

St. James' E-pistle: **SPECIAL EDITION**

A Letter from the Rector for April 24, 2020

Dear People of St. James',

Last Sunday, we held our first foray into "virtual Coffee Hour" together! One of the things I noticed right away was just how brightly lit all those faces were, spread out all throughout the Danbury region. You see, though I have meetings with St. James' Committees and groups throughout the week, those occur mostly in the *evenings*, and so I have grown accustomed to seeing your faces these days by artificial light only. But on Sunday morning, the enthusiasm and positive energy of our Zoom Room was just as palpable as the intensity of the light streaming in through the windows of the living rooms, kitchens, and studies of our Coffee Hour Participants. If you, too, are missing seeing one another face to face, or even hearing the wonderful din of a bustling social hour after worship, I encourage you to join us this Sunday. Though you are free to drop in and depart as you please, the conversation last week was hopping for the full hour, from 10am to 11am. The zoom links for Coffee Hour and all our meetings are posted to our parish calendar online, but to make things especially easy, I'll embed the link for this Sunday's Coffee Hour [here](#). Hope to "see" you there!

There's one caveat worth mentioning, however. Due to certain peculiarities of the Zoom platform, and depending on the kind of device that you are using to access the meeting (computer, iPad, phone), you may be asked to enter a meeting ID or password before you can enter the meeting. So, here it is: **the meeting ID for our Coffee Hour is 926 5515 5426**, and **the password is 212433**. And remember, anyone can call into the meeting from a telephone (including land lines!) That number to dial in is **1 929 205 6099**. *(Please note that all of this information is included in the details of each of our zoom events, all on the parish calendar.)*

Because of the huge demand upon such online conferencing as we are using, we are finding we need to be especially patient, and adapt to changing circumstances. I appreciate your perseverance and patience as well, as we are now all learning our way forward into the St. James' of the future. I suspect we will never truly go back to

way things used to be, and I heartily believe God will continue to work with and through all these changes of ours!

We are now worshipping online, meeting online, socializing online, and making offerings of our time, treasure, and talents all online here at St. James' Church. Sure, pandemic-sized boulders have rolled into the way of our stream of ministry, but the Church, like flowing waters, always seems to find a way forward. If you have an idea for an activity, ministry, or opportunity that you would like to help come into bloom, do please reach out to your parish leaders and me, and we can see where God might be leading us next. Our Committees are very much active, and making plans, and responding to God's call and the needs of our beloved church and community. Please don't hesitate to add your God-given light and energy to the movement!

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Dustin+