Dear friends,

Christmas is that great feast of divine interruption. It celebrates the most startling and wondrous truth of all: that God comes, sometimes when we least expect it, to be with us and for us. God doesn’t wait for us to have it all together. God doesn’t care if we are the right kind of people. God just comes, and invites us know how deeply loved we are. God comes and challenges us to share God’s love in all we do.

We hope Christ’s light shines brightly for you this Christmas. And we hope you will join us in all the ways we seek to share it. Some of those opportunities are described in this leaflet, and much more information is available on our website, stjames.org. Our pictures, phone numbers, and e-mail addresses are on the back page. Any of us would welcome the opportunity to know you better, and to help you find your way to follow Christ.

Merry Christmas and God bless you!

The Clergy and Lay Staff of St. James’

St. James’ Church

Invitations & Information

Christmastide 2019

The Twelve Days of Christmas

Christmas Eve Tuesday, December 24
3:00 p.m. Children’s Eucharist
A joyous, 45-minute service of Holy Communion especially appropriate for our youngest parishioners and their families.

5:00 p.m. Lessons & Carols
A traditional service of Scripture readings and Christmas carols, with a homily from the Rev. Brenda G. Husson, Rector. Begins with a choral prelude at 4:30 p.m.

10:30 p.m. Festal Eucharist
Our version of “Midnight Mass,” this is a beautiful and transcendent celebration of Holy Communion, including all your favorite carols. Begins with a 30-minute prelude of choral music at 10:00 p.m.

Christmas Day Wednesday, December 25
10:00 a.m. Festal Eucharist
Celebrate the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ with a service of Holy Eucharist including sermon and favorite carols.

The First Sunday after Christmas Day Sunday, December 29
8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Chapel)
10:00 a.m. Festal Eucharist (Church)
6:00 p.m. Candlelight Communion (Church)

New Year’s Day Wednesday, January 1
12:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist
Join us for a meditative and peaceful celebration of Holy Communion in the Chancel to celebrate the Feast of the Holy Name.

The Second Sunday after Christmas Day Sunday, January 5
8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Chapel)
9:10 a.m. Family Eucharist (Church)
11:15 a.m. Choral Eucharist (Church)
6:00 p.m. Candlelight Communion (Church)

The Feast of the Epiphany Monday, January 6
6:00 p.m. Lessons & Carols
We conclude the Twelve Days of Christmas with Three Kings Day, remembering the visit of the Magi to the Holy Family.
The joy, peace, and love we know at Christmas aren’t meant to fade away. The good news of Christmas is that God chooses to live here with us all the time. How will we notice and respond in this new year?

**Root yourself in worship.**

Worship lifts us into God’s presence, feeds us, and forms us into the people Christ would have us be.

- **Sunday Eucharists** 8:00, 9:10, 11:15 a.m., 6:00 p.m. Sunday worship is the focal point of our week as Christians. We offer four services, in four styles, each centered on Word and Sacrament. Learn more at stjames.org/sunday.
- **Morning Worship** Mondays - Fridays, 8:00 a.m. Begin each day in prayerful attention to God. Morning Prayer is offered on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays. On Wednesdays, an intimate Eucharist is celebrated.
- **Evening Prayer** Mondays - Fridays, 5:30 p.m. Join us for this service of Psalms, Bible readings and prayers. Lectio Divina (a meditative way of reading Scripture) follows immediately on Mondays and Centering Prayer on Tuesdays, both of which meet at 6:00 p.m.
- **Centering Prayer** Tue. 6:30 p.m., Wed. & Fri. 12:00 p.m. Do you long for some moments of stillness and quiet attention to God in your life? Join us in meditative Centering Prayer. For more information, contact Matthew Leaycraft.
- **Worship for Families** Thursdays, 4:45 p.m. “Thursdays for Families” offers Christian education, fun crafts, accessible worship, and supper for children ages 2-10 and their parents or caregivers. Contact Vicki Hall to learn more.
- **Choirs for Children and Adults** Love to make a joyful noise? Contact Davis Wortman to learn about joining our 9:10 a.m. volunteer choir, or Loraine Enlow to get your child involved in our children’s and youth choirs.

**Grow in faith.**

Growing in faith requires renewing our understanding of God’s unchanging love for us in our ever-changing lives.

- **The Gospel of Matthew** Sunday Forum, resuming January 5 This Epiphany, we will read the Gospel of Matthew together as a parish — including a daily reading guide, seven-week Sunday Forum series, and four-week small groups to take a deep dive into the Sermon on the Mount. Rediscover the radical invitation to Beloved Community at the heart of Matthew’s Gospel. Sundays, 10:30-11:00 a.m.
- **Tuesday Morning Small Group** Tuesdays, 8:45 a.m. What began as a group of young mothers has become a place where parishioners can and ask important questions about how to live our Christian faith in our contemporary society.
- **Wednesday Morning Bible Study** resumes Jan. 8, 8:35 a.m. This weekly clergy-led Bible Study is one of the most energetic and committed groups at St. James’ — and all are welcome!
- **Men of St. James’ Group** Fridays, 7:00 a.m. Men of all ages are invited to discern how God is working in their lives, and how Christ’s teachings can be applied in our lives today. Contact Matthew Leaycraft to learn more.
- **The Catechumenate** Thursdays, Jan. 23 - Apr. 2 For those interested in a more immersive formation process, join the Rector and the Vicar to explore what it means to call ourselves Christians today. This is wonderful preparation for those considering Baptism, Confirmation, or Reception into the Episcopal Church. Visit stjames.org/catechumenate.
- **Children’s & Family Ministries** Connect with Vicki Hall to learn about Church School, serving in worship, playgroups, Family Fridays, and our popular Thursday afternoon programs.
- **Youth Groups (6th - 12th Grades)** Youth ministries help teens and their friends develop their faith while serving others and having a great time together. Contact Jeremy Diakonov-Curtis to learn more.
- **St. Jamesians 20s & 30s Group** Connect with other young adults for Bible study, service projects, and social events. Contact Jeremy Diakonov-Curtis to learn more about upcoming events.

**Are you new?** Join us for a “St. James’ 101” lunch to learn more from the Rector, clergy, lay staff, and active parishioners about life at St. James’: January 26, March 1, and April 26, 2020. Contact the Rev. Zack Thompson to learn more or RSVP.
God declares that we are all connected: young and old, rich and poor, gay and straight, raised in the church, new to church, firm in faith, or full of questions...

- **St. James’ 101 Newcomer Brunches**
  Are you new? Want to meet parish leadership and connect with fellow parishioners? Look out for our next St. James’ 101 brunch on January 26, March 1, April 26 between the 9:10 and 11:15 a.m. services.

- **Winter Parish Supper**  
  Wed. Feb. 5, 6:00 p.m.   
  Enjoy a warm, festive mid-winter meal with fellow parishioners and friends. Save the date and look out for more information in the New Year!

- **Save the Date: Weekend Away**  
  October 9-11, 2020   
  Save the date for our third annual St. James’ Parish Weekend Away at Iroquois Springs—a overnight camp and conference center in the Catskills! This parish-wide gathering over Columbus Day weekend promises to be rewarding and rejuvenating. Parishioners of all ages are invited to recharge your minds and bodies and enrich your souls during a weekend away filled with fellowship, service, worship, and fun.

**Serve your neighbor.**

There are countless ways to share Christ’s love with each other, our city, and the world—in acts big and small. Help change the world and transform your heart.

- **Mission & Outreach**
  Jesus calls his followers to service, compassion, and justice. Serve in our weekly meals programs or overnight homeless shelter ministry. Be in relationship with children of incarcerated parents in New York state prisons, or our partners at St. Vincent’s Center for Children with Disabilities in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. Contact Windsor Jones to learn more.

- **Youth Mission opportunities**
  8th - 12th Graders are involved in service and outreach, from hosting the Dinner Program on the second Friday of each month to visiting partners in Puerto Rico this Presidents’ Day weekend. Contact Jeremy Diakonov-Curtis to learn more.

- **Mission Brunch**  
  Sun. Feb. 16, 12:30 p.m.   
  Interested in mission and service at St. James’? Please join our staff and ministry chairs to learn about how you can serve others and deepen your life of faith. Contact the Rev. Eva Suarez to learn more.

- **100 Ways to Serve**
  Whether you have one day a month or a few hours a week, your gifts, talents, and interests are an invaluable offering to this parish. Contact Grace Beacham to begin exploring.

**Pray with us.**

Holding one another’s joys, sorrows, and concerns before God in prayer is a spiritual practice that characterizes our life together at St. James’. You are invited to join us.

**Thanks be to God**

- for the St. James’ Christmas pageant on Dec. 15, and for the members of the cast and crew, including more than 100 St. James’ children.
- for the generosity of all who participated in the Share the Joy Gift Drive, and for our relationship with the Osborne Association.
- for the generosity of parishioners who have made commitments for 2020; for those making year end gifts; and for all who share in the financial support of the parish.

Your prayers are requested

- for St. James’ this Christmas season, that we will know the joy of God with us; and that we make the living Christ known in all 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 members and friends of the parish who are sick, sorrowful, or in any kind of trouble: Donald, Henry, David, Terry & Mary Jane, Elona, Cynthia, Pam, Caroline & Michael, Walterene, James Edward, Joan, Lois, Brian, Michael, Eula Mae, Carol, Lilly, Laura, Ann & Ben, Bob, Chris, Amanda, Victor, Vally, Judy, Iris, Sophie, Maria & her parents, Frank, Lisa, Milton, Alice Mary, Isabel, Rick, Peter & Dianne, Ben, Bill, John, Tom, Douglas, Pelham, Anthony, Nancy, Zoey, Nadine, Isabelle & Vivienne, Tracey, Jeannette, Dorothy, Elnora, Harriet, Alex, Christopher, Margot, James, Peggy, Katharine, Casey, John & Catherine, Ruth, Sandy, Dick, John, George, Peter, Jose, Laura, Pam, Barb, Craig, Megan, Grace, Matthew, Isabel, Margaret, Barbara, MaryAnn, Bill, Dale, Carol Sue, Robert, Jonathan, Ben, Bryce, James, Elena, Kelly, Mackenzie, Jason, Carter, Angela, Kathryn, Teresa, Ben & Juergen, Liam, Ann, Emily, Andrew, Charlie, John, Monique, Cilla, Rich, Janet, Behida, Ray, John, Frank, Karen & Craig, Gary, Aaron & family, Anita, Dwain, Caris & Blake, Charlotte, Peter, Anne, Jason, Vicky, Bill, Dorothy, Peg, Chase, Alice, Claude, Matthew, John, Blake & Pamela, Gabrielle, Pamela, Paula, Elena, Allison, Jane & Peter, Emily, Pat, Robert, Jorge, Brad, Ryan and the Malosh family, Karen, Olivia, Grace, Kim, Kenneth, Philip, Drew, Taylor, and Layla, Justin & Jennifer, Joseph (JP), Florence, Phyliss, Ivan, Suzanne, Elizabeth, Thomas, Lorraine, Francis, Mary Beth, Annette, Terence, Caroline, Dan, Tony, Ward, Sophie, Sharon, Nate, Jim, Richard, Joseph, Anne, Darby, Susan, Armin, Jimmy, Tom, Beth, Elizabeth, Christine, Rafa, Emily, Christopher, Karen, Susan, Ann, Liz, Sam, Ruth and John, John’s family, Suzanna, Sebastian, Nico, Lola, Susan, Lynda, Joseph, Katy, Miriam, Stephen, Paula, Jerry, John, Madelin, Benjamin, Richard, Diane, Lucy and Nicholas, Tim, Teresa and Jackie, John, Laura, Charlie, Paul, Randy, Larry, Nathan, Charlie, August, Lena, Beverley, Pete, Dayanand, Joyce, Cynthia, Simon, Julia, Bard, Doug, Jason, Barbara, Nicolle, Kathryn, Elaine, Riley, Jim, and Howard.
- for the Church of St. Ignatius of Antioch, Manhattan, according to the Diocesan cycle of prayer.
- for the peace of Jerusalem and the people of Bethlehem.
- 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-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.

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

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

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

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.

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

STJAMES.ORG