

# Calendar

<b>Sunday</b> <b>May 3</b> (5 Easter)	10:30 a.m.	<b>Mass ~ Rite II</b> (In-person/COP)
<b>Monday</b> <b>May 4</b> (Monnica)		
<b>Tuesday</b> <b>May 5</b> (Martyrs of the Reformation Era)		
<b>Wednesday</b> <b>May 6</b> (George of Lydda)	6:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	<b>Mass</b> Dinner Adult Bible Study, Choir
<b>Thursday</b> <b>May 7</b> (Easter Feria)	12:00 p.m.	<b>Mass &amp; Anointing</b>
<b>Friday</b> <b>May 8</b> (Julian of Norwich)		
<b>Saturday</b> <b>May 9</b> (Pachomius)	4:00 p.m.	<b>Mass ~ Rite II</b>
<b>Sunday</b> <b>May 10</b> (6 Easter Rogation Sunday)	9:15 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	Formation Hour <b>Mass ~ Rite II</b> (In-person/COP)

## Saint John's Episcopal Church

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website: [www.stjohnsspringfield.diowestmo.org](http://www.stjohnsspringfield.diowestmo.org)

<http://www.facebook.com/stjohnsepiscopalspringfield>

## This Week at St. John's

May 3, 2026

### About the Readings

#### Acts 7:55-60

The passage from Acts gives a dramatic example of the risks faced by the first followers of Jesus as they lived out their faith. The verses in today's reading are from the final words of Stephen, the first martyr of the church, as he is stoned to death by an angry mob. Stephen's story (6:1-7:60) begins with the selection of seven men "of good standing, full of the Spirit and of wisdom" (6:3) to oversee the equitable distribution of food within the community. Stephen embodies the ideal disciple and is described as "full of grace and power," performing "great wonders and signs among the people" (6:8). However, his energy and eloquence soon make him a marked man among the community's opponents. He is arrested on false charges of blasphemy and brought before the council in Jerusalem, where he gives a fiery speech (7:2-53) reviewing Israel's history as one of unrelieved rebellion against God.

#### 1 Peter 2:2-10

In the Epistle, Peter gives encouragement to the new Christian community as it attempts to follow Jesus as "the way" and to act out their professed faith. As newborns in the faith, they are to strive for the nourishment of the Gospel—"spiritual milk" (1 Pet. 2:2) that will bring salvation. Verses 4-8 refer to a number of Old Testament texts (Is. 8:14; 28:16; Ps. 34:8; 118:22) that point to Jesus as the source of this new way of life. Though he was rejected by the world, Christ is now the "living stone" (v. 4), the foundation or cornerstone of the faith. Believers need not fear to be identified with Jesus. United with Christ, they too are "living stones" (v. 5). As such, they are built into a living temple in order to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God.

#### John 14:1-14

Jesus reassures his disciples in a beautiful passage of hope today. Few passages in Scripture bring as much comfort and assurance as the words of Jesus in his farewell address to his disciples (Jn. 13:1-17:26). As Jesus prepares them for life in his absence, he promises his followers his eternal presence; proclaims himself the way to the Father; and affirms that prayers offered in his name will be answered. It is the evening of the last supper. Jesus has washed his disciples' feet (13:3-17), and Judas has left on his mission of betrayal (13:18-30). As Jesus speaks to those who remain, he tells them "I am with you only a little longer" (13:33), and where he is going, the disciples cannot follow (13:36b). Thus Jesus offers words of assurance: "Do not let your hearts be troubled" (14:1). In 14:1-4, Jesus promises his eternal presence with them as he calls his disciples to belief. However, to "believe" (v. 1) is more than intellectual assent; it is committing the whole self to the care of God. In this, they can rest assured: Jesus goes to prepare a dwelling place for them "in my Father's house" (v. 2) where there will be room for all. Although Jesus will no longer be with them as an earthly, physical presence, he will nonetheless stay with them. To abide in Christ is to have reached the intended "place," even as the journey continues. Eternal life begins when we "abide in the Son and in the Father" (1 Jn. 2:24-25). This is the promise of Jesus in the Gospel of John—everlasting, mutual dwelling in Christ.

# Announcements

**Welcome!** We are glad to have you here to worship with us at St. John's today or with us online.

**The flowers on the altar** are given to the glory of God in thanksgiving for God's grace and mercy, by Larry and Patti Goforth.

**Hospitality:** If you enjoy the fellowship and refreshments after the service, please consider hosting a coffee hour. There's a sign-up sheet in the parish hall.

**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.stjohnsspringfield.diowestmo.org/>. For help, please contact the church office or Phil Mothersead.

**Help Needed:** Each Sunday we have the opportunity to share fellowship and welcome visitors during coffee hour. We need your help providing refreshments. See the sign-up sheet in the parish hall to see what dates are available. Please consider taking a turn hosting coffee hour.

**Flowers for the Altar:** Just a reminder that the Altar Flowers sign-up sheet with instructions is posted on the bulletin board outside the parish hall. What a great way to brighten our services and honor or memorialize loved ones and special occasions. Many spaces are available; sign up today!

**Ascension Day Picnic:** Ascension Day (May 14) is fast approaching! We will have Mass at 6:00 p.m. followed by our yearly picnic. We will bring out the grill, and we ask that everyone please bring a dish or dessert to share. If you can help with the clean-up afterward, that is always very appreciated. A sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board outside the parish hall. See you there! Burgers, brats and dogs. Yum!

**Formation Hour:** Join Fr. Ben in conversations about what it can mean to be an Anglo-Catholic Episcopalian. During the course of the conversations, we'll explore how it fits into the broader Anglican tradition, its far-reaching and lasting effects on the Episcopal Church, and how it's influenced our own community at St. John's. Grab a cup of coffee or tea and pull up a chair at the table beginning Sunday, May 10th, at 9:15am in the Parish Hall!

**CORRECTION:** the Mosquito Bucket Challenge decorating party, hosted by the Green Team, is scheduled for Saturday, May 16 at 10:00 -11:00 a.m. at St. John's on the lawn. It's free and for all ages.

# Intercessions

**In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer,** we pray for The Church of North India.

**In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer,** we pray for St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Kansas City; The Rev. Steven King, Rector; The Rev. Brittany Sparow Savage, Associate Rector; The Rev. Morgan Mercer Ladd, Associate Rector; The Rev. John Deng, Priest; The Rev. Ezekiel Thon, Deacon; and for The Rt. Rev. Amy Dafler Meaux, her Family and her Ministry to the Diocese.

## Birthdays

May 3 Timothy Wilkinson  
May 6 Sarah Hosutt  
May 7 Jeanine Jones  
May 8 Jana Daniel

## Anniversary

May 2 Chris & Tonya Roop

## Faithful Departed

May 2 Arthur Albers  
John Holliday  
May 4 William A. Moon  
May 6 Harry Holden  
Mildred M. Phillips  
May 8 Eva Aldrich

## Prayer Requests

Clara	Kristen
Bill	Casey
Jim	Sarah
Patty	Dean
Nikki	Penny
Clara	David
Jim	Elizabeth
Jessica	Melissa
Katy	Janet
Elaine	Darlene
Darrel	Charlie
Jerry	Cara
Pat	Glen
Ann	Wayne
Tyler	Becky
Tony	Joe & Mary
Nick	Mike

Jesus gives a new commandment – “Love one another. Just as I have loved you, you should also love one another ... everyone will know you are my disciples if you love one another.” How better can we affirm that we are stewards and disciples than by loving God in return, and by using our gratitude and generosity to serve the needs of others?