

# St. James' E-pistle

## November 8, 2013

### Pulpit Notes

Brothers and Sisters:

Ever have anyone say, "I'll pray for you," or "We should pray about it." I say it a lot, but whenever I do - heck, whenever anyone does - I wonder how people understand that request to pray. Frankly, a lot of the time I think people tuck it away in the back of their minds and forget about it. Then, when they do think about it, they may wonder, "How do I pray about this? What does it mean to pray about this?"

Well, what does it mean to pray about something?

Let me offer a small thought: praying simply means giving your attention to God - letting go of everything else for a moment. Praying about something in particular is focusing on God while lifting up to God whatever is on your mind.

It is not asking for a specific result, but giving it to God to care for and, if it is his will, to guide events as God sees fit.

We've been asking you to pray about the election of a suffragan bishop - so just focus on God for a few minutes and lift up to God the election. No need to worry about the results—leave that to God.

I bring this up because I am asking you to pray about something else:

This Sunday is Ingathering Sunday. By now, you should have received your pledge letter and card in the mail. If you have not received one, we will have plenty waiting for you in church! I hope you will be here to celebrate our life together and to pledge your partnership in this experiment we call the church.

Before you come, however, before you write down your pledge amount, I would like you to pray about it. Focus your attention on God, lift up your pledge to God. Offer it to God and see what comes. It's my belief that this will help you know what you need to do. More importantly, it'll help you put your pledge into its proper perspective.

By praying, you let go of the anxiety and worry. You don't stop doing the math required to keep your family solvent, but you are better able to put your desires and needs in a better order. And, yes, you're better able to hear the voice of God.

That may be one reason we resist prayer so much - hearing the voice of God can change us, move us into uncomfortable territory.

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And yet, that's what I am asking you to do. Pray. Lift it up to God. Let go of the results and just listen.

Then make your pledge trusting that you are making the best choice you can. So pray, and I'll pray along with you.

In Christ,

Chuck+

### **The News of the Diocese**

**Election of a Bishop:** December 7 will be the day that we elect a suffragan bishop for the diocese. You can meet the candidates at one of several "Walkabouts" throughout the diocese. The first Walkabout is at Trinity Church, Fishkill on Tuesday, November 12 at 1 PM. There is another that evening The Church of St. James the Less, Scarsdale.

Most of the other meetings are in or near New York City - if you want a list of them, please contact Fr. Chuck. However, on November 13 at 7:00 PM, the Walkabout at Trinity Wall Street, Manhattan will be live streamed, so you can watch and participate (via Twitter, Facebook or e-mail) through your computer.

For more information on the election process, please visit [www.suffraganny.org](http://www.suffraganny.org) where all updates will be posted.

Almighty God, giver of every good gift: Look graciously on your Church, and so guide the minds of those who shall choose a Bishop Suffragan for our Diocese, and those who offer themselves as candidates: Kim, Kathleen, Susan, Allen, Mauricio, and Patrick. We pray that we may receive a faithful pastor, who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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

**Community Thanksgiving Service:** The annual Community Thanksgiving Service takes place year at Hyde Park United Methodist Church on Wednesday November 27th, at 7:00 pm. This service includes many of Hyde Park's churches and is a great ecumenical way to thank God for our many blessings.

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**Rest in Peace:** We grieve the death this week of George Buso, who died Wednesday morning. His burial office will be Friday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>.

We also pray for the family of Andre Hartzell, the father of Anne Seils. His funeral will be Friday, November 8<sup>th</sup> at 10 AM at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Pleasant Valley.

May their souls, and the souls of all the faithful departed, rest in peace.

**Ride Wanted:** A local shut-in needs a ride to the Hyde Park food pantry once or twice a month and would also like an occasional ride to The Barn Thrift Shop in Pleasant Valley. Please call Jane at 229-2068 if you can help.

**Stewardship Letter:** You should have recently received, or will soon receive, your Stewardship letter. In it, you will find not only an invitation to be part of the life of the church, but a pledge card. Please consider your pledge with prayer. Ask God and listen for guidance.

Ingathering Sunday will be November 6, and we would very much love to have everyone's pledge in by then. Thank you!

**Book Group Start Date Announced:** The "Prayer For Owen Meany" book group will have its first meeting on Thursday, November 14. Don't worry if you haven't finished the book by then - we'll work through it together. If you've already finished it and are anxious to get started, thank you for your patience!

**Inquirers Classes:** Every other Fall, the bishop comes to St. James' for confirmations, receptions and reaffirmations of faith. Our next visit will be in either November or December 2014. Now is the time to start thinking about being confirmed or received into the Episcopal Church. Classes take quite a lot of time and commitment, so consider well if you want to put in the work required.

You must be at least 13 at the beginning of classes, and anyone under 16 has to come to me personally to explain why they feel called to confirmation.

**Advent Retreat:** Mark December 21 on your calendars for a special Advent Day of Reflection. Fr. Masud ibn Syedullah will host "Joy is at Hand!", which takes place at our chapel. More information and a brochure will follow in the coming weeks.

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**Fall Concert Series Sunday Nov. 17 at the Chapel at 3:00:** Betty and the Baby Boomers. The name seemed like a good idea twenty years ago when Betty Boomer, Jean Valla McAvoy, Paul Rubeo, and Steve Stanne began performing together—a play on Betty's name and the fact that all four are children of the baby boom generation. The name is now known to folk music fans from the mountains of Connemara in Ireland to the Catskills overlooking the Hudson Valley. In addition to original songs from Jean, the Boomers (now including bass player Robert Bard) draw on sources including traditional folk, contemporary artists like Bruce Cockburn and Dougie MacClean, and classic "folksingers" like Woody Guthrie, Pete Seeger, and Phil Ochs.

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

Janet Arms, Ruth Blanding, John Bohlmann, Kurt Burkhardt, Michael Day, Jane Gagliardoto, Kasey Gaulin, Jack Gordy, Harold Hall, Jolanda Heijenbrok, Brooke Helton, Rev. Don Hoger, Barbara Knakal, Rosemary Leuken, Andrew Mendelson, Rev. Tim Millard, Nancy Nucci, Clifford Plass, Gerald Plass, Deborah Porach, Don Renten, John Robinson, Marty Schroeder, Richard Secor, James Sheeky, Naomi Sleight, Debbie Stone, Gloria Veach, Candace Vincent, Cassidy Way and Cliff Wells.

### **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:	Sue DeLorenzo, Michael Mungo, August (Bud) Oetjen, Florence Fried, Riley Hall and Gwen Cookingham
Acolytes:	November 10: Team III November 17: Team IV
Altar Guild:	November 10: Team Number I November 17: Team Number II
8 a.m. Readers:	November 10: Debbie Belding and Sue DeLorenzo November 17: Angela Henry and Gary Glancey
10 a.m. Readers:	November 10: Russell Urban-Mead/Sophie Ciferri November 17: Wilma Tully/Deidre Mae Micker

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Ushers: November 10: Donna and John Beyer  
November 17: Dean Caswell and Austin Horne  
Pledge Clerks: November 10: Deb and Doug Belding  
November 17: Tanya Hall and Anna Marie Pitcher  
Coffee Hour Hosts: November 10: Jodi Triola and The Eames  
November 17: Deidre Micker and the Gausepohls

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

Job 19:23-27a

Psalm 17:1-9

2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17

Luke 20:27-38