Invitations & Information

March 31, 2019

Dear friends,

We are more than half way through our Lenten observance. Spring is in the air. Never mind temperatures near the freezing mark this week. I’ve seen tree buds in Central Park poised to work their magic. The most distinguished of sports has resumed as the Yankees opened their season. And the greatest festival of the year—the celebration of our Lord’s victory over death and the grave—is only a few weeks away. But I am getting ahead of myself. We are still in the middle of Lent; so let me curb my enthusiasm.

Lent is, after all, a season set apart for truth telling and honesty. We are invited to name, examine, and repent of the ways that we say no to Christ’s self-offering way of love in our lives. All of which is to say that Lent, honestly observed, is discomforting and challenging. We have to acknowledge our sin in order for it to be healed and forgiven.

In our Gospel reading this Sunday, we have Jesus’ parable of the prodigal son. In this story a father’s youngest son squanders his inheritance in dissolute living. He makes a mess of things. But in the mess of it all he falls to his knees and repents: “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you.” The father, filled with compassion, runs to his dear son who was lost and puts his arms around him and kisses him. This is the story Jesus is telling us in the middle of Lent. So, I take it back; I am not going to curb my enthusiasm. These are days full of hope and possibility. Easter is coming.

In Christ,

The Rev. Zack Thompson, Associate Rector

Today at St. James’

Lenten Forum series continues 10:30 a.m., Coburn Hall
The Rev. Ryan Fleenor continues our Lenten Forum series on discovering, nurturing and using our spiritual gifts, focusing on how we use those gifts with our families and coworkers.

Afternoon Bible Study 4:30 p.m., Sunderland Hall
Join us for this weekly, clergy-led Bible study; no preparation necessary! Today The Rev. Ryan Fleenor will guide us through the parables in Luke’s gospel.

Pastoring the Community Task Force
One initiative to emerge from our 2018 RenewalWorks survey was a new task force to discern new opportunities for partnership in serving our local community. This task force continues to meet, and we ask you to keep them in your prayers. Curious to learn more? Contact The Rev. Eva Saurez.

Every Sunday

Fellowship
- After the 9:10 a.m. service, coffee outside Coburn Hall
- After the 11:15 a.m. service, coffee in Sunderland Hall

Nursery Care available downstairs
Nursery care is available from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., during the 9:10 and 11:15 a.m. services, and the adult formation offerings.

Formation for all ages!
At St. James’, we believe that if you come here, you will grow. To learn more, visit the First-time Families podium in the Narthex.
- Toddler (ages 2-3) and Primary (ages 4 - 6) 9:05 - 11:00 a.m.
- Church School, Youth Group (grades 1-12) 10:15 - 11:00 a.m.
- The Forum 10:30 - 11:00 a.m.
- Afternoon Bible Study 4:30 - 5:30 p.m.

Healing Prayer
Is there something you would like prayer for — a joy or a concern, for yourself or someone else? Join our Healing Prayer ministers in the Chapel following worship at 9:10, 11:15 a.m., and 6:00 p.m.

New?

Start Here to Begin your Life in Christ
- Pick up a “Start Here” brochure and return the welcome card.
- “Meet me at the bell” (after 9:10, 11:15 a.m., and 6:00 p.m.)

Meet next to the bell at the back corner of the church for an informal conversation with a priest about what led you here and where you might be called to go in your spiritual life.
**Next Sunday: April 7**

The Fifth Sunday in Lent
Isaiah 43:16-21; Psalm 126; Philippians 3:4b-14; John 12:1-8

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist
Homily by The Rev. Ryan Fleenor.

9:10 a.m. Children’s Eucharist
Sermon by The Rev. Brenda Husson. The Canterbury, Junior & Youth, Primary, and Cherub Choirs offer the music of Terry Taylor and Jean A. Shafferman.

11:15 a.m. Choral Eucharist

6:00 p.m. Candlelight Communion

**Lenten Forum series concludes 10:30 a.m., Coburn Hall**
The Rev. Eva Suarez concludes our Lenten Forum series on discovering, nurturing and using our spiritual gifts with the question “So, what’s next?”

**April Parenting Forum 10:15 a.m., Sunderland Hall**
Dr. Nancy Ulrich will join us to talk about the delicate balance of healthy boundaries and increasing autonomy when children reach their teens. Dr. Ulrich is a therapist and professor with over twenty years of experience working with parents and teens.

**Afternoon Bible Study 4:30 p.m., Sunderland Hall**
Join us for this weekly, clergy-led Bible study; no preparation necessary! Next week The Rev. Ryan Fleenor will introduce Luke’s account of the Passion.

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**Bible Memorization Project**

**FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 31**

“Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?”—Isaiah 43:18-19

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**Lent 2019: Offering our best gifts**

We are delighted to share that over 380 households have offered financial commitments for 2019, helping us to reach 94% of our financial goal for the year. Thank you!

As important as the financial goal is (and it is!) we want, even more, for every parishioner to be “all in” as we offer our best gift for God’s work in this city. Visit stjames.org/2019commitment to make a commitment or stjames.org/give to set up a recurring weekly or monthly gift.

By offering our best gifts to God, we invest ourselves in building God’s kingdom on earth as it is in heaven.
Reconciliation and Renewal
As we focus in Lent on returning to right relationship with God, both individually and as a community, you may find that taking time to participate in the Rite of Reconciliation is a powerful experience of the Gospel. Also called “Confession,” it is an opportunity in our tradition to unburden ourselves by saying what’s true about our lives, to receive counsel and encouragement, and to hear from a priest we know and trust the promise of forgiveness that’s at the heart of Christian faith. Consider making an appointment with any of the clergy before Easter.

Baptism and Confirmation this Easter
Adults who are interested in being baptized at the Easter Vigil on Saturday, April 20, 7 p.m., or who might like to be confirmed or received into the Episcopal Church during the Bishop’s visit on May 12, should contact The Rev. Ryan Fleenor.

Lenten Bible Study
Matthew Learycraft, Lay Associate, leads a five week series on the Psalms and what they can teach us about a life of prayer. All are welcome. No preparation necessary.

Final Four
Saturday, April 6th, 5:30 p.m.
NCAA Final Four and other games for 5-12 graders. $5 suggested donation, dinner included. For questions or to RSVP contact Jeremy.

Easter Memorial Flowers
Would you like to honor or remember a loved one this Easter? Visit stjames.org/altarguild to make a gift to St. James’ Flower fund. Names received by April 5 will be included in the service bulletin.

Holy Week Schedule
April 14 – April 21
Visit stjames.org/easter for a full schedule of all our Holy Week services. Please note that the 9:10 a.m. Eucharist on Palm Sunday will begin at the 72nd Street entrance to Central Park.

2019 Parent’s Luncheon
Wednesday, May 8, 12:00 p.m.
St. James’ Church is pleased to host Jenna Bush Hager at our 2019 Parent’s Luncheon. Professional, wife and mother of two daughters, Jenna will share some of her insights into the most important aspects of parenting. Visit stjames.org/community/children-and-families/parents luncheon to register for this event.

Men’s Breakfast
Friday, May 10, 7:00 – 8:00 a.m.
Ray Suarez will be our speaker, a celebrated and award-winning journalist and author who is also active as a lay leader in the Episcopal Church. He also happens to be the father of our own Eva Suarez. The program will focus on issues especially pertinent to men of faith.

News & Notes

St. James Church Podcast Offerings:
- Sunday sermons and Forums are now available for download as podcasts. You can search for “St. James Church” in iTunes and on Google Play, as well as on Podbean, Stitcher and Tune-In. Like what you hear? Subscribe, rate or share with a friend.

Prayer List

Thanks be to God
- for the generosity of parishioners who have made pledges for 2019; and for all who share in the financial support of the parish.

Your prayers are requested
- for the observance of a holy Lent at St. James’, that in self-examination and repentance, we may receive the Gospel message of pardon and absolution, and celebrate with joy the Easter feast.
- for the members of the 2019 Catechumenate at St. James’, especially those preparing for baptism, confirmation or reception this Easter.
- for our partners at St. Vincent’s School and in the Diocese of Haiti, during this time of conflict and civil unrest.
- for members and friends of the parish who are sick, sorrowful, or in any kind of trouble: Donald, Henry, David, Terry & Mary Jane, Mal, Elona, Cynthia, Pam, Caroline & Michael, Walterene, James Edward, Joan, Lois, Brian, Michael, Janet, Eula Mae, Carol, Lilly, Laura, Ann & Ben, Bob, Chris, Amanda, Blanche, Victor, Valli, Charles, Seth, Jeannette, Alice, Iris, Sophie, Maria & her parents, Frank, Lisa, Carmen, Milton, Alice Mary, Andy & Sabra, Izabel, Rick, Peter & Dianne, Ben, Bill, John, Prune, the Kirkpatrick family, Tom, Douglas, Pelham, Anthony, Nancy, Zoey, Nadine, Isabelle & Viviane, Tracey, Kevin, Jeannette, Mary Fagan, Dorothy, Dorothy, Elnora, Harriet, Alex, Travers, Madge & Bill, Christopher, Margot, James, Peggy, Katharine, Jerry, Casey, John & Catherine, Ruth, Sandy, Dick, John, George, Peter, Jose, Laura, Pam, Barb, Craig, Megan, Grace, Matthew, Isabel, Kiley, Margaret, Barbara, MaryAnn, Bill, Carl Jandernoa family, Dale, Carol Sue, Robert, Jonathan, Ben, Bryce, James, Elena, Kelly, Mackenzie, Jason, Carter, Angelo, Kathryn, Teresa, Ben & Juergen, Liam, Ann, Aaron, Emily, Andrew, Charlie, Roger & Jovie, John, Monique, Susie, Cilla, Rich, Sharon, Janet, Julie, Behida, Ray, John, Diane, Frank, Karen & Craig, Gary, Aaron & family, Anita, Dwain, Helen, Caris & Blake, Charlotte, Peter, Nellie & Ray, Bill, Anne, Jason, Vicky, Ryan, Peggy, Bill, May Dean, Dorothy, Peg, Andrea, Monica, Chase, Jean, Kimberly, Alice, Claude, Matthew, Sarah, Steven, John, Paul, Blake & Pamela, Orville, Gabrielle, Pamela, Paula, Elena, Allison, Jane & Peter, Emily, Ann, Pat, Robert, Jorge, Shakiera, Brad, Connie, Ryan and the Malosh family, Jim, Karen, Olivia, Grace, Kim, Kenneth, Philip, Drew, Taylor, and Layla, Justin & Jennifer, Joseph (JP), Alexander, Florence, Duncan & Katie, Eleanor, Phyliss, Jennifer, Ivan, Gene, Uncle Bill and family, Suzanne, Elizabeth, Thomas, Lorraine, and Paula.
- for Church of the Incarnation, Manhattan, according to the Diocesan cycle of prayer.
- for the Church of the Province of the Indian Ocean, its ministries and people, and the Most Rev. James Richard Wong Yin Song, Archbishop, Province of Indian Ocean & Bishop of the Seychelles, according to the Anglican cycle of prayer.
- for our work as stewards of God’s creation, that we may use the earth’s resources rightly in the service of others, and be mindful of our connection to all living things.
- for the United States of America, for wisdom and grace for our leaders in the exercise of their duties, that the rights and dignity of all may be protected, and our nation be a blessing to other nations of the earth.
- for justice and peace in this city and nation; for those who serve the common good in law enforcement and the courts; and for the victims of racism, injustice, and intolerance.
- for all who are persecuted for their faith, including Christians in the Middle East; for all refugees and all who welcome and serve those in need.
- for members and friends of the parish serving in the Armed Forces, in the Diplomatic Corps, and with the U.N.; Tracy, Christian, Mads, Michael, Mark.

We commend to God’s never-failing care
- victims of war and violence throughout the world, including all victims of terrorism; all migrants and refugees who have died fleeing danger; and all those killed in the military service of our nation.
- all whom we love but see no more, including Diane Marie Porter.
St. James’ Church is a community that actively shares the love of Jesus Christ with each other, our city and the world.

Worship

SUNDAYS
8:00 a.m. · Holy Eucharist (Chapel)
9:10 a.m. · Family Eucharist
11:15 a.m. · Choral Eucharist
6:00 p.m. · Candlelight Communion

WEEKDAYS
M, T, Th, F 8:00 a.m. · Morning Prayer
Wed. 8:00 a.m. · Holy Eucharist
Mon. - Fri. 5:30 p.m. · Evening Prayer

CENTERING PRAYER
Tue. 6:00 p.m.
Wed. 12:00 p.m.
Fri. 12:00 p.m.

LECTIO DIVINA
Mon. 6:00 p.m.

Open for prayer and meditation
Sunday, 7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Mon. - Fri., 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Visit Us

PARISH HOUSE HOURS
Mon. - Fri., 8:00 - 9:00 p.m.
Wednesdays · 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

ST. JAMES’ CHURCH
865 MADISON AVE.
NEW YORK, NY 10021

To reach any of us during the week, or in case of pastoral emergency at any time, call 212-774-4200.

STJAMES.ORG

St. James’ is an Episcopal Church, a member of the worldwide Anglican Communion.