Dear friends,

“Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything, by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God.” Philippians 4:4-6

The Season of Advent is one of expectation and preparation for the birth of Jesus, the feast of Christmas. On Gaudete Sunday, we suspend the penitential exercises of the season to symbolize the joy and gladness in the promised redemption. Pope Francis, in his 2014 Gaudete Sunday homily, said that Gaudete Sunday is known as “the Sunday of Joy”, and that instead of worrying about all they still haven’t done to prepare for Christmas, people should be mindful “of all the good things life has given you.”

The way that we pass on the faith to the next generation is through story – spoken, written, enacted, embodied. The Christmas Pageant is a way to tell and embed the story. Many of our older youth yearly recite the lines of the pageant to each other in their natural conversations this time of year. The joy of the 3rd Sunday comes into stark focus for me when I walk through St. James’ on the afternoon of the pageant (always Advent 3) and am surrounded by a heavenly host of wiggly angels, shepherds, wise men, and animals of all sorts. It may not be calm, but all is bright and full of excitement and joy.

The excitement of the Christmas Pageant is not age-dependent. As we remember our own experiences and retell the sacred story, we are joined with all the people who have told this miraculous story of a young family and the tiny baby, born to bring us peace and joy. As the poet Ann Weems says in Christmas Comes, “Christmas comes every time we see God in other persons. / The human and the holy meet in Bethlehem or in Times Square, … / For someone on earth will see the star, / Someone will hear the angel voices, / Someone will run to Bethlehem, / Someone will know peace and goodwill: / The Christ will be born!

In Christ,
Vicki Hall, Director of Children’s & Family Ministries

On Gaudete Sunday, we suspend the penitential exercises of the season to symbolize the joy and gladness in the promised redemption.

Today at St. James’

Newcomer Welcome 9:10, 11:15 a.m., and 6:00 p.m.
Twice a year, we welcome our newest members in worship. Today, we welcome 41 adults and 12 children! If you would like to have a conversation about joining St. James’, please contact the Rev. Zack Thompson.

The Forum 10:30 a.m., Coburn Hall
The Rev. Zack Thompson continues our Advent series on the Bible’s sweeping story of salvation as told through the stories of four gardens. This week, we explore Jesus’ appearance to the woman at the Garden Tomb.

Mission Brunch 12:30 p.m., St. George
Interested in mission and service at St. James’? Please join ministry leaders to learn about how you can serve others and deepen your life of faith. Contact the Rev. Eva Suarez to learn more.

Children’s Christmas Pageant 4:00 p.m., Sanctuary
All are welcome to join in as children and youth offer beloved carols and dialogue. Thank you to all the parents and volunteers who help make the Pageant possible!

Share the Joy: Gift Drive deadline today!
We’re $2,000 away from our goal of providing a personal gift for every child at our Christmas party for the children of incarcerated parents! Please visit stjames.org/give to contribute or contact Windsor Jones to learn more.

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 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.

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?
• 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.
This Week

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

Monday, December 16 Matthew 24:15-31
Morning Prayer 8:00 - 8:20 a.m.
Caregivers Playgroup (0-36 months) 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Evening Prayer 5:30 - 6:00 p.m.
Lectio Divina 6:00 - 6:30 p.m.
Overnight Shelter (Mon. - Thu.)

Tuesday, December 17 Matthew 24:32-44
Morning Prayer 8:00 - 8:20 a.m.
Moms Small Group 8:45 - 9:45 a.m.
Tuesday Lunch Program 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
3-5 year old Playgroup 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.
* Caroling on the Church Steps 5:30 - 6:00 p.m.
* Caroling Reception 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.
Canterbury Choir rehearsal 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Wednesday, December 18 Matthew 24:45-51
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.

Thursday, December 19 Matthew 25:1-13
Morning Prayer 8:00 - 8:20 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.
* Thursdays for Families: Eucharist 4:45 - 6:00 p.m.
Evening Prayer 5:30 - 6:00 p.m.
Small Group Supper 6:00 - 6:30 p.m.
Education for Ministry 6:30 - 8:45 p.m.

Friday, December 20 Matthew 25:14-30
Men’s Group 7:00 - 8:00 a.m.
Morning Prayer 8:00 - 8:20 a.m.
24-36 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.

Saturday, December 21 John 14:1-7
* The Feast of St. Thomas 10:00 a.m.
* Share the Joy party for Osborne children and youth 10:00 a.m.

Next Sunday: December 22

The Fourth Sunday of Advent
Isaiah 7:10-16; Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-25; Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18

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

9:10 a.m. Holy Eucharist
Sermon by the Rev. Zack Thompson. The Canterbury, Cherub, Primary, Junior & Youth Choirs offer the music of Paul Manz and Charles Wood.

11:15 a.m. Choral Eucharist
Sermon by the Rev. Eva Suarez. The Compostela Choir offers the music of Dan Forrest, Herbert Howells, and Harold Darke.

6:00 p.m. Candlelight Communion

The Forum 10:30 a.m., Coburn Hall
The Rev. Ryan Fleenor concludes our Advent series on the Bible’s sweeping story of salvation as told through the stories of four gardens. We will explore the Book of Revelation’s vision of the New Jerusalem and the restored Tree of Life.

Pew Candle & Creche set up 2:00 - 3:00 p.m., Sanctuary
Children are invited to 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.

Christmastide Worship

- Christmas Eve
  Tuesday, December 24
  Children’s Service at 3:00 p.m.
  Lessons & Carols at 5:00 p.m.
  Festal Eucharist at 10:30 p.m.

- Christmas Day
  Wednesday, December 25
  Festal Eucharist at 10:00 a.m.

- First Sunday after Christmas
  Sunday, December 29
  Holy Eucharist at 8:00, 10:00 a.m., and 6:00 p.m.

- Second Sunday after Christmas
  Sunday, January 5
  Holy Eucharist at 8:00, 9:10, 11:15 a.m., and 6:00 p.m.

- The Feast of the Epiphany
  Monday, January 6
  Lessons & Carols at 6:00 p.m.

This week’s Bible Memorization verse

You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. —James 5:8
Caroling on the Church Steps  
**Tuesday, 5:30 p.m.**

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.

Celebrating The Feast of the Epiphany  
**Monday, January 6**

Epiphany marks the end of Christmastide and the beginning of “the season of light,” with the arrival of the Three Kings. The St. James’ Compostela Choir offers a service of Epiphany Lessons & Carols at 6:00 p.m., followed by a festive reception.

“Rings & Things” Retreat  
**Saturday, January 11**

Are you newly engaged or considering a wedding at St. James? Join the clergy and other couples for a Saturday workshop to begin preparing. Required for couples getting married at St. James’, but open to all. Contact the Rev. Zack Thompson to learn more.

The Catechumenate  
**Thursdays, Jan. 23 - Apr. 2, 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.

Save the Date! Winter Parish Supper  
**Wednesday, February 5**

“In the bleak mid-winter,” join fellow parishioners for a festive evening of good food, drink, and lively conversation. Older children and teenagers are welcome to attend. Nursery care available. More information to come!

Building bridges to better futures this Christmas season

The Clergy Discretionary Fund makes financial assistance available to persons in need who come in moments of crisis. 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. Visit stjames.org/CDF to make a gift.

Remembering St. James’ in your Year-End Giving

This has been a remarkable year in our life together at St. James’. The gifts of time, talent, and treasure parishioners offer make this a thriving, vibrant community of faith that actively shares the love of Jesus Christ. If you feel moved to make an end-of-year gift, please visit stjames.org/give. Every gift matters and we are grateful for your generosity. For help or information about making gifts of stock or appreciated securities, please contact Sandra De La Cruz.

Prayer List

Thanks be to God

- for our new members welcomed at today’s services.
- for the generosity of all who have made 2020 financial commitments.
- for our shared ministry with St. James’ Church, Fordham, and our mission to seek and serve Christ in all persons.

Your prayers are requested

- for our parish Church in this Season of Advent, that by God’s grace we might become a people who make room for the light of Christ to shine forth in the world.
- for our partners at St. Vincent’s School and in the Diocese of Haiti, during this time of conflict and civil unrest.
- for St. Anne’s Church, Washingtonville, according to the Diocesan cycle of prayer.
- for the Church in El Salvador, its ministries and people, and the Rt Rev. Juan David Alvarado Melgar, according to the Anglican Communion 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, including Donald Marron and Melanie Farrell.

To have your prayer requests printed in this space, or to provide an update, please e-mail the clergy at pastoralcare@stjames.org.
The Clergy & Lay Staff

The Rev. Brenda Husson
Rector
bhusson@stjames.org
212-774-4250

Sue Bennett
Hugh Boston
Gerlinde Brixius
Richard Brown
Tristan Bultman
Stephen de Francesco

Dolly Bross Geary
Susanna Guffey
Elizabeth Littlejohn
Marcy Sendax
Bob Stinson
Anne Strassner

Mary Malhotra,
Vestry Officer for Stewardship

The Vestry
Jennifer Charrington, Sr. Warden · Missy Condo, Jr. Warden

Jeremy Dhakonon-Curtis
Youth & Young Adult
jcurtis@stjames.org
212-774-4239

The Rev. Ryan Fleenor
Vicar
rfleenor@stjames.org
212-774-4241

The Rev. Zack Thompson
Associate Rector
zthompson@stjames.org
212-774-4255

The Rev. Eva Suarez
Associate Rector
esuarez@stjames.org
212-774-4256

Grace Beacham
Parish Life
geacham@stjames.org
212-774-4231

Zoraida Benitez
Hospitality
212-774-4220

Sandra De La Cruz
Stewardship & Operations
stewardship@stjames.org
212-774-4243

Saadik Desane
Maintenance
212-774-4204

Lorraine Enlow
Children’s & Youth Choir
lenlow@stjames.org
212-774-4204

Isaac Eustaquio
Maintenance

Andrew Filippone, Jr.
Media Producer
media@stjames.org

Josephina Franco
Hospitality
212-774-4220

Rosa Gentile
Assistant to the Rector
rgentile@stjames.org
212-774-4251

Benjamin Gray
Evening & Sunday Receptionist

Vicki Hall
Children & Families
vhall@stjames.org
212-774-4232

Stephen Hurest
Maintenance

Windsor Jones
Mission Volunteer Coordinator
wjones@stjames.org
212-774-4256

Matthew Leaycraft
Finance & Lay Associate
mileaycraft@stjames.org
212-774-4204

Cathy McAleer
Accounting
cmcaleer@stjames.org
212-774-4238

Hannah Minton
Mission Intern
hminton@stjames.org
212-774-4257

Francis Piraino
Property Manager
fpiraino@stjames.org
212-774-4279

Emil Ramirez
Maintenance

Mercedes Rosario
Reception
merosario@stjames.org
212-774-4200

Araliza Toribio
Weekend Reception

Stephen Tharp
Artist-in-Residence

Chris Veillon
Communications
cveillon@stjames.org
212-774-4244

Davis Wortman
Director of Music
dwortman@stjames.org
212-774-4233

The Rev. Carol Anderson
Non-stipendiary
Priest Associate

The Rev. Brenda Husson
Rector
bhusson@stjames.org
212-774-4250

The Vestry
Jennifer Charrington, Sr. Warden · Missy Condo, Jr. Warden

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 Communio

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.
Open for prayer and meditation
Sunday, 7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Mon. - Fri., 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Visit Us
PARISH HOUSE HOURS
Mon. - Fri. · 9:00 - 9:00 p.m.
Wednesdays · 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 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.