

Good News from St. John's

October 2026

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



620-421-4540
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.

Celebrating St. Francis at St. John's

On Sunday, October 4, St. John's will celebrate the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi with a day centered on worship, fellowship, care for our neighbors, and thanksgiving for God's creation. Francis was born in Assisi, Italy, around 1181. The son of a prosperous merchant, he began his life surrounded by comfort and privilege. As a young man, however, Francis underwent a profound conversion. He gradually gave up his wealth and status and embraced a life of simplicity, prayer, and service, especially among the poor and those whom society pushed to the margins.

Francis came to see the whole creation as revealing the goodness of God. He spoke of the sun, moon, earth, animals, and even death itself as members of one family of creation. That vision is one reason Francis has become so closely associated with animals and with the Church's care for creation. But Francis was concerned with more than animals. His life reminds us that love for God, care for our neighbors, concern for the poor, and care for creation all belong together.

We will begin our celebration with an **outdoor Holy Eucharist at 10:30 a.m. Please note that this is one hour later than our regular 9:30 a.m. Sunday service.** Our worship will include special prayers for the Feast of St. Francis and for God's creation. Immediately following the Prayers of the People, we will also commission and bless St. John's new **Blessing Box**, which will provide groceries and other necessities for people in our community who need them.

Following the Eucharist, we will share a **parish picnic**. Please bring a favorite picnic food item to share. This will be a relaxed opportunity to enjoy one another's company and the beauty of creation around us.

Then, at **2:00 p.m., we will welcome the wider community for the Blessing of the Animals.** Bring your dogs, cats, and other animal companions for a brief service and individual blessing. Please make sure animals are safely leashed, crated, or otherwise secured. If bringing an animal would be difficult or stressful, you are also welcome to bring a photograph. Francis reminds us that nothing God has made exists in isolation. We belong to God, to one another, and to the creation of which we are a part. Come celebrate that connection with us as we gather around Christ's table, share our own tables with one another, provide food for our neighbors, and give thanks for the creatures who share our lives.

Sunday, October 4

Outdoor Holy Eucharist: 10:30 a.m.

Parish Picnic: following the Eucharist

Community Blessing of the Animals: 2:00 p.m.

St. John's Episcopal Church
Vestry Meeting
August 9, 2026

Present: Heidi Daley, Candy Scarborough, Ava Tierney, Senta Meister, Verlyn Bollinger and Father Lackey.

Absent: Anna Baker And Martha Stone.

Opening prayer at 11:20.

Minutes from the July 12, 2026 Vestry Meeting were reviewed and approved.

Treasurer's Report:

The transaction and budget reports were reviewed. A disbursement from the Endowment Fund of \$5,404.00 to the church account was made. This is the annual disbursement. The report was approved.

Old Business:

Roof: The roof work has been completed and the duct work finished. The duct work had been subcontracted to Always Cosy.

Blessing Box: The Box has been placed. Sadly it can only be used by giants. Modification of the height will occur to allow access by mere mortals. The Box will be dedicated September 20 during the service.

Altar Flowers: The list is full until November when the season of Advent occurs. Flowers are not placed in Advent. Thank you all for your support.

New Business:

T-shirts: There has been some interest expressed in a new run of T-shirts. The last run was the Sesquicentennial offering. Designs will be researched and options offered next month.

Security Cameras: The main concern is the irrigation system continues to be shut off. A blurry image of the back of the offender will be helpful in keeping the water turned on. There is some disagreement of whether a church is a good fit for Big Brother.

Watering System: The watering system is inadequate and uses a ridiculous amount of water with poor results. A custom designed irrigation system will be investigated.

Bishop Search Meet and Greet Bus tour and Clergy Lunch: Scheduled for September 16 from 11:30 to 1:30. St John's will need to supply help for setting up for the lunch as well as serving and cleaning up afterwards. Remnant Cafe is catering the meal.

Parsons Ministerial Alliance: After serving her Diocesan mandated year of exile, Sharon Billman, Vicar Emeritus, has assumed the role of St John's representative to the Ministerial Alliance.

Ministerial Alliance Thanksgiving Service: Our newly minted Alliance representative, Mother Sharon, has requested that St John's host the Thanksgiving Church service on Wednesday November 25, the Eve of Thanksgiving. The request was approved.

Mass in the Grass: The Mass of St Francis will be celebrated on October 4 at 10:30, the picnic will follow. Details will be provided later.

Blessing of the Animals: Will be held on October 4 as well. It will begin at 2:00. All animal blessees need to be on a leash or in a carrier.

Basement Cleanup: The Youth Crisis Shelter will be contacted to provide some muscle to haul refuse from the basement to the dumpster. A date and time will be determined later. If history is any indicator it will be much later.

Richard Tanner Remembrance: Richard was Tom Tanner's brother. A Remembrance will be held in Fox Hall on September 12 at 2:00.

Discretionary Fund: Historically the Discretionary Fund offering was collected as the loose offering in the plate on the first Sunday of the month. Henceforth the Discretionary Fund offering will be the first Mass or Eucharist of the Month.

Reports:

Priest: Officiated the funeral for Barbara Cunningham. Thanks to all who helped prepare and serve the funeral dinner.

Sr Warden: Heidi reported that she has completed her Safe Church training.

Jr Warden: Candy said that two individuals were aided last month with gifts from the Discretionary Fund.

Ministries:

Worship & Music: No report.

Evangelism: No report.

Communications: No report.

Children's Education: No report.

Adult Formation: No report

Stewardship: Plans are to pattern this year's campaign after last year's.

Buildings & Grounds: The blinds in Fox Hall are not aging well and replacement does not come cheap. Due to unexpected expenses, this can will once again be kicked down the road to next year.

Altar Guild: It is time to restock all the items required to worship at St John's. Possible alternatives to obtaining supplies will be investigated.

Endowment: July 31, 2026 \$100,750.26
Up \$1,695.73

Includes a \$5,404.00 Disbursement

Clergy Support: July 31, 2026 \$197,848.38
Down \$3,210.50

ECP: Upcoming events include Richard Tanner's Remembrance on September 12 and the Clergy Lunch on September 16.

Next regular meeting, Sunday, September 20 after church.

A blessing by Father Kelley concluded the meeting at 12:55.

Respectfully submitted,

Jupe Allen, Clerk



Prayer List

Curtis, Lisa, Cinco's grandma, Samantha, Karen, Scott, Sharon, Jim, Bill, LaAnge, Sonia, the Castillo Rodriguez family, Arthur, Sara, Lynn, Regina, Carolyn, Fran, Teresa, Antonio, Les, Michele, Charles, Cindy, Randy, Kelly, Carla, Bob, Jeanie, Olive, Jeff, Jim, Gina, Michael, Casey, Cayla, Randall, Melody, Joaquin, Peggy, Carey, Heather, Tobias, Jonathan



October Birthdays

1 Bess Stone
5 Patty Vernacchia
6 Anna Baker
8 Syrus Clairmont
13 Jennifer Fedorston
14 Sharon Billman
21 Daria Condon
23 Jill Chambers
26 Heidi Daley



October Anniversaries:

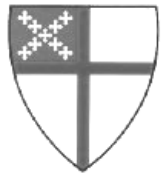
4 Tom & Wuanita Tanner
4 Paul & Patricia Chrisman
19 Tim & Teresa Downum
27 Brian & Anna Baker

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



St. John's Episcopal Church

OCTOBER 2026



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4 The Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost Mass of St Francis 10:30 am Blessing of the Animals 2 pm	5	6	7	8	9	10
11 The Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost Morning Prayer 9:30 am	12	13	14	15	16	17
18 The Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost Holy Eucharist 9:30 am Vestry Meeting	19	20	21	22	23 Diocesan Convention Topeka	24 Diocesan Convention Topeka
25 The Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost Morning Prayer 9:30 am	26	27	28	29	30	31

St. John's October 2026 schedule

	Mass of St Francis 10/04/2026	Morning Prayer 10/11/2026	Holy Eucharist 10/18/2026	Morning Prayer 10/25/2026	
Clergy	Father Kelley		Father Kelley		
Leader		Verlyn		Jupe	
Eucharistic Minister	Candy		Martha		
Lector	Heidi	Senta	Daria	Tommy	
Eucharistic Visitor	Daria				
Acolytes	Verlyn, Zoe		Ava, Zoe		
Greeter	Heidi	Tom Tanner	Alice	Tommy & Beverly	
Coffee Hour	Pinic				
Counters	Vestry				
Altar Guild	Heidi, Daria, Peggy				