

February 1, 2023

From Fr. John

Our Sunday Gospel readings for the end of the season of Epiphany are from Matthew's telling of the Sermon on the Mount. There is a lot of teaching in this sermon, which occupies three chapters (5-7). But as I was reading news headlines the other day, I kept thinking about a particular passage from Chapter 6 of Matthew. Jesus tells his hearers that the commandment against murder does not go far enough. He tells them that they will be liable for being angry with a brother or sister, just as they would for murder. In fact, he says that using abusive language toward each other makes us liable.

When was the last time that you read the news, or watched it on TV, that you **didn't** hear about some politician or talking head saying abusive things? Yeah ... I can't think back that far either. Today we are completely surrounded by anger and abusive language. Jesus knew how bad these things were for us.

As N. T. Wright has written, "Part of the tragedy of all this is that people take their public anger back into the home. ... The executive whose boss has shouted at her/him goes back to the office and shouts at the secretary. The secretary goes home and shouts at the children. The children shout at the cat." (Matthew for Everyone, p. 43) And on and on it goes.

In a couple of weeks, we will enter the season of Lent, in which we are supposed to be introspective and consciously, intentionally repentant. Whatever you personally decide to give up as a Lenten discipline, I would like to challenge the community of St. James to give up outbursts of anger and abusive language for Lent. Give it some thought. Maybe if we can do this as a congregation, we can begin good habits in ourselves that we can then reflect out into the community as a whole. Who knows? Maybe we can make our corner of the Kingdom a little better.

Peace be with you,
Fr. John+

Tonight

Dinner: 6:00 - 6:30 p.m. in Parish Hall
[White chicken chili, black bean & corn salad, corn bread, dessert]
[\$5 for adults; FREE ages 18 & under]



JEYC/EYC: 6:30 p.m. in Youth Building
Adult Class: 6:30 p.m. in Parlor
Viewing & Discussion of Season 2 of The Chosen.



First Sunday Ministry Fund

During January, St. James was able to assist 15 families with \$2709.71 towards utilities, rent, and gas. This was all due to your generosity. The need is always great as you are aware. Please remember that the first Sunday "loose plate" collection (cash) is designated for the Ministry Fund, and we welcome donations by check as well - please make checks payable to St. James with Ministry Fund written in the check's Memo section. Thank you!

Sunday Adult Christian Formation

Join us Sunday at 9:15 a.m. in the Parlor as we continue our study of the Gospel of Matthew, using a video that is the word-for-word Gospel, but with actors bringing the action to life. There is discussion of what we see and hear each week. No preparation needed.





Funeral for Julia Ann Twilley

The Rite of Burial of the Dead with Holy Eucharist will be celebrated for Julia Ann Twilley on Saturday, February 11, at St. James. Visitation will be at noon in the Parish Hall with the service at 2:00 p.m. in the church.

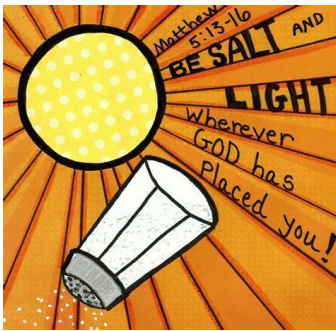
Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord; and let perpetual light shine upon her. May she rest in peace. Amen.

Looking Ahead in February



- Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper - February 21 at 5:30 p.m.
- Ash Wednesday Services - Holy Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes
 - 7:00 a.m. - Chapel
 - 12:15 p.m. - Church with Bishop Jake
 - 5:15 p.m. - Church
- Diocesan Convention - Saturday, February 25 - Pineville Convention Center
 - Pre-Convention Holy Eucharist at St. James - 5:00 p.m.
 - Reception following in Parish Hall

Worship



February 5th

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

In-person Worship at 8:00 AM & 10:30 AM
Childcare is available for the 10:30 AM service.

[Click on this link to join the 10:30 AM service.](#)

[Click here for the service bulletin.](#)

February 5, 2023
Evening Prayer
Online @ 5:00 PM

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

Meeting ID: 863 4898 4077

Passcode: 1620

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



Prayer

Parish Prayer List

Please keep these members of our community in your prayers:

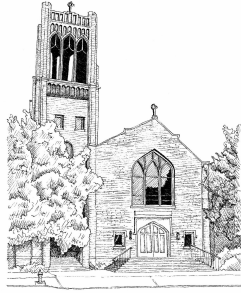
Lacy Shaw, Sam Bejach, Gary Maxwell, Beth Courtney, Holly Craig, Kip Hogue, Jim Bristol, Ellen Moore, Bill Owens, Mother Meredith Ward, Pat Carter, Betty Gaiennie, Jack Dewitt, Sr., Beth Hebert, Rita & Bill Clancey, Jimmy Hurt, Carol Rowe, Barbara Baldwin, Louise Carter, Donnie Hayes, John Brewer, Fred Alexius, Paula Lieberman, Bill and Beverly Jarvis, Robbie G., Jonathan Rhea, Peggy Humbles, Laura Murchison, Darriel & Charles, Minnie Mikell, Massi Jordan, Richard Norem, Pepe Rizzo, Bonnie McLellan, Michael Sterne, Jim Leggett, Cackie, Bernard Parker, Rachel and Ben, Kristie Fresh, Andrea, Janet & Carl Ahrens, Jeff and Anne, Lillian DeVille, Shannon Norman, Bill Jarvis, Wilma Filipi, Stephen, Natosha and Family, Fran Barbato, Kevin Delaney, Gail, Charlotte Sterling, Matthew Fontanille, Andrew, Shirley Christian, Susan Webster, Stacy and Richard, Chase Barnfield, Taylor Thompson, Johnnie Hart, Jane Y. Harris, Kyle, James Jay Watts, Beth Virden, Glenn Guillory, Elda Schoolcraft, Mesta Bain, Dean M. Tyree, Jackie Jeanne, Dietrich DeBoer, Beverly Butler, Murel Trimble, Emily Warren, Bill Leibke, Wayne Moorehead, Donna House, Dayna Hill, Kevin Hooter, Jane Tyson, Gerard, and Mehre Hajighassem.

For those in the military:

Josh Duff, Samuel Hayes, 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), Morgan Brewer (4), Emerson Milliner(5), Bruce Jordan (6), Chad Norton (5), Pat Carter (10), Lawrence Searcy (12), Emma McCartney (15), Rita Clancey (19), Tommy Brasher (22), Justin Manuel (23), Brady Brown (24), Bernard Parker (25), Melanie Jurgensen (26).



Visit our Website

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