



February 16, 2022

From Fr. John

After discussions with the Bishop and with me, on Sunday your Vestry voted to call me as your new Rector. I have prayerfully considered it and gladly accepted. As of today, but “officially” on March 1st, I become the 17th Rector of St. James. I thank God (and I thank the Bishop and your Vestry) for this opportunity.

As Rector, I am here to lead you, liturgically, spiritually, and administratively. But just as important, I am here to help you lead St. James. The lay-led ministries of the Church are its very backbone. The work that you do as lay leaders of this community is crucial to its existence — as well as its vitality and potential growth.

Would you like to see St. James be a more vital part of the Alexandria community? Would you like to see increased occupancy in the pews on Sundays? Would you like to see greater participation in what is happening here? Then get involved ... or more deeply involved. If you want to see more community engagement, talk with me or your Vestry members about what the congregation might do differently, to achieve a greater impact in the neighborhood. If you want to see more people in the pews, tell someone you know about how much your church means to you, and invite them to come to church with you. Or call someone you know who used to come to church regularly and has not been here in a while. Tell them you miss them and would like to see them on Sundays again.

I believe that St. James is at the edge of a spiritual reawakening. There is a sense of hope and excitement in the air. What we need, to get things moving forward, is to get more people involved in more ministries. To that end, I have had brief discussions with a few folks about holding an event in which everyone can learn what ministries are active here, and how to get involved. We used to call such events names like, “Ministry Fair.” The event that we will hopefully have shortly after Easter, will share some similarities with an old-fashioned ministry fair. But it will be more than that. Keep watching for additional information in coming weeks. And if you would like to be involved in the planning and execution of this event, please let me know.

I am happy to be your new Rector. I look forward to starting and deepening relationships, and to helping the congregation discern and move into its future.

Peace,
Fr. John+



Shrove Tuesday

Church Directory Available on Shrove Tuesday (Mardi Gras)

Join us for a delicious FREE Pancake Supper on Tuesday, March 1, at 6:00 pm in keeping with the Shrove Tuesday custom. For those who are not familiar with Shrove Tuesday (which began long before the Mardi Gras tradition), people would enjoy the last bite of “rich” food that would be given up during the 40 days of Lent. The liturgical fasting emphasizes eating simpler food, and refraining from food that would give undue pleasure. In many cultures, this means no meat, dairy products, or eggs.

Along with its emphasis on feasting, another theme of Shrove Tuesday involves Christians repenting of their sins in preparation to begin the season of Lent. The expression “Shrove Tuesday” comes from the word *shrive*, meaning “absolve”.

In many Christian parish churches a popular Shrove Tuesday tradition is the ringing of the church bells (on this day, the toll is known as the Shrivings Bell) “to call the faithful to confession before the solemn season of Lent” and for people to “begin frying their pancakes”.

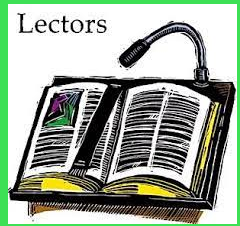
ASH WEDNESDAY
March 2, 2022

Chapel 7:00 a.m.

Nave 12:10 p.m. and 5:15 p.m.



Opportunities to Serve



Are you looking for ways to serve at St. James? Have you ever considered becoming a Lector? They are the people who read from the Old Testament and Epistles during the service. How about becoming a Eucharistic Minister? They are the people who serve at the altar by administering the chalice (the Blood of Christ) during Communion. Or would you like to do those things in a one-on-one situation? Eucharistic Visitors take the elements of Communion, Body and Blood of Christ, from the altar to people who cannot come to church. They conduct short services in a manner prescribed by the Church, bringing a sacramental presence to those who would otherwise not receive it.

If any of those sound like ministries God might be calling you to, please let Fr. John know. He can talk with you about these ministries and explain what the requirements and training would be.



WindSync Concert - Save the Date

Mark your calendar now for March 11 at 7:00 pm to enjoy the free and unique sounds of WindSync, a vibrant chamber ensemble performing wind quintet masterworks, adapting beloved music to their instrumentation, and championing new works by today's composers. The quintet eliminates the "fourth wall" between musicians and audience by often performing from memory, creating an intimate connection. This personal performance style, combined with the ensemble's three-pronged mission of artistry, education, and community-building, lends WindSync its reputation as "a group of virtuosos who are also wonderful people, too".

~ Alison Young, Classical MPR

Coffee Hour

Join us for coffee hour & fellowship this Sunday morning following the 10:30 AM service. This is a great opportunity to visit and catch up on what is happening within our church family.



If you would like to help either with refreshments or as a server for this ministry, call or text Melanie Torbett at 318-792-1953.

Worship



February 20th

The Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany
In-person Worship @ 8:00 AM and 10:30 AM
Childcare is available at 10:00 AM!

[Click here for the readings.](#)

February 20th
Evening Prayer
Online @ 5:00 PM

[Click on this link to join Evening Prayer.](#)

Meeting ID: 863 4898 4077

[Click here for the order of service & readings.](#)



Prayer

Parish Prayer List

Please keep these members of our community in your prayers:

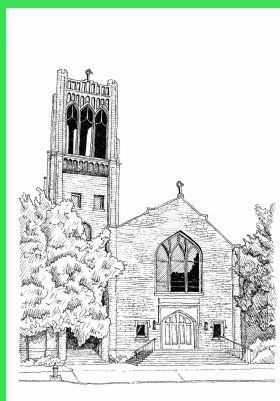
Dani Gonzales, Fran Barbato, Kevin Delaney, Gail, Jim Leggett, Wayne McBride, Charlotte Sterling, Tim and Alexis Heflin, Matthew Fontanille, Jaxsom McElwee, Bonnie McCartney, Andrew, Shirley Christian, Susan Webster, Ty Cedars, Stacy, Kristie Fresh, Mattie Dean McNaughton, Sawyer, John, Bernard Parker, James Sinclair, Johnnie Hart, Emily, Taylor Thompson, Todd Fuller, Jane Y. Harris, Chase Barnfield, Kip Hogue, Kyle, James Jay Watts, Janet & Carl Ahrens, Beth Virden, Glenn Guillory, Elda Schoolcraft, Jimmy Hurt, Charlotte Thrift, Mesta Bain, Margaret Broussard, Allie Bunyog, Dean M. Tyree, Ron Kingston, Cecile Brunson, Felicia, Rita Clancey, Barry Mercer, Annie, Jackie Jeanne, Jaclyn Cutrone, Dietrich DeBoer, Beverly Butler, Bruce Gremillion, Murel Trimble, Emily Warren, Betty Anne Close, Bill Leibke, Sarah, Jackie Moody, Wayne and Barbara Moorehead, Pat Carter, Richard Norem, Kevin Hooter, Warren Paul, Cindy Smith, Jane Tyson, Gerard, and Mehre Hajjghassem.

For those in the military:

Samuel Hayes, Steven Brevelle, Franklin Watson, Kyle Jordan, Gill Tatman-Tyree, Donal McCarthy, Michael Geiger, Erskine Cook, Jr., Patrick Downs, and Chris Babcock.

For those celebrating birthdays in February (day):

Carl Close (1), Sara Fuhrer (1), Brik Hazel (2), Morgan Brewer (4), Emerson Milliner (5), Bruce Jordan (6), Chad Norton (6), Pat Carter (10), Lawrence Searcy (12), Emma McCartney (15), Rita Clancey (19), Tommy Brasher (22), Henry Blake (23), Brady Brown (24), Bernard Parker(25), Lee Couvillon (26), Melanie Jurgensen (26).



Visit our
Website

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