

Calendar

Sunday June 28 (5 Pentecost)	10:30 a.m.	Mass ~ Rite II (In-person/COP)
Monday June 29 (Sts. Peter & Paul)		
Tuesday June 30 (Feria)	10:30 a.m.	DOK (Library)
Wednesday July 1 (Pauli Murray)	6:00 p.m.	Mass ~ Rite II
Thursday July 2 (Sts. Peter & Paul, Tr.)	12:00 p.m.	Mass & Anointing
Friday July 3 (Feria)		<i>Office Closed</i>
Saturday July 4 (Independence Day)	10:00 a.m. 4:00 p.m.	Midtown4th of July Parade (Washington Park) Mass ~ Rite II
Sunday July 5 (6 Pentecost)	10:30 a.m.	Mass ~ Rite II (In-person/COP)

Saint John's Episcopal Church

515 E. Division Street, Springfield, MO 65803, (417) 869-6351

website: www.stjohnsspringfield.diowestmo.org
<http://www.facebook.com/stjohnsepiscopalspringfield>

This Week at St. John's

June 28, 2026

About the Readings

Jeremiah 28:5-9

Prophets in Israel were not so much predictors of the future as promoters of God's agenda in the political crises of the nation. They tried to call attention to what God wanted and what God was doing. But since all prophets claimed to be delivering God's message, it was always difficult to tell whose message was the true one. Jeremiah argues that true prophets have always delivered the hard message of God's judgment rather than the convenient message of God's peace. In today's reading, dated approximately seven years after the exile has begun, Jeremiah and his opponents who are still in Jerusalem offer alternative versions of what God is doing. Hananiah, perhaps to inspire a sense of revolt against Babylon, has prophesied that the exiles will return in two years and God will once again grant peace to the nation. Jeremiah represents the minority opinion that God is requiring the people to be conquered and go into exile and consequently revolt is futile. To resist the Babylonians as God's agent is to resist God—which only leads to one's own destruction.

Romans 6:12-23

Paul defends himself against the charge that his emphasis upon grace as a free gift not dependent upon works was an encouragement to sin. He replies by pointing out the fact and nature of the Christian's new relationship to God: in baptism the Christian has died to sin. The waters of baptism identify the believer with Christ, indeed with the very act of redemption—his death and resurrection. By Jesus' act, the penalty for sin—death—has been paid; baptism credits us with that payment. The Christian has been justified, set right, by being united to Christ. The Christian is no longer enslaved to sin, for Paul asserts that death in baptism frees one from sin. The image of slavery highlights the issue of loyalty. The fundamental question for a Christian is simply, "Who is your Lord or Master? Is it Christ Jesus, or someone else?" Paul personifies the Law and Sin because, like earthly masters, they attempt to dominate every aspect of our lives. Paul encourages his community to think of themselves in the light of this basic choice that changes everything. Will they be "slaves of sin" and march to death or be "enslaved to God" and enter eternal life?

Matthew 10:40-42

Today's readings focus on the rewards that come to those who undertake and who respond to the mission of disciples. Matthew here touches on a consistent theme of Jesus as "God with us" who hides himself in those whom we encounter. As Jesus sends the disciples to continue his proclaiming and healing ministry, like every messenger they are invested with the power of the one who sent them. Christian disciples thus convey not only their message but the presence of Jesus and therefore of God. So people's response to these "prophets" and "little ones" is at the same time a response to Christ himself. While there are rewards for disciples and even for those who receive them, true "life" (Greek, "psyche," self) is found only in losing it for Jesus' sake. This section is addressed generally to "whoever," recognizing that both those within the Church and those who have not yet heard or heeded the gospel message will be judged equally in God's eyes on the quality of their response.

(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.

The flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God in thanksgiving for all of God's blessings by Linda Robertson.

Outreach Ministry Group: Please join us in collecting ready-to-eat food in June and July for the Crosslines food pantry. It's the largest food pantry in Greene county. Some suggestions are fruit cups, cereal, macaroni & cheese (microwave), tuna, granola bars, soup, peanut butter and jelly. These items are especially during the summer when children are home. Our "Holy Habit" of helping others makes a difference.

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!

Summer Storytime on the Lawn: Our own Lindsey Parks will start hosting her popular *Storytime in the Park* here at St. John's. The next session is Saturday, July 11, 10:30-11 a.m., reading "Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse" by Kevin Henkes. Only canceled if pouring rain or windy.

4th of July Celebration: Bring your lawn chair to Washington park to watch the Midtown Parade! Midtown will provide free ice cream and games. Our own Melissa Gallian will be manning the a games booth on the southwest corner of the park. Join us in the fun!

Intercessions

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

In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, we pray for St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Clinton; The Rev. Michael Kyle, Long-Term Supply; Mrs. Kate French, Bishop's Warden; and for the United Thank Offering.

Birthdays

June 28 Russell Axtell
July 1 Robert Hollis Wilhoit
July 2 Joseph Bendon

Anniversaries

June 27 James & Janice Hancock
June 30 Michael & Roberta Richerson

Faithful Departed

June 28 John Patton
June 29 Einar Jacobson
July 3 George D. Burns

Prayer Requests

Clara	Kristen
Bill	Casey
Jim	Sarah
Patty	Dean
Nikki	Jim
Clara	Todd & Jennifer
Jim	Cara
Jessica	Darlene
Katy	Charlie
Elaine	
Darrel	
Jerry	
Pat	
Ann	
Tyler	
Tony	
Nick	

"...that we may be made a temple acceptable to you..." When we think of temples, we tend to think mostly of special, consecrated buildings. Perhaps we need to focus more on the "special and consecrated" and not be trapped in the actual building image. Why not think outside the box, and work at seeing yourself as a very particular temple – full of thankful love and praise for your Creator?