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# *The Weekly Parish Light 2024*

## *February 10, 2024*

St. James Episcopal Church · 2 S. Augustine Street · Wilmington DE 19804 · (302) 994-2029

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### **FROM THE RECTOR, The Rev. Sarah Nelson**

Sunday is one of those events in the life of the church that is filled with history and tradition. Sunday is the annual visitation of our Diocesan Bishop, The Right



Reverend Kevin S Brown. We speak of his visitation, but in actuality, every church is the Bishop's church.

The first Bishops were those believed to have been given special chrism. They were in the line of the Apostles. To this day, any Bishop in the Episcopal Church can trace their lineage back to the Apostles. When a Bishop is consecrated, at least three other Bishops lay hands on his head, calling upon the Holy Spirit to “make this person a Bishop. Why three? Three Bishops ensure that if any one Bishop were errant, there would be others to impart the Holy Spirit.

In the early church, it was these Bishops who traveled from town to town baptizing, celebrating the Eucharist, burying, and performing other ministerial tasks. As the Hutch grew, one person could not perform all of these tasks. Priests, under the direction of the bishop, took over the local pastoral duties. It was at this time that the sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation became separate. Priests baptize, but it is only the Bishop who confirms faith.

Priests continue to serve at the Bishop's pleasure, and in the priests' ordination vows, central is the question, “Will you obey the pastoral direction of your Bishop?” The Bishop is the pastor to all of the ordained people in the Diocese. It is also the Bishop who blesses and consecrates oil or chrism to be used for sacraments, such as Baptism, Healing, and Last Rites.

Of course, there are all sorts of administrative tasks assigned to the Bishop: the day-to-day management of the Diocese, budgets, and taking council in the larger Episcopal Church. As with any position, the Bishop is also responsible for other tasks as they become known.

Bishop Kevin is our Bishop, and he will be with us this Sunday, February 11th, at 10:00 a.m. We welcome him to his church and to the ministry that we share with him. Bishop Kevin has articulated a vision for us: One Church in Delaware. We gather with a vision towards growth – not simply numbers but our own discipleship, following Christ as our Lord and Saviour. His vision includes how we care for one another and work toward a common ministry. He is an exemplary leader and a compassionate pastor.

I hope that you will join me in welcoming our Bishop both with your presence and your prayers.

Faithfully,

Sarah

## MUSIC MINISTRY NOTES

My St. James Friends,

This coming Sunday, we will welcome Bishop Brown to our worship service, and we celebrate the Transfiguration.



Transfiguration Sunday always falls on the last Sunday in Epiphany before the first Sunday in Lent. The date is variable since it is relative to the date when Easter falls. Interestingly, the Feast of the Transfiguration existed in various forms by the 9th century. In the Western Church, Pope Callixtus III (1455–1458) made it a universal feast, celebrated at the time on August 6, to commemorate the lifting of the siege of Belgrade.

To summarize, in the gospel accounts, Jesus and three of his disciples, Peter, James, and John, go to a mountain (later referred to as the Mount of Transfiguration) to pray. On the mountaintop, Jesus begins to shine with bright rays of light. Then Old Testament figures Moses and Elijah appear, and he speaks with them. They symbolize the Law and the prophets, respectively. Jesus is then called "Son" by the voice of God, as occurred at the Baptism of Jesus. The Transfiguration is an important event because, in much Christian theology, the setting on the mountain is presented as the point where human nature meets God: the meeting place of the temporal and the eternal, with Jesus as the connecting point, acting as the bridge between heaven and earth.

Our hymns this Sunday, especially "Alleluia, Sing to Jesus" and "Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones," capture the spirit of this important feast day in the liturgical calendar. The

prelude will be my arrangement of "Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones," and the Choir anthem will be an upbeat "A Joyful Song to the Lord" by Jennifer Klein. This also is the last Sunday until Easter morning that we will sing the "Gloria in Excelsis Deo" which is never sung during Lent. The following Sunday, the 18th, is the first Sunday in Lent we will begin our service singing the ancient and lengthy prayer, the Great Litany.

I hope to see you in Church this Sunday as we welcome our bishop to our feast of the Transfiguration.

Blessings,

Dr. Michael Larkin  
Director of Music Ministry



**THIS SUNDAY**

**THE LAST SUNDAY AFTER  
THE EPIPHANY  
February 11, 2024,**

**LITURGIES**

*Old Testament:* 2 Kings 2:1-12;

*Psalm:* 50:1-6;

*Epistle:* 2 Corinthians 4:3-6;

*Gospel:* Mark 9:2-9.

**LAY MINISTERS**

**Dir. of Music Ministry:** Dr. Michael Larkin

**Worship Leader:** George McDowell

**Bishop's Chaplain:** John Grim

**Old Testament Reader:** Nazir Washington

**New Testament Reader:** Caroline Luckey

**Greeter:** Penny Geist

**Usher:** Andi Bender

**Acolyte:** Denise Jarrell

**Acolyte 2:** Nazir Washington

**Altar Guild:** Andi Bender

**Counters:** Tom Reilly, Ike Hammond

**SUNDAY SCHOOL is**

**available for all children**

**during the 10:00 am**

**worship service.** Sunday

School Lessons are planned

to match the Lectionary reading for the week.

A discussion about the lesson and a craft or

activity will follow. The children join their

families in church for the Eucharist, or if

Miss Tina is singing in the choir, the children

will come in during the peace. All children



are welcome to attend our class, even if they are not here every week or are just visiting. Please ask a Greeter to direct you to the classroom.

**PLEASE JOIN US IN THE  
PARISH HALL AFTER THE  
SERVICE!!**

**After the 10:00 a.m. service, all are  
welcome as we greet Bishop Brown!**

We will gather in the Parish Hall for Coffee Hour and our annual Shrove Sunday Pancake Breakfast!



Thank you to those who have volunteered their time, talent, and treasure to make this day a fun and enjoyable day! We also want to thank Jim Gilmore and Bishop Brown for flipping all the pancakes! A real treat and much appreciated!

Another "event of the day" will be our **Love Begins Here Sweethearts Day** with your sweethearts on display. Thanks to all of you who brought in pictures of their sweethearts!





## PARISH PRAYER LIST

Please see the last page of this newsletter and pray for those in need of our prayers for strength, guidance, or healing, especially *George Fischbach, Jim Bender, Sandy Grim, Patti, Penny, & David Edwards, Terri Parton, Carmen Scott, Penny Wilhelme, Diane Geist, Lindsey, Kira, Preston, Cindy, Dave, Butch & Betty VanHekle, Tom Hall.*

Pray for those who have died †.

Anyone wishing to have someone **placed on or taken off the prayer list** may email Marti LaRue ([martilarue828@gmail.com](mailto:martilarue828@gmail.com)) or call the church office at (302) 994-2029.



## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS:

01 Layla Tjaden  
01 Melina & Sophia Erdman  
04 Caleb Nelson  
10 Nazir Washington  
18 Dave Spendio  
21 Skip Bentley  
22 Alberta Regan  
24 Ryan Warrington  
24 The Rev. Sarah Nelson  
24 James Bush  
24 Ken Stafford  
25 Gaelen Nelson  
28 Cassandra DeMaio-Temme

## FAMILY PRAYER

We will be praying this week for the Chapman family. Please remember to pray for Grace during the service on Sunday and keep her in your thoughts during the week.

### *A Prayer for Families*

*Heavenly Father, in whom we live and move and have our being, we humbly pray to you to guide and govern us by the Holy Spirit, that in all the cares and occupations of our daily life, we may never forget you, but remember that we are ever walking in your sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

### *Prayer for Coral Springs*

*Jesus, I ask for comfort and hope for those who are in nursing homes. May they feel your presence and know you see them as precious and having your love in their hearts. May they be treated with dignity. I also pray for the caregivers. They have such a hard job and many times don't receive acknowledgement for what they do. May they know the importance and beauty of their job and realize they are bringing you to the people they are serving. Please give them strength when they become tired and when the job becomes very stressful. May the people who make decisions regarding the money that nursing homes receive know they, too, will be older one day and to be sensitive to the needs and challenges of these wonderful people. Amen.*

## ANGLICAN CYCLE OF PRAYER

Pray for the Episcopal Church of South Sudan.

## DIOCESE OF DELAWARE

Pray for Saint Anne's School, Middletown, Barry L. Davis, Head of School, The Rev. Kije Mugisha Rwamasirabo, Chaplain.

## 2024 STEWARDSHIP

OFFERING ENVELOPES: Our prayerful consideration of our pledges has begun.

Offering envelopes are available if you would like to use them. Each Pledge Card received will be linked to your envelope if you desire to use the envelopes.

As each has received a gift,  
use it to **serve one another**,  
as good stewards  
of God's varied grace:  
1 Peter 4:10 (ESV)

## MEETINGS

### **BIBLE STUDY WEEKLY MEETINGS**

You are invited to join in a study of scripture with others seeking to know God. Each Wednesday, we will gather at 10:00 a.m. in the Lounge to consider the words of the Gospel for the coming Sunday. While we will be meeting in person, if you would like to join us by Zoom, please let the office know. I hope that you will join us.  
Sarah



### **FEBRUARY SCHEDULE**

- February 21 – Mark 8:21-28
- February 28 – John 2:13-22

### **VESTRY MEETINGS**

Meetings are scheduled on the following dates:  
February 11 (Bishop's Visit meeting will not be formal due to the events of the day.); March 17; April 21; May 19; and June 16.



## **THE WORSHIP MEETINGS**

Meetings are usually scheduled on the fourth Sunday of the month. The next meeting is planned for February 25.



## **HEALING SERVICES**

Healing services are generally held on the first Sunday of each month in the Chapel immediately following the 10:00 a.m. worship service. They have been scheduled on the following dates: Mar. 3 – will be incorporated into the 10:00 a.m. worship service); Apr. 7; May 5; and June 2.



## UPCOMING EVENTS



### ***What Does It Mean To Be Chosen?***

Join us **beginning February 18 through Lenten Sundays** after services to explore the answer to this as we view the groundbreaking series, ***The Chosen***. Filmmaker and author, Dallas Jenkins, beautifully presents the life of Jesus in such a way that promises to move you forever while enhancing your knowledge of scripture and what it truly means to be chosen. Several episodes will be shown each week and light snacks will be provided. All are welcome to bring their own snacks/sandwiches if preferred.

### **A BRASH FISHERMAN. A DEMON-POSSESSED WOMAN. A PIOUS RELIGIOUS LEADER. A THIEVING TAX COLLECTOR.**

When the Son of God walked the earth in our shoes, He connected with humanity through story. Jesus used our own tales to help us understand God's truths. He communicated the immutable principles of the heavens with parables of familiar, earthly circumstances and universally identified. They were anecdotes, chronicles, and narratives that became like soul food to everyone He met.

That's how God the Father has been giving His revelation to humankind since the dawn of the cosmos. Through story, because God is and always has been the First Author: "In the

beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God" (John 1:1, emphasis added).

God knows that when we are most hungry spiritually, the themes of heaven – grace, forgiveness, sacrifice, redemption, reconciliation, and resurrection – will resonate in our hearts and draw us closer to Him. Those themes are like violin strings running through our souls and, when plucked in just the right way, always reverberate back the plumb line of God's truth.

That is what my friend, Dallas Jenkins, is creating with his powerful media series, *The Chosen*, which takes us on a journey with Jesus through the eyes of the real people whose lives He absolutely transformed with His words, love, and deeds. Imagine what it would be like to walk the dusty roads of those characters who encountered the Messiah.

That is what you are going to find in this beautiful and powerful series. Take *The Chosen* journey with us beginning February 18th. Watch and reflect on these episodes. Digest them as food for your soul. And then write them in your heart, not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God.

— Brian Bird

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Altar Flowers:** If you would like to place flowers on the altar in thanksgiving or in memory of a loved one, flower forms are available on the table in the church foyer, or you may contact the church office. The cost for flowers is \$30.00. Checks should be made payable to St. James Church. Please write "Altar Flowers" on the memo line of your check. The check can be placed in the Offering plate or dropped off at the office.



**NOTE: There are No Altar Flowers during Lent.**



On the First Sunday of the month, during our worship service, Rev. Sarah will consecrate the Host that will be distributed to the residents of Coral Springs Nursing Home on every other Monday of each month.

## OUR YOUNG PEOPLE

To submit exciting details of your Young Person's achievements, please email information (and, if you desire, a picture) to [martilarue828@gmail.com](mailto:martilarue828@gmail.com). Please know that by sending us a picture, you will be authorizing and agreeing to have your youth's picture appear in our newsletter.

## FUNDRAISER EVENT

### **WILLIAMS SYNDROME ASSOCIATION**

Check out the *Bender Twins' Team fundraising page!*

Click on the link below for more information and to donate to this wonderful Association on behalf of Samantha and Autumn! (If you are unable to open the link below, copy and paste into your URL.)



<https://events.williams-syndrome.org/team/500609>

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### **THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:**

Life has two rules: #1 - never quit! and #2 - always remember Rule #1.

– Duke Ellington

## CALENDAR

**FEBRUARY 11 – MARCH 17, 2024**

### **Sunday, February 11 - BISHOP'S VISIT**

Choir Rehearsal – 9:00 a.m.

Worship Service – 10:00 a.m.

**Shrove Sunday Pancake/Bacon or Sausage/Strata in Parish Hall  
Sweethearts' Day – Pictures on display during Breakfast**

### **Wednesday, February 14**

#### **ASH WEDNESDAY - LENT BEGINS**

Prayers for Imposition of Ashes 11:00 a.m.

Service (with music) 12:00 noon

Service (with music) 5:00 p.m.

### **Sunday, February 18**

Choir Rehearsal – 9:00 a.m.

Worship Service – 10:00 a.m.

#### **Viewing of “The Chosen” (Part 1 of 4)**

– **Parish Hall** – Light snacks

### **Wednesday, February 21**

Bible Study – 10:00 a.m. – Lounge

### **Sunday, February 25**

Choir Rehearsal – 9:00 a.m.

Worship Service – 10:00 a.m.

#### **Viewing of “The Chosen” (Part 2 of 4)**

– **Parish Hall** – Light snacks

### **Wednesday, February 28**

Bible Study – 10:00 a.m. – Lounge

### **Sunday, March 3**

Choir Rehearsal – 9:00 a.m.

Worship Service – 10:00 a.m. \*\*

#### **Viewing of “The Chosen” (Part 3 of 4)**

\*\*The Healing Mass will be part of the Worship Service to allow for the **Viewing of “The Chosen” (Part 3 of 4), which will be shown in the Parish Hall.** Light snacks provided.

### **Wednesday, March 6**

Bible Study – 10:00 a.m. in Lounge

### **Sunday, March 10**

Choir Rehearsal – 9:00 a.m.

Worship Service – 10:00 a.m.

#### **Viewing of “The Chosen” (Part 4 of 4)**

– **Parish Hall** – Light snacks

### **Wednesday, March 13**

Bible Study – 10:00 a.m. – Lounge

### **Sunday, March 17**

Choir Rehearsal – 9:00 a.m.

Worship Service – 10:00 a.m.

**Vestry Meeting** – immediately following worship service – Lounge



## A Prayer for Ukraine

God of peace and justice,  
we pray for the people of Ukraine today.



We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons.

We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow, that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them.

We pray for those with power over war or peace, for wisdom, discernment and compassion to guide their decisions.

Above all, we pray for all your precious children, at risk and in fear, that you would hold and protect them.

We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace.

Amen.

*Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby  
Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell*

## Prayer in the Midst of Violence

Lord, in our shock and confusion, we come before you in our grief and despair in the midst of hate, in our sense of helplessness in the face of violence,

We lean on you.

For the families of those who have been killed, we pray.

For the shooters – *help* us to pray, Lord.

For the communities that have lost members, their anger, grief, fear, We pray.

For the churches striving to be your light in darkness beyond comprehension,

We pray.

Lord of all, gather us up – your creatures, your world and bring an end to the violence.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Amen.

*Taken from “Prayer for mass violence” by  
Grace Claus written for faithward*

## Prayer for Refugees

O Lord God, you led your people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land.

Guide us now so that, following your Son, we may walk alongside vulnerable refugee families as they build a new life in the county of your love and mercy. Amen.

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## ST. JAMES VESTRY



**Sr. Warden:** George McDowell

**Jr. Warden:** Tina Geist

**Christian Education Chair:** Tina Geist

**Finance:** George McDowell and Tina Geist

**Outreach Chairs:** Dawn Martinez and Janice Fischbach

**Pastoral Care Chairs:** Dawn Martinez and Marti LaRue

**Property Chairs:** Tom Reilly and Andi Bender

**Hospitality/Fellowship Chairs:** Marti LaRue and Carol Hall

**Worship Chairs:** John Grim and Dawn Martinez

**Recording Secretary:** Marti LaRue

**Clerk of the Vestry:** Janice Fischbach

**ST. JAMES PRAYER LIST** – Please use this Prayer List and include the following people in your daily prayers. Names will remain on the prayer list for one month. If you want to keep someone on the list, add, or remove anyone, please email ( [stjamesnew@verizon.net](mailto:stjamesnew@verizon.net) ) or call the church office (302) 994-2029.

Abigail	Cullen Kate Deal	Joshua John	Mike Pierce
Alan	Frank Dean	Sister Julian	John Pumphrey & Family
Alethia	Diana and Pevan	Carolyn Karney & Family	The Pat Purdy Family
Alex	Rose DelliGatti	Juanita Kavanaugh	Reese
Allysa	Henry Diaz	Kathy	Neil Reilly
Amy	John DiOrio	Melvin Kessler	The Rev. Reuben Rodriguez
Andrienne	Ross Donovan	Kiara	Aaron Richers
Anna	Deborah Earley	Ritchie Kinlaw	The Roche Family
Anne	Vern Earley	Kira	The Family of Fr. Ruben Rodriguez
Christina Azwol	Patti Edwards & Family	Sara Kirk	Roy
Tony Andres	Penny Edwards	Susan Kriznuski	Emily Ruggieri
Sage Andrews	Carol Edwards & Family	Marti & Ron LaRue	Henry Saffer
Barbara	Ellie Rose	Laura	Sally
Scott Battaglia	Eli	John Lewis	Daniel Sanchez
Seth Bayless	Eric	Liam	Gabriela Santiago
Jim Bender	Janice Fischbach	Lilly	Mike Scarpetti
Trish Bender Bayless	George Fischbach	Lois	Scott
Jeff Biscoe	Mary Ellen	Allen Luckey	Carmen Scott
Bobbie Blevins	Kira Fix	Cindy & Dave Mahoney	Richard Scott
Eileen Borders	John & Harriet Flynn	Mallory	The Francis Scott Family
Barry Boulden	John	Marie Marcinkowski	Maria Perdikis
Paula Boulden	Joan Frati	The Martinez Family	Mike PierceSeth
Myrle Bowe	Ginny	Mary Helen	Linda Sheesley
Ronald Boyce	Diane Geist	Jude Matejkovic	The Slocomb Family
Doris Brown	Fred Geist	Melvin	Earlene Smith
Charles Brown	Gerike Family: Adam, Lindsey, & Oliver	Missy	Dan Sommers
Eleanot Buchanan	Glenn	Carmen Moore	Kenny Stafford
Crystal Bush	The Gracie Family	Shirley Moore	Dorothy Stephens
Douglas Bush	Brittney Griffin	Ann Moses	Steve
David Butters	Scott Gunn	Jay Muckle	Gavin Stiteler
Fran Pearlman-Butters	Carolyn Halfen	Randy Murray	Paula Szczuka
Cameryn	Ike Hammond	Sara Musselman	The Sztokiewicz Family:
Caroleen	Lindsey Hammond	Natalie	Joanna, Michael,
Carolyn	Amy & Rick Harra	Maren Nelson	Hannah, Charles
KayMaire Castro	Major Scott M. Harra	The Rev. Sarah Nelson	Thomas
Cathy	Nancy Hoffman	Sue Nelson	
Wayne Chapman, Jr.	Travis Hoffman	Nicholas	
Chris	Holly	Noah	
Cindy	Eileen Hughes	Cassandra Norsworthy	
The Clapp Family		Paula Orty	

Linda Clark Clint Bill Cole Brittany Collins Christina Conaway Presiding Bishop Michael Curry Daisy Dave	Peter Huiner and Family Kaylee Jackson Jennifer Jenna & John Jeremy Jim Joan Joe	Mark Parton Terri Parton Debbie Papa Madeline Pepe & Children Pat The Pease Family Maria Perdikis	Lorayne Titter Jack Tucker Shon Tucker Tyler Jack Betty Ann VanHekle Preston VanHekle III Mary Wade Nancy Walls Valerie Warrington Missy Wieland Andy & Linda Wolf
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**For those serving our country:** National Guard: Terron Barnes, Brad Pastore, Christina Pastore; U.S. Army: Maj. Scott M. Harra. *Give grace, O Lord, to our brothers and sisters in Christ who suffer physically and emotionally, that they may be healed. Grant them trust and love that their prayers may be answered and that they may be relieved from their suffering. Amen.*

Rev. 02/10/24