

By Fr. Christopher Szarke, Rector

Today's Gospel has much to say to the Church today and to St. James. On Sunday the 31st, we will have our annual meeting, express gratitude for the leadership of outgoing Vestry members, and welcome new members to church leadership. The annual meeting will be our time of virtually sharing fellowship, reviewing what has occurred in our recent past, and determining how to be a healthy, faith-filled community dedicated to preaching the Gospel of Jesus, to serve the poor and minister to the sick and disenfranchised, and to build up the entire Body of Christ within the parish and out in the world. We'll look ahead to our reconnections in person following these long months of physical separation.

How do we follow Christ's command in today's Gospel to follow him, and, in turn invite others to follow him, too? Frequently this happens simply through being a welcoming presence to others. We extend the invitation when we invite others to share in the ministries of this parish. St. James parishioners invite others to share in ministries of serving at the Food Bank and the garden, through charitable giving, and many local organizations. People invite parishioners to participate in the ministries within the church walls, including joining the choir, altar guild, Christian education, and Vestry. Each of these invitations is an extension of the invitation, "Come, follow me."