



The Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 29, 2024

Collect of the Day

O God, you declare your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity: Grant us the fullness of your grace, that we, running to obtain your promises, may become partakers of your heavenly treasure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

The First Reading

Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22

When the king and Haman came in for the banquet with Queen Esther, the king said to her, “This is the second day we’ve met for wine. What is your wish, Queen Esther? I’ll give it to you. And what do you want? I’ll do anything—even give you half the kingdom.”

Queen Esther answered, “If I please the king, and if the king wishes, give me my life—that’s my wish—and the lives of my people too. That’s my desire. We have been sold—I and my people—to be wiped out, killed, and destroyed. If we simply had been sold as male and female slaves, I would have said nothing. But no enemy can compensate the king for this kind of damage.”

King Ahasuerus said to Queen Esther, “Who is this person, and where is he? Who would dare do such a thing?”

Esther replied, “A man who hates, an enemy—this wicked Haman!” Haman was overcome with terror in the presence of the king and queen.

Harbona, one of the eunuchs serving the king, said, “Sir, look! There’s the stake that Haman made for Mordecai, the man who spoke up and did something good for the king. It’s standing at Haman’s house—seventy-five feet high.”

“Impale him on it!” the king ordered. So they impaled Haman on the very pole that he had set up for Mordecai, and the king’s anger went away.

Mordecai wrote these things down and sent letters to all the Jews in all the provinces, both near and far, of King Ahasuerus. He made it a rule that Jews keep the fourteenth and fifteenth days of the month of Adar as special days each and every year. They are the days on which the Jews finally put to rest the troubles with their enemies. The month is the one when everything turned around for them from sadness to joy, and from sad, loud crying to a holiday. They are to make them days of feasts and joyous events, days to send food gifts to each other and money gifts to the poor.

Psalm 124

If the Lord hadn’t been for us—
let Israel now repeat!—

if the Lord hadn’t been for us,

when those people attacked us

then they would have swallowed us up whole
with their rage burning against us!

Then the waters would have drowned us;

the torrent would have come over our necks;

then the raging waters would have come over our necks!

Bless the Lord

**because he didn't hand us over
like food for our enemies' teeth!**

We escaped like a bird from the hunters' trap;
the trap was broken so we escaped!

**Our help is in the name of the Lord,
the maker of heaven and earth.**

The Second Reading

James 5: 13-20

If any of you are suffering, they should pray. If any of you are happy, they should sing. If any of you are sick, they should call for the elders of the church, and the elders should pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. Prayer that comes from faith will heal the sick, for the Lord will restore them to health. And if they have sinned, they will be forgiven. For this reason, confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous person is powerful in what it can achieve. Elijah was a person just like us. When he earnestly prayed that it wouldn't rain, no rain fell for three and a half years. He prayed again, God sent rain, and the earth produced its fruit.

My brothers and sisters, if any of you wander from the truth and someone turns back the wanderer, recognize that whoever brings a sinner back from the wrong path will save them from death and will bring about the forgiveness of many sins.

The Third Reading

Mark 9:38-50

John said to Jesus, "Teacher, we saw someone throwing demons out in your name, and we tried to stop him because he wasn't following us." Jesus replied, "Don't stop him. No one who does powerful acts in my name can quickly turn around and curse me. Whoever isn't against us is for us. I assure you that whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you belong to Christ will certainly be rewarded.

“As for whoever causes these little ones who believe in me to trip and fall into sin, it would be better for them to have a huge stone hung around their necks and to be thrown into the lake. If your hand causes you to fall into sin, chop it off. It’s better for you to enter into life crippled than to go away with two hands into the fire of hell, which can’t be put out. If your foot causes you to fall into sin, chop it off. It’s better for you to enter life lame than to be thrown into hell with two feet. If your eye causes you to fall into sin, tear it out. It’s better for you to enter God’s kingdom with one eye than to be thrown into hell with two. That’s a place where worms don’t die and the fire never goes out. Everyone will be salted with fire. Salt is good; but if salt loses its saltiness, how will it become salty again? Maintain salt among yourselves and keep peace with each other.”

Next week’s readings

Our readings are from the Revised Common Lectionary, Year B, Track 1, and we are using the Common English Bible translations. The readings for next week are:

Job 1:1; 2:1-10

Psalm 26

Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12

Mark 10:2-16

Numbers last week

8.00 am: 15

10:00 am: 139

Coffee Hour

Our coffee hours are hosted by either St. George's, a specific ministry or by a parishioner. Are you able to host? It's simple and easy to do.



For more information, and to sign up, scan the QR code, or email mofun@stgeorges-maplewood.org

Important Upcoming Events

Sunday, October 6

- Blessing of the Animals, 8.00 & 10.00 am

Sunday, October 13

- Second Sunday Supper Church, 4.30 pm

Sunday, October 27

- Blessing of the Halloween Costumes, 8.00 & 10.00 am

Friday November 1

- All Saints, All Night Fundraiser, 7.00 pm

Tuesday, November 6

- Election Night Community Gathering, 6.30 pm

Announcements

Blessing of the Animals

Sunday, October 6 at 8.00am and 10.00am

Bring your pets (or a picture) with you to either worship service and have them blessed, in celebration of St. Francis's Feast Day! At the 10.00am service, our friends from St. Andrew and Holy communion will be joining us.

Stewardship Reflection: It Takes a Village

We've been blessed with this community of St. George's -- a "village" committed to sharing and extending the love that God offers to us. The Stewardship Ministry invites you to reflect on what our village of St. George's means to you and how we each are an essential part of it. See the 'Walk in Love' insert in this bulletin for more details.

Monthly Food Pantry Collection

September is Hunger Action Month! We will be collecting for Our Lady of Sorrows Food Pantry. We have been asked to focus on **pasta and instant oatmeal (in individual packs)** this month but we always welcome non-perishable staples. Questions: contact Lindsay McHugh at mchugh.lindsay@gmail.com.

Fifth Sunday Collection for North Porch

During the month of September, we will be making a special fifth Sunday collection for North Porch Women & Infants' Centers. We will be collecting baby necessities including **diapers size 3, 4, and 6** as well as **formula and baby wipes**.

North Porch provides much needed baby supplies and baby food to clients referred through social services agencies. Over the years, young mothers, fathers, and grandparents, immigrants and the undocumented have received tangible essential supplies and common

sense parenting advice from coordinators in each center. Please contact Lindsay McHugh with any questions.

Sunday School

The youngest group meets in the Sunday School room each Sunday. New this year, we have expanded our offering to include an older elementary group, which meets in the Rector's office. Gather from 9.45 am onwards, and we will begin at 10.00am. To learn more about this ministry and how to get involved, contact Minister for Families and Youth, Meg Davis

(familyministry@stgeorges-maplewood.org).

Adult Confirmation

Confirmation is a sacred moment in a Christian's life when they make public affirmation of their faith and commitment to the responsibilities of their baptism. While often associated with youth, confirmation is also for any adult who has been baptized but not yet confirmed. Adults who have already been confirmed can also renew their baptismal vows, a process of recommitting oneself to the Christian life.

Rev Grant is organizing an Adult Confirmation class for this program year; it is open to any adult who wishes to be Confirmed, Reaffirm their Baptismal Vows, or wish to grow in their faith. Please email Rev. Grant at revgrant@stgeorges-maplewood.org if you are interested in registering for the class or to learn more about Confirmation.

Dinners for 8(ish)

Dinners for 8(ish) is a long-standing parish tradition that gathers people together for fellowship and food. Participants are sorted into dinner groups, which meet 4 times a year. Hosting is shared among all participants and meals are potluck style. This is a great way to get to

know people you already know better. Contact Magaly Roman (mrom606@gmail.com) for more information and to sign up.

Election night Pizza and Prayer

On **Tuesday, November 5, starting at 6.30 pm**, St George's will be open for anyone in the community who wish to gather in prayer, mutual support, and fellowship as election results are announced. More information to follow. All are welcome!

All Saints, All Night Fundraiser

Save the Date! **Friday November 1** is All Saints Day, and we are celebrating with a Cheese and Wine Party! There will be Saint- themed cheeses and wines, grazing tables, a Wine Pull, a Silent Auction, and delicious, homemade rum cakes and ice cream to pre-order for the holidays! How can **YOU** help make this evening a success?

- Buy a ticket! (details coming soon)
- Invite your friends!
- We need 75 bottles of wine for the wine pull - can you donate?
- Volunteer your time (signup sheet coming soon)

Contact Aleeda Crawley (mofun@stgeorges-maplewood.org) for more information

Seniors and Empty Nesters

Our new Seniors and Empty Nesters Ministry, "Sages of All Ages", already have many exciting events planned including:

October 19 - Visit to the Buddhist Temple in Robbinsville, NJ

November 16 - Games Night and Catch Up

December 28 - Christmas Open House

Contact Tony Bousanti (abousanti@verizon.net) if you would like to know more!

Teen LGBTQ Group

The LGBTQ Teen Group has resumed. They meet on Wednesday at 6:45-7:45 in the Mary Lounge. Please contact Amy Cox-Martins (vallepsychotherapy111@gmail.com) for more information

Office Hours Update

Please note a change in office hours, The office is physically open **Tuesdays** and **Thursdays**, from 10.00 am-3.00 pm. On Mondays and Wednesdays, it is open by appointment only - please arrange with Ruth or Rev. Grant. At all times, you may send any queries to the office email (parish-office@stgeorges-maplewood.org)

Stay Connected with St. George's!

Are you new to the parish? Are you excited to learn about the amazing ministries and activities happening at St. George's? Be sure to sign up for our weekly online newsletter so you don't miss out! To sign up, please email our Parish Administrator, Ruth Deane, at parish-office@stgeorges-maplewood.org.

St. George's Property issues

Help us to maintain our building! You can now inform us of any property or maintenance issues that need attention by completing an online "Report of Property Issues" found on the Contact Us page of our website (<https://stgeorges-maplewood.org/contact/>) Describe issue as fully as possible. If you would like to include a picture of the problem, please email it to the office.

Join the Churchwide Virtual Celebration!

The Celebration of New Ministry and Installation of the Right Reverend Sean Rowe and Presiding Bishop and Primate of The Episcopal Church is on Saturday, November 2, 2024. 'Roll Call' of Dioceses begins at 9.30 am, and the Service of Holy Eucharist is at 11.00 am. For more information go to www.iam.ec/investiture

Stay Connected with the Diocese of Newark!

As a part of the Diocese of Newark, St. George's contributes to and participates in the larger mission of our diocese— *Join us in following Jesus Christ with bold acts of justice, peace, and love.* Sign up to receive The VOICE Online (our diocesan digital newsletter) and check out the amazing things going on in our Diocese!



In Our Prayers this week

Rich; Jerry Hudson & Christine; Richard & Bea Berggren; Clarence Clarke & Andrezj; Marlene Eubanks; Marianne Dwyer; James & Mary Ip; Orlando; Laticha; Nancy Storrs; Suzanne & Rev. Bob Morris; Mandy Robinson; Rita Paolillo; Andrea; Annette; Tilly-Jo Emerson; Shaunille McDonald; Jillian Hamer; Elizabeth Allen; Robert Oliphant & spouse Kathy Jo Blaske; AJ Hoffs-McCauley; Ed, Barry & the Bullis-Martinez family; Lauren; Kaaren Patterson Pieressa; Chris Tietjen; Jo Hoffs; Susannah Chewing; Brenda Gayden; Matthew Finch; Arthur Lee Collins; Karen Leigh; John Hamer; the soul of Bill Lorentz & Michael Francaviglia; the soul of Roland Spiotta & his family; the soul of Lisa Jubilee & her family; the soul of Robert Sparks & his family; the soul of Michael & his family, especially Dwight, Courtney & Patricia; Josh Simmons; Jane Jubilee; Regina Lata Singh; Anna Mendez; Lester Mitchell; Arlo; Sue; Annette Cammarata; the soul of Rosa & for her family; Meredith Borelli.

If you wish to request special prayers, please email your request to st-georges-healing@googlegroups.com. Include the name or names (preferably both first & last) and what we should be praying for. NOTE: After one month names are routinely removed from the list unless we receive a request to continue the prayer.



Diocese of Newark
YESTERDAY, TODAY & FOREVER
SERVING NORTHERN NEW JERSEY SINCE 1874

Mark your calendar for these exciting 150th Anniversary events planned for the 2024-2025 program year!

Note: Times for 2025 events are tentative

Saturday, September 21, 2024 • 10 AM - 4 PM

Kickoff BBQ at Cross Roads Camp

Friday & Saturday, November 8-9, 2024

150th Diocesan Convention

Tuesday, January 21 & 28, 2025 • 7-8:30 PM

Speaker Series, via Zoom

Tuesday, February 4 & 11, 2025 • 7-8:30 PM

Speaker Series continued, in-person

Friday, May 16, 2025 • 7 PM

Concert

Saturday, May 17, 2025 • 11 AM

Worship Service with the new Presiding Bishop

Summer 2025

Pilgrimage to the American South

Find out more at dioceseofnewark.org/150th-anniversary

