



WINTER FAITH FORMATION

2020

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Romans 12:1, 2

Welcome to Faith Formation, Epiphany 2020

Welcome to the season of Epiphany. It's actually a season of stories about how people come to see who Jesus is. It's a season of revelations, or manifestations, which is what the word epiphany means. If you think in terms of cartoons, as I do, it's a bit like that moment when the light bulb appears over the cartoon character's head. Something has just become clearer.

We're here to support in this season of insight, as together we discover ways to grow in faith and see more clearly who Jesus is and why it matters in our lives today. One of the ways we will do that comes with our Christian formation offerings for parishioners of all ages. This brochure has been crafted to describe these offerings and to share our vision for this season.

The centerpiece is Sunday morning, when in the hour between worship services we offer opportunities for learning. The hour begins with the World's Greatest Coffee Hour, meeting in the Great Hall after the 9:00 a.m. service. Pardon our hubris, but it is a wonderful gathering in which we enjoy time with each other in fellowship and friendship. Then we offer programs for children and teenagers, and several opportunities for adults, detailed in this brochure. These include teaching on the contemplative life, a bible study on the gospel of the day, and discussions of current issues of faith.

But Christian formation happens at other times in the week, a variety of small groups and special events that help us live into the spirit of Epiphany, which is to see Jesus in a new way. These are all described in this brochure.

So read, mark, and inwardly digest this information. Start off the new year, and the new season, with a commitment to grow in faith. Join with others at St. James to learn something new about what it means to be part of the Jesus movement. Who knows what epiphanies might happen as you do?

Faithfully yours,



The Rev. Jay Sidebotham

Every Sunday, we invite parishioners to gather in the Great Hall for The World's Greatest Coffee Hour, starting after the 9:00 a.m. service. Then Sunday Morning Classes begin at 10:15 a.m. Apart from Sundays when we all gather, we will offer three classes:

Disciples Class, in the Lippitt Room: Lectures and discussions on spirituality

Gospel du Jour, in the Bishop Wright Room: A weekly bible study on the gospel of the day

Faith Discussions, in the Stephen Ministry Room: Informal conversation about matters of faith. Especially appropriate for ...

January

1/5 Combined Formation with Rev. Pierce Klemmt
 1/12 Faith Formation Classes Meet
 1/19 Faith Formation Classes Meet
 1/26 Faith Formation Classes Meet

February

2/2 Faith Formation Classes Meet
 2/9 Faith Formation Classes Meet
 2/16 Faith Formation Classes Meet
 2/23 Faith Formation Classes Meet

If you have any questions or need more information about any of the Christian Formation offerings, please contact Shannon Lockamy in the Christian Formation Office at (christianformation@stjamesp.org) or the Rev. Jay Sidebotham (jay@stjamesp.org).

Sundays | 10:15 a.m. | The Lippitt Room

For those looking to know more about what it means to truly be a disciple. We are all addicted in some way. When we learn to identify our addiction, embrace our brokenness, and surrender to God, we begin to bring healing to ourselves and our world. In *Breathing Under Water*, Richard Rohr shows how the gospel principles in the 12 steps can free all of us from addiction to our own way of thinking.

January 5, 2020: Combined Faith Formation

The Rev. Pierce Klemmt
 Come and meet Rev. Pierce Klemmt and learn about what it means to be an interim rector and how this is an important role for the church.

January 12, 2020: "Breathing Underwater"

The Rev. Cheryl Brainard
 Let's discuss "Breathing Underwater" by Richard

Rohr. In this book, Richard Rohr helps us see that we are all addicted to our own way of thinking. Join us as we discuss how the gospel principles in the Twelve Steps can apply to anyone.

January 19, 2020: Roger Haight, an American Jesuit Theologian

The Rev Charles Hocking
 Join us for a a program on Roger Haight, an

American Jesuit theologian who is widely known for how to handle controversial ideas in the Catholic church today.

January 26, 2020: The Fantastic Life and Teachings of Fr. Thomas Merton

Ron Copely

In our first of three sessions, we will discuss an overview of the life and teachings of Fr. Thomas Merton (1915-1968), a Trappist monk and arguably the most influential Christian theologian of the 20th century. He wrote 70 books including *Seven Storey Mountain*, a personal, spiritual classic describing his conversion. Following a brief review of his diverse background, we will delve into his messages of love and non-violence with emphasis on how each of us can apply these teachings to our everyday life. Merton was a pacifist and vocal critic of the war in Vietnam. Some claim the CIA was instrumental in his violent death. We will also explore Merton's view of the confluence of Christianity and Buddhism and how he dealt with the controversial concept of non-duality. A powerful and talented writer, Merton will challenge basic views most of us normally accept without question. Please join us for this most inspiring discussion. Hope to see you there.

February 2, 2020: The Fantastic Life and Teachings of Fr. Thomas Merton

Ron Copely

Our reading is, *The Seven Storey Mountain*, A modern-day Confessions of Saint Augustine. The *Seven Storey Mountain* is one of the most influential religious works of the twentieth century. This edition contains an introduction by Merton's editor, Robert Giroux, and a note to the reader by biographer William H. Shannon. It tells of the growing restlessness of a brilliant and passionate young man whose search for peace and faith leads him, at the age of twenty-six, to take vows in one of the most demanding Catholic orders--the Trappist monks. At the Abbey of Gethsemani, "the four walls of my new freedom," Thomas Merton struggles to withdraw from the world, but only after he has fully immersed himself in it. *The Seven Storey Mountain* has been a favorite of readers ranging from Graham Greene to Claire Booth Luce, Eldridge Cleaver, and Frank McCourt. Since its original publication, this timeless

spiritual tome has been published in over twenty languages and has touched millions of lives.

February 9, 2020: The Fantastic Life and Teachings of Fr. Thomas Merton

Ron Copely

Our reading is, *New Seeds of Contemplation*, which is one of Thomas Merton's most widely read and best-loved books. Christians and non-Christians alike have joined in praising it as a notable successor in the meditative tradition of St. John of the Cross, *The Cloud of Unknowing*, and the medieval mystics, while others have compared Merton's reflections with those of Thoreau. *New Seeds of Contemplation* seeks to awaken the dormant inner depths of the spirit so long neglected by Western man, to nurture a deeply contemplative and mystical dimension in our lives. For Merton, "Every moment and every event of every man's life on earth plants something in his soul. For just as the wind carries thousands of winged seeds, so each moment brings with it germs of spiritual vitality that come to rest imperceptibly in the minds and wills of men. Most of these unnumbered seeds perish and are lost because men are not prepared to receive them: for such seeds as these cannot spring up anywhere except in the soil of freedom, spontaneity and love."

February 16, 2020: An Introduction to Henri J. M. Nouwen

Rhonda Thomas

Henri J. M. Nouwen was a Dutch Catholic priest, professor, writer, and theologian. His interests were rooted primarily in psychology, pastoral ministry, spirituality, social justice and community. He wrote over 35 books during the course of his lifetime. What can we learn from his insights and experiences?

February 23, 2020:

The Rev. Pierce Klemmt

Sundays | 10:10 a.m. | The Green Room (Upper Level of the Parish House)

The Faith Discussions class will focus on topics and issues that will generate conversation and discussion. This Sunday morning offering will offer an occasional speaker during the winter, but will primarily be discussion-centered as we explore issues that affect our faith, life, and work. Class topics will include Jesus' divinity and humanity, how we pray at home, sharing our faith with others, and putting our faith into action. Come and be a part of the discussion!

January 12, 2020: Faith & Family Part 1

Mebane Boyd

Family life and faith life are always intertwined. How do we afford quality time for our children, each other, and as a whole family?

January 19, 2020: Faith & Family Part 2

Mebane Boyd

Family life and faith life are always intertwined. How do we afford quality time for our children, each other, and as a whole family?

January 26, 2020: Being & Doing Church

The Rev. Chris Hamby

What does it mean to be church? What does it mean to do church? Come and join a discussion about being and doing.

February 2, 2020: Meet the Interim Rector

The Rev. Pierce Klemmt

Come and meet Rev. Pierce Klemmt and learn about what it means to be an interim rector and how this is an important role for the church.

February 9, 2020: Relationships & Faith

The Rev. Chris Hamby

Relationships are difficult and no relationship is perfect. God is in the midst of every relationship but are we able to see God in the midst of a relationship in the midst of the most trying of times? Join for an honest and open discussion.

February 16, 2020: Sharing Our Faith

Explore Questions about our faith and the impact they have had on our ever-deepening journeys of faith.

February 23, 2020: Primary Faith

The Rev. Chris Hamby

How to discuss your faith in an increasingly politically polarized world. Come join for a respectful conversation.

Sundays | 10:15 a.m. | The Bishop Wright Room

We welcome all who wish to spend some time reflecting on the gospel heard in church on Sunday. We'll use a variety of resources to reflect on that particular passage, this year taken from the Gospel of Matthew as we go through until Lent. Each week will include an opportunity to think about the "so-what" factor: how does this passage intersect with my life?

Here is a list of the Sundays and the gospel passages for each day, in case you'd like to get a head start on the discussion:

January 12, 2020: Matthew 3:13-17

January 19, 2020: John 1:29-42

January 26, 2020: Matthew 4:12-23

February 2, 2020: Luke 2:22-40

February 9, 2020: Matthew 5:13-20

February 16, 2020: Matthew 5:21-37

February 23, 2020: Matthew 7:17-19

WINTER MINISTRY, WORSHIP, AND FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES

Monday Night Bible Study

Monday Nights, January 20 - February 17, 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Contact: Tim Dols (910-622-4587)

Join us for our traditional Epiphany study during this season.

Winter Lecture: "Seculosity: How Career, Parenting, Technology, Food, Politics, and Romance Became Our New Religion and What To Do About It." an evening with David Zahl

Tuesday, February 4 at 7:00 p.m. in the Great Hall, preceded by reception at 6:30 p.m. in the Great Hall .

Contact: Rev. Jay Sidebotham (jay@stjamesp.org)

Please join us on February 4, at 7:00 in the Great Hall for an evening with David Zahl as he presents his new book, *Seculosity: How Career, Parenting, Technology, Food, Politics, and Romance Became Our New Religion and What To Do About It*.

According to Zahl, Americans may be going to church less, but we're more religious than ever. At the heart of our current moment lies a universal yearning, writes Zahl, not to be happy or respected so much as enough—what religions call "righteous." To fill the void left by religion, we look to all sorts of everyday activities—from eating and parenting to dating and voting—for the identity, purpose, and meaning once provided on Sunday morning. *Seculosity* takes a thoughtful yet entertaining tour of American "performancism." Ultimately, Zahl brings us to a fresh appreciation for the grace of God in all its countercultural wonder.

David Zahl is the founder and director of Mockingbird Ministries, editor-in-chief of the popular Mockingbird website (www.mbird.com), and co-host of The Mockingcast. He and his family live in Charlottesville, Virginia, where he also serves on the staff of Christ Episcopal Church. Zahl is the author of *A Mess of Help: From the Crucified Soul of Rock N' Roll* and coauthor of *Law and Gospel: A Theology for Sinners (and Saints)*. His most recent book, *Seculosity: How Career, Parenting, Technology, Food, Politics, and Romance Became Our New Religion and What To Do About It*, appeared in 2019 from Fortress Press. This book will be available for purchase at the lecture and attendees will have the opportunity to have their books signed.

Education for Ministry (EfM)

Wednesday evenings | 6:00-8:30 p.m. | Tatum Parlor

Education for Ministry (EfM) is a 4-year program developed by the Episcopal School of Theology at The University of the South, Sewanee, Tennessee. It includes in-depth study of the Old Testament, the New Testament, the history of Christianity, theology and moral choices. At St. James, we have 2 separate groups, each comprised of about 6 - 10 members who meet on a weekly basis from September through May. The groups offer a supportive environment for study, discussion, and spiritual development. There is a nominal annual fee for the program which includes all study materials; participants are only required to commit to one year at a time. The Wednesday evening group began a new program year on September 25, 2019 and will meet from 6:00 - 8:30 p.m. in the Tatum Parlor (1st floor, Bacon House). The program runs through May. Mentors are Karen Clark and Bill Bivins.

The Tuesday morning group continues from September to December with Rachel Pace and Bob Lloyd as co-mentors. A new program year will begin in January, 2020 and will meet from 9:00–11:30 a.m. in the Stephen Ministry Room (2nd floor, Parish House). If you are ready to explore deeper understandings of scripture, tradition, theology, and worship, EfM may be the perfect program for you. For more information, please contact: Karen Clark, clarklc11@gmail.com; Bill Bivins, wpbivins@gmail.com; Rachel Pace, rppace@hotmail.com; or Bob Lloyd, rplloyd@att.net.

WINTER MINISTRY, WORSHIP, AND FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES

PRAYING SHAPES BELIEVING

Tuesday evenings, February 4 - March 31

6:00 p.m. - 7:15 p.m. | Register at bit.ly/prayingshapes

Contact: Rev. Chris Hamby (chris@stjamesp.org)

This 9-week course, led by lay and clergy leaders, is designed for adults who want a refresher about what the Episcopal Church believes and does, are new to St. James or the Episcopal Church, and those preparing for Confirmation, Reception, or Reaffirmation in the spring. We will explore topics like The Practice of Prayer & Your Spirituality, The Book of Common Prayer, Sacraments, and an Instructed Eucharist. The classes are wonderful opportunities for formation, education, and fellowship with others. All, new and old to Episcopal Church, are welcome to attend. Childcare will be provided with advance reservations. Please contact Rev. Chris Hamby for more information.

WINTER FAITH FORMATION- CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

2020

Our Children's Ministry is so important to the life of the church. We want to support your families in our worship, Sunday mornings in our Christian Formation, and in your homes.

We have formal programming and curriculum for our preschool and elementary aged students. Dates for Christian Formation are Jan 5, 12, 19, 26 and Feb 2, 9, 16, and 23. Parents are welcome to download the ParentCue (download available at the AppStore or GooglePlay) which will allow the children to continue their adventure at home with mom and dad. The video lessons are available during the week from Sunday to Saturday. There are also Spotify playlists for the **Orange Curriculum** for songs that are enjoyed throughout the year.

Preschool

For the month of January the Preschool focus is "Jesus can do anything!"

- Jan 5 - Luke 2:41-52 as we discover a moment from Jesus' childhood. Jesus was fully God, but He was also fully human.
- Jan 12 - John 1:19-42 and John 3:22-36. Jesus' cousin, John the Baptist, is also at the Jordan River preparing the way for Jesus.
- Jan 19 - Luke 4:1-13 and see that Jesus is in the wilderness. In this story, Jesus was tested
- Jan 26 Matthew 11:1-6 we find John the Baptist, Jesus' own cousin, in prison. John seemed to wonder if Jesus was truly the Savior that God had promised.

For the month of February the focus is "Jesus loves everyone."

- Feb 2 - Jesus loves everyone
- Feb 9 - Jesus loves us even when we do something wrong
- Feb 16 - Jesus is our friend even when no one else is
- Feb 23 - We can love like Jesus



Elementary

For the month of January, the focus verse is, "The Lord gives wisdom. Knowledge and understanding come from his mouth." Proverbs 2:6 NIRV Learning something new so you can be better at whatever you do!

- Jan 5 - Luke 2:41-52, The Boy Jesus at the Temple - Bottom Line: Knowing God is the most important thing.
- Jan 12 - John 1:19-42, John 3:22-36 Jesus' Baptism - Bottom Line: If you want to know God, start with Jesus.
- Jan 19 - Luke 4:1-13, Jesus is tempted in the desert- Bottom Line: Discovering what's in the Bible can help you make the wise choice.
- Jan 26 Matthew 11:1-6, Jesus and John the Baptist- Bottom Line: If you don't understand something about God, ask.

For the month of February, the focus verse is, "Here is what love is. It is not that we loved God, it is that He loved us and sent His son to give his life to pay for our sins." 1 John 4:10 NIRV Choosing to treat others the way you want to be treated.

- Feb 2 - John 15:12-13, No greater love - Bottom Line: Love others because Jesus loves you.
- Feb 9 - Luke 10:38-42, Jesus at the home of Martha and Mary - Bottom Line: Love others with your time.
- Feb 16 - Matthew 5:43-47, Love your enemies - Bottom Line: Love others because they matter to God.
- Feb 23 - Mark 14:1-9, A woman pours perfume on Jesus at Bethany - Bottom Line: Love God with everything you've got.

In our nursery, we provide a God centered and love filled environment which models the behavior of christian adults. Children under the age of 3 are welcome to utilize the nursery during our Sunday morning activities. While no formal curriculum is implemented in this environment we strive to model appropriate behavior for our little ones.

Please join us for our Children's Ministry opportunities, and be sure to contact Shannon Lockamy if you have any questions or concerns. christianformation@stjamesp.org

Shannon Lockamy, Director Children's Ministries

St James Parish

910-763-1628



Do Justice * Love Kindness * Walk Humbly
Micah 6: 8 NRSV

The period of time known as “adolescence” is one of the greatest times of one’s life and also one of the most challenging. It is a time of tremendous growth and a time of exploring a wider circle of ideas, pathways, friends and faith. Our families are important! The St. James Church Family is profoundly important, too! As we gather together each week, we are searching, questioning, pondering and choosing the pathway for our lives. So many activities and choices compete for our time and our attention while our Creator God whispers to each of us to share your time and attention with the One who created us, knows us, formed us and desires for us to know and understand the depth of God’s Love, Healing, Grace, Joy and Hope!

SUNDAY MORNINGS: All 6th - 12th GRADERS are encouraged to.....

8:50 am- Gather in the St. James Sanctuary: Join us as we sing familiar songs of praise as we prepare our hearts for worship. Sit with your family or come and sit with us, the Youth Advisors and other people who are your “Church Family.”

9:00 am- Worship. Come and experience a new style and rhythm of worship. Yes, there will be Holy Eucharist, Prayers, Music, Joy, Grace and Love all within a more relaxed atmosphere.

9:48 am- Worship will be complete and our Service begins! Come to The Great Hall for “The World’s Greatest Coffee Hour.” What? You don’t drink coffee? Don’t worry! There will be Hot Chocolate, Lemonade and Juices, doughnuts, fruit, and other goodies.

10: 09 am- In the Sandy Johnston Youth Room, Perry Hall, we will engage with scripture as it intersects within our lives. There will be time and space for discussion, sharing, insights, questions, and formation. In a casual environment, each person will have equal access to share their thoughts, feelings, ideas, knowledge, questions and pondering. We will embrace the reality of our daily lives and the challenges and joys that we face.

11: 07 am- After being together in a more casual environment, each person will be encouraged to go out into the world to love and serve our God. Together we will invite our God into the center of our lives.

YOUTH GROUP ON SUNDAY EVENINGS & OTHER GREAT OPPORTUNITIES

Sunday Evenings are a time that all you people who are in the 6th - 12th graders (of course, you may bring your friends!) will gather In The Sandy Johnston Youth Room, Perry Hall. Our time together will be focused on being a “community” A group of people who learn from one another, who may share the “ups and downs” of their week and who seek to learn more about “being covered by the dust of The Rabbi (a teacher & spiritual leader) JESUS CHRIST. Being “covered by the dust” means that we would be following Jesus more closely so each step Jesus takes would “kick up” the dust and we would soon be covered by His Dust. A bit “messy” yet exciting and meaningful!

5:30 - 7:05 pm- Come to Perry Hall for dinner, activities, outreach, sharing, worship and exploring. Make sure that you check the St. James Webpage (www.stjamesp.org) each week so you will know what we are doing and where we will meet. By the way....to “explore” means to “travel in and through an unfamiliar area in order to learn about or familiarize oneself to it.”

7:05 - 7:30 pm- Open Space to be with friends and to make new friends. You may enjoy the Youth Room and/or the “gym” in Perry Hall.



ST. JAMES PARISH

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ST. JAMES PARISH

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STAFF

Interim Rector The Rev. Pierce Klemmt

Associate Rector The Rev. Jay Sidebotham | **Assistant Rector** The Rev. Chris Hamby

Assistant Rector The Rev. Cheryl Brainard | **Organist/Choirmaster** John Sullivan

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

Office Administrator Jerry Worley | **Finance Administrator** Maria Hollopeter

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

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

Registrar Linda Brown | **Property & Maintenance Manager** Wes Clewis

Sexton Derrick Brown

VESTRY

Senior Warden Steve Thomas | **Junior Warden** Florence Ellen Cowden

Treasurer Mike Brown | **Clerk** Diane MacAskill

Class 2020 | Bill Bivins | Florence Ellen Cowden | Stuart Hardy | Ed Whitesides

Class 2021 | Watson Barnes | Pem Jenkins | Jane Martin | Jim Spruill

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

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