

Weekly e-Epistle from St. James' Mill Creek Wilmington, Delaware

Issued: August 29, 2018 Feast of St. James the Apostle

## This Week: 14th Sunday after Pentecost

# Service Times (Summer thru Sept 2nd) 8:00am & 9:30am

## Click <u>Here</u> for Scripture Readings (Track 2)



### A Word from Fr. Jim: "Defile"

Included among the definitions for the word 'defile' are 1) to sully, mar, or spoil, and 2) to desecrate or profane something sacred. The word occurs several times in the Gospel reading for Sunday, September 2 (<u>Mark 7:1-</u>-23), and it's worth noting the different usages.

The Pharisees and scribes were concerned that Jesus was not imposing their tradition of washing hands prior to eating bread. Yes, it had something to do with cleanliness, but just as much it was about following a religious ritual. Jesus was allowing his disciples to eat with "defiled hands", and it so upset the Pharisees and scribes that they told him so.

The response of Jesus is harsh, even calling those religious leaders hypocrites for worrying about their humanly-devised rituals while failing to give proper attention to the greater concerns of God. It was not soiled hands that Jesus was worried about, but those things that desecrate and defile the holiness of God's children. Such things emanate from the human heart, and are what rob one's soul of the sacredness in which God created us.

Jesus' life was devoted to our sanctification, not sanitation, and while washing our hands before eating is a good everyday practice, to allow Jesus to cleanse our hearts is what will ultimately unite us to the eternal life of God.

# An Evangelism Conference

Sponsored by the Episcopal Church in Delaware Saturday, October 20, 2018



Margaret Russ, Russ's Angels Team Captain russmags@hotmail.com 443-945-7230

This fall, Fr. Jim will offer a study of the Bible from Genesis to the Book of Revelation. It will not be a reading of every book and letter of the Bible, but of the overarching story of God's love as expressed in creation, the call of people to faith, the life and resurrection of Jesus, the spread of the Gospel, and the teachings of the early Church.

## Upcoming Change in Service Times & Hospitality Hosts Needed

On Sunday, September 9, our worship times will revert to the normal schedule of **8:00am** and **10:15am**.

Also beginning on September 9, the fellowship time following the second service will be held in the Parish House, and **hospitality hosts are needed**. Please contact Lola in the office if you are able to help out.

## **Upcoming Services and Events**

Click on a month below for the appropriate Servers' Schedules

#### **SEPTEMBER** OCTOBER

#### Sunday, September 2 -15th Sunday after Pentecost

- 8:00 a.m. HOLY EUCHARIST in Church
- 9:30 a.m. HOLY EUCHARIST with music in Church
- 10:45 a.m. Lemonade In-The-Circle

#### Monday, September 3

• LABOR DAY - OFFICE CLOSED

#### Tuesday, September 4

• 9:00 a.m. - Weekly Bazaar Workshop

#### Wednesday, September 5

- 9:30 a.m. HOLY EUCHARIST in Church
- 10:15 a.m. Bible Study in Parish House lounge

#### Saturday, September 8 through Friday, September 14

• Fr. Jim out-of-town

#### Sunday, September 9 -16th Sunday after Pentecost

- 8:00 a.m. HOLY EUCHARIST in Church
- 10:15 a.m. HOLY EUCHARIST with music in Church
- 11:30 a.m. Hospitality in Parish House

#### Monday, September 10

• 6:30 p.m. - Vestry Meeting in Parish House lounge

St. James' Mill Creek 2106 St. James Church Road Wilmington, DE 19808

Visit our Website!

