

# St. James' E-pistle

## Date of Sunday Service: May 12, 2019

### Fourth Sunday of Easter

#### Pulpit Notes

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Last Saturday, I attended a conference on gracious leadership. There were several take-aways which I think are of use to us in our mutual ministry. I'll address each of them here over the next few weeks.

Three of those learnings are 1) Mutual Invitation, 2) the Six Currencies, and 3)

R-E-S-P-E-C-T.

Today, I'll limit myself to talking about R-E-S-P-E-C-T, a way for us to talk to each other. If you like to read the bulletin board in the Parish House hallway, you have already seen the R-E-S-P-E-C-T poster. It's been there for several months, since the last diocesan convention. But we've never talked about it.

At the conference Saturday, we spent more time addressing the values behind and the value of this approach. Each letter of this acronym stands for a step in respectful, clear communication.

*R = RESPONSIBILITY. Take Responsibility for what you say and feel without blaming others.*

*E = EMPATHETIC. Use Empathetic listening.*

*S = SENSITIVE. Be Sensitive to differences in communication styles.*

*E = EXAMINE. Examine your own assumptions and perceptions.*

*C = CONFIDENTIALITY. Keep Confidentiality (which is not the same as keeping secrets, especially when they are harmful secrets)*

*T = TRUST. Trust ambiguity, because we are not here to debate who is right or wrong.*

Each one of these requires some unpacking, and it may take several passes at each to fully understand and appreciate their power. However, most of these are just common courtesy and common sense. They are also commonly forgotten or ignored.

So, let's take a quick look: It should be clear to us that when we speak, we have to take responsibility for what's going on inside us when we address others. Often, minor disagreements escalate into battles for reasons that have nothing to do with the object of discussion. We enter a discussion angry about something else, and next thing you know, we're shouting. It's the old kicking-the-dog syndrome.

An important rule of thumb is, examine yourself, your feelings, and your motives before you open your mouth. You can't take words back once they're spoken.

Likewise, when we speak with others, we need to LISTEN. And we need to listen as if what the other says is important. We need to try to put ourselves in their position as we listen, not just spend the time formulating our reply.

Being sensitive to differences of style is harder. We think others should do things the way we do. But they don't. And they can't. People are different. Some people are sharp and direct. Others hem and haw, taking a circular route to making a point when you would have "cut to the chase." Becoming impatient or defensive will not help. Letting people speak from who they are is more helpful.

Pondering goes along with empathetic listening. Once you hear — truly hear — what the other has said, give it the thoughtful consideration it deserves. Shutting someone down or letting them know ahead of time that they'll just be wasting their words on you because your mind is already made up ... that sells short the entire idea of communication. That sells yourself short, too, suggesting you are not able to learn something new.

Examining your assumptions is part of taking responsibility. We all enter conversations with assumptions and perceptions. It's unavoidable. We're human, after all. But to be a good communicator (and as Christians, communicating Good News is central to our very being), we must examine what we're bringing to the table.

Confidentiality means you don't use your conversations, especially personal things people have revealed, to get an advantage or gain something for yourself. In general, what is shared in a conversation of a personal nature remains in that conversation. This doesn't apply to secrets that could harm others or perpetuate some unhealthy cycle.

And Trust — Of course you have to trust your discussion partner, but even more important is to trust ambiguity. Life is not clear cut, black and white, good and bad, right and wrong, winners and losers. It is gray area upon gray area, and we are called to live in the gray as disciples of Christ. We will not make everything better or correct with one conversation, and things will not be all clear. Our goal isn't to wipe out ambiguity but to make God's love known within it. Making God's love known — that's our job, and it always begins with R-E-S-P-E-C-T.

Grace and Peace,

Chuck +

Thought for your week:

“God’s ways are higher than our ways not because he is less compassionate than we are but because he is more compassionate than we can ever imagine.”

— Rachel Held Evans,  
*Evolving in Monkey Town: How a Girl Who Knew  
All The Answers Learned to Ask the Questions*

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!

## Announcements

*Pray for Our Inquirers Class:*

The time is rapidly approaching for our Inquirers Class to travel down to the Cathedral for confirmation and reception. On **Saturday, June 8**, Shannon Butler and Lillian Peralta will join into the fullness of their life at St. James’. It would be wonderful if a group from St. James’ would travel down with us to support them. Can you join us at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine? I have room for at least one or two more in my car. Please contact me (Fr. Chuck) as soon as you can. And prayerfully consider coming to cheer them on!

*A Word From the Parish Office:*

The parish office is the shared space of several people at St. James', namely the parish administrator, the bookkeeper, the treasurer, and the pledge clerks, with the parish administrator having overall oversight of the space. Please consult the parish administrator before moving items or throwing anything away. Even an empty box may be needed for something. Your cooperation is appreciated. Thank you.

*Journey 2 Adulthood Ceremony:*

On May 19, we will recognize the hard work of three students who have completed the Journey 2 Adulthood curriculum. Please join us that day at the 10:00 AM service to support our youth.

*Food Pantry Donations:*

The Hyde Park Food Pantry at Regina Coeli is located at [28 Harvey Street, Hyde Park, NY](#). Food donations are welcome and may be dropped off at the Pantry on Friday mornings [9:30 AM - 11:30 AM](#), or in the basket at church on Sunday mornings. Correspondence and donations (checks payable to the Hyde Park Food Pantry), may be mailed to Hyde Park Food Pantry, [PO Box 171, Hyde Park, NY 12538](#). Any questions, contact Patty Moore at [845-233-4057](#) or Sue Eagan at [845-889-4416](#). Any form of support is greatly appreciated.

*Monastic Internship Program Taking Applications:*

*We received the following notice from Holy Cross Monastery for your consideration:*

We are now taking applications for our next round of monastic internships. The objective of the internship is full immersion in twenty-first century Benedictine monasticism. Interns experience this by living alongside the community here at Holy Cross Monastery and participating fully in our daily rhythm of prayer, work, and study. The program is available to men and women ages 22 to 35. This is a nine-month program.

For more information, go to <https://holycrossmonastery.com/about-us/monastic-internship-program/>. Or contact Br. Josép Martínez-Cubero, Director of Monastic Internships at [Josep@hcmnet.org](mailto:Josep@hcmnet.org).

*Meals-to-Go - sponsored by Rural & Migrant Ministry*

As part of Rural & Migrant Ministry's Summer Camp Overnight Leadership Camp 30th Anniversary Fundraiser, there will be an Eat-in or Take-out Barbecue Dinner offering. Although the anniversary celebration will take place on Saturday, June 8th here at St. James', **orders for the meals must be placed by May 15th.** There are order forms in the narthex. Each dinner is \$20.00.

So on June 8th, you will have a choice of Eating-In or Taking Out either between 12:00-12:30pm or between 4:30-5:00pm.

Catered by Barbecue Specialists of the Hudson Valley, the menu will consist of 1/2 BBQ Chicken with roll, corn on the cob, baked beans and macaroni salad. There is a vegetarian option for the chicken: portobello mushroom with cherry sauce.

June 8th is a day long event with a variety of activities (come for part or all of the day) - Meals-to-Go . . . Walk-a-thon along the Vanderbilt Loop . . . A Taste of Camp with dancing, drumming and much, much more with the day ending with Vespers. Details of the day to follow in the coming weeks.

However, if you interested in ordering meals, please remember that the deadline is May 15th. For questions you can call RMM at 845-485-8627 or speak with me.

Peace, Deacon Gail

*Episcopal Charities Sunday - Sunday, May 12th (Mother's Day)*

On Sunday, May 12th, we will be celebrating and giving thanks for the work and ministry of Episcopal Charities. Incorporated in December, 1996, Episcopal Charities is the mission arm of our Diocese.

Did you know that “hunger and food insecurity are closely related, but distinct. Hunger is the personal, physical sensation of discomfort when one has not eaten, while food insecurity refers to the lack of available financial resources to supply food to an individual or household.” (source: Feeding America: Understanding Food insecurity)

Are you aware that 9.4% of our neighbors here in Dutchess County, including 15.3% of children are struggling with food insecurity? Are you aware that households receiving emergency food assistance here in the Mid-Hudson Region have at least one adult working and yet, still cannot make ends meet?

Episcopal Charities currently supports 47 feeding parish-based feeding programs throughout our Diocese of which eleven of these programs are located here in the Mid-Hudson Region - Dutchess, Orange, Sullivan and Ulster Counties. And out of the eleven, three are located here in Dutchess County - St. Paul's Church - Poughkeepsie, St. Thomas Church - Amenia Union and Zion Church - Wappingers Falls. In addition to the actual grant, Episcopal Charities provides strategic training, operational support and networking opportunities to parish programs through workshops and one-on-one consultations.

As faithful followers of Christ, please prayerfully consider making a donation to Episcopal Charities. There are Special Offering Envelopes in the pews for you to make your donation. If you are writing a check, please make it payable to St. James' Church, memo line: Episcopal Charities.

On behalf of all our neighbors throughout our Diocese who struggle with food insecurity and who will benefit from your donation - **THANK YOU!**

Peace, Deacon Gail

*FUNdraiser—Save The Date*

The Sunday School will be holding another "FUNdraiser" this year, on Saturday, June 22nd. See the enclosed flyer. Anyone interested in helping with the event can speak with Valerie Gaulin or Patty Glancey.



St. James' Sunday School

60's/70's

FUNDRAISER

\*\*\*\*SAVE THE DATE\*\*\*\*

Saturday, June 22<sup>nd</sup> - 5pm- 8pm

Dust off your bell bottoms, throw on your love beads & Join us for a Buffet dinner and live music as things "Heat-up" in the Parish Hall to help "Heat-up" our church!

PEACE LOVE MUSIC



More Information to come. Tickets go on sale soon!

4526 Albany Post Road, Hyde Park, NY 12538 / Office: 845-229-2820 / Website: [www.stjameshydepark.org](http://www.stjameshydepark.org)

# May 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>5</b> Unction	<b>6</b> <b>Office Closed</b>  7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	<b>7</b> 6:30 Evening Prayer 7:00 Inquirers	<b>8</b> 10 AM Morning Prayer	<b>9</b> 11 AM Bible Study  3:30 - Reading Adventures	<b>10</b> FREE PRAYER FRIDAY	<b>11</b> <b>Mothers Day Tea</b>
<b>12</b> Episcopal Charities Sunday	<b>13</b> <b>Office Closed</b>  7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	<b>14</b> 6:30 Evening Prayer 7:00 Inquirers	<b>15</b> 10 AM Morning Prayer  2:00 PM. Hyde Park Assisted Living Eucharist	<b>16</b> 11 AM Bible Study  3:30 - Final Reading Adventures of the year	<b>17</b> FREE PRAYER FRIDAY	<b>18</b> 8 AM Men's Breakfast
<b>19</b> <b>Journey 2 Adulthood Ceremony</b>	<b>20</b> <b>Office Closed</b>  7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	<b>21</b> 6:30 Evening Prayer 7:00 Vestry Meeting	<b>22</b> 10 AM Morning Prayer	<b>23</b> 11 AM Bible Study	<b>24</b> 2 FREE PRAYER FRIDAY	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> <b>Office Closed</b>  7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	<b>28</b> 6:30 Evening Prayer 7:00 Inquirers	<b>29</b> 10 AM Morning Prayer	<b>30</b> 11 AM Bible Study	<b>31</b> FREE PRAYER FRIDAY	

**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/>

- 12 Saint Thomas Church, Manhattan
- 13 Church of the Good Shepherd, Manhattan
- 14 St. James' Church, Manhattan
- 15 With gratitude for the ministry of the Rt. Rev. Mary D. Glasspool on the anniversary of her consecration.
- 16 La Iglesia del Buen Pastor and Good Shepherd Mission, Newburgh
- 17 With gratitude for the ministry of the Rt. Rev. Allen K. Shin on the anniversary of his consecration.
- 18 Church of the Good Shepherd, Roosevelt Island

## Please keep the following people in your prayers:

Ashley, Joe Baldwin, John Bohlmann, Helen Braun, Dean Caswell, Linkin Ewalt, Loretta Falzarano (sister of Donna Beyer), Heather Francese, Kathy Ganim, Karla Givison (Deb Belding's sister), John and Gloria Golden, Nick Granados-Kramer, Robert Guariglia, Clifford Hallmark (father of Alyssa Raugalis), Dalton K., Edith Kline, Lynne Koch, Ashley Konyn, Tedi Kramer, Hope Jennings, Rosemary Leuken, Lorraine, Joanne Lynn, Jim Lynn (Carol Bender's brother - facing surgery), Doris Mack, Margaret, Bruce McIlravy, 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), 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): Erika Seagren, Rebecca Gausepohl and Walter Koch

Birthdays  
(this coming week): Brian Kinne, Morgan Kinne and Daniel McGlynn

Acolytes:	May 12: Riley Hall and Amelia McNamara May 19: Bill Fenwick and Jack Canez
Altar Guild:	May 12: Team I May 19: Team II
8 a.m. Readers:	May 12: Lucille Ogden and Jim Smyth May 19: Debbie Belding and Irene Kipp
10 a.m. Readers:	May 12: Wendy Urban-Mead and Andy Hall May 19: Jm Oppenheimer-Crawford and Bobbie Wells
Ushers:	May 12: Andy Hall and Tonya Hall May 19: Judy Douglass and Vince Asher
Pledge Clerks:	May 12: Doug Belding and Judy Douglass May 19: Tanya Hall and Anna Marie Pitcher
Parish Cycle of Prayer:	May 12: Daniel, Alyssa, Altoona and Andrew Raugalis, John Robinson May 19: David, Manuela, Isabel and Grace Roosevelt, Chris Rygiel
Coffee Hour Hosts:	May 12: Jodi Triola and Mike Fenwick May 19: Deirdre Mae Micker, Wendy and Russell Urban-Mead

## **This Week's Lectionary**

Acts 9:36-43  
Psalm 23  
Revelation 7:9-17  
John 10:22-30

## **This Week's Hymns**

Processional: 181 - Awake and sing the song  
Sequence: 187 - Through the Red Sea brought at last  
Offertory: "Alleluia"  
Communion: TAIZE - Raise a Song of Gladness  
Recessional: 204 - Now The Green Blade Riseth from the Buried Grain

## **Last Week's Sermon**

Sermon Preached on Third Sunday of Easter

### *“On Being Convicted”*

In the news recently, there’s a word that’s been going around a lot. It’s “Convicted.” As in, there were these pharmaceutical executives who were just convicted of illegally pushing opioids on doctors, making the opioid crisis worse. As in, there was just a police officer convicted of shooting an unarmed citizen. As in, a man was recently exonerated after having been wrongly convicted of a crime and sent to prison for 17 years.

No matter which of these situations we’re talking about, the word, “convicted” is not a good thing.

In law, it means you’re facing punishment — prison, a fine, or maybe if you have the right connections, just a slap on the wrist.

When you’re talking about religion, of course, “convicted” — as in, “I was convicted by the Lord,” — means something entirely different. Nevertheless, we don’t like that word in religious terms, either. Because usually when we hear “I was convicted” we think of evangelicals or fundamentalists. Which means that WE (clever folks that we are) dismiss it as a catchphrase of the uneducated or the unscrupulous.

That is a mistake.

Because God DOES convict us at various points in our lives, and we would do well to understand what it means and to take it seriously.

Fortunately, to help us understand, we have a couple of compelling examples in today’s scriptures.

First, there’s the story in today’s Gospel about Jesus making breakfast for his disciples. Remove, this story takes place just a matter of days after the resurrection and Jesus’ first appearances to the disciples. Even though they’ve now all seen the resurrected Jesus, they are young and confused and unsure what should happen next.

So, Peter says, “I’m going fishing.” Some of the others decide to go with him. After all, they’re fishermen. This was their profession. They are returning to a familiar, comfortable activity. When in doubt, go back to what you know.

So they go out and fish all night, and catch....nothing. As morning dawns, they grow disgusted and decided to pack it in. But some guy standing on the shore shouts out to them, “Didn’t catch anything, did you?”

Just ask yourself how you would feel if you — a professional — had been fishing all night with no luck, and then some yokel on the beach says, “Didn’t catch anything, did you?”

They said, “No!”

So this guy says, “Toss your net on the other side of the boat, and you’ll catch some.” Of all the absurd things — but they do it, probably just to shut the guy up. And lo and behold, they catch loads of fish. Peter knows this is something special, and you can see the wheels turning in his head putting two and two together. He cries, “It’s Jesus!” and puts on his clothes (so he looks decent) then jumps in the water to swim to Jesus. Apparently, he can’t wait for the boat to get in.

So they all get to the beach, and Jesus makes them a lovely breakfast of the fish they have just caught — and everyone is delighted to have their Lord back again.

It's at this point that the real action takes place. Jesus takes Peter aside and asks him, "Peter, do you love me?" At first Peter's like, "Well, yeah, of course I love you."

But then, after a little while, Jesus asks again, "Peter, do you love me?" Peter at this point is a little puzzled by this, but he says, "Yes, you know I love you." And that's enough.

But then ... Jesus asks a third time, "Peter, do you love me?" And Peter is troubled, hurt even. "You know everything. You *know* I love you." To which Jesus responds, "Feed my sheep."

What was going on? Simply put, Jesus was convicting Peter. Because it was three times that he asked Peter if he loved him — the exact same number of times Peter denied Jesus on the night he was arrested. Jesus was saying: "You denied me three times; let's face that head on. Because you need to be absolutely certain that you love me more than anyone or thing — even life itself — before you can follow where I want to lead you."

Notice, however, that Jesus didn't merely leave it with convicting Peter of his cowardice and betrayal. Once Peter was absolutely aware of his fault, Jesus moves him from guilt to action. "Feed my sheep" he says, giving him a new path. He has moved Peter from the path leading away from God's will to a path fulfilling God's will. Which is to spread good news in all things and all ways to all people.

Being convicted means **knowing your fault which you will change** (and it may be more a situation than something you did particularly wrong - perhaps a path that is leading you nowhere) AND being **convinced of the direction to go forward**.

You can see this even more starkly in the reading from the Acts of the Apostles. There you've got Saul, a religious man who is convinced that these Jesus-followers are heretics and blasphemers, bringing harm to the people. So he's out to destroy them. He works to imprison as many as he can even going to the extremes of getting permission to travel to Damascus in pursuit of them.

And it's on his journey that he is convicted. As they travel, a blinding light throws him to the ground. No longer able to see, he hears a voice that says, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" The voice identifies itself as Jesus, whom Saul has been persecuting.

This is direct: You have been doing wrong.

But like with Peter, Jesus doesn't leave Saul there, convicted of his guilt, blind, and punished. He says, "Get up. Go to Damascus where a man named Ananias will find you and heal you and show you what you have to do." Paul doesn't just say, "I'm sorry," and that's the end of it.

Jesus gives him a mission.

So these scripture readings show Peter and Paul what to **turn away from** but also what to **turn toward**. That is being convicted. We turn away from a lot of things — hatred, depression, fear, anger, greed, power.... But we always turn toward Jesus — and toward the spreading of his good news.

Which leads us to another word associated with being convicted: **Conviction**. As in acting with conviction. When you know God is calling you, you act. And you act willingly, with assurance, not dragging your feet or complaining. That's conviction. Not that you don't think your words and actions through — you do if you're smart — but you also know what you need to do and get on with it.

But be warned; being convicted doesn't mean it'll be a smooth ride. Just because God has moved you doesn't mean the whole world will care. Neither Peter nor Paul had an easy time of it with being dragged to court, prison, and eventual death. **But** — and this is important — they weren't alone. They acted with the support of the church. They shared their conviction, their visions, with the church, and they knew that what they did had the blessing of those they represented. Being convicted doesn't mean doing whatever you like. Rather it means testing your sense of call, getting the backing of those you represent, and then moving forward with the assurance that God has given you a task worth doing.

So, are you convicted? Have you had that moment when you know God is calling you to something? Have you tested it? If you hear God calling, and you're not acting, why not? After all, if it's from God, no matter what it leads to, being convicted can only be good. 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?*