

Calendar

Sunday August 30 (14 Pentecost)	10:30 a.m.	Mass ~ Rite II (In-person/COP)
Monday August 31 (Aidan of Lindisfarne)		
Tuesday September 1 (David Pendleton Oakerhater)		
Wednesday September 2 (Martyrs of New Guinea)	6:00 p.m.	Mass ~ Rite II
Thursday August 3 (Phoebe)	12:00 p.m.	Mass & Anointing
Friday August 4 (Paul Jones)		
Saturday August 5 (Katharina Zell)	4:00 p.m.	Mass ~ Rite II
Sunday August 6 (15 Pentecost)	10:30 a.m.	Mass ~ Rite II (In-person/COP)

This Week at St. John's

August 30, 2026

About the Readings

Jeremiah 15:15-21

Jeremiah's proclamation to the people in exile—that Babylon was the instrument of God's judgment upon the people and that Judah should not resist—caused him to be regarded as a traitor by his own people. He has prayed for his enemies (14:7-11), but they have not listened to God's message. Now the prophet's concern for them is exhausted and he cries out for the LORD to take vengeance upon them. He affirms that he has been nourished on God's word (1:9), but protests that God's hand, usually a figure of inspiration and blessing, has become an intolerable burden. God responds that if Jeremiah will return again, assurance of support will also be renewed (1:18-19). The reward for Jeremiah's faithful service is not relief from suffering but more service.

Romans 12:9-21

In the letter to the Romans, the Apostle Paul gives further instructions to the community of faith on what is required to be a follower of Jesus. He begins by urging the community to "love one another with mutual affection." Love was not only the greatest gift, but also the very core of Christian belief. He urged patience in suffering, perseverance in prayer, and contributing to the needs of others. Christians should also bless their persecutors while sharing in the joy and grief of the community. They were to claim no special privileges for themselves, and certainly never to repay evil for evil. Finally, they were to seek to "live peaceably with all," and to refrain from seeking retribution, as vengeance is the Lord's concern. In this way, evil will be overcome by good and we will be true to our call as disciples of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Matthew 16:21-28

Peter's confession that Jesus is "the Messiah, the Son of the living God" marked a major turning point in the ministry of Jesus. "From that time on," Jesus set his face toward Jerusalem and began to teach his disciples what Messiahship, as well as discipleship, truly meant. Today's Gospel passage includes the first of three Passion predictions as Jesus gave the Apostles the stunning revelation of the suffering and death he would endure at the hands of the religious leaders in Jerusalem; and of his rising again on the third day. Upon hearing these words, Peter took Jesus aside and rebuked him saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." This new teaching shatters all of his preconceptions about Messiahship, and Peter's vehement statement shows the strength of his repudiation. The followers of Jesus associated victory and glory with the Messiah, not suffering and death. Though there was a place in Jewish thought for the concept of the suffering servant, the disciples had no such expectations with regard to Jesus. As the Messiah, he was to be the promised deliverer of the nation, and they were to share in his eminence.

Saint John's Episcopal Church

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

(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 and in memory of Rex, Cynthia & Robert Cooper by Cindy Cooper.

Attention: The Saturday 4:00 p.m. Mass will move to a new day and time! The last Saturday 4:00 p.m. Mass will be September 12. Starting September 20, the new Mass time and day will be Sunday afternoon at 4:00 p.m. Let Fr. Ben know if you have any questions. Mark your calendars!

Chili Cook-Off: The Outreach Ministry Group will be hosting the Chili Cook-Off on October 18 at 5:00 p.m. to benefit Ambassadors for Children. Hot dogs, drinks and desserts will be provided. You can sample and vote for your favorite chili, so save your dollar bills. Be sure to sign up if you would like to bring a pot of chili or donate a gift basket for the silent auction. There are separate sign-up sheets for each with more information.

Flowers for the Altar: Just a reminder that the Altar Flowers sign-up sheet and instructions are 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!

Bishop Amy is coming to visit! February 21, our Bishop of West Missouri, The Right Reverend Amy Dafler Meaux, will be at St. John's. Please speak with Fr. Ben if you wish to be Baptized, Confirmed, Received or to Reaffirm your vows when Bishop Amy is here at St. John's during her visit.

Christian Formation Class: Classes start back up soon for the fall! Fr. Ben will offer *Tools for the Journey* on Sunday mornings at 9:15 a.m., starting September 13 through October 11. As one of the disciples asked Jesus, "Lord, teach us to pray. . ." (Luke 11:1). Throughout the years, the Church has continued to make this request and has listened intently to the ways in which Jesus has responded. In *Tools for the Journey*, join Fr Ben in this exploration of both what prayer can mean in the Anglican/Episcopal tradition and different prayer practices developed over the years to enrich and nourish our relationships with God.

On Wednesday nights after the Mass, starting September 16, weekly dinner and Bible study will resume. Join us for dinner, Bible study and good fellowship together as we dive into the Book of Psalms. Please be sure to bring your favorite Bible from home for this class. If you have questions about these up-coming classes, contact Fr. Ben.

Intercessions

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, we pray for The Church in the Province of the West Indies.

In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, we pray for St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Savannah; Mr. Greg Hall, Bishop's Warden; and for the Our Newly Ordained Priests.

Birthdays

Aug. 30 Liesl Aldridge
Sept. 1 Karen Daniel
Sept. 4 Prae Gamel
Matthew Gray
Christopher Roop

Anniversary

Aug. 30 David & Mary Jane Robertson

Faithful Departed

Aug. 30 Irma Edwards
Aug. 31 John L. Butler
Clarence Iott
Sept. 1 Joe Brown

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	Rosea
Tyler	Jim & Mary
Tony	
Nick	
Dcn. Connie	
Mary Beth	

Now here's a very vivid vision. How can we live in God's love and power so it will seem to us and to others that we've had some radical surgery – and that the love of his name (and all that that implies) is truly “grafted in our hearts”? It's probably easier for us to consider the challenges of physical heart surgery than to pray for the blessed addition to our bodies and minds the true healer can make if called upon.