

Calendar

Sunday July 5 (6 Pentecost)	10:30 a.m.	Mass ~ Rite II (In-person/COP)
Monday July 6 (Eva Lee Matthews)		
Tuesday July 7 (Feria)	10:30 a.m.	DOK (Library)
Wednesday July 8 (Priscilla & Aquila)	6:00 p.m.	Mass ~ Rite II
Thursday July 9 (Feria)	12:00 p.m.	Mass & Anointing
Friday July 10 (Feria)		
Saturday July 11 (Benedict of Nursia)	4:00 p.m.	Mass ~ Rite II
Sunday July 12 (7 Pentecost)	10:30 a.m.	Mass ~ Rite II (In-person/COP)

This Week at St. John's

July 5, 2026

About the Readings

Zechariah 9:9-12

The prophecies of Zechariah were made in the early period of reconstruction after the exile, about 520–518 B.C. Zechariah was especially concerned for the rebuilding of the temple, the reinstatement of the Levitical priesthood, and the purification of the disunited community. He looked for the restoration of the Davidic monarchy to bring about the messianic age. The picture of the coming of the Messiah in today's reading combines the themes of the royal Davidic expectation and the increasing emphasis in late Old Testament writings on the pious poor who live in humble dependence on the Lord. The king to come will be both "victorious" and "humble." Whereas the horse was associated with warfare, the donkey was a symbol of peace, particularly associated with the Davidic Messiah. Universal dominion and peace will characterize the Messiah's reign.

Romans 7:13-25a

Paul is struggling with the relationship of the law of Moses to human sin. Paul sees several laws at work in the human sphere. There is first the moral law, "the law of God," which is both natural law as known to the Gentiles and more specifically the Jewish law. This law is approved by the mind but cannot grant the power to keep it; this law has right but not might. Opposed to this law is "the law of sin and of death," which has might but not right. Sin is personified as an external force that finds entry into human life through the frailness of flesh. In the conflict between the moral law and the law of sin, Paul recognizes the principle that "when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand." He says that left to himself he may choose the good, but will do the evil; human nature is, both in pagan and Christian experience, at odds with itself. Only the law of the Spirit has both right and might to empower the Christian in the ongoing effort to live out the status acquired in baptism.

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

Today's reading summarizes these themes; Jesus has witnessed to the rejection of both John the Baptist and himself (11:7-19), and has condemned those who have seen his "deeds of power" yet not repented (11:20-24). Jesus goes on to praise God for the divine wisdom that hid these truths from the unrepentant. True recognition of spiritual reality comes from God (16:17), but God is neither capricious nor insensitive to people's lives in disclosing spiritual truth. The "infants," the "simple" (New English Bible), are open to receiving it. Verses 28-30 are found only in Matthew. The "yoke" in the Old Testament stood for servitude under the king (1 Kings 12:4) or under a foreign conqueror (Isaiah 14:25). It symbolized then, not the means of bearing a burden, but the burden itself. The "yoke of the law" was God's covenant, (Jeremiah 2:20, 5:5) identified also with Wisdom (Sirach 6:24-25). The rabbis spoke of the "yoke of the law" as giving rest and reward (Sirach 51:26-30), but to the poor and the outcast it was burdensome (23:1-4; Acts 15:10). Jesus promises a yoke that is "easy" and "light."

(Commentaries from *Synthesis CE: A Lectionary Study Guide*)

Saint John's Episcopal Church

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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 from the general fund.

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.

Intercessions

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

In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, we pray for The Episcopal Diocese of Oklahoma, Oklahoma City; The Rt. Rev. Poulson C. Reed, Jr., Bishop; and for the Stewardship Commission.

Birthdays

July 5 Elaine Simpson
July 7 Nathan Branscom
July 10 David Westervelt

Faithful Departed

July 5 Alberta Comstock
July 6 Florence Silsby Brown
July 7 Rolland Comstock
July 9 Helen Marie Crooks
Peggy White
July 10 Edward Millikin
Ralph Rimbey

Prayer Requests

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

One of our national holidays is this weekend. Each week in our prayers, we remember those who lead our country. Take some time this week to read some of the other Prayer Book offerings for our nation, its people, and its concerns. (See pp. 816, 820-828, and pp. 838-40). Part of a faithful steward's life is built upon prayer for self and others. Here is a special opportunity to concentrate on the "others" part.