Invitations & Information  
February 3, 2019

Dear friends,

The late Mary Oliver gives us a succinct set of directives in her poem “Sometimes,”

Instructions for living a life:
- Pay attention.
- Be astonished.
- Tell about it.

If you are on our mailing list, this afternoon you will receive an e-mail with an invitation to engage in a spiritual gifts inventory. (Visit stjames.org/spiritual-gifts if you do not!) Participating in the exercise is a way that you can pay attention to the gifts of the Spirit that God has bestowed upon you for the welfare of the church and the world. You may very well be astonished by the results that you will receive.

Together, during the season of Lent, we are going to identify spiritual gifts and seek to further understand the gifts we have so that we might release them at St. James’ and in the wider community. By the time Easter comes around this year we want you to not only know what your spiritual gifts are, we want you to feel empowered to exercise them so that you can “tell about it” through what you do with your life in this place at this time.

In another poem, Mary Oliver asks us a striking question: Tell me, what is it you plan to do with your one wild and precious life? Jesus has given us the answer, “Follow me, and let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.” Together, let’s pay attention to the spiritual gifts the living Christ is pouring out on us, and take a moment to be astonished, and then, let’s tell about it through the offering of our lives.

In Christ,
The Rev. Zack Thompson, Associate Rector

Today at St. James’

What is Candlemas?
Today we celebrate the Feast of the Presentation of Our Lord, known as Candlemas. Coming 40 days after Christmas, it is both a celebration of the light of Christ and a pivot toward Lent.

The Big Questions 10:30 a.m. & 4:30 p.m.
Matthew Leaycraft, Director of Finance & Lay Associate, tackles Question 5: Does God really answer prayer? Join us 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.

Communion Awareness 10:15 a.m., 3rd Grade class
3rd Graders and their parents are invited to learn more about the significance of Communion, with the Rev. Ryan Fleenor.

Small groups begin! 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.
A new Epiphany small group series using Ben Myers’ “The Apostles’ Creed” begins today. Intrigued? Contact Ryan Fleenor or join groups today in the Library and 5th Floor Meeting Room.

Spiritual Gifts Inventory begins!
Parishioners will receive an email this afternoon with a link to take a brief spiritual gifts inventory. We will receive our results on March 10, beginning a Lenten Forum series on discovering, nurturing, and using our spiritual gifts.

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.

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.

Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.
**This Week**

* Special this week  Learn more at stjames.org/calendar

**Monday, February 4**  
Mark 7:24-37

- Morning Prayer 8:00 - 8:30 a.m.
- Caregivers Playgroup 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
- Evening Prayer 5:30 - 6:00 p.m.
- Lectio Divina 6:00 - 6:30 p.m.
- * Monday small group begins 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.
- Overnight Shelter open (Sunday - Friday)

**Tuesday, February 5**  
Mark 8:1-10

- Morning Prayer 8:00 - 8:30 a.m.
- Tuesday Morning Small Group 8:30 - 9:30 a.m.
- Tuesday Lunch Program 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
- 3-5 year old Playgroup 3:30 - 4:45 p.m.
- Cherub Choir rehearsal 3:45 - 4:15 p.m.
- Junior Choir rehearsal 4:30 - 5:30 p.m.
- Evening Prayer 5:30 - 6:00 p.m.
- Centering Prayer 6:00 - 6:30 p.m.
- Canterbury Choir rehearsal 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

**Wednesday, February 6**  
Mark 8:11-26

- Holy Eucharist 8:00 - 8:30 a.m.
- Wednesday Bible Study 8:30 - 9:30 a.m.
- 0-12 month Playgroup 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
- Centering Prayer 12:00 - 12:30 p.m.
- Evening Prayer 5:30 - 6:00 p.m.
- * Winter Parish Supper 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

**Thursday, February 7**  
Mark 8:27-9:1

- Morning Prayer 8:00 - 8:30 a.m.
- 12-24 month Playgroup 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
- Bible Stories & Legos 4:00 - 4:45 p.m.
- We Love to Sing 4:00 - 4:45 p.m.
- Primary Choir rehearsal 4:45 - 5:00 p.m.
- Thursdays for Families 5:00 - 6:00 p.m.
- Evening Prayer 5:30 - 6:00 p.m.
- The Catechumenate 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
- Education for Ministry 6:30 - 8:45 p.m.

**Friday, February 8**  
Mark 9:2-13

- Men’s Group 7:00 - 8:00 a.m.
- Morning Prayer 8:00 - 8:30 a.m.
- 24-36 month Playgroup 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
- Centering Prayer 12:00 - 12:30 p.m.
- * Friday small group begins 12:30 - 1:30 p.m.
- Evening Prayer 5:30 - 6:00 p.m.
- Friday Dinner Program 5:00 - 9:00 p.m.
- * Family Friday: Valentine Fun 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

**Saturday, February 9**  
Mark 9:14-29

- * Absalom Jones celebration 10:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
- * Bowling with the Osborne Youth 12:00 - 2:00 p.m.

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**Next Sunday: February 10**

* Special this week  Learn more at stjames.org/calendar

**The Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany**  

- **8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist**  
  Homily by the Rev. Brenda Husson.

- **9:10 a.m. Family Eucharist**  
  Sermon by the Rev. Eva Suarez. The Canterbury, Junior, and Youth Choirs offer music by John Rutter and Adrian Batten.

- **11:15 a.m. Choral Eucharist**  
  Sermon by the Rev. Brenda Husson. The Compostela Choir offers music by Arthur Wills, Michael Haydn, and Bruce Saylor.

- **6:00 p.m. Candlelight Communion**  

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**The Big Questions**  
10:30 a.m. & 4:30 p.m.

The Rev. Zack Thompson continues our “Big Questions” series with Question 6: If God is in control, why do bad things happen? 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.

**Baptism Prep**  
10:30 a.m., Library

Would you like to have your child baptized at St. James’? Join fellow parishioners to learn more about this important sacrament. Contact the Rev. Zack Thompson to learn more or RSVP.

**Spiritual Gifts Inventory underway!**

Throughout the month of February, parishioners will be encouraged to take an online, 20-minute spiritual gifts inventory. We will receive our results on March 10, beginning a Lenten Forum series on discovering, nurturing, and using our spiritual gifts. Visit stjames.org/spiritual-gifts to take the inventory!

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**Bible Memorization Project**

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

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**FOR THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 3**

Lord, you now have set your servant free to go in peace as you have promised; for these eyes of mine have seen the Savior, whom you have prepared for all the world to see.

—Luke 2:29-31
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*. Groups will meet Sundays at 1:00 p.m., Mondays at 7:00 p.m., and Fridays at 12:30 p.m. Contact the Rev. Ryan Fleenor to learn more.

**Last chance! Catechumenate underway** Thursdays, 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.

**Winter Parish Supper** Wednesday, 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!** Friday, 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** Saturday, 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** Saturday, 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).

**Offering Envelopes available**
If you 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).

**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**

**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 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 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: Susana Ferrer, Dan Noble, Jeremy Curtis, Caroline Baynard, Kathleen Connelly, William Connelly, Laura Lyle, Eva McCoy, Sophia McCoy, Nick Roker, Helen Scarborough, Baker Smith, and Lily Smith.
- 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, John, Lois, Brian, Sara, Michael, Merc, 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, Isabel, Rick, Peter & Dianne, Ben, Bill, John, Prune, the Kirkpatrick family, Tom, Douglas, Vicky, Pelham, Anthony, Nancy, Zoey, Nadine, Isabel & Viviane, Tracey, Kevin, Grey, Betsy, Jeanette, Mary Frances, Dorothy, Grace, Mary, JoAnne, Dorothy, Elnora, Harriet, Alex, Marc, Travers, Madge & Bill, Christopher, 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, Carol Sue, Robert, Jonathan, Ben, Bryce, James, Elena, Kelly, Mackenzie, Jason, Carter, Angelo, Kathryn, Jake, Donnica, Teresa, Ben & Juergen, Liam, Ann, Aaron, Molitor, Emily, Madaline, Deborah, Andrew, Charlie, Felicia & Alex, Roger & Jovic, 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, Chase, Jean, Kimberly, Alice, Jeff, Claude, Matthew, Jada, Sarah, Steven, John, Paul, Blake & Pamela, Orville, Gabrielle, Pamela, Paula, Lauren, Elena, Allison, Lois, Jane & Peter, Emily, Ann, Pat, Robert, Jorge, Shaktiera, Brad, Connie, Ryan and the Malosh family, Lynette, Jim, Karen, Olivia, Homer, Grace, and Kim.
- for the Diocesan Global Mission Commission, according to the Diocesan cycle of prayer.
- for the Anglican Church of Burundi, its ministries and people, and the Most Rev. Martin Blaise Niyaboho, Archbishop of Burundi & Bishop of Makamba, 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 friends and members 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 John Dewey, Ruth Feder, Jay Long, Toni Pechler, and Mary Diehl.

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.

Offering our best gifts in 2019. Thank you!

We are delighted to share that, to date, 363 financial commitments have been offered for 2019. If you haven't yet made your commitment, please join us! We want to be “all in” as we offer our best gift for God’s work in this city.

Visit stjames.org/2019Commitment or fill out a “Consecration” commitment card from the Narthex or Parish House.