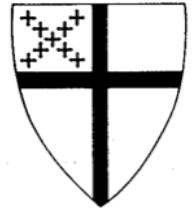




# The Staff



Jesus said, “I say to you who hear: Love your enemies,  
do good to those who hate you,  
bless those who curse you,  
and pray for those who spitefully use you.”

April 2020

Give me my scallop-shell of quiet  
My staff of faith to walk upon,....  
and thus I'll take my pilgrimage.  
— Sir Walter Raleigh

Luke 6:27-28 (English Standard Version)

**Anglican worship of Jesus Christ and Biblical preaching of the Good News.**

## **DIOCESE OF THE RIO GRANDE**

Jesus Christ, *Head of the Church*

The Rt. Rev. Dr. Michael Hunn, *Bishop*

The Rev. John Tober, *Rector*

The Rev. Dr. Frank Williams, *Assisting Priest*

“ A peacemaker, then, is someone who, by  
God’s grace, imitates Jesus in bringing  
reconciliation to others by giving of  
themselves, always and everywhere! Those  
who do so are true children of God and  
show us the way of true happiness.

—Pope Francis

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## *From the Rector's Desk*

“All shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of thing shall be well.”

Dear St. James' Family—

Hallelujah! The Lord is risen! The Lord is risen, indeed; hallelujah!

Greetings from the St. James' annex in scenic Dona Ana! This month has been quite a challenge. There is lots that gets done around our parish campus and lots of elves running around, usually, taking care of things that probably no one notices. This Easter season, I'm especially thankful for all the help to keep the parish running: from the people who make sure all the moving parts of the liturgy are scheduled and enacted, to the people who have adopted the parish hall and schedule hosts and setup, to the people who change lightbulbs and make sure the plumbing runs right. We couldn't function without you. So, let me be the first to say, “Thank you,” this Spring.



My hope was to talk about Spring cleaning this month. There are odds and ends we need to look for and inventory on campus. There are cobwebs and dust in forgotten corners. There are things that probably need repairing or replacing. Unfortunately, all these tasks are going on hold until we can meet again and work together.

Maybe this month is an opportunity to take stock of ourselves and shine a (perhaps uncomfortable) light on ourselves and our relationship with God.

What in ourselves requires repairing and replacing?

Is it time to make an appointment with the dentist or doctor for a checkup?

Do we need to get a little more exercise?

Have we gotten out of the habit of saying grace before meals, or prayers before bedtime?

Are there relationships we can use this time to repair by calling/writing someone?

Where is there dust or cobwebs in our lives?

Should we take some time and go through that closet and discard things we don't use?

Does the microwave need cleaning?

Are there cobwebs or dust growing in the corners of our mind or in our relationship with God? What Spring cleaning can we do there?

I've begun reading Revelations of Divine Love by Dame Julian of Norwich. She lived in the 13-1400s in Norwich, England. After an illness she became what was known as an anchorite. She was “anchored” to a church and lived entombed (for lack of a better word) in a little room built onto the side of the church with only a window looking out into the church focused on the altar. She recorded the visions she received during her illness and the

understanding she received from God in a short text and a longer text. The church can still be visited today.

The theme that runs through Julian's manuscript seems to be summarized by her vision of Jesus in heaven. Julian tells us that, while lamenting her sinful life, Jesus "answered with these words, saying: 'All shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of thing shall be well.' ... This was said so tenderly, without blame of any kind toward me or anybody else."

This is the hope that I have during this crisis, as I'm "anchored" at home. And this is the message I want to share. We don't know how or when we will reach a resolution as a nation from this crisis, but "All shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of things shall be well." Jesus' resurrection this Easter is our hope as Christians. And the theme of Julian's vision is our hope as an Easter people.

With many blessings,

*The Rev. John Tober, Rector*

## Senior Warden's Report—Manny Terrazas

Dear St. James Faithful Happy Easter!

We are going through trying times with the reality of the COVID-19 pandemic upon us. Social distancing, and self-quarantine is the new "normal" until further notice. Know that your Parish is still standing, and we are doing all that we can to reach out to each one of you. We have a wonderful group of volunteers that are calling our congregation members on a regular basis. We want to check-in, how you are doing? can we help with anything? errands? groceries? transportation to essential medical appointments? We are here to help. Sometimes just hearing a friendly, familiar voice can help tremendously. There is a great amount of information out there about the Coronavirus and how to avoid contracting it. There is also some basic advice that is valuable like:



- Avoid excessive exposure to Social Media Coverage.
- Connect with family and friends through call/text/internet.
- Add extra time to your de-stressing hobbies.
- Practice self-care and focus on maintaining good mental health.

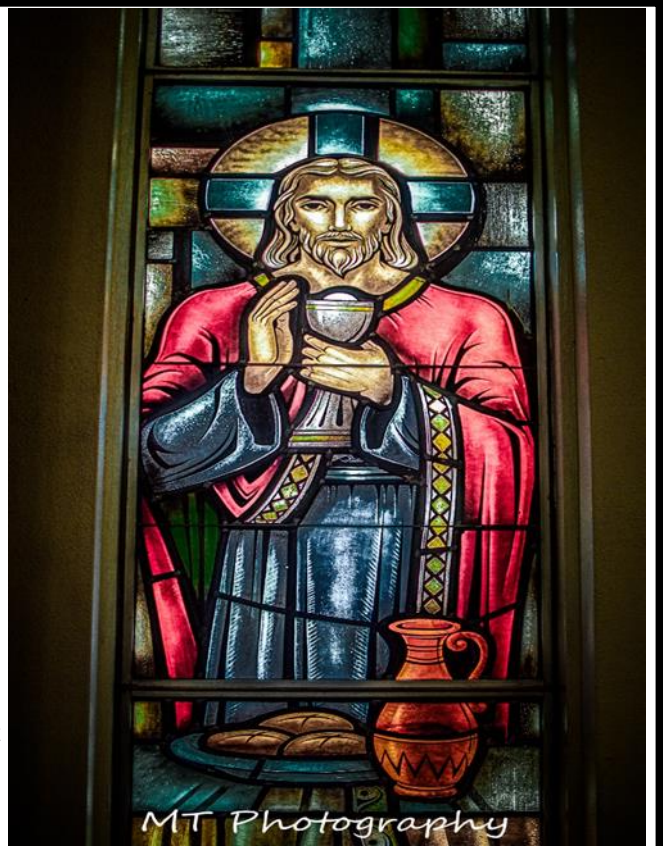
As for my family, Jennifer and I are doing well. We continue to provide day care for our youngest granddaughter, Avery, who is a joy. Her parents are essential employees, so they are

still working. She is a Nursing Administrator at a hospital in El Paso, he is in I.T. and serves as our Church Webmaster as an occasional contract employee. Our other 3 grandchildren have spent several weeks with their other grandmother in Ruidoso. They are now back home and are in quarantine for 2 weeks. They will return to us for daycare as their parents are essential employees as well. So, next week homeschooling will commence in our home with them. Having a house full of children will certainly break our dull existence for a while. Please do know that your Parish leadership continues to work hard to carry out our mission as best we can. And, as always please do not hesitate to reach out to me should you need anything at all. We have a network of amazing volunteers that are willing and able to help with anything that is essential, at **575-993-6022** and **mannyterrazas54@gmail**.

Faithfully,

Your Senior Warden

Manny Terrazas,



## Junior Warden's Report

Greetings fellow hermits from your unemployed Junior Warden:

Since it was decided to shut down the campus of St. James, I am sorry to report that work on the Sunday School has taken a temporary hiatus. We are so close to having this room done that it really is difficult to stay away, but stay away we must.

The cabinets are in the room, the television is mounted, the Altar has been installed and we look with great anticipation for the kids to return and enjoy the space.

Although work has taken a break, plans have not. We are investigating the possibility of security cameras around the church itself, especially since we do not have the activity and the coming and going that normally occurs. We are also looking at other kinds of locks and keyless entry touchpads are a distinct possibility. There are several advantages to keyless entry, not the least of which is we won't have to keep up with a huge number of keys, and if someone moves away we simply delete their code. All of this of course depends on what kind of expense we may incur.

Which brings me to my next bit, if you haven't considered online giving in the past would you consider it now? I have always written a check for my pledge and I like it that way. Several weeks ago I realized that the church needs my pledge even if we are not meeting and now it just isn't as easy as dropping my check in the plate. I have to mail it, which means envelope, stamp and a trip to the Post Office, bummer. Manny suggested I look at the online giving link on the St. James webpage. It took about a minute to set up a regular contribution and even when we get to meet together again, I think I will just leave it alone. I kind of like that fact that it will be automatic and if I have a "Senior" moment on Sunday's, it just won't matter.

Rick and I are caring for our three grandchildren while their parents finish up their contracts in Seoul, South Korea so we are not going to get bored. You may meet them through videos where their grandfather has asked for their assistance (I cannot believe Rick is so old that he is a grandfather). They will hopefully participate in the readings for Morning Prayer Services which he is going to start recording. We will see how it goes. All of this is new to all of us and some results remain a mystery. That's all for now folks, stay safe, stay home.





St James Episcopal Church  
Financial Report Summary  
**MARCH 2020**

Citizens Bank Account Balances at the end of the month from Balance Sheet:

ACCOUNTS	Current Month	Previous Month
Operating Account	\$ 42,100.10	\$ 51,472.08
Restricted Account	\$ 29,701.86	\$ 28,571.55
Rector's Discretionary Fund	\$ 2,415.35	\$ 2,290.35

Operating Income and Expense Summary for the month:

	Current Month	Current Mo. Budget	Year to Date	Year to Date Budget	Annual Budget
Income	14,520.34	17,950.00	47,099.72	56,950.00	224,116.00
Expense	22,880.02	17,311.64	59,098.28	56,931.92	223,965.01
Variance	-8,359.68	638.36	-11,998.56	18.08	150.99

Restricted Account with Entries

ACCOUNT	Beginning Balance	Transfer of Funds	Income	Expense	Ending Balance
Mission and Outreach	8,275.00			-206.30	8068.70
Memorial Fund	14,098.64				14,098.64
Organ-Piano Fund	331.16		1,000.00		1331.16
Organ Fund	4,126.65				4,126.65
Building Fund	2,977.97		375.00		3,352.97
BLDG – PH Windows	4,445.67				4,445.67
BLDG – Sunday School Room	3,692.00		1,000.00	-1,605.03	3,086.97
PH Interior Refurbishment	7,803.76		1,000.00		8,803.76
Flowers for Altar	1,772.33		4.63	-258.40	1,518.56
Columbarium	12,923.15		1.00		12924.15
Rector Discretionary Fund	2,290.35		125.00		2415.35
Sunday School Fund	-482.55			-180.59	-663.14
Vestry Designated Fund	12,320.58		1.00		12,320.58

Fair Share Information

FAIR SHARE	Current Month
Total Income (Operational + Restricted)	\$ 17,026.34
Total Exclusions	\$ 2,506.00
Net Disposal Income	\$ 14,520.34
Fair Share Paid for Reported Month	\$ 2,286.95

# Daughters of the King News



I'm going to keep the Daughters of the King column short this time: WE PRAY.

We pray daily for everyone in our congregation. We pray regularly for our Priest John and his wife Amy; we pray for Fr. Frank and Charlotte. We pray daily for our Bishop and his family. This is a tough time for the church, and the clergy are doing a fabulous job keeping us together.

We pray for those who are ill: our list of cancer patients is long, but we remember them daily; we pray for those facing major surgery. Please let us know of anyone close to you who needs prayer, by contacting Johanna Binneweg (527-8575), Chickie Lerdal (642-9151), Kathy Fisher (635-7677), or Bink Nelson (644-4822).

In times of duress, when I'm feeling overwhelmed, I like to recite the Daughters of the King motto: "I am but one, but I am one. I cannot do everything, but I can do something. What I can do, by the grace of God, I ought to do. Lord, what would you have me do.?" We're all in this together, and I like that!

For His sake and in His love,

Johanna

## **From the Vestry - Correct Contact Information**

During these uncertain times, it is important for us to reach out to one another and remain in contact, even if distanced by space and time. With that said, our Vestry has divided up our current parishioner list and has attempted to make contact with everyone in our St. James family. If you have NOT been contacted, it is because we do NOT have your correct contact information. Please, contact Rick Marshall at: 575-644-4902 or [rmarshall3800@gmail.com](mailto:rmarshall3800@gmail.com) to update your information as soon as possible. Please do not send this information to anyone else, only Rick, as she is maintaining the master list. If you choose for your information to remain confidential, simply let her know. The Vestry will continue to reach out periodically over the coming weeks to every parishioner. We want to ensure that your needs are being met, as circumstances change over time and a need may arise in the future.

Thank you,  
The Vestry

## Vestry Member, Nyeta Haines, reflection...

In one church I found that each month there would be a "Vestry Reflection". I would like to take this time to share some research from the internet and my reflections...

### WORLD QUARANTINE

The Latin root of the word "quarantine" is "forty".

So, what does the Bible say about 40? If you google the number 40 in the bible, or the meaning of the number 40 in the bible you will get anywhere from 127,000,000 to 157,000,000 results. (Nope, didn't read all of them.)

As many of you probably already know, the number 40 appears many times across the Old and New Testaments. (Websites vary in answers depending on the source. Most commonly they say 146 times, some 159, another 98.)

Here are some examples (I had plenty to choose from):

Moses was summoned by God at age forty, he was on top of Mount Sinai for 40 days on two occasions (Exodus 24:18 and Exodus 34:27).

The Israelites wandered in the desert for 40 years

Three kings reigned for 40 years each: Saul, David and Solomon

Goliath taunted Israel for 40 days before David defeated him

Noah's flood lasted 40 days (Genesis 7:12).

Jesus fasted for 40 days in the wilderness and was tempted by Satan three times (Mathews 4:1-11)

The time between the Jesus's Resurrection and the Ascension is 40 days (Acts 1:3).

The meaning, well, there is some variation in words, but I was surprised to find that most sites state that it generally symbolizes a period of testing, trial or probation. The Guidepost states, "Overall, it's a number associated with testing and the hardships one must endure to become more spiritually aware."

A group of theologians thinks the number 40 represents "change". It is the time of preparing a person, or people, to make a fundamental change.

So, as the world wide quarantine continues I believe something will happen after these 40 days. But here are some interesting facts:

April 6<sup>th</sup> Fox news reported, "Coronavirus outbreak spurs record Bible purchases: 'People are looking for hope'

March 18<sup>th</sup> ABC news reported "The Coronavirus pandemic has had an unexpected side effect in Venice, Italy – Where the normally cloudy canals have transformed into crystal clear enough to see fish swimming below."

March 4<sup>th</sup> CNN news reported "pollution in some of Hong Kong's busiest areas have fallen dramatically as government officials have introduced measures requiring many to work from home."

In February, air quality researches from NASA reported that there was a dramatic drop in nitrogen dioxide emissions coming from China, especially from Hubei province — the epicenter of the coronavirus pandemic.

Indeed, During this "quarantine" rivers are cleaning up, vegetation is growing, and the air is becoming cleaner because of less pollution. People are turning to prayer and "replacing fears



with faith". The Earth is at rest for the first time in many years and hearts are truly transforming.

So, during this time, I hope you find enjoyment with your loved ones and friends through various types of social distancing. Please join us for worship online (we are working on increasing the quality of sound).

Girlfriends in God state:

Remember we are in the year 2020, and  $20 + 20 = 40$ .

2020 is the year of the United States Census. Jesus Christ, the savior of the world, was born during a census.

Lastly, 2020 is perfect vision. May our sight focus on the Lord and living according to His perfect vision for us knowing He holds us in the palm of His hand.

So, my St James family, may these days of "quarantine" bring us, the nation and the world spiritual liberation and peace to our souls! Missing you and looking forward to seeing you soon!

Nyeta

## Stewardship

During this difficult time, it might be difficult for us to think about stewardship, that is, the maintenance of the whole Church. I would propose that a challenging time like the coronavirus crisis is precisely the time we should be striving to be good stewards in every way we can.

We need to remember that our financial pledges to St. James' are our promise to God to accomplish our mission and vision. Although we are not able to worship together, we still need to maintain our church, its servants and property, and our path forward. Please consider redeeming your pledge by mail, by payment through the St. James web site, or by using the app Nyeta mentioned in this newsletter last week.

We also need to attend to our personal stewardship. Since we're all part of the body of Christ, we should care for ourselves faithfully during this time. We should address physical, mental, and spiritual care. For physical care, get up and walk during the day, work in the yard, exercise if you have the means. Even a few minutes a day will have great effect. Also, eat a healthy (and controlled) diet. If you're like me, enforced idleness like this makes my jeans buttons experience social distancing. For mental care, read a book, practice a language, or work on puzzles of any kind. For spiritual care, [missionstclare.org](http://www.missionstclare.org) and [dailyoffice.org](http://www.dailyoffice.org) both have the daily prayer services for our church. Combine mental and spiritual and read the Bible all the way through - <http://www.thebible.net/read/sched.html> has a schedule to complete in a year. Or, if you haven't done so, read C. S. Lewis' works *The Screwtape Letters* or *The Problem of Pain* for insights into our challenges as Christians.

Sig Johansen  
Stewardship Committee

## Helping from Afar

From Nyeta, your Treasurer

THANK YOU to so many of you that remembered St James during this most unusual time! In March there were 6 new online donations (yeah) and many checks that were mailed to the church. Next week I will post the March Financials. As many of you may expect, the amount of contributions in March was less than it has been in at least 10 years, but not as much as one would expect during these times.

The Vestry will be meeting next week and will be discussing various ways to support the church finances during this time.

I would like to encourage you to check out online giving or to continue to mail in checks to St James Episcopal Church, PO Box 2427, Mesilla Park, NM 880047.

I am also going to repeat some instructions concerning online giving from last week's posting below:

Online giving can be done on your computer through the church's website, [stjameslascruces.org](http://stjameslascruces.org) (look for "GIVE ONLINE" in the right hand side) or through the Give+ mobile app on your cell phone or tablet.

To use your cell phone or tablet you will need to add the app: GIVE+

In your apple device, go to your "Apps" or in your Android device go to "Play Store" and search for Give+ (or Give plus church) Then GET this app.

With Give+ Church, you can use your mobile device to make save and secure, convenient one-time or recurring donations to St James Episcopal Church. After downloading the app on your mobile device you will enter the zip code: 88005 to find St James Episcopal Church. Then you will select our church. Follow the instructions to either "Give Now" or "Create Account". I would urge you to create an account so that you can easily use this in the future.

Online giving allows you to:

- Quickly and easily give St James your donations via your cell phone or tablet
- Set up recurring or one-time donations
- Choose whether to log in or donate as a guest
- Security and conveniently manage your donations.

If you have any questions, please email me at [nyeta@stjameslascruces.org](mailto:nyeta@stjameslascruces.org).

A graphic for a birthday celebration. The words "Happy Birthday" are written in a large, colorful, bubbly font. The letters are filled with a pattern of small, multi-colored squares. Behind the text are three balloons: a red one, a blue one, and a yellow one, all tied together with a white string.

# Happy Birthday

## *April 2020 Birthdays*

3 Errol Gilliland  
4 Karen Bonfantini  
Barbara Law  
9 John Fountain  
23 Chickie Lerdal

30 Mercedes Weaver

If your name is not listed and should be, please call the  
office (526-2389) and let us know.

**St. James' Episcopal Church**  
**P.O. Box 2427**  
**Mesilla Park, NM 88047**  
**Tel.: 575-526-2389, FAX: 575-526-4821**

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Jesus came to show us how to be in a relationship with God and in relationship with each other, came to show us how to live not simply as collections of individual self-interest, but how to live as the human family of God. That's why he said love the Lord your God, love your neighbor as yourself. Because in that is hope for all of us to be the human family of God. So look out for your neighbors, look out for each other. Look out for yourselves. Listen to those who have knowledge that can help to guide us medically and help to guide us socially. Do everything that we can to do this together, to respond to each other's needs and to respond to our own needs.

—Bishop Michael Curry



**St. James' Holy Eucharist**  
**Online Service Schedule**  
<https://stjameslascruces.org/>  
<https://www.facebook.com/john.tober>  
Sundays at 10:00 am Rite II  
Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. Outreach Service