

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENT

January 31, 2016

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Cary Skinner, Kelly Bennett, Leah Donovan

ANNUAL MEETING TODAY

The St. James Annual Meeting will be held immediately following today's service. We will meet in the Parish Hall.

Invitation from Bishop Gates and the Diocese

As Bishop Gates begins his second year as our Diocesan Bishop he has called on us as a Diocese to pray, look and voice our insights and experiences as we as a Diocesan community imagine our future together. The fruits of this will lead to our Diocese adopting a new mission strategy at our next Diocesan Convention. The Diocese wants to hear and have participation from everyone in this exciting process. To help facilitate this, parish members are encouraged to attend listening forums in the winter so we can all have a voice in forming our new mission strategy. The listening sessions closest to St. James will be on Saturday, Feb. 13 at 3 p.m., at St. John's Church (705 Hale Street) in Beverly Farms; and Saturday, Feb. 27 at 10 a.m., at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul (138 Tremont Street) in Boston. We urge everyone to try to make one of these forums. If we have enough people going to one or both of these sessions we will arrange carpooling, so please let me know if you would like to attend. Send us an e-mail at stjames.office@verizon.net by February 10th.

Shrove Tuesday

On Tuesday, February 9th please join us for our annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner. The dinner will be held in the Parish Hall starting at 6:00 pm. Join us for homemade pancakes, eggs, sausages and more! If you are able to volunteer to help in the kitchen, please see Kelly Bennett. Monetary donations are welcome.

Ash Wednesday

On Wednesday, February 10th, the Imposition of Ashes will take place at 7am and 7pm. The 7am service will be informal: "Ashes to Go" in front of our Parish steps! The 7pm service will include the Liturgy of the Day and Holy Communion.

Upcoming Events in February

Shrove Tuesday, Ash Wednesday Services, Lenten Soup Series at St. James and Lenten Soup Series within the Lower Merrimack Valley Deanery Churches. More information will be forthcoming.

Women's Group Information Meeting Sunday, February 14th 11:30 – 12:30

See attached announcement!

The St. James Men's Group

The St. James Men's Group is meeting on Sunday mornings immediately following the 8am worship service. Meetings are held in the Parish Hall. Come to one, some or all meetings! Informal and enlightening. For more information, please see Arthur or Mort.

Our Neighbors' Table

During the next few months of cold weather, 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. If you wish to donate money, please make the check (no cash) payable to Our Neighbors' Table and place in the food basket.

Women's Group Information Meeting
Sunday, February 14th
11:30 – 12:30

We have heard from several women that they would be interested in starting a Women's Group at St. James. You are invited to stay after the 10:00 service on February 14 (for about an hour) to share your ideas for a possible Women's Group.

We will gather information from the group about what format the group should take as well as:

- † What is the purpose of the Group?
- † How often to meet?
- † Who could lead the group?
- † Is the group a Bible Study, a study group or something else?
- † Are you willing to be on a small (3-5 women) planning committee?

Your thoughts about these and other questions will be recorded by Julia Steer from St. James Groveland who will facilitate the meeting. Julia has agreed to work with us on a short-term basis to mentor this new ministry, and she will also be preaching on February 14 at both services.

Julia is a certified Spiritual Director and founder of Martha and Mary Productions, a non-profit women's ministry providing retreats and workshops for the past several years for women from several different Christian denominations and Churches

Julia holds an MA in Theological Studies from Andover Newton Theological School and a BA in Organizational Behavior from Lesley College. She lives in Merrimac with her husband Bob and two terrific dogs. Julia has worked with St. James Amesbury in the past.

You can read more about Julia at www.juliasteer.com.

Please come and share your ideas!