



THE SHELL

Saint James the Greater Episcopal Church

Making Christ Known Since 1712

November 2019

Volume 1, Number 8



Save the Date

11/03/2019: All Saints Sunday

Sunday Service – 8:30am

11/06/2019

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

11/10/2019

Sunday Service – 8:30am

11/12/2019

Vestry Meeting – 6:30pm

11/17/2019

Sunday Service – 8:30am

11/24/2019

Sunday Service – 8:30am

11/27/2019

S.O.M.E. Dinner - 6:00pm to 7:00pm

(Volunteers Needed)

11/28/19

Thanksgiving



On behalf of Reverend Marlee and the Parish Family of St. James Church, I would like to wish you and your family a very happy and blessed Thanksgiving. During the Thanksgiving holiday, please take a moment to thank God for all of the blessings that you have in your life, even the smallest ones. One good way to show your gratitude is to do something nice for someone who is unable to return the favor. Remember always, that the Lord loves a cheerful giver and that what you do for the least of our brothers and sisters you have done for the Lord.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Heavenly Father,
I thank you for this wonderful day that you have made. I thank you for my life and the lives of my loved ones. I thank you Father for your presence in my life. For the confidence I have in you and the plans you have for me. I thank for the immeasurable amount of love you have for me, and how comforting it is to know that your Spirit is always with me. I thank you Lord for all the big and small wins that I attain daily by the strength of your Spirit. Thank you for the things in my life that I take for granted sometimes. I thank you for a roof over my head, food to eat and clothes to wear. I recognize that these things are all a gift from you, and I'm ever grateful. May I develop an attitude of thanks in all circumstances Lord. I pray that I'll continue to remember that all things work together for good. Thank you Father, I love you. In Jesus' name, Amen.

SocialHermit

All Saints Day: November 1

All Saints Day evolved over time.

It started in the late Spring, as a way to convert the pagan holidays that pre-dated Christianity. It was later moved to November 1st for the same reason.

Christians in the Middle Ages wanted to set aside a day to acknowledge those who have gone before us, to root us into our spiritual family.

It isn't a pagan conspiracy that All Saints Day is held near ancient pagan holidays. Instead, it is a victory. Ancient peoples were terrified of the spirits of the dead. They often tried to appease the spirits, including the spirits of their own ancestors.

Christians brought about a powerful re-ordering and redemption of this fear, by supplanting these fears with the love and compassion of God in Christ.

Looking Back

All Saints Day was focused on exemplary Christians. This doesn't mean they were "perfect" Christians. It means that some aspect of God's grace shined brightly in their lives, and was seen and acclaimed by many others.

We commemorate the Patriarchs, the Prophets, and Mary, Joseph, the Apostles and so many other biblical saints. We also commemorate the saints of the Christian Church including martyrs like Perpetua, teachers like Augustine, and mystics like St. Teresa of Avila.

Later, All Souls Day was added on November 2nd, as a way to acknowledge all believers.

This focus on the past helps us gain wisdom for the present. By focusing on these saints, we can learn from them. And since there is only one Body of Christ in heaven and on earth, we also celebrate our communion with them.

Of course, this is mystical communion, which means that it's out of our control. But we know it is real. We are in fellowship with those who have gone before us, since we are all in Christ. This helps us satisfy our human longing for communion with those who have gone before.

Looking Forward

And we also celebrate our hope for reunion on All Saints Day. All who die in Christ are alive in him, and we will be resurrected together. So we aren't just pining for the past, we are looking forward to a grand reunion.

Many churches read the names of those in the parish, or family members, who have died in the Faith. By keeping these names on our lips, we are confessing that the faithful dead are alive, for "God is not a God of the dead, but of the living." (Matthew 22). Some churches use incense on All Saints Day, as a sign of the prayers of all the saints, both in heaven and on earth. (Revelation 5:8).

All baptized believers are a part of the People of God—a spiritual family that goes back to the beginning. This helps us know who we are, and shows us that we belong.

We have a whole history that provides us with wisdom, passed on through God's working though and in his people. It also points us to our future reunion, giving us hope that our longing for eternal fellowship will be satisfied someday.

(Source: anglicanpastor.com)



11/04 Patrick Ewing

**11/12 Cat Amos
Schaumberg**



**11/15 Cat and Marc
Schaumberg**

**11/18 Trudy and Ed
Margavich**

**11/29 Denise and Joe
Ciambrello**

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



November's Announcements

Dinner for Neighbors in Need – October'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."

Historic Bristol Day – A **HUGE** thank you to everyone who pitched in to give tours of the church, staff the St. James table on Radcliffe Street, made popcorn skeleton hands, baked homemade cookies, guided children through pumpkin decorating and so much more! We had more volunteers this year than we've had in many years. Between the lottery ticket basket raffle and food sales (treats and drinks) and a very generous \$100.00 donation from Bristol-Schmidt's Flowers, we netted \$800.00. Well done, everyone!!

Help Others Stay Warm – If you have any winter coats, hats, scarves, mittens or gloves, socks, boots, or blankets that you don't use, please consider donating them. We try to keep a supply on hand for our monthly dinner guests, many of whom have little protection against the cold weather. Please bring them to church or to the dinner if you're a volunteer.

Habitat for Humanity – Construction on a new Habitat Home Site in Morrisville will begin soon. Please see Denise Ciambrello if you want the contact information to participate in the construction.

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 donation of non-perishable food to a local food bank totaled 59 pounds. That brings us to a total of 8,368 pounds 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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