

St. James Parish

WITH ST. MARK'S MINISTRIES

Epistle



JUNE 2025

Rector's Message

Loving you isn't the right thing to do ... You can go your own way ... You can call it another lonely day ... Go your own way.

Go Your Own Way
by Lindsey Buckingham
of Fleetwood Mac

Nicky Cruz grew up with an abusive, often absent father. He and his family moved to NYC from Puerto Rico in the 1950's, when Nicky was a young teen. The young Cruz quickly became involved in crime and drug use. Before too long, he was the president of the Mau Maus, the toughest street gang in New York. He would come into contact with a minister named David Wilkerson from rural Pennsylvania who was working with the gangs in the mid and late 1950's. When Cruz first met Wilkerson, he spat in the minister's face, slapped him, and threatened his life. Nicky saw the young pastor as a threat to his power and way of life. Over time, the pastor began to make headway with many gang members who wanted a different life, including Nicky Cruz. Cruz would become a Christian and, later, a pastor and evangelist. Cruz would likely have ended up in prison or, like so many of his freinds, dead from gang violence. God, through David Wilkerson's unlikely ministry, intervened and changed Cruz's path. Nicky Cruz no longer went his own way, but now traveled the path that God, through His intervention, had placed him on. **

I was at a clergy conference this past week and the word "intervention" was used more than once. What is an intervention? Often, intervention refers to situations when someone is in crisis. When someone is struggling with addiction, for instance, family and friends may

stage an "intervention." An intervention of this type is trying to arrest the behavior - to stop the destructive path the person is on - and to help them onto a different path. The new path might be rehabilitation, a time to reassess and get support to chart new ways of doing things.

What if we thought of Christ's coming as a "cosmic intervention," God breaking into the world to help us figure out how to go forward with God at the center of a new way of being? Jesus is many things and one of those things is an interventionist, one who stands in our current path and invites us – when necessary – to go a new way. Like a traditional intervention, the subject may choose to go his or her own way, refuse help, and continue to move toward destruction and maybe death. Early followers of Jesus, before the word Christian was used, were called 'The Way.' Jesus invites us to go a His way, a way that leads to a life of abundance because God fills it with Himself, with hope at the center.

** For more on the life of David Wilkerson and Nicky Cruz, I recommend the old standard, *The Cross and The Switchblade* (Wilkerson) and *Run Baby Run* (Cruz).

In Christ,
Fr. George+

Warden's Corner

Dear Faithful Followers of Jesus:

In the midst of all our hyper political environment in the United States, the Cardinals of the Catholic Church elected an American to be Pope! We may not be Catholics, but we are Christians, and he is one of us in more ways than his nationality. I often reflect on how important it is that we not engage in partisan politics in our life as a parish. The new Pope's selection of the name Leo sent my mind into overdrive. Leo XIII was pope for 25 years at the end the nineteenth and into the twentieth centuries. It was the Gilded Age when businessmen were becoming phenomenally wealthy often at the expense of their employees who labored long hours in unsafe conditions with no security and for meager wages. The battle lines were drawn between the rights of private property and free enterprise, and working men and their right to form unions to protect their well-being. "Conservatives" favored private property and the wealthy, and "liberals" favored the rights of working men. So where did Leo XIII end up in his famous encyclical "Rerum Novarum" of 1891? On the side of the Gospel.

A very long time ago I realized how inappropriate the monikers "liberal" and "conservative" are for followers of Jesus. We are not called to be either liberal or conservative, not to mention "Democrat" or "Republican." We are called to be faithful to Jesus Christ and his truth, which transcend the vagaries of political alliances. While we do not engage in partisan politics in our life as a parish, we need to be careful that we don't allow those who find the teachings of Jesus "uncomfortable" to intimidate us into silence. To paraphrase St. Paul: "but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Republicans and foolishness to Democrats" (1Cor 1:23). If we really want our Christianity to be more than a guise, a costume under which we hide what we really think and feel, we must struggle to know Jesus and to understand what he wants us to believe and how he wants us to live. You won't find that in any political platform, but you can discover it by studying the Gospels and coming to know Jesus Christ through them.

Peace be with you,
Stephen Hard, Co-Warden

Faith & Fries!

We usually come together on the 4th Tuesday of each month at **Puente American-Latino Pub at 81 South Main Street in Unionville.** We will **gather on Tuesday, June 24th, from 7–8:30 pm.** Come for dinner, have a drink or snack,



whatever is comfortable for you. We invite all to come as they are able and please, feel free to invite a friend, neighbor, or co-worker! Call the church with questions.

Summer Worship Schedule

We will hold a single Sunday worship service at 9:30 a.m. throughout the summer beginning June 15th. This service is

open to in-person attendance and available online as well. Nursery childcare will be available for the service during the summer. Morning Prayer will continue to be livestreamed on Facebook Mondays at 9:30 am over the summer.



Pentecost Sunday, June 8th!

Sunday, June 8th we commemorate the Feast of Pentecost or Whitsunday (white Sunday). Pentecost is the final high feast day before the fall and follows the coming of the Holy Spirit upon Christ's praying disciples. The Holy Spirit was promised by Jesus, before His crucifixion, as a gift to strengthen and bless the disciples in their continuing life and ministry with God and we all claim that inbreaking Spirit, too. We will complete our time of intentional prayer (after the Ascension) and will celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit and enjoy a St. James Picnic, with hamburgers, hotdogs, etc. in a time of celebration of the coming of the Holy Spirit.



Women's Ministry

The Woman's Ministry will offer the following to the women of the parish. For questions/more information, please see Kathy Bullard, Deb Butler, Gabriela Henry, Linda Mason, Tracey Roberts, Molly Sherman, Nancy Thompson, or Anna Whilby.

- **Tuesday, June 3rd Financial Literacy for Women.** Meet in the parish hall at noon with Betty Udal to learn about necessary financial issues as a woman you need to know. Bring a brown bag lunch and your questions! Please see Tracey Roberts for questions.
- **Wednesday, June 18th, 7 pm, Book Club,** come hang out with your woman friends at the church, bring a snack, and discuss great reads. The first book selected is *Breakfast with Buddah*. For questions, please speak with Tracey Roberts.
- **Saturday, June 21st, 9 am, Potluck Prayer Breakfast.** Bring a yummy breakfast food and join your woman folk in a time of breakfast, prayer, and gathering.
- **Card Making with Marge,** Friday, June 27th, 6:30pm: our own Marge Litteral will work with us to make cards using the Stamping Up technique which she will teach as we make cards for others. The Women's Ministry Craft Group is sponsoring this event where we will make cards to be given to others in our various ministries, outreach programs. Please come and join us for the fun event, no charge. RSVP to Marge Litteral.
- **Craft Group:** we had our first meeting on May 14th and have great ideas for making things for the Prudence Crandall Shelter, the Amberwoods Ministry, our shut-ins and also for ourselves. If you have a special talent you'd like to share, if you'd like to help others through making small, crafted gifts, please speak to Linda Mason, Kathy Bullard or Carol Lemieux.
- **Women's Retreat Update:** it is being planned for an October 2025 weekend. Stay tuned as more details are firmed up.

Outreach Corner

Farmington Food Pantry

St. James annually commits the month of June to focus on donations to the Farmington Food Pantry. The Pantry currently serves 40–50 families each week plus 20–30 individual clients. Summer can bring increased usage as well with the children out of school and needing “3 squares” at home. Throughout the month of June, please place your donations in the grey bin marked *Farmington Food Pantry* located in the narthex (entrance lobby). Monetary donations are also accepted; simply make out your check to *St. James Parish* and include *Food Pantry* on the Note line. The St. James Outreach Ministry thanks you for your generous and continued support of the Pantry.

On Saturday, April 26th, the *St. James Heelers* joined several hundred others in the 2025 Walk Against Hunger. This Walk is not only a major fundraiser for Foodshare but also seeks to raise awareness about the continuing issue of food insecurity in Connecticut. Foodshare mobilizes community partners, supporters and volunteers to distribute very needed food to individuals and families. They do this by supplying food to a network of over 650 partner agencies and programs like soup kitchens, food pantries, and shelters. Thank you to everyone at St. James for your enthusiastic support of our *Heelers*. **This year our team raised a record breaking \$2,395 and had 24**



walkers! Thank you to everyone who participated in the Walk or donated to this very worthy cause. It was wonderful to see the love of God at work through the kindness and generosity of the members of our church. Hopefully *St James Heelers* will be a part of this event for years to come, and many more of our parishioners will join us in this quest to fight hunger in our communities.

Dominican Republic mission update

The building of the physical church (or 'Templo,' as the Episcopalians of the Dominican Republic refer to their church buildings) that we are helping to construct in Boca Chica, the Dominican Republic, moves on apace. The roof is completed, and the walls of the church are done as well, with wiring, the flooring, etc. still to come. Our DR Mission Team will be headed down to work with our friends in Boca Chica, in the church community of De La Gracia, to build the pews for the church sanctuary. We depart on June 27th and will return on July 5th. We covet your prayers as we try to shift toward not only what we are doing physically, as your Mission Team, but how we are fulfilling God's calling in our work and in each other. We appreciate your prayers and your commitment to St. James's mission in the Dominican Republic.

So far, our envelope fundraiser has produced over \$4,900 with only 11 envelopes unclaimed as of May 28th (89 have been taken!). **We are also offering a car wash on Sunday, June 1st, from 9 am to noon, and a Bingo Night on Sunday, June 8th, 6:30–8 pm, as additional ways of raising money for the DR Mission.** The people of St. James have contributed to and supported the continuing ministry with our partners in the DR in so many ways and everyone on the Team is very grateful. Our work is not the ministry of a small group of people but of all of us. We began this work with De La Gracia in the summer of 2023. We will continue working with De La Gracia until the church is complete and, possibly, helping to build a community center on top of



the first-floor church (as a second level), for the use of the church and wider community around it. We will see. It is important to note that the work is not about building spaces of

worship; at least not building physical things alone. We are working to build the body of Christ in each other, serving Christ in them, and allowing their Christ-vision to build faith and the love of God in us, too. We do this work because it allows the Spirit to enlarge our sense of who the body of Christ is and He is not located only in Farmington but in the poor communities of the Dominican Republic, too.

We continue to need the support of the wider parish as we prepare not only to build the pews for the worship space this summer but will also be supporting a Bible School while we are there. **Please see our display area on the far side of the parish hall over the next few weeks and see what is still needed for Bible School materials!** Continue to pray for the success and safety of our Mission Team. We are blessed by the parish's love and prayers!

Our Mission Team for 2025: Oliver Cadigan, Rocco Guglielmo, Dona Waugh, Armen Michalak, Michael Slusarz, Bonnie Sudell, Bob Sudell, Tracey Roberts, Chloe Roberts, Fr. George, Chandler Howard, and Page Pelphrey (Christ Church, Guildford). We continue to have the support of the Dominican Development Group, who help plan the logistical part of our travel and work there, so our prayers for them and their staff.

Church School update

I want to thank everyone here for a wonderful church school year, especially to parents who volunteered their time to help teach, as well as every parent who participated in any way. Also, to our dear children who continued to show up this year, despite everyone's busy schedules.

We've come to the end of our church school year. There is no school this coming Sunday due to the holiday weekend, and then we move into June. Where did the time go? We will gather one more time in the Church School Room on Sunday, June 8th – Pentecost. We may play some games and enjoy a few special treats before entering the parish with our homemade symbols of "flames of fire." We hope you will also join us for the picnic to follow the 10:15 service. Over the summer, we plan to put a few fun things on the calendar for our families, so please stay tuned.

Thank you all and look forward to celebrating Pentecost on June 8th!

Brigitte Cadigan

Sound Healing

On Saturday June 7th, at 9 am (light breakfast provided, come early), we welcome Kelvin Young, RSS, a certified Sound Healer and Owner of Kelvin Young, LLC. Kelvin will tell us about his incredible journey and lead us through a sound healing session as a way of experiencing a new way of healing and meditation. During the session, Kelvin will play the crystal and Tibetan singing bowls, gong, ocean drum, chimes, and other healing instruments (tools) to activate the relaxation response to calm your mind, relax your body, feel your emotions, and nourish your soul.

The meditative sound promotes healing from chronic stress, muscle tension, addictive behaviors, sleep disorders, depression, anxiety, PTSD, stuck emotions, unprocessed trauma, high blood pressure and other stress-related chronic health conditions. Together, we'll create a safe space for you to connect with your body, emotions and intuition for rejuvenation, mental clarity, and insight.

Kelvin is also a Recovery Support Specialist at Intercommunity HealthCare in Hartford, CT. Kelvin is a founding member of Toivo, a DMHAS funded, peer-run holistic healing center in Hartford. He also was inducted into the CT Hall of Change in September 2020 which is designed to recognize formerly incarcerated men and women who have made substantial contributions to CT communities since their release. Today, he publicly speaks on addiction recovery, peer support and healing to people from all walks of life. Kelvin also facilitates private and group sound healing sessions at different locations throughout the United States.

Your photo in print or on our website?

St. James Parish uses candid photos of various church activities on our website and in publications (like this *Epistle*). If you prefer that your photo NOT be displayed, please contact the parish office; we maintain a list of members whose likeness is not to be shared.

A June Movie Night!

At 6:30 pm, on Saturday, June 14th, we will watch the Angel Studios film *Cabrini*. The movie follows the work of Frances Xavier Cabrini, generally known as 'Mother Cabrini.' Mother Cabrini arrives in late 19th century New York City to find Italian immigrants to be living in appalling conditions, treated as worse than second class citizens.

Struggling with illness herself – having formed her own Catholic religious order because none would accept her – Mother Cabrini works to create the circumstances for a better life for immigrants in this new country. Mother Cabrini, though an Italian immigrant herself, is said to be the first American saint. Join us for popcorn, dessert, a good movie, and maybe conversation afterwards.



Celebrating June birthdays!

Matt Brockman
Olivia Paré
Wendy Ives
Ed Preneta
Rocco Guglielmo
Joey Guglielmo
Tracey Roberts
Gideon Pereira
Lisa Solomon
Mark Riemer
Carmen Propiescus

Bruce Brown
Owen Wahl
Sarah Torrence



Ice Cream Social & Lawn Games



Our church family is invited to a fun afternoon on **Saturday, August 9th** anytime 1–5 pm with a rain date of August 16th. We'll gather at Dianne Antos' house in Farmington.

Contact Dianne for questions.
Bring a lawn chair!



Thy Kingdom Come

Thy Kingdom Come (TKC) is a ministry that began in the Church of England about eight years ago. In the last few years, TKC has grown to a global experience engaged in by parishes and churches around the world. TKC focuses prayer during the time between the Ascension of our Lord (Thursday, May 29th) and Pentecost (Sunday, June 8th). There are several facets to TKC but first and foremost, it encourages us, between Ascension and Pentecost, to say the Lord's Prayer with intentionality and new purpose. We are asked, during TKC, to pray for five people in our lives who have not yet received the Good News of Jesus in their lives or are struggling with their faith or belief in Christ. So, we say the Lord's Prayer, thinking of our five people. We pray each day, at least once, for each of our five people of focus. We are also encouraged, as we say the Lord's Prayer over the 10-day period of TKC, to seek renewal and closer relationship in our own journey with Christ. The primary goal of TKC is to deepen our lives of prayer as individuals and communities, and to pray for folks who do not know the goodness of Christ to come to know Him in some way and the profound blessing of learning trust and faith in His risen life.



We kicked off *Thy Kingdom Come* this year, on Ascension with a Celebration of Holy Eucharist, and begin praying for your five people (see above) and saying the Lord's Prayer. We have

special Prayer Journals available for people to use from Ascension to Pentecost. Please take one. You can find more information about *Thy Kingdom Come* at their website, including videos, etc. <https://www.thykingdomcome.global>. Please contact the parish office if you would like a printed Prayer Journal or Novena mailed to you.

Summer parish office hours

Beginning on Friday, June 20th, the parish office will be closed on Fridays throughout the summer. We remain open Monday–Thursday, 9 am to 2 pm, except for Labor Day. Please call ahead (860-677-1564) if you prefer to check in with Sue before coming to the office.



Looking forward

On **Thursday, September 4th, at 6:30 pm** (Zoom), we will hold our first ever meeting for a new worship committee! We will say more about this in our July/August *Epistle* but, if you are interested in liturgy and music and have ideas to share about your vision for how we do those things, put this on your calendar. We will meet via Zoom. More information to come this summer!

On **Saturday, September 27th, at 9 am**, we will meet in the parish hall to have our first meeting to discuss pastoral issues and the possibility of beginning a Pastoral Care Team. If you are interested in supporting the pastoral work of Fr. George, would like to learn how to be a pastoral companion, a Eucharistic Visitor, etc. please put this on your calendar. More information to come this summer!

Mid-week Eucharist returning in the fall: **beginning on October 1st, each Wednesday at 11:30 am**, there will be a brief service of Holy Eucharist (about 30 minutes), with prayers for healing. Following Eucharist, anyone who would like/can stay is invited to bring a bag lunch and join your pastor for conversation in the library. We will wrap up by around 12:30 or so.

A **Women's Retreat** is being planned for an October 2025 weekend (still TBD). Stay tuned as more details are firmed up.

Summary Minutes of the Vestry Meeting of April 14, 2025

Present: Fr. George Roberts, Stephen Hard, Linda Mason, Skip Mason, Doug McDowell, Ed Preneta, Molly Sherman via Zoom, Bonnie Sudell, Bob Sudell and Dave Tompkins via Zoom. **Absent:** Kathy Bullard and EJ Ososki.

Minutes of 3/20/2025 Meeting

Bob made a motion to accept the minutes. Ed seconded it. The motion passed unanimously.

Ministry Reports

Finance/Treasurer's Report – March

Summary of EJ's Report

- Pledge income ahead of schedule; Income \$12,675 ahead of plan
- Expenses less than planned (\$103,753 vs. \$111,049). Expect changes as we navigate the combined expenses, but overall in a good place.
- Jerry Hess reported that our invested funds have gone down but recommended that we stay the course

Bob made a motion that we accept the report. Ed seconded it. The motion passed unanimously.

Building and Grounds – Bob

The doors have been delayed. We have requested a new quote for paving the back parking lot. We are looking for a landscape architect to evaluate all the grounds.

Women's Ministries – Linda

Approximately 30 women have met twice and developed a list of ideas going forward which will be sent to all women in the parish.

Outreach – Kathy

Kathy reported that the team will reevaluate our current outreach activities and prioritize future efforts at the meeting after the 10:15 service May 4th. The Walk Against Hunger has not generated the momentum this year as it has in the past.

Capital Committee

The committee will have its first meeting April 23rd to prioritize projects. Don Richey, retired elevator engineer, will meet with those available on April 29th.

New Business

St. Mark's Merger Fund

Jerry Hess suggested that the \$154,999 in the St. Mark's Merger Fund be allocated to our Building Improvement Fund. Bob made a motion to accept this suggestion. Ed seconded it. The motion passed unanimously.

Refugee family crisis

Fr. George reported that a Syrian family, previously refugees in Jordan for ten years and here for four years, have had all funds cut off and cannot pay their rent. The Vestry approved a one-time gift of \$1,500 from the Smith Fund.

Social Justice action or support

Fr. George had conversations with those who are challenged/concerned with what is going on in our country. We talked about how we can engage in activism and advocacy, recognizing that this is a challenge as we are not a secular institution. We must be open and listen to people and think about the broader question of what the church is called to be in any situation.

Worship Committee – a possibility

Fr. George would like to form a committee to start in the fall to meet periodically to suggest ideas for liturgy, music, etc.

Pastoral Care Team

Fr. George is looking for a dozen parishioners to form a team of eucharistic visitors to bring communion to those who cannot attend church and also act as pastoral companions. Members would receive training from the Episcopal Church of CT and begin their ministry in the fall.

Growth and Discipleship: where do we go from here?

Food for thought – as we find ourselves in the midst of a growth spurt and renewed energy, we must channel this energy. What does the future hold for St. James?

Bob motioned to adjourn. Linda seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Adjourned at 8:56 pm.

Respectfully Submitted
Bonnie Sudell, Clerk

Fall Craft Fair

Free, Free, Free!! Free Food!! Free Stuff!!

The Fall Craft Fair is on its way! AND it's Freeeee!!!



NOW THAT I HAVE YOUR ATTENTION....

WHEN: Saturday, September 13th, 9 am–4 pm.

🍂 A Craft Fair, featuring regional crafters, artisans, and vendors inside and on the lawn! ALL ON DISPLAY FOR YOUR REVIEW FOR *Free*

🍂 An absolutely awesome Bake Sale! (Most items are not sugar-*Free*)

🍂 The return of our Raffle Table! With many *Free* items!! (Just buy some tickets to play \$20 for 30 tickets, \$10 for 12 tickets.

🍂 *Free* Hamburgers & Hotdogs for lunch! (Just buy a paper plate and napkin for \$10 and get 1 or the other). Includes Potato Chips are that are completely *Free* of any nutritional value whatsoever!

As you can imagine, it will require many hands working together (for *Free*) to support this event.

The people of St. James are extremely *Free* with their generosity! So be thinking *Free* of how you may be able to help in the following areas:

🍂 *Free* Donations for lunch items – watch for the signup sheet in the narthex to come.

Absolutely no charge to signup. It's *Free*! Crazy, right?

🍂 Donating *Free* Item(s) to the raffle table ** see note on next page!

🍂 Baking for the Bake Sale – YOU do the baking; no cost to us ... in other words, *Free*

🍂 Set up / packaging for Bake Sale

🍂 Building Setup on Friday – No building permits required ... Yup, *Free*

🍂 Assisting arriving vendors for *Free* Friday 4–7 pm &/or Saturday morning 7:30–9 am

🍂 Working (FOR *Free*) the day of the Fair, especially during lunch hours 11 am–2 pm

🍂 Clean-Up Crew- Saturday at 4 pm

**** Note on donating to the Raffle Table:** This is an extremely popular part of the Fair, so be thinking of what you would like to donate. It can be a theme basket ... art? coffee? garden? baby? kids? (Ummm, no, actually, you can't donate babies or kids – sorry!), reading? Décor? Seasonal? Those are just a few ideas, but be creative! Just be *Free* thinking! Also popular are gift cards/certificates to local shops and restaurants. No alcoholic beverages can be accepted for the Table. Please email Tracey Roberts at robertsrus6@gmail.com to let her know what you are donating ... as long as it's *Free!*

Signups will be available soon ... and stay tuned for further announcements!

*And remember that, unlike most agricultural fairs, our fair is barnyard-fragrance *Free!**

Stay tuned folks, more *Free* stuff to follow in the coming weeks!

St. James Parish

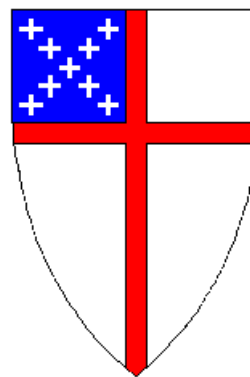
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Website: www.stjamesfarmington.org



MISSION STATEMENT:

*We welcome all to worship and nurture spiritual growth through faith, grace and reason.
We reach out to those in need as a caring community
and live Christ's teaching to love one another.*

STAFF		OFFICERS		
The Rev. George C. Roberts	<i>Rector</i>	Kathy Bullard & Stephen Hard, <i>Wardens</i>		
Blake Hansen	<i>Director of Music</i>	EJ Ososki, <i>Treasurer</i>		
Brigitte Cadigan	<i>Children & Family Ministries</i>	Jerry Hess, <i>Asst. Treasurer</i>		
Susan Deming	<i>Parish Administrator</i>	Bonnie Sudell, <i>Parish Clerk</i>		
Cheryl Rusczyk	<i>Admin., St. Mark's Ministries</i>			
Ray Smith	<i>Sexton</i>			
Kim McLaurin	<i>Nursery Supervisor</i>			
		VESTRY		
		2026	2027	2028
		Stephen Hard	Kathy Bullard	Linda Mason
		Skip Mason	Doug McDowell	Ed Preneta
		Robert Sudell	Molly Sherman	David Tompkins

St. James Parish

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

