Dear friends,

“In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered...” We are all familiar with Mary and Joseph’s journey to Bethlehem, the census that caused them to pack up and hit the road to look for room at the inn. Most images we see picture this young family on their journey alone, but that is an unlikely picture. If Mary and Joseph needed to make a journey to Joseph’s hometown to be counted, so did many others. There would have been friends and neighbors traveling with them, perhaps a few of Joseph’s siblings or other relatives, with kids running underfoot, carts and wagons laden with supplies for the journey. In short, Mary and Joseph were traveling in a caravan—not just by coincidence, but by design. For a journey like that, there was no going alone. They needed each other.

Our Advent scripture readings give us a clear message: none of us can do this life alone, and we are called to journey together on the way. There is John, not alone in the wilderness, but with throngs of people coming to hear his message of repentance and hope. Mary and Elizabeth, not isolated in their surprising pregnancies, but sharing joy and support with one another. We often hear this time of year called a season of giving, but it feels more apt to call it a season of sharing. As we journey together towards Christmas, let us not hesitate to share with one another, be it our joys or our sorrows, our questions or our needs, confident that the Christ Child is coming to draw us more closely together as we travel along the way.

In Christ,
The Rev. Eva Suarez, Rockwell Fellow

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**Today at St. James’**

**The Sunday Forum** 10:30 a.m., Coburn Hall
We continue our Advent series, *Journeying the Way of Love*, exploring the spiritual practices for a Jesus-centered life. We will await the coming of Christ by moving through the first two chapters of the Gospel of Luke. Luke’s gospel provides a pattern for understanding how we can live the Way of Love as individuals, as families and friends, as a community, and out in the world.

**Christmas Pageant** 4:00 p.m., Church
The Christmas story comes to life for our youngest parishioners (ages 4-17)! Enjoy this festive pageant, fun for parishioners of all ages. Learn more at stjames.org/pageant or contact Vicki Hall.

**Gifts of Performance** 1:00 p.m., Coburn Hall
Use the techniques of acting and performance to better perceive and experience the presence of God within and all around you. Parishioner Sabra Jones invites you to an acting intensive series.

**Afternoon Bible Study**
Our weekly Sunday afternoon Bible study will take a pause for the Christmas holidays, resuming on Sunday, January 6, at 4:30 p.m.

**Every Sunday**

**Fellowship**
- After the 9:10 a.m. service, coffee outside Coburn Hall
- After the 11:15 a.m. service, coffee in Sunderland Hall

**Nursery Care available downstairs**
Nursery care is available from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., during the 9:10 and 11:15 a.m. services, and the adult formation offerings.

**Formation for all ages!**
At St. James’, we believe that if you come here, you will grow. To learn more, visit the First-time Families podium in the Narthex.
- Toddler (ages 2-3) and Primary (ages 4-6) 9:05 - 11:00 a.m.
- Church School, Youth Group (grades 1-12) 10:15 - 11:00 a.m.
- The Forum 10:30 - 11:00 a.m.
- Afternoon Bible Study 4:30 - 5:30 p.m.

**Healing Prayer**
Is there something you would like prayer for—a joy or a concern, for yourself or someone else? Join our Healing Prayer ministers in the Chapel following worship at 9:10, 11:15 a.m., and 6:00 p.m.

**New?** **START HERE TO BEGIN YOUR LIFE IN CHRIST**
- Pick up a “Start Here” brochure and return the welcome card.
- “Meet me at the bell” (after 9:10, 11:15 a.m., and 6:00 p.m.)

Meet next to the bell at the back corner of the church for an informal conversation with a priest about what led you here and where you might be called to go in your spiritual life.

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**Our Advent readings give us a clear message: none of us can do this life alone, and we are called to journey together on the way.**
Next Sunday: December 23

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist
Homily by the Rev. Eva Suarez.

10:30 a.m. Choral Eucharist

6:00 p.m. Candlelight Communion

The Sunday Forum 11:45 a.m., Sunderland Hall
The Rev. Ryan Fleenor concludes our Advent series, Journeying the Way of Love, exploring the spiritual practices for a Jesus-centered life. We await the coming of Christ by moving through the first two chapters of the Gospel of Luke. Luke’s gospel provides a pattern for understanding how we can live the Way of Love as individuals, as families and friends, as a community, and out in the world.

Christmas Eve
3:00 p.m. Children’s Eucharist
A joyous, 45-minute service of Holy Communion especially appropriate for our youngest parishioners and their families, with the Christmas story in tableau and favorite seasonal hymns and carols.

5:00 p.m. Christmas Lessons & Carols
A traditional service of Scripture readings and Christmas carols with a sermon from the Rev. Brenda Husson.

10:30 p.m. Festal Eucharist
Our version of “Midnight Mass,” this is a beautiful and transcendent celebration of Holy Communion by candlelight, including all your favorite carols. The Rev. Brenda Husson preaches and celebrates.

Christmas Day
10:30 a.m. Festal Eucharist
Celebrate Christmas in worship with a service of Holy Eucharist on Christmas Day. The Rev. Eva Suarez preaches, and St. James’ Canterbury Choir leads us in our favorite hymns and anthems.

Bible Memorization Project
Challenge yourself to commit Scripture to memory, one bit per week!

FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 16
Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near.

—Philippians 4:4-5
**News & Notes**

**Share the Joy Gift Drive: Thank you!**
Thanks to the generosity of parishioners and friends, St. James’ was able to help make Christmas extra magical for the children and youth of incarcerated parents through our partnership with the Osborne Association. Thank you to everyone who donated, and if you would like to learn more about our work with the Osborne Association, please contact Susana Ferrer, Associate for Mission.

**Carol on the Church Steps**
Parishioners (and friends) young and old are invited to join Director of Music Davis Wortman for some old-fashioned caroling! A festive reception will follow from 6:00-7:00 p.m.

**Pew Candle set-up**
Help to deck-out our sanctuary for Christmas services alongside other St. James’ children and families. We’ll put up pew-candles and set up the creche at the foot of the chancel. Please contact Vicki Hall to learn more or to get involved.

**Advent Reading: The Jesse Tree, by Geraldine McCaughrean**
The Jesse Tree tells the stories of Jesus’s family and is a great way to learn stories from the Bible! Join parishioners of all ages in this wonderful tradition. McCaughrean’s *The Jesse Tree* brings the story to life especially for children.

**Clergy Discretionary Fund - Christmas gifts**
The Clergy Discretionary Fund makes financial assistance available to persons in need, both within the parish and for those neighbors who come to us in moments of crisis. The ministry of the Clergy Discretionary Fund is particularly dependent upon gifts at Christmas and Easter. This season, help your clergy feed, clothe, shelter, educate, refresh and restore the minds, bodies, and spirits of those in need by making a gift in the amount of your choosing.

**Mexican Border Trip**
In response to the continuing humanitarian crisis on our border, the Rector, our IRC partnership chair Charles Curtis, and the Rev. Eva Suarez joined a group of Episcopalians to visit refugee ministries in the Rio Grande valley, beginning in El Paso, Texas. The group also crossed over to Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, and met with three of the Anglican Bishops of Mexico to visit shelters for asylum seekers. We look forward to hearing more from Brenda, Charles and Eva about their trip, and please keep all refugees, migrants and asylum seekers in your prayers.

**Come together around what matters**
Advent is a season for coming together around what matters most. At St. James’, that means joining together to offer our best gifts for the mission and ministries of our parish. To date, 75% of parishioners have committed 80% of our 2018 financial goal. Will you join us and help us to reach 100%? Visit stjames.org/give to make a year-end gift to our 2018 Commitment Fund.

**Prayer List**

**Thanks be to God**
- for the birth this week of Miriam Isabel Blackman, daughter of Militza Machuca and Josh Blackman, and granddaughter of Isabel Chelli.
- for today’s Baptism of Bowie Seamus Varney.
- for the generosity of all who participated in Share the Joy, and for our relationship with the Osborne Association.
- for all newcomers at St. James’, and for the 48 adults and 16 children welcomed as new members last Sunday.
- for today’s Christmas Pageant, and all who participate in retelling the story of Jesus’ birth among us.
- for the generosity of all who have made 2019 financial commitments.

**Your prayers are requested**
- for St. James’ this Advent, that we would be inspired to faithful watchfulness, preparing the way for God in Christ to enlighten the darkness of our lives and our world.
- for parishioners preparing for Baptisms, especially the Varney and Meade families.
- for St. James’ Advent retreat at Holy Cross Monastery.
- for members and friends of the parish who are sick, sorrowful, or in any kind of trouble: Donald, Henry, David, Terry & Mary Jane, Mal, Elona, Cynthia, Pam, Caroline & Michael, Walterene, James Edward, Joan, Lois, Brian, Sara, Michael, Janet, Eula Mae, Carol, Kathy, Jane, Lilly, Laura & Ben, Bob, Chris, Amanda, Blanche, Victor, Vally, Charles, Seth, Jeanette, Alice, Iris, Sophie, Asher, Mariela, Mariela, Maria & her parents, Frank, Lisa, Carmen, Milton, Alice Mary, Andy & Sandra, Izabel, Rick, Peter & Dianne, Ben, Bill, John, Prune, the Kirkpatrick family, Martha, Tom, Douglas, Vicky, Ramon, Pelham, Anhony, Nancy, Zoey, Nadine, Isabelle & Viviane, Tracey, Kevin, Greg, Betsy, Jeannette, Rodney, Mary Frances, Dorothy, Grace, Mary, JoAnne, Dorothy, Elpir, Harriett, Alex, Marc, Travers, Susan, Madge & Bill, Christophert, Margot, James, Peggy, Katharine, Jerry, Casey, John & Catherine, Theresa, Ruth, Filip, Sandy, Dick, John, George, Peter, Samuel, Jose, Laura, Pam, Barb, Craig, Peter and Jana, Megan, Grace, Wayne, Matthew, Isabel, Babis, Kiley, Margaret, Paul, Barbara, MaryAnn, Bill, Carl Jandernoa family, Dale, Wendy, Carol Sue, Robert, Jonathan, Ben, Bryce, Elena, James, Elena, Kelly, Mackenzie, Jason, Carter, Angelo, Kathryn, Hilary, Jack, Donnice, Teresa, Ben & Juergen, Liam, Ann, Aaron, Molitor, Emily, Madaline, Deborah, Andrew, Charlie, Felicia & Alex, Roger & Jovie, John, Monique, Susie, Cilla, Rich, Sharon, Janet, Julie, Behida, Sarah, Ray, John, Diane, Frank, Karen & Craig, Gary, Sarah, Aaron & family, Anita, Dwain, Helen, Caris & Blake, Charlotte, Josh, Peter, Nellie & Ray, Bill, Anne, Lisa, Jason, Jeffrey, Alexandra, Ed & family, Kenneth, Tony, Vicky, George, Ryan, Steve, Peggy, Bill, Mary Dean, Dorothy, Peg, Nereida, Andrea, Monica, Chris, C.T., Chase, Jean, Kimberly, Erroll, James & Michelle, Rui, Alice, Jeff, Claude, Matthew, Jada, Lauren, Sarah, James, Steven, John, Amy, Kay & Ken, Paul, Blake & Pamela, Seth, Orville, Gabrielle, Pamela, Lucia, and Paula.
- for St. Mark’s Church-in-the-Bowery, Manhattan, according to the Diocesan cycle of prayer.
- for the Diocese of Kivu, Rwanda, its ministries and people, and the Rt. Rev. Augustin Ahimana, according to the Anglican cycle of prayer.
- for our work as stewards of God’s creation, that we may use the earth’s resources rightly in the service of others, and be mindful of our connection to all living things.
- for the United States of America, for wisdom and grace for our leaders in the exercise of their duties, that the rights and dignity of all may be protected, and our nation be a blessing to other nations of the earth.
- for justice and peace in this city and nation; for those who serve the common good in law enforcement and the courts; and for the victims of racism, injustice, and intolerance.
- for all who are persecuted for their faith, including Christians in the Middle East; for all refugees and all who welcome and serve those in need.
- for members and friends of the parish serving in the Armed Forces, in the Diplomatic Corps, and with the U.N.: Tracey, Christian, Mads, Michael, Mark.

**We commend to God’s never-falling care**
- victims of war and violence throughout the world, including all victims of terrorism; all migrants and refugees who have died fleeing danger; and all those killed in the military service of our nation.
- all whom we love but see no more, especially Maria Magdalena Acosta.
The Clergy & Lay Staff

The Vestry

Sam Hutcheson, Sr. Warden - Jennifer Charrington, Jr. Warden

David Andryc
Sue Bennett
Hugh Boston
Gerlinde Brixius
Tristan Bultman
Stephen de Francesco

Susanna Guffey
Elizabeth Littlejohn
Marcy Sendax
Lisa Smith
Anne Strassner
George Wade

Mary Malhotra,
Vestry Officer for Stewardship

Kathleen Connelly,
Youth Representative

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The Rev. Zack Thompson
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The Rev. Eva Suarez
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212-774-4243

Saadik Desane
Maintenance

Zoraida Benitez,
Vestry Officer for Stewardship

Kathleen Connelly,
Youth Representative

Open for prayer and meditation
Sunday, 7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Mon. - Fri., 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

St. James’ Church is a community that actively shares the love of Jesus Christ with each other, our city and the world.

Worship

SUNDAYS
8:00 a.m. - Holy Eucharist (Chapel)
9:10 a.m. - Family Eucharist
11:15 a.m. - Choral Eucharist
6:00 p.m. - Candlelight Communion

WEEKDAYS
M, T, Th, F 8:00 a.m. - Morning Prayer
Wed. 8:00 a.m. - Holy Eucharist
Mon. - Fri. 5:30 p.m. - Evening Prayer

CENTERING PRAYER
Tue. 6:00 p.m.
Wed. 12:00 p.m.
Fri. 12:00 p.m.

LECTIO DIVINA
Mon. 6:00 p.m.

Visit Us

PARISH HOUSE HOURS
Mon. - Fri. 8:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Wednesdays 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

ST. JAMES’ CHURCH
865 MADISON AVE.
NEW YORK, NY 10021

To reach any of us during the week, or in case of pastoral emergency at any time, call 212-774-4200.

STJAMES.ORG

St. James’ is an Episcopal Church, a member of the worldwide Anglican Communion.