Dear friends,

After our wonderful Epiphany celebrations last Sunday, the Wise Men had come and gone, as far as I was concerned. It was time to pay attention to the next thing—the week’s tasks, those few lingering Christmas decorations to be put away, and this week’s observance of the Baptism of our Lord. But then a parishioner’s question after the service stopped me short: “What did the Holy Family do with those gifts they had been given?”

This is not a question for which scripture provides an answer. But I think our own lives can be instructive—just to get our imaginations working, even if we can’t know for sure. What do we do with big gifts that we have been given? Maybe Mary tucked the myrrh away with other family treasures. Maybe the gold helped set Joseph up with a new little carpentry shop once they returned to Nazareth. Perhaps the frankincense made a nice bribe for a border guard when the family fled violence into Egypt.

Whatever the answer, it’s a poignant question—what do we do with the gifts we’ve been given? Gifts tangible and intangible, literal and spiritual, we receive so many in our lives that it can be hard to properly pause and take stock. But the celebration of a Baptism is a wonderful opportunity, as we recognize the gift of this child’s life in Christ and in our community, to ask ourselves again: what do we do with the gifts that we’ve been given? And how may all our lives, as gifts from God, also be gifts to one another?

In Christ,
The Rev. Eva Suarez, Rockwell Fellow

Today at St. James’

The Big Questions 10:30 a.m. & 4:30 p.m.
The Rev. Eva Suarez continues our “Big Questions” series with Trinity, part 2: Who is Jesus? And did he really have to die? Join us at the 10:30 a.m. Forum in Coburn Hall, and 4:30 p.m. Bible study in Sunderland Hall, as we explore together some of the biggest questions Christians ask and are asked. All are welcome!

St. James’ 101 Newcomer Brunch 10:30 a.m., Sunderland Hall
Are you new to St. James? Learn more from the Rector, clergy, lay staff, and active parishioners about our life of faith. Contact the Rev. Zack Thompson to learn more.

Overnight Shelter Open House 1:00 p.m., MAPC
Are you being called to take on a new ministry this new year? Join us at Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church (Madison Ave. and 73rd Street) to learn more about St. James’ homeless shelter. Contact Emilie Han for more information.

Holy Land Pilgrims Brunch 12:30 p.m., Coburn Hall
All those traveling to the Holy Land in May 2019 are invited to an informational luncheon after today’s 11:15 a.m. Eucharist to learn more from the Revs. Brenda Husson and Ryan Fleenor.

Haiti Trip Prep 4:00 p.m., Youth Room
Youth traveling to Haiti in February, along with their parents, are invited for an informational meeting with Jeremy Diakonov-Curtis and Susana Ferrer this afternoon in the Crowder Youth Room on the 3rd Floor.

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.
Next Sunday: January 20

The Second Sunday after the Epiphany
Isaiah 62:1-5, Psalm 36:5-10, 1 Cor. 12:1-11, John 2:1-11

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist
Homily by the Rev. Zack Thompson.

9:10 a.m. Family Eucharist
Sermon by the Rev. Brenda Husson. The Canterbury Choir offers music by Daniel Kallman and James Davy.

11:15 a.m. Choral Eucharist

6:00 p.m. Candlelight Communion
Sermon by the Rev. Eva Suarez. Music for piano and violin.

The Big Questions 10:30 a.m. & 4:30 p.m.
The Rev. Brenda Husson continues our “Big Questions” series with Trinity, part 3: What is the Holy Spirit really? Join us at the 10:30 a.m. Forum and 4:30 p.m. Bible study as we explore together some of the biggest questions Christians ask and are asked.

Helping Hands 10:15 - 11:00 a.m., Primary Room
On Helping Hands Sundays we “Reach Out to Our Neighbors” through a variety of projects. Today, we’ll make desserts for the guests at the Overnight Shelter. All ages are welcome to join us!

Mexican Border Presentation 12:30 p.m., Coburn Hall
Join us for a special presentation by the Revs. Brenda Husson and Eva Suarez about their recent trip to the U.S.-Mexico border, and learn more about how people of faith are seeking to respond to the humanitarian crisis on our southern border. Light refreshments will be served. All are welcome.

Thank you! Thank you!
A huge thank you to everyone who gave so generously in 2018 to support our mission and ministries. We reached 95% of our financial goal for the year. Your generosity makes possible the important work we share in this parish community.

Epiphany 2019: Offering our best gifts
If you have not yet made a 2019 financial commitment, please consider doing so today. Visit stjames.org/give to set up a recurring weekly or monthly gift. By offering our best gifts to God, we invest ourselves in building God’s kingdom on earth as it is in heaven.

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

FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 13
John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals.”

—Luke 3:15
Join a small group this winter!
Sign up for a special, 6-week small group series this Epiphany! As we explore “The Big Questions” as a parish in our Sunday Forums, take a deep dive with your fellow parishioners into the basic tenants of our Christian faith. Groups will meet for one hour per week to reflect together on Ben Myers’ brief, accessible and thought-provoking book, “The Apostles’ Creed: A Guide to the Ancient Catechism.” Contact the Rev. Ryan Fleenor to learn more.

The Catechumenate Thursdays, Jan. 31 - Apr. 11, 6:30 p.m.
Do you have questions about what Christians believe? Wonder about what it means to live as a Christian in 21st century New York? The Catechumenate is for you. We gather each week for a meal, a talk on a central question of Christian faith, small-group discussion, and prayer. Visit stjames.org/catechumenate to learn more.

20s/30s Movie Night Fri. Jan. 25, 6:30 - 9:00 p.m.
The St. Jamesians will host a screening of “The Way,” starring Martin Sheen, a film about a father who travels the Camino de Santiago to learn more about his estranged son. Refreshments provided; film begins at 7:00 p.m. Contact Jeremy Diakonov-Curtis to learn more.

Interested in Joining the choir?
Singers of all ages are invited to consider joining one of our parish choirs to help lead our worship each Sunday. Contact Davis Wortman or Loraine Enlow to learn more.

Offering Envelopes available
If you or your child use offering envelopes to make your weekly financial contribution, they may be picked up outside Sunderland Hall. Questions? Contact Sandra De La Cruz.

Nominating a Vestry Member
At the annual meeting in May the parish will elect four Vestry members and one Warden. David Andryc, Lisa Smith and George Wade will complete their Vestry terms and are ineligible for re-election. Marcy Sendax will complete her first Vestry term and is eligible for re-election. Sam Hutcheson will also complete his term as Warden and is ineligible for re-election.

The Vestry will propose a fixed slate of candidates, in which the number of candidates matches the number of open positions, a change from contested elections that was approved by the parish at last year’s annual meeting. Help the Nominating Committee ensure that the 2019 Vestry slate reflects the breadth of our community, as well as a balance of ages, skills, life stages and gender. Nomination forms may be found on the website, as well as in the Narthex, outside Sunderland Hall, and in the Parish House reception area. Please place nomination forms in the box in the Parish House reception area, or email Lisa Smith at LisaSmith155@gmail.com

Feel free to speak to any member of the Nominating Committee as well: Lisa Smith (chair), Missy Condo, Stephen de Francesco, Joni Grossman, Justine Keithline, Giusi LaCarra, Andrew Lawton, George Wade and Brenda Husson (ex officio).

Prayer List

Thanks be to God
• for the new life in Christ of Lea Cristin Giron-Garcia, baptized at today’s 9:10 service.
• for our ongoing work with St. Vincent’s Center for Children with Disabilities in the Diocese of Haiti.
• for the generosity of parishioners who have made pledges for 2019, and for all who share in the financial support of the parish.

Your prayers are requested
• for St. James’ this Epiphany season, that being illumined by Word and Sacrament, we may shine with the radiance of Christ’s glory, that his light may be known to the ends of the earth.
• 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, Ann & Ben, Bob, Chris, Amanda, Blanche, Victor, Valli, Charles, Seth, Jeanette, Alice, Iris, Sophie, Asher, Marielle, Maria & her parents, Frank, Lisa, Carmen, Milton, Alice Mary, Andy & Sabra, Izabel, Rick, Peter & Dianne, Ben, Bill, John, Prune, the Kirkpatrick family, Martha, Tom, Douglas, Vicky, Ramon, Pelham, Anthony, Nancy, Zoey, Nadine, Isabelle & Vivianne, Tracey, Kevin, Greg, Betsy, Jeannette, Mary Frances, Dorothy, Grace, Mary, JoAnne, Dorothy, Elmore, Harriett, Alex, Marc, Travers, Susan, Madge & Bill, Christopher, Margot, James, Peggy, Katharine, Jerry, Casey, John & Catherine, Theresa, Ruth, Filipp, 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, Angela, Kathryn, Hilary, Jake, Donnie, 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, Joss, Peter, Nellie & Ray, Bill, Anne, Lisa, Jason, Jeffrey, Alexandria, Ed & family, Kenneth, Tony, Vicky, George, Ryan, Steve, Peggy, Bill, May Dean, Dorothy, Peg, Nereida, Andrea, Monica, C.T., Chase, Jean, Kimberly, Alice, Jeff, Claude, Matthew, Jada, Sarah, James, Steven, John, Paul, Blake & Pamela, Orville, Gabrielle, Pamela, Paula, Lauren, Jiji, The Varga Family, Carol, Elena, Allison, Lois, Jane & Peter, Emily, Ann, Judy, Lucia, Pat, Robert, Jorge, Jamal, Vera, Joyce, Stephanie, Staph, Shakiera, Brad, Connie, and Tony.
• for the Church of the Holy Nativity, Bronx, according to the Diocesan cycle of prayer.
• for the Anglican Church of Australia, its ministries and people, and the Most Rev. Philip Leslie Freier, Archbishop of Melbourne & Primate of Australia, 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 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.: Tracy, Christian, Mads, Michael, Mark.

We commend to God’s never-failing 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, including Errol F. Rhodes and Patrick Egan.

To have your prayer requests printed in this space, or to provide an update, please e-mail the clergy at pastoralcare@stjames.org, or visit stjames.org/prayer.
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

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

Visit Us

PARISH HOUSE HOURS
Mon. - Fri. · 8:00 - 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.