

Calendar

Sunday March 1 (2 Lent)	9:15 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	Lenten Series Study Mass ~ Rite I (In-person/ COP) <i>Breakfast Club Brunch</i> <i>Plant sale orders continue.</i>
Monday March 2 (Chad of Lichfield)		
Tuesday March 3 (John & Charles Wesley)		
Wednesday March 4 (Lenten Feria)	6:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Mass Dinner Adult Bible Study, Choir
Thursday March 5 (Lenten Feria)	12:00 p.m.	Mass & Anointing
Friday March 6 (Lenten Feria)	12:00 p.m.	Stations of the Cross
Saturday March 7 (Perpetua & Felicity)	4:00 p.m.	Mass ~ Rite I
Sunday March 8 (3 Lent)	9:15 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 12:15 p.m.	Lenten Series Study Mass ~ Rite I (In-person/ COP) Outreach Ministry Group <i>Plant sale orders continue.</i>

About the Readings

Genesis 12:1-4a

Beginning with God's call to Abram in the Old Testament passage, today's readings explore what it means to live by faith. The history of the nation of Israel begins with the call of Abram, who is told by God to go "to the land that I will show you" (Gen. 12:1). By accepting God's call, Abram is not only leaving behind country, family, and cultural ties, he is also entering new realms of inner transformation. This command is issued along with three promises. First of all, God declares that "I will make of you a great nation" (v. 2a). Abram himself will be blessed and will become a blessing to the world (v. 2b). Finally, those who would bless or curse Abram or his descendants will also be blessed or cursed by the Lord (v. 3). The trust Abram placed in God's call was demonstrated by his obedience. As the one who became the paradigm of faith, Abram goes forth, not knowing where God will lead him, but trusting that the promises he has received will not fail. Here we see that, through Abram and his descendants, God promises to create a new future out of the creation that has gone astray. The hope of a transformed world depends upon an aging man and his barren wife! These promises will be tested again and again, but Abram embraces the call and puts his trust in God alone. This places him in right relationship with God, and the Lord accounts it to him as righteousness (15:6).

Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

Abraham did in fact obey the commands of God; but the Lord's acceptance of him as righteous was not based on his performance, but rather on his faith. It was through righteousness—right relationship with God—and not the law, that the promise of inheritance came to Abraham. Paul goes on to proclaim that God's grace is not limited to those who adhere to the law, but it is extended to all who "share the faith of Abraham" (Rom. 4:16b)—i. e., everyone who puts unflinching trust in God. Abraham had been made the "father of many nations," not as a matter of ancestral descent, but on the basis of a shared faith in God "who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist" (v. 17).

John 3:1-17

The themes of faith and call are further explored in the Gospel story of a conversation between Jesus and the Pharisee Nicodemus. Described as a "leader of the Jews" (Jn. 3:1), Nicodemus represents Jewish orthodoxy at its best and is a man whose behavior is above reproach. He is curious but also cautious; thus he comes to Jesus "by night," something that no one else in the Gospel narrative ever does. Nicodemus discerns in Jesus a spiritual power he has not seen elsewhere. But the circles in which Nicodemus moves do not consider Jesus respectable, so he seeks to hide his risky inquiry from his colleagues. Nicodemus addresses Jesus as "Rabbi," honoring him with the title reserved for those learned in Torah and masterful in teaching (v. 2b). Nicodemus further acknowledges that Jesus' signs and good works manifest his special relationship with God (v. 2c). Jesus then tells Nicodemus what is most necessary for salvation: "No one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above" (v. 3). This signifies a transformation from the inside out, a reorientation of the self—not toward the world, but directly toward God. As a spokesman for orthodoxy, Nicodemus provides an answer firmly rooted in this world. When one has reached maturity, how can that person reenter the womb and be born a second time? But this rebirth refers to a spiritual experience, not a physical birth.

Saint John's Episcopal Church

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Announcements

Welcome! We are glad to have you here to worship with us at St. John's today or with us online.

Sunday Live Broadcasting: Join us on our [Church Online Platform](#) from our St. John's website on Sunday mornings at 10:30 a.m. for Mass by pushing the "**Watch Live**" button. Or go to <https://live.stjohnspringfield.diowestmo.org/>. For help, please contact the church office or Phil Mothersead.

Outreach Ministry Group: The annual Lenten project for Episcopal Relief & Development will focus on collecting money for a Complete Care Package. This project includes aspects from five of their programs to empower a whole community. ERD works with local partnerships in 54 countries to improve the lives of over 4 million people a year. Your donations support their mission "Working Together for Lasting Change." You may write a check to St. John's with "ERD" on the memo line.

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 March 29, 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.

Lenten Series: The Book of Common Prayer as *A Guild to a Spiritual Life*, is the title of this Lenten season's study led by Fr. Ben. Sessions will be in the parish hall at 9:15 a.m. every Sunday morning during Lent.

Stations of the Cross are observed every Friday at noon during Lent. Why not make this part of your Lenten rule?

Boxes of offering envelopes for 2026 are available in the office.

Intercessions

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, we pray for The Nippon Sei Ko Kai.

In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, we pray for St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, Raytown; The Rev. Jeff Hurst, Rector; and for the Former Bishops of The Diocese of West Missouri.

Birthdays

Feb. 28 Dalton Allen
Feb. 29 Ronald Ollis
Mar. 5 Shannon Wilkinson
Mar. 1 John Webb
Mar. 6 Kim Westervelt

Faithful Departed

Feb. 28 Alexander Bennoch
Catherine Leigh
Patsy Ann Roberts
Feb. 29 George W. Kumleh
Mar. 1 John Ellsworth Lines
Ruth Parham
Margaret Pelcher
Noi Mae Pierce
Betty White
Mar. 3 Joseph E. Cox, Sr.
Robert Cunningham
Maud R. James
Paul Simpson
Mar. 4 John S. Bostwick, Deacon
David D. James
Guy Richardson
Mar. 5 Minnie McCoy
Mar. 6 Dorothy Bostwick
Bob Richards

Prayer Requests

Clara	Kristen
Bill	Casey
Jim	Sarah
Patty	Penny
Nikki	David
Jim	Elizabeth
Jessica	Melissa
Katy	Janet
Elaine	Darlene
Darrel	Cara
Jerry	Jeanie & Steve
Pat	Glen
Ann	Wayne
Rick	Doris
Tyler	

Psalm 121 says in part: *"The Lord shall preserve your going out and your coming in, from this time forth for evermore."* Who or what in this world can save or protect us for all time? The promise is not that we will not have times of trial, maybe many of them, but rather that God will be with us as we go through them, always ready with love and support of the kind no human or object can