

Calendar

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
Monday September 28 (Paula & Eustochium)		
Tuesday September 29 (St. Michael & All Angels)		
Wednesday September 30 (St. Michael & All Angels, Tr.)	6:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Mass ~ Rite II Dinner Adult Bible Study & Choir
Thursday October 1 (Therese of Lisieux)	12:00 p.m.	Mass & Anointing
Friday October 2 (Remigius of Rheims)		
Saturday October 3 (John Raleigh Mott)	11:00 a.m.	Pet Blessing on the parish lawn
Sunday October 4 (19 Pentecost)	9:15 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 4:00 p.m.	Adult Formation Hour Mass ~ Rite II (In-person/COP) Mass ~ Rite II

This Week at St. John's

September 27, 2026

About the Readings

Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

Chapter 18 centers on the question of individual responsibility, as raised by the proverb, "The parents have eaten sour grapes and the children's teeth are set on edge" (18:2; Jeremiah 31:29-30). This saying recalls the ancient belief in corporate guilt rather than that of the individual.

Ezekiel defends God's honor and righteousness and offers comfort and hope to the exiles. He draws upon the slowly emerging idea of individual responsibility, as found in the call to a personal examination of conscience in the liturgical rite for access to the temple and in other prophetic warnings.

Israel's injustice blinds its understanding of God's ways. Yet God is free to promise life even to the wicked if they repent. They are called to a renewal of covenant with the Lord and a new life. Only God's purposes define true fairness.

Philippians 2:1-13

Paul follows his exhortation to steadfastness in relation to the outside world (1:27-30) with an exhortation to harmony and to humility within the community of believers.

Verses 6-11 of today's passage are generally considered to be a pre-Pauline hymn to Christ that Paul adopted to make his own point. The hymn is poetic in rhythm and structure and contains a full outline of Christian proclamation: divine preexistence (v. 6), incarnation (v. 7), death (v. 8), resurrection and celestial exaltation (v. 9), heavenly adoration (v. 10) and Jesus' new title (v. 11).

The first stanza (vv. 6-8) recounts Jesus' own action. His "equality with God" is not a prize "to be exploited" for his own advantage. As God's equal (divine), Jesus owes no service to anyone, but in his humanity, Jesus freely becomes a servant to God, obedient to God the Father for the purpose of salvation.

The second stanza of the hymn (vv. 9-11) stresses God's response to Jesus' obedience. The name God has bestowed on Jesus is Lord, (Greek, *Kyrios*), the circumlocution used by Jews as a substitute for speaking the Name of God, YHWH. This name is now given to Jesus, and the honor due to God is now due him.

Matthew 21:23-32

The parable of the two sons is found only in Matthew and is the first of three parables on the judgment of Israel. Jesus insists that actions, not words, are the ultimate signs of obedience. Here Jesus defends his ministry of inviting into God's kingdom those outcast from Jewish society. Even though tax collectors and prostitutes live outside the law, they repent when the gospel of the kingdom is offered to them. They push ahead into the kingdom of God "ahead of" (v. 31; or even "instead of") the leaders who have sworn obedience to the law, but who will not accept the work of faith in the new law of Jesus.

John came to show "the way of righteousness" (v. 32) through repentance, but the leaders of the people did not heed him. They will accept the authority of neither John nor Jesus.

(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 and in thanksgiving for her daughter by Deborah Abel.

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, bed 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 until 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: Fr. Ben will offer *Tools for the Journey* on Sunday mornings at 9:15 a.m., starting September 13 through October 11. On Wednesday nights after the Mass, 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.

Choral Scholars: Please consider giving to the scholarship fund that supports students in our choir.

Trunk or Treat! Join us Saturday, October 31 for Trunk or Treat in the parish parking lot from 4-6:00 p.m. A sign up sheet is post in the hall. All that is needed is a decorated Trunk and candy. Sign up today!

Intercessions

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

In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, we pray for The Episcopal Church—New York City; The Most Rev. Sean Rowe, Presiding Bishop; and for the Fall House of Bishops' Meeting.

Birthdays

September 30	McKenzi Payton Allison Wall Christopher Wilhoit
October 2	Trinity Roop

Faithful Departed

September 27	Charles Alfred David Bradley Virginia Haszelbart
September 30	John R. Duckworth Sarah J. Cogswell William Price
October 1	Claude M. Bradley, Sr.
October 2	Paul Davolt
October 3	Patricia Baker

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?

If you did not receive an invite to join Realm, please contact the church office.