



From St. James' With Love

October 2023

Newsletter



**St. James Vision Statement:**

God asks us to make His love visible in our lives and community. . .  
let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth. (1 John 3:18)

## An Empty Cup

I recently received a beautifully handmade ceramic cup from my seventeen-year-old granddaughter, Rowen. I vividly remember placing the cup on my desk and noticing etched into its bottom was a perfectly shaped heart. My eyes teared up when I saw the engraving.

Knowing Rowen, she may unknowingly, or most likely knowingly, be silently saying to me: when my hollow self appears and feels empty, I know my soul is preparing itself to be filled with love.

The cup reminds me of her vibrant thirst for acceptance and love. She, like many teens are beautiful, vulnerable gentle souls just beginning to unfold themselves to the mysterious world that lays before them.

Her cup with all its beauty is a reminder that even an ordinary and simple clay vessel can be transformed into a spiritual aid in which we can see life with all its emptiness, fullness, brokenness, flaws and blessings.

It is a reminder we cannot always expect our lives to be full. Life includes some emptiness and some pouring out. Her cup is a symbol that in our prayer life we are able to make room for the new. Our spiritual life is like a cup that is in a constant process of emptying and filling, giving and receiving, and accepting and letting go.

Rowen's cup points to our spiritual journey toward oneness with God which is the foundation of our lives. This journey toward God is about change that begins with an empty and vulnerable heart in the presence of the living God. This feeling of emptiness that often overcomes us is not a loss but a preparing that fills us with God's love.

Peace

Craig+

## Prayer List

Evelyn A, Kimberly J, Nancy S, Ray K, Tony, Kathy, Jan L, Ray S, Linda G, Laverne & Patsy, Patty F, Betty K, Jen, Ashlyn, Rachael D, Rebecca H, Alicia, Lindsey, Jon L, Ami C, Ray S, Winnie, Brian, Luanne, Elizabeth, Randy, Rick, Cooper, Edda, Michelle R, John R, John P, David R, Heidi B, Doug, Brianna, Tim, Carol B, Karen, Dan, Carter W, Rev. Gary, those who mourn, students and teachers, 1st responders, the Food Pantry, those suffering from addiction, those in the military, St. James Vestry

### The lessons for the Sundays of October 2023:

|   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| <b>Oct 1</b><br>Eighteenth Sunday<br>After Pentecost:       | Exodus 17: 1-7<br>Philippians 2: 1-13             | Psalms 78: 1-4, 12-16<br>Matthew 21:23-32  |
| <b>Oct 08</b><br>Nineteenth Sunday<br>After Pentecost       | Exodus 20: 1-4, 7-9, 12-20<br>Philippians 3:4b-14 | Psalms 19<br>Matthew 21:33-46              |
| <b>Oct 15</b><br>Twentieth Sunday<br>After Pentecost        | Exodus 32: 1-14<br>Philippians 4: 1-9             | Psalms 106: 1-6, 19-23<br>Matthew 22: 1-14 |
| <b>Oct 22</b><br>Twenty-first Sunday<br>After Pentecost     | Exodus 33: 12-23<br>1 Thessalonians 1:1-10        | Psalms 99<br>Matthew 22: 15-22             |
| <b>Oct 29</b><br>Twenty-second<br>Sunday After<br>Pentecost | Deuteronomy 34: 1-12<br>1 Thessalonians 2: 1-8    | Psalms 90: 1-6, 13-17<br>Matthew 22: 34-46 |

### **Lay Schedule October 2023**

| Date  | Chalice            | Acolyte            | Reader                  | Ushers                                 |
|-------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|--|
| 10/1  | Leah<br>Nichiporuk | Mary White         | Kris Packard            | Linda Hacker<br>Jim Derr               |
| 10/8  | Mary White         | Jim Grillo         | L u a n n e<br>Graulich | Marietta Piersons<br>Linda Grillo      |
| 10/15 | Jim Grillo         | Karen Derr         | Linda Hacker            | Marilyn Dowdle<br>Linda Grillo         |
| 10/22 | Karen Derr         | Nick Forenz        | Rich Little             | Charlie Skinner<br>Janet Marie Skinner |
| 10/29 | Nick Forenz        | Leah<br>Nichiporuk | Kris Packard            | Donella Barney<br>Nancy Folts          |

### **Compline Service every Monday evening at 8:30 PM**

We have compline every Monday night at 8:30PM. A 10–12-minute service of prayer, Scripture, music, and much more. Zoom address is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83857418968>

**Mission Committee:** The Mission Committee is comprised of Leah Nichiporuk, Luanne Graulich, Kris Packard, JanetMarie Skinner, Donna Noteware, Mary White and Carol Bidwell. We have been quick to respond to local, national and international catastrophes and needs.

Currently our ongoing projects, to which our parishioners have generously contributed, are Samaritan's Purse shoebox project at Christmas, hygiene products for the Safe House quarterly, reminding

our parish of Food Pantry needs quarterly, providing Christmas gifts for families and contributing quarterly to Princess Basma House in Jerusalem.

## **Save the Date!!**

### **Italian Dinner**

**October 14, 2023**

St. James will hold its annual Italian Dinner on **Saturday, October 14th from 4-6 pm**. Parishioners are asked to check the sign-up sheet in the Undercroft to donate items or volunteer to help out. The dinner includes a salad bar, spaghetti and meatballs or Jim and Linda Grillo's famous lasagna, bread, and dessert. Take-outs will be available. Plan to help out or attend and bring friends and family. **The cost is \$12. See Karen Derr if you have any questions.**

### **First Friday Fellowship** *(submitted by Tom Bidwell)*

Since the year 2000, we have gathered together on the first Friday of each month with other Christians, meeting in **various churches** in the Keuka Lake area of upstate New York, to sing praise and worship songs to our Lord Jesus Christ. Singing starts at 7pm. We encourage people to bring their musical instruments (guitars, banjos, flutes, accordions, harmonicas, etc) and help us to make a 'joyful noise' unto the Lord. (Some short **sample videos** can be viewed on our website.) Usually we spend some time for prayer and sharing testimonies during the first hour as well. Then we break for refreshments. The host church provides soda and coffee, while light snacks are provided by those who wish to bring something to share (chips, cookies, etc). After refreshments, we reconvene for more singing for anyone interested, choosing songs from our **songlist**. We usually wrap things up by 9:30pm. A small ad is placed in the *Southern Tier Shopper* the week before each meeting. You can also add your name to our e-mail alert list, if you wish to do so, by

contacting us at [firstfridayfellowship@gmail.com](mailto:firstfridayfellowship@gmail.com) or going to our website at [www.FFFship.com](http://www.FFFship.com)

*"Addicted to the ministry of the saints" [1 Cor 16:15](#) (KJV)*

### **Would you like to join a Bible Study?**

Father Craig is offering a weekly, one hour bible study on the Gospel of Mark starting Thursday, October 12<sup>th</sup> and ending November 9<sup>th</sup>. The bible study will begin at 3pm in the undercroft of the church. Everyone is invited.

### **Hymn Stories**

#### **"A Mighty Fortress Is our God"**

Martin Luther was born November 10, 1483. On October 31, 1517, he nailed his ninety-five theses to the door of the Cathedral of Wittenberg Germany. He was excommunicated from the fellowship of the Roman Catholic church in 1520.

One of the benefits of the Reformation Movement was the rediscovery of congregational singing. Martin Luther had strong convictions in the power of sacred music.

The single most powerful hymn of the Protestant Reformation Movement was Luther's "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God." Based on Psalm 46. This hymn became the battle cry of the people, a great source of strength and inspiration during a time of uncertainty and conflict. This hymn has been translated into practically every known

language and is regarded as one of the noblest and most classic examples of Christian hymnody.

### **Blessing of the Animals during the month of October**

Father Craig will come to your home and bless your pets. He has blessed buffalos, elk, snakes, dogs, cats, chickens and birds of all kinds, even birds of prey. Please fill out the contact sheet in your Sunday bulletin or make an appointment by phone. He can be contacted at 609-224-4035. He would love to take a photograph with you and your pet.

### **October 4<sup>th</sup>, we celebrate St Francis of Assisi**

Francis, the son of a prosperous merchant of Assisi, was born in 1182. His early youth was spent in revelry and fruitless attempts to win military glory. Various encounters with beggars and lepers pricked his conscience, and he decided to embrace a life devoted to Lady Poverty despite his father's intense opposition. In 1210 pope Innocent the Third confirmed the simple rule for the Order of Friars Minor, a name Francis chose to emphasize his desire to be numbered among the "least" of God's servants.

**Let us Pray:**

Most high, omnipotent, good Lord, grant your people grace to renounce gladly the vanities of this world; that, following the way of the blessed Francis, we may for love your whole creation with perfect joy. We ask for this through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Readings for the Day:

Galatians 6: 14-18

Psalm 148: 7-14 or 12

Matthew 11: 25-30

### **Vestry Highlights:**

- St. James Audit completed—No findings
- Vestry Strategic planning retreat at St James—September 23<sup>rd</sup>
- Vestry approved \$200.00 donation to Vacation Bible School
- Community Italian Dinner, 14 October –Karen Derr



Please support your food pantry. More information next month.

For additional information you can leave a message on our Pantry phone at 607-542- 2445, or contact me directly at 607-703-9303

Hammondspport Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry



## **From the spiritual diary of Father Craig**

Sometimes my meditation fills my hungry soul. These are the times I know Christ is with me and willing to return to me again and again. Nourishing me like bread does from the sacred table. In these precious moments the presence of Christ calms my restlessness and subdues my anxieties. Peace spreads over me. When these rare moments occur, they are truly precious and truly wonderful. How Joy filled is my soul as I sit in silence waiting to be held in the loving arms of Christ. Amen.