

Calendar

Sunday January 19 (2 Epiphany)	9:15 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	Church School (Library) Adult Bible Study Mass ~ Rite II (In-person/ FBL) <i>Order of St. Vincent</i>
Monday January 20 (Fabian of Rome)	6:30 p.m.	Vestry
Tuesday January 21 (Agnes at Rome)		
Wednesday January 22 (Vincent of Saragossa)	6:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Mass Dinner Adult Bible Study, Choir
Thursday January 23 (Conversion of St. Paul, Tr.)	12:00 p.m.	Mass & Anointing
Friday January 24 (Francis DeSales)		
Saturday January 25 (Conversion of St. Paul)	4:00 p.m.	Mass ~ Rite II
Sunday January 26 (St. John)	9:15 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 12:30 p.m.	Church School (Library) Adult Bible Study Mass ~ Rite II (In-person/ FBL) <i>Potluck Follows</i> Annual Parish Meeting

This Week at St. John's

January 19, 2025

About the Readings

Isaiah 62:1-5

The sense of celebration at the Cana Wedding (Gospel story for today) is also expressed in the reading from Isaiah, as the Lord's power is manifested through the return of Israel from exile. To once again take possession of Mt. Zion was a victory, but not in the sense of a military triumph. There would now be a new era in which the holy city of Jerusalem would be restored. As the glory of Jerusalem would rise, Israel would be vindicated against the nations that had mocked the Holy City's ruin. Zion's glory and salvation would become a shining lamp for all the nations to see: a "crown of beauty" and a "royal diadem" (62:3).

Corinthians 12:1-11

The Epistle begins a series of readings from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians. In today's passage, the power of the Lord is manifested through the gifts of the Spirit. Here Paul speaks to help his converts make sense of the fullness of life they now experience through Jesus Christ by contrasting this new life with their former pagan existence. No one acknowledges Jesus as Lord except through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. And no one speaking by God's Spirit curses Jesus. Paul goes on to identify the varieties of gifts the Spirit might impart. All the gifts have their source in God who acts in all of them. The gifts are always for the common good and not for an individual's personal enhancement. The gifts include wisdom, knowledge, faith, healing, the working of miracles, prophecy, discernment of spirits, tongues, and the interpretation of tongues. The community needs all of these gifts; and the Spirit confers upon each believer the particular gifts needed for the service to which he or she has been called.

John 2:1-11

Today's Gospel passage is the account of the wedding at Cana— a story unique to the Gospel of John and the first of John's seven signs or miracles (2:1-12; 4:43-54; 5:1-15; 6:1-15; 6:16-24; 9:1-12; 11:1-44). A Divine sign is significant not so much because of the details of the miracle itself, but because such events point beyond themselves to a new way of life through the Gospel. The Gospel of John sees the whole dynamic activity of God in Christ as a series of signs, so that all the world "may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God," and through believing may have life in his name (20:31).

Saint John's Episcopal Church

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

(Commentaries from: *Synthesis CE: A Lectionary Study Guide*)

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 from The General Fund.

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 rural 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." Did you know Father Jesse started a new ministry at his Gathuthiini Parish when he returned to Kenya? The Tabitha Ministry donates food and necessities to those in need. It was through this ministry that wells were dug to supply clean water to those without. Please support his ministry by writing 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.

Annual Meeting: St. John's will conduct its Annual Meeting in the parish hall **Sunday, January 26, 2025, at 12:30 p.m.** Prior to the meeting, a potluck lunch hosted by the Vestry will be served after the 10:30 a.m. Mass. At the meeting, the congregation will elect new Vestry members for three-year terms and will receive annual reports from the Rector, Vestry, Treasurer and Committee Chairs.

Intercessions

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

In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, we pray for St. John's, Springfield; The Rev. Ron Keel, Interim Rector; and for The International Outreach Grant Committee & Diocesan Grant Writers.

Birthdays

Jan. 18 John Svagera
Jan. 19 Roberta Richerson
Kristy Roop
Jan. 20 Sydney Daniels
Gwen Walstrand
Jan. 23 Maks Anoka
Jim Merrill

Anniversaries

Jan. 20 Lenora & Gates Samaniego
Jan. 23 Victor & Carol Matthews

Faithful Departed

Jan. 18 Richard Norman Abson
Jan. 19 Jon Scott Aldridge
Ralph W. Cogswell
Joan M. Schulke
Jan. 20 H. P. Hilton
Frank & Mary Ann Schaeffer
Jan. 21 Marjorie Edwards
Murray V. Kennedy
Betty White
Jan. 23 Emma Mettler Lines

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	Dave
	Catherine

1 Corinthians 12:4-6: "Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone."

God has blessed each of us with special gifts and talents for us to use for the benefit of our neighbor and community. What gift has God given you, and how can you be generous with it?