



ST. JOHN'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Writing our Story: A Call to Prayer Booklet

Nurturing faith, inspiring hope and growing in love as we worship God, make disciples, and serve East Dallas and the world.

A call to prayer

Dear St. Johns,

We need you! We are asking the whole parish family to pray with us daily as we prepare for Rally Day on September 10, and beyond. Your prayers and participation are necessary as we Write Our Story. What do we want St. John's to be—for ourselves, for our East Dallas community, for the world?

Regardless of time, talent or money, you can pray. Prayer is the first and foremost part of our desire to minister to others and grow the Kingdom of God. We seek and invite the Holy Spirit to come into this congregation to grant us discernment and wisdom.

In this booklet we have provided daily Scriptures for meditation and prayer, along with a prayer for St. John's located on the bottom of each page. We ask you to pray this prayer daily after reading the Scripture. We will all be lifting our prayers together, asking God to direct our paths as we discern how we can engage with the church, one another, the community, and the world.

In addition to the prayer for St. John's, please pray...

1. For the clergy and parish staff.
2. That God would direct us to providing the right ministries for children, youth, adults, seniors, and seekers.
3. That God would stir the hearts of every person in our parish to engage, volunteer, and serve in a ministry according to his or her spiritual gifts; that all of us will have a receptive spirit for the Holy Spirit's direction and leading.
4. For God to give you wisdom and discernment regarding the ministries he is calling you toward.
5. For our Lord to remind us daily that "his power working in us can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine." (Ephesians 3:20)

Along with this daily prayer booklet, we are sending out a series of questionnaires to help us know how our ministries are touching lives and if there are new ways and new ministries Christ is calling to engage. New ideas can sometimes be challenging, so please pray that we stay centered in God's love through this process.

Gratefully,

St. John's Engagement Committee

AUGUST 14, 2023: Mark 10:42—45

And Jesus called them to him and said to them, “You know that those who are considered rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. ⁴³But it shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, ⁴⁴and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. ⁴⁵For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

Pray the Prayer for St. John’s

AUGUST 15, 2023: Matthew 6:27—33

Jesus said, “And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? ²⁸And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, ²⁹yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. ³⁰But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? ³¹Therefore do not be anxious, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ ³²For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. ³³But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.”

Pray the Prayer for St. John’s

AUGUST 16, 2023 Chronicles 29:14—19

King David prayed, “But who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able thus to offer willingly? For all things come from you, and of your own have we given you. ¹⁵For we are strangers before you and sojourners, as all our fathers were. Our days on the earth are like a shadow, and there is no abiding. ¹⁶O LORD our God, all this abundance that we have provided for building you a house for your holy name comes from your hand and is all your own. ¹⁷I know, my God, that you test the heart and have pleasure in uprightness. In the uprightness of my heart I have freely offered all these things, and now I have seen your people, who are present here, offering freely and joyously to you. ¹⁸O LORD, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, our fathers, keep forever such purposes and thoughts in the hearts of your people, and direct their hearts toward you. ¹⁹Grant to Solomon my son a whole heart that he may keep your commandments, your testimonies, and your statutes, performing all, and that he may build the palace for which I have made provision.”

Pray the Prayer for St. John’s

PRAYER FOR ST. JOHN’S

Most merciful and gracious God, we thank you for our St. John’s family and for entrusting us with your mission. Let St. John’s be a community that glorifies your holy name. Write your vision on our hearts, allowing us to trust you above ourselves. We thank you for the insight and laborers to carry out your vision and the resources and talents that are necessary for such a task. Bless us as we move forward to grow your Kingdom within our church, East Dallas, and the world; in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

AUGUST 17, 2023: Romans: 12:9—13

Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. ¹⁰ Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹ Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, ¹² serve the Lord. ¹² Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. ¹³ Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.

Pray the Prayer for St. John's

AUGUST 18, 2023: Nehemiah 1:10—11

Nehemiah prayed, "They are your servants and your people, whom you redeemed by your great strength and your mighty hand. ¹¹ Lord, let your ear be attentive to the prayer of this your servant and to the prayer of your servants who delight in revering your name. Give your servant success today by granting him favor in the presence of this man."

Pray the Prayer for St. John's

AUGUST 19, 2023: Colossians 3: 17,22—24

Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father. Bondservants, obey in everything those who are your earthly masters, not by way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord. ²³ Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, ²⁴ knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.

Pray the Prayer for St. John's

AUGUST 20 2023: Mark 12:41—44

Jesus sat down opposite the treasury and watched the people putting money into the offering box. Many rich people put in large sums. ⁴² And a poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which make a penny. ⁴³ And he called his disciples to him and said to them, "Truly, I say to you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the offering box. ⁴⁴ For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on."

Pray the Prayer for St. John's

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AUGUST 21, 2023: 2 Corinthians 8:12–14

For if the readiness is there, it is acceptable according to what a person has, not according to what he does not have.¹³ For I do not mean that others should be eased, and you burdened, but that as a matter of fairness¹⁴ your abundance at the present time should supply their need, so that their abundance may supply your need, that there may be fairness.

Pray the Prayer for St. John's

AUGUST 22, 2023: Deuteronomy 8:15–18

Moses said, “He led you through the vast and dreadful wilderness, that thirsty and waterless land, with its venomous snakes and scorpions. He brought you water out of hard rock.¹⁶ He gave you manna to eat in the wilderness, something your ancestors had never known, to humble and test you so that in the end it might go well with you.¹⁷ You may say to yourself, “My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me.”¹⁸ But remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms his covenant, which he swore to your ancestors, as it is today.”

Pray the Prayer for St. John's

AUGUST 23, 2023: 2 Corinthians 8:3–7

For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own,⁴ they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the Lord's people.⁵ And they exceeded our expectations: They gave themselves first of all to the Lord, and then by the will of God also to us.⁶ So we urged Titus, just as he had earlier made a beginning, to bring also to completion this act of grace on your part.⁷ But since you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness, and in the love, we have kindled in you—see that you also excel in this grace of giving.

Pray the Prayer for St. John's

AUGUST 24, 2023: Ecclesiastes 2:10–11

I denied myself nothing my eyes desired; I refused my heart no pleasure. My heart took delight in all my labor, and this was the reward for all my toil.¹¹ Yet when I surveyed all that my hands had done and what I had toiled to achieve, everything was meaningless, chasing after the wind; nothing was gained under the sun.

Pray the Prayer for St. John's

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AUGUST 25, 2023: Luke 16:10—13

Jesus said, “Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much.¹¹ So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches?¹² And if you have not been trustworthy with someone else’s property, who will give you property of your own?¹³ “No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.”

Pray the Prayer for St. John’s

AUGUST 26, 2023 1 Timothy 6:17—18

Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.¹⁸ Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share.¹⁹ In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.

Pray the Prayer for St. John’s

AUGUST 27, 2023: Galatians 6:6—10

The one who is taught the word is to share all good things with the one who teaches him.⁷ Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap.⁸ For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life.⁹ Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary.¹⁰ So then, while we have the opportunity, let us do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith.

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AUGUST 28, 2023: Hebrews 10:22–25

Let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. ²³ Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful; ²⁴ and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, ²⁵ not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.

Pray the Prayer for St. John's

AUGUST 29, 2023: Matthew 13:18–23

Jesus said, “Hear then the parable of the sower: ¹⁹ When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is what was sown along the path. ²⁰ As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, ²¹ yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while, and when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he falls away. ²² As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful. ²³ As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it. He indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.”

Pray the Prayer for St. John's

AUGUST 30, 2023: 1 King 17:13–16

Then Elijah said to the widow of Zarephath, “Do not fear; go, do as you have said, but make me a little bread cake from it first and bring *it* out to me, and afterward you may make one for yourself and for your son. ¹⁴ For thus says the LORD God of Israel, “The bowl of flour shall not be exhausted, nor shall the jar of oil be empty, until the day that the LORD sends rain on the face of the earth.” ¹⁵ So she went and did according to the word of Elijah, and she and he and her household ate for many days. ¹⁶ The bowl of flour was not exhausted nor did the jar of oil become empty, according to the word of the LORD which He spoke through Elijah.

Pray the Prayer for St. John's

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AUGUST 31, 2023: Matthew 25:1–13

Jesus said, “Then the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. ²Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. ³For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, ⁴but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. ⁵As the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and slept. ⁶But at midnight there was a cry, ‘Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ ⁷Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps. ⁸And the foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ ⁹But the wise answered, saying, ‘Since there will not be enough for us and for you, go rather to the dealers and buy for yourselves.’ ¹⁰And while they were going to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was shut. ¹¹Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ ¹²But he answered, ‘Truly, I say to you, I do not know you.’ ¹³Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.”

Pray the Prayer for St. John’s

SEPTEMBER 1, 2023: Romans 12:6–8

Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; ⁷if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; ⁸the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

Pray the Prayer for St. John’s

SEPTEMBER 2, 2023: Ephesians 4:1–8

I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, ²with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, ³eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. ⁴There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— ⁵one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. ⁷But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ’s gift. ⁸Therefore it says, “When he ascended on high, he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men.”

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SEPTEMBER 3, 2023: Ephesians 4:20—24

But that is not the way you learned Christ!— ²¹ assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, ²² to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, ²³ and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, ²⁴ and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

Pray the Prayer for St. John's

SEPTEMBER 4, 2023: 1 Chronicles 4:10

Jabez was more honorable than his brothers; and his mother called his name Jabez, saying, "Because I bore him in pain." Jabez called upon the God of Israel, saying, "Oh that you would bless me and enlarge my border, and that your hand might be with me, and that you would keep me from harm so that it might not bring me pain!" And God granted what he asked.

Pray the Prayer for St. John's

SEPTEMBER 5, 2023: 1 Corinthians 12:4—11

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; ⁵ and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; ⁶ and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. ⁷ To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. ⁸ For to one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, ⁹ to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gift of healing by the one Spirit, ¹⁰ to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹ All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.

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SEPTEMBER 6, 2023: 1 Corinthians 12:12–20

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³ For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit. ¹⁴ For the body does not consist of one member but of many. ¹⁵ If the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁶ And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁷ If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? ¹⁸ But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. ¹⁹ If all were a single member, where would the body be? ²⁰ As it is, there are many parts, yet one body.

Pray the Prayer for St. John’s

SEPTEMBER 7, 2023: Matthew 13:31–33

Jesus put another parable before them, saying, “The kingdom of heaven is like a grain of mustard seed that a man took and sowed in his field. ³² It is the smallest of all seeds, but when it has grown it is larger than all the garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.” ³³ He told them another parable. “The kingdom of heaven is like leaven that a woman took and hid in three measures of flour, till it was all leavened.

Pray the Prayer for St. John’s

SEPTEMBER 8, 2023: 1 Corinthians 12:21–26

The eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you,” nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” ²² On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, ²³ and on those parts of the body that we think less honorable we bestow the greater honor, and our unpresentable parts are treated with greater modesty, ²⁴ which our more presentable parts do not require. But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it, ²⁵ that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. ²⁶ If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.

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SEPTEMBER 9, 2023: 1 Corinthian 12:27–31

Now you are the body of Christ and individual members of it. ²⁸ And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, helping, administrating, and various kinds of tongues. ²⁹ Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? ³⁰ Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? ³¹ But earnestly desire the higher gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way.

Pray the Prayer for St. John's

SEPTEMBER 10, 2023: 1 Thessalonians 5:12–18

We ask you, brothers, to respect those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, ¹³ and to esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves. ¹⁴ And we urge you, brothers, admonish the idle, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with them all. ¹⁵ See that no one repays anyone evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to everyone. ¹⁶ Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray without ceasing, ¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

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