12:00 p.m.	<b>Mass &amp; Anointing</b>
<b>January 16</b>		
(Confession of St. Peter, Tr.)		
<b>Friday</b>		
<b>January 17</b>		
(Antony in Egypt)		
<b>Saturday</b>	4:00 p.m.	<b>Mass ~ Rite II</b>
<b>January 18</b>		
(Confession of St. Peter)		
<b>Sunday</b>	9:15 a.m.	Church School (Library)
<b>January 19</b>	9:30 a.m.	Adult Bible Study
(2 Epiphany)	10:30 a.m.	<b>Mass ~ Rite II</b> (In-person/ FBL) <i>Order of St. Vincent</i>

# This Week at St. John's

January 12, 2025

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## About the Readings

### Isaiah 43:1-7

In the second half of the book of Isaiah, the prophet proclaims a message of consolation and encouragement. Today's reading reminds the people that the same God who created and punished Israel has now redeemed Israel. The suffering that Israel experienced in captivity did not change God's love and devotion to Israel.

### Acts 8:14-17

In the reading, the gospel penetrates a new field of ministry: Samaria. As Jesus promised before his ascension, the disciples' testimony would fill Jerusalem and Judea, and would then penetrate Samaria on its way "to the ends of the earth" (1:8).

Philip, one of the seven ministers or "deacons" appointed by the Church in Jerusalem to serve in the distribution of the food, fled the persecution that arose upon Stephen's martyrdom. When he arrived in Samaria, he "proclaimed the Messiah" (8:5), and the news was received with joy.

The Jerusalem church, which oversaw the spread of the gospel, sent Peter and John to confirm the creation of a new Christian community. The Holy Spirit authenticates this new mission through another outpouring similar to Pentecost.

### Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

Like Mark and Matthew, Luke records John's denial of his own importance. It is the mightier one who is coming who will baptize with the Holy Spirit and with fire. Jesus is baptized along with "all the people" (v. 21), identifying himself with those who acknowledge their sins.

As Jesus was praying (in Luke often a prelude to major events), the Holy Spirit descends. With the title formerly applied to the nation, to the king and later to the Messiah, Jesus is now openly called the Son of God, dramatizing and confirming what was implicit in his conception (1:35). Thus Jesus is anointed for his mission.

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## Saint John's Episcopal Church

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website: [www.stjohnsspringfield.diowestmo.org](http://www.stjohnsspringfield.diowestmo.org)  
<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.

**Twelve Days of Christmas:** Did you know a weekly celebration of the Eucharist is not available to many parishes in the area where Father Jesse lives in Kenya? Our gifts make that blessing possible for the four parishes he serves. Father Jesse sent this message, "The wine ministry has made our Christians in Kenya realize that we are one Holy Catholic Universal Church because they experience the love of St. John's Christians any time they receive the Holy Eucharist." You may write a check to St. John's with "Father Jesse" on the memo line.

**A Sign-up Sheet is Posted for Wednesday Night Dinner.** Mass or Evening Prayer will be at 6:00 p.m. followed by dinner and Adult Bible Study. The price is \$10.00 per person. We need you to sign up or call the church office **no later** than noon on Monday. We have to turn in a count to the caterer as to how much food we need.

**Sunday Adult Bible Study** meets in the parish hall at 9:30 a.m. Contact Victor Matthews for more information.

**Green Team:** For those of you interested in the Mason Bee seminar, the date will be Saturday, February 1, 2025, 10:00 a.m. to noon at the latest, with refreshments. (\*In case of snow or ice, the date will be moved to the following Saturday, Feb. 8.) A Missouri State University Grad student will be our speaker, selected by Dr. Avery Russell. For those of you who wish to build a Mason Bee Kit, we will have some options to be put together after the speaker, or to be purchased. More information on costs, ideas on materials, examples to choose from will be posted on the bulletin board in January and in the January *Messenger*. Please see Lindsey Parks, should you have questions.

**Tree update:** The Greenbriar Linden sapling that was planted this summer by Rod Buckner is thriving. You may have noticed that the large senescent maple tree in front of the rectory that had bare branches was removed recently, due to a large branch having crashed down barely missing the roof. Green Team would like to replace it with a Missouri Native, particularly a Green or Washington Hawthorn. Please consider making donations again to assist in purchasing a suitable specimen that will provide abundant white flowers in the spring, shade in the summer, fall color, and bright red berries through winter for the birds. Indicate "trees" on the memo line of your contribution. Thank you in advance.

**St. Clare's Guild** thanks all those generous donors that contributed to the "Mitten Tree" this Christmas season. Thirty-six pairs of gloves/mittens, 9 hats, 9 pairs of socks, 5 glove and hat sets, 2 scarves, and a scarf and hat set were donated to Cross-lines.

**Annual Reports: Committee chairs and others who write year-end summaries for the parish's Annual Report are reminded of the January 15th deadline.**

# Intercessions

**In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer,** we pray for The Church in the Province of West Africa.

**In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer,** we pray for St. James, Springfield; The Rev. Isaac Petty Pierjok, Rector; The Rev. Silas Engstrom, Curate; The Rev. Suzi Lynch, Deacon ; and for the Episcopal Cursillo Ministry.

## Birthdays

Jan. 11 Jim Gallion  
Jan. 13 Ginny Richards  
Jan. 14 Richard Simons  
Jon Stammers  
Sage Valhdick  
Jan. 16 Joyce Nelson  
Linda Porterfield  
Jan. 17 James Newman

## Faithful Departed

Jan. 12 Dana B. King  
Lawrence Stauffer  
Jan. 13 Sonny Dunkle  
Josephine Reddick  
Jan. 14 Robert Armstrong  
Jack Robert Drussa  
Charles Madden  
Gertrude Madden  
Carson Vahldick  
Jan. 15 Ray Follis  
Collyn Nowak  
Jan. 16 Frank Pelcher  
Carolyn "Peggy" Williams  
Jan. 17 Mildred Fendlason

## Prayer Requests

Clara	Sarah
Bill	Deidre
Jim	Kristen
Sandy	Casey
Patty	Pat
Nikki	Jenn
Jim	Diana
Jessica	Tiffany
Katy	Lee
Elaine	Julia
Darrel	Jennie
Jerry	Sheila
Pat	Cara
Ann	

**ALL THAT YOU ARE, HAVE, AND HOPE TO BE ARE GIFTS FROM GOD.**

"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights..." (James 1:17)