



# The Messenger

St. John's Episcopal Church

Springfield, Missouri

April 2026, Issue 142, No. 4



## Holy Week Schedule

### Wednesday in Holy Week, April 1

Mass, 6:00 p.m., Choir, 6:30 p.m.

### Maundy Thursday, April 2

Mass & Foot Washing, 7:00 p.m. (COP)  
Watch at the Altar of Repose, 8 -10:00 p.m.  
(Sign-up sheet on the bulletin board)

### Good Friday, April 3

Watch at the Altar of Repose resumes, 9:30-11:00 a.m.  
Good Friday Liturgy, 12 noon. (COP)

### Holy Saturday, April 4

Holy Saturday Liturgy, 9:30 a.m.

### Easter Vigil, April 4

Saturday, 7:45 p.m. (COP)

### Easter Sunday, April 5

Mass, 10:30 a.m. (COP)

## In This Issue

- † Mundane Musings
- † Outreach Ministry Group
- † Christian Stewards Express their Faith
- † Green Team: The Mosquito Bucket Challenge
- † Parish Health: Give Blood
- † Baby Shower!
- † Remembering Special Dates and People



## St. John's Episcopal Church

### Bishop

The Right Reverend Amy Dafler Meaux

### Rector

The Reverend Benjamin George-Thoms

### Director of Music

Kevin Grice

### Senior Warden

Mark O'Dell

### Junior Warden

Linda Robertson

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## It's not easy being green.

This is the time of year to patrol your property to eliminate areas that collect standing water, the breeding ground for mosquitos. This is safer and more effective than spraying pesticides after the hatchlings have become adults and are already breeding and biting.



## Mundane Musings

From the Paschal Homily of St. John Chrysostom, Patriarch of Constantinople (d. 407 AD)

Are there any who are devout lovers of God?  
Let them enjoy this beautiful bright festival!

Are there any who are grateful servants?  
Let them rejoice and enter into the joy of their Lord!

Are there any weary with fasting?  
Let them now receive their wages!

If any have toiled from the first hour,  
let them receive their due reward;  
If any have come after the third hour,  
let them with gratitude join in the Feast!  
And the one that arrived after the sixth hour,  
let them not doubt; for they too shall sustain no loss.  
And if any delayed until the ninth hour,  
let them not hesitate; but let them come too.  
And the one who arrived only at the eleventh hour,  
let them not be afraid by reason of their delay.  
For the Lord is gracious and receives the last even as the first.  
He gives rest to them that come at the eleventh hour,  
as well as to them that toiled from the first.

To this one He gives, and upon another He bestows.  
He accepts the works as He greets the endeavor.  
The deed He honors and the intention He commends.  
Let us all enter into the joy of the Lord!

First and last alike receive your reward;  
rich and poor, rejoice together!  
Temperate and slothful, celebrate the day!  
You that have kept the fast, and you that have not,  
rejoice today for the Table is richly laden!

Feast royally on it, the calf is a fatted one.  
Let no one go away hungry. Partake, all, of the cup of faith.  
Enjoy all the riches of God's goodness!



## Outreach Ministry Group

During April, we're collecting supplies for Rare Breed Youth Services. More than 150 teens and young adults in Springfield are unsheltered, and depend on Rare Breed for hygiene, food, and access to health services. At-risk youth ages 13-24 receive assistance with life skills training to become self-sufficient. In addition, case managers provide referrals for community services. Their drop-in center provides access to a computer lab, WiFi, a workout room, art activities and a music studio.

You can make our young neighbors' day a little easier by donating combs, hairbrushes, deodorant, socks (women's sizes), and high-protein foods and snacks for Rare Breed to distribute. You may also write a check to St. John's with "Rare Breed" on the memo line.

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## Christian Stewards Express their Faith

Stewardship is the expression of our faith. Through faith, we acknowledge what God in Christ has done for us, and, in faith, we surrender ourselves into His care. "Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see" (Hebrews 11:1). With the faith that God gives us, He changes us from self-centered to Christ-centered people. We are transformed into His likeness. When Christ becomes our purpose for living, we become more faithful in our stewardship. Through grace, we are enabled to accomplish His purpose.

Through our faith, we are enabled to see God's truth. With renewed minds and open hearts, we live our lives in response to who God is and what God has done for us through His Son. We acknowledge that God has given us life and everything we need to sustain life. Our stewardship is simply a response to what God has already done. God initiates everything. We respond out of gratitude and thanksgiving to God.

While stewardship is the outward manifestation of faith, our faith must continually be nurtured in order for us to be faithful stewards. In order for us to follow God's will, we must be nourished by His Word and Sacraments. Through our relationship with Jesus, He will fill us so that we have His strength to carry out His will. His power flows into us, and, through our faithful response, it flows out of us to others. As we become more like Christ, He is seen through us more and more. We become conduits for His love and mercy to others. Our connection to the Lord gives us a boundless source of power.

To illustrate our need to be connected to Him, Jesus used the example of fruit. As the branches, we will bear fruit when we stay linked to Him, the Vine (John 15). When we have faith through our connection to Jesus, we will be faithful stewards. He will "equip [us] with everything good for doing His will" (Hebrews 13:21).

Stewardship does express our faith. May God grant us the faith, so we can be people "eager to do what is good" (Titus 2:14).

# Mosquito Bucket Challenge

Control Mosquitoes – Protect Wildlife

*A Safer Alternative to Fogging*



## HOW IT WORKS

### 1. Fill & Bait

Fill a 2-5 gal bucket 2/3 with water and add a handful of leaves or grass.

### 2. Add Mosquito Dunk

Use 1/4 of a mosquito dunk (wildlife-friendly & kid-safe). Replace dunk monthly.

### 3. Add Cover or “Rescue Stick”

Add wire mesh or a lid with holes to keep kids and pets out, or place a stick inside so small animals can climb out.

### 4. Place & Label

Set buckets in shady spots around your yard. Add our sticker or a sign to let neighbors know what it is.

## SPREAD THE WORD WITH A STICKER

Help your bucket teach your neighbors with the official sticker (vinyl or printable).



## WHY IT WORKS

The bucket draws in mosquitoes already nearby (not from far away), then stops the next generation before it hatches.

It works because of Bti, a natural bacterium that targets mosquito larvae but doesn't harm biodiversity like bees, birds, or butterflies.



## WHY NOT FOG?

Fogging hurts more than it helps. It kills wildlife, is harmful to your pets and kids, and doesn't even stop mosquitoes at the source — it misses the larvae, where real control happens.

## LEARN MORE

Scan for how-to, FAQs and advocacy tools:



[MosquitoBucketChallenge.org](https://MosquitoBucketChallenge.org)

## From The Green Team

### A Mosquito Bucket Challenge!

In May, our Green Team will be sponsoring a Mosquito Bucket Challenge to introduce and promote environmental controls to prevent mosquitos and the diseases they carry, such as West Nile virus, tularmia, dengue fever and heartworm, a deadly disease for our canine friends.

#### **Background**

Generally, local governments have used evening spraying or fogging in neighborhoods to reduce the mosquito population. However, the sprays used are indiscriminate, also killing any beneficial insects that they contact. The fogging approach creates tiny droplets that can be carried on light breezes to the undersides of plant leaves where the butterflies and bees rest after sunset, so there is no safe place for them. Thankfully, at this time, Springfield does not employ these tactics, but many homeowners choose to use pest control companies to spray their own property.

Mosquitoes are weak fliers, which means that if you are adequately controlling mosquitoes on your property, you should experience a significant drop in the number you would encounter in an evening. The trick is to start prevention and treatment methods NOW – yes, the wrigglers have already been seen in water features in our area! — and continue them through the summer.

#### **What you can do**

Right now, you should be patrolling your property and removing any locations where there is the potential for standing water. Bird baths and water for pets should be changed at least weekly. If you have a water feature that holds standing water, consider a floating solar fountain, as mosquito larvae cannot live in disturbed water. Another option is to purchase goldfish for the feature, knowing that they will not survive our winters, and that releasing them in a nearby pond or stream in the fall is a TERRIBLE choice as they are a non-native invasive species. Remove any empty flowerpots or other containers that can catch rainwater. If you have a rain barrel, either use mosquito dunks or screen the openings to prevent access by female mosquitos.

#### **How we can help**

On May 18<sup>th</sup>, we will sponsor a neighborhood Mosquito Bucket Challenge. We will be providing buckets, instructions, decorations for the buckets, and mosquito dunks to all participants. Mosquito dunks are small flat donuts of inert material impregnated with a naturally occurring benign soil bacteria (*Bacteria thurginiensis israelensis*, or Bti) which is lethal to mosquito larvae but non-toxic to other insects and animals, even our house pets. One disc can be broken or cut into quarters, and each quarter is more than enough for a 5-gallon bucket for 30 days. It is important to remember to replace it each month. Come to the Bucket Challenge in May for more information.

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## From Parish Health Ministry

**Be the reason someone's heart beats strong!  
Give blood.**

Each year the Community Blood Center of the Ozarks (CBCO) experiences a shortage of blood during late summer and early fall, because over 50% of their donations come from high school students who are on vacation during summer.

The Parish Health Ministry team is working to bring to St. John's the opportunity to donate blood. We have been meeting with CBCO to make it easy for our members, friends, siblings in Christ, and neighbors to donate blood. We hope to set up a 4-hour time in mid to late August to help relieve the shortage that they experience each year. We will need to have 20 people committed to donate in order to schedule a blood drive in our parking lot. We will be asking for you to sign up in May and will have more details then.

You may believe that you are ineligible to give blood, due to taking medication or feeling that you are "too old." In fact, there is no upper age limit on donating. If you are 16 years (with parental consent) or older, weigh at least 110 pounds and are healthy, you most likely are eligible to donate blood.

Certain medications or health conditions may cause you to be ineligible to donate blood, but most common medications are not barriers to donation. These allowed medications include allergy medications, diuretics (water pills), diet pills, blood pressure medications, tranquilizers, over the counter pain medications, and recent antibiotic use. The blood from patients receiving "blood thinners," or anticoagulants, prostate medications, and some medications that treat autoimmune diseases cannot be used. Health conditions that would cause disqualification to donate are current upper respiratory infections and influenza and recent hepatitis, among others. Recent vaccination is not a hindrance, nor is diabetes that is controlled, recent piercing or tattoos done by a licensed provider, or recent surgery without a transfusion. See a more complete explanation at <https://www.cbco.org/can-i-give/>.

We have members in our congregation who regularly donate blood to help our brothers and sisters in the community whose lives often depend upon the generosity of those donors. Please consider donating this summer and join this group of amazing Christians who are giving of themselves to serve their neighbors.



Latesa and Jonny Carter (Sunday morning people) are expecting a baby in early May (around Mother's Day). St. Clare's Guild (also known as "crafters") is planning a baby shower. The Baby Shower will be on Saturday, April 11, in the parish hall of St. Johns at 1:00 PM (with cake and punch). These details I hope to have in the weekly insert of the bulletin Easter weekend. The link below is Latesa and Jonny's baby registry. Feel free to share with members of St. John's that you think might be interested as I am sure I have left off many in the "TO" section. It has been a while since we have had the chance to celebrate a baby's arrival.

Melissa Gallian

<https://my.babylist.com/latesa-carter>

**St. John's Episcopal Church**  
**515 E. Division St.**  
**Springfield, MO 65803**

**Return Service Requested**

*The Messenger*  
**a Newsletter of**  
**St. John's Church**

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**Remembering Special Dates & People**

**Birthdays**

Apr. 1 James Scott  
Apr. 2 Susan Danielsson  
Apr. 5 Kelly Evans  
Elizabeth Wilkinson  
Apr. 6 Michael Cardwell  
Thomas Strothkamp  
Apr. 8 Ian Lindevald  
Jacob George-Thoms  
Apr. 9 Evelyn Ledgerwood  
Apr. 10 Laura Mothersead  
Apr. 15 Aubry Heydt  
Apr. 16 April Becker  
Carol Matthews  
Apr. 17 Larry Gray  
Apr. 19 Mark Bowers  
David Jones  
Jill Vahldick  
Apr. 20 Gates Samaniego  
Apr. 21 Christie Bilbo  
Samuel Dafazio  
Elyse Shippy  
Gavin Shippy  
Apr. 22 Jesse Lee Butler  
Karen Horny  
Apr. 23 Tyler Crane  
Grayson Shippy  
Apr. 24 Cathy Ryder  
Apr. 25 Colton Iott  
Rex Porterfield  
Apr. 26 Barbara Jones  
Lori Woolery

Apr. 28 Lora Newman  
Apr. 30 Cheryl Moon

**Anniversaries**

Apr. 14 Dennis & Stephanie Blevins  
Apr. 23 Riley & Noah Brown  
Gregory & Candace Iott

**Faithful Departed**

Apr. 2 Hugo Horny  
Apr. 4 Walt Harmon  
Apr. 5 Joseph E. Cox, Jr.  
Rebecca Lohman  
Apr. 6 Dorothy Hayden  
Apr. 10 Gwendolyn Van Hook  
Apr. 11 Effie Leedy Benjamin  
Kenneth Hall  
Kathleen Walstrand  
Apr. 12 Arlyn C. Cozad  
Apr. 13 Violet Clark Beauchamp  
Apr. 15 Ray Follis  
Fern E. Meyers  
Russell Haney  
Apr. 16 Dana W. King  
Apr. 17 Charlotte Ollis  
Helen Stone  
Apr. 20 Mary Shipe  
Donald Addison Wingo  
Apr. 21 Hester G. Ollis

Apr. 22 Jone Gerboth  
Apr. 23 Seamus Mulvahill  
Apr. 26 Freda Kennedy  
Leonard L. Reddick  
Felix White  
Apr. 27 Clayton Braig  
Jerry Iott  
Apr. 28 Al Bickerstaff  
John Fendlason  
Apr. 29 Benjamin Wright  
Ruth Irene Leigh  
Apr. 30 Eva Sue Ward