November 22, 2019

Dear friends,

Two days from now, we will be gathered at St. James’ to celebrate Christmas and the joy of knowing that God will come among us, to be one of us, to be one with us. In all our preparations I think we lose sight of what is really before us. That’s not so very surprising since we have a lot to do. But I don’t think that’s the only reason. The concept of Christmas is so vast and awesome as to be almost beyond our comprehension.

In today’s epistle Paul writes to the Romans. Before he tells them anything, he puts forth the following to frame his teaching and to help ground his audience in the divine context, the true reality. He describes God’s son:

who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ.

There lies the glory and joy of Christmas. So as we rush headlong to Christmas, take some time to be still and think of God’s great and glorious goodness towards us — so when Christmas morning comes, you may greet the infant Jesus with a heart full of wonder, joy, and peace.

In Christ,

Matthew Leaycraft, Director of Finance & Lay Associate

May you greet the infant Jesus with a heart full of wonder, joy, and peace.

Today at St. James’

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 & Crèche 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 crèche at the foot of the chancel. Please contact Vicki Hall to learn more or to get involved.

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? 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: December 29**

The First Sunday after Christmas
Isaiah 61:10-62:3; Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7; John 1:1-18; Psalm 147

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

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist
Sermon by the Rev. Zack Thompson. The Canterbury Choir offers the music of Gerald Near and David Willcocks.

6:00 p.m. Candelight Communion
Homily by the Rev. Eva Suarez, Associate Rector. Music for piano and oboe.

**Formation for all ages**
The Sunday Adult Forum, Church School, and Youth Group will resume on Sunday, January 5. Please plan to join us!

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**This Week**

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

**Monday, December 23**  
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 24**  
* Matthew 1:18-25
Tuesday Lunch Program 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.  
* Children’s Service 3:00 - 3:45 p.m.  
* Lessons & Carols 5:00 - 6:00 p.m.  
* Festal Eucharist 10:30 - 11:30 p.m.

**Wednesday, December 25**  
* John 1:1-14
* The Church and Parish House are closed

**Thursday, December 26**  
* Acts 7:5-9, 8:8
* The Church and Parish House are closed

**Friday, December 27**  
* John 5:1-12
* The Church and Parish House are closed

**Saturday, December 28**  
* John 5:1-12
* The Church and Parish House are closed

**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.

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**This week’s Bible Memorization verse**

And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.  
—Luke 1:45
Tuesday Lunch volunteers needed
Parishioners and friends are invited to help feed our neighbors on Christmas Eve. Please contact Windsor Jones to learn more or to get involved this week.

Celebrating The Feast of the Epiphany
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.

Family Friday: Exotic Animals
Let's help Stock the Shelves of the St. James, Fordham Food Pantry! Please bring 16 oz. cans of black beans, rice, and pasta, and learn about the opportunities for us to serve at the Food Pantry. Then, enjoy Mr. Zelenka & His Exotic Animals. $5/person, $20/family. Friends always welcome! Please contact Vicki Hall to learn more.

“Rings & Things” Retreat
Join the clergy and other couples for a Saturday workshop to begin preparing. Contact the Rev. Zack Thompson to learn more.

The Catechumenate
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
“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!

Share the Joy Gift Drive: Thank you!
Thanks to the generosity of parishioners and friends, St. James’ was able to help make Christmas extra magical for a record number of children and youth of incarcerated parents through our partnership with the Osborne Association — each of whom received just what they wanted at our party yesterday! Thank you to everyone who donated, and if you would like to learn more about our work with the Osborne Association, please contact Windsor Jones.

Building bridges to better futures this Christmas season
The Clergy Discretionary Fund makes financial assistance available to persons in need who come to us 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.

Thanks be to God
- for last week’s baptisms of Caroline Cullingford Haney, William Gardner Hayes, Robert Butler Marshalk, Jr., Anderson Montgomery Moose, and Charles Francis Sykes.
- for our 53 new members welcomed at last week’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. Simeon’s Church, Bronx, according to the Diocesan cycle of prayer.
- for Christians in other denominations and the work of the ecumenical movement, His Holiness Pope Francis, Bishop of Rome; His All Holiness Bartholomew of Constantinople, New Rome and Ecumenical Patriarch; the Rev. Dr Olav Fykse Tveit, General Secretary of the World Council of Churches; Bishop Ivan M Abrahams, General Secretary World Methodist Council; the Rev. Chris Ferguson, General Secretary of the World Community of Reformed Churches, 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 Florence Lugsdin Walker, Robert Oehlkers, Felix Rohatyn, Justino Hernandez Lozano, Shirley Ann Maclean, and Denise Spanel.

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