
September 2012

The Messenger

of St James' Church, Texarkana, Texas

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!

Summer worship. Let me commend you for your faithful attendance at mass throughout the summer. In many places, the bad habit of making Christ and his Church optional during the summer months seems to have taken root. Not so here! Week by week, the people of God gather to hear the Word preached, and to receive the Body and Blood of their Savior in Holy Communion.

E.P.I.C. Sunday, August 26th. E.P.I.C. stands for Every Person In Church," our annual Homecoming to celebrate the anniversary of the dedication of the church, and to welcome everyone back from their summer pursuits. 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.

Sunday Christian Education begins for adults and children alike on September 9th. Our Wednesday night program will begin on September 19th, and a Thursday noon lunchtime class will begin on September 25th.

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 26th, if not before.



The Rev'd Douglas Anderson, Rector

Worship Schedule

Sunday Schedule

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



Weekday Schedule

- Tuesday 8:35am
Morning Prayer at St James' Day School
- Wednesday 5:30pm
Mass with hymns in the Church
(begins September 19th)
- Thursday 10:00am
Said Mass (first & third Thursdays of the month)
- Friday 10:30am
Said Mass at Cornerstone
(second Friday of the month)

The Programme: Fall 2012

Special Services & Events

Homecoming Sunday:

Anniversary of the Dedication of the Church

Sunday, August 26th, 2012

7:45am Low Mass

10:00am Sung Family Mass

Brunch in the Great Hall following the 10am Mass.

All Saints' Festival

Sunday, November 4th, 2012

7:45am Low Mass

10:00am Sung Mass &

Baptisms

Mexican lunch in the Great Hall after the 10am Mass

Adult Christian Formation

On Sunday Mornings

Adult Instruction Class

Meeting from 9:00am to 9:45am in the Great Hall

The Adult Instruction class will consider various short topics, and is ideal for those who are unable to commit to regular or extended classrooms or groups. If you attend the early Mass stay a little longer, if you attend the late Mass, show up a little earlier! Coffee is served.

Comparative Religion

September 9th through October 7th

A brief orientation to the major world religions as well as "new" faiths such as Mormonism and Jehovah's Witnesses, as well as general differences between protestant and catholic Christianity.



On Wednesday Evenings

5:30pm Low Mass with hymns

6:00pm Catered Supper in Great Hall

6:30pm Classes

Nursery care will be provided beginning at 5:30pm

The Jewish Roots of Christianity

Begins September 26th

This class will explore the fascinating Old Testament roots of Christian beliefs and practice.

¶ Subsequent topics will be announced via the parish website and Sunday Bulletin.



Thursday Noon

A Study of the Book of Esther

Begins September 27th

"The book of Esther I toss into the Elbe. I am such an enemy to the book of Esther that I wish it did not exist, for it Judaizes too much and has in it a great deal of heathenish foolishness." – Martin Luther (d. 1546)

What would provoke such a strong reaction to a part of Scripture? Is it true that Esther is the only book of the Bible that does not explicitly mention God? We will begin in the Great Hall at 12:05pm, and conclude promptly at 12:50pm. Bring your lunch if you wish.

The Jewish Roots of Christianity

Begins October 25th

This class will explore the fascinating Old Testament roots of Christian beliefs and practice.

Sunday Morning

Children's Liturgy of the Word

Children ages 4 through grade 3 may attend Children's Liturgy of the Word during the first portion of the 10:00 Mass on Sunday. This service is conducted by a lay adult. The Liturgy of the Word is a "child friendly" service with prayers, singing and a reading of the gospel followed by a short homily. Children will be brought into church after the Prayers of the People. The Liturgy of the Word will be conducted every Sunday that Church School classes are scheduled. The children will rejoin their parents at the Peace.

Christian Formation for Children & Youth

Sunday Mornings

Church School classes for children and youth will meet from 9:00 until 9:45, at which time the children will gather for a light snack.

Important Dates

Fall Term

Begins Sunday, September 9th through Sunday, December 16th. No classes on November 25th

Winter/Spring Term

Begins Sunday, January 13th through Sunday, April 28th. No classes March 10th and March 31st

Sunday School Awards & Recognition of Graduates is Sunday, May 5th

Curriculum

K/4 through Grade 5

PowerXpress curriculum allows the children to rotate through a series of workshops over a period of 4 weeks per unit. The children explore a single Bible story each unit through stories, science, crafts, and games.

Grades 6 through 8

Living the Good News uses Lectionary based study to emphasize:

- Christian morals and lifestyles
- Relativity to today's world
- Perseverance in prayer
- Personal commitment to Christ
- Familiarity with *The Book of Common Prayer* and the Bible

Grades 9 through 12

Faithweavers curriculum which focuses on applying God's truth to everyday life with take home topics to inspire family discussions

First Holy Communion

Children may be admitted to Communion before Confirmation with the consent of the parish priest, with the permission of the child's parents and after age-appropriate instruction in the meaning of the Eucharist. First and Second grade students will receive this instruction

during the regular Sunday morning classes in the New Year. First Holy Communion will be celebrated during the Easter Vigil, March 30th.

It is expected that those children who have not yet begun to receive Holy Communion will not begin to do so until they have received instruction and are formally admitted to Holy Communion.

Youth Confirmation

According to the Prayer Book (p. 412), Confirmation is meant to be "a mature public affirmation of their faith" after due preparation. It is now generally agreed that the Sacrament of Confirmation should be administered at an older age than has been the custom in the past, with the consensus emerging throughout the Episcopal Church that "mature" means young adulthood, the 10th through 12th grade. In order to be a candidate for Confirmation, one must be baptized, active in worship, and participating in the life of the parish on a regular basis. Youth Confirmation is conducted every 2 years. The next class will be in the spring of 2014.

Baptism at St James'

Parents, godparents of candidates are required to attend a pre-baptismal orientation with the clergy. Adult candidates are required to complete appropriate instruction. Baptisms take place at the 10am Sunday Eucharist, and are reserved for the following dates:
November 4th, 2012 (All Saints' Sunday),
January 13th, 2013 (Baptism of the Lord),
April 7th, 2013 (Easter II),
May 19th, 2013 (Day of Pentecost)

WOMEN'S NIGHT OUT

Wednesday, September 12th 6pm
at Hopkins Ice House.

Childcare provided at St James', but you must make reservations for the nursery through the Parish Office.

Parish Office: 903.794.9224

Questions? Megan Schroeder: 903.277.6497

Wednesday Nights

Begins September 19th

- 5:30pm Low Mass with hymns
6:00pm Catered Supper in Great Hall
6:30pm Classes

Nursery care will be provided beginning at 5:30pm

Faithweaver Friends

For children K/4 through 3rd grade, Faithweaver Friends relates Bible stories to everyday lives. The children experience them through skits, games, crafts, and journal keeping.

Grapple for PreTeens (grades 4&5) and Middle School(Grades 6 - 8)

This is a dynamic program that helps students discuss or "grapple" with issues with which they struggle. Those issues include such topics as bullying, peer pressure, popularity, friendships and their spiritual lives.



E.Y.C.

St. James' EYC is preparing for a great year! Students in the 6th-12th grades will go bowling after supper on the first Wednesday night of the program year, Sept. 19th. The cost for meal and bowling will be \$10 per student (this event is subsidized at 50% by the parish). Our middle school students will continue in Grapple on Wednesday nights, and the high school students will gather for teaching, service, and fellowship as well. Highlights will include lock-ins, a middle school retreat in October, Bishops' Ball in January, a high school retreat in March, and missions work in the upcoming Summer. For more information, contact Chuck Firmin, or Fr Faulkner.

Some Parish Groups & Activities

If you wish to take part in any of these groups, please contact the parish office, the person indicated, or simply show up!

Altar Guild

The Altar Guild serves to prepare the altar and keep the church beautiful. The Altar Guild is dedicated to the task of cleaning and maintaining the sacred vessels, furnishings, and vestments used in all worship services. Contact Nancy Malone 903.774.2063.

Book Club

The Book Club meets from time to time to discuss the best of Christian writing. Contact Larry Oxford 903. 223.3737.

Choir

St James' has a strong music program. The adult choir sings each Sunday from September through June, and rehearse on Wednesday nights from 6:30pm to 8pm. Contact Andrew Clark 903.949.1264.

Daughters of the King

DOK is a lay religious order for women. Members take lifelong vows to follow a Rule of Life, including a Rule of Prayer and a Rule of Service. St James's two chapters of the DOK, a morning chapter which meets in the library on the third Thursday of the month following the 10am Mass, and an evening chapter which meets in the rector's conference room on the second Wednesday of the month following the 5:30pm Mass. Contact Bobbie Trimble 903-838-4952 (AM) or Leslie Nevill 903-667-2384 (PM).

Fitness for Saints

Meets from 5:30pm to 6:30pm in the Parish Center on Monday (dance aerobics), Tuesday (Pilates) and Thursday (dance aerobics). Contact Nancy Malone 903.774.2063.

Flower Guild

The Flower Guild arranges flowers for Sundays and other feasts days. Contact Martha Bean 903.547.6911.

Men of the Church

The Men of the Church from time to time for fellowship and planning social events such as the All Saints' lunch and the annual Mardi Gras. Some of the men are also members of the Brotherhood of St Andrew, an international fellowship in the Anglican Communion devoted equipping men faithful in world for the greater glory of God. Contact Charlie Cook 903-826-8303.

Prayer Group

The Intercessory Prayer Group meets Wednesday mornings at 9:30am in the Parish Center to pray over our Parish Prayer List. Requests for prayers for any need are welcome and can be written on Prayer Request Cards in the pews, or called in to the parish office. To pray with the prayer group in person, simply show up.

Rosary Group

The Rosary Group meets to pray "the Bible on a String" each Tuesday morning at 10am in the

homes of members. Contact Robin Townsend: dragonfli80@hotmail.com

Women of the Church

Membership in the Women of the Church is open to all women of the parish. WOC helps with receptions, and raises funds for various charitable causes. **The Women of the Church will meet first on Saturday, August 25th at 11am** in the Great Hall.

Marriage at St James'

Holy Matrimony is the Sacrament by which God's grace is given to husband and wife, helping them to lead a holy life and to bring up their children in the Christian faith and life. Marriages are celebrated at any time of the year other than Advent and Lent. Sixty days notice is required. In case of a previous marriage which has ended in civil divorce, 90 days notice and permission of the bishop for remarriage is required.



Questions we are asked: Why is incense used in Church?

The use of incense in the ancient world was common, especially in religious rites. In Judaism, incense was included in the thanksgiving offerings of oil, rain, fruits, wine (cf. Numbers 7:13-17). The Lord instructed Moses to build a golden altar for the burning of incense (cf. Exodus 30:1-10), which was placed in front of the veil to the entrance of the meeting tent where the ark of the covenant was kept.



We do not know exactly when the use of incense was introduced into our Mass or other liturgical rites. At the time of the early Church, the

Jews continued to use incense in their own Temple rituals, so it would be safe to conclude that the Christians would have adapted its usage for their own rituals.

The purpose of incensing and the symbolic value of the smoke is that of purification and

sanctification. The smoke symbolizes the prayers of the faithful drifting up to heaven: the Psalmist prays, "Let my prayer come like incense before you; the lifting up of my hands, like the evening sacrifice" (Psalm 141). Incense also creates the ambiance of heaven: The Book of Revelation (8:3ff) describes the heavenly worship as follows: "Another angel came in holding a censer of gold. He took his place at the altar of incense and was given large amounts of incense to deposit on the altar of gold in front of the throne, together with the prayers of all God's holy ones. From the angel's hand, the smoke of the incense went up before God, and with it the prayers of God's people."

The usage of incense adds a sense of solemnity and mystery to the Mass. The visual imagery of the smoke and the smell remind us of the transcendence of the Mass which links heaven with earth, and allow us to enter into the presence of God. □