

# Good News from St. John's

March 2026

St. John's Episcopal Church  
313 S. 18<sup>th</sup> St. — PO Box 882  
Parsons, KS 67357



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[www.StJohnsParsons.org](http://www.StJohnsParsons.org)

**MISSION STATEMENT:** With God's help we seek to share our love, fellowship, charity and faith with all in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

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## Three Sacred Days

As we move toward April, we are approaching the very center of the Christian year, the Paschal Mystery. Holy Week and Easter are not simply important dates on the calendar; they are the beating heart of our proclamation: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

We are Resurrection people. But we do not get to Easter without first walking through Thursday night and Friday afternoon. We do not get resurrection on our own terms.

If we are honest, most of us would prefer to begin with life, skip the suffering, and avoid the reality of death altogether. I know I would. Mortality, our own and that of those we love, makes us uneasy. Yet the Gospel does not allow us to bypass the cross. The Church, guided by the Holy Spirit, recovered in the twentieth century the ancient liturgies that hold the whole story together. In the Western Church, particularly among Roman Catholics and Anglicans, the full celebration of the Triduum Sacrum, the Sacred Three Days, was restored so that we might once again experience the Christian story as one unified act.

So while I am not inclined toward stern admonitions, I am going to offer a clear and loving encouragement. Commit yourself to the full Triduum this year.

The Sacred Three Days are not three disconnected services. They are one liturgy stretched over three nights.

*Maundy Thursday, April 2 at 6:00 PM*

On Thursday evening, we gather to remember the institution of the Holy Eucharist and Jesus' commandment to love one another. We will wash feet. We will break bread. And then the liturgy does something striking. It does not properly end. It dissolves.

The lights dim. The altar is stripped. The Blessed Sacrament is carried to the altar of repose. The church grows quiet and shadowed. We leave in silence because the story has not finished. We are walking with Jesus into Gethsemane.

If you are able, I encourage you to remain for a time of prayer at the altar of repose. “Could you not stay awake one hour?” is not a rebuke. It is an invitation.

*Good Friday, Veneration of the Cross at 6:00 PM*

Good Friday is stark by design. It is the one day of the year the Church does not celebrate the Eucharist. There is no triumphant procession. No dismissal. We are, quite intentionally, in the middle of the story.

We hear the Passion. We pray the solemn collects for the whole world. We venerate the Cross, not because we glorify suffering, but because we recognize that God has entered fully into it.

The church feels bare. Cold. Almost tomb like.

And that is precisely the point.

We cannot proclaim resurrection honestly unless we are willing to stand at the foot of the cross and acknowledge that suffering and death are real, not only in first century Jerusalem, but in our own lives and in our world.

*The Great Vigil of Easter at 7:30 PM.*

On Saturday night, after sunset, the ancient beginning of a new day, we gather again in darkness. A new fire is kindled. From that flame, the Paschal Candle is lit. A small light pierces the dark. We listen again to the sweeping story of salvation. We renew our baptismal vows. And then, at last, the moment comes.

The Great Alleluia returns.  
The lights blaze.  
The bells ring.

**Bring bells from home.** The more the better.

At that moment, we proclaim not an idea but a reality. Through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, darkness does not get the final word. Death does not get the final word. God does.

Three nights in a row may feel like a great deal. These liturgies are emotionally and spiritually demanding. They are meant to be. They take us low before they lift us high.

But if you trust the Church’s wisdom, and trust me a little, you will find that walking the whole journey changes the way you experience Easter morning. It changes the way you understand your baptism. It changes the way we live as a Resurrection people.

And that, after all, is what we are about.

Pax Christi,  
Kelley+

**St. John's Episcopal Church**  
**Vestry Meeting February 8, 2026**

Following the Annual Meeting the following appointments were made:

Senior Warden: Father Kelley appointed Heidi to be Senior Warden

Junior Warden: Candy was elected Junior Warden

Treasurer: Verlyn was elected Treasurer

Clerk: Jupe was elected Clerk

The Monthly Vestry Meeting followed:

Present: Anna Baker, Heidi Daley, Martha Stone, Candy Scarborough, Ava Tierney, Verlyn Bolinger and Father Lackey.

Absent: Senta Meister.

Minutes from January 11, 2026 Vestry Meeting were reviewed and approved.

Treasurer's Report:

The transaction and budget reports were reviewed.

The report was approved.

Old Business:

Blessing Box- Candy reported that John Smittle from Galena is going to repurpose a surplus book case of hers into a Blessing Box. Items will be solicited from the congregation to stock the Box. This effort will replace our donation of food to Labette Assistance.

Transition Committee for the Bishop Search for the Diocese of Kansas- The Committee plans to meet at St John's on May 6, 2026 from 11:30 to 1:30. The Bishop Candidates and Clergy of the Southeast Convocation will be afforded a tour of St John's followed by a luncheon. The luncheon is hosted by St John's. The luncheon will be paid for by the Diocese. A Question and Answer session will be held the same evening at 7:00 at Epiphany in Independence. This session is open to all of the Southeast congregations.

Snack-Pack Coordinator- In the wake of Carrie's retirement as coordinator, an effort has been mounted to replace her.

New Business:

New Vestry Member- Ava Tierney was welcomed to the Vestry. Note- she is the first Vestry member born in the Twenty-First Century! Senta Meister will be welcomed at the next meeting.

Parochial Report- Some highlights from the report:

1111 persons visited over 52 Sundays

47 Adults in good standing

13 Youth members

Average age is 55

12 Persons or families made pledges

Reports:

Priest: No report.

Sr Warden: No report.

Jr Warden: No report.

Ministries:

Worship & Music: No report.

Outreach: No report.

Evangelism: No report.

Communications: No report.

Children's Education: No report.

Adult Formation: No report

Stewardship- No report.

Buildings & Grounds: No report.

Altar Guild: No report.

Endowment: January 31, 2026 \$102,369.35 Up \$3,158.67

Clergy Support: January 31, 2026 \$186,849.39 Up \$4,786.49

Pastoral Care: No report.

ECW: No report.

Note: No reports were provided due to this meeting following the Annual Meeting. Contrary to appearances, the Vestry wasn't slacking!

Next regular meeting, Sunday, March 8, 2026 after church.

A blessing by Father Kelley concluded the meeting. Respectfully submitted,

Jupe Allen, Clerk

16 Jupe & Debbie Allen.

Please send Articles for The Good News to Senta Meister, [sentabradmeister@aol.com](mailto:sentabradmeister@aol.com) or St. John's Episcopal Church, PO Box 882, Parsons, KS 67357.



### Prayer List

#### Prayer List

Jessie, Patty, John Yolanda, Jim, Judy, Joel,  
Jessie, Lynn, Regina, Carolyn, Fran, Teresa,  
Antonio, Les, Michele, Charles, Cindy,  
Randy, Kelly, Carla, Tom, Bob, Jeanie,  
Olive, Bill, Jeff, Jim, Gina, Gayle, Michael,  
Casey, Cayla, Randall, Melody, Joaquin,  
Peggy, Carey, Heather, Jessica, Rosie,  
Tobias, Jonathan

### Those who have died



### March Birthdays

14 Barbara Cunningham  
15 Zoe Tierney  
15 April O'Banion  
16 Alice Miller  
18 Patty Shaver  
20 Nola Baker  
25 Tim Downum  
30 Jaylynn Shaver

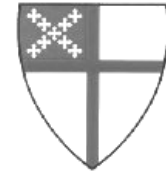


### March Anniversaries:



# St. John's Episcopal Church

## MARCH 2026



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> <b>The Second Sunday in Lent</b> Morning Prayer 9:30 am	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Lenten Study 6pm	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> <b>The Third Sunday in Lent</b> Holy Eucharist 9:30 am Vestry Meeting	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Lenten Study 6pm	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> <b>The Fourth Sunday in Lent</b> Morning Prayer 9:30 am	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> Lenten Study 6pm	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> <b>The Fifth Sunday in Lent</b> Morning Prayer 9:30 am	<b>23</b> Newsletter Deadline	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Lenten Study 6pm	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> <b>Palm Sunday</b> Holy Eucharist 9:30 am	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>				

# St. John's March 2026 schedule

	Morning Prayer 03/01/2026	Eucharist 03/08/2026	Morning Prayer 03/15/2026	Morning Prayer 03/22/2026	Palm Sunday 03/29/2026
Clergy		Father Kelley			Father Kelley
Leader	Martha		Daria	Verlyn	
Eucharistic Minister		Martha			Candy
Lector	Daria	Ava	Joe	Alice	Jupe
Eucharistic Visitor		Senta			
Acolytes		Joe, Nola			Verlyn, Ava, Zoe
Greeters	Peggy	David	Tom and Beverly	Alice	Jupe
Altar Guild	Candy and Ethan				