

Calendar

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>
Monday March 9 (Gregory of Nyssa)		
Tuesday March 10 (Harriet Ross Tubman)		
Wednesday March 11 (Lenten Feria)	6:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Mass Dinner Adult Bible Study, Choir
Thursday March 12 (Gregory the Great)	12:00 p.m.	Mass & Anointing
Friday March 13 (James Theodore Holly)	12:00 p.m.	Stations of the Cross
Saturday March 14 (Lenten Feria)	4:00 p.m.	Mass ~ Rite I
Sunday March 15 (4 Lent)	9:15 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 12:15 p.m.	Lenten Series Study Mass ~ Rite I (In-person/ COP) Green Team <i>Plant sale orders continue.</i>

About the Readings

Exodus 17:1-7

In the Old Testament reading from Exodus, the Israelites demand that Moses provide them with water as they journey through the Sinai. They quarrel with Moses and accuse him of leading them into the desert to die. Moses responds by asking, "Why do you test the Lord?" (Ex. 17:2). As they persist in their complaints, Moses turns to the Lord for help in avoiding a revolt that endangers his own life (v. 4). God answers Moses by instructing him to take his staff that he had used to strike the Nile (14:16) and strike a rock at Horeb to bring forth water. Moses did as the Lord commanded and called the place Massah ("to put to the test") and Meribah ("to quarrel or contend") because the Israelites had tested the Lord, saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?" (v. 7). Thus, despite their unfaithfulness, the Lord is present to the Israelites in their time of need.

Romans 5:1-11

The Apostle Paul also teaches that the Lord supplies all our needs through the saving grace of Christ: "Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ" (Rom. 5:1). Because of this redeemed state, Paul is able to boast of his suffering, which leads to the hope of sharing in God's glory. We are thus recipients of God's love that is "poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit" (v. 5). Paul goes on to say that even while we were sinners, Christ died for us as the ultimate proof of God's love. Therefore we are "justified by his blood" (v. 9) and saved from God's wrath. This reconciliation in the present makes our future salvation possible, as we are brought into peace and right relationship with God.

John 4:5-42

As Jesus and his disciples travel north from Judea to Galilee, they take the shortest route through Samaria and stop near the city of Sychar. When they arrive at noon at a place known as Jacob's well, the disciples go on into the city to buy food. Weary from traveling, Jesus remains at the well. As he is resting there, a Samaritan woman comes to the well to draw water, and Jesus asks her to give him a drink. The woman is surprised that a Jewish man would converse with her, a Samaritan woman. The antipathy between the Jews and Samaritans had begun centuries earlier when the Samaritans had refused to participate in the restoration of Jerusalem after the return from Exile. According to Jewish law, contact between Jews and Samaritans was prohibited, and Jesus could risk being considered ritually unclean. Jesus also breaches another social barrier in addressing a woman in public, but he shows no concern for such cultural and religious restrictions. Jesus indicates that he can give the woman a refreshment far better than the water he asks of her: "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water" (Jn. 4:10). With this statement the two major themes of the encounter—living water and the identity of Jesus—are presented.

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.

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: We can join Episcopal Relief & Development in their mission of "Working Together for Lasting Change." This year's project Complete Care Package combines five of their programs to impact a whole community. ERD works with churches and community organizations to provide business as well as vocational training. Savings and loan memberships enable small businesses to pool their resources and increase their income. Please 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 to see what is still needed. Please bring your items by March 29, so they can be delivered before Easter. You may also help pay for perishables by writing a check to St. John's with "Easter Baskets" on the memo line.

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.

St. John's Fish Fry: Join us this Friday, March 20th, for a Lenten Fish Fry at 6:00 p.m.

Spring Native Plant Sale ends the last day of March. All orders are 10% off from Missouri Wildflowers. Should you not have a garden, please consider making a donation of some plants to the green team for us to continue beautifying the church grounds. Or make a donation of the 10% savings from your own order for our future fund.

Intercessions

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, we pray for The Episcopal Church in Jerusalem & The Middle East.

In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, we pray for The Anglican Communion, London; The Most Rev. Sarah Mullally, Archbishop of Canterbury; and for the Human Resources Committee.

Birthdays

Mar. 7 Nikki Jones
Mar. 8 Jacque Gray
Mar. 9 Jillian Merrill
Mar. 10 Amy Smith
Mar. 12 Philip Mothersead

Faithful Departed

Mar. 8 John Hurt
Mar. 9 U.S. Tegarden
Demaris Wright
Mar. 10 Lawrence E. Braig
Mar. 11 Patrick Eugene Brown
Virginia Weigel
Mar. 12 Donald Jacobson
Sabine Williams

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	

Water is essential for human physical survival, but Jesus says the water He gives provides an even longer-lasting gift...eternal life. This promise gives new meaning to the water of baptism and the phrase "marked as Christ's own forever." How does our "mark" influence the way we live from day to day? Do our holy habits of study, worship, service and giving strengthen our life in Christ?