
the Messenger

May, 2009

A newsletter of the Parish of St. John's in the Village

224 Waverly Place, New York, NY 10014 212/243-6192 Fax: 212-604-0688

[www: stjvny.org](http://www.stjvny.org)

Sunday Eucharist at 8:00 & 11:00 am; M-F: Morning Prayer at 8:00 am; M, W, F: Eucharist at 6:15 pm

Coming Up In May

May 6, 13 & 27 (No Class on the May 20th)	Easter Class Series - 7:00 pm
June 3	
May 7, 14, 21	Thursdays with the Old Testament - 4:00 pm
May 15 - 17	Retreat - Holy Cross Monastery
May 17	Animal Blessing and Bake Sale
May 17	AIDS Walk New York
May 20	Soharmonium's Concert
May 30	Schola Cantorum on Hudson - Space, Light & Discovery
May 31	Missa Brevis St. Joannis de Deo - Haydn Mass - 11:000 am

From the Rector's Desk

Dear friends,

I write to remind you of some things outlined elsewhere in *the Messenger*:

Sunday, May 17
Animal Blessing & Bake Sale

Wednesday, May 6 & 13
Wednesday, May 27 and June 3
Easter Class Series

Friday, May 15 - Sunday, May 17
Parish Retreat - Holy Cross Monastery

Thursday, June 11
Feast of Corpus Christi and Parish BBQ

Take a close look at each of these offerings and decide which things might be helpful for you as you celebrate Eastertide.

But the main topic of this letter is welcoming newcomers. The other day, one of the members of our evangelism committee told me about a couple who had come to church on a day when the liturgy was crowded and an interesting thing happened. While he was away from his seat in the nave, making his holy communion, one of the visitors took his place. Now, this could have been handled in several ways. I was delighted that the parishioner in question smiled at the visitor, told him he was glad to give over his place and went to sit elsewhere. Nice way to handle a point at

which a visitor could have been made to feel either very welcome or quite excluded.

Years ago, I saw something else happen at St. John's which was not handled nearly as well. A long time established parishioner was sitting in a chair with her bag and coat over the next chair. It was a crowded day, again, and a visitor approached the woman who had taken up two seats. Without looking at the visitor, the parishioner gave a dismissive wave of the hand, thus shooing the visitor off to another place. The visitor left.

It is nice to see things changing, especially things like this.

What can we do to make people feel welcome?

Wear your nametag! Yes, you know who you are, your friends know who you are, but the visitor whom you met two Sundays ago may just remember you as the nice blond lady with the rhinestone spectacles. It takes time to get names down, especially if you are faced with a great many of them at one time, and having nametags can help.

Keep an eye out at coffee hour for people standing alone. The clergy and the evangelism committee cannot do it all, and sometimes we get occupied with talking to others. It just works that way sometimes. And a visitor gets left standing alone holding a cup of cooling coffee and wondering if he should go home.

Introduce people to others. If you are with a visitor, and another established parishioner walks by, stop the other person and introduce him to the newcomer. This procedure is especially helpful if you introduce the visitor to someone with whom they might have something in common. But even if that is not the case, you can help a person to know two people where before they knew only one.

Be aware of the resources available in the church buildings. If someone asks for more information about the church, give them a copy of one of our brochures. *You are Welcome Here* is a good general introduction. If they have questions about worship, there are two or three tracts which explain things we do here. There is another tract which explains some of our community ministries, in which visitors are often interested.

The thing is this: You are a representative part of Christ's body the Church and your ministry, among other things, is to help people to find their way into church, help them come to be comfortable here, and, above all to be encouraging to them.

Faithfully,



Vestry Report

The Holy Week and Easter services this year were outstanding and well attended. The ushers and altar servers were always on their "marks", the flowers were just beautiful and all our clergy were superb.

The Easter I, 11:00 service, was packed partly due to our very first, very successful Easter Egg Hunt. Thanks to all who helped: Holly Shaw for the charming posters; Dina Mann, Jean Tucker, Mary Lou Scott and Sarah Blaies-Diamond for distributing flyers; Dina, Jean, and Sarah and Kai Johnson and the O'Shanskys for contributing "eggs" and "stuffings"; Heidi Cuddihy, Sam Chin, Ellen Wagner who helped with the stuffing, and the entire 8:00 a.m. congregation who actually "hid" the eggs. The Vestry is looking at ways to expand our outreach to families and children.

The Vestry Planning Conference is scheduled for June 6, and the next Vestry meeting has been re-scheduled to June 13.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON WITH THE OLD TESTAMENT

"Two Years Before the Earthquake: From Amos the Prophet to Amos the Book"

**Thursdays, May 7, 14, 21
4:00-5:00 pm**

In 760 B.C., a herdsman from the town of Tekoa in the Kingdom of Judah appeared at a shrine in the Kingdom of Israel and began to prophesy against the inhabitants of that Kingdom, beginning the process which culminated centuries later in the Book of Amos as we now have it. We shall examine the prophetic words of Amos himself, explore how and why these words, spoken in a specific time and place, were preserved and applied by the compilers of the Book of Amos, and discuss what the book, as we now have it, has to say.

Instructor: The Rev'd Richard W. Corney

CLASSES IN EASTERTIDE *How We Got the Bible*

**Two classes taught by Father Corney on
Wednesday evenings, May 6 & 13 at 7:00 pm.**

In recent years, there has been a lot of discussion about how the canon of scripture was formed. Most of us know that there is an apocrypha to the Old Testament, which consists of books and fragments which were not one of the major listings or "canons" of scripture. They contain things we know about, such as the Books of the Macabees, and the Wisdom of Solomon, and some

other things like the story of Bel and the Dragon with which we may be less familiar.

What were the standards used? What sort of interesting things were considered but not included? What can some of these books tell us about the formation of the Bible and the life of the Church today? What would happen if other books, unknown to us now, were to be discovered in the future?

Anglican Poets

John Donne and George Herbert

**Two classes taught by Father Prator on
Wednesday evenings, May 27 and June 3 at
7:00 pm.**

George Herbert lived from 1593 to 1633, attended Trinity College Cambridge where his classical scholarship and musical abilities, he played the flute and viola and sang, secured him a fellowship. He was public orator of the university. The death of his friend Nicholas Ferrar, who had established the first English religious order since the reformation, led him to theology and he became a priest in 1630. His collection of poems, called the Temple, was written on his deathbed and dedicated to his friend Ferrar.

John Donne was one of the most remarkable poets and preachers of the 17th century. He is one of the finest poets of the metaphysical school. While his poetry is subtle, symbolic and nuanced, careful study is repaid by a grasp of unusual imagery and spiritual insight. After a tumultuous early adulthood, he became the dean of St. Paul's Cathedral in London. His Hymn to God the Father and the

Holy Sonnets are among his most famous works.

We will examine some of the poetry and discuss its imagery and its implicit theology and symbolism. Students in the class will be asked to read a few poems in advance of each class, but not a huge amount of reading will be expected.

AIDS Walk New York - May 17

I've heard some refer to it as the "spiritual highlight" of their year. It is certainly like no other day. **AIDS Walk New York** takes place every year, rain or shine, the third Sunday of May. It is a 10k fundraising walk in Central Park that draws approximately 45,000 participants and last year raised more than \$7,000,000 in total to support the services provided by Gay Men's Health Crisis and other AIDS service organizations in the tri-state area. Since the walk began in 1985, concerned Episcopalians have participated in this funding and awareness effort. In 2000 an informal coalition of local parishes was formed, calling itself **Episcopal Response to AIDS (ERA)**, and began walking as a team, deriving great energy and fellowship from one another. The group soon grew significantly, incorporated, and in 2006 was granted 501(c)(3) charitable status, with St. John's parishioners Suzanne Culhane and Gerry Dilley helping to start-up the organization; Suzanne remains on the Board of Directors. Through the Community Partner Program of the AIDS Walk, ERA is now able to retain 75% of the support raised through the AIDS

Walk, with funds later granted to AIDS ministries of Episcopal faith communities in the dioceses of New York, Newark and Long Island, through a competitive RFP process that begins in September and culminates on December 1, World AIDS Day, with the announcement of grant awards.

On walk day (May 17, 2009), we gather in Central Park at approximately 8:00 am. Many arrive wearing the faux crowns they have received in recognition of their diligent fundraising, or carrying other incentive gifts they've just picked up in the sign-in area. Over the years we have gotten to know some of the constant participating parishes and it is a delight to catch up with old friends. We also make new friends, and have begun wearing name tags – a team of 150 walkers is enormous! Through a mix of clergy who serve on the ERA Board and other volunteers, we commence with a simple Eucharist. This year, The Reverend Michael Sniffen will celebrate, and The Reverend Mary Foulke will preach. We use a tray table as a mobile altar, stand in the grass, sing a cappella, speak aloud the names of those we remember at the prayers of the people, and bless each walker for the rigorous day ahead. We have a brief coffee klatch, disseminate goodies, take pictures, and then begin our scenic six-mile journey through Central Park.

Along the way we encounter lively entertainment – string quartets, bands, Broadway characters, professional cheering groups. We consume obscene amounts of sugar via snacks provided just about every mile – ice cream, candy, granola bars,

Gatorade – and lots of water. We talk with many of our own team members – we learn about the current life of their parishes and gain some ideas along the way. We also strike-up conversations with strangers. Many begin with questions like "What was her name?" or "How old was she?" prompted by the emotional photos that many walkers carry with them or the names of loved ones written on the backs of their t-shirts. Babies, mothers, jubilant men, seniors. The diverse crowd of walkers reflects the diverse affected – there are students, infants in strollers, couples of all kinds, seniors, the disabled. And there are always memorable moments. Like the time somebody noticed the ERA name and wanted to know if as a gay person he could come to our Church. There was the time we had forgotten water and a GAP team member personally searched high and low for an unopened bottle when I explained that we needed it for the Eucharist. The couple who arrived at the end of Mass and was shocked to be offered Holy Communion – one later told me he hadn't been to Church in years but was there with his partner, and couldn't believe how welcoming we were. There are the passersby who just quietly stand in awe and curiosity watching as we celebrate the Eucharist. It is all almost too overwhelming. The mile markers seem to fly by and we finish the walk around Noon and usually adjourn to brunch – we have worked up quite an appetite! After the meal we hug strongly and say our goodbyes, some until next year. We arrive home completely physically exhausted, retire for a bath, or nap, or foot massage, and go to

sleep that night with our bodies feeling heavy against the sheets. As we drift off the alarming statistics linger in our minds. There are 1 million people living with HIV in the United States. African Americans account for half of all HIV cases diagnosed. Half of new infections occur in people 25 years old or younger. Women account for 27% of new AIDS diagnoses. We close our eyes knowing that we have done our part in the continued fight against the pandemic.

The 2008 ERA team consisted of 120 walkers representing 23 parishes and raised more than \$55,000. Grants were later awarded to HIV/AIDS programs of the following organizations:

Angel Food East (Kingston, NY)

The Archdeacons of Brooklyn and Queens

Ascension Outreach, Inc. (New York)

Jersey City Episcopal Community Development Corporation

The Order of the Holy Cross (West Park, NY)

Misión San Juan Bautista (Bronx, NY)

St. Mark's Episcopal Church (Queens, NY)

St. John's Church in the Village (New York)

The Church of St. Luke in the Fields
(New York)

St. Peter's By-the-Sea Episcopal
Church (Bay Shore, NY)

As you might imagine, governmental support for social services has been drastically reduced recently, in many cases leaving faith-based programs to fill the service gap. Now more than ever our work is needed. In 2009 our goals are to have 150 walkers and to raise \$70,000. We have nine walkers from St. John's currently registered:

Robert Arlequin
Tim Boos
Sammy Chin
Suzanne Culhane
Kyle DeBlasio
Gerry Dilley
Winston George
Fred Harrity
Dina Mann

Please keep us in your prayers on May 17, offer some words of encouragement and if you can sponsor us at www.aidswalk.net. You may direct any questions to Suzanne Culhane at suzculhane@yahoo.com.

THANK YOU!

Walk in love as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

**Parish Retreat
Holy Cross Monastery.
West Park, New York**

Friday - Sunday, May 15-17, 2009

The Order of the Holy Cross is a monastic community for men, in the Benedictine tradition, and they are known for the generosity of their hospitality, richness of their musical and liturgical traditions and beauty of their house overlooking the Hudson River in Ulster County. The brothers sing the daily office each day to the traditional Gregorian chant and their other liturgies are quiet, elegant and simple. Visit them at www.holycrossmonastery.com

The cost of the retreat is \$170.00, including two nights accommodations, and six meals. The food is excellent and many of the customary dietary restrictions are honored. This price represents very good value for the money, but the parish does not want anyone to fail to attend because of financial inability. Some limited funds have been set aside to assist those who find the cost of the retreat more than they can easily accommodate. If you wish to apply for such help, please have a confidential discussion with Father Prator. The parish retreat is a silent retreat. We drop into the life cycle of a monastic community, consisting of prayer, meals and time for study. There are four celebrations of the Daily Office, the church's daily round of prayer arising from monastic communities such as this one and reflecting the traditions of the Book of Common Prayer. Anglican tradition has much of its origin in the religious life of the orders and communities for men and women.

A sign-up sheet is posted in the Common Room.

**The 32nd Annual Blessing of the Animals and Bake Sale
Sunday, May 17 at 3:00 - 4:00 pm
in St. Benedict's Courtyard
(enter at 222 W. 11th Street)**

Most churches in New York City bless animals on St. Francis Day in the Fall. However, St. John's in the Village blesses our animal friends on Rogation Sunday. This year Rogation Sunday is May 17th. We bless the animals as a sign of our care for God's creation. In the Genesis story of creation, we were given dominion over creation, not mere domination but a responsibility for the animals, the plants, and indeed the whole earth. We have a sacred trust as co-creators with God.

We need bakers and sellers for both the 11:00 Service and the 3:00 Animal Blessing. Posters and flyers are in the works, but will need distributing. We will also need someone to help with Evangelism publicity and raffle ticket sales. Is anyone interested in baking homemade dog biscuits?

Please contact Fred Harrity for further information.

What exactly is Rogation Day?

Rogation Day has an interesting history. Rogation Days, traditionally the Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday before Ascension

Day, but extended to include the Sunday before, were, in medieval England, the time when the parish clergy went out and beat the bounds of the parish, praying for crops, herds and a productive harvest. In recent years, these days have become of interest to those concerned with ecology and preservation of the natural order. Most of us do not have a responsibility for crops and herds, but many of us live with animals (some having four legs) and so this day became associated in our parish with the blessing of pets and other domestic animals.

Our animals are important to us. Some hospitals invite trained pets into their wards and rooms, having observed that patients who play with and pet animals tend to recover more quickly. Many people rely upon service animals to assist in overcoming disabilities. For many others, our animals are our main connection to creation, other than the occasional potted plant. Having an animal for whom we care is a reminder that we similarly are called to care for all the created order because we are called to be stewards of creation. Although many parishes bless animals on St. Francis' Day, we keep Rogation Day because it connects us to an interesting English tradition and because during Eastertide, we are already giving thanks for God's new creation in the resurrection of Jesus which celebrates the restoration and renewal of all life. The animal blessing is held in St. Benedict's Courtyard, a delightful interior garden space within the St. John's Close.

This year we will be blessing any pets brought to us as long as they are alive--no blessing of ashes or stuffed animals, please! We will also not be able to bless any animal who cannot be

present--pictures or proxies are not sufficient. Otherwise, all animals are welcomed here, as are their friends, the humans.

SPRING RAFFLE

Jeanne Morrow, a well-known village artist with the Abingdon Square Painters, has generously donated one of her beautiful framed watercolors. Tickets will go on sale for \$5 each beginning May 17. They will be available at the Blessing of the Animals, and with the Vestry person on call at succeeding Sunday coffee hours. The raffle will be held at the Corpus Christi barbeque on June 11.

Urgent!

We are desperately in need of help bringing parishioner Jimmy Lou to church on Sunday. It is a blessing and a privilege to help in this valuable ministry. Perhaps, consider it a part of your Lenten service. Please contact Pam Brown, Beth Rake, or Stuart Brier. Instructions/assistance will be cheerfully provided.

Haydn Mass

Missa Brevis St. Joannis de Deo

Scheduled for Sunday, May 31

11:00 am Service

On Sunday, May 31 the St. John's choir will be accompanied by strings and organ. While singing a Haydn mass during the 11:00 am service. The Missa brevis St. Joannis de Deo is also known as the Little Organ Mass due to an extended organ solo in the Benedictus. In this missa brevis the text is

shortened by having all four parts sing different words simultaneously in the Gloria. In addition, the missa brevis requires only two violins and cello – no viola part. This is sometimes called the Vienna church trio. Haydn probably wrote this work in 1775 for a convent in Eisenstadt.

Space, Light and Discovery

Schola Cantorum on Hudson

2009 marks the 400th anniversary year of Galileo's first gazing into the heavens through his new invention, the telescope. Exploration, discovery, and expansion beyond historical boundaries form the basis of what will be Schola's first-ever multimedia presentation – not to be missed.! Music by Barber, Dello Joio, Tichelli and others.

Sunday, May 17 at 4:00 pm

St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Jersey City

Friday, May 29 at 8:00 pm

Ramsey First Presbyterian Church, Ramesey

Saturday, May 30 at 8:00 pm

St. Malachy's Church - The Actors' Chapel, Manhattan

For more information see Gordon King or Andrew Jones.

Chiara Rosa Gleeson Manalo

On April 8th, the office received an e-mail from Terry Manalo with the great news that he and his partner The Rev'd Terrence Gleeson have adopted a baby girl, Chiara Rosa Gleeson Manalo. Chiara was born on March 28th weighing in at a bouncing 5 lbs., 6 oz. She is a Philadelphia girl so Terry and Dennis now have their very own Philadelphia Story!

SOHARMONIUM'S SPRING CONCERT

If enjoyed their holiday concert, you'll *love* this women's 30 voice choral group's spring presentation of religious, folk and jazz!

Wednesday, May 20, 2008 - 8:00 pm

Church of the Holy Trinity

316 East 88th Street

Approximately 1 hour long.

Free. Refreshments following.

See Pam Brown for details.

People Here and There

by Jeanne Sutton

Easter is over and spring is slowly on its way. The flowers and trees are beginning to bloom. However, the weather is still cool.

This time of the year is often one of graduation ... The Rev'd Deacon Mary B. Gregorius will graduate from General Theological Seminary in May. Her ordination to the priesthood will be September 19th. She thanks St. John's for support and encouragement and asks us to keep her in our prayers ... Dan Weick will graduate from the New York University Law School in May. Congratulations to both of you!

In May, John Singler will go to Owensville, KY to see his friend's daughter Precious, graduate. She will be attending the Wagner School at NYU in the fall. In June John leaves for Africa for four months where he will be teaching in Ghana and Liberia ... In April Holly Rose Diane Shaw's poetry was

part of an exhibit at the Jefferson Market branch of the New York Public Library.

There have been some other adventures. Pat Cheek was walking with his dog. Suddenly he heard the sound of the wind through the trees. He looked up and realized the tree was about to fall. Some quick thinking and fast moving saved both he and the dog from harm. Luckily there weren't too many branches! We're glad you both are all right ... Tom Sergott was interviewed by CBS about the rehearsal of several Handel compositions at Avery Fisher Hall. He mentioned that you can buy tickets at reduced cost for morning rehearsals of the orchestra. This is one of the inexpensive ways to enjoy New York ... Tina Barth won the President's prize at the Quilting Exhibition at FIT for her sampler.

Happy Birthday:

May	16 th	Jay Campbell
May	18 th	Kyle DeBlasio
May	22 nd	Martha Ainsworth
May	26 th	Parveen Sondhi

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