

THE GRAPEVINE

ST. JAMES PARISH • WILMINGTON, NC
WEEK OF MARCH 14TH, 2021

THE REV. CHERYL BRAINARD



THE SIGN OF THE CROSS

Something that often surprises a newcomer to the Episcopal Church is to see priests and some congregants cross themselves. “Wait,” they respond, “I thought only Catholics did that.” While making the sign of the cross has run the theological gamut, the idea of “marking” has rich history. I’ll share just a couple examples here. If this intrigues you, I invite you to delve into deeper study.

When Cain was exiled, God placed a mark on him to serve as protection from being killed. Even after all Cain did, the implication was that God still stated, “he’s mine.” Some evidence exists that the Essenes (a rather ascetic sect of Judaism at the time) welcomed new members into their community by tracing the Hebrew letter, Tau on their forehead.

In Judaism, marking human beings was seen as a visible sign or gesture. At least by 211 CE, we have written evidence that it was common practice among Christians to cross themselves. Church father Tertullian wrote that Christians seldom did anything significant without making the sign of the Cross.

But what about today? Is it simply tradition, superstition, sociability? (“Others are doing it, so I guess I will too...”) Or is there a way we can incorporate real meaning to it?

The first time I crossed myself as an Episcopalian, it felt

awkward and I have to admit, that even now, before I cross myself during Morning Prayer, I sometimes sneak a peek to see if my 91 y/o Baptist mother who attends daily, is looking into the camera. Yet, over time, this simple gesture has come to have meaning for me, as it has for others.

The sign of the cross is a reminder of the marker of our baptism. It’s made over our earthly remains at the funeral and over the spot of earth where we’re placed for eternity. It’s made over the spiritual food we receive in the Eucharist. It connects us to all the saints and apostles and martyrs, reaching far into antiquity. For some, it provides comfort when we’re afraid and can remind us of God’s protection—or in our sadness, remind us that we are loved.

It is also a reminder that Anglicanism holds both Catholic and Protestant tradition all in one place. Whether it’s the priest making the sign of the cross to the gathered faithful, or over the elements at their consecration, or done by those in the pews, the sign of the Cross is a rich and visible part of our liturgy.

But what I find most meaningful is how we often teach children about this gesture. We tell them that we’re asking God to be “in our heads” (when we touch our foreheads), “in our hearts” (when we touch our hearts), “and in all of me” (when we touch our shoulders). Crossing oneself simply reminds us of the sacrifice Jesus made for us and of the power God demonstrated in Jesus’ sacrifice.

ST. JAMES VISION STATEMENT

To build community through ministries that strengthen our faith.

ST. JAMES MISSION STATEMENT

To welcome all to grow in love of God and neighbor.

ST. JAMES UPDATES

INDOOR SERVICES SUSPENDED FOR THE TIME BEING

ONLINE RESOURCES CAN BE FOUND AT:
www.stjamesp.org/

IN OUR PRAYERS:

Beth Williams, Melissa "Missy" Wright

CONDOLENCES TO:

Beth Cornelison on the death of her sister-in-law,
Joann Cornelison

Debbie Phillips on the death of her husband, Henry
"Hank" Phillips

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Madeline and David Flagler on the birth of their
grandaughter Olivia Catherine Grove

HOLY WEEK CALENDAR AVAILABLE ONLINE

www.stjamesp.org/holy-week-2021

Make sure you take the time to look at all of the opportunities for worship happening at St. James and Mt. Lebanon Chapel during Holy Week!

PLEDGING & GIVING ONLINE

To donate and support St. James Parish, visit: <https://onrealm.org/StJamesParish/give/pledge>. You can visit stjamesp.org/stewardship for a video with step-by-step instructions for pledging online.

ST. JAMES DAY SCHOOL SUMMER CAMP REGISTRATION

Registration for the 2021 Summer Camps are OPEN online!

CAMP 1: June 7-11: Planes, Trains, and Automobiles

CAMP 2: June 21-25: Let's Go on a Safari!

CAMP 3: July 19-23: OLYMPICS

If you have not already registered your students, please don't wait to do so, spots are filling up quickly. Questions? Please contact Amy Taylor at director.dayschool@stjamesp.org.

YOUTH GROUP WATCHES THE CHOSEN

Sundays | 5:15 p.m. | RSVP REQUIRED

St. James Youth Group will be doing "10 @ 5" and together we will be watching The Chosen. Immediately following Winter Worship @ 4:00 p.m., 10 individuals will gather safely distanced & "masked" in the Great Hall. Please contact Cookie Cantwell, cookie@stjamesp.org.

SERVICE TIMES

Our in-person services take place outdoors, two at Mt. Lebanon Chapel and one at our Downtown Campus. As we move further into winter, we have adjusted our Sunday service times in the hopes that the outdoor services will be warmer and have better lighting for attendees. We are hosting our outdoor services at the following times:

Mt. Lebanon Chapel

9:30 AM- Holy Eucharist - Rite II

10:30 AM - Holy Eucharist - Rite II (Livestreamed)

Downtown Campus

4:00 PM - Winter Worship

USHERS NEEDED

With our return to indoor worship, it's all hands on deck! We need more people to join our Usher Ministry. What does an usher do? In the case of Palm Sunday and Easter, ushers will be helping do the usual duties, greeting, handing out bulletins, however, our Safety Team needs support with seating, exiting, taking temperatures, and handing out masks. We ask that anyone who is interested and high school age or older please reach out to Lee White at lwhite@turnbulllumber.com.

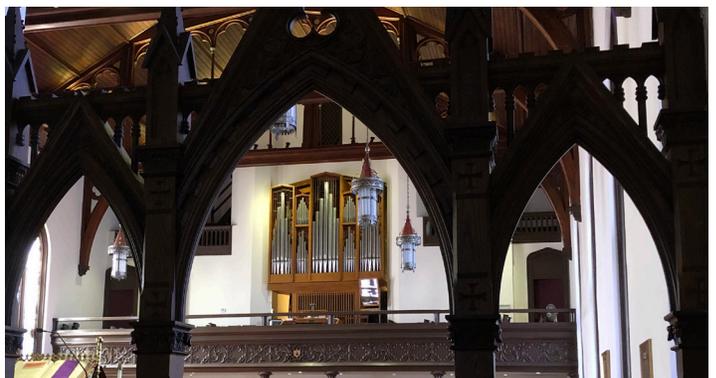
DON'T FORGET YOUR NAMETAG

Your name tag needs daylight too! Bring it to church with you and wear it to help everyone, from newcomers to old friends, know who you are behind the mask! We've gotten better about recognizing each other with just our eyes visible but name tags sure make life easier. Don't have a name tag or can't find yours? Please reach out to Don Jaeckel at donaldjaeckel@gmail.com and he'll help you get a brand new one.

LENTEN CALENDAR AVAILABLE ONLINE

www.stjamesp.org/lenten-offerings

We invite everyone to join us in worship, fellowship, outreach, and prayer.



STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE- STRATEGY #2

Strategy #2 - Increase the participation of parishioners and members of the public at large in the ministries offered at St. James Parish.

Energized by worship on Sunday, members of St. James Parish will go out into the world during the week to preach the Gospel, notably through active service – a strategy that requires caring, commitment, and organization.

In almost 100 ministries, that service now is performed by a small, thinly stretched number of loyal parishioners who work overtime to seek excellence, a fundamental goal of our strategic plan. However, with effective organization, fewer ministries, and more participants -- indeed a parish of 1200 members – we can dramatically strengthen our church community and the Wilmington community at large.

Service can take many forms. The Strategic Planning Group has recommended to the Vestry ministries in these areas:

- Outreach: for example, in poverty prevention, race relations and reconciliation, homelessness and hunger, children and education, family support, and care for the earth;
- Pastoral Care: not just traditional care but well-organized programs to connect members of the parish to one another;
- Faith Formation: for example, a well-funded lecture program, seminars applying Christianity to everyday life, and musical offerings which attract to SJP members of the community at large.

Through service we can preach the Gospel in our parish and community. The Priest-in-Charge of St. John the Divine in Houston, interviewed in our survey of church leaders, put it this way to his parish: “If our church closed, who would notice?”

SPIRITUAL GROWTH MOMENT

by David Jarrett

In early 2017, prior to joining as members of the St. James family my wife Leslie and I participated in an offering named Praying Shapes Believing. It was a nine-week course that consisted of both people new to the Episcopal Church and some that have been a part of it for generations. The content was wide ranging from history of the church to tips and tricks on how to best use the Book of Common Prayer.

While excited to participate in the course, we were also slightly hesitant to make another commitment on top of our already hectic lives of being in our late 20's with demanding jobs. It didn't take long for those concerns and hesitations to fade away. The group of individuals that showed up week after week grew together as a community through honest conversations, prayer, and love of God. Personally, this gathering time started to serve as an important anchor to my week that brought me a level of peace and contentment regardless of any challenges I might have been facing at the time. Despite being over four years ago, I still reflect on this experience with gratitude for forming the foundation of my spiritual growth here at St. James.

As we continue through this Lenten season, I encourage you to seek out and participate in one of the many offerings that are available here at St. James. Take time to slow down, reflect on what matters most, and prayerfully contemplate the significance of the Easter morning that is coming very soon.

THE BIBLE AND HANDEL'S MESSIAH: LENTEN EDITION

Wednesdays | 11:00 a.m. | Zoom

Please join us for music and biblical texts from Handel's Messiah.

Messiah tells the story of our Lord Jesus Christ and is one of the best-loved musical compositions of all time. Together, we'll look into the biblical text on which Messiah is based. Please contact Rev Cheryl Brainard at cheryl@stjamesp.org.

THE THEOLOGY OF FILM

Thursdays During Lent | 7:00 p.m. |

Zoom

Most of us enjoy watching movies. Do you know that most movies provide an intersection with the sacred?

Theology of Film will be at 7:00 p.m. The Rev'd Michael Singer will lead us as we explore faith through conversation. What is our relationship with the sacred? Who are we? Where do we fit? Next Film: *Spirited Away*

SILENT AUCTION DONATIONS

Annual Silent Auction Coming May 2021

This year we will be offering a four day Online "Silent Auction" beginning on Sunday, May 2 at 6:00 am and ending on Wednesday, May 5, 2021, at 8:00 pm. We are asking you to help us by giving a donation to this Auction. Have Questions? Reach out to: Cookie Cantwell at cookie@stjamesp.org.

LENT-IN-A-BOX UPDATE: BINGO - ONE LOVE - AND MORE

Hey all you Lent-in-a-Box participants. We wanted to check in with you - Lent is a long season - to make sure you were still using and enjoying your Lent-in-a-Box. We have heard so many great stories of people sharing, enjoying and learning all about Lent! Let's keep that momentum going. We've still got a ways to go on our journey! A couple of reminders/clarifications:

- One Love Tennis is excited to be the recipient of food for their food drive. We are asking that the food be brought to the church office by March 26th at the latest. We are hoping to be a part of the March Food Drive, and we want to get the food in before Holy Week! Fill up those boxes and help support this Outreach ministry of the parish. The Day School is joining us in the effort, so we will be able to make a big impact if we all pitch in!
- The Bingo prizes are getting prepped and ready to be shared with "winners" on the Bingo cards. We hope that you are finding many ways to check off the boxes and get closer and closer to filling up the card. When you have filled your card, you may either email Cookie at cookie@stjamesp.org or drop your completed card (with your name on it) in the Church office. We are working on the Honor system (not that you wouldn't expect that), so we will not be checking behind you. And then stop by on the following Sunday to pick up your prize from any service.
- Be sure to reach out with your cards to people you want to know you are thinking about during this season. We have heard stories of "pew buddies" reaching out to tell others they are missed, cards being sent in gratitude to family members and other ways of showing care to others through the mail.
- And lastly, if you are a social media person, please feel free to share pictures of your family putting the Lent boxes to good use. Send us a photo of your Lenten prayer space, your almost completed Bingo card, one of your cards with decorations! We'd love to see what you are doing!!



PALM SUNDAY IS COMING - A RETURN TO INDOOR WORSHIP

We invite you to worship with us this Palm Sunday. For the first time in many years, outdoor worship on Palm Sunday will be held at Mt. Lebanon Chapel in Airlie Gardens. Perhaps most exciting, St. James will be offering indoor worship at our downtown campus for the first time in over a year! Please note that if you plan to attend in person, we do ask that you complete the form online or found below as seating is limited.

The Full Schedule for Palm Sunday:

- 8:00 AM: Indoor Worship at St. James Parish- Holy Eucharist Rite I
- 9:00 AM: Indoor Worship at St. James Parish- Holy Eucharist Rite II
- 9:30 AM: Outdoor Worship at Mt. Lebanon Chapel- Holy Eucharist Rite II
- 9:30 AM: Online Worship- Livestream of Mt. Lebanon- Rite II
- 10:30 AM: Indoor Worship at St. James Parish- Holy Eucharist Rite II
- 12:00 PM: Indoor Worship at St. James Parish- Holy Eucharist Rite II
- 4:00 PM: Outdoor Winter Worship at 4 at St. James- Guardian Angel Experience Conclusion

PALM SUNDAY IS COMING - RSVP FORM

Sunday, March 28, 2021 | Multiple Times and Locations

Please use the form online (stjamesp.org/palm-sunday-2021) or below to let us know which service your family plans to attend. We request that you only submit one RSVP per household/family. Similar to our outdoor worship protocol, masks will be required of all attendees and family units will be asked to sit together and stay at least 6ft from other family units. *A full breakdown of our safety protocol and what to expect may be found here: stjamesp.org/indoor-safety.*

*Please note we are following diocesan protocols and the Nursery will remain CLOSED at this time so families with young children should plan accordingly.

Please return completed physical form to the Parish Office at 25 S. Third Street, Wilmington, NC 28401.

FIRST NAME _____ LAST NAME _____

EMAIL/PHONE _____ HOUSEHOLD SIZE _____

Please check the box by which service(s) you plan to attend:

- 8:00 AM: Indoor Worship at St. James Parish- Holy Eucharist Rite I
- 9:00 AM: Indoor Worship at St. James Parish- Holy Eucharist Rite II
- 9:30 AM: Outdoor Worship at Mt. Lebanon Chapel- Holy Eucharist Rite II
- 9:30 AM: Online Worship- Livestream of Mt. Lebanon- Rite II
- 10:30 AM: Indoor Worship at St. James Parish- Holy Eucharist Rite II
- 12:00 PM: Indoor Worship at St. James Parish- Holy Eucharist Rite II
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HONOR SOMEONE SPECIAL WITH EASTER LILIES OR MUSIC

Remember someone special this Easter by donating \$20 for Easter lilies or music! Print the information below as you would like it to appear in the church bulletin.

BULLETIN PRINTING DEADLINE IS 12:00 NOON ON TUESDAY, MARCH 23RD.

Donations will be accepted after March 23, however, the names might not appear in the bulletin.

One dedication per \$20 donation. Please **PRINT** clearly. Check one:

Easter Lilies Music

In Honor of In Memory of _____

Given by: _____

Please return your completed form to the parish office with your check marked "Easter Lilies" or "Easter Music"



NEXT WEEK AT ST. JAMES PARISH

MONDAY- FRIDAY, MARCH 15-19

MORNING PRAYER

8:00-8:30 AM | Zoom | Led by laity and clergy.

MONDAY, MARCH 15

FELLOWSHIP AA

7:00 PM | Lippitt Room

TUESDAY, MARCH 16

TUESDAY STILL MATTERS

8:30 AM | Zoom

EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY

9:00-11:30 AM | Zoom

WDAA BASKETBALL PRACTICE

6:30-8:30 PM | Perry Hall

SACRED GROUND SESSION 9

7:00 PM | Zoom

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17

PCJ BIBLE STUDY

7:30 AM | Zoom | Led by our Youth Group and
with Youth Advisor support

THE BIBLE & HANDEL'S MESSIAH

11:00 AM | Zoom

EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY

6:00-8:30 PM | Zoom

THURSDAY, MARCH 18

THEOLOGY OF FILM: SPIRITED AWAY

7:00 PM | Zoom

FRIDAY, MARCH 19

SJDS 4's CIRCUS FILMING DAY!

All Day | St. James Day Schol

SUNDAY, MARCH 21

HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II

9:30 AM | Mt. Lebanon Chapel | BYOS*

HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II

10:30 AM | Mt. Lebanon Chapel & ONLINE |
BYOS*

WINTER WORSHIP AT 4

4:00 PM | St. James Parish | BYOS*

YOUTH GROUP WATCHES THE CHOSEN

5:15 PM | Great Hall | RSVP only

***BYOS:** Bring Your Own Supplies- Please bring your own masks, chairs, picnic blankets, etc.

INDOOR WORSHIP RE-OPENS 3-28-2021: Visit our website, stjamesp.org for more information.

EDITORIAL DEADLINES: The deadline for the March 23rd e-blast is Friday, March 19th.

ST. JAMES PARISH

25 S. Third Street
Wilmington, NC 28401

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ST. JAMES PARISH

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STAFF

Priest-In-Charge The Rev. Michael Singer

Associate Rector The Rev. Chris Hamby | **Associate Rector** The Rev. Cheryl Brainard

Organist/Choirmaster John Sullivan

Facilities Administrator Bill McKenzie | **Parish Coordinator** Suzanne Adams

Finance Administrator Maria Hollopeter

Youth Minister Cookie Cantwell | **Children's Ministries** Shannon Lockamy

Day School Director Amy Taylor | **Communications Director** Erin Becker

Registrar Marybeth Tallman | **Property & Maintenance Manager** Wes Clewis

Sexton Joey Dobson

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Junior Warden Jane Martin

Treasurer Mike Brown | **Clerk** Diane MacAskill

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Class 2022 | Caroline Cone | Berta Hamilton | Brian McMerty | Steve Thomas

Class 2023 | Kay Dougherty | Tom Hackler | Leslie Jarrett | Al Marr

25 S. Third Street | Wilmington, NC 28401

Visit us online: stjamesp.org

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