



# The Missionary

The Monthly Newsletter of **St. James Episcopal Church**

West Bend, Wisconsin

December 2020

## From Mother Maureen

### Ourselves, Our Souls and Bodies

A dear friend of mine used to say with a smile in her eyes that she was living a Rite 1 life in a Rite 3 world. It is a good thing to live out of step with the secular world, to find oneself uncomfortable and yet wholly comforted by the love of Christ. This of course does not mean that we are to be haughty and self righteous, but that we are the children of the King of all Creation and our righteousness is in unity with him.

Part of being out of step with the secular world is to maintain a difference from it in our liturgy. When we speak to God we use special language reserved for our corporate conversations with him. We elevate ourselves in his presence because we love him and are filled with gratitude for everything he does in our lives. It has been this way for the people of God from time out of mind. For example, one of the reasons we sing in worship is because our regular speech, that which we use when going about our daily business, is just that, regular.

In our everyday lives we use different modes of speech for different contexts, and doing so in worship is natural also. Think how inappropriate it would be to address your boss in the same tone and with the same vocabulary you use when comforting a feverish child!

Or, think about how embarrassing it feels to call someone by the dog's name. There is a reason we do that though, which I like to think of as our brains having a filing system. The brain's filing system isn't to have a folder for pets and a folder for

children. It is a system which has a single folder for family members whom we love. We learn through doing who it is that we love and we have a space for them in our hearts and minds that is as separate for them as a file folder. Think about it, you have probably never called your dog by the boss's name, nor accidentally called the boss by the name of one of your children.

And so it is with God, we learn through doing, through the reading of scripture, which has its own language and cadence, and the actions of the liturgy, to keep a wide open space (calling it a file folder feels odd!) for him in our hearts in which he abides with us. We walk with him there and confide our troubles with him. We rejoice in our victories there with him as well. As Paul wrote to the Corinthians, "Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy that person. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple." (1 Cor. 3:16-17)

In addition to using elevated speech when talking to God in the liturgy, if it is our practice, we elevate the use of our bodies. We reserve for God the acts of kneeling, crossing oneself, and other forms of reverence for when we, his holy temples, come to worship him in the beauty of holiness. Ritual is natural for us because it is how God hard wired us to be. But ritual is flexible and we probably all interpret ritual actions differently from each other, depending on our personalities and experiences and stages in life.

My ritual practice is fairly traditional. Several of you have commented on how Catholic it looks. I have lots of reasons for doing what I do and thought I would share a little bit with you today. Some might ask why

*Joyfully Proclaiming, Living, and Sharing Christ's Love*

would a female priest, of all people, decide on such a traditional mode of saying the Mass? Is it not a form of betrayal to not keep up with the times? To not be in step with the ever changing demands of the secular world? After all, many traditionalists in the Church are opposed to the ordination of women, still, to this day. However, striving to keep in step with the wider world is not my goal, unity with Christ is.

I think the betrayal has come in the way we have thrown a lot of tradition out with the bath water. We have all known priests who take themselves too seriously and we probably all know individuals who have been harmed by these priests. The problem with toxic priests is not how they say or do the liturgy. Their behavior during Mass is tainted by their behavior more generally, and their ego and unrepentant sinfulness obscures what is going on during the liturgy, making intimacy with God and with the assembly much more difficult.

To talk about intimacy in worship might seem odd, but it is the most natural thing. Worship is participation in the mystery of God. During the Mass we engage in patterns of behavior that bring us into contact with the cosmic and sacred. For this purpose we elevate ourselves so that we might meet God half-way, in actions such as kneeling at the altar rail to receive his body and blood.

I do face away from the people towards God during the Mass, but not to exclude the people, and not because I think that I am better than others. Facing east, as it is commonly called, (*ad orientem*, for church nerds) is to face the same direction as the whole assembly. We all together bring ourselves to the Altar, presenting our selves, our souls and bodies in praise and thanksgiving.

For me, standing behind the Altar turns the Mass into something more closely resembling a cooking show or a trade fair product demonstration. It makes the role of the priest more administrative, as the priest presides rather than celebrates at the Eucharist. The altar stands between the priest and the people, cutting them off physically from each other.

We are not engaging in a re-enactment of Da Vinci's *Last Supper*, right?. Instead, we are drawing nearer to

God as he draws nearer to us and meets us in the Holy Mystery of the Eucharist. Standing in front of the altar the priest assumes a more humble role, serving God and serving the people. The priesthood is centered on participation in the life of God for and with the people in a very human and humble way, which I think is best represented by facing God with everyone else and making our offerings together.

Traditional postures in worship cause us to live out of step with the secular world, and that is a good thing. It reminds us that we are God's children and that we are walking, living, holy temples. As Paul wrote, we are meant to be "imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God." (Eph 5:1-2) Keep the smile in your eyes and know that I am twinkling behind my mask, loving my time here as a faithful servant to our servant community.

On a practical note, you might see me facing away more this week. In addition to serving a theological purpose, it also serves the purpose of projecting any molecules of virus that might be in my breath towards God and not towards my neighbor. Breathe on me breath of God? Yes, please! Breath of neighbor? No, thanks!



We are excited to keep up traditions of decorating the church and grounds for Christmas. Thank you to Mary Miller and her friend Judy ( who has joined us the last few weeks) for helping decorate the pots. I hope you like the crazy trees I made for those pots , this is a year for over the top. Thanks to Patty Pitroff for the bows to decorate.

This calendar is a suggestion of what we can do. If you are interested you can donate any or all of these items. These can be brought to church on Sundays or anytime during the week ( just let us know). We will stock our St. James cupboard, make boxes for struggling families and donate to the Full Shelf Food Pantry. Thank you in advance for your help.

St. James Reverse Advent Calendar 2020						
Please bring your donations for the previous week to service on Sunday. All donations will go to our new mission and other local charities.						
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
November			26 Rice	27 Canned Vegetable	28 hand/body lotion	29 Pack of Toilet Paper
November/ 30 December	1 Noodles	2 Pasta Sauce	3 Hand soap	4 Canned Fruit	5 Cooking oil (vegetable, canola, etc)	6 Kleenex
Box of Cereal						
7 Peanut (or other nut) Butter	8 Jelly	9 Deodorant	10 Basic Herb/Spice (salt, pepper, garlic, Italian Blend)	11 Body Soap	12 Condiment (ketchup, mustard, hot sauce)	13 \$5 to purchase fresh meat
14 Canned Beans	15 Toothpaste	16 Toothbrush	17 Juice	18 Canned soup	19 Shampoo	20 Conditioner
Helpful Hints	Buy whole grain when possible	Look for canned items without added salt	Get fruit packaged in natural juice	Not all homes have a can opener- look for jars or "pop" top covers	Buy 100% real fruit juice	



## Junior Warden's Report

On November 7<sup>th</sup>, another work party cleaned up around the church grounds. Thank you to Sandy and Frankie Aloita, Nadine and Frank Monroe, Tim Dubey, Carl Harris, Geri Kelly-Rabe, Tom Rogers, Sue Opelt and the Norens. Leaves were raked and hauled to the curb, gutters cleaned, and brush hauled away.

Please take notice of the large flower bed at the church entrance, Tom Rogers, Terry Driscoll, and Jim Noren cleaned made drainage improvements, removed several large tree stumps and filled the bed with dirt. It looks wonderful. Thank You.

In January, a new Jr. Warden will need to be installed. I have spoken to several people about the position and would like to hear from anyone else who may be interested in the position. The responsibilities include taking care of the grounds, the upkeep of the buildings, and identifying projects that may need to be done. There is a Building and Grounds Committee which helps to decide what and how things get done. Please call me at (262) 626-4034 or my cell (262) 323-6583 if you are interested in Jr. Warden or being on the Building and Grounds Committee.

Thank you, St. James, for all your support during my years as your Jr. Warden.

Joan Noren



*...for I was hungry and you gave me food...* Mathew 25:35

St. James Harvest House has ended. What is next for St. James? How can we go on feeding the hungry?



Our new project, St. James Cupboard, is installed. It is a pantry 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:

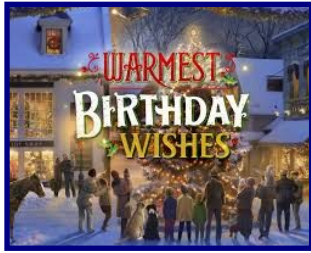
- Noodles or any type of pasta
- Pudding or Jell-O mixes
- Hamburger helper
- Rice or other grains
- Cereal and cereal bars
- Fruit snacks and raisins
- Anything freeze-dried
- Soaps or toothpaste and tooth brushes
- Toilet tissue and facial tissue
- Bread
- Potato chips and other snack foods
- Hot chocolate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

## December Birthdays

08 Alice Kegley  
 10 Paul Tarvin  
 15 Sophia Casper  
 19 Julie Maresh  
 20 Chris Lang  
 22 Betty Kendgia  
 23 Lyn Miller  
 23 Stevie Bransted  
 23 Jeanne Tarvin  
 30 Bill Schulze



## December Anniversaries

17 Paul & Jeanne Tarvin  
 27 Jim & Sue Opelt



### 2021 VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE WILL BE SENT OUT SOON!

Would you like to be included  
& help send out cards to parish-  
ioners on their birthdays and

anniversaries?

Each volunteer is responsible for one calendar month on a rotating basis with the other members of the group. Stamps, recipient names & dates of occasions are provided. (A limited supply of cards is available if you are unable to provide your own.)

Donations of funds and/or cards are also appreciated. To volunteer or if you have any questions, please contact: Sandy Aliota - 262-338-2485 (email: [forrest.aliota@charter.net](mailto:forrest.aliota@charter.net)) A BIG THANK YOU to our great group of current members for spreading little sunshine to our parish month by month.



### *Excerpts from the November 2020 Episcopal Diocese of Milwaukee - Haiti Project newsletter*

The Haiti Project has much to be grateful for. But now, more than ever, we need your help. Our legacy of bringing literacy and improved health to two generations of students and their families is in serious danger of ending. If we are unable to raise the funds needed to pay teachers and healthcare workers in Haiti and invigorate a new generation of workers and givers here at home, we will be unable to maintain our mission.

Through earthquakes, hurricanes, drought and famine, the Haiti Project has stood by the side of our Haitian brothers and sisters. Their prayers and faith sustain them, and God has worked through us to respond to their prayers. Each of us has the power to do something to lift ourselves out of our own concerns and despair by doing for others. We offer you the same opportunity to be the light of the world by sharing what you are able to; large, small and everything in between.

Our commitment to the community of St. Marc's is as strong as ever and the need is greater than ever. Please prayerfully consider your donation this year

Checks may be made out to "Haiti Project of Milwaukee" should be sent to:

Haiti Project  
 The Episcopal Diocese of Milwaukee  
 PO Box 511748  
 Milwaukee, WI 53203

Or

Donate on-line at [www.hatiprject.org](http://www.hatiprject.org)

Alice Kegley

# December 2020

## The Week of December 1-6

*Tuesday, Dec 1*  
Book Group 7:00 PM

*Thursday Dec 3*  
Office Open 10a-2p,  
Alpha Online 7:30PM

*Sunday, Dec 6 , Second Sunday of Advent*  
Facebook Stream Service 10AM

## The Week of December 7-13

*Monday, Dec 7*  
Office Open 10a-2p

*Tuesday, Dec 8*  
Book Club 7:00 PM

*Thursday Dec 10*  
Office Open 10a-2p,  
Alpha Online 7:30PM

*Sunday, Dec 13, Third Sunday of Advent*  
Facebook Stream Service 10AM

## The Week of December 14-20

*Monday, Dec 14*  
Office Open 10a-2p

*Tuesday, Dec 15*  
Book Group 7:00 PM

*Thursday Dec 17*  
Office Open 10a-2p,  
Alpha Online 7:30PM

*Sunday, Dec 20 , Fourth Sunday of Advent*  
Facebook Stream Service 10AM

## The Week of December 21-27

*Monday, Dec 21*  
Office Open 10a-2p  
Lessons & Carols (TBA)

*Wednesday Dec 23*  
Advent Lessons and Carols  
Time to be announced

*Thursday Dec 24*  
Streaming Christmas Eve 4:00PM

*Friday Dec 25*  
Streaming Christmas Day 10:00 AM

*Sunday, Dec 27 ,*  
Facebook Stream Service 10AM

## The Week of December 28-32

*Monday Dec 28*  
Office Open 10:00AM

## Lay Ministry Schedule

### Sunday, December 6

Reader: Frank Monroe

Ushers: Jim Noren

Nadine Monroe

### Sunday, December 13

Reader: Betty Kendgia

Ushers: Jim Noren

Don Rabe

### Sunday, December 20

Reader: Terry Driscoll

Ushers: Jim Noren

Betty Kendgia



## From the Episcopal Diocese of Milwaukee



The Standing Committee of the Episcopal Diocese of Milwaukee, a group of elected clergy and lay leaders, announced today that the **Rt. Rev. Jeffrey D. Lee**, current bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Chicago, is the designee for provisional bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Milwaukee. Bishop Lee will begin serving as the provisional bishop designee on April 1, 2021. The convention at which the clergy and lay representatives of the diocese will vote on Bishop Lee's nomination will be held shortly thereafter, at a date to be determined but likely in June 2021. Bishop Lee will conclude his ministry as bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Chicago at the end of this month.

"On behalf of the Standing Committee, I'd like to express our enthusiasm and readiness to work with Bishop Jeff Lee in this season of our common life together. His love for the Diocese of Milwaukee is evident when you talk with him, and his roots here among us are deep," said the Rev. Scott Leannah, president of the Standing Committee. "His love for the gospel, dedication to the Church, and knowledge of congregational and diocesan ministry will be a blessing and gift for us during this time of transition and new life. We urge your prayerful support for Bishop Lee and his family as he concludes his ministry in the Diocese of Chicago. We ask you to do all you can to support him in the role of provisional bishop of the Diocese of Milwaukee. He comes to us at a pivotal time in our shared life and we are grateful for his "yes"; we believe it was inspired by the Holy Spirit."

The Diocese of Milwaukee's current bishop, the Rt. Rev. Steven Andrew Miller, will retire on December 31 after a terminal sabbatical. As stated above, Bishop Lee will begin his ministry with the Diocese of Milwaukee on April 1. He will be working half-time for a two-year term.

The Rt. Rev. Jeffrey D. Lee was elected as the twelfth bishop of the Diocese of Chicago in 2007 and was consecrated on February 2, 2008. Bishop Lee is a

graduate of the University of Michigan and Nashotah House Seminary and served as a curate, canon to the ordinary and church developer in the Diocese of Northern Indiana and as rector of churches in Wisconsin and Washington before being elected bishop. He and his wife, Lisa Rogers Lee, have two children, Katherine and Jonathan.

"I am delighted at the prospect of returning to ministry with the people of the Diocese of Milwaukee. More than twenty years since our time at St. Christopher's, River Hills, Lisa and I still remember fondly the warm friendships and vital ministry we experienced in Wisconsin," said Bishop Lee. "I am honored that the Standing Committee has asked me to stand for election as bishop provisional, and all the people of the diocese will be in my prayers between now and when I hope to join you in April."

To learn more, visit [www.diomil.org](http://www.diomil.org).

## Diocesan Virtual Choir for December 27th



We are planning to have the video ready to be used in the diocesan livestream worship for the Diocesan Online Christmas Lessons and Carols on December 27th. The music will be "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" from the collection "A Little Advent Music" by Richard Shephard. It is used under license by [Saint James Music Press](http://www.saintjamesmusicpress.com).

We invite musicians from churches in the diocese to participate in our next diocesan virtual choir endeavor for the First Sunday of Christmas, December 27. All the details can be found here found

<https://www.stmatthiasonline.org/diocesan-virtual-choir.html>





### Don Clark

Jim and Sue Opelt's son-in-law, Don Clark passed away last week after a battle with cancer. May he rest in peace and rise in glory. Many of you know their daughter Debbi, and I thought it might be nice for her to receive a few cards. Debbi's address:

Debbi Clark

7401 Blackmon Road Apt 1202

Columbus, GA 31909

## Treasurer's Report Through October 27, 2020

	Actual	Budgeted
Year to Date Income	\$ 123,801	\$ 102,807
Support from Diocese	11,667.	32,177
Drawn from Investments	0.00	38.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$135,468</b>	<b>\$172,984</b>
Year to Date all Expenses	\$ 121,584	\$ 183,031

### Operations Investment income through September 25, 2020

Opening Balance, Oct.31	\$ 116,538
Deposits	0
Investments Earnings	\$ 5004
Balance, Nov.27	\$ 121,542

## Thursday afternoon silent prayer is back!

Every Thursday I will heat up the church and light the candles for anyone who wishes to come in and engage in prayer. I will also keep office hours during that time for anyone who has a prayer concern they would like to share with me privately and to hear confessions. - Mother Maureen



A gentle reminder to please return your 2021 pledge cards, the finance committee will be meeting soon. Offering envelopes have been ordered and if you would like a box please let the church office know so we can arrange to get them to you.



Though this year we are not having a toy drive for this organization there are still many ways to help out... to volunteer

[https://volunteernow.galaxydigital.com/agency/detail/?agency\\_id=15840](https://volunteernow.galaxydigital.com/agency/detail/?agency_id=15840)

## St. James Episcopal Church

### 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.*

*Joyfully Proclaiming, Living, and Sharing Christ's Love*