

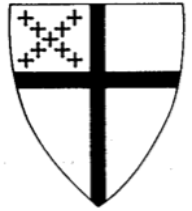


Give me my scallop-shell of quiet
My staff of faith to walk upon,...
and thus I'll take my pilgrimage.
— Sir Walter Raleigh

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.”

Luke 6:27-28 (English Standard Version)



February 2021

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*

“ Where there is love
there is life.”

—Mahatma Gandhi

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From the Rector's Desk

Dear St. James' Family--

Thank you for a smooth annual meeting on the 31st. A big thanks, especially, to Sig Johannsen, Lucy Kirkland, and Godfrey Crane for their work in pulling it off.

Please join me, too, in thanking our outgoing vestry members and officers for all they've done especially though this most difficult year. Outgoing vestry members Daniel Armistead, Terry Meyer, and Manny Terrazas all did marvelous work on behalf of the parish throughout their term.

I especially want to thank our executive council who supported me for the past year, keeping me on the straight and narrow and helping to focus on issues for the parish and the vestry. Manny Terrazas suffered through long hours with me as my Senior Warden. Jennifer Terrazas helped keep us all organized as the clerk of the vestry after completing a term on the vestry, and Nyeta Haines tracked pennies and secured grants, and kept account of all our finances for more than seven years. Thank you all so much for all you've done over the years, and especially for this past, most difficult year.

I'm pleased to announce our new officers. Sig Johannsen has agreed to serve as Senior Warden for his last term on the vestry. He joins Lynn Marshall who will continue as Jr. Warden for a second year; also the third year of her term. Lucy Kirkland has agreed to take on the role of Clerk of the vesty. And Mary Ganier has agreed to serve as treasurer. They join our freshman class of vestry members, Phil Benson, Jennifer Huntsberger, and Dottie Storey. Welcome aboard!

With COVID continuing to ebb, we're at the point where we can again offer some programming on campus. We've decided to offer "Eucharist to go" starting this Sunday from 10:30-11:30. The Eucharist will be delivered in single-serving, mechanically sealed packages. I'll be kitted out in mask and gloves to provide contactless delivery as you drive up to the church and through our parking lot.

We'll do the same thing for Ash Wednesday, 17 February. While we'll record the service from broadcast via our usual channels, we'll offer "Ashes to Go" outside the church from 7:30-8:30 and 4:00-5:00 to coincide with rush hour, and 11:00-12:00 noon for lunch hour. Same plan as above: drove through the church parking lot, I'll be there with gloves, a mask, & face shield to impose ashes either on one's forehead or hand.

I think this is probably enough news for now. Thank you all for your continued vigilance with regard to COVID infectivity, and your patience with us all as we figure out changes on the fly. Hopefully soon we will be able to meet again in person.

With many blessings,
john+



The Rev. John Tober, Rector

Senior Warden's Report—Manny Terrazas

What a year this has been for all of us at St. James! Little did I know when Fr. John asked me to serve as his Senior Warden that we would all be treading where no man has tread before. When CoVid hit, the Vestry, Fr. John and the Executive Committee spent hours and hours preparing the needed documents for the Diocese for Phase 1 and 2.

We researched, wrote, and submitted the best laid plans we could for virtual online services, as well as small groups of in person services, as able, while still meeting Diocesan restrictions and government mandates.

None of us knew the magnitude of the task we had undertaken. From having to ensure that we had the right equipment, to laying down new line for WIFI to the church, to training folks on how to record the services, to editing the services and then getting them to the webmaster for posting on Facebook and the St. James Website. None of this would have been accomplished except for the kind heartedness and dedication of your vestry members and volunteers. Morning prayer, evening prayer, Sunday services, and Advent lessons are all produced to keep our St. James family together in faith, if not in person.



Gratitude and sincere thanks:

- Must be extended to Rick Marshall, Sig Johnansen, & John Kirkland. These fine folks have done the majority of the work behind the scenes to ensure that we are able to provide bi-weekly recorded services.
- Phone callers & list keepers who have ensured that we have had ongoing communication in our parish this year
- Readers and musicians who enrich our services.
- Eric who provides us weekly email blasts with pertinent information
- Jennifer who provides daily spiritual readings on our Facebook page
- Andrew, our webmaster for posting our services on Facebook, YouTube and our Website
- Nyeta who has found grants for us and who has spent untold hours applying for said grants and providing needed documentation.
- Fr. John who works so hard weekly to provide us spiritual sustenance and opportunities to dialogue with him
- If I left someone out, but please rest assured that my thanks and gratitude know no bounds.

St. James has always been a haven for us, the place where we worship our Lord and Savior and pray for guidance to go about our daily lives in the way He would want. Please continue to support your church by listening to the online services, responding to emails and mailings and staying involved, albeit not in person, but in Spirit.

I thank each of you for your commitment to our church, the bedrock for many of us. I pray that 2021 will be a year of healing and return to the corporate worship of our Lord and Savior at our church, as one body in Christ. As Jennifer and I end our service on the Vestry, please join us in pray for those continuing to serve St. James that they may be protected, guided, counseled and led to do what He would have us do. Lastly, I thank each of you for your support as Senior Warden, it has been an honor and privilege to serve on your Vestry.

Thank you and may God bless each of you,
Manny

St. James' Weekly Bible Studies:

Fr. Frank continues to hold bible study by phone. His class is working through the prophets in the bible. There are two sessions, one on Sundays at 9am and at noon on Wednesdays. To find out how to join, please contact the church office



February 2021 Birthdays

8 Janelle Woodward
10 Buddy Ritter

13 Kent Jacobs
17 Elizabeth Salazar
26 Anna Marie Armistead

If your name is not listed and should be, please call the
office (526-2389) and let us know.
We'd love to wish you a Happy Birthday!

St. James' Vestry Minutes
January 19, 2020

CALL TO ORDER meeting called to order by Fr. John at 6:05 Pm with prayer with special intentions said for our leaders to be inaugurated tomorrow.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES- December 22, 2020 regular meeting and January 5, 2021 special meeting. Nyeta asked that the Finance Reports be removed from the regular consent agenda and will be addressed during the regular meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA- COMMITTEE REPORTS (as sent out via email) Fr. John asked for motion to approve the agenda and minutes. Glenn moved, Lynn seconded and the agenda and minutes were approved.

RECTOR REPORT-FR. JOHN TOBER

COVID infectivity still hovers around 13%, which precludes in-person worship. Reminder: infectivity needs to drop below 10% in the county for approval from the diocese for in-person worship on campus. Good news is there was not a significant spike post-holiday season, so people must be maintaining their levels of self-protection.

Diocesan clergy have discussed recently and received permission for imposition of ashes for Ash Wednesday (in an "Ashes to Go" format) and for drive-thru Eucharist. I'm working with all necessary parties to institute/re-institute this ASAP... hopefully by Ash Wednesday at the latest (pending approval by the vestry). February 17, 2021 is Ash Wednesday.

I've contacted the deanery about cross-posting service offerings for the churches in our deanery to give people viewing options during this time. Dc. Laurie (our dean) thinks it's a good idea and supports it. We also talked about sharing best practices for recording/livestreaming services. I've asked Rick Marshall to come up with a plan (i.e. script, etc.) to showcase what we do, if we're asked.

We received a bid for a new neon sign to replace our aged sign by the road. The bid (an elevation was distributed last month) was ~\$45k... which seems excessive to me. While I think we need to come up with other signage, I think there may be other options. I've asked Manny Terrazas to help me research other options.

The Jr. Warden, Sr. Warden, and I discussed my evaluation. Strengths and opportunities for growth were both noted. I've taken some steps already, but will discuss the results with the new Jr. & Sr. Wardens about the results and what opportunities for change they would like to support. One step was attending a week-long preaching conference last week. It was a good reminder of some techniques that I haven't employed regularly; so, I feel it was a worthwhile experience.

Coffee hour and Social hour zoom meetings are occurring. Attendees have been few. I continue to advertise during recorded services and announcements have gone out in newsletters.

I think we're in a good way for presenting the parish's annual meeting on 31 Jan. Key players are scheduled to meet on Monday, 25 Jan, to look things over and double check

our processes. I look forward to our new additions to the vestry for the next 3 years. I'm also incredibly grateful for the work of our outgoing vestry members, Terry Meyer, Daniel Armistead, and Manny Terrazas, as well as our clerk for (at least) the past 2 years, Jennifer Terrazas. I can't thank you all enough for helping St. James' get to where we are now and setting the foundation for years to come.

TREASURER-NYETA HAINES

- Change in the budget from what was sent to Vestry previously and Nyeta went over the changes. Our pledge amount did decrease and we had to move a couple of pledges over into restricted fund which impacts our operational budget. We now are at \$34,000 for the 2021 budget year.
- The PPP second round added a requirement that we had to have a 25% decrease in revenue in any quarter during 2020 annual year. Nyeta presented the 2019 revenues versus the 2020 revenues. Therefore, we do not qualify for the second round of the PPP loan. We heard from our bank and we will definitely qualify for loan forgiveness on the PPP loan. Nyeta feels certain that we will not have any problems receiving forgiveness.
- We ended the year in the black. This is not due to increased pledges, but rather to decreased costs in all areas, as well as the PPP loan we received.
- The Vestry designated fund went up due to contributions to the fund. The City of Las Cruces CARES grant also went into this line item, though it will be moved into operations soon.
- The Finance Committee talked at length about the Citizen's Bank account and that it will be at almost \$80000 once the CARES monies are moved from Vestry designated to Operational. The Finance Committee will be making the recommendation to move a portion of this money into the Charles Schwab account so that we may earn interest on this money.

BUILDING AND GROUNDS-LYNN MARSHALL (SEE JR. WARDEN REPORT ABOVE)

STAINED GLASS WINDOW REPORT TO VESTRY, JAN.19, 2021 by Terry Meyer-The window should be shipped on Friday, Jan. 8, 2021 and will arrive within three to five business days. Therefore, it is expected to arrive at St. James Wed., Jan. 13th and Friday, Jan. 15th. Terry will work with the church office to ensure someone will be there to receive the product. He is also communicating with La Ventana Glass to facilitate installation as soon as possible after the window is received at the church.

** The window was recently installed.*

TRIM WORK is ongoing and he has been working several hours a day towards completion. Fr. John sees him several times a week for 3-4 hours a day. A lot of work has been accomplished.

EVANGELISM, MISSION AND OUTREACH-TERRY MEYER-COMMITTEE REPORT JANUARY 19, 2021

The committee recommends the following topics be given high priority and continued for the 2021 calendar year:

- Farmers Market project
- Esperanza Bags
- Advertising on KRWG-FM-PBS-Radio
- A "Campus Ministry" presence at New Mexico State University
- Effort to recruit an Iona Seminary student for Internship at St. James for Fall 2021 semester

The monthly meeting date has been changed to the first Wednesday of the month, 8:45 am. Dottie Storey and John Fitzgerald have paid for the supplies, including a \$5 bill for another 40 Esperanza Bags. Thank you very much, Dottie and John. Approximately 30 bags have been distributed to the homeless and the remaining 10 are located in the church office. All members of the congregation are invited to drop by the church during regular office hours and help with the distribution of the remaining 10 bags to the homeless. Terry Meyer will be

completing his three- year term on the Vestry at the end of January, 2021, and another Chairperson for the committee. (Vestry members will be signing up for new committees at the first meeting held after the retreat, including EOM).

Minutes from DECEMBER 8, 2020, 8:45 AM, ZOOM MEETING

Members present: Mary Ganier, John Kirkland, Terry Meyer, Dottie Storey, Fr. John Tober

Members Absent: Rick Marshall

Guests present: None

The minutes of the October 14th, 2020, meeting was approved without revisions.

Strategic Planning for 2021 was discussed in terms of what topics were considered to be **“High Priority”** and therefore should be continued in the future, and what topics were **“Low Priority”** and need not be continued unless personnel are available and the budget permits.

The items considered “High Priority” included: Farmers Market Project, Esperanza Bags, continuing with advertising on PBS, KRWG-FM radio, Continued Effort to Recruit Second Year Iona Seminary Student for Internship at St. James for Fall Semester, 2021, Campus Ministry Effort,

The items considered “Low Priority” which will not be maintained on the list of agenda items in the future include: Support of Mesilla Park Elementary School, Children’s Reading Alliance, Support for the Honduras Project, Grant Application to the Rio Grande Diocese, and Collaboration with another Episcopal Church for Special Project for 2021.

It was also suggested that the EOM **committee monthly meetings should be changed to 8:45 am, the first Wednesday of the month** rather than the second Wednesday of the month. This is in response to monthly meeting report requirement by the Vestry Clerk. Therefore, the future meetings will be the first Wednesday of each month. This will start in January 2021.

Dottie Storey and John Fitzgerald have volunteered to donate all supplies for forty (40) Esperanza Bags. Contents will include: Granola bar, Kleenex, sanitary wipes, bottle of water and \$5 bill. Terry Meyer will work with them regarding the distribution of the bags to the homeless. **Thank you very much, Dottie and John, for your generosity.**

Terry Meyer announced he will be ending his three-year term on the Vestry at the end of January, 2021, and a new Chairperson will be needed to replace him should the Vestry and Fr. John desire to continue with the Evangelism Outreach and Missions Committee. (this is a standing committee and will continue)

NEXT MEETING: JANUARY 6, 2021, WEDNESDAY, 8:45 AM, Zoom Meeting

PHONE TREE-TALKING POINTS

Call the week of January 1-9 to prompt about calling or emailing Eric about voting preference for Annual Meeting

Call the week of January 20-25 to remind about the need for multiple devices and annual meeting time and information. Email works great if they are not answering their phone.

FINANCE COMMITTEE-Nyeta Haines- Mary will be looking for new people to serve on the Finance Committee. Please let Fr. John or Mary G. know if you have any names of persons willing to serve.

STEWARDSHIP-Sig Johansen-We're still tracking down a couple of pledges, and are starting to send thank-you's out this week.

AD HOC COMMITTEES

FIXER UPPER-inactive

WEBSITE COMMITTEE-Sig Johansen-We've met twice (Fr. John, Manny, Lynn, and Sig) and

have developed some ideas for improvement (mostly simplification). We plan to continue meeting for a couple of weeks until we get a detailed list of changes we can give to Andrew for execution. Sig will be speaking with Nyeta about the Ecclesia website costs. The contract expires in August.

ADJOURNMENT-Fr. John called for motion to adjourn the meeting. Jennifer moved and Susan seconded for adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 7:03 PM with recitation of The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Jennifer Terrazas, clerk

Hillcrest Memorial Gardens Cemetery Plots



St James was bequeathed four 4 cemetery plots several years ago and they are still available for purchase. There are two together in the Good Shepard Section C Lot 71, spaces 1 and 2, as well as two more in spaces 5 and 6. They are valued at over \$4000.00 each, however, we are willing to sell these for \$1800.00 each. If interested, please contact Sig Johnansen at 1 979 595-8209 or Nyeta Haines at 575 642-9640. We do have pictures and encourage any interested person to contact us. It is also possible to see them in person, if so desired.

MUSIC NOTES:



I've been thinking a lot about what it is to be blessed, what is a blessed life? We have all lost so much with CoVid, for me a great loss has been making music with others, sharing those "good vibrations." Yes, this is a loss, but my life is still so "blessed." For me, a blessed life includes these qualities; Love, Peace, Contentment, Hope, Believing in

something, Faith, Security. The Bible in the familiar passage of I Corinthians 13 tells us that of all of these things, the greatest and most enduring is Love. In my view, the prime element of a blessed life is one where I can give and receive love. Love of family, love of friends, and receiving and showing love to God in his Trinity of persons. I show love to my children, who don't live at home anymore, by supporting their journey, playing "online" games, talking on the phone with them, remembering their birthdays. I show love to my husband by spending time together, sharing ideas, planning for the future, speaking words of encouragement. I show love to my aging parents by helping them, spending time with them, running errands for them. I show my love to my Lord by speaking with him in prayer, acknowledging his preeminence in my life, discussing concerns, sharing joys, reading his "Word", the Bible. One of the best ways for me to show my love to God is by singing His praises. I DO miss singing together in church, in choirs. I am so very thankful for the technology that allows us to sing "together" every Sunday night on Zoom. It is such an encouragement to me to lift my voice with others. We are now using the St. James Zoom log on and therefore are not restricted to only 20 minutes together. Every Sunday night we start singing at 6pm and finish at about 6:45. It is open to all and we have had friends and family join us not only from Las Cruces, but from Texas, California, East coast and England. Why not give it a try. Here are the sign in details which remain the same every week:

6pm Sunday

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82505309956>

Meeting ID: 825 0530 9956

Passcode: St.James (note there is no space between St. and James. It is "St.James")

Saint of the Month

Goddess, Holy Woman or Both? Brigid of Kildare, February 1

We think of St. Patrick as characteristic of Ireland. The Irish do too, but they put St. Brigid right in there with him. There are various ways of spelling her name; we would be likely to write “Bridget.” However, “Brigid” seems to be the preferred spelling.

Was there a Brigid or not? Brigid was the Irish goddess of love, spring, childbirth and lots of good things. She was, in fact, the Irish version of the earth mother whom the world worshipped—see Ishtar, Diana of the Ephesians, the Aztec Tohnantzin, etc.—and much of the world still does. She was much beloved. When Ireland became Christian, is it likely that people simply missed Brigid, and made her saint to stay in contact with her? Quite likely.

On the other hand, is it equally likely that many newly Christianized parents had a daughter baptized as Brigid, and one of them grew up to be a famous nun, the one who introduced the Religious Life (i.e. life under “regula” rule) for women into Ireland. Some scholars say one thing, some the other. I don’t see why both shouldn’t be true.

Brigid lived in the fifth century, perhaps thirty years after St. Patrick; it’s said, in fact, that Patrick baptized her mother, which isn’t unlikely. Anyway the family was aristocratic, so Brigid got a good education, for her time. She is credited with founding a good many convents—too many, to my mind, but St. Teresa in the sixteenth century founded quite a few. Anyway, the most likely one is at Kildare, of which more later; Kildare is a small town in the east, about thirty miles west of Dublin, and today is a bedroom community for Dublin.

But more interesting than the historical Brigid are the yarns which are told about her, which I’m sure derive from the story of the goddess. One the Irish people like particularly is the one about her cloak. Brigid asks the pagan king of Leinster for a piece of land to found a convent.

“No way, why should I give you any land?”

“Well, can I have a cloak’s worth?”

“Sure, haw haw, you can have that much.”

So Brigid laid her cloak on the ground, a young nun took each corner of it, and they all ran off in opposite directions, the cloak enlarging and enlarging behind the. “Hey, what are you doing?”



“I’m going to cover your kingdom. That’s what you get for being stingy.” Brigid got her land, and the king shortly became a Christian. I don’t blame him; I would have.

Another Brigid story which I enjoy has her sharing her bed (as people of that day often did) with a young nun. The girl was devout but full of energy, and when she thought Brigid was asleep she quietly sneaked out of bed to meet her lover.

But she had conscience, and to stop herself she put hot coals in her shoes. This stopped her all right, but ruined her feet. Anyway she limped back to bed.

In the morning Brigid, who had seen the whole thing, said, “My daughter, you have quenched the fire of passion and avoided the fire of Hell. Let me take care of your feet”; and she laid hands on her and healed them.

“Kildare” means “church of the oak”; there had been a shrine of the goddess Brigid there under a big oak tree, and Brigid, if it was she, founded her convent in the same spot. She had a wooden church built there. It was replaced a few years after her death by a nicer one, and soon it became a cathedral, as it still is. The cathedral was destroyed heaven knows how many times over the centuries, but always rebuilt, usually larger and more handsome. The present church was finished in 1896, and is a big and beautiful building.

Good luck to the Irish people; they have a tough history, and have climbed their way out of poverty into a comfortable life. We hope Brexit, England’s exit from the European union, doesn’t do them too much harm; it threatens to put a hard border between northern and southern Ireland, which would cause a great deal of difficulty.

–Fr. Frank



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“There is power in
love. Don’t
underestimate it.
Don’t even over-
sentimentalize it.
There is power.
Power in love.”

—Bishop Michael Curry



St. James' Holy Eucharist
Online Services

<https://stjameslascruces.org/>
<https://www.facebook.com/St-James-Episcopal-Church-Las-Cruces-NM-111002510430878/>