



The Messenger

St. John's Episcopal Church

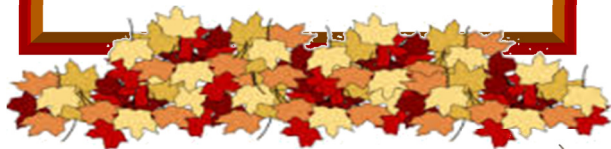
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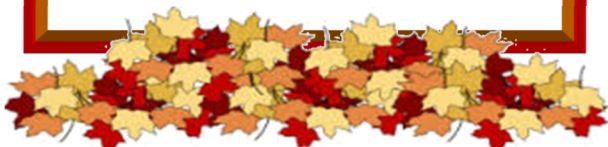
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St. John's Episcopal Church

Bishop Provisional
The Right Reverend Amy Dafler Meaux
Rector
The Reverend Benjamin George-Thoms
Director of Music
Kevin Grice
Senior Warden
Victor Matthews
Junior Warden
Linda Robertson
Parish Office: (417) 869-6351
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Thanksgiving

Join us in person Thursday, November 27, for the annual Thanksgiving meal. The turkey will be provided; please bring a side dish to share. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board. Before we gather together for a meal, let us gather in thanksgiving.

A Service of Installation

for
Father Benjamin George-Thoms
as Rector of

St. John's Episcopal Church
with

Bishop Amy Dafler Meaux,
officiating

December 6, at 4 p.m.

A reception will follow in the parish hall.

Advent

December will be here before you know it!

Advent starts November 30.

Important dates: Fr. Ben's Installation, December 6

Annual Ladies' Luncheon, December 9

Blue Christmas, December 17 &

Christmas Eve, December 24th

Watch your *Messenger* for details.



Holy Mundane Musings

Dearest St. John's,

What a first month! As I write, it's been just a couple of days over a month that I've been with you, and what a wonderful start to our journey together it's been. I am taken aback by the hospitality that I have received. Thank you all for your warm welcome, your gifts, and your presence in this community of faith. A very special thank you to everyone who has donated their time and skills at the rectory also. Thank you so much for your hard work in making a home for Jacob and me.

You have been in my prayers from the moment I was called until now, and you will stay in them as well. I hope you will join me in praying for our parish family. I pray that God will inspire us and show us His vision for our future together, and I pray that God will grant us all things necessary for our journey into that future. Let us always place our faith in the One who already knows what plans are had for us, plans to prosper us and not harm us, and that are full of hope.

Whatever God will show us, we follow Our Lord Christ, always the perfect model, on the Way of the Cross which is also the way of Life and Peace. We know that Our Lord has paved the way and gone before that we can follow after. Whenever we walk in his steps, we know that our own steps will be sure. I look forward to seeing what's on the way with you all, and I am so excited by what God will accomplish through us in North Springfield!

And now, as we would say in Louisiana (comme on dit en Louisiane),

Laissez les bon temps roulez!

Yours in Christ,
Fr. Ben



Leave Some Leaves

Fallen leaves are crucial to healthy ecosystems. When we let them stay in our landscapes, we support soil health, wildlife, and the dynamic habitats that keep nature resilient. This fall, we're giving the rake a rest and letting nature do its thing. Will you join us?

Outreach Ministry Group

This November, we are supporting our friends at the Connecting Grounds Outreach Center. They provide vital services to our unhoused neighbors, especially in the winter: the winter clothes and hand warmers they provide are some folks' only defense against frostbite and hypothermia. But with funding down this year, Connecting Grounds can't afford the supplies they need and won't be able to run their annual street outreach program

We can turn that around! St. John's is collecting winter hats, sleeping bags, blankets, and especially HotHands hand warmers for Connecting Grounds to distribute this winter. Funds to purchase supplies are appreciated as well.

Outreach Ministry Group will also be collecting for our annual Thanksgiving baskets for three families in the community. Watch for the sign-up list on the corkboard and help us make their holiday brighter!

Parish Health SORE THROAT

Something is going around. People get a sore throat, then a wracking cough and a fever. If the home tests can be believed, it isn't Covid and it isn't the flu. It's something else. So when I awoke this morning with a scratchy throat, I canceled everything and drank a lot of tea, hoping to nip it in the bud. I feel a bit better now. We shall see.

I wouldn't have handled it this way years ago. Back in the day, I would have tried just to walk it to death. I would go to work feeling like hell, and looking worse than that. Why this insane approach seemed appropriate and even heroic to me, I can't tell you now – I did live in the twentieth century, and we all understood that germs transmit disease. Perhaps I thought an exception would be made in my case.

But at the very same time, I would also be thinking something else: I would suspect myself of malingering. I would shame myself: *You know there's nothing wrong with you. You're faking it. You're being lazy.* It felt furtive when I actually did yield to an illness. I felt the same way the time I was hit by a car while standing *on the sidewalk* – ashamed, as if it were my fault. How cruel that was. Both of them were cruel, really: the insistence on being Superwoman and the scolding accusation. I would never have treated another person that way.

The people in scripture believed that illness was caused by sin. "Who sinned, the man or his parents, that he was born blind?" someone asked Jesus once, and of course he responded that sin had nothing to do with it. The only meaning in illness is the possibility of healing, whether your illness is minor or catastrophic. Everyone who has loved someone to the end of life knows about the process: your passionate and immediate prayers for healing become prayers for the perfect healing we only know when the struggle is over. We hand them back to the God who gave them to us to love for a season. In time, we ourselves are healed – the stab of sorrow becomes wonder, gratitude that we had them at all.

Why did he die? I don't know. But why did I ever have him in my life at all? Also a mystery. A joyful one.

Showing Our Gratitude

God gives us his love, goodness, and mercy daily. He has given us victory over sin and death through his Son. Christ has given us the blessings of forgiveness of sins, justification, a new life, and an eternal hope. Because of his bountiful blessings, we should be compelled to show our gratitude. Do we? Could we, at times, be taking all that we receive for granted?

If Christ were to come into our homes in physical form, certainly we would express our thanks in tangible ways. Before he arrived, we would clean our homes thoroughly, and, when he arrived, we would make him comfortable, run errands for him, offer him our best food, and give him our time and attention. Since we don't have that opportunity, we show our gratitude in other ways.

One way that we express our gratitude is to give thanks throughout the day. When we see life and its blessings as gifts, we are prepared to offer our thanks. Our thanksgiving is demonstrated when we use the faith God has given us to live in obedience to his word. God hears and sees our gratitude through the lives we live. When we generously share our time and money with others in Christian love, we show our thanksgiving for our gifts. Our giving reflects Christ's love in us. We express our thanks to our heavenly Father when we joyfully receive his gifts in private and corporate worship.

As stewards, we find that gratitude to God opens our hearts to receive more of God's love which enables us, in turn, to be more faithful with our time, talents, and treasures. In response to God's love, grace, and mercy, we give ourselves and our resources. When we acknowledge God as our creator and redeemer, who is the core for everything good in our lives, we will serve the Lord faithfully out of gratitude for all his amazing blessings and gifts to us. Our gratefulness to God will enable us to experience joy in him even during bad times because God promises to comfort and sustain us in all things. When we know that heaven awaits us, in Jesus, it changes the way we look at life here and now.

Through the eyes of faith, we understand that being thankful to God is the key to living life.



Come ye thankful
People come...

The St. Genevieve Chapter of the Daughters of the King at St. John's

On Sunday, November 23rd at the 10:30 service the Daughters of the King will install new members to the order. We look forward to sharing this occasion with the whole congregation.

After the service the Daughters will host Coffee Hour and then have their regular monthly meeting. We invite women of the parish who feel they may be called to have a deeper relationship with Jesus through prayer, service and evangelism to join us and consider discerning to become a Daughter of the King. If you have any questions, please talk to Renee' Taylor, DOK Chapter President, or go to the DOK website at <https://www.doknational.org/> for more information.

Who We Are

Members of The Order of the Daughters of the King® are women and girls between the ages of seven and one hundred and seven who desire a closer walk with the Lord. We are Christian women, both lay and ordained, who are strengthened through the discipline of a Rule of Life, and supported through the companionship of our sisters. We are all at different stages of our Christian journey – some have just begun and some have been on this path for a long time. But no matter where we are on our sacred journeys, our primary goal is the same – to know Jesus Christ and to make Him known to others.

Vision Statement of The Order

Empowered by the Holy Spirit, our vision as Daughters of the King is to know Jesus Christ, to make Him known to others, and to become reflections of God's love throughout the world.



THE MOTTO OF THE ORDER

For His Sake...I am but one, but I am one.
I cannot do everything, but I can do something.
What I can do, I ought to do.
What I ought to do, by the grace of God I will do.
Lord, what will you have me do?



St. John's Episcopal Church
515 E. Division St.
Springfield, MO 65803

Return Service Requested

The Messenger
a Newsletter of
St. John's Church

Remembering Special Dates & People

Birthdays

Nov. 1 Isabel Bowers
Nov. 2 Sydney Cox
Timolyn Hardy
Nov. 3 Gabriel Delgado
Janet Rorrer
Nov. 4 Chris Nelson
Nov. 6 Christopher Taylor
Nov. 13 Victor Matthews
Nancy Ratcliff
Nov. 14 John Busch
Nov. 17 Kelsey Ollis
Nov. 19 James Chaffin
Nov. 24 Kerri Mothersead
Dcn. Constance Tyndall
Nov. 26 Joe Emerson
Blake Smith

Anniversaries

Nov. 12 James & Jillian Merrill

Faithful Departed

Nov. 1 Robert J. Moon, Sr.
Nov. 2 Sheila Bucy
William W. Reaves
Nov. 3 Robert James Ewing, Sr.
Nov. 4 Anne Ehle
Manie Read
Nov. 5 Emma Butler
Nov. 7 William BeSore
Louis Leigh
J. Glenn Sinclair
Nov. 9 Warren Gamel
Nov. 10 Willis Edward Baker
J.J. David Bond
James A. Nickelson
Nov. 11 Adalyn Cravens
Emma Haszelbart
Bette Lee James
Ione Wilson
Nov. 12 Mary Sand
Nov. 13 Ruthe L. Forrester
Bernice Holden
Nov. 13 Honor K. Moorman
Elna M. Jensen
Nov. 14 Harold L. Kerr
Lewis Leshner
Nov. 15 Twana Lee Jones
Nov. 16 Earle Craig Haydon
Nov. 17 Emma VanNoy
Nov. 19 Ross J. Whitlock

Nov. 20 Fern Gamel
George Harvates
Joan Steury
Nov. 21 Henry Lohman
Nov. 22 Hortense Bowman
Nov. 24 David Gorman
Nov. 26 Alice Abson
Nov. 27 Ruby Dark Kinnaird
Nov. 28 Geraldine Golden
Gladys Tegarden
Velma "Lee" Wadley
Kenneth Williams
Nov. 29 Verna Faaborg

