Dear friends,

The season of Epiphany is in church, as in life, quite a return to reality after the holidays. This week’s scripture sends us decades forward in time, from the manger and the Magi to Jesus, now in his early 30s, coming to the banks of the Jordan River to be baptized by his cousin John.

Our scriptures, on the whole, are pretty uninterested by what happens in between, but this jump through time has always preoccupied me. Where are the stories of Jesus’ teenage years, his young adulthood—don’t they matter? Some exist in ancient texts, those gospels that didn’t make it into the shared collection of scripture, and they are fascinating—but at the end of the day, those stories are merely curious when it comes to the faith we share, the truth we follow. For those of us who have pasts, those stories (good and bad) behind us—how do we make sense of Jesus’ lack of one?

The Bible follows the same principles of all great literature—write about what matters. Skip what doesn’t. The older I get, the more I realize the Bible doesn’t tell us about Jesus’ past because it doesn’t matter. The stories they do tell, the parts of his life that we read and remember, are the ones that point us to a future, that teach us how to move forward, that give us life. I don’t want to dismiss the importance of remembering, or repentance—but I know sometimes the weight of memory and guilt can hold us back. God shows us, over and over, that we really can start a new life anytime, anywhere. We can start, we can re-start, return, renew, together…this week, step with Jesus to the water’s edge.

Don’t know where to start starting over? Start here.

In Christ,
The Rev. Eva Suarez, Associate Rector

God shows us, over and over, that we really can start a new life anytime, anywhere.

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Today at St. James’

The Forum 10:30 a.m., Coburn Hall
This Epiphany, we are reading the Gospel of Matthew together as a parish. The Rev. Zack Thompson will continue our 7-week Forum series, with “Mountains, Law & the New Moses.”

Overnight Shelter Open House 1:00 p.m., Reception
Are you being called to take on a new ministry this new year? Join us for a brief and informative introduction to one of our most vital ministries. We will gather near reception, and walk together to tour the shelter housed at Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church. All are welcome! Can’t make it today? Contact Hannah Minton to learn more or get involved.

Puerto Rico Missioners Meeting 4:00 p.m., Sunderland Hall
Parents, Chaperones, Organizers, and Missioners are meeting to discuss the next stages of our Youth Mission Trip to Puerto Rico! Please contact Jeremy Diakonov-Curtis to learn more about youth group opportunities.

Baptism at St. James’
Today, we remember Jesus’ baptism. If you would like to learn more about baptism for yourself or your child, please contact the Rev. Zack Thompson. Baptisms in 2020 will be celebrated on February 23, April 19, and May 31.

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: January 19

The Second Sunday after the Epiphany
Isaiah 49:1-7; 1 Corinthians 1:1-9; John 1:29-42; Psalm 40:1-12

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

9:10 a.m. Holy Eucharist

11:15 a.m. Choral Eucharist
Sermon by the Rev. Eva Suarez. The Canterbury Choir offers the music of Charles Villiers Stanford, Felix Mendelssohn, and William Dawson.

6:00 p.m. Candlelight Communion

The Forum 10:30 a.m., Coburn Hall
This Epiphany, we are reading the Gospel of Matthew together as a parish. The Rev. Brenda Husson will continue our 7-week Forum series, with “Ethics of the Kingdom: Sermon on the Mount.”

This Week

* Special this week

Learn more at stjames.org/calendar

Monday, January 13

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, January 14

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 - 4:15 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, January 15

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, January 16

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.
Primary Choir rehearsal 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.
Revive 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
Education for Ministry 6:30 - 8:45 p.m.

Friday, January 17

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.
Friday Dinner Program 5:00 - 9:00 p.m.
Evening Prayer 5:30 - 6:00 p.m.

Saturday, January 18

* “Ocean Odyssey” Osborne event

This week’s Bible Memorization verse

Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations.

—Isaiah 42:1
News & Notes

Ocean Odyssey Osborne event
Sat. Jan. 18, 12:00 - 3:00 p.m.
Come, volunteer with our partners at the Osborne Association for their “Ocean Odyssey” event, being present with children of incarcerated parents. Contact Windsor Jones for more information.

The Catechumenate
Thursdays, Jan. 23 - Apr. 2, 6:30 p.m.
Do you have questions about what Christians believe? Wonder what it means to live as a Christian today? This is for you! We gather for supper, a talk on a central question of faith, small-group discussion, and prayer. Visit stjames.org/catechumenate to learn more.

February Food Drive
Sunday, February 2
For our February 2 Children’s Eucharist, please bring 1lb packages of white rice for St James Fordham’s Food Pantry. Place your donations in the basket in the nave of the church any time before February 2, and they will be blessed during the service.

Winter Parish Supper
Wed. February 5, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.
“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.

Family Friday
Fri. February 7, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
Please join us for a pre-Mardi Gras celebration with kids’ entertainers Sammie & Tidie! To help us “Pack the Pantry” at St. James’, Fordham, please bring packages of white rice. $5 per person or $20 max suggested donation; supper included. Friends are always welcome!

Valentine-Making Party
Sat. February 8, 9:30 - 11:00 a.m.
All the stickers and sparkles, glitter and glue that you need to make wonderful valentines for family and friends! Friends wondering about St. James? Invite them to come. Our annual party is a lot of fun, and a great way to get into the spirit of sharing God’s love with our friends and families. Contact Vicki Hall with questions.

Mission Brunch
Sun. February 9, 10:30 a.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.

Make Daily Prayer a part of your New Year
8:00 a.m., 5:30 p.m.
In this season of new beginnings, don’t forget to prioritize spending time each day with God in prayer. Join fellow parishioners in Morning or Evening Prayer, weekdays. Or visit stjames.org/online-resources to learn about digital tools to support your life of prayer.

Growing in faith through Beloved Community at St. James’
Thank you to all who made financial commitments and year end gifts in 2019, and to those who have committed for 2020! If you are ready to make a commitment, please visit stjames.org/2020commitment. Weekly envelopes for children, youth, and adults who have made their commitments are available outside Sunderland Hall.

Vestry Nominating Committee
The Vestry is the elected governing body of the parish, and includes the Rector, two Wardens, and 12 members who represent a broad spectrum of the community. Would you like to nominate a fellow parishioner to stand for election in May? Contact the Rev. Brenda Hussin and Lisa Smith, chair of the Nominating Committee, or speak with a member of the Committee: Joni Grossman, Susanna Guffey, Justine Keithline, Patrick Kidd, Marc Rice, Robert Stinson, AnneStraussner, or George Wade to learn more.

Prayer List

Thanks be to God
• for the new life in Christ of Caroline Lachicotte Curry, Elisabeth Katheryn Gleysteen, and Olivia Learson Menz, baptized at today’s services and of Cressida Elliott, baptized in today in the UK.
• for the generosity of parishioners who have made commitments for 2020, 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 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, Valli, Jeanette, Iris, Sophie, Maria & her partners, Frank, Lisa, Milton, Alice Mary, Isabel, Rick, Peter & Dianne, Ben, Bill, John, Tom, Douglas, Pelham, Anthony, Nancy, Zoey, Nadine, Isabelle & Viviane, Tracey, Jeannette, Dorothy, Elnora, Harriett, 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, Angelo, Kathlyn, Teresa, Ben & Juegren, Liam, Ann, Emily, Andrew, Charlie, Monique, Cilla, Rich, 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, Phyllis, Ivan, Suzanne, Elizabeth, Thomas, Lorraine, Francis, Mary Beth, Annette, Terence, Caroline, Dan, Tony, Ward, Sophie, Sharon, Nate, Jim, Richard, Joseph, Anne, Darby, Susan, Armen, 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, Nicole, Kathlyn, Elaine, Riley, Jim, Howard, Sarah, David, and Shirley.
• for St. Luke’s Church, Somers, according to the Diocesan cycle of prayer.
• for the Anglican Church of Australia, its people and ministries, and the Most Rev. Philip Leslie Freier, Archbishop of Melbourne & Primate of Australia, 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-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, including Victor Sendax, Peter Weir, James Parks Morton, Janet Pierce Wick, Steven Michael Vento, Elizabeth Würzel, Dobie Lee, and Charles Gerald Shepherd.
The Vestry

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

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

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

Mary Malhotra,
Vestry Officer for Stewardship

Annika Gottfrid,
Youth Representative

The Clergy & Lay Staff

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Non-stipendiary Priest Associate
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Jean-Claude Pelissier
Verger Emeritus
212-774-4200

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.