

The History of San Damiano Cross

Last week, we saw the importance of San Damiano Cross's devotion to Taizé services. This weekend we share a bit more of its history and symbolism.

The San Damiano cross is the large Romanesque rood cross that hung in the abandoned chapel near Assisi. While still in his early 20's and seeking his place in the world, Francis of Assisi was praying before this cross when he heard the voice of God commanding him to "rebuild my church."

The largest figure is Jesus Christ, who is represented as wounded and strong, standing upright and resolute. Our Lord's body contrasts with the dark red and black around it and, therefore, accentuates the prominence of Jesus. He projects the life of divine nature in a body pierced by nails in the hands and feet, by the crown of thorns on his head, and by the soldier's lance on his side. This representation contrasts with the regal Christ portrayed on the cross in earlier centuries and the crucified Christ depicted, generally, throughout the Church since the beginning of the 14th century.

A) The next largest figures are the five witnesses of the crucifixion and witnesses of Jesus as Lord. On the left side are the Virgin Mary and St. John the Evangelist, to whom Jesus entrusted his mother. On the right side are Mary Magdalene; Mary, Mother of James; and the centurion who in Matthew's Gospel account asks Christ to heal his son. Both Mary and Mary Magdalene have their hands placed on their cheeks to reflect extreme grief and anguish. The first four witnesses have halos because they are saints who gave their lives for the Lord.

B) The three smaller figures are represented as witnessing the crucifixion. On the lower left is Longinus, the traditional name of the Roman soldier who pierced the side of Jesus with a lance. In the lower right is Stephaton, the traditional name for the soldier who offered Jesus the sponge soaked in vinegar wine.

Peering over the left shoulder of the centurion is a small face. A close look reveals the tops of the heads of three others beside him. This represents the centurion's son who was healed by Jesus and the rest of his family to show that "he and his whole household believed." (John 4:45-54)

C) At both ends of the crossbar are six angels are represented as marveling over the event of the crucifixion. Their hand gestures indicate they are discussing this wondrous event of the death and calling us to marvel with them.

D) At the foot of the cross there is a damaged picture of six figures, two of whom have halos. In accordance with the traditions of the day, these six are the patrons of Umbria, the region surrounding Assisi: St. John, St. Michael, St. Rufino, St. John the Baptist, St. Peter, and St. Paul.

E) On the top of the cross, one sees Jesus now fully clothed in his regal garments and carrying the cross as a triumphant scepter. He is climbing out of the tomb and into the heavenly courts. Ten angels are crowded around, five of whom have their hands extended in a welcoming gesture to Jesus, who himself has his hand raised in the form of a greeting.

F) At the very top of the cross is the Hand of God with two fingers extended. This is to be understood as the blessing of God the Father on the sacrifice of his Son. On the right side of the picture next to the left calf of Jesus, there is a small figure of a fowl. Some art historians have interpreted it to be a rooster, (Jesus' denial by Peter); other commentators see it as a peacock, a frequent symbol of immortality in Early Christian art. Along the lower right side of the shaft, there is a small animal, possibly a cat.

* Extracted from the Franciscan Mission Service website

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: Please pray for the Church of the Province of Uganda.

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: Please remember the Church of the Epiphany in Tempe.

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, Nancy, Ellen, Emma, Albert, Denise, Don, Dixie, Norman, Debbie, Jim, Holly and Ellie, our siblings & families in Navajoland, those affected by COVID-19 and our front line medical providers, Becki, Tessa, Pat, Ashley, Donald, Lynn and Shane. 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.

THIS WEEK AT ST JAMES

Sunday 9:30 am Holy Eucharist (With hymns and contemporary songs)

10:30 am 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.

Pastoral Care: Call Diana in the office, (480) 345-2686.

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

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

Ministry of Music: Lali Breen, (480) 205-5635 or lb.dbstrings@gmail.com.

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

LAST WEEK AT ST. JAMES:

Worship Attendance: 40

(via Facebook Live: 13)

Taizé: 25

Giving -

\$ 2097 (Operating)

\$ 200 (Designated Gifts)

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

Genesis 18:1-10a

Psalm 15

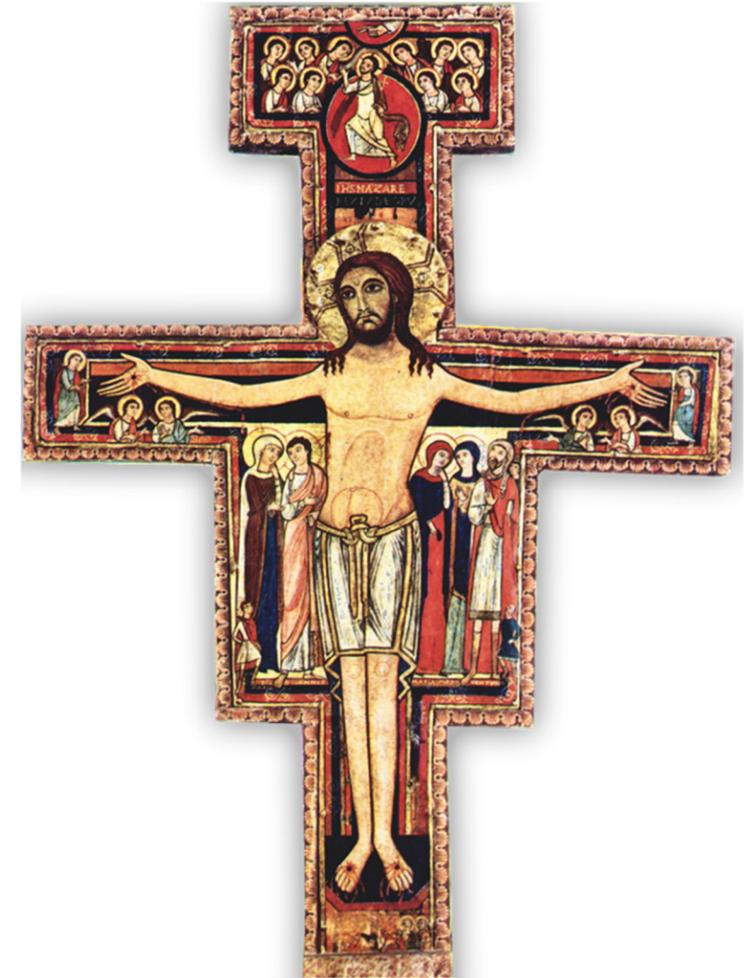
Colossians 1:15-28

Luke 10:38-42

YTD Operating Income: \$ 92,712 (as off 5/31/2022)

YTD Operating Expenses: \$ 101,295 Surplus/Loss: \$ 8,583

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



"With a soundless voice, the icons teach those who behold them."

Saint Basil the Great

July 10, 2022

The Rev. Dr. Sam Dessórdi Leite, Rector

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(480) 345-2686

www.stjamestempe.org ☩ office@stjamestempe.org

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

Around the Community

FACE MASKS ARE NO LONGER REQUIRED when visiting St. James the Apostle, or attending worship. Individuals are, of course, still welcome to wear a mask if they choose. Whatever decision you make about face masks, please respect the decisions that other people make. Whether a person chooses to wear a mask, or not, is entirely up to them. Whatever decision each person makes, and whenever they choose to make it, is entirely their own and should be respected.

COFFEE HOUR: Join us after the service! We ask that you take your coffee and food outside to the patio area. **Volunteers are needed to provide treats after the service on Sunday.** A sign-up sheet is located on the table. Please sign up today!

LADIES NIGHT OUT: We will meet at 6:00 pm on **Tuesday, July 12th**, at Voodoo Daddy's Steam Kitchen, 1325 W. Elliot Road, Tempe, 85284 (in front of Costco). If you haven't come before please join us for a fun evening of food and fellowship. Hope to see you there!!

Your Help Needed

JIM & CARRIE MCCULLOUGH NEED OUR HELP to provide meals 2 days a week. Jim was hospitalized recently at Chandler Regional while Carrie has ongoing health issues that keep her homebound. Any help you can offer will be greatly appreciated as this will be a long term need. You can sign up to help by clicking on their name on the website www.Mealtrain.com/stjamestempe. We'll be using the website a bit differently since Jim and Carrie don't have a computer and signing up on the calendar a bit differently. We'll be delivering 2 meals each week, not necessarily on the day shown as "available". Just sign up for the Monday or Thursday of the week you've chosen, and call Carrie at (480) 980-2232 (or Jim at (480) 980-4093) to coordinate the specific day the food will arrive, and other details, such as if it will be from a delivery service or a restaurant, and what restaurant or service it will be from. They've made arrangements for transportation for many medical appointments, etc. but there may be other cases when we can schedule other transportation help -- rides to other appointments, errands, etc. We'll use the website calendar to organize ourselves, then call Carrie to coordinate with her. Diana has also offered to store frozen meals in the church refrigerator and will get these to the McCullough's if needed. For more information about using Meal Train, Kathleen Dunn can be contacted at kadunnaz@yahoo.com or (480) 710-7808, or call Diana at the church office.

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.

What's Happening at St. James?

YOUTH GROUP NEWS

EYC: SATURDAY, JULY 16TH
6 TO 8 PM

Outdoor Games Indoors in the A/C

Corn Hole, Jenga and a few other games!
There will be refreshments (Soda, sparkling water, Chips and dips)
We will listen to music and enjoy our time together.

Did You Know?

EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY: A new 36-week seminar series will begin in early September in the St. James Library on Monday evenings, 6:30 to 9 pm. For information on how to join us, please contact Mary Jane Porter, Mentor, mjp4@cornell.edu or (480) 625-4369.

RECENT BUILDING REPAIRS: There are several other costly repairs around the property that we will be addressing this summer. One is setting up a new staff bathroom in the preschool building and another is replacing weather stripping under the doors. This will lower A/C costs and also be a scorpion prevention measure. It seems like it never ends! All monies in the Building Fund are used exclusively for both repairs and preventative maintenance of the buildings and grounds. For those who can spare or share some funds, your help is much appreciated. Thank you!

Ministry Opportunities

SUPPORTING OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY: *Voices for CASA Back to School Backpack Stuffing.* St. James is supporting Voices for CASA, a program that helps abused and neglected children in the Foster Care program. Would you work with us to help with much-needed items for CASA children in Pre-K thru 3rd grade with much needed school supplies? The needed items for the backpacks are:

- ◆ Pencils #2, pencil bag and pink wedge erasers
- ◆ Glue sticks or glue crayons
- ◆ Broadtail washable markers
- ◆ 2 pocket folders
- ◆ Rulers 12" plastic
- ◆ 5" blunt tip scissors
- ◆ Wide rule spiral notebook
- ◆ Construction paper
- ◆ Small whiteboard with markers

For more information, please contact Marcia Wright (mimiwright8@aol.com) or Fr. Sam (rector@stjamestempe.org).

Meditation Verse

*"May you be made strong with all the strength
that comes from his glorious power,
and may you be prepared to endure
everything with patience,
while joyfully giving thanks to the Father"*

Colossians 1:11-12

Coming Soon...

BILINGUAL SUMMER CAMP FOR FAMILIES: Our rector and the Latino Clergy of the Episcopal Diocese of Arizona, are leading the Bilingual Summer Camp at Chapel Rock! A delightful summer retreat for families! Join us from **July 15th to 17th** and spend your time learning about the church, making friends, and worshiping together. Linen rooms and ADA accommodations are available. Registration is open. If you would like to participate, please contact Fr. Sam or Rev. Canon Susana Santibanez (602-299-2407). This year's theme is: "Follow Jesus. Grow in Faith. Walk in Love." Registration info: Adults \$65, teens \$40 and children \$25.

OUR MEN'S GROUP will meet for lunch on **Thursday, July 21st** at 11:30 am at Biscuit's, 4623 E. Elliot Road, Phoenix 85044.

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, July 27th** at 7:00 pm. Come and celebrate with us.

CAMP FOR ADULTS: August 1-4, 2022 at Chapel Rock! A delightful summer retreat for adults! Join us on August 1st-4th and spend your time enjoying a variety of outdoor activities, meaningful conversations, fellowship, and worship. There will be plenty of downtime, so you can relax and enjoy all that the area has to offer! Linen rooms and ADA accommodations are available. Registration will be open soon. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Toni Murdock at toni@azdiocese.org

Getting to Know You...

NEED A NAMETAG? If you are new to St. James or have just lost your name tag, please sign up on the request form in the narthex, so we can get to know one another and greet each other by name at the peace. Familiar face or not, there are always new folks who want to get to know you, or put a name to that familiar face.

DON'T BE A STRANGER! Please wear your name tag so we can all greet one another by name. Familiar face or not, there are always new folks who want to get to know you, or put a name to that familiar face. Also, please remember to put your name tag back in the cabinet when you leave after the service.