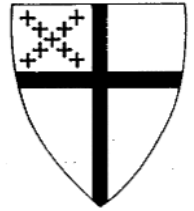




The Staff



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."

February 2019

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*

“ *People ask me what advice I have for a married couple struggling in their relationship. I always answer, “Pray and forgive”; and to young people who come from violent homes, “Pray and forgive”; and to the single mother with no family support, “Pray and forgive.” You can say, “My Lord, I love You. My God, I am sorry. My God, I believe in You. My God, I trust You. Help us to love one another as You love us.”*

Mother Teresa: A Simple Path

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From the Priest-in-Charge, A Godly Plan for Lent

Not long ago I ran across an article in my files that I had not seen in years. It was printed in the parish newsletter of St. Francis on the Hill Episcopal Church, El Paso, The Franciscan, in March 1992. The author is anonymous, as many wise authors are. I hope this (edited) article inspires your Lenten observance:

Lent Is

- Giving Up
- Having your way every time
- Filling your days with unnecessary activity
- Arguing with ANYONE
- Buying anything just because you want it
- Feeling guilty for past sins
- Blaming someone else for your problems
- Filling your mind and heart with a diet of television
- Criticizing
- Being negative about everything
- (And one I might add 27 years later) Spending unnecessary time on your cellphone



Adding On

- Spending more time each day in silence and solitude
- Listening with love
- Sharing yourself
- Writing to someone you forgot (okay, an email will do)
- Putting “on hold” just one attachment or addiction
- Living in the NOW
- Saying “Hi” to a stranger every day
- Telling others you love them
- Going out of your way to help someone you DON’T like
- Offering to help out at an orphanage, shelter, food bank
- Tasting the sweetness of the animals, birds, sky, sunsets
- Being joyful that you are alive in this beautiful world, recapturing your sense of wonder
- Reading the Bible or other literature that will cleanse your mind and heart

A Blessed Lent to you all,

Padrecita Jeanne+

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper at St. Andrew's on March 5th

Shrove Tuesday is a tradition from the Middle Ages marking the day before Ash Wednesday, the day of “shriving” for our sins. Since good Christians were expected to give up meat during the season of Lent, it became a tradition to get rid of the fat in your house on Tuesday, hence the Mardi Gras (“Fat Tuesday”) designation that eventually caught on, with all kinds of extra trappings. Eating pancakes is a good way to devour all that lard, so pancake dinners have become a popular tradition in many churches on Shrove Tuesday.

This year, St. James' will be spending Shrove Tuesday evening, March 5th, with our sister parish across town, St. Andrew's, 518 N. Alameda. Their vestry warmly invites our congregation to join them for their traditional Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper from 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 in the parish hall. Tickets are \$6 apiece or \$15 for a family and can be bought at the door. Proceeds will go to the Men's Club (our cooks for the night) for their mission projects, which include scholarships for Camp Stoney; equipment for the Navajo reservation; and support for Mustard Seed Baby Home in Uganda, among others. Dinner will include pancakes, sausage and bacon, juice, and apple sauce. Start the Lenten season with food, fun, and fellowship. Come hungry and bring friends!



Ash Wednesday Services



It is hard to believe, even with such a late arrival, that the season of Lent is upon us. Stay tuned for some liturgical changes on Sundays, starting with the absence of “Alleluia.” Meanwhile, on Wednesday, March 6th, our normal 10:00 a.m. service will be the Ash Wednesday liturgy, Eucharist and Imposition of Ashes. In the evening at 7:00 p.m. we will have the same service with music.

Lenten Devotional Tracts

On the Last Sunday after the Epiphany, March 3rd, Padrecita Jeanne will put in the church several devotional tracts from Creative Communications. These publications provide daily meditations from Ash Wednesday through Easter Sunday. The Devotions for Lent include:

- “Sermon on the Mount” by Dean Nadasdy, based on Matthew’s Gospel
- “The Saving Passion,” Inspiration from Henri J. Nouwen
- “In the Shadow of the Cross,” by Chad Bird
- “Hope-full Living” (large print) Daily Devotions for Living Life to the Fullest

Please help yourself to one of these tracts (to begin with) to enhance your Lenten season. After the First Sunday in Lent, if there are any booklets left, you are welcome to more.

Vestry Highlights for February 9, 2019

- Vestry voted to allow the formation of an ad hoc committee to assist the Buildings and Grounds committee with interior design. Phala White will chair the committee, which has two volunteers already. They will make recommendations for interior refurbishing and renovations.
- Manny reports that the anonymous donor for library renovations has offered to pay for all of them. Work will begin Tuesday the 12th, preceded by a work day on Monday by parishioners to take books off the shelves and pull the shelves away from the walls so they can be repainted. Blinds have been ordered. The plans for the Fr. Salazar Marble Bench have been expanded to include a Mexican Elder tree and a concrete sidewalk. The bench has been sent. The Jr Warden recommends a dedication service when work is completed, with Mrs. Salazar in attendance.
- The vestry voted to approve Lynn Marshall as the new check signer on the vestry
- Manny encouraged the vestry to meet with Mesilla Valley Pro on Tuesday to hear a presentation on the proposed new sound system for the sanctuary.
- The B&G committee is exploring the possibility of installing keyless (coded) doorways to parish hall, library, and perhaps other doors.
- The treasurer reported a balance in the checking account of \$68, 801.66, and a finance committee recommendation that part of this money be invested. One of the committee members will look into this. Income for January exceeded expenses by \$7,328.14.
- Terry Meyer reports that the 15-second ads for St. James' on KRWG have begun and should be aired on Wednesdays between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. The Farmers' Market has finally given approval for a tent for us as a nonprofit organization. The Evangelism and Outreach Committee will meet on February 17th to come up with a volunteer list and decide on literature for a once-a-month appearance on Saturday from 8:30-1:00 p.m.
- Lynn Marshall and Padrecita Jeanne will meet to discuss the formation of a new Audit Committee, of which Lynn will be the chair.
- Sig Johansen, one of three vestry members on the Search Committee, reported that they are hard at work formulating a draft list of questions to ask applicants in their first interview, and for the 2 or 3 "finalists," a second set of questions. The vestry voted to come up with their own questions for the interview they will conduct with the one applicant the SC recommends as rector. The SC and vestry will meet together to finalize the list of questions before March.
- The vestry voted to approve Mary Ganier as assistant treasurer of the parish.
- Nyeta submitted a draft of the annual Parochial Report which is sent to the diocese, and then on to the national Episcopal Church, due March 1st with vestry approval required. Padrecita explained that a group consisting of herself, Nyeta, Johanna Binneweg, and Jennifer Terrazas spent about two weeks going over the Powerchurch listings and updating them, removing over 300 members from the active list, and transferring them to inactive or nonmember status, depending on the circumstances (such as death, transfer, visitor or relocation). This had not been done in recent memory and resulted in a far more accurate accounting of actual active members and active nonmembers, of which we are blessed with many. Padrecita has

written a cover letter to explain to the diocese the large discrepancy between this year's totals and those of previous years. The vestry approved the Parochial Report.

- Jennifer handed out information on mandatory online Safeguarding Our Children training for vestry members.

JANUARY FINANCIALS	Current Period	Year to Date	Year to Date Budget
Total Income	\$ 17,649.07	\$ 17,649.07	\$ 17,933.33
Total Expenses	\$ 10,320.93	\$ 10,320.93	\$ 17,374.83
Excess Income/Expenses	<u>\$ 7,328.14</u>	<u>\$ 7328.14</u>	<u>-\$ 558.50</u>

Junior Warden's Report

Jr. Warden Report for February 2019 respectfully submitted by Manny Terrazas

Library-The library work will begin Tuesday, Feb. 12. Due to the very kind and generous donation of one of our parishioners, the entire cost will be covered. The work to be done will include: dropping the ceiling, removal of the wooden paneling with plastering and painting, painting of the entire room, installation of LED lighting and cleaning of the carpet. The Vestry has approved purchasing new blinds for the windows and this money is coming from the Building and Grounds line item (of which so many of you designate your pledges-thank you).



Sunday School-Sunday School room-The Sunday School teachers have requested that the Vestry consider updating the furnishings and room where Sunday School is held. Two different parishioners have stepped forward to offer donations towards this work. I will be working on getting bids and quotes for this work in the coming days.

Sanctuary Sound System-After many attempts with local individuals and businesses to procure a quote/bid for a new sound system in the Sanctuary, we have finally been able to get information and a bid from Mesilla Valley Pro. Mr. Sid Gantz is the owner and has installed several sound systems within the area. He also comes with excellent recommendations. Vestry members, our music department personnel, as well as the Building and Grounds committee have met with Mr. Gantz and the Vestry will be voting on this proposal within the week.

Keyless entry-due to the increased usage of the library and the Parish Hall, I have spoken with the Vestry about procuring information for keyless entry into both rooms. More information will be forthcoming in the months ahead.

Your Jr. Warden,
Manny Terrazas

Acolyte /Chalice Bearer Training

There will be an acolyte / chalice bearer training Saturday on March 2nd from 9-11:30. If you have considered becoming an acolyte/chalice bearer please come and take part. We have two parishioners have already volunteered to serve in that capacity. We are always in need of additional people to serve to eliminate burnout for those who have been serving for a long time.

Thursday Night Supper and Spiritual Sustenance

On Thursday evenings during Lent (except for Holy Week), beginning on March 7th, we offer a light supper in the parish hall at 6:00 p.m., followed by an hour of study and discussion at 6:30. This year we offer two books, which parishioners signed up for and began reading during the Advent season. They are: “Reckless Love” by John Newton and “Impressions of Jesus” by Denis McBride. Both involve Bible study, the Newton book being thematic in nature with discussion questions at the end, and the McBride book consisting of narratives written in the first person by various characters in the life of Jesus, some biblical and some imaginary. We have ordered extra copies so those who did not sign up are welcome to come. More can be ordered. For the first evening, please read in “Reckless Love,” chapters 3-5. In “Impressions of Jesus,” please read *A Child* and *A Woman of Magdala*.

Lenten Meals

Lent is quickly approaching, and with it the Thursday evening meals and Bible studies. I am working on the meal schedule and would like anyone who would like to provide one of the dinners to call me with your preferred week, we will be meeting on March 7, 14, 21,28 and April 4, and 11th. The meals can be as simple as you would like, in the past several years we have had pizza, soup and sandwiches and salads. Others have provided some very lovely full dinners including salmon, ham, and pasta. It is totally up to the individual cooks or cook teams. We are not picky eaters on Thursday evenings. Contact Lynn Marshall at 523-9218 or 644-4902.

Confirmation Classes

Padrecita Jeanne will again be offering Confirmation or Enquirers Classes this spring, starting in late March. Confirmation is required for all who hold the Bishop’s license as chalice bearers or Eucharistic visitors (taking Communion to people in their homes). It is also expected of those who serve on the vestry, though not canonically required. Confirmation is a sacrament in the Episcopal Church. While baptism alone is sufficient to receive Communion, and anyone can join an Episcopal parish who wishes to do so, those who receive the sacrament of Confirmation renew their baptism vows and join the Episcopal Church through the laying on of hands by a bishop. Please let Padrecita know if you would like to take these classes. They are not limited to those seeking Confirmation. They will be arranged according to the schedules of those involved.



From The Daughters of the King

The Power of Being Thankful

In all serious spiritual disciplines, thanksgiving is the key to the door to God. Being thankful for everything in our lives--large things and small things, including the hard times, petty annoyances, and suffering--leads to peace and tranquility of mind and of spirit.

I learned at a retreat recently to take "An Examen in Gratitude" each night as I go to bed. I follow roughly the format given below, courtesy of the Jesuits in Britain, 2018.

~~~~~

Relax. Take a moment to let God look at you. Breathe in God's love.

With your hand on your heart ask Jesus to bring to your heart the moment today for which you feel the most grateful.

Recall what was said and done in that moment. Enjoy the gratitude you feel again now.

Breathe in its life.

Ask Jesus to bring to your heart the moment today for which you feel least grateful. What was said and done in that moment? Let it be. Breathe in God's love just as you are.

Speak to God about what you have noticed. Give thanks to God for your day.

Ask help for tomorrow.

~~~~~

If you are still not relaxed and sleepy after this exercise, pray for your family and friends.

Good night

For His Sake, and in His Love,

Johanna Binneweg, Chickie Lerdal, Kathy Fisher, Jane Madrid, Lucy Gray, Judith Forney, Nancy Cain, Bink Nelson.

The Daughters of the King meet for coffee, laughter, prayer, listening, and devotions at 10 am the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month in Chickie Lerdal's home. Call her or me for directions if you would like to attend as a visitor. We welcome all women of St. James parish.

--JB

Sunday School Collection Ministry

This year our Sunday school young people will again be collecting funds for children's ministry. The "piggy banks" have been replaced by new "church" banks which the children will pass out the Last Sunday after the Epiphany, March 3rd. Please sign up for a church bank in the parish hall after each service on that Sunday and fill your church with offerings which will be divided between two local children's ministries: Jardin de los Niños and Children's Literacy Alliance. The church banks should be returned to the Sunday school by Easter Sunday in order to be dedicated at the altar.

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 Tōhnantzin, 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 forty 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.

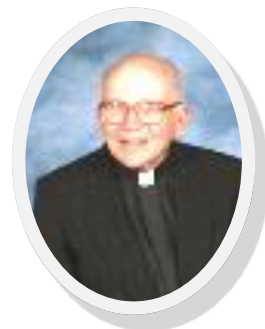
But she had conscience, and to stop herself she put hot coals in her shoes. This stopped her all right, but ruined her feet. Anyway she limped back to bed.

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.

—Father Frank



Jazzercise—Have you tried a Jazzercise class yet? Jazzercise is a variety of jazz dance based exercise classes including Dance Mixx, Fusion, Strike, Core, and Strength60. Jazzercise instructors are trained to show modifications for all class varieties to ensure the safety and success of all of our fitness level customers. We offer class in the morning at 8:45 Monday through Saturday, and evening class at 4:40 PM and 5:45 PM Monday through Thursday. We look forward to having you join in on our fun soon!

St. James Sewing Bee Raffle

At the start of 2018, a sewing bee approached the Vestry about using the Parish Hall. As a token of appreciation, the St. James Sewing Bee promised the Vestry that we would provide a quilt for raffle purposes with all proceeds to benefit St. James. That quilt is complete, and it is a beauty! It will be on display in the Parish Hall starting this weekend. Tickets will be for sale from February 24 through March 17. They will be on sale between the hours of 7:30 a.m-12:00 p.m. every Sunday. The drawing will take place between services on March 17th. Winners need not be present to win. Each ticket will cost \$1.00. However, if you purchase 5 tickets for \$5.00, you will get the sixth ticket free; if you purchase \$10.00, you will get two tickets free and so on (every increment of \$5.00 will earn you one free ticket). All funds will be earmarked for Building and Grounds' funds to support improvements to the Sunday School room. Help our out our Sunday School students and program by supporting this worthy cause. Questions? Please contact Lynn Marshall at 575 644-4902 or Jennifer Terrazas at 575 993-0498. Thank you.

St. James Sewing Bee

The St. James Sewing Bee has now been in existence for just over a year. We are so delighted to use the beautiful Parish Hall at St. James and are so grateful for the wonderfully warm welcome our members have received. We would love to have you join us any Thursday between 10:00 am and 3:30 p.m. Do you sew, knit, crochet, hand quilt, machine quilt, embroider? If yes, we have a place for you, full of camaraderie and fun! Come on down for a great time. Questions? Please contact Lynn Marshall at 575 644-4902 or Jennifer Terrazas at 575 993-0498. Thank you.



February 2019 Birthdays

8	Janelle Woodward	17	Elizabeth Salazar
10	Buddy Ritter	26	Anna Marie Armistead
13	Fr. Nick Funk		

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!

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“Love is the way. Love is the only way. Those who follow in my way follow in the way of unconditional, unselfish, sacrificial love. And that kind of love can change the world.”

—**Bishop**
Michael Curry



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