The Window

THE NEWSLETTER OF ST. JAMES' EPISCOPAL CHURCH, FREMONT CALIFORNIA

APRIL 2026

Living Our Baptismal Covenant In These Times

Scott Whitaker

One of my favorite things that happens at St. James' is that sometimes I show up at Church and find out that there will be a Baptism. I think it is a beautiful Sacrament (I wouldn't want to pick a favorite) for a few reasons. One, it means that another soul will be joining us on our collective journey. Another reason is that the act of the Baptism itself allows us to actually go all the way back to John on the banks of the river Jordan and participate in the rite symbolically ourselves. It's a moment that allows us to be in the past, present and future all at once. The most profound reason I love the service so much is that I get the opportunity to renew my own vows that were made for me by my parents and godparents, all now passed.

A few requests are made of us as witnesses that are in our comfort zone and a few that ask a little more of us - outside our comfort zone. With faith, it's easy to believe in God, Christ, and the Holy Spirit. It takes a little more commitment to continue in the apostles' teachings and the breaking of bread because it requires a little studying and showing up. But it's still not a huge ask.

The next four requests get progressively a little more difficult I think. None of us start out intentionally to sin, but greed and lust and selfishness have tested many a fine soul. Proclaiming the Good News is also a bit much for some of us, if not most of us. Seeking and serving Christ in all people can also sometimes be quite difficult, especially for those we see acting so opposite to our beliefs in such a public and vicious manner. I'm all for striving for justice and peace among all people, but again its harder to put into action when so many of my fellow followers of Christ don't seem to be making any attempt to do so.

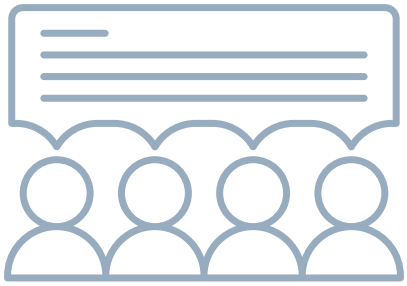
The good news is that we at St. James' are pretty good about spreading the Good News and living out our Baptismal vows by tuning out the noise and putting aside our shyness or reluctance.

Continued on next page

Living Our Baptismal Covenant In These Times *(Continued)*

The Vestry were described as leaders in the Vestry packet for the March meeting. Although I don't really consider myself a leader (outside my comfort zone?) I now see it as another way to live up to my Baptismal vows.

When you're surrounded by such a group of great people who are interested in doing the Lord's work, it may just reveal a hidden talent or gift that can be put to use. We are going to need six new Vestry members next year so maybe now is the time for prayerful thought to say yes when you are asked.



"The Passion"

Poem by George Herbert

Submitted by John Wagas

Since blood is fittest, Lord, to write
Thy sorrows in, and bloody fight;
My heart hath store; write there, where in
One box doth lie both ink and sin:

That when sin spies so many foes,
Thy whips, thy nails, thy wounds, thy woes,
All come to lodge there, sin may say,
No room for me, and fly away.

Sin being gone, oh fill the place,
And keep possession with thy grace;
Lest sin take courage and return,
And all the writings blot or burn.

George Herbert (1593-1663) was an English poet, orator, and Anglican priest.

UPCOMING EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

Continuing Sunday Bible Studies - *Dive Deeper into Stories*

Following the engagement with our two Lenten sessions, Brian Cochran will continue to facilitate additional Bible studies this spring. **They will be held between services on Sundays from 9:15am-10:00am in the Education Room.** Additional dates and topics are available on our website's calendar (look for "Sunday Bible Study").

See flyer on Page 5 for more information

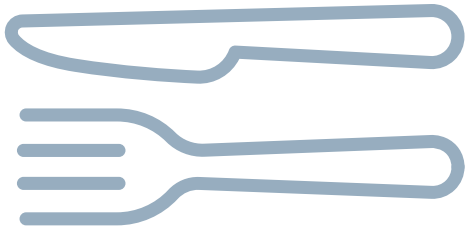
Springtime Senior Lunch

Tuesday, April 14

We invite you to our next Senior Lunch, which will take place on Tuesday, March 6 from 12noon-1:30pm in the Parish Hall.

All are welcome to join us for fellowship around good food and good company. Please sign up if you plan on attending and we'll get things ready for you!

You can sign up by signing the sheet in the Parish Hall, calling the Parish Office at 510-797-1492, or by emailing Jan Scrutton at jan@saintj.com to sign-up and/or ask any questions.



Easter Egg Hunt - April 5

Our Easter Egg Hunt will happen after church on Easter Sunday (April 5). If you'd like to donate towards the goodie bags, please either bring a donation (small treats or wrapped candy) or cash/check (please put "Egg Hunt" on the memo line) to church by Palm Sunday, March 29. ***For any questions, contact Jan Scrutton, jan@saintj.com.***

Faith & Friendship Dinner Groups

Starting in May we resume our Dinner Groups with **a potluck launch on April 17 for all who participate**. We hope to begin, grow, and foster friendships!

Interested in joining? **Sign up by Easter Sunday** by entering your name in the sign up sheet found in the Parish Hall; you will be contacted by a staff member.

Holy Week & Easter

Palm Sunday :: March 29, 8:00 &10:30

We begin outside with a blessing of the palms, followed by the grand procession into the church, a representation of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. Our service of Holy Communion will include a sermon and will end with the reading of the Passion.

Maundy Thursday :: April 2, 6:30

A simple meal in monastic style followed by Holy Communion, ritual, and the stripping of the altar.

Good Friday :: April 3

12:00-2:00pm

A traditional service of solemn collects, hymns, the Passion, and the Veneration of the Cross.

2:00-3:00pm

Walk the Stations of the Cross (guided, indoors) for those who wish to extend their worship this additional hour.

7:00pm

A service honoring Jesus' last hours with spirituals and the story of Jesus' crucifixion.

For those unable to make the daytime service, this is your chance to meditate on the Passion before we reach Easter.

Saturday, April 4
In-Person Easter Vigils
All Saints' San Leandro
Holy Cross Castro Valley
St. Clare's Pleasanton

On-line at The National Cathedral (go to saintj.com for the link)

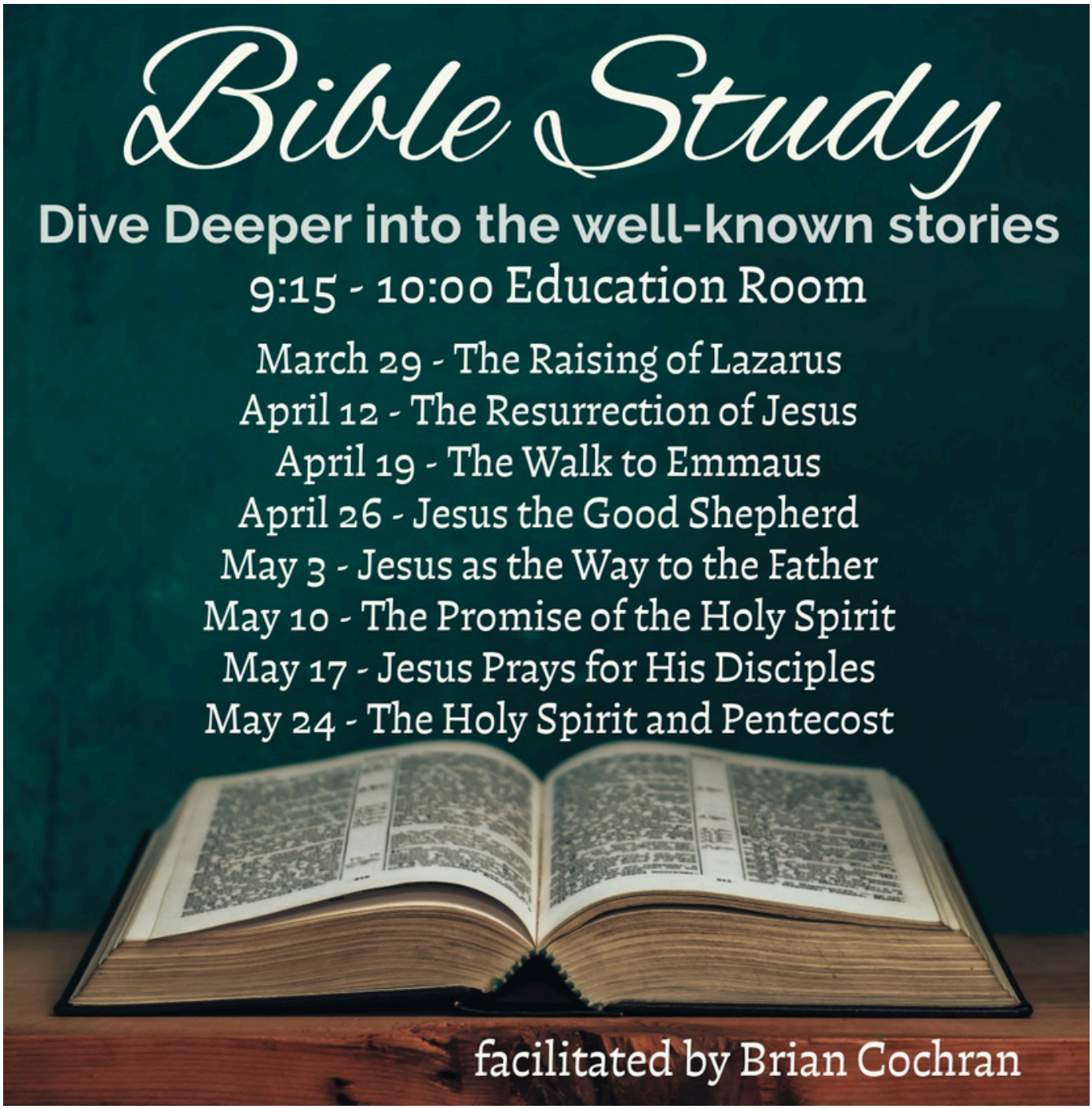
Holy Saturday :: April 4, 10-12pm

On this day of preparation, gather for brunch, a brief service for Holy Saturday, and to make ready the sanctuary for Resurrection.

Easter Principal :: April 5, 10:30

A Festive Service in the Big Church with music and Holy Communion, followed by the annual Easter Egg Hunt for Children, the Easter photo booth, and a reception hosted by the Vestry.

UPCOMING EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES



Vestry Meeting Minutes | March 19, 2026

John Amouroux, Senior Warden

The vestry meeting was held in-person and was called to order at 7:00pm. Jasmine led the Opening Prayer.

Monthly Business

- During oral communications, Lori talked about:
  - Our administrator moving back east
  - An upcoming visit by the bishop
  - A meeting with Abode and the Episcopal Impact Fund representatives to discuss an avenue of potential land use next month.
- The vestry approved the January 8 vestry meeting minutes (it was delayed because there was not a quorum at the last meeting), the February 13/14 vestry retreat minutes, and the February 19 vestry meeting minutes.
  - They also reviewed and accepted the February financial reports and the staff and ministry reports.

New and Continuing Business

- The email vote from February for the deposit for the retreat center venue for the ASL/ Deaf Ministry retreat was recorded
- There was a discussion and affirmative vote for the use of a portion of the 2025 endowment money disbursement to repave the entryway to the big church.
- The vestry also voted to accept the 2025 Parochial Report, and discussed and approved the reinvestment of 3 maturing CDs.
- The vestry members signed up for supporting the 2026/27 parish events and Easter reception.

Reminders

- Matt's May Window newsletter article is due April 20.
- The next vestry meeting will be held on April 16 on Zoom.
  - Gregg will lead the prayers.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15pm, and Jasmine closed the meeting with Compline.

According to An Episcopal Dictionary of the Church (Church Publishing), the basic responsibilities of the vestry are to "help define and articulate the mission of the congregation; to support the church's mission by word and deed, to select the rector, to ensure effective organization and planning, and to manage resources and finances."

WAYS WE ARE CHURCH TOGETHER

LITURGY & WORSHIP

WORSHIP IN PERSON AT CHURCH

We offer two services on Sunday morning, at 8:00am and 10:30am. Coffee and light snacks follow each service. Join us for worship and fellowship!

SUNDAY WORSHIP LIVESTREAM

If you cannot attend church in person, you can join our 10:30am service live-streamed on Sundays at **saintj.com**, our parish website. The service can be joined at any time on Sunday from 10:30am or watched during the week online through our **YouTube channel**.

WEDNESDAY 10:00AM SERVICE

Celebrate the Liturgy of the Word with prayers and sermon discussion in real time through Zoom on Wednesday mornings. The link can be found under "Upcoming Events" on the right side of our **website**.

Follow us on Social Media!

FACEBOOK INSTAGRAM

Find service & sermon audio/video recordings:

YOUTUBE APPLE SPOTIFY TUNEIN

LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

SCRIPTURE / BIBLE STUDIES

Monday | 11:00am on Zoom

Join with others to catch up and wrestle with some of the sacred texts of the Bible. We meet every Monday on Zoom. ***Email Rev. Lori at lori@saintj.com for the Zoom link or find more info on our website***.

Wednesday | 11:00am on Zoom

Join us for Bible Study facilitated by Rev. Lori. Each week we discuss scripture, engaging in various media such as art, video, and text. ***Email Rev. Lori with questions or find the Zoom link on our website.***

COMMUNITY FELLOWSHIP

SUNDAY COFFEE HOUR

Join us for light refreshments and conversation after each service on Sunday mornings in the Parish Hall.

HEALTH & WELLNESS

MORNING CHAIR EXERCISE

Tuesdays on Zoom | 10am – 11am

Join our weekly class of chair exercises on Breathing (Qi Gong) and Tai Chi (Hsing I). ***Email Sylvia Ma at hsiehtinghsueh@yahoo.com for the Zoom link.***

CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRIES

Sunday School | ***Current Events***

Sunday School, for children in TK through 6th grade, meets weekly during the 10:30am service; all are invited and welcome to join. We gather for a story and talk about the lesson of the week, usually lectionary-based so the whole family will hear the same scripture passages. Afterward, children then return to church in time to join their families for the Liturgy of the Table (also known as the Eucharist or Holy Communion).

Episcopal Youth Fremont

Episcopal Youth Fremont (EYF) is a youth group for those in 6th through 12th grade based at St. James' which meets during the school year. ***Any questions about our programs for children or youth? Email our Children & Youth Minister Jan Scrutton at*** **jan@saintj.com.**

FINANCIAL SUMMARY | FEBRUARY 2026

FUND BALANCES	02/28/2025	02/28/2026
Operating Fund	68,880.11	87,395.35
Building Fund	117,025.66	103,336.27
Special Interest funds	723,777.97	744,534.48
Pledges Budgeted	62,493.66	72,940.00
Pledges Paid	73,847.96	76,813.83
Unpledged Contributions	2,460.00	11,006.92
Other Operating Income	3,444.56	4,224.99
Total Operating Income	79,752.52	92,045.74
Total Operating Expenses	71,984.30	87,034.63
Income Less Expenses	7,768.22	5,011.11

APRIL PRAYER LIST

For Those in the Military

Megan, Theresa, Mark, Tim, Caitlin, Emily, Robin, Dave, Shawn, Ethan, Paul, Matthew, Darren, Robert

For Those Who Need Healing & Comfort

Julie, Linda, Barry, David, Elaine, Margaret, Mandy, John, John, Karen, Jim, Barbara, George, Nova, Maria, Paloma, Alice, Leo, Mike, Marilyn

For Those Who Need Solace, Strength, & Guidance

David, Derek, Cat, Barbara, Janice, Frank, the Gomez family, the Roberts family, Rebecca, the Cook family, Al, the Casas family, Anna & Miguel, George and the Quinn family

For Those Who Have Passed Away

Patricia, Roger, Mercedes, Sandra, Sam, Betty, Cathy, Kevin, Louis

BLESSING BAGS & DISTRIBUTION

Each bag contains toiletries, water, food, socks, a blanket, and a mask. We're using reusable cloth bags that double as backpacks. ***We are not taking donations other than monetary donations.*** This allows us to purchase what we need and to be consistent. Blessing Bags are available to pick up during parish office hours (Wed/Thurs, 10am-1pm).

It is helpful to have gift cards to give with the bags when appropriate. If you'd like to donate a gift card, we ask for $25 cards for gas, Safeway, Target, Walmart, or Lucky. They can be given to the wardens (vestry) or clergy.

To add someone to the "Special Prayers" list, please call or email the parish office.

The list is found in our weekly emails, monthly newsletter. After six weeks, names are removed. Please renew your request(s) as needed.

ACCESS TO ZOOM LINKS

Zoom links for all of our offerings can be found on our parish website, **saintj.com**; look for the calendar on our home page. If something is not listed, email the gathering/event leader.

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

The Newsletter Team welcomes your essays, poems, photos, reviews, and news. ***Email your submission to newsletter@saintj.com by April 20*** to ensure it's included in the May issue.

ADDRESS *Thornton Avenue at Cabrillo Terrace, Fremont CA*

MAILING *PO Box 457 Fremont, CA 94537-0457*

WEBSITE *www.saintj.com* **TELEPHONE** *(510) 797-1492*

OFFICE HOURS *Wednesdays and Thursdays, 10am – 1pm*

CLERGY AND STAFF

The Rev. Lori Walton, *Rector*.....**lori@saintj.com**
The Rev. Ingrid Jacobson, *Associate Rector*.....**ingrid@saintj.com**
Jan Scrutton, *Children and Youth Minister*.....**jan@saintj.com**
Jennifer Ravera, *Music Director*.....**music@saintj.com**
Ron Cook, *Office Administrator*.....**admin@saintj.com**
Bruce Roberts, *Treasurer*.....**treasurer@saintj.com**

VESTRY MEMBERS

Senior Warden
John Amouroux | srwarden@saintj.com

Junior Warden
Emily Dunn | jrwarden@saintj.com

Gregg Feeney
Burtin Hart
Matt Hurley
Kaethe Langs
Paula McKinney
Bev Mosier
Katie Porter
Jasmine Reynolds
Toni Shellen
Scott Whitaker

Vestry Clerk **Elizabeth Hart**

CONVENTION DELEGATES

Bev Mosier
Mike Scrutton
Ken Trant
John Wagas

Alternate to Convention **Isaiah Zachariah**

Contact: **stjdeanery@saintj.com**

WORSHIP TIMES

Sunday Services
In-Person | 8:00am and 10:30am

Live-streamed | 10:30am with recording

Wednesday Service
Online/Zoom | 10:00am (Ante-Communion)

MAIN COORDINATORS

Eucharistic Ministers & Lectors
George Siegmann

Eucharistic Visitors
The Rev. Ingrid Jacobson

Ushers
Burtin Hart

Facilities ***facilities@saintj.com***

The Window Newsletter Staff

Laura Winter
John Wagas **Gregg Feeney**
Barbara Milligan **Brian Cochran**