

# Calendar

<b>Sunday</b>	9:15 a.m.	Church School (Library)
<b>April 6</b>	9:30 a.m.	Adult Bible Study
(5 Lent)	10:30 a.m.	<b>Mass ~ Rite I</b> (In-person/ FBL)
<b>Monday</b>		
<b>April 7</b>		
(Tikhon)		
<b>Tuesday</b>	10:00 a.m.	St. Clare's Guild
<b>April 8</b>		
(William Augustus Muhlenberg)		
<b>Wednesday</b>	6:00 p.m.	<b>Mass</b>
<b>April 9</b>	6:30 p.m.	Dinner
(Dietrich Bonhoeffer)	7:00 p.m.	Bible Study, Choir
<b>Thursday</b>	12:00 p.m.	<b>Mass &amp; Anointing</b>
<b>April 10</b>		
(William Law)		
<b>Friday</b>	12:00 p.m.	Stations of the Cross
<b>April 11</b>		
(George Augustus Selwyn)		
<b>Saturday</b>	4:00 p.m.	<b>Mass ~ Rite I</b>
<b>April 12</b>		
(Zeno at Verona)		
<b>Sunday</b>	9:15 a.m.	Church School (Library)
<b>April 13</b>	9:30 a.m.	Adult Bible Study
(Palm Sunday)	10:30 a.m.	<b>Mass ~ Rite I</b> (In-person/ FBL)
	12:15 p.m.	Outreach Ministry Group

# This Week at St. John's

April 6, 2025

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## Isaiah 43:16-21

The proclamations of the Prophet Isaiah call attention to the new work of redemption that God is about to bring into the world. Second Isaiah envisions a future in which God will do a "new thing" by rescuing Israel from exile in Babylon. Isaiah recalls the events of the first Exodus when the Lord made a road through the sea and destroyed the chariots of Egypt. But the people are to forget these former things, for what the Lord is about to do is far greater than anything that was done before. On this new journey, the Lord will make a road through the wilderness and "rivers in the desert." The people's journey will be safe from predatory beasts, and they will be provided with water in order that they might proclaim their praise to the Lord. Psalm 126 provides joyful words of praise: "The Lord has done great things for us, and we rejoiced." The Lord has restored the fortunes of Zion, and those who had once sown tears now "reap with shouts of joy."

## Philippians 3:4b-14

The Apostle Paul also writes to the Philippians about the new thing that God has done through the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. The passage begins with a recitation of Paul's ancestral heritage as a member of the tribe of Benjamin and his status as a Pharisee. However, in contrast to the surpassing value of knowing Christ, all of this is as nothing. For Jesus' sake he was willing to withstand the loss of all these things that he now views as "rubbish." To know the Messiah as Lord and to trust in God's work through Jesus by sharing his sufferings brings the assurance of salvation.

## John 12:1-8

All four of the Gospel writers present an account of a woman anointing Jesus (cf Mk. 14:3-9; Mt. 26:6-13; Lk. 7:36-38; Jn. 12:1-8). However, there are a number of differences in the specific details among the four stories, including where and when the anointing took place and the identity of the woman. Luke tells of an unnamed woman at the home of Simon the Pharisee, referred to as "a sinner," who bathed his feet with her tears and ointment and then dried them with her hair. When those present condemned the woman for her actions, Jesus praised her faith and forgave her sins. The accounts recorded by Mark and Matthew take place in Bethany at the home of Simon the leper after Jesus has entered Jerusalem. Again the woman is not named, and she pours her ointment on the head of Jesus instead of on his feet. She is rebuked by the disciples for wasting the costly ointment; whereupon Jesus comes to her defense and praises her service to him. Both accounts end with the words, "Truly I tell you, wherever the good news is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in remembrance of her" (Mk. 14:9; Mt. 26:13). In the context of John's Gospel, the anointing occurs in Bethany six days before the Passover and after the raising of Lazarus from the dead (Jn. 11:28-44). The woman who does the anointing is Mary, the sister of Martha and Lazarus. After Jesus raised Lazarus, the Jewish leaders were committed to having Jesus put to death, and he had gone into hiding to avoid arrest (Jn. 11:54).

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## Saint John's Episcopal Church

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<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:** 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:** Will you help provide Easter dinner and fill the pantry for our three families? There's a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board with suggestions. Please bring your items by April 13, so they can be delivered before Easter. You can also write a check to St. John's with "Easter baskets" on the memo line to help cover the cost of perishables.

**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?

**The Watch at the Altar of Repose:** Will you watch for one hour? The sign up sheet for this solemn remembrance, starting after the Maundy Thursday Mass, is posted on the bulletin board.

**Agape Easter Party:** You are invited to an Agape Easter party in the parish hall following the Easter Vigil on Saturday, April 19. Please bring an appetizer or dessert to share. Beverages will be provided. The sign up sheet is posted on the bulletin board.

# Intercessions

**In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer,** we pray for the Iglesia Anglicana de Chile.

**In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer,** we pray for St. Mary Magdalene, Belton; The Rev. David Wilcox, The Rev. Brock Slabach; and for the United Thank Offering.

## Birthdays

- Apr. 5 Kelly Evans  
Elizabeth Wilkinson  
Apr. 6 Michael Cardwell  
Thomas Strothkamp  
Apr. 9 Evelyn Ledgerwood  
Apr. 10 Laura Mothersead

## Faithful Departed

- Apr. 5 Joseph E. Cox, Jr.  
Rebecca Lohman  
Apr. 6 Dorothy Hayden  
Apr. 10 Gwendolyn Van Hook  
Apr. 11 Effie Leedy Benjamin  
Kenneth Hall  
Kathleen Walstrand

## 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 |
|         | Carolyn       |

Mary and Judas have a thing or two to teach us about stewardship and trusting in God's good provision. Which character do you relate to in this strange, short story?

I'm pretty sure most of us would rather pour costly perfume on Jesus and see ourselves worshiping him extravagantly instead of acting like a greedy, selfish traitor that seems to be Judas' lot in life. But would we do so when it comes right down to it? Can we break ourselves open in radical discipleship?

(Jeremy Brown, [stewardshipoflife.org](http://stewardshipoflife.org))