

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

February 14, 2016

TODAY IN CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CLASSROOMS

Women's Group Informational Meeting

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 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.

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!

Tough Warrior Princesses

This wonderful group based in Amesbury, committed to raising awareness of cancer, is currently accepting donations of made up baskets with all kinds of goodies to give to women who are battling breast cancer and ovarian cancer. Items can include but are not limited to; lip balm, small packs of tissues, fuzzy socks, gloves, tea bag caddies for purses. We are currently making up several baskets which Fr. John will bless on Sunday February 21. Please speak with Pat McBride if you have any questions.

Crafting at St. James

Monday, February 15th 6:30-8:30

It's never too early to think about our Christmas Fair! It's time to get busy with creative new ideas for crafting activities. Join us for fun and laughter as we create items for our Christmas Fair...or just bring some of your own projects to finish! We are an open informal group that enjoys the company of others. Bring your own scissors, if possible. Any questions call or text Barbara Gould at 978-204-7724.

Sunday Lenten Forums at St. James

On Sundays February 28, March 6 and March 13 everyone is invited to gather in the Parish Hall for this year's Sunday Lenten Forum and light soup luncheons. The topic this year will be The Services and Events of Holy Week.

Fr. John will lead us in discussions about the services we hold during this most sacred week, the history and the importance of these days within our lives, as well as the different customs we observe during this week. Bring your thoughts, comments and questions.

Join us as we mark these 40 days with a special look at the final week of Jesus' earthly life as He entered into the Holy City, Jerusalem on Palm Sunday and the events that transpired thereafter.

Youth Group Game Night

Friday, February 26th from 6pm to 9pm in the Parish Hall. Potluck dinner and fellowship. Bring a favorite game and a dinner or dessert item to share. Friends are welcome to join in.

Easter Club for Godly Play Students

On Sunday February 28th, March 6th and March 13th the Godly Play students will participate in an Easter Club with activities and starting at 10am and lunch. It will be a delightful time for your young children.

Merrimack Valley Deanery Collaborative Lenten Supper Series

The MVDC Lenten Supper Series will be held on Wednesday evenings: February 24, March 2, March 9 and March 16. The hosting Churches are St. Paul's-North Andover and St. James-Groveland. Topics will include: 1) Death and Dying in the Anglican Tradition, 2) End of Life Decisions (health care proxy, living wills, DNR/ AND), 3) Wills and Planned Giving (Legacy) and 4) Talking out loud about these things to loved ones/ Planning a funeral.

We are hoping that parishioners interested in attending will purchase the book *Being Mortal* by Atul Gawande which will be used in conjunction with the series. A light supper of soup or bread & cheese will be provided. Dinner at 6pm, program from 6:30-8:00pm

Stained Glass Dedication

Everyone is invited to join Bishop Alan Gates at a special dedication service for the new stained glass window in the Chapel of St. John the Evangelist of St. Paul's Cathedral (138 Tremont Street in Boston) at 5:15 pm on Sunday February 21st. After service all are welcome for a special reception in the Cathedral. Light snacks and drinks will be served.

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.