

Calendar

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>
Monday March 16 (Lenten Feria)	6:00 p.m.	Vestry
Tuesday March 17 (St. Patrick)		
Wednesday March 18 (St. Joseph)	6:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Mass Dinner Adult Bible Study, Choir
Thursday March 19 (Lenten Feria)	12:00 p.m.	Mass & Anointing
Friday March 20 (Cuthbert)	12:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m.	Stations of the Cross Lenten Fish Fry
Saturday March 21 (Thomas Ken)	4:00 p.m.	Mass ~ Rite I
Sunday March 22 (5 Lent)	9:15 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 12:15 p.m.	Lenten Series Study Mass ~ Rite I (In-person/ COP) DOK <i>Plant sale orders continue.</i>

This Week at St. John's

March 15, 2026

About the Readings

1 Samuel 16:1-13

The readings for today lead us to reflect on what it means to be called out of darkness into the light that is Jesus Christ. In today's Old Testament passage, the Prophet Samuel is called to anoint a new king to replace Saul, who had disobeyed the Lord (1 Sam. 15). Although Samuel still grieves over the Lord's rejection of Saul, he follows God's command to travel to Bethlehem to anoint a new king from among the sons of Jesse—one who will be fully obedient. Since Saul is still king, Samuel fears for his life if Saul discovers what he is about to do. Thus the Lord tells Samuel to proceed under the pretext of performing priestly duties. When Samuel arrives in Bethlehem, the people are afraid. But he assures them that he comes to offer a sacrifice to the Lord and invites them to participate. As seven sons of Jesse come before Samuel, none are chosen, because the Lord does not see as mortals see: "the Lord looks on the heart" (1 Sam. 16:7b). When Samuel asks Jesse if all his sons are present, Jesse replies that his youngest son is keeping the sheep. When this son, David, arrives, the Lord commands Samuel to "Rise and anoint him; for this is the one" (v. 12b).

Ephesians 5:8-14

The letter to the Ephesians makes the contrast between darkness and light very clear by reminding the followers of Jesus that they no longer live in darkness "but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light" (Eph. 5:8). Thus they are to discover what is pleasing to the Lord, associating themselves with what is "good and right and true" (v. 9), while rejecting and exposing the "unfruitful works of darkness" (v. 11). Through their faithful lives, such disobedience in the world will be exposed and ultimately redeemed (v. 14a).

John 9:1-41

The Gospel reading also focuses on different ways of seeing on both literal and metaphorical levels. As the passage begins, the disciples ask Jesus, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" (Jn. 9:2). Their question comes from a long-held but mistaken assumption that misfortune and illness were the result of sin. Jesus replies that although sin is not the cause of the man's blindness, his condition provides an opportunity to display the life-changing power of God. This power must be applied at once, for as long as Jesus is in the world, he is its true, healing light. After Jesus is no longer with them, this work will continue through his disciples (vv. 4-5). Jesus then gives a dramatic demonstration of God's power, as he "spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes" (v. 6). In the ancient world, spittle was commonly believed to have medicinal properties (Mk. 7:33; 8:23).

Saint John's Episcopal Church

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<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.

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 local health care organizations to provide services for mothers and babies. Another program furnishes seeds and training for family gardens. Individuals and families are empowered and communities strengthened. 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 Guide 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 on 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.

Holy Week at St. John's: Our journey starts with Palm Sunday, March 28/29. There will be mass Wednesday at 6:00 p.m., but no usual meal or classes. Then scheduled on Thursday, April 2, for the Maundy Thursday service at 7 p.m. After the Thursday Mass, The Watch at the Altar of Repose will be observed. The sign-up sheet is posted in the hall outside the parish hall. The Watch will resume the next morning, Good Friday, and will end at 11:00 a.m. before the Good Friday Liturgy at Noon. Holy Saturday will begin with the liturgy of the day at 9:30 a.m. Then the Easter Vigil will be Saturday evening starting at 7:45 p.m. Easter is also celebrated on Sunday, April 5 at 10:30 a.m. Why not invite a friend to celebrate with us?

Intercessions

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, we pray for The Anglican Church of Kenya.

In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, we pray for The Episcopal Diocese of Dallas; The Rt. Rev. George Sumner, Bishop; and for the International Outreach Grant Committee.

Birthdays

Mar. 14 Mason & Rush Matthews
Mar. 15 Kathryn Follis
Cade Moberg
Mar. 17 Patti Goforth
Mar. 18 Jean Baker
Mar. 19 Sharon Riestis
Mar. 20 Shawn Askinosie
Riley Brown
Jim Price

Faithful Departed

Mar. 16 Evelyn Crankshaw
Ethel E. Jacobson
Mar. 17 Joseph M. Patterson
Caroline Tirgrath
Mar. 18 Harriet Mears
Raymond E. Patterson
Mar. 20 Joan Harvates

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	Becky

Reminder: Loose coins and bills from the offering plate collections on the third Sunday (today) of each month go into the parish's Discretionary Fund. Fr. Ben uses this fund for emergency requests. Please place the money in the collection plate along with your regular envelope offering.

Psalm 23 is surely one of the most widely known and recited parts of the Psalter (we actually said it almost daily in elementary school). God is the provider and overseer par excellence – if we but ask, he will provide everything we need (notice it says need, not want!). How great our gratitude will have to be if we indeed trust Him to be our shepherd and guide for all time!