

Calendar

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)
Monday March 31 (John Donne)		
Tuesday April 1 (Frederick Denison Maurice)		
Wednesday April 2 (Martin Luther King, Jr. Tr.)	6:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Mass Dinner Bible Study, Choir
Thursday April 3 (Lenten Feria)	12:00 p.m.	Mass & Anointing
Friday April 4 (Martin Luther King, Jr.)	12:00 p.m.	Stations of the Cross
Saturday April 5 (Vincent Ferrer)	4:00 p.m.	Mass ~ Rite I
Sunday April 6 (5 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 30, 2025

Joshua 5:9-12

During this Lenten season, the Old Testament readings focus on various aspects of God's covenantal relationship with Israel. In today's reading, the Israelites have finally entered the promised land under the leadership of Joshua. When they came to the shore of the Jordan River, the waters parted so that the people could cross on dry land led by the priests carrying the Ark of the Covenant. Now that they were safely on the other side, the disgrace of slavery in Egypt was left behind.

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

Just as the love of the father in the parable reconciled him with his estranged son, so are we reconciled to God through Christ who "has given us the ministry of reconciliation" (2 Cor. 5:18). This extravagant grace is described by the Apostle Paul as a "new creation," as he proclaims that old ways of being have been replaced through life in Christ: "everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!" (v. 17).

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Our Gospel parable today about a man and his two sons illustrates for us the limitless mercy of God. It is the culmination of a series of three parables in chapter 15 of Luke that celebrate the joy of finding what was lost—a lost sheep, a lost coin, and finally a lost son. Jesus told these parables of grace in response to the grumblings of the Pharisees and scribes who criticized Jesus for eating with known sinners (15:2). The narrative parable for today is unique to Luke and has several layers of meaning that provide a deep richness of interpretation. As the story begins, a man's younger son demands to be given his share of his father's inheritance. According to Jewish law, a younger son would receive a third of his father's estate (Dt. 21:17). Upon receipt of his assets, he immediately leaves his homeland for a distant country and squanders all that he has been given in "dissolute living" (v. 13). When a severe famine strikes, the young man has to resort to the most demeaning occupation for a Jew, as he becomes a herder of pigs in order to survive. Pigs are unclean animals in the Jewish tradition (Lev. 11:7-8); and because they were used for sacrifices in Roman and Greek worship rituals, pigs were also associated with paganism and apostasy. Here the son, as he faces starvation, finds that his irresponsible actions have alienated him from his family, his country, and his religious heritage. Yet the young man is not totally lost, as he "comes to himself" (v. 17a). He realizes that his father's field hands are better off than he is now. He has forfeited his claim as son; but if he can get home, he can ask his father to at least let him become a hired hand. In verses 18-19, the young man repents and confesses his sins against God and his father as he turns homeward.

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.

The flowers at the altar this morning are in memory of Barbara Daniel given by The Daniel Family

Outreach Ministry Group: We can join Episcopal Relief & Development in their mission of "Working Together for Lasting Change." The first 1,000 days of life are especially important because the brain develops rapidly during this stage. *Moments that Matter* is an early childhood development program for children from infants through three years old. This program has been providing services since 2012 in Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia and Zambia. A donation of \$15 provides services for one child. You may write a check to St. John's with "ERD" on the memo line. Donors will be entered into a drawing at the conclusion of our project for a door prize.

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 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?

Intercessions

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, we pray for the Province de L'Eglise Anglicane Du Congo.

In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, we pray for The Episcopal Diocese of Missouri, St. Louis, Missouri; The Rt. Rev. Deon Johnson, Bishop; and for The Stewardship Commission.

Birthdays

Mar. 30 Christopher Larsen
Mar. 31 Angela Schmidt
Apr. 1 James Scott
Apr. 2 Susan Danielsson

Faithful Departed

Mar. 31 Joan Iott
Apr. 2 Hugo Horny
Apr. 4 Walt Harmon

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
	Mac & Marilyn

2 Corinthians 5:17 –So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

The way a bubbling spring renews and refreshes a streambed, so the Holy Spirit continually renews our souls. Relax and be continually renewed in Christ.