

# St. James' E-pistle

## Date of Sunday Service: October 1, 2017

### Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

#### *Bible Verse*

*Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.*

*- Philippians 2:13*

#### **Pulpit Notes**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

I have always wondered what the heck St. Paul meant when he said, "Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling...". It sounds so depressing, so anxiety-producing. Who needs that in their lives? The world is crazy enough already, right?

Maybe that's just me. The other day I was listening to the radio, and they were talking about the whole NFL kneeling saga. One fan they interviewed said, "I am sympathetic to the cause of justice for all, but I'm so exhausted by world events and my own life that I just want to come to the game to forget. And now I have reality here, too."

For me, it's the same with that passage from Philippians - we are already bombarded by the non-stop fear and trembling of the world? And now, St. Paul is saying that's part of our faith, too?

For the record, I agree that we all need to simply step away from the world at times. Jesus regularly went away by himself to pray (which as my old spiritual director used to say, might well have included taking a nap). Increasingly, I have to take social media sabbaticals just so I don't sink into depression.

But here's the catch. The reasons for all that fear and trembling do not go on vacation. They do not ever stop being the shadows over many lives that they are. Just because I want to forget the nastiness of the world for a few hours doesn't mean they are gone - only that I'm not engaged in it. Sometimes, when things become increasingly complex or unjust, we no longer get the luxury of stepping away or of forgetting. Those among us who fought in wars know what it is like to be constantly on alert, to never let their guard down.

When I was a young chaplain at Westledge Nursing home, there was a woman named Heddie who had been in a Nazi Concentration camp. Every week, she showed me the number tattooed on her arm. She said for three years, there was never a moment where they were not on high alert. My high school buddy Alvin - we were on the wrestling team together, and he is now the wrestling coach of our old school - said that he had to teach his children the same lesson. He is black, and he said there is never a moment when they are not constantly watching, constantly listening for the voice of one who will tell them to halt.

But even that isn't exactly what Paul was getting at. Certainly, he thought that the presence and service of God never sleeps. Certainly, we are to pray without ceasing, serve without pause, be in God's presence at all times. But the fear and trembling isn't about exhaustion as much as it is about the magnitude of the task at hand.

Paul was looking at what it really means to follow - to truly follow Christ, and even in his unusually high self-confidence, he approached it with fear and trembling. And yet follow he did, because for Paul, if we were not following Christ who leads to eternal life, where are we going?

For Paul, and for us, the real fear and trembling isn't fear that God will not love us but that we won't do justice to the love shown us. That we can't give enough of ourselves, that we can't be brave enough to stand with those who are oppressed, that we will be too tired to worship the one who gives us life, that life itself with all its distractions (both pleasant and not) will get in the way of just trying to be with God.

I suspect, in essence, Paul was saying to the Philippians that life is hard, fast-paced, unrelenting - and yet, we can only step back from it for so long. We have to jump back in and somehow hear the voice of God in the mayhem, somehow see the light in the midst of glitter, somehow find the path in a muddy terrain.

It is enough to cause fear and trembling. But it is also important to know that the journey toward and with Christ is never one we travel alone. Not only is Christ with us - but we are with each other. And as long as you'll walk with me, I'll walk with you.

Grace and Peace,

Chuck +

## **Announcements**

### *Youth Group Leaf Raking:*

Do you have some leaf raking that needs to be done? Is it too much of a burden? Too physically hard? Don't want to spend money hiring someone? On October 22, (3:00 PM), the youth group wants to rake your leaves. This is a no-fee, first-come-first-served offer. If you are in need of leaf-raking but can't do it yourself (especially due to physical limitations) - or if you know someone in special need - the youth group would like to help. Just call the parish office to let Fr. Chuck know that you would like your leaves raked. It is our way of serving Christ in a small way.

*Oil Contract Offer:*

St. James has just entered into this year's heating oil contract. Rainbow Oil is offering all members of St. James a personal contract to lock in a price of \$2.099 per gallon until March 31, 2018.

If you are interested just call Rainbow Oil and request a contract be mailed to you, sign and return it.

Rainbow Oil's number is 229-9418.

*Reading Adventures News:*

Volunteers, get ready! Reading Adventures is about to begin!

For this first semester, we will meet on Thursdays, starting at the end of the school day and reading for one hour. The program year will begin on Thursday, October 19. If you would like to volunteer as a reader, please contact Fr. Chuck or Anna Marie Pitcher.



The Youth Group last week working its way through a team-building challenge course.

We're small in number, but we are getting things planned and done!

If you want to volunteer (or know a Middle School/High School student who might want to get involved), just let Fr. Chuck know!

# October 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Unction	2 <b>Office Closed</b>	3	4 10 AM Morning Prayer 10 AM	5	6 Graveyard Tours Begin!	7 Graveyard Tours
8	9 <b>Office Closed</b>	10	11 10 AM Morning Prayer	12	13 Graveyard Tours	14 Graveyard Tours
15	16 <b>Office Closed</b>	17 <b>7:00 PM Vestry</b>	18 10 AM Morning Prayer	19 11 AM Bible Study 3:30 PM Reading Adventures Starts	20 Graveyard Tours	21 8 AM Men's Breakfast Graveyard Tours
22 Steward- ship Campaign Starts 3:00 PM Youth Group	23 <b>Office Closed</b>  6 PM Women's Group	24	25 10 AM Morning Prayer	26 11 AM Bible Study	27	28
29 11:30 Garden Blessing	30 <b>Office Closed</b>	31 <b>HALLOWEEN</b>	1 <b>ALL SAINTS DAY</b> 10 AM Morning Prayer	2 11 AM Bible Study	3	4

**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/>

- 1 Society of St. Francis and the Society's Third Order
- 2 St. Francis & St. Martha's Church, White Plains
- 3 St. Paul's Church, Poughkeepsie
- 4 Spiritual Directors of the Diocese
- 5 Diocesan Domestic Violence Task Force
- 6 Diocesan Liturgical Commission
- 7 Worship Planners and Leaders of the Diocese

## Please keep the following people in your prayers:

Ruth Blanding, John Bohlmann, Helen Braun, Mariel Carter, Dee, Linkin Ewalt, Loretta Falzarano (sister of Donna Beyer), Steven Foote, Heather Francese, Kathy Ganim, Karla Givison (Deb Belding's sister), Robert Guariglia, Harold Hall, Cath Holywell (priest in the Church of England and Indaba partner who worshiped with St. James' - undergoing heart surgery), Dalton K., Edie Kline, Ashley Konyn, Barbara Kubiak (Mother of Donna Tracy-Coffman), Rosemary Leuken, Joanne Lynn, Doris Mack, Gordon Mackenzie, Virginia Mackenzie, Andrew Mendelson, Grace Plass, Deborah Porach, John Robinson, Rob Robinson, Jason Rodino (serving in Afghanistan), Pat Rooney, John Ross, Richard Secor, Sharon Secor (recovering from heart surgery), Karen Shan, James Sheeky, Naomi Sleight, Patricia (sister of Barbara Slegel), Carl Smith, Marguerite Spratt, Janice Syedullah, Tracy, Candace Vincent, Cassidy Way, Cliff Wells and Shawn Wheeler.

*Please pray for all those affected by Hurricane Irma and Maria, those still suffering from the effects of Hurricane Harvey, and those affected by the earthquake in Mexico City.*

## 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 Holland, Stephen Burkhardt, Franklin Santos and Antoinette Horne

Birthdays (this coming week):	Austin Horne, Bryanna Burkhardt, Daniel Ogden, Aaron Burkhardt, Justin Bohlmann, Ann Dingee and Robin L. Bohlmann
Acolytes:	October 1: Team 2 October 8: Team 3
Altar Guild:	October 1: Team II October 8: Team III
8 a.m. Readers:	October 1: Debbie Belding and Grant Ferris October 8: Lucille Ogden and Sue DeLorenzo
10 a.m. Readers:	October 1: Russell Urban-Mead and Judy Douglass October 8: Wilma Tully and Maggie McNamara
Ushers:	October 1: Judy Douglass, Vince Asher October 8: Maggie and Tom McNamara
Pledge Clerks:	October 1: Joanne Lown and Janet Bright October 8: Andy Hall and Judy Douglass
Parish Cycle of Prayer:	October 1: Doug and Deb Belding, David and Carol Bender and Julett Butler October 8: Robin Bohlmann, Justin, Danielle, Emerson and Avery Bohlmann
Coffee Hour Hosts:	October 1: Audrey Horne, Eric Zavadil October 8: Jodi Triola

## This Week's Lectionary

Exodus 17:1-7  
 Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16  
 Philippians 2:1-13  
 Matthew 21:23-32

## This Week's Hymns

Processional: 343 - Shepherd of Souls  
 Sequence: 339 - Deck Thyself My Soul With Gladness  
 Offertory: "Prayer of St. Francis"  
 Communion: 435 - At the Name of Jesus  
 Recessional: 686 - Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

## Last Week's Sermon

Sermon Preached on Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost (September 24, 2017)

*The Sermon was preached by Deacon Gail*

No copy was available at the time of printing

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