

Calendar

Sunday July 12 (7 Pentecost)	10:30 a.m.	Mass ~ Rite II (In-person/COP)
Monday July 13 (Feria)		
Tuesday July 14 (Argula von Grumbach)	10:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	St. Clare's Guild DOK (Library)
Wednesday July 15 (Feria)	6:00 p.m.	Mass ~ Rite II
Thursday July 16 (Feria)	12:00 p.m.	Mass & Anointing
Friday July 17 (William White)		
Saturday July 18 (Feria)	4:00 p.m.	Mass ~ Rite II
Sunday July 19 (8 Pentecost)	10:30 a.m. 12:15 p.m.	Mass ~ Rite II (In-person/COP) Green Team

Saint John's Episcopal Church

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This Week at St. John's

July 12, 2026

About the Readings

Isaiah 55:10-13

Today's reading comes from a triumphant hymn exulting in Israel's ultimate restoration. With the cry of a street vendor, God calls to Israel and invites the people to a banquet that would foreshadow the final consummation. Isaiah declares that God's grace cannot be purchased; it is both priceless and free. The Lord offers not only the bread and water of the wilderness but the wine and milk of the promised land. For the Israelites, however, this stormy period of oppression by the Assyrian empire and threatening persecution from the rising Babylonian nation spoke of the decline of Israel and the cessation of the Davidic line. Isaiah confirms their worst fears and foretells the fall of Jerusalem and the Babylonian exile. But Isaiah also boldly affirms Israel's glorious redemption. As David's success was a witness of God's favor, so Israel's salvation will cause the "nations," that is, the Gentile world, to turn to God. Confidence in this future is founded in the surety of God's word. The Hebrew for *word* means also *deed*; as rain is effective in bringing about growth and sustenance, so God's word is effective because it is filled with power. It is sent from God, like a messenger, endowed with the power to communicate God's desire, effect new life and sustain spiritual growth.

Romans 8:1-11

In the portion of the letter to the Romans for today, Paul also speaks of the abundance of God's grace through Jesus Christ. By becoming fully human, Jesus once and for all freed humanity from sin and death. Paul goes on to draw a contrast between two opposing ways of life—two different relationships with God. Those who choose to live "according to the flesh" are controlled by sin and are in rebellion against God. Such a life leads to death. In contrast, those who live "according to the Spirit" are under the rule of God, which brings renewal of life and peace. God's life-giving Spirit dwells in them. Through Christ's work of setting us free from the bondage of sin and death, we live no longer in the flesh but in the Spirit.

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

For the next three Sundays, the readings from Matthew's Gospel consist of a series of parables about the Kingdom of God. The theme of today's text is the mystery of why some hear and accept the Gospel, while others reject it. The reading is the Parable of the Sower and its interpretation. Although referred to as the Parable of the Sower, the story is actually about the soil in which seeds are planted. The seeds themselves represent the teachings of Jesus. It is the soil in which they are sown that determines the different responses to the good news of God's Kingdom that is fulfilled in Jesus. As the passage opens, Jesus has been so pressed by the crowds that he has retreated to a boat anchored on the shore of the Sea of Galilee. It was the Sabbath Day, and the tensions between Jesus and the religious authorities earlier in the day had boiled over into open confrontation, after which the Pharisees plotted to destroy Jesus. As Jesus began to speak, he used the familiar image of a farmer sowing seed. As the seeds are scattered in a wide arc, some fall on the path to be eaten by the birds. This compares to those who hear the word of the Kingdom but do not understand it. Thus "the evil one" comes and snatches it out of their hearts.

(Commentaries from *Preparing for Sunday*)

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 and in memory of family deaths in July—Benjamin, Fred, Bernadette & Ann, and in thanksgiving for her family's new life in Missouri by Renee' Taylor.

Outreach Ministry Group: Are you aware that one in five children face food insecurity in Springfield, Missouri? There's still time to donate food for Cross-lines food pantry. Eligible individuals can shop the client-choice pantry six times a year. Some suggestions are instant oatmeal, granola bars, cereal, macaroni & cheese cups, vienna sausages, tuna, soup, peanut butter and jelly. You may also write a check to St. John's with "Crosslines" on the memo line.

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 is hosting her popular *Storytime in the Park* here at St. John's. The next session will be Saturday, July 25, 10:30-11 a.m., reading *Where the Wild Things Are* by Maurice Sendak. The session will be canceled only if pouring rain or too windy.

Intercessions

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, we pray for Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan.

In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, we pray for St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, Ozark; The Rev. Chandler Jackson, III, Priest-in-Charge; The Rev. Dr. Chris Dodson, Deacon; and for the Youth Ministry Commission.

Birthdays

July 11 Patricia Blair
James McMillen
July 14 Meghan Arnall
July 16 Melissa Gallian
July 17 John Walstrand

Faithful Departed

July 11 Julia Guthrie
July 12 Frances Lee Wingo
July 14 Wilfred G. Barker
July 15 Ralph E. Bostwick
Bob Bradley
July 16 Dorothy Ann Deck

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	
Dcn. Connie	
Mary Beth	

What kind of seed are you? Are you being used up on the pathway of life, eaten by the birds? Do you spring up quickly and just as quickly fade away from responsibilities and resolutions? Are the thorns of life smothering and choking you? Or are you laboring to be a "good soil" seed, creating a life that blossoms with care and concern for others, offers glory to God, and brings holy satisfaction to you? Most of us will face all of the above in our life journeys, but we can pray that the final full one is that for which we will continue to strive.