

Calendar

Sunday March 29 (Palm Sunday)	9:15 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	Lenten Series Study Mass ~ Rite II (In-person/ COP) <i>Plant sale orders conclude.</i>
Monday March 30 (Monday of Holy Week)		
Tuesday March 31 (Tuesday of Holy Week)		
Wednesday April 1 (Wednesday of Holy Week)	6:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	Mass Choir
Thursday April 2 (Maundy Thursday)	7:00 p.m.	Mass & Foot Washing <i>The Watch at the Altar of Repose follows.</i>
Friday April 3 (Good Friday)	12:00 p.m.	<i>The Watch at the Altar of Repose resumes.</i> Good Friday Liturgy
Saturday April 4 (Holy Saturday)	9:30 a.m. 7:45 p.m.	Holy Saturday Liturgy Easter Vigil
Sunday April 5 (Easter Sunday)	10:30 a.m.	Mass ~ Rite II (In-person/ COP)

This Week at St. John's

March 29, 2026

About the Readings

Passion Sunday

Today we follow Jesus on a journey that will change the world forever.

Liturgy of the Palms

(Mt. 21:1-11; Ps. 118:19-29) Jesus has repeatedly told his followers that he must go to Jerusalem where he will undergo great suffering at the hands of the religious leaders, be killed, and rise again (cf Mt. 16:21; 26:1-2). Thus his entry into Jerusalem (Mt. 21:1-11; Mk. 11:1-10; Lk. 19:29-38; Jn. 12:12-15) marks the beginning of his journey. As Jesus rides through the streets on a donkey, the crowd spreads garments and tree branches on the road before him with shouts of acclamation and praise (v. 9b; Ps. 118:26). His arrival puts the city in turmoil as the people question who this prophet from Nazareth really is. As is customary with Matthew, significant events are understood to be in fulfillment of historical prophecy; thus the Evangelist cites Zechariah 9:9 (Mt. 21:5). This is a royal procession, and Jesus is the king who comes in humility—not to conquer but to bring peace. But this moment of triumph ends quickly as the Liturgy moves to the Passion and the cries of “Hosanna!” become “Crucify him!”

Liturgy of the Passion.

Our Old Testament and Epistle readings help set the stage for the Passion itself. The Third Servant Song of Isaiah, later associated with Jesus' Passion, tells how the obedient servant endures insults and abuse, knowing the Lord will be with him (vv. 8-9). The hymn in the letter to the Philippians declares that Jesus, by emptying himself to experience death on a cross, was fulfilling the Divine intent that his death would make manifest the glory of God. Jesus as God incarnate is one with the Father; but his equality with God did not consist in grasping a prize. Instead, he has made God known to us by taking on our humanity. Thus God will greatly exalt Jesus so that all the world will acknowledge him as Lord. Matthew's Passion narrative closely follows that of Mark. The verses for today begin with Judas Iscariot making arrangements with the chief priests to betray Jesus (Mt. 26:14-16). As Jesus shares the Passover meal with his disciples and institutes the Eucharist as a foreshadowing of the final giving of his body and blood, he announces that one of them at the table will betray him (vv. 17-29).

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. ERD partners with local organizations to build water systems and provide education on hygiene practices. The gift of clean water improves health and prevents the transmission of waterborne diseases. 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: Our three families will enjoy a lovely Easter dinner and be able to stock their pantries through your wonderful generosity. Thank you so much for donating food, paper products and funds to cover the cost of perishable items.

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.

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 today with Palm Sunday, March 28/29. There will be on Mass Wednesday at 6:00 p.m., but no usual meal or classes. Thursday, April 2, the Maundy Thursday service will begin 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. The Easter Vigil will be Saturday evening starting at 7:45 p.m. Easter will be 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 their lives. 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 Melanesia.

In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, we pray for St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Fayette; The Rev. Susan Kennard, Long-Term Supply; Grafton Cook, Senior Warden; and for the Jubilee Ministries.

Birthdays

Mar. 31 Angela Schmidt
Apr. 1 James Scott
Apr. 2 Susan Danielsson

Anniversary

Mar. 28 Rex & Linda Porterfield

Faithful Departed

Mar. 31 Joan Iott
Apr. 2 Hugo Horny

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	Becky
Tyler	Joe & Mary
	Mike

Psalm 31:16 says, "*Make your face to shine upon your servant, and in your loving kindness save me.*" And our ever-loving God reaches out with all his mercy, time after time, to bring help and consolation to those who put their whole trust in Him and are faithful stewards of his blessings and gifts. Let us pray, then, that as grateful servants, we daily "*give thanks to the Lord, for He is good*" and truly trust "*that His mercy endures forever.*"