

St. James' E-pistle

August 9, 2013

Pulpit Notes

Dear Friends at St. James':

Our portion of Psalm 33 appointed for this coming Sunday begins, "Happy is the nation whose God is the Lord", which raises a question about how our nation is doing. As Christians we need to keep this question before us as we pray for our people and our government, for we are first and foremost citizens of God's Kingdom. Our vocation is to be sojourners. No nation, not ours, not Israel, is the Kingdom of God.

In his well-written book, "Christ and Culture", theologian and historian H. Richard Niebuhr has described four characteristic ways Christians have perceived our Lord's relationship to the cultures in which they have lived: the Christ of culture; Christ against culture; Christ the crown of culture; and Christ and culture in tension. We need to evaluate our stance in this generation—what will it be? Look for guidance from our Bishop.

Michael

For pastoral concerns while Fr. Chuck is on sabbatical, please contact Deacon David or Deacon Gail. This week, and until Fr. Chuck returns on September 1st, we warmly welcome Fr. Michael Shafer.

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The News of the Diocese

Please consider becoming a Hurricane Sandy Recovery Volunteer. Staten Island's recovery team's goal is to restore 40 houses by the end of December. Volunteers are needed to accomplish this.

In addition, please keep all of our brothers and sisters who are recovering from Sandy and other natural and man-made disasters in your prayers. Just because the news is not reporting it doesn't mean that our neighbors are not continuing to struggle with a disaster's aftermath. Recovery time can take years before a "new normal" occurs.

Please check out **Episcopal Relief and Development's** new website. Their web address is www.episcopalrelief.org Lots of interesting programs are going on as Episcopal Relief and Development works on our behalf to extend our hands into the wider community bringing hope to our neighbors throughout the world.

The Election of a Bishop Suffragan: On Saturday, December 7th, our Diocese will elect its next Bishop Suffragan.

Please keep all who are involved in the process in your prayers:

"Almighty God, giver of every good gift: Look graciously on your Church, and so guide the minds of all who shall choose a Bishop Suffragan for our Diocese, and all who offer themselves as candidates, 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."

2013 Training for Eucharistic Visitors & Eucharistic Ministers: Two training sessions have been scheduled for lay people chosen to serve as Eucharistic Visitors and Eucharistic Ministers. Both one day sessions will be given on a Saturday from 9:45 am to 2:30 pm, with lunch included. The fee for each participant is \$15.00, and scholarships will be available.

Training will be hosted on September 21, 2013 at Zion, Wappinger's Falls and at Christ Church of Ramapo, Suffern on October 5, 2013. If you wish to register, or have any questions about the training, please contact Arlene Bullard at abullard@dioceseny.org.

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Graveyard Tours. Tickets for this great event are available on the website at <http://stjameshistoricgraveyardtours.com>. If you're on Facebook, check out our new Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/StJamesHistoricGraveyardTours>.

Vacation Bible School—A Start to the School Year: With the goal of growing our children's ministry by making Sunday School a fun time to share with friends (and a special place for experiencing Jesus' love), we have decided to use this year's VBS program as a start to the school year.

Instead of an open house this year, we will hold a "Mooving" Welcome back celebration at our very own "Hay Day" farm in the parish hall. This will be open to all parish children and the community, pre-k up to 5th grade, on Sunday, September 8th from 9:00am to 2:00pm. A small portion of the program will even take place during the Sunday Service!

Please sign up by filling out the registration form at the end of this E-pistle and dropping it off in Church or calling the parish office. (Students over 5th grade who wish to help out and participate, can sign up too.)

Please invite your grandchildren, cousins, neighbors, and friends to a day of "Growing in Friendship with Jesus". Register at the church or call the parish office at 845-229-2820. Hope to see you there for an "udderly" good time!

Upcoming Sunday School schedule in brief:

August 18th – Teacher's Meeting – (following the 10:00 service.)

Sept. 8th – Sunday Bible School – Welcome back program – 9:00-2:00

Sept. 15th – First formal day of Sunday School classes. - 10:00am

Community Garden: Anyone is more than welcomed to come and visit and see for themselves how this wonderful Community Garden has evolved in just our second year.

Please keep the following people in your prayers:

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

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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:	Josh Bohlmann, Pat Holland, Deborah Gibson, Jeff Thatcher, Mary Gabel and Ashley Cotton
Acolytes:	August 11: Eden Ciferri August 18: Chris Granados-Kramer
Altar Guild:	August 11: Team Number I August 18: Team Number I
8 a.m. Readers:	August 11: Angela Henry and Gary Glancey August 18: Debbie Belding and Grant Ferris
10 a.m. Readers:	August 11: Wendy Urban-Mead/Sophie Ciferri August 18: Donna Beyer/Deidre Mae Micker
Ushers:	August 11: Kathie Champion and Mary Gabel August 18: Andrew and Tanya Hall
Pledge Clerks:	August 11: Janet Bright and Joanne Lown August 18: Tanya Hall and Anna Marie Pitcher
Coffee Hour Hosts:	August 11: No Coffee Hour until September August 18: No Coffee Hour until September

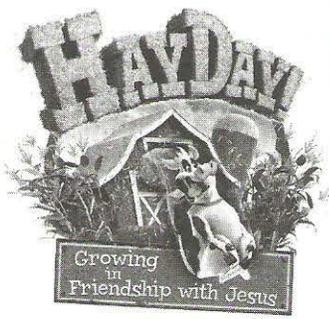
This Week's Lectionary

Genesis 15:1-6

Psalm 33:12-22

Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

Luke 12:32-40



St. James' Episcopal Church Registration Form

(One Per Child)

Child's name: _____

Child's age: _____ Date of birth: _____ Last school grade completed: _____

Name of parent(s): _____

Street address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Home telephone: (_____) _____

Parent/caregiver's cell phone: (_____) _____

Home e-mail address: _____

Home church: _____

Crew number or name (for church use only): _____

Allergies or other medical conditions: _____



In case of emergency, contact: _____

Phone: _____

Relationship to child: _____