



The Missionary

The Monthly Newsletter of

St. James Episcopal Church

West Bend, Wisconsin

January /February 2021

From Mother Maureen

The divine reading of the holy Gospel explains to those who love it zealously what sufferings they must undergo on account of it. The Word comes down from heaven and teaches them ineffable things. Maximus the Confessor

This morning, while cleaning my two bathrooms, I had a glorious epiphany about privilege and how privileged Americans need to take back that word and make it clean.

I decided to think about privilege in terms of Paul's message to the Corinthians regarding the eating of meat sacrificed to idols. The gist of his answer is that we should not allow our actions to imperil other people's understanding of the Gospel and their relationship with Jesus Christ. We should take the lower seat, the humble position, eat the lentils; in effect, live our lives as Jesus taught us, for the sake of others.

How does this relate to privilege, though? Paul was addressing Christians who are strong in the faith. We might think of the strong as privileged. I was curious about the history of the word and wondered if it might have something to do with privacy, and it turns out that it does. Privilege comes from the Latin root words for private and law.

Privilege, when used negatively, applies to someone who follows a law all their own, and does not hold themselves to the same expectations that others are held to. But I think we can use privilege to also mean someone whose obligations are higher than the obligations of others. Someone who is operating from such a place of strength that they can easily follow the hard path or take on greater risk and responsibility.

God told Jeremiah that he would write his law on our hearts so that we should not forget. Is the law of God not then a privilege? A law written inwardly, a product of the regenerative power of our baptism? Christians, having the law of God written onto our

hearts, by definition, are privileged.

Privilege thus understood is God's invitation to participate with him in the divine economy. Divine economy does have a few things in common with how we generally use the term. Economy any kind is about the circulation of stuff and the management of that circulation.

However, there is one big difference: the economy of God is an economy of abundance, not scarcity. Everything that is needful for a good life has been provided. There is no need for hunger, addiction, homelessness, loneliness, disease, ignorance, violence, or greed. These destructive circumstances are the outcome of our inability to see the abundance provided for all humankind through the economy of God. They are also the result of a toxic understanding of privilege, that somehow we have earned what we have and this makes us special and above the law of human kind and the law of God.

Those of us who find ourselves in a privileged position in life, (and let's face it, if you have running water, a clean bed and physical privacy, you are privileged), need to learn to see privilege as God's invitation to actively participate in his economy. We are invited to see the world through the lens of abundance.

All this, while scrubbing toilets! I realized that not only do I have two toilets, but I have the opportunity to choose exactly what kind of cleaning products I would like to use. When filling the hand soap dispenser I recognized that I get to choose exactly which scented product I want to wash my hands with.

When I hung up a clean hand towel I remembered that it was a gift from a friend. Then I looked down and was reminded that the bath mat was the one I used in my apartment at seminary. My bathroom is a sea of overwhelming abundance. I hadn't even gotten upstairs to the full bath yet, but when I did, God reminded me that someone had chosen that beautiful

Joyfully Proclaiming, Living, and Sharing Christ's Love

shower curtain for me. Abundance and privilege were all around me.

Now, I cannot take a bathroom out of the Rectory and give it away to someone who needs a bathroom, but I can take my privilege seriously and understand that God has invited me to participate with him and that everything that I see is a gift from God, some of it for my use, but most of what has been entrusted to me was done so that I might generously distribute it to others. Everything we have comes from God, only some of it is meant for us.

Another way in which we are becoming privileged in the United States is through the distribution of COVID vaccines. Some of this privilege is a good thing as vaccines make it into the arms of health care workers and older people. Some of this privilege is toxic as wealthy nations, including our own, fight over who gets what and use their superior buying power to outbid poorer nations in the fight to get the vaccine. It appears that scarcity rules the day, not abundance.

But must it be this way? If wealthier nations understood their privilege doesn't mean they should get the vaccine first, but that they have the strength to wait, to keep on masking, and to insure that the poor are vaccinated first, then we would see the divine economy of abundance in action. Given the fallen nature of humanity, this is unlikely to happen.

How then should we act at the local level as partners in the divine economy? Get your vaccine and thank God for it. Have you had access to testing? A government that has tried to protect you with mandates, financial relief, protections from eviction? Thank God for all this too, it is like money in the bank in terms of getting you through this pandemic in one piece.

In addition to gratitude we have choices to make about what kind of privilege we have and how we exercise our gratitude muscles this year. If our privilege is Christian privilege then God's Law, summarized by Jesus in this way, "Love the Lord your God with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no greater commandment than these.", should govern how we go forward. Be strong and give generously to those who are not enjoying the same safety we are at this moment. God has entrusted us to take our part in feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, and protecting the innocent. Divine participation is God's desire for us; to walk in

love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.



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Episcopal Relief and Development continues to do their work in our world. Please join me in making a generous donation to their work either by writing a check addressed to St James with ERD on the memo line and sending it to the office, or going to their webpage and donating directly.

<https://www.episcopalrelief.org/what-you-can-do/give/donate-now/individual-donation/>

## Senior Warden's Report

I feel truly blessed to be member of St. James as we have just come through the Advent and Christmas seasons. While the world is shut down, we at St. James had many opportunities to worship together. The church was beautifully decorated inside and out. On December 23rd the church was open for Lessons and Carols and it was beautiful. There were lessons and pictures around the church. Candles were lit, one for each family, on the alter rail and amazing hymns were being played. This was well attended and many safety precautions were in place. This will be an annual tradition and I hope those of you that missed it this year will be able to take part next year. Lessons and Carols is truly a celebration to look forward to. Christmas services were held on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day and those too were well attended, both in the parking lot and online. I want to thank Mother Maureen, Margaret Draeger, Stephanie and David, Jenna Martin, Alter Guild, Jim Noren and Tom Wagner for making this service possible.



148 South 8th Avenue  
West Bend, WI 53095  
262-334-4242  
[www.stjameswb.org](http://www.stjameswb.org)

Sunday Services:  
10:00 AM  
Streaming on Facebook .

## Treasurer's Report Through December 31, 2020

|                           | Actual           | Budgeted         |
|---------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Year to Date Income       | \$ 130,048       | \$ 112,100       |
| Support from Diocese      | 11,667.          | 35,000           |
| Drawn from Investments    | 0.00             | 52,918           |
| Total Income              | <b>\$141,715</b> | <b>\$200,018</b> |
| Year to Date all Expenses | \$ 139,908       | \$ 200,018       |

### Operations Investment income through December 31, 2020

|                         |            |
|-------------------------|------------|
| Opening Balance, Oct.31 | \$ 121,542 |
| Deposits                | 0          |
| Investments Earnings    | \$ -315    |
| Balance, Nov.27         | \$ 121,227 |



### February Birthdays

01 Kevin Carsner  
02 Ava Lang  
04 Margie Florez  
07 Tom Rogers  
15 Eliza Casper  
16 Pam Sheppard  
21 Mary Janisch  
25 Jim Scott  
25 Laurie Wagner  
27 Steve Scott  
28 Kathy Michaels

### Anniversaries

14 Mary and Rich Miller



## Junior Warden's Report

In the last month, one of the classrooms in the basement has been cleaned and painted. The room is going to be turned into a Warden's office. This will give us an opportunity to get all of the church records in one place. The records are scattered through out the church and sometimes hard to get at.

We still needing to fill the position of Jr. Warden, please search your heart and consider the position. Let a member of the vestry or Mother Maureen know if you are interested. Joan Noren's term ends at the end of this month.

## The Blessing of the St. James Cupboard



On Sunday afternoon December 13<sup>th</sup>, Mother Maureen and members of our youth blessed the cupboard. The children all brought supplies and placed them in the cupboard for any who would want or need them.

There are nine members of the parish who will keep watch over the cupboard and stock it. If anyone else would like to help out also, please let Joan Noren know. ([joannoren04@gmail.com](mailto:joannoren04@gmail.com))

The cupboard has been getting used so please keep your donations coming.



*...for I was hungry and you gave me food...*

Mathew 25:35

St. James is helping to feed the hungry in our community...



The St. James Cupboard, is accessible for anyone who needs food. The cupboard is located outside the lower entrance on Walnut St. We will need food to fill it. Because the cupboard will be outside, only non-perishables that can withstand freezing and thawing for the winter months will be in the cupboard at this time. If you would like to contribute, here are some suggestions:

- Noodles or any type of pasta
- Pudding or Jell-O mixes
- Hamburger helper
- Rice or other grains
- Cereal and cereal bars
- Fruit snacks and raisins
- Anything freeze-dried
- Soaps or toothpaste and tooth brushes
- Toilet tissue and facial tissue
- Bread
- Potato chips and other snack foods
- Hot chocolate mix , powdered milk, or any powdered drink mix

If you can donate any of these items, it will be greatly appreciated. Please bring them to church on Sunday and give them to the ushers. You can also drop them off at church during office hours. (Monday and Thursdays 10:00 am until 2:00 pm).

Volunteers are needed to stock and check the cupboard. If you are interested or have any questions call Joan Noren at (262)-626-4034 or on my cell at (262)-323-6583.

# February 2021

## The Week of February 1-7

Monday Feb 1,  
Office Open 10:00 AM –2:00Pm

Thursday, Feb 4  
Office Open 10:00 AM –2:00Pm

Sunday Feb 7,  
Facebook Stream Service 10AM

## The Week of February 8-14th

Monday, Feb. 8th  
Office Open 10:00 AM –2:00PM

Thursday Feb. 11th  
Office Open 10:00 AM –2:00PM

Sunday, Feb. 14th  
Facebook Stream Service 10AM

## The Week of February 15th-21st

Monday, Feb 15th  
Office Open 10:00 AM –2:00PM

Thursday Feb. 18th  
Office Open 10:00 AM –2:00PM

Sunday, Feb. 21st  
Facebook Stream Service 10AM

## The Week of February 22-28

Monday, Feb. 22nd  
Office Open 10:00 AM –2:00PM

Thursday Feb 25th  
Office Open 10:00 AM –2:00PM

Sunday, Feb. 28th  
Facebook Stream Service 10AM

## Lay Ministry Schedule

(\*note at this time readers are not being used but are listed here for information only )

### Sunday, February 7

\*Reader: Terry Driscoll  
Ushers: Jim Noren  
Frank Monroe

### Sunday, February 14

\*Reader: Mary Driscoll  
Ushers: Jim Noren  
Bob Flath

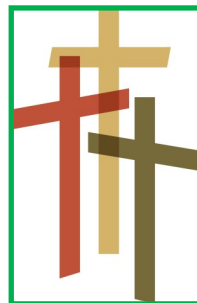
### Sunday, February 21

\*Reader: Betty Kendgia  
Ushers: Jim Noren  
Don Rabe

### Sunday, February 28

\*Reader: Sue Opelt  
Ushers: Jim Noren  
Tom Wagner

## Our Mission:



*Saint James Episcopal Church in West Bend, Wisconsin, exists to proclaim the Gospel and live the Word; to promote spiritual wellbeing and growth; to come together as a family to worship God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit; and to be a reflection of God's love in our community.*



## THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF MILWAUKEE

### Episcopal Church Foundation Resources for Parishes

A Message to Leaders in the Church from the  
Episcopal Church Foundation president....

Dear Friends,

The beginning of a new year is usually filled with energy, excitement and enthusiasm. While we are all relieved that 2020 is over and encouraged by the promise of the vaccine, we enter 2021 with uncertainty, anxiety and a sense of loss. For many of us the holidays were an incredibly lonely time, away from family and friends and unable to celebrate together in community. Each of us has been negatively impacted in some way by the turbulence of the past several months.

As we confront the reality of a long, hard winter, how can we look to the future with hope and even joy? I find comfort in the words from Psalm 121:

*"The Lord shall preserve you from all evil; it is he who shall keep you safe. The Lord shall watch over your going out and your coming in, from this time forth for evermore."*

What I find most troubling about these trying times is that we have all been thrust into a world of unknowns, especially in the Church. How do we worship when we can't be together? How can we be the Body of Christ when we are scattered? More...

**Being a Church in a Pandemic**

by Charis Bhagianathan

<https://www.ecfvp.org/vestry-papers/article/890/editors-letter-january-2021>

### From the Community



**WASHINGTON OZAUKEE  
PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

Information on Covid-19 Vaccines  
<http://www.washozwi.gov/Services/Communicable-Disease/COVID-19-Vaccination-Information>

Information Covid-19 testing  
<http://www.washozwi.gov/>

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Your West Bend Library offers thru the
Monarch Library system free classes online;
for more information:

<https://www.westbendlibrary.org/events/?eid=1118>

New Year, New Focus (Health/Stress Management)
<https://www.westbendlibrary.org/events/?eid=1152>



2020-2021 High School Scholarship Information
<https://www.west-bend.k12.wi.us/EHS/9872-2017-2018-Scholarship-Information.html>

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Wisconsin Home Energy Assistance Program  
(WHEAP)  
<http://homeenergyplus.wi.gov/category.asp?linkcatid=239>

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Wisconsin Spring Primary Voting
Tuesday February 16th, 2021



<https://myvote.wi.gov/en-us/>

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