

St. James' E-pistle

February 20, 2015

Pulpit Notes

Brothers and Sisters:

When you think of Lent, what do you think of?

Probably giving something up. Or conversely, taking on some spiritual discipline like reading scripture each day.

These are good things in and of themselves, but without an understanding of what they're all about, of why we do them, they may not bring a lot of spiritual gain. So what are we doing, and why?

This season of Lent is a season of preparation for the crucifixion and resurrection of Christ. It is a time when we are walking with Christ, figuratively speaking, on his journey to Jerusalem. In it, we are reminded why that journey was necessary in the first place - because we are far away from God. We are weak, failed in many ways, and so caught up in our own lives that we miss what is all around us.

Lent holds in tension our need to look beyond ourselves (we are not the center of the world) but at the same time to look within ourselves. Because if we are so busy looking at others, we miss our own need for returning to God - and we miss the wonder that God is doing right in our lives.

That's one reason the Church, from earliest times, used Lent as a time when people who had been separated from the Church could reconcile. Easter wasn't just a time when people joined the Church through baptism, but it was also a time when relationships were healed.

How do we do all these things? How do we look beyond ourselves, but also look within? How do we see our fallenness but also reconciliation?

That's where the disciplines of Lent come in. Many people give up things to remind themselves just how frail we are - that something as small as giving up meat, for example, can shock the system. Many people take on spiritual disciplines to steep themselves more deeply in God. Some take up centering prayer, for example, or spiritual reading.

Let me suggest two ways you can look within and look beyond this Lent. Starting next Wednesday, February 25 at 6:00 PM, Fr. Masud ibn Syedullah will hold a four-part series called, "A Gift of God: Relating to those who are different from us." It helps us look beyond our comfort zones but also see the joy of God right in our hearts. There is a simple potluck

St. James' E-pistle

February 20, 2015

supper during each session - because there is nothing that breaks down barriers and opens hearts quite like food.

Second, on the Sundays of March following the 10:00 AM service, we will take part in "Neighborhood Pilgrimage." These walks through selected neighborhoods of Hyde Park will give us an opportunity to get out of the Church and into our community. We will walk and stop to pray. That's it. We'll be out in the world and yet looking within as we pray for our neighbors.

I fervently hope that you will take part in these offerings. They'll help you engage more fully in the meaning and spirit of Lent. And in living the Gospel of Jesus Christ more fully.

In Christ,

Chuck+

St. James' E-pistle

February 20, 2015

The News of the Diocese

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 <http://www.dioceseny.org> and click under "Beliefs and Practices."

- 15 The Ecumenical and Interfaith Commission
- 16 St. Luke's Church, Beacon
- 17 Chaplaincies with emergency workers, firefighters and public safety officers
- 18 St. George's Church, Newburgh
- 19 St. Paul's Church, Ossining
- 20 The Commission on Ministry
- 21 Episcopal Social Services

ALSO STILL PRAYING FOR ISRAEL AND GAZA:

Let us continue to light a candle for peace in the Holy Land - and everywhere. Prayer is our most potent antidote to hatred.

1. Candle for Peace

Please also light a candle on Fridays - holy to both faiths - for Peace

Let us Light Candles for Peace

Two mothers, one plea:

Now, more than ever, during these days of so much crying,

on the day that is sacred to both our religions, Friday, Sabbath Eve

Let us light a candle in every home - for peace:

A candle to illuminate our future, face to face,

A candle across borders, beyond fear.

From our family homes and houses of worship

Let us light each other up,

Let these candles be a lighthouse to our spirit

Until we all arrive at the sanctuary of peace.

2. The Mothers Prayer:

God of Life:

You who heals the broken hearted, binding up our wounds.

Please hear this prayer of mothers.

You did not create us to kill each other

Nor to live in fear or rage or hatred in your world. You created us so that we allow each other to sustain Your Name in this world:

Your name is Life, your name is Peace.

St. James' E-pistle

February 20, 2015

For these I weep, my eye sheds water:
For our children crying in the night,
For parents holding infants, despair and darkness in their hearts.
For a gate that is closing – who will rise to open it before the day is gone?
With my tears and with my constant prayers, With the tears of all women deeply pained at these harsh times
I raise my hands to you in supplication: Please God have mercy on us.
Hear our voice that we not despair That we will witness life with each other, That we have mercy one for another, That we share sorrow one with the other, That we hope, together, one for another.
Inscribe our lives in the book of Life
For Your sake, our God of Life Let us choose Life.
For You are Peace, Your world is Peace and all that is Yours is Peace,
May this be your will
And let us say Amen.

*Sheikha Ibtisam Mahameed and Rabba Tamar Elad-Appelbaum
English Translation Amichai Lau-Lavie*

The News of the Church

Youth Group Overnight: The third weekend of the month is coming up, and that means Youth Group Overnight. There is still a question about whether it will be Friday night or Saturday night - Stay Tuned! Either way, we will sleep in the Parish Hall and talk Lent.

Men's Breakfast February 21: Our second Men's Breakfast will be February 21 at 8:00 a.m. at Chranbery's. All men 18 and over are invited! We'll eat, chat, and maybe plan a little. Join us.

Lenten Programs: Check out the flier for our Lenten Wednesday evening program. Led by Fr. Masud ibn Syedullah, this evening includes potluck supper and exploration of the blessing of our differences.

Pledge Envelopes Awaiting You: Pledge envelopes have arrived. If you haven't received yours, please contact the Parish office.

St. James' E-pistle

February 20, 2015

Please keep the following people in your prayers:

Ruth Blanding, John Bohlmann, Susie Buhalis, Jim and Sharyn Burke, Joanne Clark, Kathleen Craft, Michael Day, Steven Foote, Heather Francese, Jane Gagliardoto, Gloria Golden, John Golden, Jack Gordy, Robert Guariglia, Harold Hall, Liz Handman, Brooke Helton, Dalton K., Barbara Knakal, Ashley Konyn, Lucy Lamonica, Rosemary Leuken, Doris Mack, Gordon Mackenzie, Virginia Mackenzie, Andrew Mendelson, Rev. Tim Millard, Clifford Plass, Gerald Plass, Grace Plass, Linda Plass, Deborah Porach, John Robinson, John Schroeder, Richard Secor, James Sheeky, Naomi Sleight, Debbie Stone, Tracy, Gloria Veach, 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 alright.

Birthdays (this past week):	Billy Fenwick, Deb Belding, Elizabeth Gabel and Meg Burkhardt
Birthdays (next week):	Tadhg O'Halloran, Stephanie Barkoe and Regina Ardini
Acolytes:	February 22: Bryanna Burkhardt, Chris Granados-Kramer and Amelia McNamara March 1: Jasime Thatcher, Jaylen Thatcher and Charlie Urban-Mead
Altar Guild:	February 22: Team Number I March 1: Team Number II
8 a.m. Readers:	February 22: Debbie Belding and Lynne Koch March 1: Angela Henry and Grant Ferris
10 a.m. Readers:	February 22: Donna Beyer and Nancy Montero March 1: Wilma Tully and Sophie Ciferri
Ushers:	February 22: Bill and Regina Ardini

St. James' E-pistle

February 20, 2015

Pledge Clerks: March 1: Saira Shahani and Pat Keefe
February 22: Paul Littlefield and Dean Caswell

Parish Cycle of Prayer: March 1: Deb and Doug Belding
February 22: Doris Mack, Gordon and Virginia Mackenzie and Jim and Beth Matranga
March 1: Chris, Susan and Daniel McGlynn and Janet, Erin and Kaylene McKenney

Coffee Hour Hosts: February 22: Lenten Breakfast
March 1: Lenten Breakfast

This Week's Lectionary

Genesis 9:8-17

Psalm 25:1-9

1 Peter 3:18-22

Mark 1:9-15

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

Sermon Preached on
Last Sunday after Epiphany
(February 15, 2015)

We have an audio recording of Deacon Gail's sermon (see above),
but no hard copy.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY FAITH BUILD UPDATE

Our parish family through our Outreach Committee made a commitment to support the building of a new Habitat for Humanity house at 125 Garden Street in Poughkeepsie. We joined other churches in Dutchess County by each making a pledge of \$1,000. Together with the \$30,000 Habitat grant, our pledges would provide affordable housing for a family.

Last year many of us participated in the 2014 Habitat for Humanity's Lenten calendar raising slightly more than \$500 to help us towards fulfilling our pledge. This year we have created our own St. James' Church - 2015 Lenten calendar. The Outreach Committee is hoping to raise the remainder owed on our pledge through this Lenten calendar. The calendars are waiting for you to pick up; they can be found in the narthex of the church.

HELP is desperately needed in order for the house to be completed by Sunday, March 15th. Can you help? or do you know someone that can help? The following is a list of needs:

- *taping
- *installation of kitchen cabinets
- *installation of flooring
- *installation of front and back decks
- *painting

This house, the future home of Stephanie and her three children, was blessed on Friday, August 8th. Since then many, many hours of labor have been put into making this Faith Build a reality including the equity hours put in by Stephanie herself.

However, the final push to complete this house needs some knowledgeable leader workers and helpers! Please contact Maureen Lashlee at the Habitat for Humanity office, 5 Catharine Street in Poughkeepsie. The telephone number is 845-475-9336.

Habitat builds homes for families who are currently living in substandard housing conditions. Families must meet certain criteria in order to be eligible to become part of Habitat for Humanity's housing program.

Please keep this Faith Build Project in your prayers that it will be completed by March 15th; thus providing Stephanie and her young family a new home.

If you have any questions, please contact Joanne Lown or Deacon Gail.

Deacon Gail
on behalf of St. James' Outreach Committee



Roots & Branches: Programs for Spiritual Growth

THE REV. MASUD IBN SYEDULLAH TSSF, DIRECTOR

35 CIRCLE DRIVE HYDE PARK, NEW YORK 12538

PHONE: (846) 401-2790

EMAIL: INFO@ROOTSANDBRANCHESPROGRAMS.ORG

Parish Faith Formation Program Proposal for St. James' Church, Hyde Park

Lift Up Your Hearts: A Liturgy and Music Workshop in Celebration of the Easter Season

This workshop, for ALL who love music (*not only those who sing in choirs*), is very practical and inspiring as it demonstrates how liturgy can be more than just well-orchestrated services, but authentic experiences of worship through the creative and prayerful use of music, scripture, space, and silence. Come lift up your hearts in joyful praise!

Saturday, April 18, from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. (Including lunch)

St. James' Chapel

Donation: \$15

My Neighbor - A Gift of God: Relating to Those Who are Different from Us

Increasingly in today's world, we are challenged to think about and to interact with people who are different from us. Often we look upon anyone from another culture, race, or religion as "the other," "those people."

Come join us for an evening of fellowship, food, study, and discussion as we consider these and other questions: What does Christian spirituality offer us to be both faithful to God and appreciative of our neighbors? How might God want to use us to communicate the love of God to those of other cultures, and invite them into our midst?

This four-part Lenten program will meet Wednesdays:

February 25 - The World: Created by God, and is a Gift from God

March 4 - All People: Created by God, and are a Gift to the Planet and to Each Other

March 11 - God Loves: All People Equally, and Wants to be in Relationship with All

March 25 - We are Challenged: to be Secure in our Faith, Yet Hospitable to Others

6:00 p.m. until 8:30 p.m.

St. James Parish House

Bring your favorite dish to share!

This package is being offered to St. James' Church at the reduced cost of \$1000.00.

Like the trees, we are created to be firmly rooted in the ground of our being, the source of all, God.

And like their branches, we extend towards all the gift of life.

Website: rootsandbranchesprograms.org

