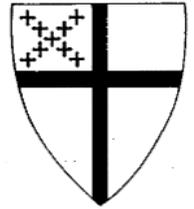




# The Staff



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."

December 2018

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 Rt. Rev. Dr. Michael Vono, Retired *Bishop***

**The Rt. Rev. Jerry Lamb (ret), *Assisting Bishop***

**The Rev. Dr. Jeanne Lutz, *Priest-in-Charge***

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

“ In honesty you have to admit to a wise man that prayer is not for the wise, not for the prudent, not for the sophisticated. Instead it is for those who recognize that in face of their deepest needs, all their wisdom is quite helpless. It is for those who are willing to persist in doing something that is both childish and crucial.

Frederick Buechner

*The Magnificent Defeat*

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# *From the Priest-in-Charge,*



*Looking for Jesus in the Advent Season (and Christmas and Epiphany)*

Before he died at the age of 88 years, my father wrote his autobiography in a series of short stories. My favorite is one of my father's earliest memories. He writes:

When Charles A. Lindbergh returned to the United States (from making history with the first solo trans-Atlantic flight), he was hailed as a hero. Everyone wanted to see him personally, congratulate him, and possibly shake his hand. In time, The Spirit of St. Louis, his now famous airplane, was brought back to the U.S. and Lindbergh toured the country in it. One weekend he was scheduled to visit Indianapolis where we lived at the time. On the scheduled day he was to fly over Indianapolis our family joined the rest of the city outside, scouring the skies looking for "Lindy."

Finally, a cheer went up when the sound of an airplane engine was heard and the plane appeared. "There is Lindbergh," my parents shouted, pointing as The Spirit of St. Louis flew over our location. "Did you see him, son?" my father asked me, whereupon I started crying.

"No," I sobbed. "I didn't get to see Lindy. I could only see his airplane."

By the time you read this the short season of Advent will be upon us. The observance of Advent dates back to the 4th century—perhaps earlier—when it was kept as a 40-day time of fasting and preparation for Christmas similar to that of Lent as a penitential season of preparation for Easter. Until the 1979 Book of Common Prayer, the color of the Advent season, like the Lenten season later on, was purple for penitence. Since 1979, the emphasis at Advent in most denominations that observe it has been on hopefulness, joy, and expectation—with blue sometimes replacing purple, as the color of hope, in many churches.

I will admit that Advent is my favorite season of the Church year. I love its spirit of anticipation, which is not confined to the coming of the Christ Child but also to the Second Coming of the Messiah, the King and Savior whom the Holy Child grew up to be. Both the Last Sunday after Pentecost and the First Sunday of Advent give us readings that are apocalyptic in nature, full of fear and foreboding, yet magnificent in their drama and scope. Just as my father at age 4 searched the skies for Lindy, so people of faith are shown gazing into the heavens for the Son of Man, eager for Christ's return, praying for the strength to endure the hardships of the end times.

Yet, even as Jesus cautions his disciples to be alert for his return, he also tells them to get on with the business of witnessing to his goodness and glory and to look for him, not in the skies but in the ordinary events of life—"traffic jams, ornery people, lists with more to be done than we have time for, and long lines in stores" (Cathy George, *The Stillness We Seek*).

This Advent I encourage all of us to take time out to be alone with the Lord. Pick up one of the Advent devotional booklets in the parish hall or church or a copy of *Forward Day by Day* and get in the habit of spending a few quiet minutes a day in Bible reading and prayer. When my father looked for Lindy, his parents forgot to explain to him that to see the great man's plane was to see the man. So Dad did not recognize his visitation and grieved for what he thought he had missed. But when we take time to be still before the Lord, we find ourselves recognizing him at other times, in unexpected circumstances and unexpected persons. For Christ visits us every day if we have eyes to see and ears to hear, and touches us in mysterious ways with encouragement and blessing.

As this newsletter will include January, I might add that the Christmas and Epiphany seasons also focus on the coming of Christ and on the Lord's manifestations to Israel two thousand years ago and today. I pray that our Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany will be filled with joy and expectation as we seek the Lord during this holy season and every day of our lives!

Blessings,

*Padrecita Jeanne+*

## Envisioning (CLAD) Weekend, December 7-8 in the Parish Hall

The following is a letter from The Reverend Jan Hosea and the Congregational Life and Development Team of the Episcopal Diocese of the Rio Grande to the people of St. James', Mesilla Park:

### Pilgrimage to a New Vision/Ministry Plan

We invite you to begin a prayerful and spiritual pilgrimage to a new vision and ministry plan. The idea is simple. We begin the process as a congregation by praying, reflecting, meditating and entering into Godly conversation with your fellow parishioners as the first step toward an intentional and exciting ministry. On this holy pilgrimage we ask you to set aside time to reflect and pray about where the Holy Spirit is most evident in your parish now, and where the Spirit is guiding you in the future.

Here are some questions you might pray about:

- What do I love most about this parish? What causes me a problem?
- How have I seen God working in the lives of those in the pews with me?
- What is my parish's most significant spiritual gift or gifts?
- How does my parish relate to the community in which we live?
- What is our parish's spiritual life like? What do we have in place? What do we need?
- What dream do I have about the new life of our parish in the future?

We ask that you make notes during this time of reflection and prayer and when possible enter into conversation with fellow parishioners. These questions will be the focus of discussion on the first night of the retreat. The next step is the parish's weekend Mission and Ministry Envisioning Retreat that will take place Friday night, December 7<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 5:45 p.m. and continuing on Saturday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, beginning with a light breakfast at 8:30, Morning Prayer, and the second session at 9:30 a.m.

With this time of prayer, you should be well-prepared to take the next steps in your pilgrimage.\*  
In Christ's service, *The Reverend Jan Hosea*

\*Dinner and lunch will be provided. Parishioners are encouraged to make both Friday night's session and as much of the day Saturday as possible, but if you can only come for part of the weekend, please feel free to do that. Copies of the letter and questions will be in the parish hall starting November 25<sup>th</sup>.

## The Staff newsletter online

Beginning in February 2019, with the next issue of *The Staff*, the newsletter will be sent online to all parishioners and friends of the parish whose email addresses we have, in addition to the hard copies you receive by snail mail. If we do not have your current email address, please contact us at [saintjameslc105@gmail.com](mailto:saintjameslc105@gmail.com) or call the church office at 575-526-2389.

## **Vestry Highlights from November Meeting**

- **Padrecita Jeanne reported meeting with the Sunday school teachers to plan ways in which the children might participate in the family service Christmas Eve, to explain the Advent materials she has given them and to plan a fundraiser for Lent with money going to a local charity. Confirmation classes are over and Padre. Jeanne has requested a visitation by Bishop Hunn to confirm two persons and renew the baptismal vows of one whenever he can be scheduled.**
- **Senior Warden, Phala White reported a beautiful consecration ceremony and a productive Convention, in which a new diocesan treasurer was elected. She believes that Bishop Hunn is realistic about the Fair Share and committed to lowering it, if possible. The delegates and wardens also attended the deanery meeting Saturday and met the new dean of the SW Deanery, Deacon Laurie Benavidez, elected a new board, and heard about interesting activities from other churches. Mary Ancker goes off the deanery board with thanks.**
- **In Manny's absence, Phala gave the Junior Warden/Building and Grounds report. Manny reports that all swamp coolers have been winterized and furnace filters changed; all false alarm "violations" have been resolved. Recent photos of Bishop Hunn's visit, St. James' Day, and DRG Convention have been formatted and sent to the webmaster. Manny consulted with two electricians who tell him that it is not cost effective to change from remote fan and light switches to wall units in the parish hall. Sound system still being worked on. Manny hopes to receive 2 proposals. Terry Meyer pointed out that many of the steps leading up to the church door need repair. Meanwhile, the kitchen door step is now higher and up to code.**
- **Treasurer, Nyeta Haines, reports that the church is now \$4,900.05 in the black! While expenses in October exceeded income by over \$650, giving rose in October from \$39,485.71 to \$44,385.76 (over 5 Sundays). The goal by year's end is \$204,000. We are currently at \$175,017.20. We will need \$23,000 a month to make our goal, which is doable.**
- **The Finance Committee will craft the 2019 budget on December 1st for the vestry to see at the December 11th meeting. It will be voted on at the Annual Meeting January 27th.**
- **Nyeta showed vestry the beautiful new website. The calendar and events list are impressive. Other content features are under construction but there are many pictures. The webmaster, Andrew Terrazas, and Evangelism and Outreach Committee hope to send the vestry a preview for approval by the launch date of December 5th. The format is compatible with the diocesan and national Church websites. Evangelism Committee is still sending names to Laurie Gormley for nametags. People are wearing them. E & O meet monthly and are happy to have new people.**
- **Padre. Jeanne reports 4 firm Yeses for the Search Committee and 3 people who are praying about it. She has two persons committed to running for vestry in January and has asked 4 more, who are praying about it. She will need to follow up with them all. We have one person who will run for delegate; at least one more is needed to run so that we can elect an alternate.**
- **Safety Committee plan for St. James' was touted as a model at Convention and Padrecita Jeanne has received a few inquiries about it from churches who do not have a plan yet.**
- **On recommendation of the Executive Committee, a previous vote was amended to alter a "planning figure" for the rector's salary in the 2019 budget to an estimated figure, dependent on income from pledges and projected expenses for 2019.**

- Discussion of a Mission Statement ensued, with a motion to “table with rumination,” pending further discussion and a vote scheduled for the December meeting. Padre. Jeanne will also submit a revised Statement of Beliefs for the vestry to work on in December.
- Padre. Jeanne asked all vestry to attend as much of the Envisioning Weekend as possible Dec 7-8. She passed out a letter from the Congregation Life and Development Team that she will publish in The Staff, along with a list of questions to get discussion started. Vestry will bring desserts for Friday dinner and Saturday lunch, plus salads for lunch. Mother Jan Hosea is working on an agenda. Friday begins at 5:45 p.m. and ends at 9:00. Saturday is 8:30 a.m. to 3:30.
- A recommendation from the Executive Committee passed, ending all meetings after an hour and a half, with two 15-minute extensions allowed to be voted on.

<b>NOVEMBER FINANCIALS</b>	<b>Year to Date</b>	<b>Year to Date Budget</b>	<b>YTD Budget Difference</b>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 175,017.20</b>	<b>\$ 170,533.30</b>	<b>\$ 4,483.90</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 170,026.56</b>	<b>\$ 174,413.27</b>	<b>-\$ 4,386.71</b>
<b>Excess Income/Expenses</b>	<b><u>\$ 4990.64</u></b>	<b><u>-\$ 3,879.97</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 8,870.61</u></b>

## **CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE OF SERVICES**

**Sunday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>—8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.**

**Greening of the Church after 10:30. Any persons who can help the altar guild would be gratefully welcomed**

**Monday, Christmas Eve, December 24<sup>th</sup>—4:30 Carol Sing in the church**

**5:00 Family service, Rite II followed by cookies and cider**

**11:00 Midnight Mass, Rite II**

**Tuesday, Christmas Day, December 25<sup>th</sup> 10:00 Christmas Day, Rite I Joint service with St. Andrew’s with coffee hour**

**No Service or Class on Wednesday, December 26<sup>th</sup>**

**Sunday, December 30<sup>th</sup>—8:00 a.m. and 10:30, Christmas I**

**Tuesday, January 1<sup>st</sup>—Office closed for New Year’s Day**

**Wednesday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>—10:00 a.m. Feast of the Holy Names (transferred)**

**12:00 Bible Study, Fr. Frank**

# COMING IN DECEMBER

## Advent and Lenten Programs in 2018/2019

During the Advent season we will have two Thursday evening programs, rather than three, due to the Envisioning Weekend December 7-9th. (See separate article.) On the evening of December 13th, we hope to view the DVD, "Be Home Soon: Letters from my Grandfather," produced by the granddaughter of Chaplain Frederick B. Howden, whose feast day we celebrate in our diocese on December 11th. On December 20th, we will take a look at the books ordered for Advent/Lenten study and divide into groups. These books will provide the basis for our Lenten programs in 2019. They are: "Impressions of Jesus," by Denis McBride and "Reckless Love," by John Newton.

The McBride book consists of several chapters in which an observer of Jesus, either biblical or fictional, shares his or her impressions of our Lord. These range from the Woman at the Well to Nicodemus, a Spy for Caiaphas, Caiaphas himself, Pontius Pilate, Martha, and Judas Iscariot. Good preaching material for Padrecita! These copies are limited so we ask you to sign up for a book and stick with it during Advent and Lent. First-come, first-serve.

The Newton book has 20 short chapters with discussion questions at the end on such topics as: Forgiveness; Beggars; Saints; Evangelism; Compassion; Joy; Reconciliation; Betrayal; Hope; Gift. Each of these is based on a passage of scripture. If people will sign up for these books, as well, Padrecita will have an idea how many to order (plus a few extra).

## Advent Devotional Booklets

Padrecita Jeanne has put out several Advent devotional booklets from Creative Communications in the church and in the narthex for use during the season. Please feel free to take one home to enhance your Advent meditations. Among the titles are: "God with Us: Devotions for Advent" by David Boyd; "The Father's Love," Advent devotions compiled from the writings of Henri J. M. Nouwen; and "Journey into the Light," by Susan M. Lang. In addition, Charlotte Williams, wife of Fr. Frank Williams, has given us several copies of her Advent devotional booklet, "Christ the Light."

## Pledge Cards

On Advent I, December 2nd, we will offer and dedicate at the altar during both services the pledge cards we have received. If you have not mailed in your card or placed it in the offering plate, it is not too late to do so, even though we are basing next year's budget, for the most part, on cards we have received by November 28th. Please try to get your to us by December 9th, as the vestry will be presented with the new budget at their meeting on December 11th.

## Frederick B. Howden Deanery Celebration

On December 11th, the Southwest Deanery will hold its annual deanery-wide service in honor of Chaplain Frederick B. Howden at St. Alban's Episcopal Church, 1810 Elm Street, El Paso at 11:00 a.m. Chaplain Howden is sponsored by the Diocese of the Rio Grande for inclusion in our Episcopal Calendar of Saints and the new chapel at the Bosque Center will be named in honor of him. Fr. Ted died at in the Philippines after the Bataan Death March, having given away most of his food to his fellow soldiers. We would welcome a big turnout from St. James' for this moving event.



## From The Daughters of the King

Well, it's that time of year again. Christmas! Time to get out the tree, the lights and the ornaments, the puffy snowman for the front lawn, and don't forget to order the luminarias. Then there's the shopping for far too many gifts (Black Friday is now about 2 weeks long!), the wrapping of those gifts. And baking! And cooking! And parties! The list is endless; it seems we all 'way too busy at this wonderful time of the year!

For Christians, the Christmas season officially starts this year on Sunday, December 2, with the season of Advent: We eagerly anticipate the coming into the world of the baby God, Jesus of Nazareth. In the midst of the tumult of activities, Christians ponder two important events—not only the birth of Jesus, but, leading up to Christmas Eve, we ponder the second coming of Jesus, Judgement Day. Advent, for Christians, is a time of reflection, one of our two penitential seasons, when we are a bit more serious about our religion. The balance between busy-ness and contemplation is delicate and difficult.

As Daughters of the King, we pray for our fellow sojourners at St. James' that they find peace in the midst of the happy chaos; love in being with family and friends, and joy in once again finding the Light in the Darkness, Jesus Christ our Lord. I received a little “business card” within a birthday greeting several years ago. On it is written a prayer that I find to be especially appropriate for this busy time of year. Let me share it with you:

*Lord,*

I have too much to do, but it's all important.

Help me to set priorities so that I don't feel lost  
in the pace and the pressure.

Give me the wisdom and energy to accomplish what's necessary  
without wasting time or effort.

And help me to make the best use of my day,  
remembering that time is a precious gift from You.

Amen

Have a blessed Advent and Christmas!

For His Sake, and in His Love,  
Johanna Binneweg, Nancy Cain, Kathy Fisher, Judith Forney, Lucy Gray, Chickie Lerdal, Charlene McKinney

# Saint of the Month

## BISHOP BY ACCIDENT AMBROSE OF MILAN

“Last month we said we must write about Ambrose some time: and here he is, December 7th, the day he was surprised by his election to the episcopate.

He was the extremely popular governor of northern Italy and lived at Milan, as did the emperor: Rome had the prestige, but Milan was the real capital of the western part of the Roman Empire.

Milan was a mess at the time. It was the fourth century, when the Catholic Christians and their Arian opponents were nearly at war. Ambrose was a Catholic but as governor protected Arians against violence. Well, the bishop, an Arian, died, the people came together to elect a new one, and Ambrose was there to prevent bloodshed. He was making a speech urging calm; all of a sudden someone yelled “Ambrose, bishop!” the whole room took it up, and there he was.

He wasn’t even baptized, knew little about theology, wanted the job like a hole in the head and did his best to get out of it. No use, they baptized him, ran him through the Holy Orders and consecrated him bishop in two weeks. Right away he started to study very hard; as he says, he had to “learn and teach at the same time.” But he had the background to learn; his family were very high in the government, he was an expert in law and rhetoric and—unlike most of the Latin Fathers—knew Greek, and corresponded with learned Greek theologians. He wrote constantly—I’ve just started reading him, from the excellent set of the Fathers that our library has been given. I’m working on his Duties of the Clergy; it’s good. He seems to me to be saying that a clergyman has the same duties as everyone else, only more so. Another thing he wrote is The Christian Faith, a very detailed refutation of Arianism. He makes his contemporary, Epiphanius, sound like an amateur.

His friend and secretary wrote up his life, but most people know about him from Augustine’s Confessions. Augustine was the town rhetorician at Milan (Ambrose auditioned and hired him), he was on his way back to the church but not there yet. He went to church as a professional to hear how Ambrose spoke, and was impressed by the things he said. In



particular he liked the way Ambrose handled the Old Testament; a good deal of it had bothered Augustine. He didn't get to talk to Ambrose much though—he'd walk into his mansion, to which no one was ever denied entrance, see Ambrose reading to himself (which Romans didn't usually do) and feel shy about interrupting him. (I suspect Ambrose here; once Augustine started talking there was no stopping him.) Anyway Ambrose baptized him, and a great career was launched.

Ambrose was a rich man, but when he was elected bishop he gave all his money to the poor and made over his property to the church, only saving out enough to take care of his sister Marcellina. He feared no one. One time, when the emperor had lost his cool and massacred 7000 civilians in Thessalonica, Ambrose denied him Communion until he very publicly repented. He was constantly at odds with the Queen Mother, who was Arian, and a couple of times barricaded himself inside a church she wanted; but when there was a rebellion, and another man who wanted to be emperor threatened northern Italy with an army, it was Ambrose whom they sent to talk him out of it.

Ambrose is rated along with Augustine and John Chrysostom as one of the principal doctors of the church. He died in April of 387, but December 7 is the date on which they yelled "Ambrose, bishop!" and that's the day we keep.



—Father Frank

### Advent Devotional Booklets

Beginning the Last Sunday after Pentecost on November 25th, Christ the King Sunday, Padrecita Jeanne will put out several Advent devotional booklets from Creative Communications for daily use during the season. She will give the booklets for families and young people to the Sunday school. For adult parishioners, the booklets will be displayed in the parish hall. Please feel free to take one home to enhance your Advent meditations. Among the titles are: "God with Us: Devotions for Advent" by David Boyd; "The Father's Love," Advent Devotions compiled from the writings of Henri J. M. Nouwen; and "Journey into the Light" by Susan M. Lang. In addition, Charlotte Williams, wife of Fr. Frank Williams, has given us several copies of her Advent devotional booklet, "Christ the Light."

### Courtesy Resolution at Diocesan Convention in honor of Fr. Frank Williams:

At Diocesan Convention this year, the following courtesy resolution was approved by the delegates.

#### Resolution #3: The Rev. Dr. Frank Williams

Be it resolved; that this 2018 Convention of the Diocese of the Rio Grande expresses its admiration and awe to the Rev'd Dr. Francis Edward Williams, known to us all as Fr. Frank, in honor of his 67 years of ordained ministry in service of our Lord, and for more than twenty years as assisting priest at St. James Episcopal Church, Mesilla Park. It must be noted that Fr. Frank holds the distinction as the longest serving priest still active who graduated from Nashotah House. His life is witness to the Grace of God and devotion of a true Man of God.

## Just Ask

As he approached Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging. When he heard a crowd going by, he asked what was happening. They told him, 'Jesus of Nazareth is passing by.' Then he shouted, 'Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!' Those who were in front sternly ordered him to be quiet; but he shouted even more loudly, 'Son of David, have mercy on me!' Jesus stood still and ordered the man to be brought to him; and when he came near, he asked him, 'What do you want me to do for you?' He said, 'Lord, let me see again.' Jesus said to him, 'Receive your sight; your faith has saved you.' Immediately he regained his sight and followed him, glorifying God; and all the people, when they saw it, praised God. Luke 18:35-43

~ ~ ~

One of the frequently asked questions (FAQ's) about prayer is: "If God knows all about me, all my pain and suffering, all my desires, all my sin, why do I have to pray and ask Him for anything?"

All the materials I've been studying for the past few years about prayer each have a slightly different answer to this question, but all these answers can be boiled down to a simple main point: God is love, and love is relational and personal. God wants us to ASK Him to fill our needs, because he wants to RELATE to us: He wants us to recognize Him as our loving Father, and to relate to Jesus as our loving brother, and he wants to build our faith in Him—but through our own initiative in pausing and asking, through prayer.

This idea is amply demonstrated in the vignette from scripture quoted above. We heard a sermon recently in which Padrecita Jeanne unfolded all the details of the scene, making it come alive for us. For me, the point of this story is that, even though Jesus-God could have just pointed to the blind man at the back of the crowd and said "be healed," and, as in other healing stories, the man could have just gone on his way rejoicing (keeping his cloak with all his money in it!), Jesus instead chose the personal-relational route and called the man to come through the crowd and physically close to him—into His personal space. Then He confronted the man with his need: "What do you want me to do for you?" And the blind man was healed, because of his faith. His faith gave him the courage to call out to Jesus from the back of the crowd; his faith gave him the courage to fumble his way through the crowd and to state his need plainly and clearly; his faith gave him the freedom and joy to give up everything and follow Jesus—to His death in Jerusalem, and perhaps even after.

God wants for each of us, His children, to be healthy and happy, to live productive lives in His service. But, most of all, he likes us to turn our hearts to him in faith and love. Our faith in God, and our love for Him, are built through the exercise of prayer: Just ask. --Johanna

## LifeQuest Ministry at J. Paul Taylor Center – December Newsletter

Our ministry to adjudicated youth at the J. Paul Taylor Center west of Las Cruces continues with planned activities for December and new programs for 2019.

Thursday and Friday, December 13/14 – LifeQuest volunteers will hold a two-day, four-part (in order to accommodate all 4 dorms) Christmas Open House for JPTC residents, staff and families, to include brisket lunch, and distribution of LifeQuest care packages. Donations are much appreciated to help purchase the meat, desserts and drinks. Please make checks payable directly to LifeQuest USA. This is a great opportunity to come out and check out how the ministry works! If you're curious, contact Carol Baker for more details.

In January, we will be starting a new leadership program at the Center, called Ready4Life, developed by Straight Ahead Ministries. Qualifying JPTC residents will be able to participate in the volunteer-led program, with volunteer training to be held in early January. The new year will also see the formation of a Family Advisory Council, designed to facilitate communication between the Center staff and families.

Lots of exciting stuff going on, so please contact Carol Baker at [carol@hyote.com](mailto:carol@hyote.com), or 575-405-8535 to learn more about, or become involved in, this important and rewarding ministry!

# January Events

## Annual Meeting

On Sunday, January 27<sup>th</sup>, we will go down to one service at St. James' at 9:30 a.m. (Rite I, as promised!). Afterwards, we will meet in the parish hall for coffee hour and our Annual Meeting. We have four vestry positions to fill (one a partial term) and one delegate to Convention and one alternate from St. James' to elect. In addition, the 2019 budget will be presented for discussion and approval. Officers of the church and heads of organizations, please get your reports in to Eric by the morning of January 15, 2019. You may email them to [saintjameslc105@gmail.com](mailto:saintjameslc105@gmail.com). If Eric does not receive your report by that time, we ask you to reproduce and distribute them at the Annual Meeting (perhaps 60 copies). This is always a good opportunity to visit with fellow parishioners from both services and to learn more about our wonderful parish and how we are doing.

## Blessing of Homes

During the season of Epiphany, it is customary in the Church to bless "the homes in which thy people dwell." If any of you desires a blessing of your home during the months of January or February, please contact Padrecita Jeanne by emailing her at [padrecita@hotmail.com](mailto:padrecita@hotmail.com) or calling her cell phone at 575-571-7853. Invite your friends to this event, if you wish, and make a celebration of it!



## December 2018 Birthdays

1	Zack Libbin	23	Bailey Bonfantini
2	Richard Fleming		Linda Joyner
	Joanne Lytton	27	Hobie Veitch
12	James Hanna		Carol Nike
	Lynn Marshall	30	Elisa Reagan

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

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As long as Jesus is one of many options, he is no option. As long as you can carry your burdens alone, you don't need a burden bearer. As long as your situation brings you no grief, you will receive no comfort. As long as you can take him or leave him, you might as well leave him, because he won't be taken half-heartedly.

—Max Lucado



**St. James' Holy Eucharist Service Schedule**

**Sundays at 8:00 am Rite I**  
**Adult Sunday School 9:30 am**  
**Children's Sunday School & Nursery 10:15 am**  
**Sundays at 10:30 am Rite II**  
**Wednesdays at 10:00 am Rite I**