Dear friends,

When meeting with families about baptism, I often ask if they have ever entered a church where they found their shoulders relaxing and an overall sense of ease. Most have. The fact is that years of prayer and devotion permeate a space and holiness can become palpable (I don’t know how this happens, only that it does).

We’re now in the long season of Epiphany, a time the church refers to as ‘ordinary time’. Mid-January and February can feel ordinary (as in dull) after the excitement of the Christmas season with its readings about the baby and the manger, the star and the kings. Now we hear about Jesus’ day to day ministry. Having heard those stories many times, they may seem familiar, even ordinary.

Unless we reconsider our understanding of ordinary. Epiphany’s readings reveal God’s glory through Jesus’ actions in and for the world. Yet for each miracle, he uses what is at hand: bread and a little fish to feed five thousand, water to make gallons of wine at a wedding, his hands to heal someone who’s sick, a few words of forgiveness to restore people broken by shame. Jesus takes what is ordinary and shows that it can be used to reveal God’s love and the grace. People pray and a building is changed.

What do we have in our daily lives that might be used to show forth God’s goodness? Prayers for those in need, bread for the hungry, restorative words. The list is long, but put to God’s use, these may be extraordinary weeks.

In Christ,
The Rev. Brenda Husson, Rector

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**Today at St. James’**

**The Big Questions** 10:30 a.m. & 4:30 p.m.
The Rev. Zack Thompson continues our “Big Questions” series with Question 4: How are we meant to read the Bible now? 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.

**A special Epiphany performance** 1:30 p.m., Church
This afternoon, members of our own congregation (supplemented with a few professionals) will present Good King Wenceslas, a play by noted author Katherine Paterson, author of the Bridge to Terabithia. The play, directed by parishioner Sabra Jones and performed in the church, reminds us that Christ is ever in our midst. Free and open to the public.

**Youth John 21 Breakfast** 10:15 a.m., Kitchen
All youth grades 6-12 are invited to the kitchen for this monthly time for food and fellowship. Contact Jeremy Diakonov-Curtis to learn more.

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**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.

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**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: February 3

Candlemas: The Presentation of Our Lord
Malachi 3:1-4; Psalm 84; Hebrews 2:14-18; Luke 2:22-40

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist
Homily by the Rev. Ryan Fleenor.

9:10 a.m. Children's Eucharist
Sermon by the Rev. Brenda Husson. The Canterbury, Junior, Youth, Primary, and Cherub Choirs offer music by Mark Burrows and Herbert Brewer.

11:15 a.m. Choral Eucharist
Sermon by the Rev. Ryan Fleenor. The Compostela Choir offers music by Andrea Gabrieli, Herbert Howells, and Howard Helvey.

6:00 p.m. Candlelight Communion

What is Candlemas?
The Feast of the Presentation of Our Lord, traditionally known as Candlemas, is celebrated 40 days after Christmas. Coming in the midst of the Epiphany season, it is both a midwinter celebration of the light of Christ and a pivot toward the season of Lent.

The Big Questions 10:30 a.m. & 4:30 p.m.
Matthew Leaycraft, Director of Finance & Lay Associate, continues our “Big Questions” series with Question 5: Does God really answer prayer? 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.

Parenting Forum 10:30 a.m., Sunderland Hall
In this midst of our “Big Questions” series, the Rev. Zack Thompson leads a conversation about the biggest questions we face as Christian parents, and how we might answer them together.

Spiritual Gifts Inventory begins!
Throughout the month of February, parishioners will be encouraged to take an online, 20-minutes spiritual gifts inventory. We will receive our results on March 10, beginning a Lenten Forum series on discovering, nurturing, and using our spiritual gifts. Look for the parish-wide email next week!

Epiphany 2019: Offering our best gifts
If you have not yet made a 2019 financial commitment, please consider doing so today. Visit stjames.org/2019commitment to make a commitment or 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.
News & Notes

The Catechumenate begins!  Thu. Jan. 31, 6:30 p.m.
Learn more about what it means to live as a Christian in 21st century New York. We’ll gather weekly for a meal, talk on a question of faith, discussion, and prayer. Visit stjames.org/catechumenate.

Funeral: Steven P. Schinke  Fri. Feb. 1, 11:00 a.m.
A funeral service will be held for Steven P. Schinke, former warden of St. James’, who died at his home in Connecticut on January 1.

Friday Friends Game Night  Fri. Feb. 1, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
All 5th - 7th Graders (and friends) are invited for dinner and Sleeping Bag Worm Races, Human Tic-Tac-Toe; Ready, Aim, Starburst; and much more! Contact Jeremy Diakonov-Curtis to learn more.

Volunteer to chaperone children on a visit to see their incarcerated parents, Traitors, Madge & Bill, Christopher, Margot, Jason, Adam, John, and with the U.N.: Tracy, Christian, Mads, and other friends. Volunteering is for you. Please come and bring your friends.

Valentine-making Party  Sat. Feb. 2, 9:30 - 11:00 a.m.
All are invited for a morning of creativity and love! Whether you are 2 or 92 and enjoy using glitter, stickers, and doilies, then this event is for you. Please come and bring your friends.

Winter Parish Supper  Wed. Feb. 6, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
You’re invited to an evening of good food, festive drink, and lively conversation! Children and teens are welcome; nursery care is also available. Suggested $15 donation. Please RSVP to Grace Beacham.

Family Friday: Valentine Fun!  Fri. Feb. 8, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
Join us as we make 150 sandwiches for New York Common Pantry, enjoy a pizza dinner, and then do Valentine crafts and decorate cookies. Fun for all ages...invite your friends! Contact Vicki Hall.

Absalom Jones Celebration  Sat. Feb. 9, 10:30 a.m.
Join parishioners from around the Diocese for a special service at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in celebration of the first African-American priest in the Episcopal Church.

Bowling with the Osborne Youth  Sat. Feb. 9, 12:00 - 2:00 p.m.
Enjoy an afternoon with the children of incarcerated parents at Lucky Strike! A great way to get involved in this incredible ministry. RSVP to parishioner Elaine Connelly (connellyem@hotmail.com).

Albion Prison visit  May 2 - 3
Volunteer to chaperone children on a visit to see their incarcerated mothers upstate. Please contact Susana Ferrer to learn more about this exciting and transformative ministry.

Join a small group this winter!
Take a deep dive into the tenants of our faith in weekly, hour-long groups reflecting on Ben Myers’, The Apostles’ Creed: A Guide to the Ancient Catechism. Contact the Rev. Ryan Fleenor 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 for election this May
Help ensure that the 2019 Vestry slate reflects the breadth of our community. Nomination forms may be found online, as well as in the Narthex and Parish House. Please return forms to the box in the 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 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 illuminated 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 our ongoing work with St. Vincent’s Center for Children with Disabilities in the Diocese of Haiti, and for the members of our youth group and their chaperones preparing to visit St. Vincent’s in February.
• for members and friends of the parish who are sick, sorrowful, or in any kind of trouble: Donald, Henry, David, Terry & Mary Jane, Mal, Elena, 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, Aher, Marielle, Maria & her parents, Frank, Lisa, Carmen, Milton, Alice Mary, Andy & Sabra, Isabel, Rick, Peter & Dianne, Ben, Bill, John, Prune, the Kirkpatrick family, Tom, Douglas, Vicky, Pelham, Anthoni, Nancy, Sony, Nadine, Isabelle & Viviane, Tracey, Kevin, Greg, Betsy, Jeannette, Mary Frances, Dorothy, Grace, Mary, JoAnne, Dorothy, Elnora, Harriett, Alex, Marc, Travers, Madge & Bill, Christopher, Margot, James, Peggy, Katharine, John, Case, 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, Carol Sue, Robert, Jonathan, Ben, Bryce, Elena, James, Elena, Kelly, Mackenzie, Jason, Carter, Angelo, Kathryn, Hillary, Jake, Donnice, Teresa, Ben & Juergen, Liam, Ann, Aaron, Miltor, 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, Jason, Jeffrey, Alexandra, 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, Steven, John, Paul, Blake & Pamela, Orville, Gabrielle, Pamela, Paula, Lauren, Jihi, The Varga Family, Elena, Allison, Lois, Jane & Peter, Emily, Ann, Pat, Robert, Jorge, Shakiera, Brad, Connie, Ryan and the Malosh family, Angelina, Elissa, Angela, Lynette, Jim, Karen, and Olivia.
• for the Diocesan Pilgrims to the Diocese of Cuernavaca, Mexico, according to the Diocesan cycle of prayer.
• for the Igreja Episcopal Anglicana do Brasil, its ministries and people, and the Most Rev. Naudal Alves Gomes, Primate of Brazil & Bishop of Curitiba, 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.: 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.

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
- Greg 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.