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September 2007

# The Messenger

of St James' Church, Texarkana, Texas

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## From the Rector

Dear Parishioners & Friends of St James',

Late August and September are always busy times at St James', and this year is no exception!

*August 19<sup>th</sup>: E.P.I.C. Sunday.* E.P.I.C. stands for **Every Person In Church**," our annual Homecoming to welcome everyone back from their summer pursuits. Fr Scott Mayer, a former curate of the parish, will be our guest preacher on that day. As has become customary for the past few years, a wonderful champagne brunch will be held after the 10am Mass. I know you will want to be here to give thanks for all that St James' has meant in your life.

*August 26<sup>th</sup>: Rally Day/Instructed Mass.* Rally Day will be held on August 26<sup>th</sup>, an opportunity for our children and young people to kick off the Christian Education year while having some fun.

For the adults, we will have the annual Instructed Eucharist at 10am on that day. An Instructed Mass provides a stage-by-stage commentary on the vestments and Order of Service, explaining the words, actions and symbolism of our worship. If you've ever asked "Why do we do that?," the Instructed Mass will answer your questions.

*The Fall Program.* After a one Sunday break for Labor Day, Sunday school classes get under way on September 9<sup>th</sup>. St James' has an excellent, well-rounded program of Christian Education for our children and youth. In fact, I know of no parish this size with such extensive offerings.

Our Christian Education program is designed to help you keep the solemn vow made at your child's Baptism to ensure that your child "is brought up in the Christian faith

and life" (BCP, p. 302); to help them become moral and spiritual beings.

As the society around us becomes increasingly secularized, materialistic and value-neutral, our children desperately need what God's Church has to offer. I encourage you to take full advantage of our program of Christian formation, committing your family to making it a top priority.

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***When I considered these children, I compared them to soft wax on which one can etch any impression; that which is evil, just as well as that which is good. How many souls would achieve deep sanctity if they had been well directed from the beginning!***

-- St Theresa of Lisieux

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And do remember that adults, no less than children, need to be growing in their spiritual lives. Perhaps this will be the year that *you* begin to take part in adult Christian formation! At St James', we strive to offer an intelligent and relevant presentation of the Christian faith and life. The various options that are open to you can be found on the pages that follow. A rich table is laid before you.

See you on the 19<sup>th</sup>, if not before.

Yours faithfully in Christ,

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**Fall / Winter 2007**

*Worship Schedule*

## Sunday Schedule

7:45am Quiet Eucharist (Rite I)  
9:00am Christian Education for all ages  
(begins 9/9)  
10:00am Sung Family Mass (Rite II)  
*Child care is available from 8:45-11:15am each Sunday  
in our staffed Nursery.*

## Weekday Schedule

Tuesday 10:00am Morning Prayer  
Wednesday 6:00pm Mass with hymns  
(begins 9/12)  
Thursday 10:00am Mass  
First Friday of the Month  
12:10pm Mass (begins 9/7)  
*Tuesday, Thursday & Friday services are in the Chapel.*

## Special Services & Events

### E.P.I.C. (Every Person in Church) Sunday

*Our Annual Homecoming*  
Sunday, August 19<sup>th</sup>, 2007

7:45am Low Mass  
10:00am Sung Family Mass  
*Preacher: The Rev'd Scott Mayer*  
*Champagne Brunch following the 10am Mass.*

### Christian Education Sunday

Sunday, August 26<sup>th</sup>, 2007

7:45am Low Mass  
9:45am Sunday School Rally Day  
(for our young people)  
10:00am Instructed Mass (for adults)

*An Instructed Mass provides a stage-by-stage  
commentary on the Mass, explaining the words,  
actions and symbolism of our worship.*

### St Michael & All Angels (observed)

Sunday, September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2007

4:00pm Evensong & Devotions  
*Sung by the Men & Boys*

### All Saints' Sunday

Sunday, November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2007

7:45am Low Mass  
10:00am Sung Mass & Baptisms  
*Fajita lunch in the Great Hall following the 10am Mass.*

### Pentecost XXV

Sunday, November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2007

*Preacher: The Rev'd Canon Paul Lambert*

### Thanksgiving Day

Thursday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2006

10:00am Sung Mass in the Church

### Advent Lessons & Carols

Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2006

*Followed by a Reception in the Great Hall*

### Evening Masses of Christmas Eve

4:30pm Children's Service  
10:00pm Christmas Carols  
10:30pm Procession & Sung Mass

### Baptisms at St James'

Parents, sponsors and Godparents of infant / child candidates should schedule a pre-baptismal orientation with the clergy. Adult candidates are required to complete appropriate instruction. Active participation in the life of the Church is expected of parents, sponsors and candidates.

Except in cases of emergency, Baptisms will be reserved for the following dates:

Nov. 4<sup>th</sup>, 2007 All Saints' Sunday

Jan. 13<sup>th</sup>, 2008 Epiphany OLJC

Mar. 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2008 Great Vigil of Easter

## Christian Education News

*Mary Nell Short*

RALLY SUNDAY

BEE-ATTITUDES WITH CRAFTS, GAMES, STORIES AND SNACKS

# AUGUST 26

K/4 - Grade 5

10:00 am in the Great Hall

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SUNDAYS BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 9 at 9:00 am

## Keys to the Kingdom

K/4 - grade 5

### Rotation Units 2007-2008

- |                                       |   |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Bible Teachings(The Shema/Beatitudes) | Teach Us How To Pray(The Lord's Prayer) |
| Out of Egypt                          | The Lord's Supper(Lent)                 |
| Into the Promised Land                | Road to Emmaus(Easter)                  |
| Good News!(The Annunciation)          | Feasts and Festivals                    |

Living the Good News - Grades 6 - 8

Individual Bible Study Topics - Grades 9 - 12

10:00 am Children's Liturgy of the Word - K/4 and up

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WEDNESDAY EVENINGS BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 12

Faithweavers - K/4 - grade 5

**Did you know?** Fr Anderson sends out a weekly "knee-mail" with the latest news from St James.' If you are not getting this e-mail, you're not on our email list. Please send a blank message to [therector@stjamestxk.org](mailto:therector@stjamestxk.org) and put your NAME and the words "KNEE MAIL" in the subject line.

## Adult Christian Formation

### On Sunday Mornings

*Meeting from 9:00am to 9:50am in the Great Hall*

The Sunday morning class will consider various short topics, and is ideal for those who are unable to commit to regular or extended classrooms or groups. There is no need to register, simply show up and take part. If you attend the early Mass stay a little longer, if you attend the late Mass, show up a little earlier! Coffee is served.

#### **HOT BUTTON THEOLOGY** *Beginning Sunday, September 9<sup>th</sup>*

This short course will examine several hot-button issues that still cause division between Roman Catholics, Anglicans, and Protestants. Living as we do in culture flavored by fundamentalism, an examination of these disputed questions will give you a better understanding of what your neighbors believe, and more importantly, what your own Anglican Tradition teaches. Topics will include: inspiration of the Bible, the role of Tradition, Salvation, Baptism of Infants, Purgatory/Paradise, the Blessed Virgin Mary and the Saints. Lively discussion is assured!

#### **SEX, MONEY & POWER** *Beginning in October*

Taught by Scott Bruner and Lauren Heymeyer, this course is geared towards parents with young children, and recently married with no children. We will explore ways of living as a Christian in a society driven by money, power, consumerism, sex and continual change. Watch the Bulletin for more details.

### On Wednesday Evenings

6:00pm	Low Mass with hymns
6:30pm	Parish Supper in Great Hall
7 – 8 pm	Classes
	<i>Nursery care will be provided beginning at 6:45pm.</i>

#### **EVANGELISM FOR "NORMAL PEOPLE"** *Beginning Wednesday, September 12<sup>th</sup>*

Mention the word "Evangelism," and many of us run for cover. This course, led by Fr Anderson, will show that sharing one's faith is not a project or a program, nor is it something to be anxious about, but part of a "normal," well-rounded spiritual life. We will look at the biblical foundations for sharing our faith, and then consider what practical steps we might take to further God's mission in the world. Questions and discussion will be encouraged as we learn from one another.

### At other times

**ALPHA**  
*Beginning Tuesday, September 11<sup>th</sup>.*



**ALPHA** is an opportunity for anyone to explore the Christian faith in a relaxed, non-threatening setting over in ten weekly sessions. It is low-key, friendly and fun. Each session begins with a good meal, a talk on a key issue of the Christian faith, and then small group discussions. The groups are an opportunity to ask questions, express opinions, and explore the topic of the evening.

People come to **ALPHA** for many reasons: some want to investigate whether God exists and if there is any point to life; others are concerned about what happens after death. Some may have attended Church on and off all of their

lives, but feel that they don't quite grasp the basics of the Christian faith. All, however, come with the same objective: to establish whether or not Jesus has any relevance in their lives.

**ALPHA** topics include: Christianity—Boring, Untrue, Irrelevant?, Who is Jesus? Why did Jesus die? How can I be sure of my faith? Why and how should I read the Bible?, Who is the Holy Spirit? Does God heal today? What about the Church?

Another session of **ALPHA** will begin on Tuesday, September 18<sup>th</sup> at 6pm, preceded by an introduction diner Tuesday, September 11<sup>th</sup>. Reservations are requested by calling 903.794.9224 or 903.793.3459.

Please indicate your need for child care when you call. This session of **ALPHA** ends on November 20<sup>th</sup>.

### Cursillo

Cursillo (Kur-see-yoh) is a Spanish word which means "little course." Life in the Cursillo community begins with a Thursday evening to Sunday afternoon weekend. Cursillo is lay lead, with clergy of the Diocese serving as spiritual advisors. With teaching, fellowship and worship, it is a wonderful way to allow God to renew one's faith. Following the weekend are ongoing opportunities for fellowship, worship and service on a Diocesan and parish level. Members of the Cursillo community are encouraged to meet weekly in small groups to share aspects of their spiritual lives.

Cursillo #266 September 20-23, 2007 All Saints Camp, Lake Texoma  
Cursillo #268 November 1-4, 2007 Camp Crucis, Granbury

Participants must be recommended by the parish clergy, so if you are interested in Cursillo, please speak to Fr Anderson. Further information is available at [www.episcopalrenewalcenter.org](http://www.episcopalrenewalcenter.org)

This summer has been busy with the pilgrimage trip and Vacation Bible School and family vacations! It is hard to believe that school starts in just a few short weeks! We have so much to look forward to this year! We are working on developing a strong program for our Junior High EYC members and the Senior High EYC members will host a Medieval Dinner for the Junior High members and their parents on Wednesday, August 29 at 6:30 PM. We will give more details on the program at the dinner.

We will wrap up the Senior High EYC Summer with our Pilgrimage presentation. On Sunday, September 23 at 9 AM the EYC members who traveled to Washington, D.C. will present a slideshow and talk briefly about their experiences. We will be happy to answer any questions as well!

Moving into the current year, the Senior EYC Program will begin our Wednesday night meetings on September 12<sup>th</sup>. This year we will have guest speakers, trips both locally and regionally, volunteer opportunities and more! This is in addition to our regular lessons on Wednesday nights! We also have some opportunities to interact with our fellow Episcopalians through the Diocese such as the Fall Rally Day on September 8<sup>th</sup> for 6<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade, New Beginnings on October 5-7 for 6<sup>th</sup> through 9<sup>th</sup> grade, and Happening on November 9-11 for 10<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade.

To summarize, here are some dates to remember:

Wed., 8/29 at 6:30 PM  
Jr. EYC Initiation Dinner  
Sat., 9/8 All Day  
Diocese of Dallas Fall Rally  
Wed., 9/12  
Wednesday Nights Begin  
Sun., 9/23 at 9 AM  
Pilgrimage presentation

This year promises to be an exciting and rewarding year for our Youth Program! I appreciate all the help and support we received last year. We could not have accomplished as much as we did last spring without your involvement. With your support, this year will be even better!

**A FEW MISSION TRIP T-SHIRTS** are available for \$15. (Sizes *S* thru *X-L*). Make a fashion statement! See Jennifer Gould's office door for details.

## What Happens When You're Not at Mass

*via* Church of the Resurrection, NYC

Somebody who was looking forward to seeing you, missed you.

Somebody who expected to see you wonders if you are ill.

Your neighbor, children, or house guests get the idea that church doesn't matter to you.

There is one less voice in the hymns and prayers to God.

You lead into temptation someone who is in church – the temptation to feel superior.

The church is less prepared for its daily work.

Someone who admires you thinks, "If it isn't important to N., why should it be important to me?"

Your family follows your lead and doesn't come either.

Your family wishes you were with them at Mass.

There is one less person praying for the troubled, sorrowful, and sick, for the church and for the world.

Jesus is saddened.

Your life is not offered up at the Offertory.

You cannot receive our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament.

The work of the priest who baptised, taught and presented you for confirmation is mocked.

You make communication of parish news harder.

You are not reminded *by* the Word of God *of* the Word of God.

Departed loved ones are remembered by one fewer person.

You start to form one new bad habit.

You treat as optional something Our Lord commanded.

People who are working to build up the church are discouraged.

You break the promise which you made, or which was made on your behalf, at your baptism.

The Church is not full, and not being full, lacks just that much exuberance and joy.

The Devil is delighted.