

The Spirit of St. James'

Winter 2023



Welcome to Advent! A Season of Hope and Expectation

As the busy world around us makes a mad dash to buy presents, prepare for guests, and attend every Christmas party, the Church pauses. The Church lights candles. The Church waits.

Each year we are invited to clear the cobwebs and prepare within our hearts and souls for Christ to be born once again. As the first season of our church year, Advent starts us off with the expectation of Love

coming down, taking on our fragile nature, and showing us how to be fully human ourselves.

Together with Blessed Mary, we magnify the Lord who has come and is coming. We discover for ourselves, in the stillness of this season, the promise of mercy. And we wait, with expectant hearts, for Love's fulfillment.

Advent & Christmas Worship at St. James'

During this holy season there are a variety of ways in which you can participate in our liturgical worship! Experience the Holy One among us, both in-person and online at [Facebook.com/StJamesSkaneateles](https://www.facebook.com/StJamesSkaneateles). All are welcome!

The Sundays of Advent (Dec. 3, 10, 17)

7:30 a.m. – Holy Eucharist, Rite I

9 a.m. – Holy Eucharist, Rite II with Choir

10:45 a.m. – Contemporary Holy Eucharist with Praise Band

Sunday, Dec. 17

2 p.m. – Advent Music & Meditation

Thursday, Dec. 21

4:30 p.m. – Blue Christmas: A Eucharistic Liturgy of Healing & Hope

Christmas Eve, Dec. 24

3:30 p.m. – Christmas Pageant & Holy Eucharist

6:30 p.m. – Contemporary Christmas Eucharist with Praise Band

9 p.m. – Christmas Preludes

9:30 p.m. – Traditional Christmas Eve Eucharist with Choir

Christmas Day, Dec. 25

10 a.m. – Holy Eucharist with Carols

Sunday, Jan. 1

10 a.m. – Christmas Lessons & Carols with Holy Eucharist

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Advent: A New Season & New Liturgical Practices

With the coming of a new liturgical year also comes new practices in our common worship. After hearing feedback from folks for the past few months, we are introducing some new (and old!) methods of liturgical participation, and we're looking forward to hearing your thoughts:

The Return of the Common Cup

We brought this practice back on All Saints Sunday. For those who have missed drinking from the common Cup, that option is now available at all celebrations of the Holy Eucharist. Here's what you need to know:

- For every paten of Bread there will be two chalices of Wine (for drinking and intinction)
- Receive the Bread flat in your hand.
- If you wish to drink from the common Cup, consume the Bread and drink from the chalice when the Eucharistic Minister comes to you.
- If you wish to have intinction, keep the Bread flat in your hand, and the Minister will come to you, dip the Bread in the Wine for you, and place the Bread back in your hand.
- At 10:45 (or other liturgies in which Communion is done on the floor), receive the Bread in the center, and move to the side to receive the Wine in whichever manner you prefer.



Sunday Bulletins at 9 a.m. Only

Many will remember the days of multiple bulletins on Sunday mornings. Post-COVID we moved to having one bulletin that featured music for both the 9 and 10:45 liturgies. After hearing feedback regarding the formatting of these bulletins – and in an attempt to decrease the amount of paper being printed each week – we are introducing the practice of having a simpler, physical bulletin for the 9 a.m. liturgy alone.

These new bulletins – which will be introduced on the First Sunday of Advent – will include congregational responses, as well as references to the blue *Hymnal 1982* for congregational singing. Not only is this an opportunity to teach others about our *Hymnal*, but it will provide sheet music for our traditional hymns.

The 10:45 liturgy, meanwhile, will no longer include physical bulletins. As a liturgy rooted in the praise & worship tradition, it is more conducive to having our hands free, as we raise them in prayer and praise to God. Those in the chancel space will still be provided a simple Order of Service.

Both the 9 and 10:45 liturgies will continue to utilize slides for the benefit of worshippers both in-person and online.

The Psalter will continue to be printed in the 9 a.m. bulletin, but for other readings we encourage you to either use the screens or the liturgical readings sheets located in the back on the sanctuary.

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New Eucharistic Prayer at 9 a.m.

Our tradition is rich with many options for saying the great Prayer of the Church at the celebration of the Holy Eucharist. The Book of Common Prayer alone has six options, and the Enriching Our Worship supplemental materials offers an additional three. Each comes from a different tradition and focuses on different aspects of God's mercy and love for humanity.

During Advent, the 9 a.m. liturgy will use Eucharistic Prayer 2 from Enriching Our Worship. This is the same Prayer used at our Wednesday Healing Eucharist. It evokes the hopeful expectation of Mary as she bears God into the world. We encourage you to listen to the words of the Prayer during this season and offer your own prayers and praise with Mary for the coming of Christ.

New Responses, Creed, and Prayers at 10:45 p.m.

As the so-called "principle Sunday service," our 9 a.m. liturgy is required by our Episcopal canons to be taken from the Book of Common Prayer or other authorized resource. This is not the case with 10:45 a.m. and means that we can get creative!

Starting in Advent, the 10:45 worship will feature a new Opening Acclamation from Enriching Our Worship. Our readings at that liturgy will also be ending with "Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people" rather than "The Word of the Lord." This is, in actuality, more historically accurate, as it is the same words that St. John the Divine used in his letters to the Seven Churches, according to the Book of Revelation.. The Creed, meanwhile, will be sung in a style familiar to many here at St. James' (and will, in fact, have begun on November 12).

Finally, our Eucharistic Prayer at this liturgy will be taken from the book *Eucharistic Prayers* by The Rev. Dr. Samuel Wells and The Rev. Abigail Kocher – both of Duke Divinity School. You will notice that these prayers will change each week, as they are tailored to the Sunday lectionary readings. This means that after we hear the Scriptures read, we will not only recall them in the Sermon, but we will also bring them back to mind as we offer our prayers at the altar of God.

We hope that these new practices will give the 10:45 liturgy an even more distinct feeling and enhance the worship experience for those who regularly attend.

While the words may change, our Episcopal tradition rests on the form of our worship: we gather, we read Scripture, we reflect, we profess our faith, we pray, we confess, and we share the Eucharistic. This ancient formula has been the bedrock of our faith and will continue to be, even as we discover new and exciting methods for worshipping our God in community with one another.

We hope these descriptions give you a good sense of the practical and theological reasonings for making these changes. Something similar will be sent out whenever new changes are made with the liturgical seasons. As always, if you have any questions, comments, or concerns about our liturgical practices and worship, you can contact Father Joe.

Advent Series: Embodying Faith

Led by Kristen Leigh Mitchell, M.Div.



We live in a cultural context where mind & body, sacred & secular, and heaven & earth are perceived as being separate from one another. Old cultural messages we inherited from Western Europe – particularly during the Enlightenment – continue to confuse our ability to experience the inherent connection between our spiritual and our material lives. Advent is a season that invites us to make room for the incarnate Christ, who entered through birth into the messy, complicated world of human life and death, and preached the good news that the Kingdom of God was already in our midst. In this class, we will explore some of the most common inward and outward barriers to experiencing and embracing the fully embodied faith of Jesus within our current cultural context.

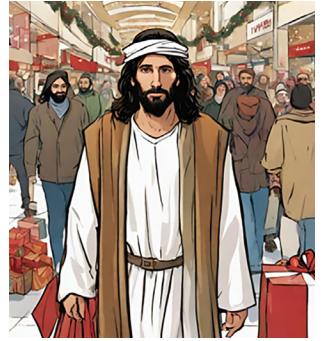
Kristen Leigh Mitchell earned her M.Div. from Union Theological Seminary at Columbia University in NYC, where she spent four years researching the relationship between religion, spirituality, psychology, theology, and the arts. Her master's thesis offered a cultural and historical analysis of how Western churches came to define the relationship between the "sacred" and the "secular." She has published articles on early Christian music, liturgy, medieval church history, theology and film, artistic vocation, and Biblical interpretation. Kristen spent several years working as resident librarian and later Assistant Director for The Servant Leadership School, a spiritual formation program based in North Carolina that teaches embodied faith through contemplative spiritual practices in the context of ecumenical Christian community. She also just so happens to be Joe's wife!

You can learn more about Kristen's writing and other work by visiting her website: www.kristenleighmitchell.com

**All Welcome to Join Wednesdays at 5pm in the Parish Hall
Nov. 29, Dec. 6, 13, & 20**

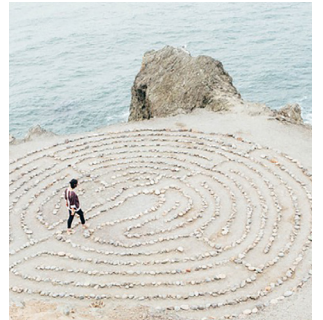
Week 1: Christianity & The Marketplace

In this season of "hustle and bustle," our tradition calls us into a time of quiet reflection and contemplation. How are we supposed to embody our Christian faith in the midst of so many contradictory expectations and demands on our time and energy? This week we'll look at the origins of some of our most beloved Christmas traditions, as a lens through which to begin to think about the relationship between our Christian religion and the holiday rituals of a supposedly "secular" capitalist culture.



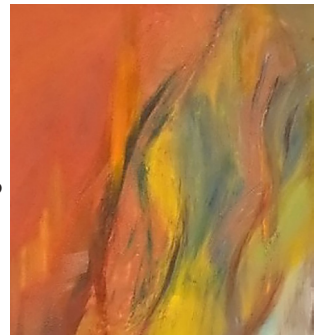
Week 2: Christianity & Spirituality

What is "spirituality?" Where do our ideas about spirituality come from? What might a more embodied Christian spirituality look like? This week we'll look at some of the most common messages we receive from our culture about "spirituality" (and its relationship to "religion") in order to reconnect with the lost sense of what Jesus modeled and taught about the inherent relationship between our inner and outer lives.



Week 3: Christianity & The Arts

How do we define "sacred music" or "Christian art?" What is our relationship to so-called "secular" music and art as Christians? How do the arts help facilitate a more embodied Christian faith? Ideas from the previous two weeks about the relationship between faith, commerce, religion, spirituality, and a felt sense of God's presence will all play into this exploration of different music and art styles and their relationship to Christian embodiment.



Week 4: Christianity & The Body

What does it mean that Christ took on human flesh and was "born from the virgin Mary?" In this last session, we will look at some of the complexities of bodily existence, and notice how Jesus invites us into an even more fully embodied human experience, by challenging the innate human desire to reject the body and "become like gods." We'll also take some time to process the discussions from the last four weeks as we consider together what this invitation to Christ-like embodiment might mean for us in our everyday lives.



A Thank You From Community Outreach!

During Thanksgiving we take time to be grateful for all the blessings in our lives.

Chris Davis, Beth Quattrociochi, Carol Stott and Nancy Graham feel blessed to be a part of St. James' family. We are thankful and

humbled by the donations and support that is received during the Community Outreach Month of Giving. Thank you for caring and sharing God's love to those beyond our church doors.

THE MISSION OF MIRACLES THIS JANUARY!

The Episcopal Diocese of Central New York and Iglesia Anglicana de El Salvador have been companion dioceses for about 30 years. St. James' and Santisima Trinidad have been sister parishes for most of this time. Two Salvadoran bishops have preached here, and we have sent and received pilgrims.

In January, we will send another Medical Mission, The Mission of Miracles, to aid the people in the smallest villages in El Salvador. There have been almost 20 of these medical missions. Six from St. James' will be part of this outreach. This may be the last (because we're all getting older).

We will send our team out on Sunday, January 14. And you all can support the mission!!

If you would like to help with this year's mission, the items below may be left in the marked box outside the Parish Office through the end of December.

- Acetaminophen, (Tylenol)
- Individually wrapped single soft toothbrushes, Toothpaste, Dental floss
- Larger tubes of: Muscle rub (like Bengay), Anti-fungal cream (clotrimazole), Triple-antibiotic cream
- Reader glasses, 2.00 and stronger
- Gently used braces for wrists, ankles, knees, elbows
- Canes

FOOD PANTRY RELIES ON OUR DONATIONS

Buy an extra item or two to help neighbors in need!

Supporting the Skaneateles Ecumenical Food Pantry is easy and (relatively) inexpensive. Pick up an extra item or two when you shop and bring it to church. Leave them in the basket outside the sacristy.

The pantry always needs cereal, granola, 100% fruit juice, and canned fruit (any kind, including applesauce). Watch the Weekly for specific monthly needs.

Prefer to make a monetary donation? Send to Skaneateles Ecumenical Food Pantry, PO Box 901, Skaneateles, NY 13152 or via PayPal: <https://tinyurl.com/donatesefp>

A small thing can make a big difference.

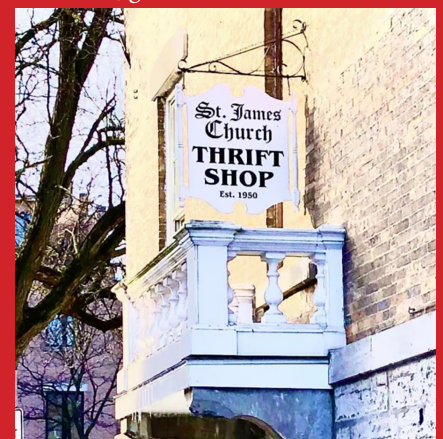
Questions? Contact Corinne Buterbaugh at corinnebuterbaugh@gmail.com

OPEN EXTRA HOURS FOR DICKENS, ST. JAMES' THRIFT SHOP HELPERS ARE DESPERATELY NEEDED!

The good news is that the St. James' Thrift Shop is "On the Map!" More people than ever and the team of volunteers are moving more items than ever before with the addition of credit cards and extended hours. With the increase in retail traffic, more volunteers are required. For the safety and security of all volunteers, it is important to have 3 or more people during working hours. Through December 24, volunteers are needed to help on Saturdays and Sundays! If you can give 4 hours one or more of these days to just help bag items, show jewelry to customers and basically "direct traffic" in the store, **please contact Diane Mueller at 315-436-3705.**

The St. James' Thrift Shop donates all of its proceeds to local charities. Each month vital funding is given to agencies such as the American Red Cross, Mission of Miracles, Onpoint for College, Vera House, Hospice of the Finger Lakes, SAVES, and so many more! In August alone, over \$24,000 was divided among local organizations. This little-but-mighty store relies solely on the donations it receives and the volunteers who dedicate their time to process or cashier on sales days. If you ever have wanted to make a difference, this is your chance. The more money the Thrift Shop can generate, the more money goes out to local charities in a time when money is tight. Be a helping hand this holiday time!

No Experience Necessary! If you have questions about the Thrift Shop, please contact Barb Burton at rbburton@gmail.com.



A Saint Once Among Us: Florence Li Tim-Oi

In each issue of *The Spirit*, the St. James Racial Justice and Reconciliation Commission will spotlight an individual recognized in the Episcopal Church's *Lesser Feasts and Fasts* who also represents cultural, gender, or ethnic diversity.

Florence Li Tim-Oi's feast day in the United States is January 24. After studying at Canton Union Theological Seminary, Li was ordained a deacon (or deaconess as women were known) at St. John's Cathedral in Hong Kong in 1941. With China occupied by Japan during World War II, Bishop Ronald Hall ordained Li as the first woman priest in the Anglican Communion as an emergency measure in 1944.



Bishop Hall wrote to the Archbishop of Canterbury, "I'm not an advocate for the ordination of women. I am, however, determined that no prejudices should prevent the congregations committed to my care having the sacraments of the Church." After the war, Li resigned her license (but not her priest's orders).

In 1958, the Chinese government closed churches, and Li was forced to cut up her vestments and work on a farm and, later, in a factory. It was not until 1971, when Hong Kong ordained two woman priests, that Li was recognized as a priest in that diocese. After her retirement in 1981, she was awarded honorary degrees from General Theological Seminary in New York and Trinity College in Toronto. From 1983 until her death in 1992, Li served as an assistant priest in Toronto.

St. James' Children's Ministry Joyous Time Learning & Exploring Jesus!

The children of St. James' have had a full fall schedule with pageant filming and learning with their thoughts of wonder in the Mini-Saints class. And Miss Mo is teaching a growing group of ukulele playing youngsters. The Bishop blessed our children in their ongoing life with Christ and learning more about the Eucharist and church practices. The next phase of classes will focus on Advent and Christmas moving to Epiphany. These are very fun themes for children and they love the traditions here at St. James'. Both classes are at the same time now on Sundays at 9 a.m. allowing parents and families to worship while the kiddos are doing their own worship.

Mini-Saints (ages 3–6 years old)

Sundays 9 a.m. Program featuring Young Children & Worship Curriculum

Saints in Training (ages 7–11 years old)

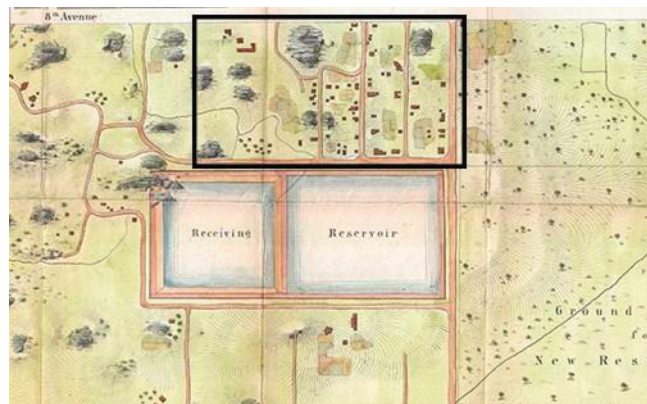
Sundays 9-10 a.m. Teaching "The Life of Jesus" with videos, games, music, experiments and crafts!

And there will be MORE Children's Yoga, Music & Movement, and sensory play time coming soon!

If you have any questions regarding the Children's Ministry program, please contact Mo Allyn, Interim Director of Children's Ministries at mo@stjameskan.org or Laura Posecznick at laura@stjameskan.org.

Did You Know? By Emma Cowley

An entire Manhattan village that was founded by Black people was destroyed to build Central Park. Before the mammoth New York City park was created, the landscape along what is now the Central Park's perimeter, was the location of Seneca Village, a community of majority Black Americans, many of whom owned property. By 1855, the village consisted of approximately 225 residents, made up of about two-thirds Black people, one-third Irish immigrants, and a small number of people of German descent.



Although New York State abolished slavery in 1827, Seneca Village was one of the few places where Black people could go and escape racial discrimination in downtown Manhattan. Seneca Village began in 1825, when landowners in the area, John and Elizabeth Whitehead, subdivided their land and sold it as 200 lots. Andrew Williams, a 25-year-old Black shoe shiner, bought the first three lots for \$125, and the AME Zion Church purchased another six lots. At this point a community was started. Between 1825-1832, the Whiteheads sold about half of their land parcels to other Black people. By the early 1830s there were about 10 homes in the Village. By mid-1850s, Seneca Village had 50 homes and three churches, along with burial grounds and a school for Black children. By 1855, about half of the residents owned their own homes. With property ownership came other rights not commonly held by Black people in the city – namely, the right to vote. In 1821, New York State required black men to own at least \$250 in property and hold residency for at least three years to be able to vote. Of the 100 black New Yorkers eligible to vote in 1845, 10 of them lived in Seneca Village. Census records show that residents were employed, with African-Americans typically employed as laborers and in-service jobs, which were the main options for them at the time. Records also show that most children who lived in Seneca Village attended school. During the early 1850s, New York City started to plan for a large municipal park to counter unhealthy urban conditions and provide space for recreation. In 1853, the New York State legislature enacted a law that set aside 775 acres of land in Manhattan – from 59th to 106th streets, between 5th and 8th avenues – to create the country's first major landscape to public park. The city acquired the land through eminent domain, the law that allows the government to take private land for public use with compensation paid to the landowner. This was a common practice in the 19th century. There were 1,600 inhabitants displaced throughout the area. Although landowners were compensated, many argued that their land was undervalued. Ultimately all residents had to leave Seneca Village by the end of 1857.

**Source: Black History*

Bishop DeDe Duncan-Probe Visitation on November 19 Celebrating Confirmation, Reception and Affirmation of our St. James' Family!





St. James' Church Skaneateles Settled Rector Search



Rector Search Committee Update: A message to the Parish from Colleen Gannon and Marcia Watt, Co-Chairs

We are honored to have been asked by the Vestry to Co-Chair the Rector Search Committee and to be engaged in the important work of selecting our next Rector. The search committee is committed to engaging in a thorough, thoughtful and prayerful process of discerning our next Rector.

In November, the committee met with Canon Tom Ferguson, our Diocesan Transition Minister, to review the Diocesan Guidelines for conducting the search for our new Rector and to gain a clear understanding of the committee's role in this process. The committee's work is divided into three phases:

PHASE 1: Data gathering and assessment of the parish to develop a comprehensive "Parish Profile" that clearly communicates who we are as a parish, our various styles of worship, our ministries and mission, and the characteristics and skills that we seek in our next rector;

PHASE 2: Development and planning for the search process; and

PHASE 3: Discernment through evaluation and assessment of the candidates.

The committee is meeting regularly (usually twice a month) to carry out this important work. As we begin the Phase I period of self-study, we will be gathering historic and current data as well as reflecting on our future ministry goals and mission. Receiving input from the parish is vitally important to this task and to the development of our Parish Profile.

Please watch for opportunities to provide input to the search committee in the beginning of the New Year. In the meantime, during this Advent period of waiting and preparation, please keep our Rector Search Committee in your prayers as we begin this important work on behalf of St. James'.

- Colleen and Marcia, Co-Chairs

Rector Search Committee Members

Parish Representatives:	Vestry Representatives:
Colleen Gannon, Co-Chair	Nancy Corl
Marcia Watt, Co-Chair	Susan Rynkiewicz (Senior Warden)
Jeffrey Davis	Bill Spalding (Warden)
Erik Samhammer	

Check out the St. James' website for more information on the Rector Search Committee and Transition updates.

Advent Resources to deepen your preparation for the birth of Jesus.

1. Lego Advent

The Episcopal Diocese of Arkansas has developed a free printable set of prayers to accompany the Lego City Advent Calendar. The prayers for each day of the calendar from December 1-24 connect with the brick builds and lift up various members of our wider communities, like musicians, farmers, grocery workers, and firefighters. You can access the Lego Advent Calendar 2023 prayers as a PDF on the diocese's website.

The diocese encourages congregations to adapt this prayer calendar for their own communities (no attribution needed) and would love to hear from people who use it. If you use or share this resource, please consider contacting Ministry Developer Randall Curtis at the Episcopal Diocese of Arkansas by email and offering your feedback.

2. AdventWord

AdventWord is a global Advent Calendar offering images and meditations for reflection every day of Advent. You can download official #AdventWord graphics, find additional resources, and sign up for a daily email at the AdventWord resources page. AdventWord is great for concentrating on specific terms pulled from the lectionary readings.

3. Praying in Color

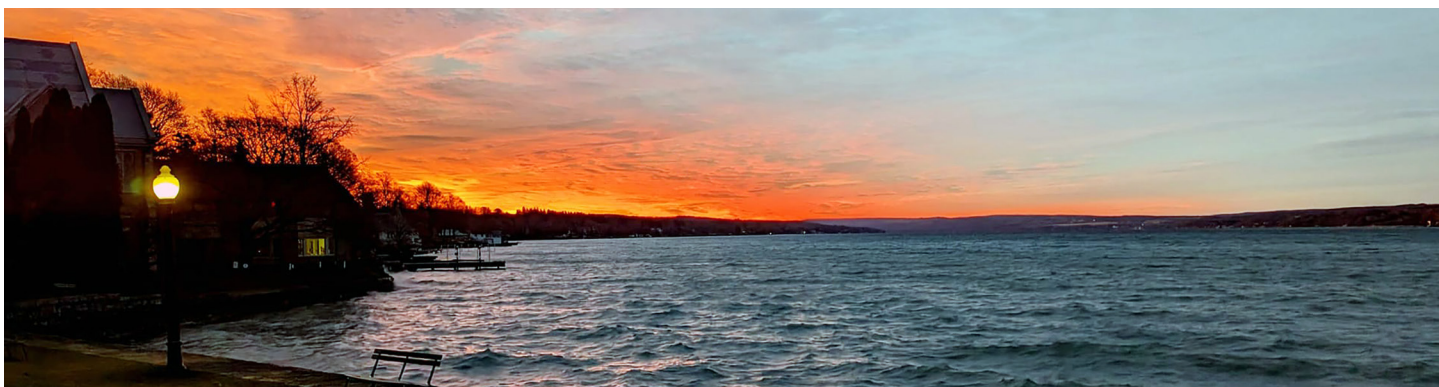
"Praying in Color" creator Sybil MacBeth offers free printable Advent calendars for "doodling" prayers, as she describes it, each day of Advent. She also provides guidance on how to introduce "Praying in Color" as a practice. You can access her 2023 Advent templates at the Praying in Color website.

4. Way of Love Calendar

"Journeying the Way of Love" Advent Calendar 2023 is free from The Episcopal Church via download. It is particularly good for older children, teens, and adults. There are prompts for reflection and conversation. Examples include "set a timer for three minutes to sit in silence and hear what God might be saying back to you" and "as you are out and about for the rest of this week, notice the people you pass." This could pair well with other Way of Love resources like the Advent Curriculum (available in English, Spanish, and French). Follow these links to access the Way of Love calendar: "Advent Calendar 2023" (English), "Calendario de adviento 2023" (Spanish), and "Calendrier de l'avent 2023" (French).

5. Rituals & Prayers Advent Cards

Families Celebrate Advent & Christmas 2023-2024 contains cards for each day of the Advent and Christmas seasons with illustrations, short reflections, practices, and prayers. These are great for families to incorporate rituals or activities into their day-to-day lives during these seasons. The pack of cards is \$9.99 and is published by Augsburg Fortress. *Cont. on page 10.*



Prayers for the People of St. James'

For those expecting a child: Christopher & Erica Richards (family of Donna Richards), Travis & Stephanie, Victoria Spalding (daughter of Bill & Molly Spalding), Erin and Tyler Underriner & Carley and Chris Gause (children of Cindy & James Bright).

Those who are sick and in need of prayer: Bill & Ginny Pfau, Ben, David and Gretchen (grandchild of Joan Johnson and her son and wife), Adam, Lexi and Theodore Gates, Doris Lanning (mother of Jim), Sara Talley (granddaughter of Nora & Jim Brown), Sara Jones, Jacob Matlby (son of Kelly Ryan & Michael Spaces), Ed Blum, Matt Bates (son of David & Toppie, Lucille Horne (sister-in-law of Meg Osborne) Janet Rundle (relative of Bill Spalding), Sandy Fillingham, Rick Burton, Mary Scott, Ed Cole, Nancy Harris, Christine Posecznick (sister-in-law of Laura) Robbie Clark (brother of Kristina Abbott) Adam Newlin (bother of Molly Spalding), Joe & Sali Hazzard (family of Kathaleen Underwood)

Those listed on our long term prayer list: Suzy Jones, Spruce Reddick (sister-in-law of Nancy Graham), Lois Laxton, Bob Madden (brother-in-law of Carolyn Legg), Tara Lanning, Merz family (family of Dan Johnson), Darwin Parker, Jude Ker, Edith Palmer (mother of Sue Palen), Sue Palen, Darwin Parker, Nicole Hyde, Helen & David O'Neill, Kathy & John Dote (sister & brother-in-law of David & Helen O'Neill), Linda Lavery, Judy Santillo & Ann Malvaso (sister's of Marie Hughes), Jim & Patrick (brother's of Marie Hughes) Susan Scholl, Helen Burlingame (sister of Brian Davis), Betty Hunt (mother of David Peebles), Joan Johnson, Marilyn Garofalo (mother of Chris Davis), Virginia Williams (mother of Carolyn Ebner), Dot Pitman, Alexander Sturdivant (friend of Nancy & Rick Austin), Marie Bundy, Linda Hawley, Frank Ives, Griffin Palen, Don Evans, Linda & Nick Rossi, Melinda & Pete Hawley, Tacy Chantler (sister-in-law of Carrie Chantler), Euclide Mugisho & family, Roxanne Soprano, Cathy Valentine, Jeff Havemeyer, Sammy Birchenough, Adrian Coker (nephew of Michael & Danielle Larkin), Barbara Coyne (sister of Nancy Lee), Mary O'Neill, Travis & Steph Blum, Gar Smith, Bob Doolittle, Lisa Mitchel (friend of Nancy Harris), Linda Morse, Danae Hidy, Alberto Fry, Henry McMahon (brother of Jane Gilly), Loretta Newman, Doris Buss, Belva Morton (mother of Kathy Ingiani), David Bates, Helen Dayal, Scholl family, Patrick & Jonathan Arliss, Jason Weston (son of Susan Glbides), Jim Corl, Abbi Bennett (granddaughter of Jim & Nancy Corl), Kirsten Juhl (daughter of Jim & Nancy Corl), Pat Corl (sister of Jim Corl), Gwen Birchenough, Sharon & Pat Gannon, Jennifer Carson (niece of Linda Lavery), Tricia McMurdy (friend of Nancy Austin), Ingrid McCurdy, Ella (friend of Ingrid), Noelle (daughter of Ingrid)

Those who have died: Eleanor Underwood (sister-in-law of Kathaleen), Ralph Zingaro (brother-in-law of Marie Hughes), David Spencer (son of Susan & Dan), Ken Harris (brother of Randy), Mia Sherwood (sister of Martha Stiles) Ann Merrill (mother of Linda Arthur), Cheryl Ripley (wife of Bob)

Want to add a name to the prayer list? Please contact Nancy Graham at nancy@stjameskan.org.

Add Email Prayer Chain, please contact Corinne Buterbaugh at corinnebuterbaugh@gmail.com

Making the Holidays a Little Easier

With the holidays quickly approaching, a season that's normally a time for celebration may have a more somber tone for some—particularly those who have suffered the loss of a loved one. Someone who would have been there to share in hanging the Christmas lights, or ringing in the New Year is gone, with each event a reminder of their absence. The painful feelings that come as a result, especially when it seems everyone else is celebrating, can make the holidays a very difficult time.

In addition to all this, people often avoid those who are grieving, uncertain what to say or do. But there is a simple powerful way anyone can offer care: giving the gift of remembering the grieving person's loved one with them.

Grief has no expiration date, whether it has been a year or two or longer, consider listening and reminiscing together, a wonderful way to bring comfort and deepen relationships.

Also spending time with a trained pastoral care member of St. James' can be helpful. This year we trained 14 additional people with many Stephen Ministry skills, in addition to our Stephen Ministers. We are here to support you in any way we can. It may not just be the loss of a loved one, you may have suffered the loss of a relationship, of employment or going through other difficult times.

Contact Nancy Graham to help you connect with someone for one visit or more, a listening presence.

Also the Blue Christmas Service of Healing and Hope, Thursday, Dec. 21 at 4:30, is a time to be still and find comfort in our candlelight service.

Know that care surrounds you, as we reach out with God's love.

Prayer Shawl and Knitting Ministry – Spreading God's love one stitch at a time!

The Prayer Shawl Ministry has been a part of St. James' for many years. Knitting can be meditative, and making a prayer shawl is a spiritual practice that seeks to incorporate the prayers of the knitter for the receiver into each stitch. Once completed, the shawls are blessed by our clergy and passed on to the recipient to share God's love and provide the comfort of a warm embrace. If you are interested in knitting (or crocheting) a prayer shawl, or have questions, reach out to Mary Brady who leads this ministry. Yarn is available in the drawers at the back of the sanctuary. To request a Prayer Shawl, contact Nancy Graham.



More recently, knitters of St. James' have been knitting baby hats to give to new parents in the parish, local refugee and Merriman Circle families, and others upon request. Last spring, a dozen baby hats were blessed on the altar. If you would like a hat to be delivered to a new baby, please contact Barbara Baker.

As another cold CNY Winter approaches, we are expanding our hat project to include children and adults. Did you know that when the temperature falls below a certain level elementary school children are not allowed outside for recess without a hat. If they don't have one, they may be held indoors. St. James' knitters are working to address this need, by donating children's hats to Meachem School, Merriman Circle and others. Adult hats are welcome too, as we also have outreach to recent refugees who may be in need.

If you knit or crochet, please consider donating a project this winter! We are in particular need of Prayer Shawls, as our supply is low. Reach out to any of us if you would like pattern suggestions or have any questions about this Ministry.

Prayer Shawls – Mary Brady (mbradly@verizon.net)

Baby Hats – Barbara Baker (barbbaker@twcny.rr.com)

Kids and Adult Hats – Marcia Watt (mehwatt@gmail.com)



**Tuesday, December 5
7 p.m.**

**Storer Auditorium
Onondaga Community College campus
4585 West Seneca Turnpike
(Parking Lot 4)
Syracuse, NY 13215**

Save the date to join the InterFaith Works' Round Table of Faith Leaders for prayers for peace in the Middle East, Ukraine, Sudan and Congo. This event is free and open to the public, and refreshments will be served following the program and candlelight service.



Mark Your CALENDAR

December 3: Holy Land Pilgrims Visit & Art-Chris Baker
12:30pm-Parkside Room **NEW LOCATION**

December 6: Advent Series: Embodying Faith Wednesdays 5pm

December 10: Holy Land Pilgrims Visit & Presentation
12:30pm-Parish Hall **NEW**

December 13: Advent Series: Embodying Faith Wednesdays 5pm

December 17: Angel Tree Party at PlaySpace 2pm

December 17: Music & Meditation 2pm-**NEW TIME**

December 20: Advent Series: Embodying Faith Wednesdays 5pm

December 21: Blue Christmas Worship 4:30pm

December 24: NO Morning Advent IV Services

3:30pm Family Christmas Eve Eucharist with
Children's Pageant

6:30pm Celtic Christmas Eve Eucharist with
Contemporary Music with Worship Band

9:00pm Christmas Eve Eucharist with Traditional
Organ & Choir Music

December 25: Christmas Eucharist & Carols 10am

December 31: Lessons & Carols 10am & New Year's Celebratory
Brunch to Follow.

Questions on any program or worship service, please contact the
Parish Office or Visit StJamesSkan.org to learn more.

Acolytes Always Needed – Join Us Now!

Come serve St. James' and the Lord in an easy and rewarding way. The team of acolytes at St. James' is a strong and reliable group serving both the 7:30 a.m. and 9 a.m. services. This team includes youth, men and women – young and not so young – who are reliable, dedicated and terrific, but we want to expand the number of individuals we can call on for this important and helpful church role.

We would like to have a larger team of acolytes to serve at 7:30 a.m., 9 a.m., and feast days. And during the winter months, we lose some of our acolytes at the earlier services to warmer southern locations. This means the remaining folks are often filling in more frequently than they would like to ensure everything runs smoothly on Sundays.

"Acolyting is easy," says Bill Buterbaugh, who currently oversees the team and provides training for new acolytes. "First, acolytes control their own schedule. Ahead of each month, everyone is asked what Sundays they can or cannot serve, so they can be scheduled only when available and convenient to work around any other commitments. Second, the training is short. In just an hour, we can give a new acolyte all

the knowledge they need to be an active, effective part of the services. And third, one cannot mess up. The clergy is always there to calmly help an acolyte through any portion of the service he or she may not remember."

As it is often said, we try to do what is planned during a service, OR whatever happens, happens! Oftentimes, it is one of the clergy that forgets to do something and it's the acolyte that comes to the rescue by reminding us what we forgot to do.

What is most important, is that our acolytes find that serving with the clergy is highly rewarding. Being an active, but quietly engaged component of a successful service makes one feel good about being part of St. James'. You're helping to ensure each service is executed with the ease and reverence we strive for – making YOU critical to delivering a meaningful experience, whether that be comforting, inspirational or uplifting, for our parishioners.

Please prayerfully consider helping us expand our team. If you or a member of your family would like to try acolyting, contact Laura Posecznick at laura@stjameskan.org.

HELP WANTED: Looking for a few good men (or women)

Each week, our Altar Guild members prepare the altar for Sunday services. This involves setting the altar and credence table, filling candles with liquid paraffin, and other behind-the-scenes but VERY IMPORTANT tasks. Although traditionally the domain of women, St. James Altar Guild warmly welcomes men, teens and women.

Because the candelabras used at festive services – Christmas, Easter, funerals, weddings, and baptisms – are quite heavy, we especially need younger members to join our ranks.

Team members generally serve on Saturday mornings (once a month – for 30 to 45 minutes) and one Sunday morning a month – before or after the service they normally attend. Total time commitment is no more than 90 minutes a month. Each team is responsible for one weekend a month.

We are FLEXIBLE. Some members work or have other commitments on Saturday and can only help on Sunday.

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Although "altar stuff" has a mysterious aura around it, serving on Altar Guild is pretty simple and very rewarding. You will be trained and never work alone – teamwork is the name of the game on Altar Guild! To learn more, contact: Corinne Buterbaugh (315-685-0859 or corinnebuterbaugh@gmail.com).

A Great Gift for Christmas! PRINTS AVAILABLE!

Chris Baker created an exclusive painting for Becky & Kip Coerper's retirement. It is so spectacular that many asked for a small version as a remembrance of our beloved leaders. These have been popular so we are offering prints as the notecards sold out.

- 8x10 Prints: \$20
- Special square prints with magnet backing: \$18



These items are in small supply and are first come first serve. All proceeds will be used for the children's ministry program. Chris Baker, parishioner and artist extraordinaire, created a masterpiece with the most unique view of the rectory, church and town. These replicas are the closest to the real painting as possible. If you would like a Chris Baker painting, please reach out to him at chris-baker@twcny.rr.com as he has many other works of art for purchase. If you would like to purchase notecards or prints, please contact Nicole Bova or Laura Posecznick in the Parish Office, 315-685-7600.

Advent Resources cont.

You can also download a free promotional pack on their website with ideas for using the cards in your church and several coloring pages.

6. "How Does a Weary World Rejoice?" Calendar

A Sanctified Art has released their 2023 Advent resources, and the collection includes printable "How Does a Weary World Rejoice? Advent Calendars for Children and Adults." Their 2023 focus is "practicing joy in a weary world." The children's calendar involves coloring a part of the calendar for each day of Advent, and both the children's and adult calendars suggest daily activities to invite joy into the season.



Christmas Flower Offering 2023

Christmas is Coming! St. James' is working hard to prepare the extra special decorations.

Please consider donating for the flowers, decorations and music for the Christmas season.

The best way to donate is to write a check to St. James' Church with **memo line of "Christmas Flowers"** along with the bottom half of this sheet containing the names of your loved ones you wish to honor.

There will also be Christmas Flower envelopes in the pew pockets in church.

Be sure to clarify those "in honor of" or "in memory of" and print clearly.

Please send all names to the Parish Office by December 17.

If you have any questions, please email stjamesparishoffice@gmail.com

or call the Parish Office at 315.685.7600.

St. James' Episcopal Church, 96 East Genesee Street, Skaneateles, NY 13152

Donator Name: _____

Contact Phone: _____

In Honor Of: _____

In Memory Of: _____

Amount Donated: \$ _____

St. James' thanks you for all your generosity in helping make Christmas special.

STAFF

Rev. Joe T. Mitchell, Interim Rector fatherjoe@stjameskan.org
The Rev. Chuck Stewart, Deacon chuck@stjameskan.org
Laura Posecznick, Operations & Communications Director ...laura@stjameskan.org
Children's Ministry Team Leader
Justin Oel, Organist-Choirmaster justin@stjameskan.org
Michael Larkin, stjameskanmusic@gmail.com
Director of Contemporary Music & Technology
Nicole Bova, Parish Accountant nicole@stjameskan.org
Nancy Graham, Coordinator of Pastoral Care nancy@stjameskan.org

MINISTRY LEADERS

Nancy Graham, Newcomers Contact..... nancy@stjameskan.org
Editor of the Weekly News ~ Laura Posecznicklaura@stjameskan.org
Editors of The Spirit
Jon Glass jnglass@syr.edu
Terry Askey-Cole/Laura Posecznick.....laura@stjameskan.org
Parish Nurses
Jean Gannon jeanrrn2@yahoo.com
Nancy Corl njcorl@verizon.net

2023 St. James' Vestry Wardens

Susanne Rynkiewicz (2023-2024)
Bill Spalding (2023-2025)

Vestry Members

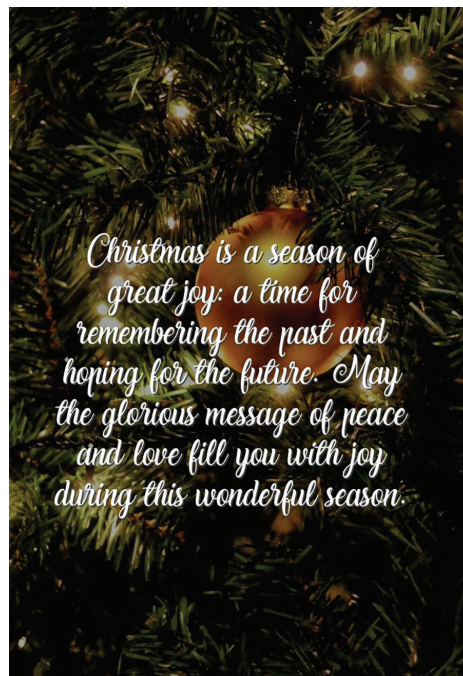
Amy Allyn (2021-2024)
Margie Amberge (2022-2025)
Michael Brown (2022-2025)
Barbara Burton (2021-2024)
Nancy Corl (2021-2024)
Judy Holmes (2023-2026)
Marie Hughs (2023-2026)
Diane Steckel (2023-2026)

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Thursday
9 a.m.-3 p.m.

ParishAdministrator@StJamesSkan.org
315-685-7600

Facebook.com/StJamesSkaneateles
Instagram.com/StJamesSkaneateles



96 East Genesee Street, Skaneateles, NY 13152 • 315.685.7600
www.StJamesSkan.org