Dear friends,

Today we observe the Feast of the Presentation of Our Lord, often referred to as Candlemas. A couple of questions might immediately come to mind: Where is our Lord being presented? And, if Christmas means ‘the Christ mass’, then does it follow that Candlemas means ‘the candle mass’? I’m glad you asked!

We are celebrating Jesus’s presentation in Jerusalem’s Temple, where he was taken to fulfill the ceremonies of the Law. Because he was the first born, he was regarded as belonging to the Lord, so his parents had to buy him back, as it were, by paying a shekel to the sanctuary. He was then “presented” to the Lord.

But as Mary, Joseph, and Jesus walked into the Temple, something remarkable happened. There was a very old and holy man named Simeon who spent his days praying in the Temple. During his prayers, the Holy Spirit revealed that before he died he would actually see the long-awaited Messiah, the Light of the World, the one for whom the whole Jewish nation had long hoped. Simeon sees the family enter the Temple and he takes the World’s true Light into his arms and praises God saying, “mine eyes have seen thy salvation; Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people; To be a light to lighten the Gentiles and to be the glory of thy people Israel.”

The Lord himself was present in the Temple and rested in Simeon’s arms. From there, his light has spread to all the corners of the earth, even into our own hearts. Call it the Feast of the Presentation or call it Candlemas, but today recognize that we are being presented to the Lord at his altar and we are called to carry his light into every corner of the world.

In Christ,
The Rev. Zack Thompson, Associate Rector
This Week

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

**Monday, February 3**
- 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, February 4**
- 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 - 4:45 p.m.
- Cherub Choir rehearsal 3:45 - 4:15 p.m.
- Junior Choir rehearsal 4:35 - 5:40 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 5**
- 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, February 6**
- 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 4:45 - 6:00 p.m.
- Evening Prayer 5:30 - 6:00 p.m.
- Small Group Supper 6:00 - 6:30 p.m.
- The Catechumenate 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
- Revive 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
- Education for Ministry 6:30 - 8:45 p.m.

**Friday, February 7**
- 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.
- * Family Friday: Mardis Gras 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
- * Friday Friends: Valentine’s Craze 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

**Saturday, February 8**
- Valentine-making party 9:30 - 11:00 a.m.
- * Food Pantry Service Day 11:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
- * Bowling with Osborne Partners 12:00 - 2:00 p.m.

Next Sunday: February 9

The Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany
Isaiah 58:1-9; 1 Corinthians 2:1-12; Matthew 5:13-20; Psalm 112:1-9

**8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist**
Homily by the Rev. Ryan Fleenor, Vicar.

**9:10 a.m. Family Eucharist**
Sermon by the Rev. Ryan Fleenor. The Canterbury, Junior & Youth Choirs offer the music of Giovanni Pergolesi and Adrian Batten.

**11:15 a.m. Choral Eucharist**
Sermon by the Rev. Brenda Husson, Rector. The Compostela Choir offers the music of Francis Jackson, William Walton, and Orlando Gibbons.

**6:00 p.m. Candelight Communion**
Homily by the Rev. Eva Suarez. Music for piano and violin.

**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 “Coming Conflict: The Rejected Teacher,” addressing the mounting tensions between Jesus and the religious authorities.

**Mission Brunch** 10:30 a.m., Sunderland Hall
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.

**Christianity and Racial Justice** 4:00 - 5:30 p.m.
Join the Revs. Brenda Husson and Eva Suarez and parishioner Kevin Booker for a four-week course exploring our relationship to race as Christians in contemporary America—theologically, biblically, historically, and culturally. Some reading and a commitment of participation is required; please contact Eva to learn more or to get involved.

**Meeting Sundays, 4:00 - 5:30 p.m. through March 1st.**

**Epiphany 2020: The Beloved Community According to Matthew**
Purchase your copy of “A Journey with Matthew: 50 Day Bible Challenge” and take up our parish-wide Epiphany reading! Contact the Rev. Ryan Fleenor for details.

**Upcoming Reading Schedule**
- Sunday, February 2 Matthew 19:1-22
- February 3 Matthew 19:23 - 20:16
- February 4 Matthew 20:17-34
- February 5 Matthew 21:1-22
- February 6 Matthew 21:23-46
- February 7 Matthew 22:1-22
- February 8 Matthew 22:23-46
- Sunday, February 9 Matthew 23:1-22
News & Notes

Winter Parish Supper
This Wednesday, 6:00 - 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. RSVP online at stjames.org/winterparishsupper.

Family Friday: Mardi Gras
Friday, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
Join us for a supper, service, and kids’ entertainers Sammie & Tudie! Please bring white rice to help “Pack the Pantry” at St. James’ Fordham. $5/person suggested donation. Friends welcome!

Friday Friends: Valentine’s Craze
Friday, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
Join us for a night of fun, food, and service for our 5 - 7th Graders and their friends! $5 suggested donation; contact Jeremy Diakonov-Curtis to learn more.

Valentine-Making Party
Saturday, 9:30 - 11:00 a.m.
All the stickers and sparkles, glitter, and glue that you need to make valentines! Get into the spirit of sharing God’s love with our friends and families. Please contact Vicki Hall with questions.

Bowling with our Osborne partners
Saturday, 12:00 - 2:00 p.m.
Get involved in our ministry with the children of incarcerated parents! This will be a fun day of bowling at Lucky Strike on 42nd Street. Contact Windsor Jones to learn more or RSVP by Feb. 3.

St. Jamesians Rectory Event
Wed. Feb. 19, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.
Parishioners in their 20s & 30s are invited to join the clergy for food, fellowship, and a discussion of “Love-iticus: Balancing Love, Dating, and Faith”. Please RSVP to Jeremy Diakonov-Curtis.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
Tue. Feb. 25, 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.
Feast on pancakes, sausage, fruit salad, and friendship as we prepare for the beginning of the Lenten season! Our Annual Pancake Supper is a fun occasion for all ages; this year, we will be invited to paint tiles for the parish-wide “Alleluia banner”, which will be used in the Easter Day liturgy. Contact Grace Beacham to learn more.

Ash Wednesday coming up!
Wednesday, February 26
Mark your calendar for Ash Wednesday, with services of Holy Eucharist at 8:00 a.m., 12:00, and 6:00 p.m. A children’s service will be held at 4:30 p.m. If you would like to distribute “Ashes to Go” in the morning, please contact the Rev. Ryan Fleenor.

Growing in faith through Beloved Community at St. James’
Thank you to all who made 2019 commitments and year-end gifts, and to those who have committed for 2020! If you are ready to do so, please visit stjames.org/2020commitment. Envelopes for those who have requested them are available in the Parish House.

This week’s Bible Memorization verse
Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples.

—Luke 2:29-31

Prayer List

Thanks be to God
• for the generosity of parishioners who have made financial 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, Elna, 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 parents, Frank, Lisa, Milton, Alice Mary, Isabel, Rick, Peter & Dianne, Ben, John, Tom, Douglas, Peltman, Anthony, Nancy, Zoe, Nadine, Isabelle & Vivianne, Tracey, Jeannette, Dorothy, Elnora, Harriett, Alex, Christopher, Margot, James, Peggy, Katharine, Casey, John & Catherine, Ruth, Sandy, Dick, John, George, Peter, Joe, 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, Kathryn, Teresa, Ben & Juergen, 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, Jade, Ryan and the Maloof 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, Johns family, Suzanna, Sebastian, Nico, Lola, Susan, Lynda, Joseph, Katy, Miriam, 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, Kathryn, Elaine, Riley, Jim, Howard, Sarah, David, Carol, Rashid, Cynthia & Henrik.
• for Regeneration Church, Pine Plains, according to the Diocesan cycle of prayer.
• for the Anglican Church of Burundi, its people and ministries, and the Most Rev. Martin Blaise Nyaboho, Archbishop of Burundi & Bishop of Makamba, 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 Michael Hoare, Sophie Nix, Nina Griscom, Barbarito Hernandez Lozano, William G. Thomas II, Tatanya Hamermesh, and Peter Kuhn.

To have your prayer requests printed in this space, or to provide an update, please e-mail the clergy at pastoralcare@stjames.org.
We are delighted to share that, to date, 383 financial commitments have been offered for 2020. 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/2020commitment or fill out a “Consecration” commitment card from the Narthex or Parish House.

Growing through Beloved Community. Thank you!

This list is current as of January 29, 2020. Please contact stewardship@stjames.org with questions.