



THE SHELL

Saint James the Greater Episcopal Church

Making Christ Known Since 1712

December 2019

Volume 1, Number 9



Save the Date

12/01/2019: 1st Sunday of Advent

Sunday Service – 8:30am

12/04/2019

Parish House – Women of St. James Meeting – 6:30pm

12/08/2019: 2nd Sunday of Advent

Sunday Service – 8:30am

12/15/2019: 3rd Sunday of Advent

Sunday Service – 8:30am

12/22/2019: 4th Sunday of Advent

Sunday Service – 8:30am

12/24/2019-Christmas Eve

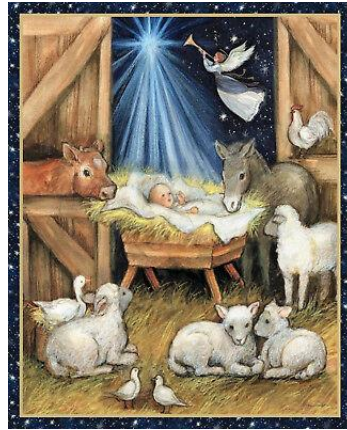
Christmas Eve Service 10:00pm

12/25/2019

Christmas Day

No S.O.M.E. Dinner this month

⊕ Come Let Us Adore Him, Christ the Lord



Luke 2 1-20

- 1 In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world.
- 2 (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.)
- 3 And everyone went to their own town to register.
- 4 So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David.
- 5 He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child.
- 6 While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born,
- 7 and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.
- 8 And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night.
- 9 An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.
- 10 But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people.
- 11 Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.
- 12 This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”
- 13 Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,
- 14 “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”
- 15 When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”
- 16 So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger.
- 17 When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child,
- 18 and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them.
- 19 But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart.
- 20 The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen which were just as they had been told.



ANNUAL CONVENTION

12/05 Marie Adams

12/10 Jose Zaragoza

12/11 Vince Capitano

12/16 Julian Capriotti

12/18 Jose Zaragoza, Jr.

12/20 Vic Truelove

12/22 Alanna Marion

12/30 Nicole McGorty

On Saturday, November 1, representatives of almost 100 churches in our diocese met at the Episcopal Cathedral in Philadelphia for our 236th Annual Convention. Representing St. James were Cat Amos-Schaumberg, Denise Ciambrello, Christopher Porter, and the Rev. Marlee Norton. A few highlights:

Bishop's Address to Convention: Bishop Gutiérrez began by quoting St. Oscar Romero: "I have known God because I am with God's people – you." He reminded all in the room of what we have accomplished together and asked us to live fearlessly and go out "into the deep," because Jesus is calling us to leave the comfort of the shore. This message of fearlessness was repeated throughout his address. Quoting Thomas Merton, the Bishop also asked us to "not depend on the hope of results" but rather the strength of personal relationships. The Bishop also highlighted the Bishop's Appeal, the start of diocesan monastic communities in which lay and clergy can live and pray, partnerships with other dioceses to elevate Hispano/Latino work, five holy days of service across the diocese centered on feeding, clothing, healing, serving and education, youth pilgrimages, and the development of a center in Kensington to care for women in need.

Resolutions: In addition to those already on the agenda, two resolutions arising from the Bishop's address were brought to the floor. One asked for the new Board of Trustees of the diocese to determine what percentage of all financial gifts received should go towards the diocese's work on poverty issues. The other focused on inequality in pay and deployment (particularly full-time vs. part-time calls) between female and male priests and people of color. The Bishop called for creating a task force to review these issues and report back at the next Convention. Both resolutions passed unanimously.

Budget: After 11 budget meetings across the diocese in the past nine months, delegates reviewed the 2020 budget. Initially the diocese was looking at a deficit of \$873,000. After rigorous cost cutting, we now foresee a surplus of \$2,000. The Bishop stressed our need to fulfill our commitment to the national church office, and the goal for each church to work toward giving 10% of its operating income. The budget was unanimously passed.

Elections: After multiple votes, clergy and lay candidates were elected to the new Board of Trustees, as delegates to the General Convention this coming summer in Baltimore, and to a number of other positions.

A complete recap of the meeting is available on the diocesan website: www.diopa.org



12/19 Linda and Tom Jones

St James Staff

The Rev. Marlee R. J. Norton
Priest

Sonya Genstein
Musician/Choir Director

Denise Ciambrello
Administrative Assistant

Georgette Miller
Custodian

Joe Ciambrello
Sexton

St. James Vestry

Pam Bergey
Secretary

Denise Ciambrello
Junior Warden

Joe Ciambrello

Betty Dougherty

Sue Marion
Treasurer

Gene Porter

Betsy Schmidt

Horace Schmidt
Senior Warden



December's Announcements

Dinner for Neighbors in Need – November's S.O.M.E. dinner for our hungry neighbors drew 72 guests and 16 volunteers. Dinner for that evening consisted of meatloaf, mashed potatoes, corn, dinner rolls, salad and assorted desserts. A BIG thank you to all who contribute their time, talents and treasure to this important ministry. Remember our Lord said "what so ever you do for the least of my brothers and sisters, you have done for me."

In Advent We Turn Blue – During Advent the church and altar will be dressed in what is called "Sarum Blue," a color representing hope. The custom of using blue rather than purple (or, once upon a time, black) goes back to the medieval Sarum Rite for the ordering of liturgy, which took hold in England beginning in the 11th century. Advent was once known as "Little Lent" for its penitential nature, which has largely given way to today's emphasis on Advent as a time of anticipating and preparing our hearts for the coming of the Christ Child.

Christmas is Coming! – The Altar Guild will be cleaning brass and silver on Saturday, Dec. 7, from 9:00 am until the job is finished. If everyone shows up, it won't take long! The Greening of the Church (decorating for Christmas) will be after church on Sunday, Dec. 22. Coffee and snacks will be served. Our Christmas Eve service will be at 10:00 pm on Tuesday, December 24. Christmas flower requests are due.

Help Others Stay Warm – If you have any winter coats, hats, scarves, mittens/gloves, socks, boots and blankets you don't plan to use, we keep a supply on hand for our monthly dinner guests, many of whom have little protection against cold weather. Please bring them to church or to the dinner if you're a volunteer. **Please, blankets, outer wear and socks only - no pants, shirts or sweaters.**

We Need Your Jars and Egg Cartons – Mary's Cupboard, the food pantry in Levittown, is now able to distribute eggs to their hungry client families. However, in order to do this they need empty egg cartons. Also, laundry detergent is given out in pint-sized screw-on jars (glass or plastic). There is a box in the cloakroom area for your donations (All items must be clean). Instead of recycling these items, let's use them to help others.

Food Donation – Our latest (November) donation of non-perishable food to a local food pantry totaled 76 pounds. That brings us to a total of 8,444 pounds of food since we began this ministry! A **BIG** thank you to all of you who contributed. Remember the words of our Lord "When I was hungry you fed me".

Contact Us

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