

February 13th is The Feast of Absalom Jones

Absalom Jones was born a house slave in 1746 in Delaware. He taught himself to read out of the New Testament, among other books. When sixteen, he was sold to a store owner in Philadelphia. There he attended a night school for Blacks, operated by Quakers. At twenty, he married another slave, and purchased her freedom with his earnings. Jones bought his own freedom in 1784. At St. George's Methodist Episcopal Church, he served as lay minister for its Black membership. The active evangelism of Jones and that of his friend, Richard Allen, greatly increased Black membership at St. George's. The alarmed vestry decided to segregate Blacks into an upstairs gallery, without notifying them. During a Sunday service when ushers attempted to remove them, the Blacks indignantly walked out in a body.

In 1787, Black Christians organized the Free African Society, the first organized Afro-American society, and Absalom Jones and Richard Allen were elected overseers. Members of the Society paid monthly dues for the benefit of those in need. The Society established communication with similar Black groups in other cities. In 1792, the Society began to build a church, which was dedicated on July 17, 1794. The African Church applied for membership in the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania on the following conditions: 1, that they be received as an organized body; 2, that they have control over their local affairs; 3, that Absalom Jones be licensed as layreader, and, if qualified, be ordained as minister. In October 1794 it was admitted as St. Thomas African Episcopal Church. Bishop White ordained Jones as deacon in 1795 and as priest on September 21, 1802. Jones was an earnest preacher. He denounced slavery, and warned the oppressors to "clean their hands of slaves." To him, God was the Father, who always acted on "behalf of the oppressed and distressed." But it was his constant visiting and mild manner that made him beloved by his own flock and by the community. St. Thomas Church grew to over 500 members during its first year. Known as "the Black Bishop of the Episcopal Church," Jones was an example of persistent faith in God and in the Church as God's instrument

Extracted from Church Publishing. *Holy Women, Holy Men: Celebrating the Saints* (pp. 220-221). Church Publishing Inc.. Kindle Edition.

"Embracing God's Plan"

"Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God." (Luke 6:20)

As Christians, we embrace the mystery that God's plan, revealed in Jesus, is being fulfilled at a time and way beyond our understanding. It may be a mystery but it surely includes our participation. As stewards, we are called to aid the poor and many others too. By our efforts, we help to bring the Kingdom of God into our world.

Share the good news for generations - make a legacy gift to St. James.

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: Please pray for the Nippon Sei Ko Kai.

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: Please remember St. Paul's in Payson.

Please Pray for our Church Family. . . . Janey, Gerry, Dana, Kristy, Carrie, Simon, Patti, the Muller family, the Spence family, Sandra, Robert, the Hollis family, the Huls family, Luke, Rob, Jeff, Chris, the Papaccio family, Eileen, Susan, Nancy, Ellen, Jim, Steve, Katie, Remington, Kayla, Roger, Holly, Rigo, the Gonzalez family and Paul, our siblings & families in Navajoland, those affected by COVID-19 and our front line medical providers, Becki, Tessa, Pat, Ashley, Donald and Lynn. We acknowledge, pay respect and pray for the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community as the original people of the land and their role as custodians of this land given to them by our one and only Creator God. We pray for all affected by violence, terrorism & natural disaster, and we pray for those in the military. We pray also that God will send us those who are hungry to know and follow Jesus, that we might welcome & walk with them on their spiritual journey.

TODAY AT ST JAMES

9:30 am Holy Eucharist (Rite II) *(With hymns and contemporary songs)*

10:30 pm Outdoor Coffee Hour

Welcome to our visitors! Please sign our guest book located on the lectern in the narthex by the main entrance and join us for refreshments after the service. We offer nursery care and children's programs that provide safe, nurturing environment for your children during both services.

This is the Lord's Table. All are invited to receive Holy Communion. If you wish to receive a blessing only, please cross your arms over your chest.

WHERE TO TURN FOR HELP OR ANSWERS....

Father Sam⁺ is available to answer your questions, to respond to pastoral concerns, to offer support and counseling, and, most of all, to listen. My door is always open! You can reach me at the office, or after hours on my cell phone: (510) 847-0229, or email at rector@stjamestempe.org.

Officers of St. James: Bob Klassen, (480) 225-3342 or bob.klassen@gmail.com; Steve Vanden Heuvel, (303) 688-0550 or SteveQE@gmail.com; and Gerry Carlston, (480) 678-2710 or pgcarlston@cox.net.

Prayer Chain: Call Diana in the office, (480) 345-2686.

Pastoral Care: Please call the office, (480) 345-2686.

Godly Play/Children & Youth Ministries: Eileen Flock, (480) 586-1124 or eflock@cox.net.

Ministry of Music: Would you like to join the choir? Please contact our Lali Breen, (480) 205-5635 or lb.dbstrings@gmail.com.

Parish Nurse: Patricia Maybee, pmaybee@gmail.com.

LAST WEEK AT ST. JAMES:

Worship Attendance: 33

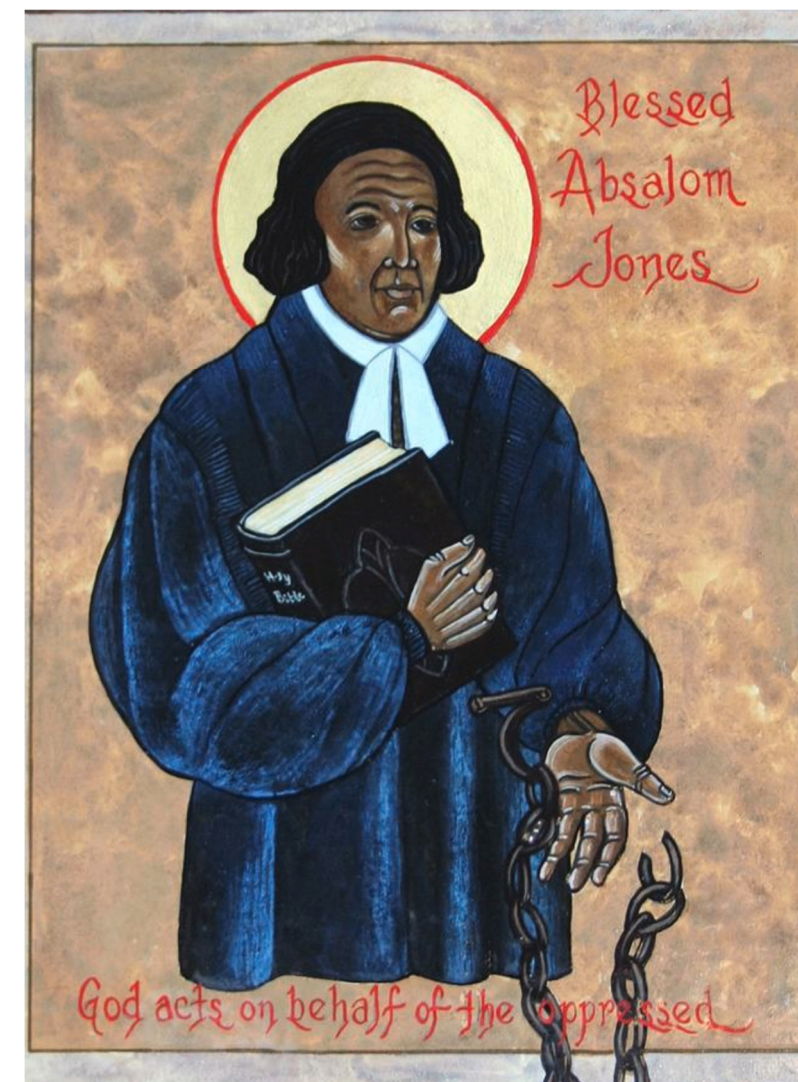
Giving -
\$ 2367 (Operating)
\$ 70 (Designated Gifts)

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

Genesis 45:3-11, 15
Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40
1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50
Luke 6:27-38

YTD Operating Income: \$ 23,202 (as off 1/31/2022)
YTD Operating Expenses: \$ 19,170 Surplus/Loss: \$ 4,032

St. James Episcopal Church
Welcoming, loving and serving all God's children



February 13, 2022

Feast of Absalom Jones

The Rev. Dr. Sam Dessórdi Leite, Rector

The Rev. Dr. Robin Hollis, Deacon

975 E. Warner Road ☩ Tempe, AZ 85284
(480) 345-2686

www.stjamestempe.org ☩ office@stjamestempe.org

Office Hours:

Monday - Thursday, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Around the Community

COFFEE HOUR: Join us after the service! It is important for us to remember that we will still be wearing masks and following the social distancing guidelines already set forth. We ask that you take your coffee and food outside to the patio area.

ST JAMES BOOKIES: We will meet in the Library **TODAY** after the 9:30 service. Our book is "A Spark of Light" by Jodi Picoult.



EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY: We invite you to join our group meeting in the St. James Library on **Monday evenings, 6:30 to 9 pm.** For more information, please contact Mary Jane Porter, mjp4@cornell.edu or (480) 625-4369.

CENTERING PRAYER: We will no longer hold the Centering Prayer group online. On Wednesdays in February, we will have:

- 4:00 pm – Prayer and Meditation
- 4:45 pm – Fellowship
- 5:00 pm – Bible Study

Coming Soon...

TAIZÉ SERVICE is a meditative, peaceful series of simple sung versicles, prayers, and a short reading. With life's fast pace, this experience will instill peace in any noisy heart, **Wednesday, February 23rd** at 5:00 pm.

OUR MEN'S GROUP will meet for lunch for those fully vaccinated fellows on **Thursday, February 24th** at 11:30 am at Biscuit's, 4623 E. Elliot Road, Phoenix 85044.

FIRST FRUITS SUNDAY, MARCH 6TH We celebrate the first Sunday of each month as First Fruits Sunday. Thanks to all who already bring in non-perishable food items. St. Stephen's has been experiencing a huge increase in people looking for help so our contributions are greatly appreciated.



ST JAMES ANNUAL MEETING SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 20TH

STAY AFTER THE 9:30 SERVICE! WE'LL ELECT NEW MEMBERS TO THE VESTRY, REVIEW THE 2022 CHURCH BUDGET AND CELEBRATE ALL THE GREAT MINISTRIES IN GOD'S SERVICE HERE AT ST. JAMES. HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

What's Happening at St. James?

Civic Academy on Public Education and the Budget Learn how we avert crisis and reset Arizona's course.

Tuesday, February 15, 2022, 6:30 p.m.

Public School districts are facing a \$1.2 Billion budget cliff on April 1 if the legislature does not act quickly. Attend this civic academy on two issues that imperil our schools and our state's future. Learn about:

- The Aggregate Expenditure Limit crisis that would defund school districts in this school year.
- The threats by legislators to "repeal and replace" Proposition 307, the flat tax referendum, to thwart the voters and enact tax cuts that would erode Arizona's General Fund.

Register for ZOOM Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84811222222>

Around the Diocese

GET READY FOR SUMMER CAMP! Chapel Rock's Summer Camp is full of adventure, old and new friends, games, creativity, awesome counselors and God's unconditional love! Campers can expect their days to be full of high energy activities, lots of nature, music and crafts along with daily worship and faith formation. There are several different camp options available, including a new Music and Arts Camp. Sessions begin May 29th and there is an early bird discount of \$20 when you register by March 31st. For more information, visit www.chapelrock.net/summercamp.

MARK DOWN'S THRIFT STORE: Did you know that St. Mark's in Mesa has a thrift store open every Friday and Saturday from 9 am to 1 pm, and it is run entirely by church volunteers? The Thrift Store located on the west side of the church campus (322 N Horne, Mesa, AZ 85203). Many brand name items are displayed throughout the store along with small furniture, collectibles, household items and antiques. There are bargains for the treasure hunters to be found among the sales shelves and racks. St. Mark's welcomes donations of good quality, clean items, including clothing, shoes, purses and accessories, household items, small appliances, and small furniture (that can be easily loaded into a car). If you'd like to donate, please contact Kathy Cheatham at kathy_cheatham@hotmail.com or Diane Lewis at dilove@q.com.

Meditation Verse

"Sons are a heritage from the Lord, children a reward from him. Like arrows in the hands of a warrior are sons born in one's youth. Blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them. They will not be put to shame when they contend with their enemies in the gate."

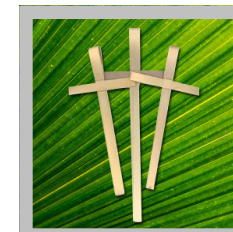
Psalms 127:3-5

Ministry Opportunities

ZAC HOULE'S EAGLE PROJECT: For his Eagle project, Zac is collecting school supplies for the SARRC preschool here at St James. Please contact Sheryl at sheryl@houefamily.net to select items from their wish list to purchase and return to him.



LITTLE FREE LIBRARY: Dylan is still collecting books to be placed in the Library. A box for donated books is located in the narthex. Please keep in mind we are particularly looking for contemporary fiction.



PALMS TO ASHES: We're once again collecting palm crosses and palms so that we can burn them and make the ashes for Ash Wednesday (March 2nd this year). Father Sam will burn them on **Sunday, February 27th** after the service. Please bring them in to the church or office. All palms from past years are welcomed.

PASTORAL CARE TEAM MINISTRY 2022: The ministry of our St. James Lay Pastoral Care Team is an important way for us to provide care, connection, and support to those in need. Working with our clergy, there are a number of pastoral care roles we can explore. If you feel called to serve as a member of the Pastoral Care Team (Lay Eucharistic Visitors), please contact Deacon Robin. Introduction and training for this ministry will be conducted after the first of the year. Also, in order to participate, the Diocese requires that those in the ministry complete the Safeguarding God's Children and God's People training. This training is completed online through a number of modules and done at your own pace. Once you speak with Father Sam or Deacon Robin to confirm your interest in participating, we will share more information about this part of the training. Questions: Deacon Robin (480) 242-7178 or deacon@stjamestempe.org.

All church activities may be internet streamed, video recorded, and photographed for church uses. Entry on to the church campus or in to any church building constitutes consent to be streamed, videotaped, or photographed for church purposes.