

# Weekly e-Epistle

Saint James' Episcopal Church, Mill Creek Hundred  
Wilmington, Delaware

## December 14, 2017

### 'Stir up' Sunday

The Collect for the Third Sunday of Advent begins, "Stir up thy power, O Lord". When I was in seminary one of the older priests (of which I am now one) would say that this Collect was a reminder to women that Christmas was near and it was time to 'stir up' the batter and make the holiday cookies. This might sound a bit sexist in our present day, but the sentiment of keeping us alert that Christmas is soon to be upon us is a timely reminder to us all. Getting ready to greet the birth of our Messiah is not anything to be put off. The full wording of the Collect transcends holiday rituals as it touches upon the deepest needs of our lives:

*Stir up thy power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let thy bountiful grae and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be honor and glory, world without end. Amen.*

### Office Hours Next Week and the Week following Christmas

The church office will be open next week Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday (Dec 18–20), and closed on Thursday and Friday. The office will also be closed the final week of the year (Dec 25-29). If you have any announcements you wish to be included for the Sundays of Dec 24<sup>th</sup> and Dec 31<sup>st</sup>, you will need to submit them by Tuesday, Dec 19<sup>th</sup>.

### Schedule of Worship Services for Dec 24<sup>th</sup>

Sunday December 24<sup>th</sup> is both the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent and Christmas Eve. Please be sure to mark your calendars for our worship schedule on the day will be as follows:

- 9:00am – ONE Service to observe the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent
- 7:30 & 10:00pm – Evening Services for Christmas Eve

### Worship on Dec 31<sup>st</sup>

On Sunday December 31<sup>st</sup> there will be ONE service at 9:00am. In addition to a celebration of the Holy Eucharist, the service will include Christmas Lessons and Carols, which has become a tradition in many Anglican/Episcopal congregations.

### Pledge Campaign 2018

Although the pledge campaign has officially ended, we are still seeking additional pledges for 2018. If you have overlooked the materials that were provided in October, additional packets may be picked up in the church or the office.

Blessings and Peace,

*The Rev. Jim Bimbi*