

# MARCH HAPPENINGS 2015

## St. James Episcopal Church, Amesbury

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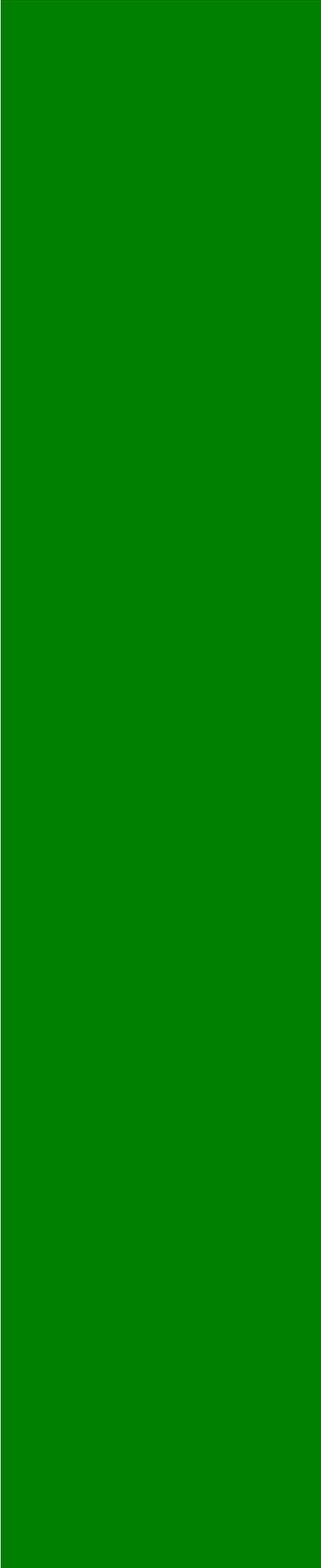
[Our Neighbors' Table](#)



## Reflections from Fr. John

Dear Parish Family,

To paraphrase Captain Kirk from one of my favorite Star Trek episodes, The Trouble with Tribbles "too much of anything, isn't necessarily a good thing." As I write this article snow is currently falling. Do not get me wrong, I love snow; however, perhaps we have seen enough for this winter. But as my mother recently reminded me, March has brought us some of the biggest snow storms in past years. Yes, thank you mom. In other words, we may still see some more winter storms before the season ends.



While we are inundated with snow right now and life is a little hectic with cancellations, rescheduling and braving the wintry weather, I feel the snow does present us with a tremendous opportunity to draw closer to Christ as we proceed through the Season of Lent.

When the weather becomes a little too much to bear and ends up being a source of stress and aggravation, I invite you to pause for a moment and engage in a certain type of prayer. This type of prayer is called Adoration, "the lifting up of the heart and mind to God, asking nothing but to enjoy God's presence" (BCP 857). I recently had a conversation with someone who told me that she begins her day reading parts of Scripture. She then makes herself a cup of coffee and sits silently thinking about what she has read. Days where she is unable to do this she feels totally out of sorts.

When we find ourselves disconcerted from the weather, I invite us to spend some time, even if it's just a few seconds, silently being with God. Not saying anything, only feeling God's presence and love wash over us. I hope we will find this time to be a relief from the cold and snow and help us feel renewed and less stressed about what

the day or week holds. It is a wonderful way to draw ourselves into a deeper relationship with Our Lord, a focus of Lent but also something we can engage in throughout the year.

My friends, please know as we continue through the snowy weather you all remain in my daily thoughts and prayers.

Yours in Christ,  
Fr. John



**Don't forget to "Spring Ahead"  
at 2:00am on Sunday, March 8th**

You may also want to consider the following :

\*Check and replace batteries in your smoke and carbon monoxide (CO) alarms. Replace any smoke alarms older than 10 years. Replace any CO alarms older than 5years.

\* It's a good idea to carry a car-emergency kit in your car year-round. Check your kits to be sure everything is working and up-to-date. Be sure to add cold-weather gear to your general car-emergency kit each fall. (Having a separate duffel/gear bag clearly marked "Cold Gear" for your cold weather emergency's makes it easy to add or take out of the car, seasonally.) Like a Boy Scout or Girl Scout, "Be Prepared!"

\*Check your disaster emergency kit, if you have one. If you don't have one you may want to prepare a disaster supply kit for your house (water, food, flashlights, batteries, blankets). Once you've created your home disaster kit, use the semi-annual time change to check its contents (including testing/replacing flashlight batteries).

\*Check home and storage areas for hazardous materials. Discard properly any which are outdated. Call your local Department of Public Works to see when they have a Hazardous Waste Disposal day scheduled in your area.

\*Check and discard any expired medications.

\*Replace flashlight batteries.

For interesting information on Daylight Savings Time, check out one of these sites:

<http://www.timeanddate.com/time/dst/history.html>

<http://www.webexhibits.org/daylightsaving/e.html>

<http://www.history.com/news/8-things-you-may-not-know-about-daylight-saving-time>

## Vestry Meeting



The March Vestry Meeting will be held on Tuesday the 10th at 7pm in Fr. John's Office at St. James. All church members are invited to attend and observe our vestry meetings.



## YOUTH EVENT WITH FATHER JOHN

The youth event with Father John has been rescheduled to Saturday, March 14th from 7pm to 9:30pm.

The evening will include pizza dinner, Wii, Xbox, PlayStation, board games and a chance for our youth to get to know our new Rector.

We will meet in the Parish Hall. If you are in 6th to 12th grade, we hope you will be able to make it and as always you are welcome to bring a friend or two.

## Sunday Lenten Forums at St. James

In the Gospel according to Luke, after Jesus had been praying, one of His disciples said to Him "Lord teach us to pray as John taught his disciples." Jesus responded by saying to all the disciples "When you pray, say: . . ." and taught them what has come to be called The Lord's Prayer. This sacred prayer is taught to all of Christ's disciples usually at a very young age. It is prayed at almost every Church service we celebrate, and it is a prayer that has brought to many

comfort and peace throughout the centuries and is a wonderful way to enter into conversation with Christ.

I thought since the Lord's Prayer is such an important part of our faith and since we are currently walking through the season of Lent where prayer is stressed, why not look together at this Great Prayer during our Sunday Lenten Forums this year. This event will take place on the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Sunday's in Lent following the 10am service in the Parish Hall.



### Merrimack Valley Deanery Collaborative Lenten Supper Series

We will once again participate this year in the Lower Merrimack Valley Deanery Collaborative Lenten Program on Wednesday evenings in Lent beginning February 25th. The evening program will begin at 6:00pm as we gather for fellowship and dinner and end around 8:00pm with Compline.

The theme this year is Tourist, Missioner or Pilgrim. The sessions do not build on each other so if you can only make one or two that is fine. Below are the locations.

We invite all to join us as we make our pilgrimage through these 40 days.

February 25th  
St. James, Groveland  
Topic TBD

\*March 4th  
St James, Amesbury  
Mission Trips, Fr. John

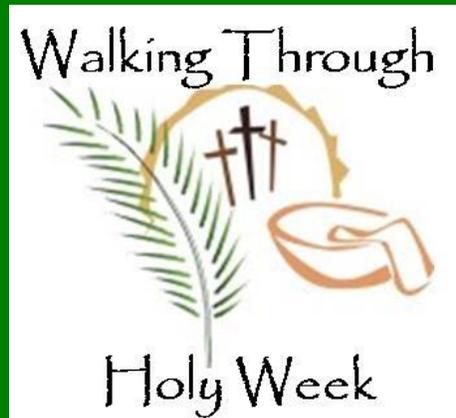
March 11th  
St. Paul's, Newburyport  
Peace in the Suburbs

March 18th  
Trinity, Haverhill  
Family Feast at the HUB

March 25th  
All Saints, West Newbury  
A Matter of Justice

\*Nursery care as well as activities for older children will be provided at St. James on March 4th.

Please contact Helen Pickard at 978-681-9915 or [mapickard1@verizon.net](mailto:mapickard1@verizon.net) directly if you wish to make child care arrangements for the other Lent Supper Series Event.



The St. James Holy Week Schedule will be released next week.



## Easter Flower Memorials

If you would like to contribute toward our Easter Flowers, we are accepting donations as memorials and/or thanksgivings. Envelopes and forms are in the back of the church. Please make check payable to "St. James Church" or cash is acceptable also. If you wish to have your Memorial listed in the Easter Service Bulletin, please be sure

we receive the completed form by Sunday, March 29th. Thank you!



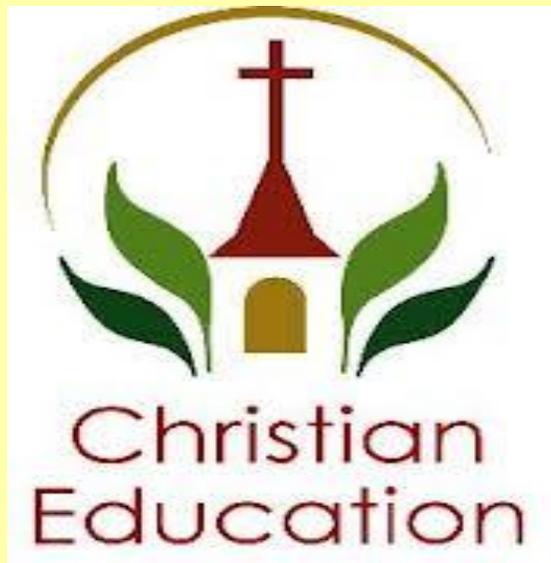
We are beginning a Newcomers Ministry at St. James in an effort to make those who are new to the parish feel welcomed, help them get to know other parishioners and become involved in the ministries at St. James. We will begin by reaching out to those in the parish who have come to St. James in the last year.

We have been brainstorming ways of welcoming new members and families and one idea we have come up with is having Mentor Parishioners. We will pair up new members with current parishioners who can answer questions about St. James and Amesbury, invite to the Parish Hall for coffee hour and make sure they are meeting other parishioners and finding ministries that excite them.

We will also welcome new members with an hors d'oeuvres evening with the other newcomers, mentors, vestry members and Fr. John and an official

welcome to the parish the following Sunday at the worship service they regularly attend.

If you would be interested in being a Mentor Parishioner please contact the Church Office or speak with Fr. John or Dawn Schmidt for more information. An informational meeting will be held soon.



### Christian Education Classes

There will be no Christian Education classes on Sunday, March 29th, as it is Palm Sunday and all our youth are invited to worship in the church with their family. Child Care will be provided in the Parish Hall starting at 9:45am until the end.

### Easter Club for Children

Easter Club: March 1st thru March 22nd an Easter club for children of all ages will be provided in the parish hall during coffee hour. Included

are Lenten activities, prayer stations, making Eucharistic bread and a community service project. On March 22nd prayer stations for adults will be provided.

#### Holy Week

Fr. John will include lessons during Holy Week for children of all ages, including a youth group overnight. More details to follow.

#### Eucharistic Visitors

Arthur Yarranton has invited the middle school students to join him for Eucharistic visitations within the community.

#### Easter Baskets for ONT

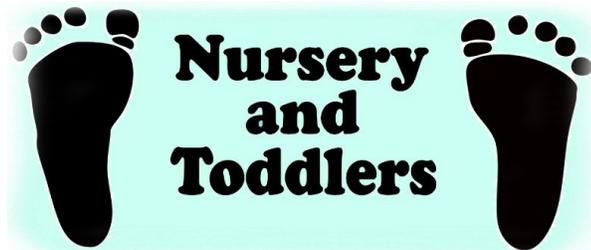
Our annual Lent community project of making teen Easter Baskets along with snack bags will take place on March 15th during coffee hour. The baskets are then brought over to ONT for distribution. More details pertaining to donations will be forthcoming.

#### DYC Pre-Confirmation Retreats

The DYC students are currently planning the diocese pre-confirmation retreats held at BCHC in March. The students staff the event and are responsible for planning, entertainment, activities and workshops. Our confirmation students, Kim Potts-Confirmation Teacher and Fr. John will join them on March 20th.

Visit [diomassyouth.org](http://diomassyouth.org) for details.

Scholarships are available upon request, by contacting Jennifer Collins at [stjames.christianed@verizon.net](mailto:stjames.christianed@verizon.net)



## NURSERY CARE AT ST. JAMES

Nursery Care is available every Sunday starting at 9:45am until the end of the 10am service. Nursery Room is located in the Parish Hall.



Calling all Crafters!  
(and anybody else who wants to hang around the Parish Hall and have fun!)

The next Crafting Night will be held on:

Monday, March 16 from  
6:30 pm to 8:30 pm

Crafting nights are very casual events. Get there when you can; bring your dinner with you, if you want to; leave early if you need to. No need to bring anything: we have materials for lots of different projects and no experience is necessary. We work together to craft things to sell at the Church Fair. (And Fair proceeds provide scholarships for Youth activities... it's all good!)

Crafters and wanna-be crafters of all ages (and genders) are welcome! (Yes, guys can craft, too!) This is a social event - no theology - so please feel free to bring friends and coworkers with you.

Do you have questions or ideas? Please contact Church Fair Committee co-chairs Dawn Schmidt ([dlschmidt2003@yahoo.com](mailto:dlschmidt2003@yahoo.com)) and Liz Iacobucci ([liz@iacobucci.net](mailto:liz@iacobucci.net)).



**Men's Group at St. James**

The Men's Group at St. James meets Saturday mornings to read aloud and discuss appointed selections in the Holy Bible and related resources. They learn about the circumstances of biblical events, their significance and the people involved. We encourage men of St. James and their friends to join the group.

Meetings are held either in the Parish Hall or hosted at a member's home. Call Arthur Yarranton at 978-364-4749 or Mort Gilbert at 978-388-3831 to confirm meeting location, time and if you need a ride. Regardless of location, morning beverages and baked treats are provided.



## **KNITTING AND CROCHET For Men, Women and Youth!**

Due to the recent snow storms, the Knitting and Crochet Group will begin on Sunday, March 1st from 2pm to 4pm, and will meet in the Parish Hall.

Knitting together is a great opportunity for fellowship and forming bonds. It also provides an excellent

opportunity for outreach ministries in many ways, such as fundraising (church fair items), charity (premie hats, chemo caps, helmet lines for military) and prayers/reflection (prayer shawls).

This is a wonderful, fun fellowship and ministry opportunity for men, women and youth.

First-timers and knitters/crocheters of all levels are encouraged to join us in this fellowship and ministry. We have the supplies necessary to get you started!

If you have any questions please contact Beth Mauch at 978-388-1942 or 617-645-2181 or e-mail at [beth@themauchs.com](mailto:beth@themauchs.com).



## The St. James Visual Arts Gallery

Those who are enthusiastically involved in various forms of visual art are encouraged to submit their work for display in the St. James visual Arts Gallery.

The Gallery's predominant theme is "Gratitude for God's Blessings." What, then, are you artists, great and small, thankful for? Clergy? Friends and family? Events? Purple mountain majesty above the fruited plain? Learning to whistle?

Your choices should also reflect the gallery's two rotating secondary themes, i.e., subjects and events associated with the months of November through April and those associated with the months of May through October. Both periods, one colder, one warmer, open all kinds of possibilities by which to express artistically, gratitude for God's blessings. If you are interested in displaying your art work, please talk with Mort Gilbert for further details.



The Ministry of Hospitality

Gathering for Coffee Hour after the 10am service is an important part of our life together here at St. James.

Hosting a Coffee Hour is an important ministry. It is more than just feeding people, it also helps people feel welcome in our church. Coffee hour gives us an opportunity to introduce ourselves to visitors and newcomers.

It gives us the chance to catch up with other members of our parish family. Breaking bread together--even in this very ordinary way--helps strengthen us as a parish and renew us as individuals.

Could you help host a Coffee Hour? Just one Sunday every so often and share in the hosting with another parish member! Please talk with Kelly Bennett, our Hospitality Chair, about how and when you can help.



Host Families for International High School Students

Sparhawk School in Amesbury has partnered with gphomestay's residential program! Together, they are offering an incredible opportunity to families in Amesbury and the surrounding areas. If you are interested in making a positive impact on the life of an international student and live within 30 minutes of Amesbury, you may want to consider becoming a host family. You may learn more at our website:

[www.gphomestay.com](http://www.gphomestay.com)

Host families will receive a monthly stipend of \$1200 and have access to ongoing support from local Residential Coordinators who can help with coordinating meeting your student upon arrival, keeping you connected with the school community, and mediating issues if they arise.

Students come with their own insurance and spending money and stay for the academic year. There are also short-term hosting opportunities available.

For more information, contact David Brown at 781-996-0429. If you are ready to take the next step and fill out an application please visit:

<http://www.gphomestay.com/Application4.html>

David Brown, Outreach Specialist

The Cambridge Institute of International Education

gphomestay

1025 Main St, Floor 3

Waltham, MA 02451

Direct Line: 781-996-0793. Fax: 909-614-8888.

Website: [www.thecambridgeinstitute.org](http://www.thecambridgeinstitute.org)

or

[www.gphomestay.com](http://www.gphomestay.com)

**THE 4th ANNUAL**  
**PETTENGILL HOUSE, INC.**  
**FUNDRAISER**

At the Blue Ocean Music Hall, Salisbury, MA.  
Friday, March 13, 2015 from 7pm to 11pm

For more information, for sponsorship information or to donate a silent auction item, please contact the Pettengill House directly at 978-463-8801; visit their website at [www.pettengillhouse.org](http://www.pettengillhouse.org) or send an e-mail to [pettengillinfo@gmail.com](mailto:pettengillinfo@gmail.com).



## March Food Donations

During the month of March, ONT is in need of instant oatmeal, hearty soups, pasta sauce, pasta and peanut butter.

Also, personal items such as deodorant, mouthwash, toothpaste, toothbrush, etc., are always in need.

Click [here](#) to view ONT's website.

*Let us give thanks for God's many blessings to us.*

#### QUICK LINKS

[St. James Website!](#)

[Episcopal Diocese of  
Massachusetts](#)

[Send us an E-mail](#)

*Blessings and Peace to All!*

*The Rev. John Satula*