

St. James Parish

Epistle



October 2022

Rector's Message

... thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life.

1 Timothy 6:19

We have spent the last month or so exploring Paul's first letter to Timothy, whom Paul refers to as "my dear son." Paul's two letters to Timothy are intimate, endearing, instructive, and at times exquisitely beautiful. Paul appears to be sending a farewell letter, as he writes "the time for my departure has come." A few weeks ago, Paul was encouraging the communities Timothy would visit to remember that wealth and other material things were transitory and, therefore, should be used to help those in need and to strengthen the growing Christian community. I am most struck, however, by the passage above, as Paul talks of "a good foundation" and taking "hold of that which is truly life." It begs the question: what foundation are we building our lives upon? How is that a foundation for the future? And what does Paul mean is that thing "which is truly life"?

St. Francis of Assisi's feast day is approaching, on October 4th. Francis was known for many things, but one of them is the choice that he made, as a young man, to build his life upon a different foundation. He was the son of a very wealthy cloth merchant, heir to a lavish and comfortable way of life. But as time went on, military glory and a playboy's life seemed more and more empty and hollow, as he spent time outside the walled city, praying at a crumbling church. He ultimately rejected his father's life, one of plenty, for a simple, austere monk's life



with God in Christ. He spent the next twenty or so years (he died at only 44) traveling, preaching the good news of God's blessing in Christ, and forming the Order of Friars Minor (the Franciscans). Francis, by all accounts, offered the love of God freely to all who would listen, giving alms to the poorest of the poor, and choosing to live a simple life with his brother monks. Francis built a foundation upon the life of Jesus, the reality of Christ's redemptive blessing, and chose to help others as much as he could.

The world has temptations and offers us a chance to advance ourselves, focus on our "best life," while struggling to connect with the hope that is extended to and for us in Christ Jesus. When we build on God's foundation in Jesus, we can weather any storm and be the people that God calls us to be. We need not all be monks, saints, or live a life of severe austerity. Jesus calls us all in different ways but we are all called, no matter who we are, to seek the life that truly is life, created for us by God's unending love.

In Christ, Fr. George+

First Sunday Breakfast returns!!!

Find delicious food and fellowship at the First Sunday Breakfasts cooked by a great crew of men of the parish, led by John McBride: pancakes, waffles, sausage, bacon, eggs, breads, juice and coffee as good as Mom made. The



menu may change from one month to the next.

Come join us in the Parish Hall at 9 a.m. on Sunday, October 2nd as we joyfully re-gather after more than 2 years apart!

Prayer Team

From time to time, the Prayer Teams shares some of what has been helpful to us, in the hope that you might find it helpful too.

They say that one who sings, prays twice ... in fact, for me sometimes it is almost impossible NOT to sing, especially when a beautiful hymn, long-ingrained in me now, comes to mind. This one came to me today. We sing of a majestic God, worthy of our worship; the Holy one, who creates, redeems, and sustains us. A good way to start the day!

*Holy, Holy, Holy,
Lord God Almighty.
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.
Holy, Holy, Holy,
Merciful and mighty,
God in three Persons,
blessed Trinity.*

Reginald Heber

**St. James Prayer Team ...
Praying together for you**
Always available, always confidential

Pat Clark
Carol Kirkwood
Donna Paye

Church School to Confirmation

Church school is of high importance in the community life of St. James, as we strive to nurture our youngest members in the hope and love of Jesus Christ and an awareness of how our faith gives us strength and different ways to engage the world. **Our church school meets Sunday morning from 10 to about 10:45 a.m., gathering in the parish hall.** We currently have two classes: pre-K–4th grade and 5th–9th grade. We are using a *Weaving God's Promises* resource for each group, a curriculum that has a 3-year cycle, where we are currently in year 3, exploring how we speak and experience our faith out in the world. We have teachers who are very dedicated to our young people and their formation, but we always need more. Our older youth, in addition to formation on Sunday mornings, will have the opportunity to engage in service projects and social activities aimed at strengthening bonds between our young folks and encouraging them to be more engaged, through their faith, in the world. We will also have a Confirmation class this year for high school-aged youth who would like to learn more about their faith, scripture, and lay claim to their Baptismal promises for themselves.



WEAVING GOD'S PROMISES

If you have a chance, please complete the Church School Registration Form for your child(ren) found later in this *Epistle*. For more information, please contact Fr. George or Joyce Bettencourt.

This year's church school theme is "All are equal in God's Eye and welcome in His House". As a response to that, we've begun a new youth greeter ministry here at St. James. At the 10:15 service, children join the ushers in welcoming parishioners and distributing bulletins. Some children have already shown an interest in being a part of this. Youth greeters meet in the church hall at 10 am then go as a group to the narthex. They greet people and then they join the procession after the crucifer and proceed down to the church school to join their classes. Please contact Joyce Bettencourt if you would like your child to be a part of this ministry. The youth greeters are listed in the weekly bulletin.

From the Deacon's Bench

One very stormy summer afternoon, I was driving my wife to an appointment in Avon. The sun came out from time to time amidst the downpour of rain creating a rainbow that appeared in front of our car. We appeared to be driving into the rainbow as sun's light prised through the raindrops. The storm was so fierce that we took some comfort that God was sending us a sign.

Fun fact: Rainbows can only occur in the morning or afternoon when the sun's rays are 42 degrees or lower on the horizon

(<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rainbow>). Our journey was during a perfect time for nature's light show.

There is a certain charm to the story of Noah and Flood. You'll see children's depictions on the walls of most church classrooms. But the story does have a darker side. The bible story depicts God as being so exasperated with the human condition that he regrets getting involved. The question is: How bad do you have to be to move a God of love and compassion to the point where he not only is sorry he made you, but wants to eradicate your entire species from the face of the earth and from the collective memory of the universe? It must have been bad.

But "Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord". So, Noah took to the ark to flee both the wrath of God and the wickedness of mortals. And 40 days and nights later, God hung a rainbow in the sky as a covenant with us never to so judge the world again.

Lucky for us.

God said, "When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth."

When Noah walked up the ramp and into the ark, scooting the goats and pigs ahead of him, he was leaving the world as he had come to know it. The world would never be the same. It had radically changed.

Many of us have lost the world as we know it. Many have lost that world more than once. We

have lost a husband and moved into the world of widowhood. Or we have lost our investments or our health and moved from the world of security into the world of insecurity. We may have lost a child. In all these cases, we will never be the same. After suffering such a loss, it might be comforting to wish that "All I want back is yesterday." I recently visited a friend who had been seriously injured in a tragic accident. I'd brought along my uke to the hospital visit and asked him to pick a song. "Yesterday, by the Beatles", he requested. Wouldn't we all want to turn back the calendar and alter events that changed our life forever?

The truly amazing part of the story of Noah and the Flood is that God allowed the world to be destroyed. But Noah fills up the boat with a future. My friend, who almost lost his life, has made a miraculous recovery supported by great medical care, a tremendous will to get better, and his enduring faith in God.



The same God who came back with a rainbow after the storm came forth with Jesus, whose purpose was to call us to the joy of grateful discipleship. The psalmist had it right: "So teach us to number our days that we learn wisdom." Many first responders who survived the day of terror at

the World Trade Center say the major insight they took away was to treasure every day and every breath. Will it take catastrophe to wake us up? Or will we learn from the story of Noah that we are always more than our losses.

The rainbow guarantees the future as it guarantees our redemption. Just one rainbow will do. We do not need more.

Doug Engwall, Deacon

St. Francis & the Blessing of the Animals: October 3rd at 3 pm

St. Francis lived a relatively short life, dying at 44 in 1226, possibly of tuberculosis. He was canonized (made a saint) by Pope Gregory the IX, only two years later. The making-a-saint process usually takes centuries, or at least decades, but the swift action gives some idea of the respect that Francis had in his own day. His reputation and folk's devotion to him has only grown over the last 900 years. He established the Order of Friars Minor, a religious order devoted to poverty, chastity and, above all, charity, now called universally, Franciscans. Care for and identification with the poor was a major part of Francis' life and work. Born into a very wealthy family, Francis realigned his priorities in young adulthood when he took off his cloths, laid them near his father's feet, and went off to pray and discern, continually, God's call on his life.

He would travel, preach, and work for the healing of the poor, along with establishing and organizing what would become the fastest growing religious order of its day. He famously received a *stigmata*, bleeding wounds in the same place that the body of Christ was wounded, during crucifixion. He would carry the stigmata for the rest of his life, wounds that may, in part, have expedited his rapid decline and death, along with illness.



His feast day, observed on October 4th (he died on October 3rd), has tended to be commemorated with the blessing of animals. Francis was purported to be a great lover and nurturer of creation, particularly animals. One account describes how one day, while Francis was traveling with some companions, they happened upon a place in the road where birds filled the trees on either side. Francis told his companions to "wait for me while I go to preach to my sisters the birds." (from St. Bonaventure's biography of Francis some 40 years after the saint's death). The birds surrounded him, intrigued by the power

of his voice, and not one of them flew away. He is often portrayed with a bird, typically in his hand (see our statue on the Memorial Garden patio).

On Sunday, October 2nd, at 3 pm, we invite folks to gather on the front lawn of St. James Parish, where we will hold our annual *Blessing of the Animals* in honor of Francis and as our own blessing of the created world God has given to us. The wearing of masks will be required and we will socially distance, even though we are outdoors. Bring your furry friend (or scaly, or whatever, as long as it is not poisonous or aggressive) for a blessing! Gathering in what way we can to honor the world, as we may, is a great privilege and blessing. See you then!!

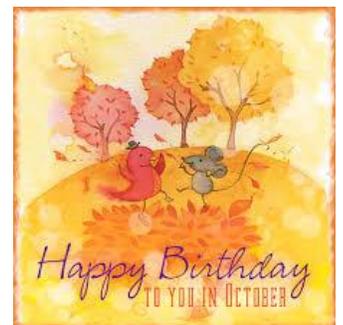
Your photo in print or on our website?

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.

Celebrating October birthdays!

John Reeve
Ben Martin
Gigia Ingimarsdottir
Olivia Roberts
Beverly Poggio
Babs Findlay
Joe Lansing
Pat Hadlow
Carolyn Ives
Colt Propiescus
Michael Slusarz
Emma Butth

Grier Torrence
David Faubert
Andrea Harris
Preston Lathrop



Christian Imagination!

Christian Imagination, how it can bring us closer and deeper into relationship with God in Christ, will be our theme for Adult Education for the 2022-23 program year. St. James Parish, as a



community, will explore how art, poetry, drama, photography, music, and architecture can stimulate our imaginative instincts and, by the nature of their presentation or context,

bring us directly into contact with Jesus Christ. We may easily assume that set prayer, worship, and more obvious practices alone speak to us of God, but we are going on a journey that reminds us – from the beginning of the Christian movement – that artistic expression has been a conduit to knowing Jesus more fully and, perhaps, in a richer way than we have previously imagined. Please let us know if you have an area of artistic expression that you would like us to explore; the whole year is not set in stone. We invite you to join us on our journey of discovery and, just maybe, we will find new forms of prayer than we could have ever dreamed that tap more powerfully into who we imagine Christ to be.

Faith and Religion in Shakespeare's plays, Thursday, October 27th at 7 pm on Zoom

Fr. Roberts is offering the first experience of our year of exploring Christian Imagination. We thought it might be nice to begin on a light note and explore how faith and religion subtly manifest themselves in some of Shakespeare's plays. We may, if time permits, look at how religious belief has shifted 400 years on and does it still play a part in the theatre. We will explore Hamlet's "To be or not to be speech," Hamlet's interaction with his father's ghost, amidst many other examples of struggle, and what people believe that can be found in Shakespeare. Join us!

Fr. Roberts holds an MFA in Performance from the University of Mississippi and was the founding Artistic Director of the Genesis Shakespeare Company.

Consecration of our new Bishop

On Saturday, October 15th, at 11 am, the Episcopal Church in Connecticut will consecrate The Reverend Jeffrey Mello the 16th Bishop of the Diocese. Fr. Jeff comes from St. Paul's in Brookline, MA. The Episcopal Church has much tradition surrounding the consecrating and "seating," as the last step is called, of a new bishop. The Anglican tradition, of which we are a part, has three orders of ordained ministry: bishop, priest, and deacon. We hold that our bishops come down to us in an unbroken succession from the Apostles, something we call "apostolic succession." Bishops, historically, are consecrated in the cathedral of the given diocese but, because of size, our consecration will take place at the Connecticut Convention Center. Then Bishop Mello will be seated (once called enthronement) at Christ Church Cathedral on Sunday, October 16th, the day after his consecration. One of my favorite parts of the consecration is when the bishop-elect bangs on the outside of the door of the cathedral/room with his crozier, asking to be admitted into the company of bishops and our Diocesan community. The bishop's crozier (*staff*, telling us he is the shepherd of our diocesan flock), mitre (special headwear marking a bishop), and signet ring (symbol of fidelity to the diocese he leads) are all created especially for our bishop and worn whenever he presides over any liturgical function in our diocese. Join us in welcoming Jeff Mello into our midst and let us pray for his calling as bishop to our diocese!

Faith & Fries!

We now gather on the 4th Tuesday of every month at **Five Corners Bistro & Craft Bar**, 354 Colt Hwy (Rt. 6) in Farmington. **We next convene on Tuesday, October 25th, from 7–8:30 pm.** You can



come for dinner, have a drink or snack, whatever is comfortable for you. This month we will discuss *Finding peace in an anxious world*. What challenges you and makes you anxious? What brings you peace?

We invite all to come as they are able and please, feel free to invite a friend, neighbor, or co-worker to the conversation! Call the church with questions or more information on *Faith & Fries!*

St James' 4th Annual Fall Fair

Saturday, October 22nd, 9 am to 4 pm

After a 2-year hiatus, plans for the 4th annual **St. James Fall Fair** are underway! The event will include a Craft Fair with artisans, crafters and vendors exhibiting their wares, a Baked Goods Table showcasing *delectables* from our own talented bakers, a Raffle Table of awesome items, and a Luncheon/ Cafe, where shoppers can "grab a coffee," "just a bite," or make a selection from our luncheon menu. We also plan to offer colorful Mums for sale. It's shaping up to be a really fun day!

We will have craft booths on the patio and lawn, in addition to our inside booths. Our hope is that the entire parish will enjoy this October event, and that the surrounding community will enjoy being welcomed into our parish home. The proceeds benefit St. James Outreach ministries.

Leadership is in place for the following key areas: **Crafter Liaison:** Dee Vincenzo, **Building Set-Up:** John Mc Bride, **Kitchen/Cafe:** Ev Lyons, **Raffle:** Tracey Roberts; **Bake Sale:** Dona Waugh, **Publicity:** Donna Paye, **Mums:** Elizabeth McBride; and **Clean-Up:** Chandler Howard.

But with the Fair fast approaching, we need your assistance. There is much to do! Whether it's helping crafters unload their items Friday night, lending a hand in the kitchen/cafe, baking, working at the bake sale table, selling mums, donating items for our raffle or cafe, or putting things back in place afterwards, we all have a part to play! Please take a moment, consider what you can do to help, and then approach one of the area leaders with your offer to assist them. We'd really appreciate it! You can also contact Donna Paye directly at 860-673-0097, if you have questions about the Fair.

The building will be open Thursday, October 20th, 9 am–2 pm, & Friday, October 21st, 4–7 pm for delivery of baked goods.

At this time, we especially need donations of the following:

1. **Raffle Items:** please contact Tracey Roberts for ideas, and to let her know what you are donating. These should be new, unused items, and we reserve the right to edit items. Tracey needs to do some advance work on the raffle items, so let her know what you intend to donate. She needs to receive your item at church by Sunday, October 2nd. You can contact Tracey.

2. **Supplies for the Luncheon/Cafe:** donations of selected pantry items will greatly help defray our food cost: Canned tomato soup, pickle spears, individual bags of potato chips, soda in cans, and bottled water. Also, Stop & Shop cards of \$5 or \$10 would be greatly appreciated to help defray costs of perishables. **A list of needed quantities and a collection box will be in the narthex at church by Sunday, September 11th.** For food items, please donate **only** specified items. You can contact Ev Lyons with any questions.

3. **Baked Goods:** to be sold at the Bake Sale Table. bars, cookies, breads, cakes, pies, fudge, snacks, etc., etc.! **In 2019 our fantastic bake sale made a huge profit!** Please contact Dona Waugh to let her know what you are baking.



THANK YOU!

New Horizons Exhibit at the Unionville Museum: *The Historic Quest for Independent Living*

New Horizons will be holding an exhibit at the Unionville Museum from October 14th – November 20th. The display will highlight the vital role that New Horizons played in shaping the history of accessible housing. The community is invited to the opening reception which will take place at 11 am on October 14th at the Unionville Museum (15 School Street, Unionville, CT).

The story of New Horizons Village is a historic quest by a group of individuals to break free of the confines of long-term hospitalization to build a community where they could live together as independently as possible. A radical idea in the 1950s when the only option for individuals with physical disabilities was to be cared for at home or in a hospital where they had little hope of living a fulfilling life.

New Horizons' story began with Joan Herman, a young woman, who was confined to an iron lung having been stricken with polio the summer after high school. In 1952 she was



transferred to New Britain Memorial where she expected to spend the rest of her life. She was just 22. Joan was devastated when she found that her fellow patients were “elderly and senile, waiting to die”. She couldn't see any useful place for herself in life.

Not willing to settle for that, Joan took control of her life and began lobbying for change. Fortunately, hospital administrators supported her wholeheartedly. The earliest changes were as simple as finding space where patients could socialize and making it possible for them to get outside to enjoy the fresh air.

Joan appreciated the changes but didn't stop pursuing her goal of banding with other young adults with disabilities to create an independent community. She worked with the Connecticut Commission for the Chronically Ill, Aged, and Infirm to identify others who might want to join her. In 1955 she founded New Horizons.

The first meeting brought together twenty-seven people, New Britain Memorial residents and

others who worked with or supported individuals with disabilities. They got right to work and set New Horizons up as a non-profit corporation.

New Horizons continued to attract young residents to New Britain Memorial and the hospital made more and more changes to meet their needs. Residents set up a convenience store in the hospital and were able to go on outings. Some even worked like the four patients who solicited donations for Goodwill Industries from phones installed in their rooms.

New Horizons never lost sight of the long-term goals. While continuing to make changes at New Britain Memorial, including the addition of a special wing just for young patients, members worked hard at raising funds for the community they planned to establish.

By 1965 New Horizons had 550 members in 40 states and several foreign countries. Sixty-five of those members lived at New Britain Memorial. They had raised enough money to buy twenty-three and half acres of “fine meadow and woodland” in the Unionville section of Farmington. They quickly built a pavilion and picnic area so they could begin enjoying the beautiful spot. They also set about developing plans for getting the approvals and funding they would need to build accessible apartments with added support services. Their dream for independent living came to fruition in 1986 with the opening of New Horizons Village.



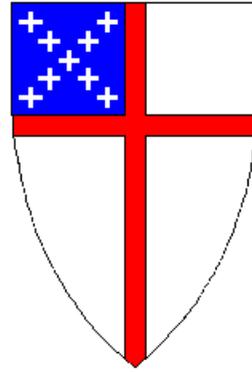
New Horizons Village, in Unionville's West District, was developed to provide 101 adults with physical disabilities the opportunity for self-directed living. Tenants rent an apartment in a fully accessible and supportive community that enables them to manage their own lives. The atmosphere of independence and accessibility at the Village combined with support services empowers tenants to lead an enriching life.

St. James Parish

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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

The Rev. George C. Roberts	<i>Rector</i>
The Rev. Douglas Engwall	<i>Deacon</i>
Blake Hansen	<i>Director of Music</i>
Susan Deming	<i>Parish Administrator</i>
Anthony Nauss	<i>Sexton</i>
Laura Vacca	<i>Nursery Supervisor</i>

OFFICERS

Kim Faubert & Jim Wilkie, *Wardens*
EJ Ososki, *Treasurer*
Jerry Hess, *Asst. Treasurer*
Carol Kirkwood, *Parish Clerk*

2022

Thomas Nelson
Foster White
James Wilkie

VESTRY 2023

Kim Faubert
Maina Rice
Anna Whilby

2024

Kathy Bullard
Bonnie Sudell
Robert Sudell

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