



Open Doors

The Newsletter of St. James Episcopal Church

November 2016



November 1 is the Feast of All Saints, one of the great feast days of the church year. Back in the time that the New Testament was written, it was customary to count

all those who followed Jesus as 'saints' - the word 'saint' in Greek simply means 'holy'; however soon the word 'saint' began to be used only for those people who achieved 'heroic sanctity.' As a result, a new feast was added the following day, the Feast of All Souls, which celebrates all who have died. As you travel through church history, you will find that in some periods the two feasts are celebrated separately, and other times they are combined.

Here at St James, our tradition has been to focus on All Saints. We celebrate the feast liturgically on the following Sunday (usually, anyway; occasionally we celebrate on the Eve of All Saints), singing those great hymns, "For all the saints" and "I sing a song of the saints of God" and having baptisms (or renewal of baptismal vows), as we will do on November 6. For the last few years we have also held an All Saints potluck supper, where we encourage everyone to dress up as their favorite saint. Some of the saints are well known (St Peter, St George)

and some less well known (St Guinefort, St Werburgh).

During the vestry meeting on Monday, some people commented on how hard it can be to think up a costume for a saint. So here are some ideas - in most cases, some sort of robe (you can always borrow one from the church) will suffice, with the addition of a prop related to the saints' symbol (more details can be found on wikipedia). Hopefully these will give you some ideas!



Saint	Symbol
Agnes	lamb
Alfege of Canterbury	axe
Ambrose	beehive, dove, ox, pen
Apollonia	palm branch and pincers or pliers
Barbara	tower and sword
Bridget of Sweden	book, pilgrim's staff
Brigid of Kildare	cow, crozier, Brigid's cross
Edmund the Martyr	quiver of arrows
Genesius	theatre mask

Juthwara	round soft cheese
Kevin of Glendalough	blackbird
Margaret of Antioch	dragon in chains
Martin of Tours	goose
Menas of Crete	two camels
Mungo	fish with ring in its mouth, bell, tree, bird
Swithun	broken eggs
Theodore	crocodile
Ursula	arrow

On a more solemn note, this year, beginning on All Saints Sunday, we will also begin the practice of remembering each week the anniversaries of the deaths of active parishioners. We sometimes do this, but it usually depends on someone giving flowers in remembrance. We have gone back ten or so years in our records, but if you know of church members who should be included, please let the office know.

Blessings,
Raewynne+

WARDEN'S COLUMN

Thanksgiving was always my father's favorite holiday. I often teased him that this was because he was born on that day, but the truth was that he loved it because it represented the harvest festival, a joyous celebration of the bounty of the earth. As we gather together this year let's give our prayers and thanks for our Lord's grace and His faithful shepherding of His sheep.

An additional reason to give thanks is the generosity of Sam White's offer to help lead us in formulating a plan for the repair and restoration of our church proper and our attendant buildings, better known as "Sustaining St. James". I would like everyone to be aware of just how productive

and rewarding the two roundtable discussions were on September 30th and October 1st. There were minutes taken so those who could not attend can catch up and participate in the months ahead. This is a parish-wide endeavor. We need all of you to share your thoughts and visions and expertise for the long term vibrancy and ministry of St. James Church.

As we gather together to give thanks and praise, let us give prayerful thought to walking the path laid before us.

*This is the day which the Lord has made:
Let us rejoice and be glad in it.
Psalm 118*

In peace and with faith,
Alex

STEWARDSHIP

On November 6 we will celebrate Commitment Sunday, the culmination of our exploration, when pledges will be completed and offered as an act of worship in response to all that God has provided. The Rector and the Vestry and Stewardship ministry team have set a goal of receiving 100% of pledge commitments from our worshipping community. If you have not already done so, please make a pledge by November 6 so that it can be included in this special offering.

- *Chris Mauro & Amy Jeffrey*
Stewardship Co-chairs

BIBLE STUDY

The Wednesday night bible study has been meeting every second week for the last couple of months, exploring how God is presented in the gospel of John. We welcome new members, whether you have been part of a bible study before or are totally new to it. The next meeting will be Wednesday, November 2 at 7:00 p.m. at the Rectory (15 Highland Ave, St James).

PRAYERS FOR OUR COUNTRY

Almighty God, to whom we must account for all our powers and privileges: Guide the people of the United States (or of this community) in the election of officials and representatives; that, by faithful administration and wise laws, the rights of all may be protected and our nation be enabled to fulfill your purposes; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (BCP p.822).

On Tuesday, November 8, we will elect a new President. On Election Day, the church will be open for prayer during polling hours, and during the morning Eucharist, we will focus our prayers on our country. As our bishop said, "God bless America must be our prayer, not merely a political slogan."

*Blessings,
Raewynne*

DIOCESAN CONVENTION

On November 11 and 12, Peter Cahill (delegate), Alex Rich (alternate), and the Rector will be attending our annual Diocesan Convention at the Marriott Hotel in Melville. Although a significant part of this time is spent in dealing with legislation,

it is also a wonderful opportunity to connect with other members of our diocese, and to hear how God is working in so many different ways on Long Island. We will also be involved in an afternoon of small group work as we explore the ways in which the diversity of races in our communities present both struggles and opportunities. Please keep us all in your prayers.

PROTESTANT CAMPUS MINISTRY AT STONY BROOK

As chair of the Board of Protestant Campus Ministry, I am delighted to announce that we have a new chaplain! He is the Rev. Isaias Ginson, an Episcopal priest who originally hails from the Philippines, went to seminary in Texas, and served there and in Guam (where his wife continues to work – she will join him here next year). He will work 20 hours per week on campus; we are hoping the diocese will find him a part time parish appointment as well. You can support this important ministry (which runs on a shoestring budget) by sending a donation to Protestant Campus Ministry, Attn: Karin Lynch, Treasurer, 17 Robin Hood Lane, Setauket, NY 11733

- The Rector

THANKSGIVING SERVICES

Thanksgiving is a time of year when we are reminded to give thanks for all that God has given us. As well as spending time with your family, we invite you to spend time with God. St James participates in the Annual Community Ecumenical Thanksgiving service, which will be held on Sunday, November 20, 7 p.m. at St. Andrew's Lutheran Church on Brookside Drive in Smithtown.

On Thanksgiving Day, we join with other local Episcopal congregations: services will be held at 10 a.m. in All Souls' Church on Main Street in Stony Brook and at St. Thomas of Canterbury Church on Brookside Drive in Smithtown.

ADVENT

Close on the heels of Thanksgiving, Advent begins on Sunday, November 27. We will have reflection booklets available from November 20.

THANKSGIVING AT THE FOOD PANTRY

November is a special month at the Smithtown Emergency Food Pantry! During the month, Thanksgiving baskets are made up for the clients. If you are able to donate turkeys or pies for the Pantry this year, it would be much appreciated. Donations are to be brought to the Pantry on Monday, November 21 for distribution that week. Speak to Pat Westlake for more information.

CHRISTMAS GRAVE BLANKETS

Once again we are offering the opportunity for our parishioners to purchase a grave blanket for their loved ones buried in another cemetery. The blankets are approximately 3' x 4', made of evergreens decorated with pine cones, white birch twigs, and red bows. The cost is \$30. You may place your order with the office before November 23. The Cemetery Committee will be decorating the blankets on Wednesday, December 7th, and they will be available for pick up after that.

AUTHOR TALK & BOOK SIGNING EVENT AT ST. JAMES

On Sunday, November 13 at 1 p.m. in the church, Regina Calcaterra, author of Etched in Sand, will be talking about her new book, Girl Unbroken, which was written with her sister, Rosie Maloney. There will be a Skype session in the church with Rosie, and a book signing and reception in Mills Hall.

Help is needed from parishioners to help set up, be there at the event, and to provide finger food and baked goods for the reception. Please contact me at 631-584-6628 or pkings20@optonline.net if you can help out.

- Pat Westlake

LOOKING AHEAD

There are a lot of events coming up in the near future at St. James. Here are a few of them:

- ***Pick-a-Star gift program** for homebound parishioners, our developmentally disabled neighbors, and those in local nursing homes.
- ***Adopt-a-Family gift program** for families selected by St. John's Episcopal Hospital outreach program.
- ***Bake-a-Batch for the Food Pantry** outreach program encourages donations of home baked cookies for the Smithtown Emergency Food Pantry during the month of December.

Be sure to watch the Sunday bulletins for more information on these Outreach programs.

NEWS OF THE PARISH FAMILY

Welcome to new parishioners **Tim and Rachel Stone** and their boys **Aidan** and **Graeme**, and to **Diane and Doug Ried**.

Welcome also to **Juliana Silano**, who will be baptized on All Saints Sunday, November 6.

Mike Neyssen, long time parishioner and member of the St. James Swingers group, passed away on October 26. Visitation will be held on Sunday, October 30 from 2 - 5 p.m. at the St. James Funeral Home on Middle Country Road in St. James. The funeral service will be at St. James Church on Monday, October 31.

Please keep Mike and his family, Polly, Michael, David and Linda in your prayers as they mourn his loss.

Paul Schmidt, father of **David Schmidt**, died on October 28 after an illness. Details of the funeral are being worked out at as of press time. Please keep David and his brother, Paul, in your prayers at this time.

NOVEMBER CALENDAR

- 1 Holy Eucharist 9 a.m.
All Saints Day Potluck 6:30 p.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 2 Knitters group 11:30 a.m.
North Suffolk Garden Club Board Meeting 4 p.m.
Bible study 7 p.m. at Rectory
- 3 N.A. meeting 7:30 p.m.
- 6 Commitment Sunday
Holy Eucharist I 8 a.m.
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.
Children's Formation classes
Food Addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 8 Holy Eucharist 9 a.m.

- Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 9 Knitter's group 11:30 a.m.
Lunch Bunch 12 N at Golden Dynasty
- 11 Diocesan Convention
- 12 Diocesan Convention
- 13 Regina Calcaterra Book Signing & Reception 1 p.m.
- 14 North Suffolk Garden Club 12N
Food Addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 15 Holy Eucharist 9 a.m.
Smithtown Book Club 7 p.m.
Recovery Group 7:30 p.m.
- 16 Knitters' group 11:30 a.m.
Challenger Teen group 6 p.m.
Bible study 7 p.m.
- 17 N.A. meeting 7:30 p.m.
- 20 Holy Eucharist I 8 a.m.
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.
- 21 Food addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 22 Holy Eucharist 9 a.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 23 Knitters' group 11:30 a.m.
- 24 **Thanksgiving Day**
- 25 Office closed
- 27 Holy Eucharist I 8 a.m.
Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.
- 28 Vestry meeting 7:30 p.m.
Food Addiction group 7:30 p.m.
- 29 Holy Eucharist 9 a.m.
Recovery group 7:30 p.m.
- 30 Knitters' group 11:30 a.m.
Clergy Quiet Day - diocese
Bible study 7 p.m.

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Donna Austin
Andrew Prentiss
Jack Harrington, Jr.
Edna Rousseau
Jennifer Lawrence
Jack Euler
Pat Westlake
Tony Bastin
Kristina Euler
June Davies
Michael Neysen, Jr.
Jack Harrington, Sr.

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Chris & Anita Sequino
Bob & Marty Scott
Jeremy & Kristen Dean



Happy Thanksgiving