

Calendar

Sunday September 6 (15 Pentecost)	10:30 a.m.	Mass ~ Rite II (In-person/COP) <i>Breakfast Club Brunch</i>
Monday September 7 (Kassiani)		<i>Labor Day, Office Closed</i>
Tuesday September 8 (Nativity of the BVM)	10:00 a.m.	St. Clare's Guild
Wednesday September 9 (Constance and her Companions)	6:00 p.m.	Mass ~ Rite II
Thursday September 10 (Alexander Crommell)	12:00 p.m.	Mass & Anointing
Friday September 11 (Feria)		
Saturday September 12 (John Henry Hobart)	4:00 p.m.	Mass ~ Rite II
Sunday September 13 (16 Pentecost)	9:15 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 12:15 p.m.	Adult Formation Hour Mass ~ Rite II (In-person/COP) Outreach Ministry Group

This Week at St. John's

September 6, 2026

About the Readings

Ezekiel 33:7-11

Ezekiel's prophetic ministry to his people extended from 593 to about 573 BC, from before the fall of Jerusalem in 586 BC to the time of the exile in Babylon. Today's reading harks back to Ezekiel's concern for individual responsibility. The sentinel or watchman, chosen by the townspeople, was responsible for warning them of the approach of an enemy. They then could come in from the fields and take refuge. In this passage, God both chooses the watchman and sends the awaited enemy in judgment. There is an implicit tension between the punishment of the wicked and the desire that they repent and live. Israel believed that mere membership in the community of God's people guaranteed salvation; here God declares that the individual is responsible for his or her own choices.

Romans 13:8-14

The Apostle Paul gives further instruction in his letter to the Romans on how those in the community of faith are to relate to one another. Such relations are to be based on love for one another, "for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law." Love fulfills the commandments against adultery, murder, theft, and covetousness, and leads to the understanding in verse 9 of loving "your neighbor as yourself." Only those who are capable of loving themselves can truly love all humanity as neighbors.

Matthew 18:15-20

Our text today in chapter 18 of Matthew's Gospel focuses on life in the community of believers. The chapter begins with Jesus' response to the disciples' question about who was the greatest in the Kingdom of heaven, and goes on to show how the early Church handled disputes between members. Here we get a glimpse of how the faith community dealt with the painful issue of determining when dissent becomes disruption that requires decisive action. The process described served to emphasize the need to do everything possible to maintain the community, avoid schism, and win back any who might have gone astray.

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



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>

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.

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!

Outreach Ministry Group: There are over 1,000 children in foster care in Greene, Christian and Taney Counties. *Crosslines* Ambassadors for Children provides basic necessities and services to build self-esteem for children and youth in foster care. Twice a year, they're able to select brand-new clothes and shoes from the Clothing Boutique. During September and October we're collecting new items they have requested. They need girls and boys pajamas; boys sneakers sizes 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13; strawberry cake mix and frosting.

Chili Cook-Off: The Outreach Ministry Group is hosting the annual Chili Cook-Off on October 18 at 5:00 p.m. to benefit *Crosslines* Ambassadors for Children. We'll have a speaker to share information about their program. Please sign up if you would like to bring a pot of chili. Then there will be plenty of varieties to enjoy and vote on with your dollar bills. Hot dogs, dessert and drinks will be provided. The Outreach Ministry Group is suggesting a donation of \$5.00 with all proceeds to benefit Crosslines Ambassadors for Children. The silent auction begins on October 4 and continues till the deadline during the Chili Cook-Off. Please bring your baskets or items for the silent auction by October 3.

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 Episcopal / Anglican Province of Alexandria.

In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, we pray for The Episcopal Diocese of Western Louisiana – Pineville; The Rt. Rev. Jacob W. Owensby, Bishop; and for the Church Musicians, Nurses and Sunday School Teachers.

Birthdays

September 5 Amelia Schweitzer
September 6 Rhonda Axtell
Donna Strothkamp
September 7 David Nelson
Mary Yarber
September 8 Ron Daniel, Jr.

Anniversary

September 7 Rob & Bridget Close

Faithful Departed

September 8 Vickie Snider
September 9 Bill Gamel
September 10 Arthur W. Beck
Jim Burroughs
J. J. Sand
September 11 Charles H. Evans

Prayer Requests

Clara	Kristen
Bill	Casey
Jim	Sarah
Patty	Dean
Nikki	Jim
Clara	Cara
Jim	Darlene
Jessica	Charlie
Katy	Penny
Elaine	David
Darrel	Nate
Jerry	Katie
Pat	Rosea
Ann	Jim & Mary
Tyler	
Tony	
Nick	
Dcn. Connie	
Mary Beth	

"For wherever two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them." I read or heard somewhere that Jesus said "feed my sheep, don't count them!" But in reality, numbers do count, and the support we give each other by faithful attendance at worship and by our personal and financial participation for parish ministries is a morale boost to all who are involved. Pray (and do your part) to be an active part of a lively, God-centered congregation!