

Dear Parishioners, Friends and Loved Ones,

St. James is a special place, touched by God and I think you all know what I mean. You can feel the presence of the Holy Spirit when we come together. As the old Christian folk hymn goes, *“Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place, I can feel His mighty power and His grace./ I can hear the brush of angel's wings/ I see glory on each face;/ Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.”* It is powerful and the Spirit has been at work in this parish, guiding and encouraging us back together. If you've been in church recently, you know how wonderful it has been to see people returning to fill the pews and to hear the chorus of our shared voices in joyful song and faith-filled prayers. It is an exciting time in the life of our parish, and I pray that you will engage in one or more of the many vital ministries and group studies we share, on top of being with us on Sundays and Wednesdays.

The flyers and posters have been up around the campus announcing that “it's coming” on October 2. This will be Consecration Sunday, or Blessing Sunday. This is the day that we really celebrate and acknowledge all of the blessings God has bestowed upon us individually and corporately. We'll give thanks for the gift of our church and most especially for the gifts Jesus has bestowed upon us. This is our annual time to renew our dedication and commitment of our resources, placing these on the altar as an act of faithful sacrifice and gratitude to God. We remember that we give back to God from the many blessings God has so generously given to us and in turn, deeper spiritual development takes place.

An agape meal will take place for the entire parish following each service. I hope to have everyone join us on this special day. RSVP's can be made by calling the church office at 251-928-2912 or sending an email to info@stjameafairhope.org. Some of your fellow parishioners will be calling about your RSVP, but they will not be asking you about pledging.

Mark it on your calendar now and plan to join us. *Surely the presence of the Lord will be with us.*

Your joyful servant in Christ,

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