Dear friends,

One of the questions clergy are frequently asked is: “When did you decide, or feel called, to be a priest?” That’s a perfectly fine question and each of us has our own particular story to tell. Yet no one has ever asked me how I became a priest. There is an assumption that once ordained, you’re a priest. Technically, that’s correct. But only technically.

Teachers may be certified the first day they stand alone in front of a classroom, but they don’t really feel like teachers until they have been at it for a while. Parents and doctors, lawyers and chefs (and many others) will tell you the same thing. Priests certainly would. Fortunately, St. James’ has been part of an intentional process of helping clergy grow into their priesthood. Begun with a generous grant from the Lilly Endowment that was intended to discover whether mentorship in the first years of ordination would help sustain clergy for a lifetime of ordained ministry, our first fellows arrived nearly fifteen years ago. All do continue in full-time ministry to this day. Continuing this program, we now call a Rockwell Fellow to share our life for two years, to take part in all of St. James’ ministries while being mentored by clergy, lay staff, and the congregation. That is a gift to the fellows and to the wider church, and it is a delight to us. But the gift to us as a parish is that we have grown too, learning that we have a vital role in helping clergy become competent and confident, and learning alongside fellows that growth is a lifelong process — for us all. As the Rockwell Committee interviews possible fellows, one of whom will join us this summer, please keep them in your prayers and celebrate this shared gift of growth.

In Christ,

The Rev. Brenda Husson, Rector
**This Week**

* Special this week  
Learn more at [stjames.org/calendar](http://stjames.org/calendar)

**Monday, February 17**  
*John 9:1-17*

- 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 18**  
*John 9:18-41*

- 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.
- 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 19**  
*John 10:1-18*

- 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.
* St. Jamesians Rectory event  
  6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

**Thursday, February 20**  
*John 10:19-30*

- 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  
  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.
- Education for Ministry  
  6:30 - 8:45 p.m.

**Friday, February 21**  
*John 10:31-42*

- 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.

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**This week’s Bible Memorization verse**

If you choose, you can keep the commandments, and to act faithfully is a matter of your own choice. He has placed before you fire and water; stretch out your hand for whichever you choose.

—Sirach 15:15-16

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**Next Sunday: February 23**

**The Last Sunday after the Epiphany**

Exodus 24:12-18, 2 Peter 1:16-21, Matthew 17:1-9, Psalm 99

**8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist**

Homily by the Rev. Eva Suarez, Associate Rector.

**9:10 a.m. Family Eucharist**

Sermon by the Rev. Eva Suarez. The Canterbury, Junior & Youth Choirs offer the music of W.A. Mozart and J.S. Bach.

**11:15 a.m. Baptism & Choral Eucharist**

Sermon by the Rev. Brenda Husson, Rector. The Compostela Choir offers the music of Andrea Gabrieli, Edward C. Bairstow, and F. Melius Christiansen.

**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. Ryan Fleenor will conclude our 7-week Forum series with “The Resurrection & Vindication of the Teacher.” Visit stjames.org/podcasts to catch up on our series so far.

**Beatitude Small Group begins 12:30 - 1:30 p.m.**

Journey through Lent with fellow parishioners in this six-week deep-dive into the Beatitudes, Jesus’s enigmatic and yet much-loved teaching in Matthew 5. Contact the Rev. Ryan Fleenor to register.

**New Ministry Opportunity**  
12:30 - 1:30 p.m., Coburn Hall

Learn about new opportunities for ministry with immigrants and asylum seekers here in New York City, and to hear all about a recent trip the Rev. Eva Suarez and parishioner Charles Curtis made to the U.S-Mexico Border. Light refreshments will be served.

**Christianity and Racial Justice**  
4:00 - 5:30 p.m., Sunderland Hall

The Revs. Brenda Husson and Eva Suarez and parishioner Kevin Booker are leading a course exploring our relationship to race as Christians in contemporary America—theologically, biblically, historically, and culturally. Registration is at capacity; please contact Eva to learn more or request a reading list.

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**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!

**Reading Schedule**

- **Sunday, February 16**  
  Matthew 26:1-16
- **February 17**  
  Matthew 26:17-35
- **February 18**  
  Matthew 26:36-56
- **February 19**  
  Matthew 26:57-75
- **February 20**  
  Matthew 27:1-23
- **February 21**  
  Matthew 27:24-44
- **February 22**  
  Matthew 27:45-66
- **Sunday, February 23**  
  Matthew 28:1-20
**News & Notes**

**St. Jamesians Rectory Event**  
**Wednesday, 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-itics 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! This year, we will 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: worship and service**  
**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.

**Guest preacher joins us for the first Sunday in Lent**  
**March 1**  
St. James’ is thrilled to welcome the Rev. Jay Sidebotham back as our guest preacher at the 9:10 and 11:15 a.m. services. Jay serves as Director of RenewalWorks, a ministry of Forward Movement.

**Register for our Parents’ Luncheon**  
**Wed. March 4, 12:30 p.m.**  
Parishioner Deborah Roberts will interview our guest, Maria Shriver, about faith, life, career, family. Registration is at capacity, but please contact Vicki Hall to learn more or be added to a wait list.

**Movie Day with Osborne**  
**Sat. March 7, 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.**  
St. James’ partnership with the Osborne Association pairs parishioners with the children of incarcerated parents for fun excursions that create meaningful relationships. Contact Windsor Jones to learn more or to get involved.

**Holy Cross Lent Retreat**  
**March 6 - 8**  
Join Matthew Leacyraft for a time for reflection and quiet punctuated by the rhythm of the Daily Office and group discussion. Get off the grid and go deeper into the heart of God! Availability is limited; please contact Matt to learn more.

**Easter Altar Guild donations**  
**deadline March 30**  
Easter offers a beautiful opportunity to honor and remember friends and loved ones with a gift of flowers for our Altar and Narthex. Please visit stjames.org/altarguild to make a contribution.

**Spots remain for summer Canterbury Pilgrimage!**  
Join the Rev. Ryan Fleenor for a 10-day pilgrimage in southern England, hiking part of the medieval Pilgrims Way to Canterbury. Visit stjames.org/canterbury2020 to learn more. Almost full!

**2020 Vestry Nominating Committee Report**  
At the Annual Meeting in May, the parish will elect a Warden and four Vestry members. To read an important message regarding those nominated to stand for election, and to learn about petitioning to be added to the slate within the next three weeks, please visit stjames.org/2020nominations.

**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.

**Prayer List**

**Thanks be to God**

- for the generosity of parishioners who have made pledges 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 illumined 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 parishioners participating in the Catechumenate at St. James’ as they seek to deepen their faith in preparation for baptism, confirmation, or a renewed commitment to Christ.
- for our partners at St. Vincent’s School and in the Diocese of Haiti, during this time of conflict and civil unrest.
- for St. Mark’s Church, Mount Kisco, according to the Diocesan cycle of prayer.
- for the Province of Central Africa, its people and ministries, and Archbishop Albert Chama: pray too for efforts to alleviate climate change-related disasters in the region; and for efforts to tackle HIV and Aids, 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 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 John Golden.

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

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.

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’ Church is a community that actively shares the love of Jesus Christ with each other, our city and the world.