

Founded in 1880, St. James of Jerusalem Episcopal Church is a lively, inclusive Anglican Catholic parish in the heart of the historic district of Long Beach, New York. Our doors are open to all!

Cross Talk



WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Sundays:

8:00 am Low Mass (Rite 2)
9:00 am Adult Bible Study
10:00 am High Mass (Rite 2)
Healing, 2nd Sundays

Children's Sunday School meets during the 10 am Liturgy of the Word

Wednesdays:

11:15 am Morning Prayer

Thursdays:

6:30 pm "Bible & Bread"
At the Vicarage. Please call the church if you plan to attend.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) is made available prior to the major feasts of the church year, as announced. Contact the Vicar privately at other times.

Baptisms and weddings are arranged with the Vicar and require a commitment to the Christian faith and way of life.

PARISH LEADERSHIP

The Rt. Rev. Lawrence Provenzano
Bishop of the Diocese of Long Island

The Rev. Dr. Christopher King, SCP
Vicar

Marco Gargiulo
Senior Warden

Robert Cottrell
Junior Warden

Denise Lenci
Treasurer

Bishop's Committee:

Suzanne Aiosa
Linda Baessler
Ann-Marie Brantley, *Secretary*
Sarah Brewster
Jules Cavanagh
Wally Caven
Brian Foote
Donald Fraser
David Horvath
Nancy-Laurel Pettersen

Dr. Denis Nicholson
Organist

*Open minds & open doors,
in the heart of Long Beach*

St. James of Jerusalem Episcopal Church

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The Newsletter of St. James of Jerusalem Episcopal Church, Long Beach, New York

"I have said these things to you so that your joy may be full!"

The Roman Catholic lay theologian G.K. Chesterton wrote: "Seriousness is not a virtue. It is really a natural trend or lapse into taking one's self gravely, because it is the easiest thing to do. For solemnity flows out of men naturally; but laughter is a leap. It is easy to be heavy: hard to be light. Satan fell by force of gravity." (*Orthodoxy*, p. 104)

It is the Gospel's insistent message that Jesus came among us not merely so that we might have life but so that we might have a life worth living: "I have said these things that your joy may be full!" (John 15:11) It should come as no surprise, therefore, that even the Lord's work of redemption isn't finished with

the Resurrection, when his Life rises out of our death. It is only His Ascension into heaven that completes it, when the Lord's levity rises high above, and reverses, our gravity – the downward pull that has weighed on our hearts since the Fall. Our salvation fully blossoms and bears fruit when it is crowned by Sovereign Joy.

"Angels can fly," Chesterton said, "because they take themselves lightly." What do you think might happen if you and I took ourselves more lightly, too?

In the Great Joy of Christ Jesus,
Father Chris King +



ST. JAMES' GETS A NEW ROOF!

A new roof was installed on the church and the rectory during the first week of Easter. Over the past year, it became obvious that the old roof was deteriorating, a fact confirmed by this year's severe winter storms.



The process began with tearing off three layers of old shingles, weighing in total more than 10,000 pounds! Any wood that had deteriorated – a particular problem at the rectory – was removed and replaced. A new layer of shingles in "weathered wood" color was laid over the whole parish complex. Finally, new panels were installed in the bell tower, replacing all the old panels, most of which had lost one or more slats to the winds.

The vestry wisely chose not to defer this important maintenance project. The entire project stayed within budget, at a cost of \$20,221. We are blessed that we were able to pay for the project outright. Even so, it was necessary to spend nearly 50% of our parish savings.

Please consider making a special offering to the St. James' Building Fund. Your gift will help St. James' recover from this expenditure and put us on a more confident footing for the future.

PARISH MISSION TO NEW ORLEANS

Wally Caven writes...

On April 18, Jackie Neglia, Ethan Kemler and I journeyed to New Orleans to join a group of Christian volunteers from Buffalo, NY. Our mission was to share the love of Christ by victims of Hurricane Katrina. Yes, even though Hurricane Katrina hit New Orleans five years ago this August, there is still wide-spread devastation. Many homes in the poorer areas are still un-inhabitable and the dis-

possessed families are living with relatives, in trailers, or elsewhere. Many families had to split up in order to find places to live.



Wally Caven, Jackie Neglia, & Ethan Kemler enjoy a relaxing moment in New Orleans

Mold Remediation, not an easy task – Our group broke up into three teams to work on three houses. Ethan and I worked on the Ruby Marignay home and Jackie worked with a different team doing the same work – mold remediation – the first part of re-building. It's a three step process that involves extensive treatment (*cont. next page*)

of every square inch of the house. It took our team of 10 people 3 days working in hot dusty conditions to complete it.

I got much more out of this than I put in. Everywhere we worked people greeted us with warmth and heartfelt appreciation for our efforts. Some are understandably skeptical when a team of northerners descend on their street to begin working, but mostly the people I met were hopeful of a better tomorrow.



Robert Greene hugs members of the mission team.

We met a man named Robert Greene who lost his home, elderly mother, and young granddaughter to the flood water. He's now living in a home built on the site where his original home once stood. It's one of the homes built by the efforts of the Make it Right Foundation. Mr. Greene was able to remember the past but move forward with a positive outlook and good feelings toward all those (and the rest of us) that helped get him and his family back together in a new home in the 9th Ward.

This experience was a real eye opener for me. I'll be going back – there's a lot yet to do in New Orleans. I feel a little guilty that I haven't gone sooner. I think I need to look around Long Beach, too. I'm sure there's someone here who could use a little help.

Jackie Neglia writes...

The spirit of the people of New Orleans is so amazing! In the face of so much devastation, smiles come through. They need so much help. We were told it may take fifteen years to get their lives, homes and communities back to normal.

This mission experience was like no other. New Orleans encompasses such faith, hope and love: a spirit that I never want to leave me. It was heartbreaking, heartwarming and motivating all at once. In giving, I feel blessed to be able to help and have been thanked many times. I loved every minute of the trip. I didn't want to leave, and I definitely want to go back. ☘

Spring Adult Confirmation Class 2010

Pray for St. James' parishioners being confirmed or received into the Episcopal Church this spring...

- Jason Blumenthal – *to be received*
- Brian Foote – *to be received*
- Monica Foote – *to be confirmed*
- Marco Gargiulo - *to be received*
- David Horvath – *to be confirmed*
- Valerie Conlan Horvath – *to be received*
- Richard Mackney – *to be confirmed*
- Moses Powell – *to be received*

The Rite of Confirmation will be Saturday, June 19 at 11 am, at the Cathedral of the Incarnation in Garden City.

THURSDAY NIGHT "BIBLE & BREAD"

*Soup and Scripture
Bread and the Word
He comes as we puzzle
Partake and emerge.*



The Bible Study Group discusses John 13: "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another."

Learning to listen to the Word through the ears of the group. Getting to know each other by sharing a meal. The encouragement is that there are no right answers - no right way of receiving from the Lord. Somehow the bits pieces and questions work together for the good of all of us in the safety that is all of us.

Each Thursday, the gospel for the next Sunday is meditated upon and discussed – each of us gaining from the other... just as our meal is a combination of textures and flavors – one enhanced by the next. Not from one hand alone but partial acts transforming us to the complete. Join us.

Call Father Chris and come as you are!

– *Suzanne Aiosa*

STEWARDSHIP NOTES

Here are some significant numbers from the 1st Quarter of 2010:

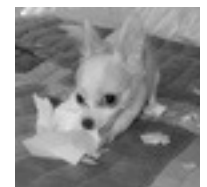
| | 2010 Jan-Apr | 2009 Jan-Apr |
|-----------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Pledge income | \$15,396 | \$12,701 |
| Plate offerings | \$2,515 | \$914 |
| Special gifts | \$3,000 | -- |
| Roof fund | \$1,294 | -- |

So far this year, pledges and tithes have increased 21% over 2009, while plate offerings gone up very strongly, by 275%. However, net income through April (income minus expenses) is down (-\$12,380) due to the cost of the new roof (\$20,221). We should keep this in perspective. Were it not for your consistent giving this year, our situation would be much more challenging than it is.

By the grace of God, we are witnessing a promising trend towards creating the financial well-being that St. James' needs to carry out its mission in years to come.

Even so, there is still so much more to accomplish! Please give prayerful thought to how your financial stewardship can help this parish grow and thrive. And then take action, either by pledging, increasing a current pledge or contributing to the building fund. ☘

Lily suggests a few improvements to Father Chris' sermon.



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEWS

Our Children's Ministry Program is chock full of exciting projects this Spring!

For starters, we are halfway through First Solemn Communion instruction. Each week, eight children meet with Fr. Chris, Nicky Fader and other adults for their lesson. Each lesson focuses on one part of the service of Holy Eucharist. There is reading, a discovery activity in the church, a craft project and snack time.



First Communion Class creates our welcome message: "We're a small family with a big heart!"

The First Solemn Communion celebration will be on May 16 at the 10 am Mass.

This will be in addition to the weekly Scripture lessons from the Sunday Paper Junior study bulletin. Each Sunday, the children enjoy coloring their lessons as we read them aloud. The youngest members of our congregation are also learning their prayers, and the meanings of some of the special words that are used in services.

We also now have a beautiful dedicated children's area for the Sunday School in the undercroft. This space was especially designed with kid-friendly furniture. Amy Kuna donated a large area rug with a "cosmic" theme. Special thanks to those who made donations of furniture and funds for this area to be possible.

Finally, several of the St. James Sunday School teachers (Nicki Fader, Amy Kuna, and I) attended a "Church Safety"

ONLINE BIBLE STUDY: A NEW EPISCOPAL RESOURCE

The study of Scripture is basic to the Christian life. Now the Episcopal Church has harnessed the Internet to allow Episcopalians to participate in Bible study by posting comments and thoughts on each week's Sunday readings from the Revised Common Lectionary.

The complete weekly readings are posted along with study questions and reader comments at www.episcopalchurch.org/107902_116094_ENG_HTM.htm.

"The simple act of sharing our understanding of a Biblical passage with others is powerful. This exchange of ideas and observations has become, for me, personally, a remarkably helpful catalyst in growing my faith," says Mark Harbour, a volunteer and regular contributor from the Diocese of Los Angeles.

According to its mission statement, the online weekly Bible study intends "to grow an active, web-based community of laity and clergy to share insights and perspectives from the Episcopal Church's Revised Common Lectionary (RCL) Sunday readings."

Its vision is "to develop a deeper understanding of the Bible and to foster spiritual growth by applying the understanding

Certification Program last month in Garden City, at the theological school of the diocese. It was an informative evening, and are looking forward of continuing our commitment of providing quality Episcopal education to our happy and energetic kids!

– Valerie Conlan Horvath

First Solemn Communion for Children



The Celebration of First Solemn Communion for Children will take place on the Sunday after Ascension Day, May 16 at 10 am.

Remember to pray for our candidates:

- ☼ Joseph Cavanagh
- ☼ Sydney Caven
- ☼ Nico Fader
- ☼ Ryann Hoffman
- ☼ Maya Hult
- ☼ Lily Kuna

A big shout out to Michael Cavanagh for assisting at every one of our classes!

The First Communion Class will have an honored place at Holy Eucharist, help to lead the Lord's Prayer after the Eucharistic Prayer and show all of us how to venerate the Blessed Sacrament.

Communion bread and the Altar Frontal will also be made by the class.

A reception will follow in the Gethsemane Garden after the service.

gained from lectionary readings to daily life."

The online Bible study also offers a downloadable list of weekly readings for the current lectionary year, which facilitates not only online participants but congregational Bible study groups as well.

A special feature of the online Bible study is the weekly focus verse, designed for readers who want to participate but don't have time to review all the lectionary readings each week. Highlighting a single verse or a few short verses from each week's gospel selection allows even those with busy schedules to ponder a single sentence or two.

For example, for the sixth Sunday of Easter (May 9), the designated RCL readings are: Acts 16:9-15 Psalm 67 Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5 John 14:23-29 or John 5:1-9.

The Bible study focus verse is: "Jesus said to him, 'Stand up, take your mat and walk.' At once the man was made well, and he took up his mat and began to walk. Now that day was a sabbath" (John 5:8-9).

For more information about the online coordinator Sarah Johnson at sjohnson@episcopalchurch.org.

ST. JAMES' AND ME

My husband and I were "shopping" for a new church 14 years ago. A bizarre set of circumstances had us with a newborn son and a Catholic church passing judgment and dismissal of our choice of godparents. The pastor had such a bad attitude simply because they weren't registered at a particular church.

I remember a pre-baptismal meeting where he said he was tired of Catholics where he hatched, matched and dispatched them. I found this disturbing since I *actually* was at mass each week. Could it be that the Catholic church didn't want my son because of who we wanted as his godparents?

On a cold, rainy night in March 1996, Fr. Bowman welcomed us into his home and St. James. He was so warm and enthusiastic. I immediately felt I could trust him. I wonder what he was thinking as I voiced my fears of hell for leaving the "other church".

He listened as I rattled on about my anger. I didn't really want a new church, I wanted my old church to want me.... On and on I ranted. I believe in the wrath of God and felt surely He was not happy with what I was doing.

Fr. Bowman soothed my fears. He encouraged me to keep coming back and to see if this was the right church for us and more importantly, for our son, whose soul still needed

to be baptized! So we returned for months until it felt like home.

A few years ago, I think it was during the summer, a guest priest showed up to fill in (during those dreaded years after Fr. Bowman left and each week someone new was on the altar). He was really interesting in a cool, hip way. He spoke about being spiritual in the mundane things you do every day. He threaded gospel themes into stories about his life, his passions, his failures. I was mesmerized – is this what religion was all about? I thought about this for quite a while.

I don't remember how long after that Sunday that Fr. Chris came to stay at St. James. It was a turning point in my life. In all the years I had been at St. James, I referred to my kids as Episcopalian, but left out what I considered myself. His sermons on Sunday touched a deep point in my soul. In small ways, every week, I was trying to change. Into what, I wasn't sure, but there was something missing. THEN HE SAID IT. "Was anyone interested in being confirmed or received into the Episcopal church, please see me after Mass". The NEXT STEP had arrived – 12 years after we walked into St. James out of the rain. I was received into the church two years ago this June. It's a journey that is still in the beginning stages, but today I say I am an Episcopalian and belong to St. James.

– Jules Dettmer Cavanagh

STATIONS OF THE CROSS MEMORIAL GIFT

An anonymous donor has given us a beautiful set of fourteen Stations of the Cross and invites other members of St. James' to enhance this gift by dedicating each station as a memorial or tribute. An engraved memorial plate will be attached to each station so dedicated.

Station I – Jesus is condemned to death

The gift of Nick & Gloria Primavera
In memory of the Mangini and Primavera Family

Station II – Jesus takes up his Cross

The gift of Linda Baessler
In memory of William C. and Lorraine Smith

Station III – Jesus falls the first time

The gift of Linda Baessler
In memory of Darlene Wells

Station IV – Jesus meets his afflicted mother

The gift of Kim M. Abramson
In memory of Ellen Richards

Station V – The Cross is laid on Simon of Cyrene

The gift of Linda Baessler
In memory of Robert Baessler

Station VI – Veronica wipes the face of Jesus

The gift of Rob and Lenore Fleming
In honor of Wilma Nuetzman

***Station VII – Jesus falls a second time**

Station VIII – Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem
The gift of Chris Skrha
In memory of Emily & Joseph Skrha

Station IX – Jesus falls a third time**Station X – Jesus is stripped of his garments*****Station XI – Jesus is nailed to the Cross*****Station XII – Jesus dies on the Cross**

Station XIII – The body of Jesus is laid in the arms of Mary
The gift of the Fleming Family
In memory of Honora Fleming

Station XIV – Jesus is laid in the tomb.

The gift of Father Chris King
In Memory of JR & Loraine Mitchell

The requested donation is \$100 or more. Some donors have far exceeded the request, and have already given more than \$3000 total so far! We are grateful to them.

If you wish to dedicate one the five remaining Stations, please contact Father Chris at FrChrisLongBeach@me.com. Forms are also available on the information table near the church entrance.

* Available for dedication

INQUIRING MINDS AND SELF DISCOVERY

On the afternoon of Sunday April 10th. Father Chris began a four-week "Inquirer's Class" focused on the history, traditions, and meaning of the Episcopal worship. Structured as a "springboard" for deeper learning and appreciation of the Anglican tradition, the classes examine many of the fundamental concepts of our faith as well as our personal understanding of them.

Topics covered have included the Gospels, early Church history, the monastic traditions in the medieval Church, the formation of the Church of England, the establishment of the Book of Common Prayer (BCP), the Rule of Life, Vocations and the Sacraments. In addition to the highly intensive and interactive weekly classes, Fr. Chris assigned research and reading projects to enhance the course.

More than a chance to gain deeper understanding of the Episcopal faith and what traditions led to its establishment and expansion throughout the world, Inquirer's Class has given us a deeper relationship with God and His work through the Church, the liturgy, the BCP and other persons. Through stimulating discussion and at times, pensive introspection, those of us who have attended have been re-



Members of our Inquirer's Class

warded with a special opportunity to engage in a rich dialogue about our religion with both Fr. Chris and our fellow parishioners. One of our recent conversations, for example, focused on how we become aware and subsequently committed to our faith. What are the circumstances that led us to its discovery? Did it happen all at once or was it a process over time?

On Saturday June 19, participants of the Inquirer's Class will attend a special ceremony in Garden City, officially confirming us as full members of the Episcopal Church. It is a day we are all looking forward to, and view it as one of hopefully many celebrations to come that make us so glad to be a part of St James of Jerusalem Church. We

ask for your prayers as we deepen our commitment to the faith through our Confirmation or Reception in the Episcopal Church.

We both personally encourage all who have not been confirmed/received to sign up the next time the Inquirer's Class is offered. You will be glad you did.

– David Horvath and Brian Foote

CROSS TALK NEWSFLASH...

- ❖ Cynthia Strite, longtime friend of St. James', has formally transferred her letter of membership from the Marble Collegiate Church in NYC!
- ❖ We welcome Moses Powell and Jason Blumenthal as new members of our congregation. Moses and Jason will be formally received into the Episcopal Church on June 19.
- ❖ Congratulations to Jackie Neglia, whose daughter Caitlin gave birth to twin boys Jayden and Joshua on April 17.
- ❖ Keira Jolene Duffy, daughter of Carrie-Anne and James Duffy, received the Sacrament of Holy Baptism on Sunday, April 25. We welcome her into the Household of Faith!



EPISCOPAL 101: *Sit, kneel or stand?*

When I first joined the Episcopal Church as a teenager, I was curious about the custom many worshipers had of bending one knee to the ground when leaving their pew to receive Holy Communion. A friend of mine told me, solemnly, that it was a special posture called a "ginger flake."

My friend was close. That posture definitely added spice to our worship! But what he meant to say was *genuflect*. And it's special way of showing reverence for Jesus' Real Presence in the consecrated bread and wine.

Genuflecting is just one of the many ways that we Episcopalians use our whole body in worship. But especially for newcomers, it can occasionally feel awkward not being sure "when to do what."

A good rule of thumb to start out with is "*sit* to listen, *kneel* to pray and *stand* to sing." That'll get you a long way. But

- ❖ Pray for our candidates for Holy Baptism: * Ava and Kaitlin Abramson, twin daughters of Kim & Peter Abramson, to be baptized on May 9, 2010 * Michael Canepa, Jr., son of Erin & Michael Canepa, to be baptized on May 23, 2010 (Feast of Pentecost)
- ❖ St. James' parishioners donated enough baskets, Easter grass, candy, cellophane and other goodies to fill 82 Easter Baskets for kids and seniors served by the diocese.
- ❖ The Safe Church certification program of the Diocese of Long Island was completed by parishioners Bob Cottrell, Nicole Fader, Don & Margie Fraser, Valerie Horvath and Amy Kuna.

there are some variants and other postures that you'll want to be familiar with:

- *Simple bow* (with the head): at the Name of Jesus or when we invoke the Holy Trinity;
- *Solemn bow* (from the waist): when crossing in front of the altar, or entering or leaving your pew; and when the incense bearer (or Thurifer) censes the congregation;
- *Profound bow* (deeply from the waist): immediately after the Great Amen, at the end of the Eucharistic Prayer.
- *Stand*: to attend to the reading of the Gospel; you may also stand during the Eucharistic Prayer;
- *Kneel*: to express penitence and sorrow, e.g. at the Confession of Sin or the Great Litany.

If you make an effort to get into the spirit of these gestures, you'll discover that they're a powerful way to involve your entire self in worship, and by extension, to practice offering your whole self to God in the rest of your life. 🙏



EASTER MESSAGE FROM PRESIDING BISHOP KATHARINE JEFFERTS SCHORI

The Diocese of Haiti has observed Lent in a very different way this year. When Bishop Duracin and I spoke just before Ash Wednesday, we talked about how this year would be different. He noted that the people of Haiti would need to practice saying Alleluia, so that when Easter came they could enter in with joy. In the midst of grief and darkness, it can be exceedingly difficult to believe that resurrection is a possibility.

Nora Gallagher makes a similar point in her book, "Practicing Resurrection." We are not born with the ability to insist on resurrection everywhere we turn. It takes the discipline and repetition that forms an athlete – in this case, a spiritually fit Christian. We practice our faith because we must – it withers and atrophies unless it's stretched. We must continue to give evidence of the faith that is within us.

Easter prods and provokes us with an immense stretching exercise. That earth-shattering and tomb-shattering rebirth has planted the seeds of hope in each one of us. Yet those seeds do not produce fruit without struggle.

The people of Haiti are finding new life in the midst of death and struggle. As a nation and a people they have repeatedly practiced resurrection through centuries of slavery, oppression, invasion, corruption, and privation. The joy of their art forms – music and painting in particular – gives evidence of the hope that is within them as a people. They know, deep in their cultural DNA, that God is continually bringing new life out of death. Yet each person must discover and nurture that hope. It is made far easier in community.

The Christian community is meant to be a mutual hope society, with each one offering courage to another whose hope has waned, insisting that even in the darkest of night, new life is being prepared. That work is constant – it will not end until the end of all things. And still the community persists, year in and year out, in time of earthquake and war and flood, in time of joy and new birth and discovery. Together we can shout, "Alleluia, he is risen! Indeed, he is risen, Alleluia!" even when some among us are not quite so confident as others. For indeed, the body of Christ is rising and risen when even a small part of it can rejoice and insist that God is renewing the face of the earth and light has dawned upon us.

Alleluia! Keep practicing that joyful shout. Someone needs to hear its truth. Alleluia!

The Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori



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