

# St. James' E-pistle

## February 17, 2017

### **Pulpit Notes**

*You shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy.*  
- *Leviticus 19:1*

Brothers and Sisters:

Heck of a Sunday we had last week, huh? There were a total of 14 at the 10:00 AM service. The 8:00 AM, which met before the real snow hit, garnered 22 worshipers! If you were among the majority that were not able to make it to church last week, you might want to check out the sermon (either in writing below or online).

And of course, I hope to see you in church this Sunday!

And....of course....it is true that just going to church does not make you holy.

Yet there's that line from Leviticus: "You shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy."

What do you think God is saying with that? Well, the word holy simply refers to the divine. Something holy either is divine or is totally dedicated to the divine (or to live such a life as to be close to the divine, but I think that leaves most of us out).

Since none of us is divine, I think, what being holy means is to be dedicated to the divine - to be dedicated to God. To be in a loving, committed relationship with God.

So, tell me, how does one best live in a loving, committed relationship? From everything I've learned, it boils down to kindness, consideration, and presence. You actually have to be there or it's not really a relationship. You have to be kind or else it's hardly a relationship one would want to be in. And there has to be consideration for each other. Nobody wants to be in a relationship with someone who's only interested in what you can do for them.

This is the same thing in a relationship with God. So yes, being in church - the gathered body of Christ - is important. Caring for each other is important. Caring for the larger community is important. And so is spending some quality time alone with God.

On snowy days, with all that beautiful white stuff coming down, it's nice to stay safe and sound in our warm homes and ponder God's creation. But remember that we're called to be holy. And that means being together, too.

I invite you to the holiness that God calls all of us to.

Grace and Peace,

Chuck+

# St. James' E-pistle

## February 17, 2017

### **The News of the Church**

**Men's Breakfast:** This **Saturday** morning at Cranberry's at 8:00 am.

**Quarterly Chapel Service:** Our next Quarterly Chapel Service is **Sunday, February 26.**

**The New York Haiti Project:** Mark your calendars! **Sunday, February 26** for a presentation by Father Sam Owen on the New York Haiti Project **following the 10am service.** The presentation will take place in the Wilks Room.

Building relationships! This is a key component of the New York Haiti Project. Please join us as we learn about the New York Haiti Project and explore how our parish might engage in this important mission opportunity. --Deacon Gail and Joanne Lown

**Lenten Morning Prayer:** This year, we are excited to offer daily Morning Prayer for your Lenten discipline. While the timing won't work for everyone, we hope that you will be able to attend at least one - but whether it's just one, one a week, or every day, we'll be here for your spiritual benefit.

It is especially gratifying that we have six volunteers who are offering their time to lead Morning Prayer. Vince Asher, Wilma Tully, Janice Syedullah, Tom Finnigan, and Patty Caswell will each officiate one day a week at 10:00 AM. For those who need a little earlier, Wendy Urban-Mead will lead Morning Prayer on three Mondays at 8:00 AM.

If anyone wants officiate at 6:00 AM (or Saturdays), let me know - the more we offer, the more opportunities there are for your fellow parishioners - and our neighbors - to attend.

So come to the church on Lenten mornings - it will make your Lenten discipline that much more meaningful.

**Internment Camp Exhibit:** Though not a church function, this exhibit is worthy of your attention. The Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum will open a new phot exhibit on **February 19:** "Images of Internment: The Incarceration of Japanese Americans During World War II." With over 200 photographs including the work of Dorothea Lange and Ansel Adams.

# St. James' E-pistle

## February 17, 2017

**Book Signing:** Many of you (especially in the choir) may remember Geraldine Hawkins, a Park Ranger who used to attend St. James' before being transferred away. She will be speaking at the Wallace Center **March 9th** at 7:00 p.m. for the "launch" of her book Elliott and Eleanor Roosevelt: The Story of A Father and His Daughter in The Gilded Age. There will be Q&A and book signing. She would love to see members of the congregation there, so I hope you'll consider it!



**St. James' Hosting Trinity Institute Simulcast:** St. James' is the only Midhudson Valley site hosting a simulcast of this year's Trinity Institute Conference which takes place **March 22-24**. The Trinity Institute is a three-day conference attracting participants from around the world. Each year it focuses on one topic of importance to people of faith. This year's conference is titled: "Water Justice" and centers on the sacredness of water and the necessity of protecting it so we can all live. From the Trinity Institute website: "Water is a gift. Water is life. As water crises increase, access to safe and clean drinking water decreases.

From Flint to Standing Rock, many of today's most pressing social issues revolve around water. Faith communities worldwide can help."

The simulcast will take place in the parish hall. We encourage everyone to be part of this - for all three days if possible, but for one day if that's all you can do.

**Some Diocesan Dates of Interest:** It is important to be in communion with other Episcopalians in our diocese. While many events are held in New York City, some are more regionally available. Here are a few events that you may be interested in.

**March 18, 9:30 AM - 2:30 PM** - Eucharistic Minister/Eucharistic Visitor Training (in Cornwall)

St. James' E-pistle  
February 17, 2017

*Let' Grow Together!*

*The Hyde Park Community Garden*

*Kick-Off Meeting*

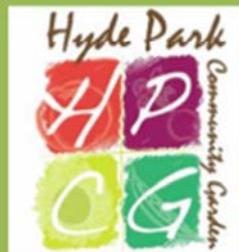
*7:00 PM Feb. 23, 2017*

*St. James' Chapel*

*10 East Market Street, Hyde Park*

*For Info Call 229-0153*

*Join us for our 6<sup>th</sup> Season!*



St. James' E-pistle  
February 17, 2017

Shrove Tuesday  
Pancake Supper  
February 28, 2017  
6:00 PM



St. James' Parish Hall

All are Welcome

**Celebrate a night of Family Fun**  
**as we prepare for Ash Wednesday and Lent.**  
**FREE FOR ALL... We hope you'll join us!**

Kids! You're Invited to take part in  
Fr. Chuck's Pancake Decorating Fun!

# St. James' E-pistle

## February 17, 2017

February 2017						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
12  4:00 PM Absalom Jones Ceremony	<b>13</b>  <b>Office            Closed</b> 7:00 PM Women's Group	<b>14</b>  <u>Valentine's            Day</u>	<b>15</b> 6:30 Outreach Meeting 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	<b>16</b> 11 AM Bible Study 3:30 Reading Adventures 7:00 PM Fireside Chat	<b>17</b>	18 8 AM Men's Breakfast
19 Internment Camp Exhibit	<b>20</b>  <b>Office            Closed</b>	<b>21</b>  <b>7:00 PM            Vestry</b>	<b>22</b> 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	<b>23</b> 11 AM Bible Study 3:30 Reading Adventures 7:00 PM Comm. Garden kick-off	<b>24</b>	25
26 8:00 Quarterly Chapel Service 10:00 Sam Owen	<b>27</b>  <b>Office            Closed</b>	<b>28</b> <b>6:30 PM</b> <b>Shrove</b> <b>Tuesday</b> <b>Pancake</b> <b>Supper</b>				
Sunday Services are 8:00 AM and 10:00 AM						

**Churchyard Committee:** Our churchyard committee wants you. The committee oversees one of the most historic graveyards in the region, and is responsible for making sure it is kept up. It handles the sale and digging of graves as well. If you value our churchyard and want it to continue to be a source of comfort whose loved ones rest here as well as historical interest to

# St. James' E-pistle

## February 17, 2017

those who visit, please join our committee. If you're interested, you can contact Carol Vinall at [vinehall3@aol.com](mailto:vinehall3@aol.com).

**DONATE YOUR iPad!** Please consider donating your old iPad - or any old tablet that can read a PDF file - to St. James'. We would like to have three or four tablets so we can download the digital bulletin onto them and let guests (or parishioners, of course) use them. This is especially helpful to those who are unfamiliar with the liturgy and all the books we use. You should erase everything on it, of course - all we need is a PDF reader and a browser (to download the information). Thanks!

### **Spiritual / Educational Online Resources to deepen your faith:**

- Acts 8 Movement
  - GrowChristians
  - Episcopal Cafe (a favorite)
  - The Slate Project (not affiliated with Slate magazine)
  - Virtual Abbey
  - Second Life Church (gives you a virtual church experience if you're into that sort of thing. Fun to look at maybe).
  - Inward/Outward (daily meditations sent to your e-mail)
  - "Edge of Enclosure" (weekly lectionary-based blog post)
  - The Celtic Christian Tradition (via Facebook)
  - Anne Lamott (via Facebook)
  - Fr. Richard Rohr's blog <https://cac.org/richard-rohr/richard-rohr-ofm/>
  - Jan Richardson - <http://paintedprayerbook.com>
- Especially good for those grieving or interested in women's spirituality.

## **The News of the Diocese**

**Diocesan Cycle of Prayer:** Please pray for these diocesan ministries this week. If you want to check out the entire year's calendar for intercession, it's simple to find - go to <http://www.diocesenyc.org> and click under "Beliefs and Practices."

- |    |   |
|----|---|
| 18 | Diocesan Socially and Environmentally Responsible Investment Task Force |
| 19 | Christ Church New Brighton, Staten Island                               |
| 20 | St. Stephen's Church, Pearl River                                       |
| 21 | The Diocesan Church Attorney  |
| 22 | The Episcopal School in the City of New York, Manhattan                 |
| 23 | Education for Ministry Programs in the Diocese                          |
| 24 | La Academia Ecu mica de Liderazgo                                       |

# St. James' E-pistle

## February 17, 2017

25 Diocesan Commission on Ministry

### **Praying For Peace Everywhere:**

Let us continue to light a candle for peace in the Holy Land - and everywhere. Prayer is our most potent antidote to hatred.

#### **1. Candle for Peace**

Please also light a candle on Fridays - holy to both faiths - for Peace

Let us Light Candles for Peace

Two mothers, one plea:

Now, more than ever, during these days of so much crying,  
on the day that is sacred to both our religions, Friday, Sabbath Eve

Let us light a candle in every home - for peace:

A candle to illuminate our future, face to face,

A candle across borders, beyond fear.

From our family homes and houses of worship

Let us light each other up,

Let these candles be a lighthouse to our spirit

Until we all arrive at the sanctuary of peace.

#### **2. The Mothers Prayer:**

God of Life:

You who heals the broken hearted, binding up our wounds.

Please hear this prayer of mothers.

You did not create us to kill each other

Nor to live in fear or rage or hatred in your world. You created us so that we allow each other to sustain Your Name in this world:

Your name is Life, your name is Peace.

For these I weep, my eye sheds water:

For our children crying in the night,

For parents holding infants, despair and darkness in their hearts.

For a gate that is closing – who will rise to open it before the day is gone?

With my tears and with my constant prayers, With the tears of all women deeply pained at these harsh times

I raise my hands to you in supplication: Please God have mercy on us.

Hear our voice that we not despair That we will witness life with each other, That we have mercy one for another, That we share sorrow one with the other, That we hope, together, one for another.

Inscribe our lives in the book of Life

For Your sake, our God of Life Let us choose Life.

For You are Peace, Your world is Peace and all that is Yours is Peace,

May this be your will

# St. James' E-pistle

## February 17, 2017

And let us say Amen.

*Sheikha Ibtisam Mahameed and Rabba Tamar Elad-Appelbaum*  
*English Translation Amichai Lau-Lavie*

**Please keep the following people in your prayers:**

Ruth Blanding, John Bohlmann, Helen Braun, Susie Buhalis, Mariel Carter, Dee, Linkin Ewalt, Loretta Falzarano (sister of Donna Beyer), Steven Foote, Heather Francese, Kathy Ganim, Robert Guariglia, Harold Hall, Dalton K., Edie Kline, Ashley Konyn, Rosemary Leuken, Joanne Lynn, Doris Mack, Gordon Mackenzie, Virginia Mackenzie, Andrew Mendelson, Charles Pardee, Grace Plass, Deborah Porach, John Robinson, Rob Robinson, Jason Rodino (serving in Afghanistan), John Ross, Richard Secor, James Sheeky, Naomi Sleight, Carl Smith, Marguerite Spratt, Janice Syedullah, Tracy, Candace Vincent, Cassidy Way, Cliff Wells and Shawn Wheeler.

### **Schedules**

*A Note about Schedules: The names you see below are those listed on their respective schedules. There are often times when, due to sickness or travel, substitutes are asked to fill in or trade positions. This will probably NOT be reflected in the lists below—so, if there is an inconsistency between what you see here and what you see on Sunday, that is alright.*

Birthdays (this past week):	Deborah Belding, Elizabeth Gabel, Meg Connolly-Burkhardt, Tadgh O'Halloran and Stephanie Barkoe
Birthdays (this coming week):	Regina Ardini, Charlessa Thatcher and David Foote
Acolytes:	February 19: Team 3 February 26: Team 1
Altar Guild:	February 19: Team II February 26: Team III
8 a.m. Readers:	February 19: Debbie Belding and Lynne Koch February 26: Lucille Ogden and Grant Ferris
10 a.m. Readers:	February 19: Regina Ardini/Andy Hall February 26: Russell Urban-Mead/Wendy Urban-Mead

# St. James' E-pistle

## February 17, 2017

Ushers:	February 19: Bill and Regina Ardini February 26: Patty Drake, Bobbie Wells
Pledge Clerks:	February 19: Tanya Hall and Anna Marie Pitcher February 26: Andy Hall and Dean Caswell
Parish Cycle of Prayer:	February 19: Jack, Suzann, Brian and Faith Kinne, Morgan Kinne, Milena Jewel and Abby Jewel February 26: Irene Kipp, Edith Kline, Rudy Knakal
Coffee Hour Hosts:	February 19: Deirdre Mae Micker, the Urban- Meads February 26: Brian Rance, Saira Shahani

### **This Week's Lectionary**

Leviticus 19:1-2,9-18  
Psalm 119:33-40  
1 Corinthians 3:10-11,16-23  
Matthew 5:38-48

### **This Week's Hymns**

Processional: Creator Spirit, by whose aid (#500)  
Sequence: What does the Lord require (#605)  
Offertory: Ave Regina Caerum ("Hail the Queen of Heaven")  
Communion: Therefore we, before him bending (#330)  
Recessional: Christ is made the sure foundation (#518)

NOTE: Audio recordings of some sermons are now available on St. James' website, [www.stjameshydepark.org](http://www.stjameshydepark.org) Look under "Worship"

Sermon Preached on  
Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany  
(February 12, 2017)  
*(Especially for those who missed it because of the snow!)*

"YES!"

# St. James' E-pistle

## February 17, 2017

Today is Abraham Lincoln's Birthday, and when I was a kid, it was one of the most important holidays of the year. Of course, I grew up in the "Land of Lincoln" so that may have something to do with it.

One of the amazing things we were always taught about him was that, despite the war ripping his country apart and his own personal tragedies, Lincoln had a tremendous sense of humor and an underlying faith that in the end, it would all work out. Somehow, in a world of "No's", he still lived a big, emphatic "Yes!"

It's like John Lennon when he met Yoko Ono. Famous as he was, he was not a happy guy. But he still liked art and went to one of her art exhibits one day. The first piece he encountered was a ladder that led to a painting on the ceiling. "It looked like a black canvas with a chain with a spyglass hanging on the end of it." He climbed the ladder, looked through the spyglass and saw in tiny little letters the word 'yes'. That was the piece that made him want to know her - because it was so positive.

The problem with our religion is that so often people think it is one giant "NO!" Thou shalt not... Don't do that! ... Even without some of the bible's most dour passages, the church has done a great job of making God's love sound awfully unwelcoming. Don't get divorced. Don't drink, don't dance, don't do this, Thou shalt not....

I'm afraid today's gospel may not convince people that Loving God is a big YES when it sounds so much like a NO. I mean really: If you even look at another, you're guilty of adultery. If you maintain your anger at another, it's the same as murder. These days, we would all be in prison for life!

Sirach isn't much better. "God has not commanded anyone to be wicked, and he has not given anyone permission to sin.... If you choose, you can keep the commandments..." Just more "thou shalt not's." Who has a chance with rules like these that nobody - nobody - can possibly keep all the time.

But there's another way to look at this.

Hockey.

Seriously. This is what I mean. Hockey is a game of rules, many of which I still don't understand. blue lines, center lines, icing, offsides, checking, sticking, boarding, the crease.... It was a headache for me just to get a basic understanding of the game. So why????

Because it's fun, of course. Because we enjoy getting together and skating on the ice, banging into each other (not too hard!) and getting some exercise before going into the locker room, win or lose, and sharing a laugh together.

In hockey, you can't just all go out there and skate around and hit things with your stick without a set of rules - it would be chaos, people would get hurt, and it would not be fun. Rules give a sense of order and a sense of purpose. It's always more fun and fair when we're all playing by the same rules.

# St. James' E-pistle

## February 17, 2017

We can't really do anything without rules. Not if we want to be with other people. Because we all need to trust that the next person has the same understanding of what's expected, of what we want collectively.

Every couple coming in for pre-marital counseling has to consider who is going to be in charge of what - and what expectations they have of each other. That's how to build a strong marriage. Or try driving without rules. Those rules are not a NO. They are life-saving - they allow us to drive - or play - or be together in a positive, healthy, wonderful way.

Last week I said that Jesus taught nothing fundamentally new - he came to fulfill the law and prophets not abolish them. And it's true that he lived by the same law, by the same teaching that can be summarized by loving God and neighbor. This is what God has always wanted for us from the beginning.

But there is something new. The heart. Jesus repeatedly pushes us to see past these rules - and **to finally see the relationship behind the rules.**

In today's gospel, he pushes us to see that we do not murder - NOT just because it's illegal, but because we love our neighbors - all of them. So that even harboring anger has already done incredible harm. Can we see that in our society today perhaps?

Jesus pushes us to see that we don't commit adultery NOT just because it's not allowed - but because we love our spouse or partner as ourselves.

He never gets rid of the rules which force us to treat each other and our world with restraint and possibly even respect. What he changes is our outlook - why we follow the rules. What he shows us - what he lives out for us - is that we obey God, we follow Christ, we love and care for our neighbor not because of the rules but because God loved us first.

Jesus helps us see the goal - the right goal - and because of that goal, the rules make sense.

It's like hockey. Sometimes - especially with hockey parents - you forget the reason for playing. You begin to think you play to win. And when that becomes the goal, then the rules just get in your way. You want to slash or trip or check the other guy illegally to prevent them from scoring, and the only shame is in getting caught. When that happens, you've made the rules an obstacle to a false goal - the goal of winning instead of playing. But that kind of winning is really losing. It loses the spirit, the heart of the game and turns it into something joyless.

Whether we find ourselves fighting for the life of our nation as Lincoln did, or looking for the meaning of life as John Lennon was - or just trying to have some fun on the ice, Jesus suggests we look past those rules - which are necessary - and see the love, the life and the joy behind them.

God wants Joy for us. God wants us to live a huge, bright, wondrous YES. Amen.