

St. James' E-pistle

Date of Sunday Service: March 4, 2018

Third Sunday in Lent

Pulpit Notes

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

We had a delightful time last Sunday with Bishop Glasspool despite the rain. Thank you to everyone who made the luncheon such a joyous event!

Nevertheless, we're still in Lent, so we once again slip into the more sober, self-examining mode of the season. And there is always so much to examine because our world - and our lives - are complex.

One of the complications of the Reparations committee I've been involved in is the people who come to realize for the first time that there still is racial disparity, and that it has a long, unbroken history in our state. What interests me about this for the moment isn't the disparity but the moment of realization. People have said to me, "I didn't know!" Or "But my ancestors did so much good!"

It's the complexity of our lives that makes self-examination so confounding. I'm writing this to you on a computer that was very likely made by people working in near slave-like conditions. We have - as I preached about week-before-last - a clothing shed that may be doing more harm than good. We live in a country where people debate whether guns are an inherent good or bad. Even our worship has the potential to drive people away (from church or even from God) - in, for example, our exclusive use of "Father" to describe God, or in the language of unworthiness and wretchedness.

I do not believe in shaming, that is in telling people they are no good because of who they are or what they have done or failed to do. That is far away from who God is or who God calls us to be. But we do have the obligation to look at all those places in our lives where, even if we are also doing some good, we might be harming. And where we can change, where we can turn toward a godlier path, we should.

One thing that I will do, which I believe will help me walk more closely with God, is to attend the March For Our Lives in New York on March 24. It is a march to encourage lawmakers to address gun violence in a more comprehensive, less piecemeal manner. It is a call for nation-wide regulation that will not take guns away from those who really want them but will ensure proper caution. Longer waiting periods, age limits, more thorough background checks, bans on military-style assault-style weapons.

You might say this is political, but political itself simply means the way we take care of each other. And the Christian is called to care for their neighbor. So if anyone would like to join us on March 24, let me know!

Now, self-examination can also mean more mundane things. The Vestry and Buildings & Grounds committee have been examining our facilities lately and have found many deficiencies that will need correction. You are aware of the heating problems we've had in the church. This is connected to our overall climate control system for the building and will require a complete overhaul. This system is also at least partly responsible for continuously pumping moisture from the undercroft into the church.

That, on top of concrete problems on at least two stairways, plus plumbing problems in our restrooms will add up to sizable expenses. Although there has been no official deliberation on the part of the Vestry yet, I would not be surprised if these expenses may convince us of the need for a capital campaign in the not too distant future. Facing this need, however, is no different from facing the need to repent when we are doing harm to others.

But, as Sojourner Truth once said, "Life is a hard battle anyway. If we laugh and sing a little as we fight the good fight of freedom, it makes it all go easier. I will not allow my life's light to be determined by the darkness around me." So let us not only examine the difficult things but also laugh and sing a little.

May I suggest the Lenten Breakfast this Sunday! After all, they're back on! See you in line for the sausage and eggs.

Grace and Peace,

Chuck +

Please fill out the
ATTENDANCE QUESTIONNAIRE!

"And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching." Hebrews 10:24-25

"For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them." Matthew 18:20

You are a member of St. James', and we are blessed to have you. Your presence is crucial to the life of this parish. When parishioners come together, everyone's life is made more joyful, fuller and in general better.

In our ongoing effort to increase attendance by current members, we would like to ask you a few questions. Please take this seriously and answer as honestly as you wish. You may include your name or not - that is up to you. If you do, your answers will be held in strictest confidentiality, though the general information will be collated for parish consideration.

No matter how often you attend, we want to hear what keeps you away or keeps you coming back.

Thank you in advance for your help understanding what is needed to advance the work of the gospel.

- 1 How long have you attended St. James'? _____
- 2 On average, how regularly did you attend over the past 12 months?
 Weekly Biweekly Monthly Bimonthly Less often
- 3 Was this more than, less than, or about the same as the previous year?
 More Less About the same
- 4 If you attended **less** this year, to what do you attribute this? *Check as many as apply and use as much space as you need to elaborate on any point:*
 Work Sports Travel Health Family complexities
 Anger at the rector Anger at other parish leadership Anger at the Episcopal Church
 Music quality Sermon quality Sunday School size
 Loss of Faith Other
- 5 If you attend **more**, to what do you attribute that? *Check as many as apply and use as much space as you need to elaborate on any point:*
 Health Family Seeking Closer Relationship with God Good Fellowship
 Music quality Sermon quality Sunday School size
 Other
- 6 Answering as honestly as you can, what would make you attend more? We will leave this open for you to answer as you choose, but it can range from "Nothing" to small changes like "Need a ride," to significant things like "Change in leadership."

7 If there is anything you feel needs to be said that is not addressed here but needs to be said, please let us know.

Name (optional) _____

Announcements

Youth Sunday:

Next Sunday, March 11, at the 10 AM service, members of the parish youth will help lead worship as they have a Youth Sunday. They will take various parts in the service including reading. So please encourage them so that they may be the leaders of tomorrow!

Free Prayer Friday:

Join me each **Friday in Lent** from approximately 11:00 AM to 12:00 (or later) at Cranberry's for FREE PRAYER FRIDAY. It is an outreach in which I, and anyone who chooses to join me) sit with a sign that says, "Free Prayer." It is an invitation for those who need prayer to come up and talk. I have done this a few times and found it very effective in attracting conversation and, yes, prayer.

A PLEDGE PLEA:

If you have not pledged yet, please do so. Letters will go out next week from the Vestry to remind you about your pledge. Please help!

Are You Getting the Episcopal New Yorker?

If you're not receiving the *Episcopal New Yorker*, the quarterly magazine of our Diocese, email Andrew Gary at agary@dioceseny.org with your name, mailing address, and the name of the congregation where you are a member. You'll receive the newspaper four times per year. It's that simple to keep up on news of the Diocese and read Engaging yet challenging articles about our faith.

Become An Acolyte:

Whatever your age, if you want to become an acolyte, we will make a place for you. If you attend Sunday School, we will work to make sure you don't miss too much!

~ Save the date and register now! ~

I Want My Church to Grow: What is Congregational Development?

Saturday, April 28, 9:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.

(Check-in opens at 8:30 a.m.)

Trinity St. Paul's Church

311 Huguenot Street, New Rochelle

This special workshop is for:

- ✓ Laypeople and clergy who want to grow a vital church
- ✓ Those who want to join God in doing a new thing
- ✓ Leadership teams working on evangelism, church growth, spiritual development

Workshop Topics

- ❖ Episcopalians Evangelize? Using Community Organizing Tools for Church Growth
- ❖ You Start with what You Have: Asset Based Congregational Development
- ❖ We Need More Money: Best Practices for Your Stewardship Campaign
- ❖ Everything Keeps Changing! Vestry 101 for the 21st Century

Cost: 1–2 people: \$10 each; 3–4 people: \$8 each; 5 or more people: \$7 each

- **We encourage congregations to bring teams of 3 or more people!**

To register online, visit www.diocesenyny.org/ednyevent/cd18-april/

Questions?

The Rev. Canon Altagracia Pérez–Bullard, PhD

Canon for Congregational Vitality

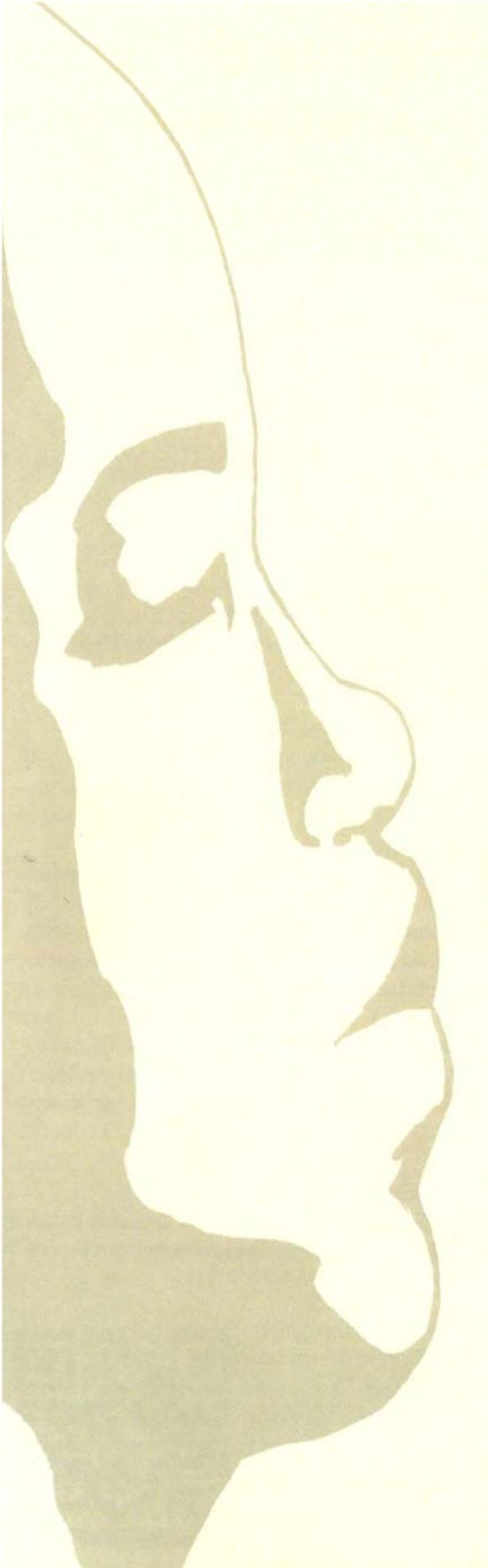
212–316–7433 or aperez-bullard@diocesenyny.org

What is Congregational Vitality in the Diocese of New York?

- Latinx Ministry
- Consulting with Congregations
- Renewal Works (2018)
- Congregational Development Commission
 - Developing/Identifying/Providing Resources (Resourcing)
 - Diocesan Training Events (Equipping Leaders)
 - Planting and (re)Development
 - Grant Programs



The
Episcopal Diocese
of New York



A
New York
Lamentation

A Play About Slavery in New York

Presented by

The Episcopal Diocese of New York
As it observes a *Year Of Lamentation* for
the Church's culpability in the
enslavement of God's children

Performances

January 21, Christ Church, Staten Island

March 4, Christ Church, Poughkeepsie

September 23, St. Philip's, Harlem

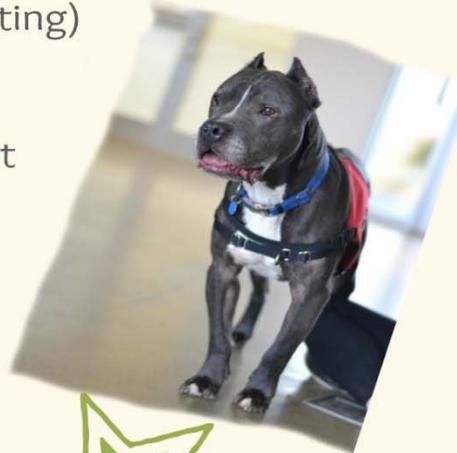
October 14, St. Bartholemew's, White Plains

All performances begin at 3:00 PM



We are collecting the following items for the Dutchess County SPCA:

- Purina Dog Chow *Natural*
- Purina Cat Chow
- Dog Treats (any kind, just super yummy)
- Cat Treats (any kind of yummy treats)
- Canned Cat and Dog Food (any kind)
- Dog Toys
- Cat Toys
- Dog Collars with Metal Buckles (all sizes)
- Bleach (basic disinfecting)
- Paper Towels
- Dawn Dish Soap
- Laundry Detergent



636 Violet Avenue
Hyde Park, NY 12538
845-452-7722
www.dcsPCA.org



March 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
4 Unction 3:00 PM "A New York Lamentation"	5 Office Closed 7:30 PM Choir Practice	6	7 10 AM Morning Prayer 7:00 PM Inquirers	8 11 AM Bible Study 3:30 PM Reading Adventures	9 11 AM Free Prayer Friday @ Cranberry's	10
11 SPRING FORWARD! 10 AM SPECIAL YOUTH SERVICE	12 Office Closed 7:30 PM Choir Practice	13	14 10 AM Morning Prayer 7:00 PM Inquirers	15 11 AM Bible Study 3:30 PM Reading Adventures	16 11 AM Free Prayer Friday @ Cranberry's	17 8 AM Men's Breakfast
18 3 pm Youth Group	19 Office Closed 6 PM Women's Group @ Coppola's	20 7 PM Vestry	21 10 AM Morning Prayer 2 PM Eucharist at HP Assisted Living	22 11 AM Bible Study 3:30 PM Reading Adventures	23 11 AM Free Prayer Friday @ Cranberry's	24 March Against Gun Violence
25 Palm Sunday	26 7:30 PM Choir Practice	27	28 10 AM Morning Prayer	29 7 PM Maundy Thursday THE WATCH	30 10:30 AM Community Walk of Cross 7 PM Good Friday	31 8 PM EASTER VIGIL

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.
 Between Service Classes on Sundays are from 9:15 to 9:45 in the Wilks Room.

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.diocesenyny.org/administration/for-clergy/liturgical-and-sacramental/diocesan-calendar-of-intercession/>

- 4 Congrégation Haïtienne du Bon Samaritain, Bronx
- 5 Chancellor and Vice-Chancellors of the Diocese
- 6 St. David's Church, Bronx
- 7 The Most Rev. Michael B. Curry and The Episcopal Church's House of Bishops
- 8 Global Women's Fund of New York
- 9 Holyrood Church, Manhattan
- 10 Episcopal Delegates to the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women

Please keep the following people in your prayers:

John Bohlmann, Helen Braun, Mariel Carter, Joann Clark (recovery from surgery), Linkin Ewalt, Loretta Falzarano (sister of Donna Beyer), Heather Francese, Kathy Ganim, Karla Givison (Deb Belding's sister), Robert Guariglia, Harold Hall, Dalton K., Edie Kline, Ashley Konyn, Tedi Kramer, Hope Jennings, Rosemary Leuken, Joanne Lynn, Doris Mack, Gordon Mackenzie, Virginia Mackenzie, Andrew Mendelson, Beth and Ginerio Milano, Lillian Peralta, Mary Bowers Peters (stroke), Grace Plass, Deborah Porach, John Robinson, Rob Robinson, Jason Rodino (serving in Afghanistan), Pat Rooney, John Ross, 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):

Regina Ardini, Charlessa Thatcher and David Foote

Birthdays
(this coming week):

Gilbert O'Halloran, Karen Pitcher, William Rance, Richard K. Wager and Faith Kinne

Acolytes:

March 4: Nancy Montero and Jaylen Thatcher

March 11: Deirdre Mae Micker and Bill Fenwick

Altar Guild:	March 4: Team I March 11: Team II
8 a.m. Readers:	March 4: Julett Butler and Jim Smyth March 11: Lucille Ogden and Thomas Finnigan
10 a.m. Readers:	March 4: Wendy Urban-Mead and Deirdre Mae Micker March 11: Russell Urban-Mead and Charlotte DeGroff
Ushers:	March 4: Nancy Montero and Anna Marie Pitcher March 11: Nancy Montero and Anna Marie Pitcher
Pledge Clerks:	March 4: Joanne Lown and Sue DeLorenzo March 11: Doug Belding and Judy Douglass
Parish Cycle of Prayer:	March 4: Jim and Beth Matranga, Glenn May and Charles Faverio March 11: Chris, Sue and Daniel McGlynn, Bruce and Kelly McIlravy
Coffee Hour Hosts:	March 4: Lenten Breakfast March 11: Lenten Breakfast

This Week's Lectionary

Exodus 20:1-17
 Psalm 19
 1 Corinthians 1:18-25
 John 2:13-22

This Week's Hymns

Processional: 441 - "In The Cross of Christ"
 Sequence: 435 - "At The Name of Jesus"
 Offertory: "When Jesus Wept"
 Communion: 656 - "Blest Are The Pure of Heart"
 Recessional: 389 - "Let Us With A Gladsome Mind"

Last Week's Sermon

Sermon Preached on Second Sunday in Lent (February 25, 2018)

Bishop Mary Glasspool preached last Sunday.

Bishop Glasspool preached a superb sermon last Sunday, and several people have requested a copy of the sermon. As yet, I do not have it. I have put in a request with the bishop's office for a copy, but I can't promise it will come.

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) 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.