

# St. James Parish

## Epistle



June 2020

### Rector's Message

*Thanks be to thee, O Lord Jesus Christ, for all the pains and insults thou hast borne for me; for all the many blessings thou hast won for me. Most holy Jesus, most merciful redeemer, friend, and brother: may I see thee more clearly, love thee more dearly, and follow thee more nearly, day by day.*

— Attributed to Richard of Chichester

I have, very recently, rediscovered the above prayer that has a couple of places of resonance. I did not know, until I became an Episcopalian, that the song from *Godspell* that I loved, *Day by Day*, was actually a revised setting, as it were, of a song from our Hymnal 1982 (as are quite a few pieces from that same musical, not so coincidentally). But a kind parishioner recently gifted me with a new copy of the St. Augustine Prayer Book which has been around since 1947 (originally from the Order of the Holy Fathers, now distributed and edited by Forward Movement). I love this particular Prayer Book which is full of wonderful “set” prayers, many of them from the Catholic tradition. One of the prayers that I don’t remember from earlier editions is the one above, attributed to Richard of Chichester, an English bishop of the middle ages. I have been meditating on this prayer a good bit of late, so much so that I have now set it to memory. For me the prayer says nearly everything we might want and/or need to say to God, in microcosm, through Christ. The prayer is full of thanksgivings to Jesus “for all the pains and insults” Christ has endured for my salvation, all the blessings Christ has given me, and acknowledging our Lord as the One who is “merciful redeemer, friend, and brother.” We often, in these times filled with worry, uncertainty, fear, pain and, for some, even death, forget gratitude for all God is, has been, will be and could be in our lives.

But the last part of the Richard of Chichester’s beautiful prayer asks for the wisdom, the strength, and the courage to see God in Christ more clearly, the strength to love Him more and more, and to follow Him in the path that He would have us go, more nearly, day, by day, by day. You see we continue to struggle, even as states like our own “reopen” and try to get back to something like “normalcy,” with the fear of the contagion that has plagued the world since, really, December of last year and, in the U.S., since February. We so much want things to go back to the way they were and for work, relationships, and church to be the things to us that they were before COVID-19 upended everything. What we might be asking ourselves, in addition to honoring the anxiety and fear we may be experiencing, is how might I live more fully into the blessings that I do have? How might I pray for gratitude to God for all that God has made me; done for me? How could my journey with God be seen as something I am doing with God, rather than against God or without God entirely?

God is ever-present, ever-loving, and always merciful. Perhaps we have to learn to pray again, in this strange season of upended or delayed dreams. I know that our seniors have missed out on much of the rites of passage that accompany finishing high school or college. I realize that nurses and doctors,

[continued on next page]

[Rector's Message continued]

custodians and respiratory therapists have been pushed to the breaking point and I cannot imagine the anxiety of health care workers in places like New York City, Rome, or Wuhan. We have lost a lot in the



last few months besides the freedom to move around, yes? But we have not lost God's goodness nor our ability to pray for God's guidance and to be thankful for all of God's blessings. Life often changes for, the better, in direct proportion to how we see God's goodness at work, even in bad times, times of uneasy change or anxiety. Life is, still, a gift and God's mercy, in the person of Jesus Christ, is the ultimate gift of new life. Here we are, still, in spite of it all. And thanks be to God for His mercy and redeeming love.

In Christ, George+

### Warden's Corner

The last time I wrote for the *Epistle* in March, the world was just beginning to close down. It's hard to believe that it has been two months that we have been "staying safe at home" in Connecticut. It is also important to remember that there are so many people that are unable to stay at home – our healthcare workers and all essential workers. My family has placed a wooden heart "thank you" sign in our yard to show that we are thinking of all who are working to keep us safe, but that is only a symbolic gesture and our gratitude for all the essential workers cannot be put into words. We continue to pray for those who have become ill with COVID-19 and those whose lives have been lost due to this terrible disease.

This is also really hard for those who are staying at home, although the journey for us is very different. Families are now spending all their time together, children are learning remotely and missing their schools and friends, and grandparents can no longer hug their grandchildren. We worry about where to get toilet paper, we can't leave the house without a face mask, and Facebook is now filled with postings that someone has found flour or hand sanitizer at a local store. For all of us, our lives have become much smaller and so different. Regardless of your situation, St. James is here for you. Father George is working hard to bring us our weekly Sunday service via Facebook Live, and he has been reaching out to as many parishioners as he can to check in. As we no longer see each other each week, it can be harder for us to know if someone needs extra prayers or some extra help. Please do not hesitate to reach out.

We do not know when we will all be able to be together once again in our physical church, but our church family remains strong. Whether it is the Vestry working hard (via Zoom) to ensure that we maintain our fiscal health during these trying times or the community gathering together for a joyous birthday parade for Chloe, the church is still a central focus for many of us. I can't wait to see everyone in person again but, until it is safe to do so, I will be staying safe at home and praying for all of you. Stay safe and healthy!

Kim Pereira, Co-Warden



## Stepping forward toward a re-opening

On June 21<sup>st</sup>, we plan to begin holding public, in-person worship at St. James Parish for the first time since March 15<sup>th</sup>. Houses of worship were not in the Governor's first phase of a four-phase plan to re-open Connecticut. Our Bishops and the Episcopal Church in CT (ECCT) have given us a good set of protocols and directions to follow, but also some latitude for us to do much of our own planning and strategizing about how we will reimagine public worship and what specific measures we will take to keep folks safe. I have discussed initial possibilities with the Vestry and am going through the process of detailed planning with assistance from the staff, some of our ministry heads, and other dedicated folk. Worship will feel and seem, for a long while most likely, very different than it has in the past. Social distancing (no touching at the Peace, etc.), the wearing of masks during worship, no congregational singing (at least in the beginning), and other sacrifices must be made in order for us to be safe and healthy together. We will share with you more specific ways and means of staying safe and healthy as we plan our return to public worship, as plans develop.

We also understand that for many it will be a while before you (and possibly your family) are comfortable coming to public worship. We completely understand!!

Anyone in a higher risk category (folks over 65, people with underlying conditions that might make them more vulnerable to illness) should prayerfully consider whether you should attend worship at all for the time being. We will not, however (and of course), not prevent anyone from coming that wishes to, as long as you are not currently sick or know that you are infected with COVID-19. It should go without saying that if you are feeling unwell on the day of worship or for several days leading up to worship, you should stay at home and attend to your needs. Some of you, regardless of your current health status, may choose to stay at home, too, which we also understand.



Everyone should decide for themselves, in terms of coming to public worship, what your present level of comfort is. We will do our best to reassure you with our preparation and plans, but want everyone to make decisions that feel right to them. We will continue to livestream worship on Facebook Live for the foreseeable future, long after we have begun public worship. We have a month to plan and prepare for us being together and we are delighted to hear from you with questions and thoughts. We are going to figure this out together and it will be a blessing just to have the possibility of being together again! Much more information will be forthcoming in the weeks ahead!!!!

## Summer Worship Schedule



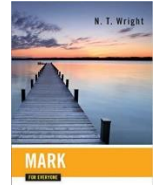
**Beginning Sunday, June 21<sup>st</sup>** and continuing through Labor Day weekend, we will continue with single Sunday worship service (Rite II). The time of the service is TBD, based on the results of the online survey emailed to our parish households on May 27<sup>th</sup>. NO nursery or childcare will be available during the summer. Weekday services continue: Morning Prayer on Monday at 10 a.m., Evening Prayer on Wednesday at 5:30 p.m., and Compline on Friday at 7:30 p.m.

## Your picture in a brochure or on the website?

St. James Parish uses candid photos of various church activities on our website and in publications (like this *Epistle*). If you prefer that your photo NOT be displayed, please contact the parish office; we maintain a list of members whose likeness is not to be shared.

## Adult Christian Formation

We are working with N.T. Wright's study guide, *For Everyone*, for our exploration of the Gospel of Mark. **During this time of challenge and social distancing, we will hold Bible Study at 11:30 a.m. each Sunday morning via livestream on Zoom. Look for e-flash reminders each Friday!**



## Church school updates

Wishing all our Church School families a safe and enjoyable summer! Although we had to halt classes, we send a HUGE thank you to Joyce B., Amy G., Mimi H., Evan L., Tracey R., Michael S., Laura V., and Jessica & Joseph W. for sharing their time and faith with the children of St. James. Our hope is to see some returning and new faces teaching in the Fall to engage our youth in exploring and their faith.

Thank you and blessings for a wonderful summer!!

*Julia Grieco*

## Youth Ministry Updates

Wow! Another church school year in the books! This year looked much different than anyone was expecting, but we still had a wonderful year! The youth of the parish had two successful Youth Sundays (including one virtually) and raised money for Heifer International! We went snow tubing, went to a corn maze, connected with God and each other! I want to thank all those who supported the youth (and me) this year, and I am already looking forward to and planning for next year!



We will have our Confirmation Information Session, virtually, on **Sunday, June 7<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 a.m.**, to learn more about next year's confirmation program and the requirements/expectations! We will provide more information with regards to a Zoom link, when June 7<sup>th</sup> gets closer!

Enjoy your summer, even if it looks a little different, and I will hopefully see you all in the fall!

*Amy Steele, Youth Minister*

## Thank you all who supported the Walk Against Hunger!

Thank you very much to those that contributed to this year's 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Foodshare Walk Against Hunger. As you know, the Walk itself did not take place due to Covid-19 and orders from our State government to stay home and practice social distancing. However, your support will provide immediate relief for families struggling with hunger. It will also support long-term efforts to promote health, stabilize lives and address underlying issues that contribute to hunger. Last year alone, Foodshare was able to provide enough food for more than 11 million meals to help our friends and neighbors in Greater Hartford.



All funds raised by our team will go directly through Foodshare to our sister ministry at New Britain's Friendship Service Center. All of your contributions are greatly appreciated.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Sheila Church, Captain, St. James Healers

## Farmington Food Pantry June Collection

Every year the St. James family has committed to providing non-perishable food items, household items and cash to the Farmington Food Pantry for the months of January and June. The Farmington Food Pantry and the 200+ local families that it currently serves depend greatly on these donations. Each month the pantry provides deserving families with 7,000+ pounds of non-perishable items.



All clients are pre-qualified through Farmington Social Services (FSS). Clients may shop at the Food Pantry twice a month, making an appointment through FSS. The St. James Outreach Ministry thanks you for your generous and continued support of the Farmington Food Pantry.

During this time of COVID-19 the Pantry is NOT accepting food donations, but instead is asking for monetary donations which then are used to purchase food through Foodshare or in bulk for their clients each month. Please mail in your checks made out to *St. James Parish* with *Food Pantry* in the note and we will gather the funds together for a single larger donation to the Pantry in this time of special need.

## Celebrating June birthdays

Matt Brockman  
Bruce Brown  
Olivia Paré  
Owen Wahl  
Rocco Guglielmo  
Wendy Ives  
Josh Martin  
Sarah Torrence



Ed Preneta  
Joey Guglielmo  
Rocco Guglielmo  
Tracey Roberts  
Gideon Pereira  
Lisa Solomon  
Mark Riemer



## Can you shed light on our sanctuary light's history?

We have a question that maybe some folks who have been at St. James in a while might be able to answer. Sometime in the 1970's or 80's, we are not certain, a new "sanctuary light" ("Light of the Eternal Presence" as I call it) was made by Henry Mason, Sr. Henry, as we understand it, made the structure of the lamp (which hangs near the altar, on the left as you face the altar) and someone else made the beautiful stained glass panels that ring the outer portion of the lamp (see photo). Please give Fr. George a call (860-558-8110) if you have information on when the stained glass was made and even more importantly, by whom. We're touching base with some prior rectors to see what they have to offer as well. As we approach our 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2023 we are trying to put together more information about our church and post certain things on the website. Please share with us what you may know!!



## St. James Got Talent returns!

SJGT is back again this year with a whole new look! On Friday, June 5<sup>th</sup> at 5 p.m. we will join together on Zoom for a fun happy hour where people can share their talents and connect with each other in community! Donations will be collected throughout the Talent Show and for the week afterwards as well.

We will be showcasing talents of all kinds and can be presented in multiple ways. Acting, skits, and poems can be read live! Acts with music and dancing can be recorded beforehand and will be presented during the show. Finally, any other talents that normally would not be able to be celebrated during the Talent Show will be shown via a photo slideshow (so if you have a knack for knitting, gardening, cooking, etc.), just send us a picture of your best work! Other ideas might be a cool sports trick, gymnastics, hula hooping, etc. If you have a talent, we want to see it! We will be hosting this event through Zoom and FB Live!

If interested in performing, please email [amy.sjyouthminister@gmail.com](mailto:amy.sjyouthminister@gmail.com) with

1. Type of act
2. If you will perform live, via video, or via photo

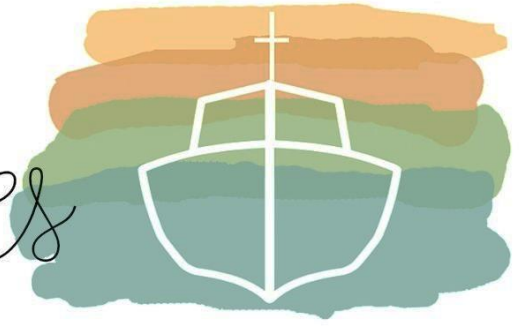
If interested in watching/donating

1. Start planning your favorite happy hour drink and/or snack
2. Look for specific links and donation information to come!

With times ever changing, we are combining two of the great events at St. James, our talent show and Dominican Republic service trip fundraiser! All proceeds from our SJGT will be shared between the Youth Fund and Dominican Development Group!



*Saint James*



GOT TALENT!

You're invited to participate or attend our annual talent show! Grab a drink and join the fun!

FRIDAY, JUNE 5TH

AT 5:00PM

ON ZOOM AND FB LIVE!

Funds will support the Youth Fund and the Dominican Development Group

VIRTUAL HAPPY HOUR  
AND FUNDRAISER



# WE WANT ANY AND ALL TALENTS!

TALENT WILL BE SHARED VIA ZOOM AND FB LIVE AND TALENTS  
REQUIRING SOUND/EXTENDED TIME WITH BE SHARE VIA VIDEO  
OR PHOTOS DURING THE SHOW!

## **Perform Live:**

- Acting
- Poetry
- Sign Language
- A cool sport trick!
- Magic Tricks

## **Send a photo or video to be shared:**

- Singing/Music
- Dancing
- Art
- Gardening
- Cooking
- Sewing/Knitting
- Anything else **YOU** consider to be your talent



## From the Prayer Team

From time to time, the Prayer Team shares what we have found helpful, in the hopes that you may find it helpful, too...

This prayer reminds us to look for ways to put Love into action.

### *A Prayer for our Uncertain Times*

May we who are merely inconvenienced remember those whose lives are at stake.

May we who have no risk factors remember those who are most vulnerable.

May we who have the luxury of working from home remember those who must choose between preserving their health and making their rent.

May we who have the flexibility to care for our children when their schools close remember those who have no options.

May we who have to cancel our trips remember those who have no safe place to go.

May we who are losing our margin money in the tumult of the economic market remember those who have no margin at all.

May we who settle in for a quarantine at home remember those who have no home.

As fear grips our country, let us choose love.

And during this time when we may not be able to physically wrap our arms around each other, let us find ways to be the loving embrace of God to our neighbors. Amen.

Fr. Michael Graham, S.J.  
*Jesuit Resources.org*

### **St. James Prayer Team ... Praying together for you**

Always available, always confidential

Armen Slusarz  
Carol Kirkwood  
Donna Paye  
Pat Clark

## **2020 St. James Annual Fall Fair cancelled**

In consultation with the Vestry, the decision has been made not to go forward with plans for the Fall Fair this year. However, we hope, fingers crossed, to enjoy the Fair again on the first Saturday in October, 2021!

For now, the COVID-19 outbreak has caused us to re-consider the feasibility of inviting the public into our relatively small space, to eat, to shop, and to interact with one another. And the possibility of a second wave of the virus in the Fall has to be considered.

And so it is with an abundance of caution, and desiring to make a responsible decision for our parishioners, our vendors, and the public, that we will skip this year's Fall Fair. While none of us can predict the future, we will hope for the best, and hope to resume next year.

One more thing: As you may be aware, the proceeds from the Fall Fair (averaging about 3,500) go entirely to St. James' Outreach programs. If you are able, please consider the amount ordinarily spent at the Fair, and this year earmark it directly to St. James Outreach ministries. Right now, there are many in need of our help.

# June 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5 7:30 Compline	6
7 HE 10:15 11:30 Confirmation Info Meeting via Zoom; Bible Study via Zoom	8 10:00 Morning Prayer	9	10 HE 12:00  5:30 Evening Prayer	11	12 7:30 Compline	13
14 HE 10:15 11:30 Bible Study via Zoom	15 10:00 Morning Prayer  Summer Epistle submission deadline	16	17 HE 12:00  5:30 Evening Prayer	18 7:00 Vestry	19 7:30 Compline	20
21 HE 10:15 11:30 Bible Study via Zoom  TIMES TBD	22 10:00 Morning Prayer	23	24 5:30 Evening Prayer	25	26 7:00 AA 7:30 Compline	27
28 HE 10:15 11:30 Bible Study via Zoom  TIMES TBD	29 10:00 Morning Prayer	30				

## *St. James Parish*

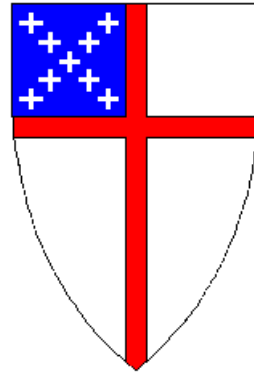
3 Mountain Road  
Farmington, Connecticut 06032

Phone: 860-677-1564

Fax: 860-677-8219

Email: [st.james.church@sbcglobal.net](mailto:st.james.church@sbcglobal.net)

Website: [www.stjamesfarmington.org](http://www.stjamesfarmington.org)



### **MISSION STATEMENT:**

*We welcome all to worship and nurture spiritual growth through faith, grace and reason.  
We reach out to those in need as a caring community  
and live Christ's teaching to love one another.*

STAFF		OFFICERS		
The Rev. George C. Roberts	Rector	Kim Pereira & Dona Waugh, Wardens		
Amelia (Amy) Steele	Youth Minister	EJ Ososki, Treasurer		
Blake Hansen	Director of Music	Jerry Hess, Asst. Treasurer		
Susan Deming	Parish Administrator	Jessica Watkin, Parish Clerk		
Kelly Nauss	Sexton			
Laura Vacca	Nursery Supervisor			
		2020	VESTRY 2021	2022
		Julia Grieco	Mimi Hostetter	Thomas Nelson
		Rebecca McFarland	Kim Pereira	Foster White
		Dona Waugh	Robyn Shover	James Wilkie

## *St. James Parish*

3 MOUNTAIN ROAD  
FARMINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06032

### **ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

