



Open Doors

The Newsletter of St. James Episcopal Church

March 2017

FROM THE



RECTOR

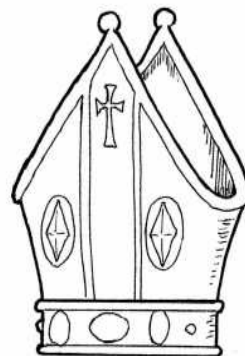
Next Sunday, March 5, Bishop Provenzano will be visiting us. It's three years since he last visited us, and it will be wonderful to have him with us again.

So I thought it might

be useful to talk a little about what a bishop is.

Bishops are at the very heart of our church tradition – in fact, our denomination is named for them! “Episcopal” means ‘of or relating to a bishop’. Within the Anglican tradition, there is no such thing as a congregation that is separate from the bishop. While we may feel like we are independent, we actually only exist as part of the larger whole, the diocese, with the bishop as our chief pastor (*episokopos*, the Greek root of Episcopal, means overseer). That means that we are different from denominations like the Presbyterians, where each church is, for the most part, independent. Likewise, where their clergy are hired by and work for the individual church, clergy in the Episcopal Church can only be hired with the approval of the bishop, and work with, rather than for the congregation, under the authority of the bishop.

So what does the bishop actually do? In the service of ordination (or consecration) of a bishop it says, “A bishop in God’s holy Church is called to be one with the apostles in proclaiming Christ’s resurrection and interpreting the Gospel, and to testify to Christ’s sovereignty as Lord of lords and King of kings. You are called to guard the faith, unity, and discipline of the Church; to celebrate and to provide for the administration of the sacraments of the New Covenant; to ordain priests and deacons and to join in ordaining bishops; and to be in all things a faithful pastor and wholesome example for the entire flock of Christ. With your fellow bishops you will share in the leadership of the Church throughout the world. Your heritage is the faith of patriarchs, prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and those of every generation who have looked to God in hope. Your joy will be to follow him who came, not to be served, but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many.”



In the question and answer section that follows, the bishop is asked:

Will you be faithful in prayer, and in the study of Holy Scripture, that you may have the mind of Christ?

I will, for he is my help.

Will you boldly proclaim and interpret the Gospel of Christ, enlightening the minds and stirring up the conscience of your people?

I will, in the power of the Spirit.

As a chief priest and pastor, will you encourage and support all baptized people in their gifts and ministries, nourish them from the riches of God's grace, pray for them without ceasing, and celebrate with them the sacraments of our redemption?

I will, in the name of Christ, the Shepherd and Bishop of our souls.

Will you guard the faith, unity and discipline of the Church?

I will, for the love of God.

Will you share with your fellow bishops in the government of the whole Church; will you sustain your fellow presbyters and take counsel with them; will you guide and strengthen the deacons and all others who minister in the Church?

I will, by the grace given me.

Will you be merciful to all, show compassion to the poor and strangers, and defend those who have no helper?

I will, for the sake of Christ Jesus.

Some distinctive things about bishops:

* They often wear purple clerical shirts.

Purple has been used from ancient times to symbolize a ruler or leader of the people. They traditionally also wear a ring with an amethyst, symbolizing faithfulness and truth.

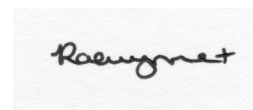
* The bishop wears a pectoral cross (from the Latin, *pectoralis*, of the chest). This large, visible cross shows how God is close to a bishop's heart. Our bishop's cross is in the shape of a Maltese cross, also known as a "firefighter's shield", and contains a fragment of steel from the

World Trade Center. It was given to him by the Fire Department Chaplains with whom he served in the search and recovery after 9/11.

* During liturgy, the bishop wears a mitre, pointy hat shaped to represent the Holy Spirit which, according to the Acts of the Apostles, Chapter 2 verse 3, rested on the apostles in the shape of tongues of fire.

* He also carries a crozier, or crook, that shows that he is a 'shepherd of the flock of God'.

We look forward to seeing Bishop Provenzano next week, complete with purple shirt, cross, mitre, and crozier.



**SHROVE TUESDAY
MARDI GRAS CELEBRATION
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28**

Don your masks, beads, and costumes (optional) as we celebrate Shrove Tuesday with a Mardi Gras party and pot luck supper. The festivities will begin at 6 p.m. in Mills Hall. There will be music, the hiding of the "Alleluias", and a fun time will be had by all! We will be serving the traditional pancakes, but please bring a dish to share. You can contact Stephanie Coleman at ssc6263@gmail.com to let her know you are coming and if you can help out, or just show up with your dish.

THE WARDENS' COLUMN
Our Lenten Journey

Lent is a gift. It is a forty day period where we are allowed and encouraged to travel inwardly, spiritually. Some of us will focus fully on repentance, asking for forgiveness. We will deny ourselves something we hold dear or which gives us great pleasure as an act of contrition. Others will withdraw from the busyness of life and retreat with Jesus to rest and restore what has been drained away. And still others will set our sights on the glorious gift awaiting us in Holy Week culminating in the Resurrection.

There is no right or wrong way to take this journey. We can hold fast to forgiving ourselves and others who have wronged us. We can just speak daily with a loving and gracious God. But these forty days stand out within the liturgical year as a singular opportunity to experience the “cloud of presence” and God’s grace. We can share the path with others or withdraw into singular contemplation. What we do need to do is not waste this gift, this remarkable opportunity to grow in faith and God’s love.

Happy sojourning,
Alex & Jennifer

ASH WEDNESDAY

We will begin the observation of Lent with services of Holy Communion and the Imposition of Ashes at 12 Noon and 7:30 p.m. on March 1.

The Rector invites you to join her to hit the streets and welcome St. James to a Holy Lent. Last year a small group of parishioners had an incredible time on Ash Wednesday morning offering ashes at the St. James railroad station beginning at 5:45 a.m. We are planning to do it again this year! Join us – sign up on Sunday.

BISHOP PROVENZANO
VISITATION
SUNDAY, MARCH 5

The Bishop will be visiting St. James Church at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday, March 5 to celebrate the Eucharist and preach. Following the service, there will be a special reception in Mills Hall. The Bishop will also meet with the Vestry. Parishioners are being asked to contribute food for the reception.

DO YOU LIKE TO SING?

We know there are people in our parish that have good voices. For the bishop’s visit next week, we are gathering a small choir. We will rehearse again on Sunday after the 9:30 a.m. service, and again next week at 9 a.m. If you would like to join us, come on Sunday, or contact the rector to get a copy of the music.

WHAT IS LENT?

Originating in the fourth century of the church, the season of Lent spans 40 weekdays beginning on Ash Wednesday and climaxing during Holy Week with Holy Thursday (Maundy Thursday), Good Friday, and concluding the Saturday before Easter. Originally, Lent was a time of preparation for those who were to be baptized, a time of concentrated study and prayer before their baptism at the Easter Vigil, the first celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. But since these new members were to be received into a living community of faith, the entire community was called to preparation. Also, this was the time when those who had been separated from the Church would prepare to rejoin the community.

Today, Lent is marked by a time of prayer and preparation to celebrate Easter. Since all Sundays celebrate the resurrection of Jesus, the six Sundays that occur during Lent are not counted as part of the 40 days of Lent, and are referred to as the Sundays *in* (not *of*) Lent. The number 40 is connected with many biblical events, but especially with the forty days Jesus spent in the wilderness preparing for his ministry by facing the temptations that could lead him to abandon his mission and calling. Christians today use this period of time for introspection, self examination, and repentance. This season of the year is equal only to the Season of Advent in importance in the Christian year, and is part of the second major grouping of Christian festivals and sacred time that includes Holy Week, Easter, and Pentecost.

Lent has traditionally been marked by penitential prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Some churches today still observe a rigid schedule of fasting on certain days during Lent, especially the giving up of meat, alcohol, sweets, and other types of food.

Other traditions do not place as great an emphasis on fasting, but focus on charitable deeds, especially helping those in physical need with food and clothing, or simply the giving of money to charities. Most Christian churches that observe Lent focus on it as a time of prayer, especially penance, repenting for failures and sin as a way to focus on the need for God's grace. It is really a preparation to celebrate God's marvelous redemption at Easter, and the resurrected life that we live, and hope for, as Christians.

The color used in the sanctuary for most of Lent is purple. This color symbolizes both the pain and suffering leading up to the crucifixion of Jesus as well as the suffering of humanity and the world under sin. But purple is also the color of royalty, and so

anticipates through the suffering and death of Jesus the coming resurrection and hope of newness that will be celebrated on Easter Sunday.

- Raewynne

LENTEN STUDY WEDNESDAYS AT 7:30 P.M.

This year's Lenten study series is on forgiveness. Forgiving others and humbly asking for forgiveness are central disciplines for all Christian believers. Lent, a time to reflect on our Christian journey, is an appropriate time to deepen our understanding and practice of forgiveness.

- Is forgiveness a Christian duty under all circumstances? Or are there situations when Christians do not need to forgive?
- Is forgiveness a matter between individuals, or is it meaningful only in the context of communities?
- Is forgiving the best route to healing for the injured?
- How do we get past emotional barriers to real forgiveness?

We will be using the book "Forgiveness" by Marjorie J. Thompson. You can sign up to buy a copy of the book on the list at the back of the church.

**BOOKS & THINGS SALE
MARCH 25 , 10 A.M. - 4 P.M.**

Following up on the success of our book sale in January, we will institute a monthly sale beginning on Saturday, March 25 in the lower level of Mills Hall. Donations of books are now welcome. They may be left on the lower level room on Sundays (or during the week, if you have a key).

In addition to books, we will be selling various items, depending on what is available. Invite your friends, stop by and browse our collections. If you would like to help out on a Saturday, please speak to Jennifer Lawrence (631-862-7374).

ANNUAL MEETING RESULTS

At the Annual Meeting on February 5 elections were held, the budget for 2017 was presented, and reports were given. Jennifer Lawrence was elected to a two year term as Warden, and Debbie Lawton Sepulveda was elected to a three year term of Vestry member. Copies of the Annual Report are available at the back of the church.

PARISH COMMITTEES

I hope by now that everyone has read the Annual Report. It reveals so much of the hard work within our parish and in our wider community. Now is the time for our committees to start gathering and planning for the year ahead. Our co-chairs should be reviewing plans for the coming months, reviewing membership rosters and thinking of potential new members who could bring vitality and talents to our committees As our snow birds return and we shake off the burden of winter, please let Laurie know when you are scheduling your meetings and any changes to the membership roles.

- Alex Rich

OUTREACH

The following letter of thanks was received from St. John's Episcopal Hospital:

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Please accept...my heartfelt thanks for your support during the 2016 season. Your generosity and compassion made it possible for the Hospital Auxiliary to:

- * distribute over 200 backpacks to patients of the Pediatric and Behavioral Medicine services,
- * give Chanukah and Christmas gifts to 50 nursing home residents and 98 patient households,
- * present 680 mothers with baby bags filled with clothing and toiletry,
- * provide hundreds of books to pediatric patients, and
- * give nearly 1000 toys to guests at the Children's Holiday Party.

The Auxiliary's mission is to support the at risk patients served by the hospital. Their aim is to enhance the care the hospital renders to patients struggling with social and economic challenges. Auxiliary members know social factors can, and do, compromise clinical care. They also know hospital staff has neither the time nor resources to address every economic or social barrier patients face. Your donations (of time, money, and supplies) help the auxiliary reduce the effects of these barriers.

On behalf of our patients and our auxiliary members, I thank you.

Mother Broderick
Vice President of Mission
Episcopal Health Services

LUNCH BUNCH

The March meeting of the Lunch Bunch will be at Acropolis Restaurant, 127-16 Smithtown Blvd., Nesconset, on Tuesday, March 28, at 12:30 p.m. All parishioners and friends are invited to attend. Contact Fjeril Deal (631-724-3720) to make your reservation.

LENTEN QUIET DAY

The Episcopal Church Women of the Diocese of Long Island are sponsoring a Lenten Quiet Day, "Fools for Christ", on Saturday, April 1 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Mercer School of Theology. The cost of the day, which includes, morning and afternoon sessions, lunch, and a Eucharist, is \$20.00 per person. For further information, check the brochures in the rack at the entrance to the church.

SAFE CHURCH WORKSHOP

The Diocese of Long Island requires that all Vestry members, Eucharistic Visitors, those who work with children, staff, and building key holders undergo the Safe Church program on Sexual Harassment and Child Abuse prevention training. If you are in any of the above mentioned groups and have not taken the training, the next session is on April 22 at the Mercer School in Garden City. You can sign up online at <http://www.mercerschool.org>.

GOT PLANTS?

If you are planting seeds this spring, when the time comes to thin the plants out, please consider potting some up to sell at the Strawberry Festival.

NEWS OF THE PARISH FAMILY

We are happy to announce the birth of **Kennedy Noel Beirne**, daughter of Tim and Laura Beirne, and baby sister of Madison, who was born on February 1. We look forward to seeing her in church soon! Congratulations to the happy family.

We welcome **Mila Susan Grimaldi** into the parish family as she is Baptized on Sunday, March 26. Mila lives with her parents, Gia and Lindsey, in Hauppauge.

A memorial service will be held for former parishioner, **Lillian McKinley**, on Thursday, March 30 at 10 a.m. in the church. Lillian, who passed away in December, will have her ashes buried in the churchyard. The family invites those who remember Lillian during her long years of membership to attend the service.

LOOKING AHEAD TO HOLY WEEK & EASTER

The week from Palm Sunday to Easter Day is the most solemn and glorious of our church year. It's the time when we hear the story that makes us who we are, the people of God, saved by Christ, forgiven and invited into resurrected life. Please mark the services on your calendar, and make worshiping and thanking God a priority for that week.

Palm Sunday - April 9

Holy Eucharist I at 8 a.m.
Holy Eucharist II with Palm
Procession at 9:30 a.m.

Tuesday - April 11

Chrism Mass 11 a.m. - Cathedral
of the Incarnation
Stations of the Cross 7 p.m.

Maundy Thursday - April 13

Supper and Eucharist 6:30 p.m.

Good Friday - April 14

Good Friday Liturgy 12 noon - 3 pm

Good Friday Office 7:00 p.m.

(tentative)

Holy Saturday - April 15

Holy Saturday Office 9:00 a.m.

Easter Vigil 7:00 p.m.

Easter Day - April 16

Celebration Holy Eucharist 8:00 a.m.

Celebration Holy Eucharist with

Baptism 9:30 a.m.

MARCH CALENDAR**1 Ash Wednesday**

“Ashes to Go” at the St. James

railroad station 5:45 - 8:00 a.m.

Holy Eucharist with Imposition of

Ashes 12 Noon

Knitters’ group 11:30 a.m.

Holy Eucharist with Imposition of

Ashes 7:30 p.m.

5 Lent 1

Holy Eucharist 9:30 a.m. -

Visitation of Bishop Provenzano

6 Food Addiction group 7:30 p.m.**7 Holy Eucharist 9 a.m.**

Recovery group 7:30 p.m.

8 Knitters’ group 11:30 a.m.**9 N.A. meeting 7:30 p.m.****12 Lent 2**

Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.

Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.

Children’s Formation classes

Mills Hall rental 1 - 4 p.m.

13 North Shore Garden Club Board

Meeting 4 p.m.

Food Addiction group 7:30 p.m.

14 Holy Eucharist 9 a.m.

Protestant Campus Ministry

Board meeting 12:30 p.m.

Recovery group 7:30 p.m.

15 Knitters’ group 11:30 a.m.

Special Connections group 6 p.m.

18 Mills Hall rental 1 - 5 p.m.**19 Lent 3**

Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.

Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.

Children’s Formation classes

20 Food Addiction group 7:30 p.m.

21 Holy Eucharist 9 a.m.

Smithtown Book club 7 p.m.

Recovery group 7:30 p.m.

22 Knitters’ group 11:30 a.m.

23 N.A. meeting 7:30 p.m.

25 Books & Things sale 10 a.m. -

4 p.m. - Mills Hall lower level

26 Lent 4

Holy Eucharist I 8:00 a.m.

Holy Eucharist II 9:30 a.m.

Children’s Formation classes

27 Vestry meeting 7:30 p.m.

Food Addiction group 7:30 p.m.

28 Holy Eucharist 9 a.m.

Lunch Bunch at Acropolis

Restaurant 12:30 p.m.

Recovery group 7:30 p.m.

29 Knitters’ group 11:30 a.m.

30 Memorial service for Lillian

McKinley 10 a.m.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Seraphina Baez

Andrea Lippke

Tony DeVito

Ken Wille

Violette Baez

Gabriele Reisenauer

Amy Giardina

Justine Guinaw

Wylie Hunt

Ruth Rutigliano

Derek Lally

Mary Jane DeVito

Genevieve Carter

Michael LaMano

Matthew Trump

Ryan White

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

Jeff & Karen Smith

Doug & Robin Dahlgard