

Calendar

Sunday March 16 (2 Lent)	9:15 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	Church School (Library) Adult Bible Study Mass ~ Rite I (In-person/ FBL)
Monday March 17 (St. Patrick)	6:00 p.m.	Vestry
Tuesday March 18 (Cyril of Jerusalem)		
Wednesday March 19 (St. Joseph, Tr.)	6:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Mass Dinner Bible Study, Choir
Thursday March 20 (Cuthbert of Lindesfarne)	12:00 p.m.	Mass & Anointing
Friday March 21 (Lenten Feria)	12:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m.	Stations of the Cross Lenten Fish Fry
Saturday March 22 (James DeKoven)	4:00 p.m.	Mass ~ Rite I
Sunday March 23 (3 Lent)	9:15 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	Church School (Library) Adult Bible Study Mass ~ Rite I (In-person/ FBL)

This Week at St. John's

March 16, 2025

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

Our Old Testament passage today tells of God's covenant with Abraham. Abram had responded to God's call to go to a new land with the promise that God would make of him a great nation (Gen. 12:1-3). In the context of a vision, God tells Abram not to be anxious about the future, for the Lord is Abram's shield—his protector—and great will be his reward. *Reward* is used here in the sense of a gift of grace to those who trust in God and not as a *quid pro quo* arrangement in which payment is given for a service rendered. Abram asks the Lord what that reward will be, since he and his wife Sarai continue to be childless. Previously God had promised that Abram's line would continue (Gen. 12:7; 13:16). But now it would seem that the offspring of one of his slaves would be his heir. However, the Lord assures Abram with a sign, telling him that his descendants would number as the stars in heaven. Thus, in the face of seeming impossibility, Abram believed. Here faith is understood as living with complete trust in God's future. Abram does not question how the promise of land and descendants will unfold, but accepts that the promise will be fulfilled. Thus "the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness" (15:6).

Philippians 3:17-4:1

In a further reflection of Abram's trust in God, the Apostle Paul urges the congregation at Philippi to "stand firm in the Lord" (Phil. 4:1), as he points out that Christian life is counter to the world's values. He urges them to follow his example by giving up material or "earthly things" (3:19), or they will face destruction, as do those who "live as enemies of the cross of Christ" (v. 18). True Christian citizenship is in heaven where Christ's saving actions will transform believers into the likeness of Christ himself through God's power in Christ (v. 21). In the final verse, Paul's affection for this community, "my joy and crown" (4:1), shines as he urges his brothers and sisters to remain steadfast in their life in Christ.

Luke 13:31-35

Jesus also speaks of the choices one must make in order to follow him. The midpoint of the Gospel of Luke in chapter 13 shows Jesus continuing his prophetic teaching as he travels to Jerusalem. Verses 31-33 are unique to Luke, as some Pharisees come to warn Jesus to leave because Herod is seeking to kill him. Although he had not directly threatened Jesus, Herod had imprisoned and beheaded John the Baptist (Lk. 3:19; 9:9). In fact, Herod had indicated a desire to see Jesus (Lk. 9:9). Later on, when Jesus was brought before Herod at his trial, Herod asked Jesus to show him a sign (Lk. 23:8) before finally turning him over to Pilate (Lk. 23:11).

Saint John's Episcopal Church

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

website: www.stjohnsspringfield.diowestmo.org
<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.

Outreach Ministry Group: Our Episcopal Relief & Development Lenten project "Nurture & Nourish The Earliest Learners," focuses on infants through three year olds. Strategies to develop skills are provided through caregiver support, home visits and learning groups. Each \$15 donation is represented by a child's picture in the ERD display in the parish hall. Donors will be entered into a drawing at the conclusion of our project for a door prize. You may write a check to St. John's with "ERD" on the memo line.

Easter Baskets: Please join us in collecting food and other items for our three families. A mother, father and two elementary boys comprise one family. The father is a disabled veteran. The second family consists of a mother, father, two girls and one boy. The two younger children attend Bowerman. The third family is made up of a mother, father and two daughters. The girls attend Bowerman. Be sure and bring your items by April 13, so they can be delivered before Easter. Checks may be written to St. John's with "Easter Baskets" on the memo line to help pay for perishables.

Coffee Hour: There are still some Sundays available to host a coffee hour during March. You may also sign up with a partner to provide refreshments. Eating together and sharing conversation provides an opportunity to know each other better and welcome visitors to St. John's.

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 will organize our third annual Native plant sale beginning the third week of February through April 1. Plant pickup will be available April 5.

Women's Medical Respite is a small non-profit organization in Springfield, MO. Its mission is to provide homeless women with a temporary home 24/7 in which to recover from illness, injury, or surgery. It bridges the gap between the hospital and life on the streets at no cost to the patient. The Springfield recovery housing accommodates a maximum of six patients. St. John's Outreach has been providing the facility with one meal a month on the third Sunday since 2017. We are the only group that has faithfully delivered on their obligation for the last seven years. The last few months the recovery house has stayed full, with new referrals being received frequently. We are always looking for willing volunteers to help prepare a dish or donate funds to feed up to six patients per month on our Sunday. If interested, please see Mary Newman or call 417-496-4645.

Stations of the Cross: During Lent the Stations of the Cross will be made each Friday, at 12:00 p.m. This ancient devotion recalls the journey that Jesus made on his way to Golgotha, where he was crucified. The service takes about 25 minutes. Why not incorporate this extra-liturgical custom into your Lenten rule?

Intercessions

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, we pray for The Church of the Province of Central Africa.

In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, we pray for The Central States Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Kansas City; The Rev. Susan Candea, Bishop; and for The Spiritual Formation Commission.

Birthdays

Mar. 17 Patti Goforth
Mar. 18 Jean Baker
Mar. 19 Sharon Riestis
Mar. 20 Shawn Askinosie
Jim Price
Mar. 21 Kristopher Chaffin
Debby Williams

Faithful Departed

Mar. 16 Evelyn Crankshaw
Ethel E. Jacobson
Mar. 17 Joseph M. Patterson
Caroline Tirgrath
Mar. 18 Harriet Mears
Raymond E. Patterson
Mar. 20 Joan Harvates
Feb. 19 Nyam Ajiji ✕
Mar. 5 Fr. Sylvester Okechukwa ✕

Prayer Requests

Clara	Kristen
Bill	Casey
Jim	Sarah
Sandy	Sean
Patty	Jenn
Nikki	Diana
Jim	Tiffany
Jessica	Lee
Katy	Julia
Elaine	Jennie
Darrel	Sheila
Jerry	Cara
Pat	Dave
Ann	Catherine
	Matt
	Donna
	John
	Allison

✕ Recent Christian Martyr

Psalm 27:1 –The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

As the news media, ad execs, and politicians know well, fear is the great motivator of people, but a negative one. Trusting in God's power and providence, steward/ disciples tap into a better source of motivation.