

February 28, 2023

From Fr. John

This Sunday we will read the story of Jesus cleansing the Temple, from John's Gospel. This particular section of the Gospel ends with Jesus telling the Temple authorities, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." This results in the authorities telling him how many decades it took to build the building, and mocking him for saying that he could raise it so quickly. The Gospel makes it clear to the reader that Jesus was not talking about the building in which they were standing, but rather about his body. Clearly, Jesus' opposition was guilty (among other things) of hearing his words as literal and responding accordingly.

Jesus often spoke in parables and in hyperbole. And at least occasionally, we might take some of his more difficult words as literally true, in order to give ourselves an out – permission not to heed his real message. For instance, last Sunday we heard Jesus say that people must take up their cross and follow him. Well ... we all know that the chances are very slim that any of us will be crucified. So he must have been talking to someone else about that. Right? Not really.

In this hyperbolic statement, Jesus was telling us all to be faithful disciples who never put anything ahead of the call to follow him. Just because no one in 2024 literally carries a cross to their own demise does not excuse us from following Christ in whatever way we might be called to do so.

The Lenten season is partially about introspection. So let's look at our lives, and listen for the call of Jesus. We each have some form of a cross to carry. This discipleship work is demanding, but Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to empower our work. And God put us together in this community to support each other as we pick up our own particular "crosses" and fall in line between our Savior.

God's blessings,
Fr. John+



Faith & Fellowship Tonight

5:15 p.m. - Holy Eucharist with Healing Service - Chapel

6:00 p.m. - Dinner - Cheese Frito bean casserole with salad, rolls, and dessert

6:45 p.m. - Class - Season 3 of *The Chosen*

Every Friday at 12:15 p.m. in the Church

Join us as we actively walk the path Jesus took on the way to the cross, stopping at each station to say prayer and reflect on that station.



First Sunday Ministry Fund

This Sunday, March 3rd, the loose plate offering goes to the St. James Ministry Fund. In February we assisted 25 families with utilities and rent, for a total of \$4075.25. St. James continues to be a very giving, supportive church to those in need! Through your generous spirit, we have not only provided hope for these families but also safety and a knowledge that someone really does care.

Adult Sunday Class

Come and join us in the parlor at 9:15 this Sunday as **Dee Drell** presents a class on exploring *Aspects of Prayer: An Inward Look*. Bring a cup of coffee, or your favorite beverage, and sit in. There is no preparation needed to join in the discussion.



Coffee Hour

Coffee hour provides a great opportunity for fellowship on Sunday mornings following the 10:30 a.m. service in the Parish Hall. A wonderful time to visit and catch up on what is happening and to welcome any new person who comes in.



Lenten Resources Available

Lent begins early this year on February 14, and The Episcopal Church's official website has some good resources for clergy, congregations, and individuals. This includes Sermons That Work, 40-Day Devotionals, The Way of Love in Lent, and more.

You can view the resources by [clicking here](#).



Cursillo has been a tradition in our diocese for decades. It is an opportunity to grow in faith and spirituality. Plus you can gain a deeper understanding of the teachings of Jesus and how to serve him.

The next Cursillo event will be held April 12-14 at The Wesley Center in Woodworth. Applications are due March 25, and space is limited.

You can sign up by filling [this application](#).

Egg My House Fundraiser for Hope House



This Easter, rather than spending hours filling eggs with candy for your family and hiding them on the lawn, let us do a custom egg hunt for you! And you contribute to a great cause at the same time!

During our annual "Egg My House" event we help the Easter Bunny with delivering and hiding eggs full of candy on lawns throughout CENLA the night before Easter.

Cost is \$20 per 40 eggs. Pay with cash, check, or online at cenlahopehouse.org (click the "donate" button, specify it is for Egg My House).

Any questions please contact Toni at childservicemgr@cenlahopehouse.org or 318.487.2061.



Summer is right around the corner, and it's not too late to sign your child up for an experience like no other at Louisiana's premier Episcopal summer camp!

Selected as one of "America's Best Summer Camps 2023" by Newsweek, Camp Hardtner isn't just about games; it's about making memories, finding joy, and discovering new things about yourself.

Campers will find an experience that will stick with them all year long and possibly for life. An experience of relationship, community, belonging, and self-worth—all built upon the foundation that God's love surrounds us and transforms our lives.

You can sign up by [clicking here](#).

WORSHIP



March 3rd The Third Sunday in Lent

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.](#)

March 3, 2023 Evening Prayer Online@ 5:00 PM

[Click here for
Order of Service AND
to join Evening Prayer via Zoom.](#)



Meeting ID: 863 4898 4077
Passcode: 1620

Prayer

Parish Prayer List

Please keep these members of our community in your prayers:

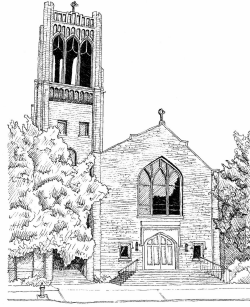
Ben Nugent-Peterson, John & Judy McLure, Adair Faust, Phillip Craig, Tommy Watts, Tim Strohschein, Nona Yeager, Michael S., Rebbie Jones, Fr. John, Sara Marshall, Charles Robinson, Jr., Lynne Distefano, Ogden Middleton, John Upton, Rita Clancey, Linda Ittner, Sophia Frey Bradford, Debbie Barnes, Becky Maxwell, Brady Brown, Dr. Wesley Davis, Steve Caballero, Anna Stapleton, Ann Vanderslice, Eleanor, Sam Bejach, Beth Courtney, Holly Craig, Jim Bristol, Ellen Moore, Mother Meredith Ward, Beth Hebert, Jimmy Hurt, Barbara Baldwin, Louise Carter, John Brewer, Fred Alexius, Paula Lieberman, Massi Jordan, Pepe Rizzo, Michael Sterne, Cackie, Kristie Fresh, Janet & Carl Ahrens, Wilma FilipiFran Barbato, Kevin Delaney, Gail, Charlotte Sterling, Andrew, Susan Webster, Chase Barnfield, Jane Y. Harris, Kyle, Beth Virden, Murel Trimble, Emily Warren, Bill Leibke, Mark Goldich, Kevin Hooter, Donna House, Dayna Hill, Jane Tyson, and Mehre Hajighassem.

For those in the military:

Kyle Jordan, Samuel Hayes, Franklin Watson, Donal McCarthy, Michael Geiger, Erskine Cook, Jr., Patrick Downs, and Chris Babcock.

For those celebrating birthdays in March (day):

Melinda Mikell (1), Janet Ahrens (5), Elizabeth Drell (6), Alexander Adams (7), Donnie Hayes (7), Randall Despino (8), Edmond O'Quin (8), Shepard Searcy (9), Randy Welch (13), Julie Despino (14), Bobby Levy (15), Barbara Moorehead (16), Lottie Milliner (20), Alex Norton (22), Tom McBride (25), Don Kramer (27), Bryce Dixon (28).



Visit our
Website

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