

Calendar

This Week at St. John's

October 4, 2026

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
Monday October 5 (Feria)		
Tuesday October 6 (William Tyndale)		
Wednesday October 7 (Bridget of Sweden)	6:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Mass ~ Rite II Dinner Adult Bible Study & Choir
Thursday October 8 (Feria)	12:00 p.m.	Mass & Anointing
Friday October 9 (Robert Grosseteste)		
Saturday October 10 (Vida Dutton Scudder)		
Sunday October 11 (20 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) Outreach Ministry Group Mass ~ Rite II

About the Readings

Isaiah 5:1-7

Today's prophetic parable, the song of the vineyard, celebrates the expectation of the harvest. The audience are invited to pass judgment on the vineyard, a frequent image for Israel. The grapes are more than merely wild, they are "rotten grapes." The vine grower devoted his best efforts only to reap decay. Only in verse 7 does Isaiah's audience discover it has judged itself. The last part uses Hebrew wordplay to heighten its effect: He expected judgment (Hebrew, *mishpat*), but saw bloodshed (*mispah*); righteousness (*sedakah*), but heard a cry (*se'akah*)! Judgment and justice grow out of the covenant bond between God and the people.

Philippians 3:4b-14

Chapter 3 discusses Paul's opponents in Philippi who thought that Christians ought to keep the Jewish law, especially circumcision. Using a commercial metaphor, Paul responds to this by drawing up a profit-and-loss statement. What once he counted as assets—his Hebrew genealogy, his upbringing and his strict observance of the law—he now counts as loss in comparison to the "value of knowing Christ" (v. 8). Paul, once religiously affluent, has been bankrupted by Jesus. He experienced the annulment of all his former values. Righteousness, a relationship of intimacy with God, is humbly received as a gift. The knowledge of Christ that Paul now seeks is not a special or secret knowledge such as the followers of the Greek mystery cults desired. Rather, it is the Hebrew sense of "knowing," which comes from close personal relationship. This knowledge comes through sharing in Christ's suffering and death, both in baptism and in daily life. Paul stresses that the resurrection is still in the future. What he possesses now is not the end, but the beginning of his salvation.

Matthew 21:33-46

The parable of the wicked tenants is rooted in the economic life of Galilee. Landowners were often absentee foreigners, resented by the local peasantry. The estate of such a foreigner was regarded as ownerless if he died without an heir, and the occupants would then have first claim upon the property. Thus, in the parable when the son arrives, the tenants may assume that the father has died and hope to claim the vineyard after killing the son. Matthew strengthens the allegorical references in the parable. The slaves clearly stand for the prophets, for the landowner (Matthew's metaphor for God in 20:1) sends two groups of slaves, reproducing the Jewish distinction between the former and latter prophets. The fate of the slaves is that of the prophets. Matthew puts the condemnation of the wicked tenants into the mouth of the audience, the leaders of Israel. The leaders' faithlessness will result in the removal of the kingdom from Israel. Since Israel has not rendered its fruit of right living to God in due season, the kingdom will be given to the Gentiles rather than to the chosen people of Israel.

(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 celebration of Fr. Ben's first anniversary at St. John's.

Outreach Ministry Group: *Crosslines'* Ambassadors for Children provides new clothes from their Clothing Boutique for foster children. They also help cover the cost of sports equipment, music lessons and therapies. We're collecting these items from their wish list: new pajamas for girls and boys; new boys sneakers sizes 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13; strawberry cake mix and frosting. You may also write a check to St. John's with "Ambassadors for Children" on the memo line.

Chili Cook-Off: You can start bidding today on the gift baskets and other items for the silent auction. The Chili Cook-Off will be October 18, starting at 5:00 p.m. The Outreach Ministry Group is suggesting a donation of \$5.00 to benefit *Crosslines'* Ambassadors for Children. You will have the opportunity to hear about the services they provide for foster children in Greene, Christian and Taney Counties. Sample and vote for your favorite chili with your dollar bills. Hot dogs, dessert and drinks will be provided. Join us for food, fun and fellowship!

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., running 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 Igreja Episcopal Anglicana do Brasil.

In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, we pray for St. Oswald's-in-the-Fields Episcopal Church, Skidmore; Mrs. Jordyn Pankau-Dreher, Bishop's Warden; and we remember St. Francis of Assisi & the Blessing of the Animals.

Birthdays

Oct. 5 Amanda Junod
Oct. 6 Michael Becker
Oct. 9 Elizabeth Walstrand
Jennifer Wilkinson

Anniversary

Oct. 8 Bruce & Vicki Ratcliff

Faithful Departed

Oct. 5 Roy Earl Newton
Oct. 6 Ruby V. Aldridge
Oct. 7 Lena Burns
Belinda Twitty
Rachael White
Oct. 9 Allie B. Nickelson
Oct. 10 Ilah Dixon
Frances Wilke

Prayer Requests

Clara	Kristen
Bill	Casey
Jim	Sarah
Patty	Dean
Nikki	Jim & Mary
Clara	Jan
Jim	Larry & Family
Jessica	Daniel
Katy	
Elaine	
Darrel	
Jerry	
Pat	
Ann	
Tyler	
Tony	
Nick	
Dcn. Connie	
Mary Beth	

And then there are the unfaithful and murderous tenants in the vineyard. Jesus' parable says in part that the vineyard will be given to new tenants who will produce a good harvest and be loyal to God, the landowner. Christ, rejected by the hierarchy, is the new cornerstone, and both the early Christians and those of us who call ourselves Christians today are called to be the new tenants and faithful servants. What are you doing in your life to be a good and faithful servant? How do you live and serve God and those around you?

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