

Calendar

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>
Monday March 23 (Lenten Feria)		
Tuesday March 24 (St. Patrick)	10:00 a.m.	St. Clare's Guild
Wednesday March 25 (St. Joseph)	6:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Mass Dinner Adult Bible Study, Choir
Thursday March 26 (Lenten Feria)	12:00 p.m.	Mass & Anointing
Friday March 27 (Cuthbert)	12:00 p.m.	Stations of the Cross
Saturday March 28 (Thomas Ken)	10:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m. 4:00 p.m.	Altar Guild Work Day Adopt-a-Street clean-up Mass ~ Rite I
Sunday March 29 (Palm Sunday)	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 22, 2026

About the Readings

Ezekiel 37:1-14

The Old Testament reading provides another dramatic occasion in which God speaks to bring life out of death. The Lord gives the Prophet Ezekiel a vision of dry, lifeless bones and asks him if these bones can come to life again. When Ezekiel replies that he does not know, God commands him to speak—to prophesy—to the bones and say that they shall live again and “know that I am the Lord” (37:6). When Ezekiel spoke as the Lord commanded him, the bones came together with sinews, flesh, and skin to cover them, “but there was no breath in them” (v. 8b). Then the prophet was commanded to call upon the wind or breath of God (v. 9). As in Genesis, when God gave Adam life (Gen. 2:7), here also God breathed life, “and the breath came into them, and they lived” (v. 10). In verses 11-14, we learn what the vision means. The bones are a symbol of the nation that was dead in sin and scattered by involuntary exile in Babylon, and by flight into Egypt and elsewhere. Moreover, it was not only the nation that was dead, but also the spirit of the people. However, just as God could call together the parched bones and breathe life into them, so also can God bring new life to the nation of Israel (v. 12). God’s Spirit will be upon them and they shall live once again in their own land. By this they will know that the Lord is God (v. 14).

Romans 8:6-11

In the letter to the Romans, this promise of the defeat of the power of death is confirmed as Paul contrasts two kinds of people: those who live in the flesh and conform to the values of the world, and those who live in the Spirit and have their minds and hearts set on God. The Spirit brings God’s gift of eternal life: “He who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you” (8:11).

John 11:17-45

The readings for this fifth Sunday in Lent foreshadow the Resurrection as we look toward the events of Holy Week and Easter. As the last of the “signs” in John’s Gospel, the public ministry of Jesus comes to a dramatic conclusion with the raising of Lazarus. As the Gospel passage begins, Jesus receives a message from the sisters Martha and Mary telling him that their brother Lazarus is ill. We are told that Mary is the one who later anointed Jesus with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair (12:1-8).

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](https://live.stjohnspringfield.diowestmo.org/) 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're wrapping up our Episcopal Relief & Development project "Complete Care Package" that includes five programs that impact a whole community. The gift of animals, such as goats and chickens, along with training in their care empowers families. Livestock provides a sustainable food supply and source of income. You can make a difference in the lives of those less fortunate by writing a check to St. John's with "ERD" on the memo line. "And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased" (Hebrews 13:16).

Easter Baskets: Please see the sign-up sheet to see what items are still needed for our three families. Next Sunday is the last day to bring your donations, so they can be delivered before Easter. You may also write a check to St. John's with "Easter Baskets" on the memo line to help pay for perishables.

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.

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 on 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?

Easter flower and offering envelopes are available. As in years past, we will again have Easter Lilies as a joyful part of our celebrations as we enter this special season. There will be an extra bulletin listing the names and special memorials of those who contribute and would like to particularly remember a loved one, or God's blessings in your life. Please consider donating, using one of the Easter flower or offering envelopes. To be listed in the bulletin the deadline is March 30.

Intercessions

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

In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, we pray for The Episcopal Diocese of Kansas – Topeka; The Standing Committee and Staff of the Diocese of Kansas, as they continue through their bishop search process; and for the Spring House of Bishops Meeting.

Birthdays

Mar. 21 Kristopher Chaffin
Debby Williams
Mar. 22 Jay Hancock
Mar. 23 Kevin Grice
Marshall Price
Mar. 25 Rob Temple
Mar. 26 Tara Ramsey

Faithful Departed

Mar. 24 Sally Mae Achord
Helen Braig
Juanita Drussa Harmon
Mar. 26 Jesse Thompson
Mar. 27 Rosa Benskin

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

Sunday's Collect provides one of my favorite reassurances – that if we love what God commands, and desire what He promises, then among the swift and varied changes of the world, our hearts may be fixed where true joys are to be found, and we need not look only to the world around us for love, affirmation, serenity and peace. What a relief!