

# St. James' E-pistle

## Date of Sunday Service: February 23, 2020

### Last Sunday after the Epiphany

#### Pulpit Notes

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

This coming Sunday is that Last Sunday of Epiphany. That means that Lent is hot on our heels. We will say goodbye to Epiphany with the tradition of a Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper.

The original idea behind the pancake supper was to 1) use up the sweets which we will not be having during Lent (syrup, for example), and 2) to celebrate and have some fun before the dim days ahead. Sure, they do it up right in New Orleans, but even here, we can have a good time.

In parts of England and some places in the US, Anglicans get into Pancake Races. We've even done there here at St. James' before, and they are a staple of the Annual Shrove Tuesday celebration at the National Cathedral. But here, we have our own tradition — Pancake Decorating Fun. It gives us the best of both world (in my opinion) because it heaps on the junk, I mean sweets, while having the fun of creating a masterpiece while the rest of the church cheers you on.

No matter how the day is celebrated, however, it is good for us to whoop it up a little before taking the deep dive into the self-examination of Lent. Indeed, it is my sincere hope that each of us takes that dive. That each of us uses the opportunity of Lent to look carefully at who we are, how we got to this point in our lives and whether or not this is what God is calling us to.

The tools we have at our disposal for this are the Lenten Meditations, regular Evening Prayer and/or Morning Prayer. On occasion, I will replace Evening Prayer with Stations of the Cross. We are looking into a Lenten Quiet Evening — more on that later! — and of course the Lenten Breakfasts.

Now, a word about the breakfasts. While Lent is normally a fasting time, the breakfasts have a long history at St. James', and (at least according to the story that was told to me), they are an act and sign of reconciliation which has helped this congregation significantly over the years.

Even if I have the story wrong (and I never trust my own understanding of lore), it is always true that sharing a meal together binds us together. Sitting down and passing the butter or salt to your neighbor is an act of connection — and it should never ever be underestimated. The content of the meal is less important than the fact of sitting together.

If you would like to increase the impact of your Lenten Breakfast, why not try sitting with someone you don't know? There are quite a few newer folks at the church who just might appreciate someone extending the hand of friendship.

Oh, and don't forget Ash Wednesday. After the fun of Shrove Tuesday Pancakes, Ash Wednesday is a powerful and stark reminder of the task that lies before us. There are many ways you can take part in this reminder. We have services at the church at 6:00 AM, 10:00 AM, and 7:00 PM. I will be at Cranberry's between 7:30 and 9:00 AM to offer "Ashes to Go." If you are farther away from Hyde Park, there are services pretty much around the country — they're not rad to find, and no matter where you are, they will help you.

Finally, a word about Lenten disciplines. Do you give up something? Take on something? I'm actually going to try to do both this year. I will fast from Facebook and will commit to reading a novel. I chose those because they are the things I need to pay attention to for the health of my soul and psyche. Consider what is good for you this Lent. And use this opportunity to go a little deeper.

Grace and Peace,

Chuck +

### Thought for your week:

**"Prayer is learning the art of the connection ... We believe, if we continue to be faithful, the time will come when our lives will be broken into by another order and we will be transformed and as transformed, will become transformers."**

— Gordon Cosby

### Worship This Week:

Tuesday	6:30 PM	Evening Prayer (at the Chapel)
Wednesday	10 AM	Morning Prayer (Wilks Room)
Thursday	11 AM	Bible Study
Sunday	8 AM	Eucharist Rite I
	10 AM	Eucharist Rite II

**If you have anything to add to the E-pistle, please contact either Fr. Chuck, Dyan in the Parish Office, or Brian Rance. The deadline for submissions is Wednesday evening. Thanks!**

# Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

## Join Us!

All are Welcome

February 25, 2020  
6:00 PM



St. James' Parish Hall

All Youth Are Invited to take part in  
**Fr. Chuck's Pancake Decorating Fun!**

## Announcements

### *Between-Service Class:*

The Between Service Class is on Hiatus until after Easter because we have the Lenten Breakfasts during the Lenten Season. But please be reminded, that on March 15, Bishop Dietsche will be here to confirm and baptize, so there will be no Lenten Breakfast that day. Instead, there will be a reception following the 10:00 AM service.

### *Inquirers Class This Sunday:*

The theme of this week's Inquirers Class is: **Eucharist**. Our guest teacher will be Wendy Urban-Mead. Please join us if you would like to reaffirm your faith or would simply like to sit in on a class for the fun of it!

### *Remember Your Lenten Meditations:*

Thank you to everyone who signed up to write a Lenten Meditation! Some have already come in, and they are very moving. Please remember that the deadline to get all meditations in — and I hope you'll beat the deadline! — is **February 23**. Please if at all possible **email** your meditation rather than giving me a paper copy. That makes it much easier for me. Thanks!

### *Lecture on Slavery:*

On Saturday, **February 29** at 2:30 PM, Fr. Chuck will give a lecture on slavery and those who benefited from it at the Adriance Memorial Library. There is no fee.

### *Comedy Night Fundraiser:*

If you are a supporter of the Hyde Park Public Schools, please consider coming to the "Leap Into Comedy" Fundraiser on Saturday, **February 29** (see flyer below). You'll get to see Fr. Chuck try his hand at standup comedy — *nothing* like a sermon!

*Next Fireside Chat: Stone Walls of Hyde Park:*

Mark your calendars for the next Chat: **March 5:** *The Stone Walls of Hyde Park.* The speaker is Patricia Weber, who was instrumental in the committee to preserve the historic stone walls that are found throughout the town and county. She will discuss their historical importance and the efforts to preserve them. As always, the Chat starts at 7:00 PM. Please share this with your friends!

**St. James' Episcopal Church Presents**  
**The Fireside Chats**

A series of lectures on historically significant issues

**March 5, 2020, 7 PM**

**Patricia Weber**

**“Hyde Park  
Stone  
Walls”**



In 1974, the New York Preservation League's "Unique New York" program awarded a \$1,500 grant to help restore and preserve Hyde Park's stone walls. This helped establish a subcommittee of the Hyde Park Visual Environment Committee for the repair and preservation of the walls but also to gain support of local Masons, and to create a slide presentation called Hyde Park's Stonewalls," detailing the rich history and importance of the area's stonewalls

Patricia Weber is a founding member and President of the Hyde Park Visual Environment Committee (HPVEC). She has volunteered with the Dutchess County Cooperative Extension since 1970.

She served as a Community Liaison for Scenic Hudson and as a consultant to the Hudson River Valley Association, and worked on the Hudson River Study project. She also worked as the site manager of Rhinebeck's historic Wilderstein property during its formative years.

All Lectures are at St. James' Chapel, 10 E. Market Street, Hyde Park  
For more information: [stjamesoffice@stjameshydepark.org](mailto:stjamesoffice@stjameshydepark.org)

## February 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>23</b> No Between Service Class Today Lenten Meditation Deadline 12 Inquirers	<b>24</b> 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	<b>25</b> 6:00 PM SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER!	<b>26</b> ASH WEDNESDAY 6:30 AM, 10 AM, & 7 PM Ash Wednesday Liturgy & Eucharist	<b>27</b> 11 AM BIBLE STUDY 3:30 PM READING ADVENTURES	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 2:30 Lecture on Slavery 6:30 Leap Into Comedy

## March 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> 9 AM Lenten Breakfast 12:00 Inquirers	<b>2</b> Office Closed 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	<b>3</b> 6:30 PM Evening Prayer	<b>4</b> 10 AM Morning Prayer	<b>5</b> 11 AM BIBLE STUDY 3 PM FDR Birthday Ceremony 3:30 PM READING ADVENTURES	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> 9 AM Lenten Breakfast 12:00 Inquirers	<b>9</b> Office Closed 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	<b>10</b> 6:30 PM Evening Prayer	<b>11</b> 10 AM Morning Prayer	<b>12</b> 11 AM BIBLE STUDY 3:30 PM READING ADVENTURES 7 PM Fireside Chat	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>

<b>15</b> Bishop Dietsche Visitation, Confirmation & Baptism 12:00 Reception	<b>16</b> Office Closed  7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	<b>17</b> 6:30 PM Evening Prayer  7 PM Vestry Meeting	<b>18</b>  10 AM Morning Prayer	<b>19</b> 11 AM  BIBLE STUDY  3:30 PM READING ADVENTURES	<b>20</b>  6:30 PM Newcomers Reception	<b>21</b>  8 AM Men's Breakfast
<b>22</b> 9 AM Lenten Breakfast	<b>23</b> Office Closed  7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	<b>24</b> 6:30 PM Evening Prayer	<b>25</b> 10 AM Morning Prayer 2 PM H P Assisted Living Eucharist 6 PM Women's Dinner	<b>26</b> 11 AM  BIBLE STUDY  3:30 PM READING ADVENTURES	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 9 AM Lenten Breakfast	<b>30</b> Office Closed  7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	<b>31</b> 6:30 PM Evening Prayer	<b>1</b> 10 AM Morning Prayer	<b>2</b> 11 AM  BIBLE STUDY  3:30 PM READING ADVENTURES	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
Sundays: Holy Eucharist Rite I is at 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist Rite II (with music) is at 10:00 AM. Sunday School and nursery are available at 10:00 AM.						

### 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 <https://www.diocesen.org/administration/for-clergy/liturgical-and-sacramental/diocesan-calendar-of-intercession/>

- 23 St. John's Church (Tuckahoe), Yonkers
- 24 Episcopal Asiamerica Ministry
- 25 Christ Church, Sparkill
- 26 *(Ash Wednesday)* Episcopal Charities of New York
- 27 New York Haiti Project

- 28 Tanzania Task Force
- 29 Diocesan Global Mission Commission

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

Ashley, Joe Baldwin, John Bohlmann, Justin Bohlmann, Fr. Fred Cartier, Patty Caswell, Sue Dinee, Loretta Falzarano (sister of Donna Beyer), Charles Faverio, Heather Francese, Karla Givison (Deb Belding's sister), John and Gloria Golden, Kathy Graff, Robert Guariglia, Clifford Hallmark (father of Alyssa Raugalis), Dalton K., Edith Kline, Ashley Konyn, Hope Jennings, Rosemary Leuken, Lorraine, Joanne Lynn, Doris Mack, Margaret, Bruce McIlravey, Andrew Mendelson, Beth and Ginerio Milano, Christine Oppenheimer, Lillian Peralta, Grace Plass, Deborah Porach, John Robinson, Rob Robinson, Jason Rodino (deployed to the Middle East), John Ross, Hank Schroeder, James Sheeky, Naomi Sleight, Carl Smith, Marguerite Spratt, Janice Syedullah, Tracy, Georgia Verven, 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 all right.*

- Birthdays  
(this past week): William Fenwick, Deborah Belding, Elizabeth Gabel and Meg Connolly-Burkhardt
- Birthdays  
(this coming week): Tadgh O’Halloran, Stephanie Barkoe and Regina Ardini
- Acolytes:
  - February 23: Emily Glancey and Braeden Hall
  - March 1: TBA
- Altar Guild:
  - February 23: Team I
  - March 1: Team I
- 8 a.m. Readers:
  - February 23: Debbie Belding and Sue DeLorenzo
  - March 1: Lucille Ogden and Irene Kipp
- 10 a.m. Readers:
  - February 23: Patty Caswell/Mike Fenwick
  - March 1: Wilma Tully and Andy Hall
- Ushers:
  - February 23: Dean Caswell and Audrey Horne
  - March 1: Nancy Montero and Anna Marie Pitcher
- Pledge Clerks:
  - February 23: Andy Hall and Dean Caswell

March 1: Joanne Lown and Sue DeLorenzo  
Parish Cycle of Prayer: February 23: Jim and Beth Matranga, Glenn May and Charles Faverio  
March 1: Chris, Sue and Daniel McGlynn, Bruce and Kelly McIlravy  
Coffee Hour Hosts: February 23: Brian Rance, Saira Shahani  
March 1: Lenten Breakfast

## This Week's Lectionary

Exodus 24:12-18  
Psalm 2  
2 Peter 1:16-21  
Matthew 17:1-9

## This Week's Hymns

Processional: 7 — Christ Whose Glory Fills the Skies  
Sequence: 129 — Christ Upon The Mountain Peak  
Offertory: Speak, O Lord  
Communion: LEVAS 119 — Spirit of God Descend On My Heart  
Recessional: 523 — Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken

## Last Week's Sermon

Sermon Preached on Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany

*"Intent"*

Over Epiphany, we've been talking about how Jesus is revealed to the world. You remember we said last week that the Gospel of Matthew was written to show how Jesus was not some new religious novelty but the fulfillment of the law and prophets.

But when Matthew said that Jesus was the fulfillment of the law and the prophets, that was just the starting point. In the Sermon on the Mount, he starts to move his disciples beyond the conventional understanding of righteousness.

The regulations which the people have been following all along - more or less - are not sufficient for a mature faith. According to Paul, those rules are like milk for an infant. And it's time to grow up. The law has to be written in our hearts for us to truly grow in God.

Unfortunately growing up means dealing with uncomfortable and unclear things. Which is exactly what we have in today's gospel.

Jesus' sayings today are so extreme, they don't seem to make sense. But then, we know Jesus and know how much he loves to teach in extremes. It's a way of saying, we're not just tinkering with our faith — this is serious business that should change everything about the way you live.

So, he says, "you have heard it said, don't murder — but I say to you whoever is angry at a brother or sister or says, 'You fool' will be liable to the judgment." That's crazy, right?

You've heard, don't commit adultery, but I say anyone who looks at a woman with lust is guilty of adultery.

If your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out, if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off, don't divorce and do not swear an oath.

That list is essentially everything that most of us do every day because we are regularly angry with others, we regularly notice people's looks, we regularly often oaths (and are sometimes required to). And where do you even begin with the eye plucking and hand chopping?

One of the things about pushing things to the extreme the way Jesus does is that we reach a breaking point. Later on, in Matthew, when Jesus says it's easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to get to heaven, Peter said, "Lord, who then can be saved?" Because it all seemed so impossible. And Jesus said, "For people it is impossible." You have to depend on God's grace and mercy.

That doesn't mean Jesus isn't serious about anger with your neighbor. It IS as serious as murder because it is at the heart of much murder. It's almost like saying murder is a symptom of an extreme case of anger. It starts with saying "You fool". Anger is the breakdown of a relationship and the refusal to step back to reflect on what is more important — the relationship or being in the right. And it must be said, quite often when we think we're right, we are not.

The same with adultery. Jesus is trying to get his disciples to see what lies beneath the act of adultery, of actively cheating on a partner. He's saying something is going on well before that — and his use of the word "lusts" suggests that what's going on is the objectification of people. I see that woman as an object for me to exploit.

I once heard an older Mennonite pastor talk about this passage, and he said "There's nothing wrong with appreciating the outward beauty of another person. It's quite natural and in and of itself is not lust. Lust is seeing only the sexual and refusing to see the actual person. Lust is turning a person into an object to possess." It's that lust which is at the heart of broken relationships.

It's interesting that it's right after discussing lust that Jesus brings up plucking out your right eye or cutting off your right hand. He specifies the right because those were considered the "good" sides, the power side. Again, Jesus is going to an extreme, not because he really expects us to pluck out our eyes or cut off our hands, but because he is stressing how impossible it is to follow the law to the letter, but grace and mercy are always possible for God — let's trust that. Jesus is also stressing how much more important relationship is than all these other things we tend to hold dear.

And of course, relationship is at the heart of who we are as Christ's followers.

When Jesus talks about divorce, context is important. Marriage and divorce are radically different things today than they were. It was a business transaction as much as a relationship. And women were for the most part entirely dependent for their survival on their husbands. They were little more than property and could easily be discarded. Jesus is saying here that his followers treat no person as disposable. He's saying that marriage is more than a business transaction but a relationship.

Finally, swearing an oath — something people did when they were really serious about something. It was common practice even considered righteous. But Jesus says anything more than your yes or no comes from the evil one — that is, say what you mean, intend what you say, treat your word to another as if it were the very relationship itself. Though we live in a legalistic society where contracts are necessary, in your relationships, swearing does not make you more trustworthy or more loving. The way you behave and treat others does.

All of these extremes that Jesus brings to the disciples in today's lesson are simply ways of saying, "**I want you to do more than follow the law.** I want you to embody its spirit. I want you to **live** the intent of the law — **which** is and has always been to hold up each other, so that we all, together might become the community of God's love." Amen.

#### *A WORD ABOUT RECORDED SERMONS:*

Most weeks, I upload a recorded copy of the sermon onto my Facebook page as well as St. James' YouTube channel. I have not yet figured out how to upload them to the St. James' Facebook page but am working on it.

You can also listen to sermons by going to YouTube ([www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com)) and searching for "St. James Episcopal Church, Hyde Park, NY". There, you will not only find sermons, but also videos of the Fireside Chats and other videos of interest. You can subscribe to that page, and then when new content is uploaded, you will receive a notification.

## SERMON VALUATION FORM

It is not necessary to take notes during the sermon. Rather, you can take some time afterwards to recollect the sermon and its effect on you. Give yourself a few minutes for each of the questions. If you choose to share this with the preacher, it can be a powerful aid to better preaching - but this is not a form to be handed to the preacher and forgotten. It is an aid for you, so you can speak directly with the preacher and answer follow-up questions.

1. WHAT ARE YOU STILL HEARING?

*That is, without evaluating it, what are the words or phrases from the sermon that are still echoing in your ears? Are there any "ear worms"?*

2. WHERE MIGHT THIS BE LEADING?

*As a listener, where does this sermon lead you? What does it invite you to? What are the next steps in your faith that might arise from this sermon?*

3. HOW DOES THIS SERMON "PLAY"?

*That is, how is it organized or ordered? What steps has the preacher taken you through? What structure did you notice in this sermon? What has it asked you to do?*

4. HOW MIGHT THIS SERMON "GROW"?

*That is, what suggestions would you have to hone the message of this sermon, to make it more engaging, inspiring, logical, fleshed out... No sermon is ever entirely done; its themes will be revisited over time. What would help the next time be more compelling?*