

Calendar

Sunday October 18 (21 Pentecost)	10:30 a.m. 12:15 p.m. 4:00 p.m. 5:30 p.m.	Mass ~ Rite II (In-person/COP) Green Team Mass ~ Rite II Annual Parish Chili Cook-Off!
Monday October 19 (St. Luke)	6:00 p.m.	Vestry
Tuesday October 20 (Cornelius the Centurion)	10:30 a.m.	Stewardship Committee
Wednesday October 21 (Feria)	6:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Mass ~ Rite II Dinner Adult Bible Study & Choir
Thursday October 22 (Feria)	12:00 p.m.	Mass & Anointing
Friday October 23 (St. James of Jerusalem)		
Saturday October 24 (Feria)		
Sunday October 25 (22 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

October 18, 2026

About the Readings

Isaiah 45:1-7

Today's reading tells of the Lord's choice of Cyrus as God's agent. Cyrus, king of Persia (559–530 BC), overthrew the Babylonian empire and let the Jews return from exile. Isaiah asserts that Cyrus unknowingly does God's will and calls him God's "anointed," messiah. This term did not yet mean what it would later in Judaism or in Christianity, but it was a title reserved for the Davidic king. Only here in the Old Testament is it used for someone outside the covenant people. The prophet uses language from the Babylonian enthronement ceremony to emphasize that Yahweh, not the Babylonian god, grasps Cyrus's "right hand" (v. 1) to make him king. For the sake of both Israel and of all people the LORD has acted. As the Creator of all, God rules over all nations.

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

The Epistle passage is the first of five readings in this lectionary cycle from Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians. Paul began his ministry in Thessalonica, the capital of the Roman province of Macedonia, by preaching in the synagogue there. Although he gained a number of converts, he also incurred the enmity of the synagogue leaders, who incited a riot as pretext to have the city authorities arrest Paul. Thus Paul's converts sent him away to Berea, and later to Athens, for his own safety. Generally considered to be the oldest piece of literature in the New Testament, the letter begins with the usual greetings of grace and peace to the recipients. Silvanus and Timothy were co-workers with Paul in his ministry in Thessalonica.

Matthew 22:15-22

During the final days of his ministry in Jerusalem, Jesus was involved in a series of confrontations with members of the religious establishment. In today's Gospel text, Jesus' adversaries attempt to "entrap" him by devising a question they think he cannot answer without being charged with disloyalty to Jewish tradition or treason against Rome. But once again, Jesus disarms his opponents and reveals the truth in an unexpected way. As the passage begins, the Pharisees and supporters of Herod ask Jesus: "Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?" Previously, Jesus had driven the money changers out of the temple and had addressed the issue of paying the temple tax. In this new situation, if Jesus declares that Torah forbids paying taxes to Rome, he can be arrested for sedition. On the other hand, if he claims that Torah allows paying the taxes, knowing that they will be used to maintain the pagan temples, his teaching will be denounced. Those who oppose him are rigorous in their interpretation of religious obligation, and they take offense even at handling Roman coins. However, Jesus does not fall into the trap, even though they cleverly start out by praising him as one who sincerely teaches "the way of God in accordance with truth." He immediately recognizes that they are not merely making a friendly inquiry and asks: "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites?"

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



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 by the Perpetual Flower Fund.

Chili Cook-Off: Join us tonight at 5:30 p.m. to sample chili and vote on your favorites with your dollar bills. Contestants, please bring your chili by 4:30. The Outreach Ministry Group is suggesting a donation of \$5.00 to benefit *Crosslines* Ambassadors for Children. We have a dynamic speaker who will discuss their services and answer your questions about the program. Be sure to bid on the gift baskets and other items for the silent auction. We want to raise lots of money to benefit children and youth in foster care. Hot dogs, dessert and drinks will be provided. Join us for food, fun and fellowship!

Outreach Ministry Group: *Crosslines* Ambassadors for Children provides new clothes from their Clothing Boutique for foster children. They also help cover the cost of therapies, sports equipment and music lessons. 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.

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.

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 posted 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 Anglican Church of Canada.

In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, we pray for St. Michael's Episcopal Church, Independence; The Rev. Ryan Wiksell, Priest-in-Charge; and for St. Luke's Health System, Hospitals and Nursing Center.

Birthdays

Oct. 21 Ashley Patton
Oct. 23 Tanya Roop

Anniversary

Oct. 19 David & Janice Jones

Faithful Departed

Oct. 18 George F. James
Honey Vanderhoof
Oct. 23 Albert B. Cutting

Prayer Requests

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

Jesus talks about being a responsible citizen of the world but balancing that with "giving to God the things that are God's." The government makes sure to tell us what we owe them, but how ever do good stewards begin to calculate how to faithfully return a share of their blessings to the gracious provider who has given us everything we have in life?

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