

St. James' E-pistle

March 7, 2014

Pulpit Notes

Brothers and Sisters:

We are now in the fullness of Lent. I hope you have picked up a Lenten Meditation booklet. I have read all the meditations and am deeply impressed. What I see is lives examined, the relationship with Christ questioned and beautifully pondered.

That's what Lent is - a time to look within, to look into our own souls in order to be able to better look into the face of God. It's only when you look at yourself honestly - not glossing over the places where you've hurt others or have gotten lazy or decided you just don't care about anyone else or have been greedy and selfish - it's only then that you can see what the church has been saying for the past 2,000+ years:

"I am not God. I would make a mess of things if I were God. I don't have to be God."

Not every person's meditation will speak to you directly - or at all. But every one of them expresses somebody's journey, somebody's struggle, somebody's love for this strange and confusing world God has given us.

One way to look deeper within is to go on a pilgrimage. We are having a "Rail Trail Pilgrimage" on March 29-30, beginning at the Hopewell Junction Trailhead and ending at Tony Williams Park in the Town of Lloyd. We will spend the night at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Poughkeepsie - they have graciously let us use their space.

There is walking involved, so be aware of that. However, the pace is gentle: it is time for reflection, not racing. There is a fee, but as with all things in the church, don't let that stop you. It is far more important for anyone who is interested to be able to participate.

I hope you will consider this pilgrimage as part of your Lenten practice.

Finally, I hope you have picked up a Habitat for Humanity Lenten Calendar. Not only is it a great goal - helping build a home for one of our neighbors - but it is a good discipline, adding just a little each day, pausing a moment to consider what it is that we have in this world and what it means. The other day when I was talking about the calendar, I discouraged people from simply writing a check - it is this daily adding of coins, the daily reflection - slow and painstaking as it may seem - that gives Lent its power.

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So Lent is here. I encourage you to engage in it fully. And I urge you to do so one day, on coin, one meditation, one prayer at a time.

In Christ,
Chuck+

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The News of the Church



SPRING FORWARD - To Breakfast! This Sunday is the beginning of Daylight Saving Time, so set your clocks ahead one hour! And yes, that means you will lose an hour of sleep. But we will make it worth your while by offering you delicious and comforting breakfast. Yes, our Lenten Breakfasts begin **this Sunday**, at 9:00 AM.

Shrove Tuesday Was Great! We had a great time at the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper! Thanks to all who came and especially thanks to the Vestry for hosting! We also want to offer special thanks to the Boy Scouts of Troop 80 for joining us to help serve and clean up (and decorate pancakes). Great Job!



Buildings and Grounds Meeting This Sunday: The Buildings and Grounds meeting is scheduled for **this Sunday**.

Pilgrimage Organizational Meeting This Sunday: The registration deadline for "Spirit Walk: The Rail Trail Pilgrimage" is **Friday, March 14th**. This lenten pilgrimage is great for folks of all ages, assuming they're ready and able to walk about twenty miles (at a leisurely

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pace) over the course of two days. There will be an organizational meeting after the 10 AM service on **Sunday, March 9th**. We will go over the trail and what you should bring - as well as what you can expect. This is the time to ask any questions! Brochures are in the narthex.

Ushers Meeting: There will be a meeting of all ushers on **Sunday, March 16th** following the 10 AM service. It should be a short meeting just to check in, make sure everyone is on the same page and go over some possible (modest) changes in ushering at St. James'.

Editor Wanted: We are looking for an editor for the monthly printed version of the parish news. This is a compilation of the pertinent news from the weekly E-pistle that is then mailed to parishioners who do not have access to e-mail. Diane Webb had done the job until she moved to Syracuse. Dyan Wapnick, our secretary, has been filling in since then, but that's not part of her job. She will, however, show you what the job entails and help you get started. Please call the parish office to volunteer.

Children's Community Chorus: St. Margaret's Church in Staatsburg is inviting all children between the ages of 8 and 13 to join their free, non-denominational Children's Community Chorus. St. Margaret's received a grant to form this group which is not only a singing group but a class intent on teaching all children how to read music. The idea is for the chorus to sing at various community concerts as well as once a month during St. Margaret's worship. If you would like more information, please call Fr. Allan Ford at 914-299-3148 or leave a message at 845-889-4181.

Please keep the following people in your prayers:

Ruth Blanding, John Bohlmann, Kathleen Craft, Michael Day, Jane Gagliardoto, Kasey Gaulin, Jack Gordy, Andy Hall, Harold Hall, Brooke Helton, Rev. Don Hoger, Dalton K., Barbara Knakal, Rosemary Leuken, Andrew Mendelson, Rev. Tim Millard, Clifford Plass, Gerald Plass, Deborah Porach, John Robinson, John Schroeder, Marty Schroeder, Richard Secor, James Sheeky, Naomi Sleight, Debbie Stone, Gloria Veach, Candace Vincent, Cassidy Way and Cliff Well, and also for the repose of the soul of Caroline Rizzo.

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

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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.

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| Birthdays: | Trayvn Triola and William Rance |
| Acolytes: | March 9: Bryanna Burkhardt, Chris Granados-Kramer and Travyn Triola March 16: |
| Altar Guild: | March 9: Team III March 16: Team III |
| 8 a.m. Readers: | March 9: Debbie Belding and Paul Littlefield March 16: Angela Henry and Grant Ferris |
| 10 a.m. Readers: | March 9: Regina Ardini/Sophie Ciferri March 16: Wilma Tully/Bobbie Wells |
| Ushers: | March 9: Bill and Regina Ardini March 16: Saira Shahani and Pat Keefe |
| Pledge Clerks: | March 9: Janet Bright and Joanne Lown March 16: Tanya Hall and Anna Marie Pitcher |
| Coffee Hour Hosts: | March 9: Lenten Breakfast March 16: Lenten Breakfast |

This Week's Lectionary

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

Psalm 32

Romans 5:12-19

Matthew 4:1-11