

Calendar

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)
Monday March 24 (Gabriel the Archangel)	6:00 p.m.	Pastoral Care (Zoom)
Tuesday March 25 (The Annunciation of our Lord Jesus Christ)	10:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	St. Clare's Guild Stewardship Committee
Wednesday March 26 (The Annunciation of our Lord Jesus Christ, Tr.)	6:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Mass Dinner Bible Study, Choir
Thursday March 27 (Charles Henry Brent)	12:00 p.m.	Mass & Anointing
Friday March 28 (James Solomon Russell)	10:30 a.m. 12:00 p.m.	Funeral for Barbara Daniel Stations of the Cross
Saturday March 29 (John Keble)	4:00 p.m.	Mass ~ Rite I
Sunday March 30 (4 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 23, 2025

Exodus 3:1-15

The story of Moses and the burning bush in the Old Testament passage is the most detailed account of a Divine call recorded in Scripture. Here we see the typical pattern of commission, objection, reassurance, and sign as Moses is called to be God's agent in the liberation of Israel (Ex. 3:1—4:17). Moses had fled Egypt after killing an Egyptian guard and had started a new life for himself in Midian. He was tending his father-in-law's sheep in the wilderness near Mt. Horeb (Mt. Sinai) when his attention was caught by the sight of a bush that was burning but was not consumed. As Moses stood before the bush, the Lord called him to remove his sandals as a sign of respect, for he was now standing on holy ground. As the Lord spoke, Moses was filled with awe and immediately hid his face, since to look upon the Divine presence was too much for a mortal. The Lord had seen the misery and suffering of the Israelites and had come to deliver them from oppression. Furthermore, Moses was to be the one to go to Pharaoh and lead them to a new and prosperous land.

1 Corinthians 10:1-13

Using the story of Moses and the Exodus as an example, the Apostle Paul delivers a message of God's promises as well as a warning to his converts in Corinth. In the first four verses of the passage for today, Paul recounts the miraculous events of the Exodus from Egypt in which God provided protection for Israel during the wilderness journey from slavery to freedom. The manna that came down from heaven and the water that flowed from the rock were their spiritual food and drink and conveyed the same Divine life that Christians find—for "the rock was Christ" (1 Cor. 10:4). Yet these manifestations of God's providence did not mean that the Israelites were not to be held accountable when their behavior was displeasing to the Lord (v. 5). Thus Paul cites four instances of Israel's sinfulness in verses 7-10 as a warning to the Corinthians that these things happened "to serve as an example" to instruct them (v. 11).

Luke 13:1-9

Luke, more than the other Gospel writers, emphasizes the theme of repentance. Our reading for today dramatically illustrates the urgency of the need to repent. The opening verses of the passage (Lk. 13:1-5) are unique to Luke and reflect the commonly held conviction that illness and misfortune were God's punishment for sin (cf Dt. 28-30; Jn. 9:2-3). As Jesus was teaching on his way to Jerusalem, some in the crowd related an incident that seemed to affirm the connection between sinful behavior and disaster. A number of Galileans were brutally slaughtered by Pontius Pilate's soldiers while they were presenting their sacrifices. In this horrific act, the blood of the victims was mingled with that of the sacrificial animals. Jesus responded by asking if they thought that these Galileans were "worse sinners than all other Galileans" (Lk. 13:2) because they suffered in this way. Jesus then countered with another example of undeserved disaster when eighteen people died as the tower of Siloam in the Jerusalem wall fell on them. Before the tower fell there was nothing to indicate that those who died were unusually sinful. Indeed, there was no reason to suppose that the people in either group of unfortunates were worse offenders than others. Jesus makes no comment here to affirm or deny the connection between sin and misfortune, but he uses the incidents as a warning: "... unless you repent, you all will perish just as they did" (vv. 3, 5). In both cases, whether as the result of intentional human actions or accident, these violent deaths occurred without warning, leaving the victims no opportunity to repent. Life is precarious; thus repentance cannot be delayed and must be an ongoing part of one's life.

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

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>

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: You can help provide Easter dinner and fill the pantry for our three families. See the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board for things that are still needed. Please bring your items by April 13. You may also help pay for perishables by writing checks to "St. John's with Easter baskets" on the memo line.

Coffee Hour: Please consider hosting a Sunday Coffee Hour. See the sign-up sheet in the parish hall for times available in March and April. Providing refreshments encourages hospitality and fellowship. "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).

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.

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?

We are saddened to announce that beloved parishioner and friend Barbara Daniel passed away on December 29, 2024. Barbara will rest in the St. John's Memorial Garden following a funeral service on Friday, March 28, 10:30 a.m. We ask that you hold the entire Daniel family in your prayers.

Intercessions

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, we pray for Iglesia Anglicana de la Region Central de America.

In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, we pray for The Episcopal Diocese of Kansas, Topeka, Kansas; The Rt. Rev. Cathleen Chittenden Bascom, Bishop; and for The Standing Committee.

Birthdays

Mar. 22 Jay Hancock
Mar. 23 Kevin Grice
Marcel Price
Mar. 25 Rob Temple
Mar. 30 Christopher Larsen

Anniversary

Mar. 28 Rex & Linda Porterfield

Faithful Departed

Mar. 24 Sally Mae Achord
Helen Braig
Juanita Drussa Harmon
Mar. 26 Jesse Thompson
Mar. 27 Rosa Benskin

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

Isaiah 55:2—Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food.

Stewardship is about making wise choices—choices that promote health, wellbeing, and faithful living. Isaiah asks the right questions and gives good advice.