

Calendar

Sunday September 20 (17 Pentecost)	9:15 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 12:15 p.m. 4:00 p.m.	Adult Formation Hour Mass ~ Rite II (In-person/COP) The Green Team Mass ~ Rite II
Monday September 21 (St. Matthew)	6:30 p.m.	Vestry
Tuesday September 22 (Philander Chase)	10:00 a.m.	St. Clare's Guild
Wednesday September 23 (Our Lady of Walsingham)	6:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Mass ~ Rite II Dinner Adult Bible Study & Choir
Thursday September 24 (Anna Ellison Butler Alexander)	12:00 p.m.	Mass & Anointing
Friday September 25 (Sergius)		
Saturday September 26 (Lancelot Andrewes)		
Sunday September 27 (18 Pentecost)	9:15 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 12:15 p.m. 4:00 p.m.	Adult Formation Hour Mass ~ Rite II (In-person/COP) DOK Mass ~ Rite II

This Week at St. John's

September 20, 2026

About the Readings

Jonah 3:10-4:11

Unlike the other prophetic books, the book of Jonah is not a collection of oracles, but a didactic story about a prophet. It illustrates the principle of human accountability and God's freedom and is a reminder of the availability of God's mercy to all through Israel's mission to the nations.

Nineveh's repentance and God's response anger Jonah. He knows that God has always demonstrated generosity to Israel, but Jonah rebels against that mercy being extended to other people. Jonah characterizes God (4:2) in a summary statement found throughout the Old Testament. This is probably an early cultic confession of faith.

Jonah feels that the meaning of his life has been taken away. He may fear that God's kindness to these Gentiles means the end of Israel's privileged status with God. He forgets that Israel, too, deserves only destruction but receives compassion. And although Jonah received mercy personally, he wants justice untempered by any reprieve for Nineveh. The concern he exhibits for the withered plant is a pale shadow of the care God has for the inhabitants of heathen Nineveh, for both human and beast.

In the New Testament, the repentance and deliverance of Nineveh stand as a warning sign to the unbelieving Jews. Those who repent from the heart receive the fullness of God's generous mercy although they have earned only wrath.

Philippians 1:21-30

The church in Philippi was Paul's first congregation formed on European soil, and his relationship with it remained consistently warm and close. Because of Paul's references to being imprisoned and to the imperial guard (1:13), it was often thought that this letter was written from Rome about AD 62. Some scholars now believe that it was written earlier from Ephesus, where the praetorian guard was also stationed.

In today's selection, Paul meditates upon the possibility of imminent execution. For Paul, both life and death are under the rule of Christ. Though life means communion with Christ, death will bring even fuller communion. Life, however, includes the opportunity to serve Christ further.

Matthew 20:1-16

The parable of the laborers in the vineyard is found only in Matthew. The point of the parable lies in the landowner's actions and is thus sometimes called the parable of the generous employer. The question "Are you envious because I am generous?" (v. 15) may be more literally translated "Is your eye evil because I am good?" An "evil eye" indicates a jealous, ungenerous, envious attitude.

Matthew has chosen to set the parable before the Zebedee brothers' question on precedence (20:20-27). Thus it stands as a reminder to disciples in the Church that the first may again become last if they grumble at the reward the Lord gives to others, even to latecomers. The strength of Jesus' message is found in his words about God's generosity. God, as supreme Judge, has the right to say "I grant mercy to whom I will."

(Commentaries from *Preparing for Sunday*)



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.

St. Francis Pet Blessing: Saturday, October 3 at 11:00 a.m. Join us out on the parish lawn with your furry, feathered or scaled family for a blessing and pet treats. Let Fr. Ben know if you have any questions. Mark your calendars!

Outreach Ministry Group: Many children enter foster care with very few belongings. Crosslines Ambassadors for Children provides new clothes from their Clothing Boutique for foster children in Greene, Christian and Taney Counties. You can help support them by providing new pajamas for girls and boys; boys sneakers sizes 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13; strawberry cake mix and frosting during September and October. Crosslines Ambassadors for Children provides resources for car seats, beds and mattresses as needed. There are also funds available for foster families to cover the cost of music lessons, therapies, and sports equipment.

Chili Cook-Off: Join us for the Chili Cook-Off on October 18, starting at 5:00 p.m. The event will benefit Crosslines Ambassadors for Children, which provides support for children in foster care. The Outreach Ministry Group is suggesting a donation of \$5.00 that evening. There will be gift baskets to bid on and a speaker from Ambassadors for Children. Hot dogs, dessert and drinks will be provided. Please sign up if you would like to bring a pot of chili. Then there will be plenty of varieties to sample and vote on with your dollar bills. 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!

Wednesday Night Dinner: Please be sure to sign up for the Wednesday Night Dinner. The sign-up sheets are in the hall across from the parish hall. It is important that we have an accurate count for the caterer.

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 Anglican Church of Australia .

In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, we pray for The Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, Kansas City; The Rev. Jonathan Callison, Interim Rector; The Rev. Lynda Hurt, Deacon; and for the Hispanic Ministry & Diocesan Hispanic Missioner The Rev. Canon Jose Palmas.

Birthdays

September 21	Terry Greer
	Rachel Taylor
September 22	Nadine Gentry
	Patricia McCall
September 23	Bruce Ratcliff, III
September 26	Jennifer DuVall
	Corey Mays

Anniversary

September 21	Douglas & Ashley Patton
September 26	Pat & Donna Strothkamp

Faithful Departed

September 21	Mary Bondi
	Norbert Bondi
September 22	Eleanor Webb
September 24	Andree Leshner
September 25	Dorothy Mason
	Gladys Moon
September 26	O. Kenneth White

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	Jan
Tony	Larry & Family
Nick	
Dcn. Connie	
Mary Beth	

"...are you envious because I am generous?" Do we spend more time lamenting our personal scarcity than being grateful and thankful for all we have been given and responding accordingly? It is certainly true that we can't begin to "out-give" God, but would our lives perhaps be more contented and feel more blessed if we decided to be first-fruits or "I can't wait to give" donors to the life and ministry to which God has called all of us? Remember, Baptism tells us we are "marked as Christ's own forever." How do you respond to that gift?

Free Gift Shop Books are available on the glass cases in the parish hall!