

## 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 finds joy in the small moments of a warm cup of hot chocolate, hug of a friend or child's smile. Each year we are invited to feel the hope and joy of the Christ Child to be born once again. More than ever, we hope you find St. James' as a source of faith, love and safety in a world full of chaos and uncertainty. To learn more about St. James', visit our website [StJamesSkan.org](http://StJamesSkan.org) where you will find all the upcoming worship and programs or simply contact the Parish Office (315) 685-7600. It is our wish that everyone who visits St. James' either in-person or virtually feels a sense of connection and belonging. You are invited to any and all worship service, learning program or fellowship activity and please let us know how we can help you with your faith journey.

### Advent & Christmas Worship at St. James'

#### December 1: First Sunday in Advent

7:30/9/10:45 a.m. Sunday Worship  
 9 a.m.: Mini-Saints & Saints-in-Training  
 10 a.m.: Fellowship Coffee & Wreath Making in Parish Hall\*  
 there will be 40 wreath kits available-bring your own greens, ribbons, etc.

#### December 8: Second Sunday in Advent

7:30/9/10:45 Sunday Worship  
 9 a.m.: Mini-Saints & Saints-in-Training  
 10 a.m.: Fellowship Coffee/10:15 AM Pageant Rehearsal

#### December 15: Third Sunday in Advent

7:30/9/10:45 Sunday Worship  
 9 a.m.: Mini-Saints & Saints-in-Training  
 10 a.m.: Fellowship Coffee/10:15AM Pageant Rehearsal

#### December 21: 11 a.m. Pageant Rehearsal & Pizza

#### December 22: Fourth Sunday in Advent

7:30/9/10:45: Sunday Worship  
 9 a.m.: Mini-Saints & Saints-in-Training  
 10 a.m.: Fellowship Coffee/10:15 a.m. Pageant Rehearsal

#### Christmas Eve, Dec. 24

4 p.m. – Family Christmas Eucharist with Pageant  
 7 p.m. – Contemporary Christmas Eucharist with Praise Band

#### 9:30 p.m. – Christmas Preludes

10 p.m. – Traditional Christmas Eve Eucharist with Choir

*No Services Christmas Day, Dec. 25*

#### Sunday, Dec. 29

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

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## Dear St. James' Family,

As we enter this season of Advent, I am taking time to reflect on the past 3 months of shared ministry. Every day I wake up and I can't believe I get to do this. I am probably bias, but working in the church is the best job in the world. Every day I get to share in the joys, sorrows, miracles, and the absolutely mundane parts of the Kingdom of God and I LOVE every bit of it.

As I have settled into the office, I have spent the past several weeks focusing heavily on building relationships with as many of you as I can, meeting with newcomers, getting to know the staff, and meeting with the leadership involved in ministries that are part St. James.' This time has been busy and fulfilling. As we look towards the new year my focus will remain with building

relationships here, but the vestry, staff and I will become more focused on visioning what is next for our community. Where are we finding joy? What do we need to let go of? What can we support more? What may God be calling us to begin anew? I have said from the beginning of my tenure here that my job isn't to make St. James' be something, but to listen to where God is calling us and making sure that I can support you in growing in that call. We will have more of a chance to share in this discussion at our Annual Meeting this year.

Lastly, I am deeply committed to finding more time for fellowship in our community. There are two events in the beginning of the New Year that I ask you to get on your calendars now.

Our Annual Meeting on Sunday, February 2, 2025. There will be one service at 10 a.m. followed by a brunch and our meeting agenda. Our Celebration of New Ministry on Wednesday, March 26 at 7 p.m. This service will be led by Bishop DeDe and will be a time for us to celebrate the ministry that we have entered into together as rector and parish.

You have all been a blessing to me in this time of transition. Thank you for the kind words, the meals, the phone calls and all the ways you have welcomed the Parnells.

Your Sister in Christ,

*Mother Pilar*



## Spending Time with Friends

Thank you to Corinne & Bill Buterbaugh for hosting a wonderful "Meet & Greet" with Mother Pilar and Father Scott Parnell on November 15. Tons of great food and stimulating conversation.







St. James' is working hard like Santa's elves to create an Advent & Christmas Season full of joy and warmth! Be sure to take some time out of your busy holiday preparations to make this Advent Season about Jesus. This year, Mother Pilar wants St. James' to focus on togetherness and supporting each other as a parish family. There will be fellowship coffee hour each Sunday at 10 a.m. in the Parish Hall complete with toys for the kids and Christmas decorations to warm the space. Please come and take a little time either before or after your chosen worship service. Kicking things off on December 1 at 10 a.m. is Wreath Making led by Mother Pilar. There are candles and rings for 40 people. Bring your own greens, ornaments and ribbons to decorate. Be

sure to pick up a Advent Evening Blessing booklet on the welcome tables to use in your home this Advent Season.



#### Mini-Concerts

**Saturdays 12PM & 2PM**  
(Nov. 30-Dec 21)

Saturdays from Nov. 30-Sunday, Dec. 22

Free Music at St. James' &  
Syracuse AGO Chapter

Mini 30-minute recitals during the Annual  
Skaneateles Dickens Festival  
Saturdays at Noon & 2 p.m.



### Advent Music & Meditations

In the build-up to Christmas, sometimes the busy-ness of our lives obscures our experience of the wonder and mystery of the Incarnation. Join us at 12:30 p.m. on December 22 for an hour of contemplative music and readings as we enter the final week before the wonderful celebration of the Incarnation of Jesus Christ. The program will feature both traditional and new interpretations of familiar carols and hymns as well as readings and prayers to focus our hearts and minds and provide a space for stillness in a time and culture that so often passes us by.



**St. James' Christmas Worship**  
**December 24-Christmas Eve**

4PM Family Christmas Service with  
Children's Pageant

7PM Christmas Eucharist with  
Contemporary Music

9:30PM Special Music Selections

10PM Christmas Eucharist with Organ &  
Choir

\*All Worship is In-Person & Live-Streamed on  
[facebook.com/StJamesSkaneateles](https://facebook.com/StJamesSkaneateles)



### Come Reflect on the Women in the Bible & their Role in the World's Redemption

Thursdays

**Dec. 5 from 5-6 p.m.**

**Dec. 12 and 19 at 6:30 p.m.**

in the Lakeside Room unless we have a lot of people then it will be held in the Parish Hall. This year Mother Pilar is leading a discussion focused on lesser talked about women in the Old and New Testament and how their calls as prophets, religious leaders and saints among us have been part of God's salvation of the world. We will talk about their call stories, how they prepared the world for the coming of Jesus and how they were part of leading the earliest Christians among us. I hope this study will be one that leaves you inspired, empowered and joyful. There is no need to prepare! This is something that you can come and just be part of. Whether you have read the Bible or just hear it on Sundays, all are welcome! There will be childcare available and if there are older children that want to join and learn, please bring them in! Light refreshments will be provided.



**Midday Music NOW Midweek Music**  
**Begins Wednesday, Dec. 4 at 6 p.m.**

**Online ONLY at**

**Facebook.com/StJamesSkaneateles**  
Back by popular demand the St. James' musicians will be showcasing music and reflections Wednesdays at 6 p.m.





## Did You Know? By Emma Cowley

With the release of *Wicked* in theaters, it's important to reflect on the darker history tied to *The Wizard of Oz*. L. Frank Baum, the author of this beloved classic, had a troubling past -- he openly advocated for the extermination of Native Americans in the 1890s. Acknowledging these untold stories behind celebrated figures is vital for fostering understanding and growth. By confronting this history, we can challenge harmful narratives rooted in racism and hatred, while working toward a future where dignity and respect are extended to all.

As we enjoy the magic of *Wicked*, let's also uplift the voices of Native American communities and support efforts that promote justice and truth. Being critical of the origins of the stories we cherish allows us to address their harmful legacies and strive for a more inclusive, equitable world.

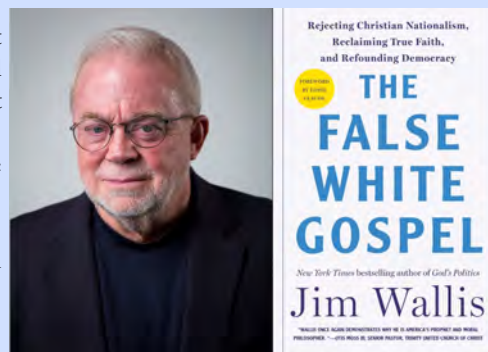


## Christian Nationalism Discussion Topic for Next Diversity Book Club Meeting at St. James' January 12 at Noon

What does it mean to declare the United States a "Christian Nation?" Does such a declaration contradict the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution? Is such a declaration in keeping with what Jesus taught? What is the church's role in the discussion? These are some of the questions that will be explored in a discussion of Jim Wallis' *The False White Gospel: Rejecting Christian Nationalism, Reclaiming True Faith and Refounding Democracy*. The discussion, presented by the Diversity Book Club, will be held at noon on Jan. 12, 2025, at St. James' Episcopal Church, Skaneateles. All are welcome to attend even if you have not read the book.

Wallis is the inaugural Archbishop Desmond Tutu Chair in Faith and Justice at the McCourt School of Public Policy and the Faculty Director of Georgetown University's Center on Faith and Justice. His groundbreaking book is for people of all faith traditions, including those who do not profess a faith in a higher power. Wallis invites followers of Jesus to reject and help dismantle a false gospel that propagates white supremacy and autocracy. He discusses six iconic texts at the heart of what genuine biblical faith means and what Jesus, in the gospels, has called us to do.

"Almost twenty years ago, in his book *God's Politics*, my friend Jim Wallis prophetically called people of faith to look at the realities in our nation through a radically different lens and challenge the unjust structures of racism all around us," says The Most Rev. Michael B. Curry, Presiding Bishop of The Episcopal Church.



"Now, in his new book, *False White Gospel*, he rightly notes that the need for justice and equity is greater than ever and implores us to reclaim the Jesus of the Gospels in the face of the White Christian Nationalism that threatens our democracy, our faith, our common life. Read this book...and be part of the desperately needed change." Copies of *The False White Gospel* are available through the Skaneateles Library. Contact Andrea Snyder, Skaneateles Library Assistant Director and Adult Services Librarian ([andrea@skanlibrary.org](mailto:andrea@skanlibrary.org) or 315-685-5135). Copies can be purchased online through discount used book stores such as ThriftBooks or other retailers.

### The Diversity Book Club continues through the Spring 2025 with the following selections

**Feb. 23: *The Wind Knows My Name* by Isabel Allende**, Chilean-American novelist, feminist, philanthropist and founder of the Isabel Allende Foundation to support the empowerment of women and girls worldwide.

**March 30: *Sold* by Patricia McCormick**, two-time National Book Award finalist and author of several critically acclaimed novels. *Sold* is listed on the American Library Association's Top 10 Most Challenged Books of 2023.

**May 18: *Black Birds in the Sky: The Story and Legacy of the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre* by Brandy Colbert**, award-winning author of several books for children and teens. In 2022, Colbert was told she could not discuss her book during a Black History Month program for high school students in Texas. She withdrew from the program.

The Diversity Book Club is a ministry of St. James' Racial Justice and Reconciliation Commission. The discussions are held at noon in the Toppie Bates Lakeside Room (and via Zoom) and are free and open to the public. For more information, contact Judy Holmes ([judyholmes76@gmail.com](mailto:judyholmes76@gmail.com)) or Meg Osborne ([mhosborne7@gmail.com](mailto:mhosborne7@gmail.com)).



# Let's Volunteer!

## Help make St. James' (even more) Beautiful!

Parishioners and visitors alike often remark how beautiful St. James' is, especially at Christmas. We are truly blessed with a gorgeous, historic building ... but preparing the altar for weekly and festival services doesn't happen magically. It's the work of our Altar Guild. Now there's an easy, no-obligation way to see if Altar Guild is something you'd be interested in. We invite you to shadow an Altar Guild team or flower arranger for a weekend to learn more. As our current Altar Guild members age, the next generation of men and women must step up. **Give it a try!**

**Contact or Bill or Corinne Buterbaugh**

**(corinnebuterbaugh@gmail.com or 571-215-6693). *About Altar Guild:***

Each year, our dedicated Altar Guild members prepare the altar for more than 200 services. This involves setting the altar and credence table, filling candles with liquid paraffin, caring for linens, arranging flowers and plants and other essential tasks. Team members serve once a month on Saturday mornings (for 30 to 45 minutes, usually beginning at 8:30) and on Sunday morning before or after the service they normally attend. You don't have to switch services (unless you want to!).

## Feed the Hungry at Local Soup Kitchen

For 20 years, St. James' parishioners have prepared and served food on the last Saturday of every month at the soup kitchen at Sts. Peter and John Episcopal Church on Genesee Street in Auburn. Two St. James' volunteers help prepare food (9 to 11 a.m.) and two hand out the bagged lunches (11:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.).

Each month, our pool of volunteers receives an email asking if they can volunteer. If you can help, simply reply with the number of people and the desired shift. No special skills or long-term commitment required. Work once a month, a few times a year, or just once. It's easy: To be added to the list of volunteers (ages 13+), contact Corinne Buterbaugh (corinnebuterbaugh@gmail.com).



## Hillbrook Gardens Nourished the Body and Spirit

The last of the jalapeño peppers hanging on the still lush, green plants had turned from green to an enticing red. Two teen residents of the Hillbrook Juvenile Detention Center in Syracuse, were cleaning dead vegetation from the raised-bed gardens. They challenged each other to try one of the red jalapeños. It was late August; the harvest from the four raised-beds had been abundant throughout the summer. Residents and staff harvested cherry and large tomatoes, cucumbers, sweet green and jalapeño peppers, onions, Swiss chard, mustard plants, and watermelon. There were also a few ears of corn and enough green beans for snacking. The garden project at Hillbrook is a ministry of the St. James' Racial Justice and Reconciliation Commission, supported by a 2023 Ministry Grant from the Episcopal Diocese of Central New York and by St. James' parishioners.



No one anticipated the green jalapeños would turn red at the end of the season. Prior to the cleanup, the staff and residents made salsa with the onions, tomatoes and the sweet and jalapeño peppers. They also made pickles and cucumber and tomato salad. The cook prepared the Swiss chard for dinner. Throughout the summer, they snacked on green beans and cherry tomatoes as they watered the gardens and pulled weeds. On cleanup day, those shiny, red jalapeños looked too pretty to pick. One teen could resist no longer. He picked the pepper and bit into it. Fire! He tried to counteract the burning by eating one of the remaining cucumbers hanging from the vine. The staff and St. James' volunteers could only sympathize — and chuckle.

Farm to table was a new experience for the Hillbrook residents who participated in the garden project. There is something miraculous about planting a tiny mustard seed and watching it grow into an enormous green plant, or in gently planting fragile, cucumber seedlings and a few weeks later harvesting a bushel of beautiful green vegetables. One resident, who transferred to another facility midway through the summer, decided he would ask to participate in that facility's gardening vocational program after nixing the idea just a few weeks earlier. His experience working the Hillbrook gardens informed his new choice. We planted seeds; we reaped a harvest of food that nourished the body. With God's grace, it is our prayer that we planted seeds that also nourished the spirit of the residents we touched and who touched us. We are all looking forward to replanting the gardens in the Spring of 2025.





# Advent: A Season of Hope and Preparation

by Mo Allyn, Director of Children, Youth & Family Ministry at St. James'

Advent, meaning “coming” or “arrival,” marks the four Sundays leading up to Christmas. It is a time to pause, reflect, and prepare our hearts for Christ’s birth and the continual ways God comes into our lives. As Henri Nouwen reminds us, life is an Advent — an ongoing journey of waiting and welcoming. This sacred season invites us to embrace its stillness and anticipation, ushering in peace and hope amidst the world’s busyness. For many, Advent holds personal significance as the beginning of the church year. However, holiday tasks and expectations can overshadow their more profound meaning in our daily lives. Yet, Advent calls us to something more: a chance to bring our imperfect selves before God and receive the gift of grace. Unlike the transactional idea of rewards for being ‘good,’ Advent reminds us that God’s love is unconditional. It’s not about earning favor but recognizing that we are all loved — flaws, doubts, and all.

## • Reflections and Practices for Families

In this season of waiting and preparation, families— parents, grandparents, children, and youth — are invited to reflect on how they can foster peace and togetherness. Below are some age-specific suggestions for engaging with Advent:

- **For Parents with Young Children:** Create simple, meaningful rituals, like lighting an Advent wreath each night. The Advent wreath, a circular arrangement of evergreen branches with four candles, symbolizes the four weeks of Advent. We light a new candle each week, representing the increasing light of Christ coming into the world. Encourage children to offer prayers, sharing what they hope for or what makes them thankful. Teach them that waiting can be a joyful practice when it’s filled with hope and wonder.
- **For Parents with Youth:** Teenagers may find meaning in discussing the deeper themes of Advent — hope, peace, joy, and love. Engage them in conversations about how these themes relate to their lives. Involve them in acts of service, such as volunteering or creating small gifts for neighbors. Reflect on how they can bring peace and light into the world.
- **For Grandparents with Young Children or Youth:** Inspire the younger generation by sharing stories from your Advent traditions, nurturing a deep sense of continuity and belonging. Involve them in recreating cherished customs, like crafting gifts or celebrating St. Nicholas and St. Lucia. Use this precious time to impart wisdom and prayers, reminding them that their worth is rooted not in perfection but in the love they both give and receive.
- **For Parents with Adult Children:** Advent is an opportunity to reconnect and reflect together, even if life has pulled you in different directions. Consider writing letters or sharing a meal to discuss what gives you hope and peace openly. It’s a time to strengthen bonds and acknowledge that love, like Christ’s, endures through all seasons of life.

## Finding Peace in Imperfection

No matter who we are or where we are on our journey in faith, Advent asks us to let go of the pressure to be perfect. It invites us to offer our whole selves — our joys, struggles, and even our exhaustion — at the feet of Christ. In doing so, we make room for the peace that surpasses understanding.

Finding peace during this season can indeed be a meaningful journey. It might be helpful to simplify our celebrations. Imagine gathering with loved ones to create an Advent wreath or choosing a quiet evening for family prayer — it can bring a sense of togetherness. Taking time for ourselves, even for solitude, can feel refreshing amidst the busyness. And don’t underestimate the power of small acts of kindness — whether singing carols or baking treats for those around us. These gestures can uplift our spirits and homes.

## The Call to Community

At its essence, Advent is both a personal and shared journey. Each week, as we gather to light the candles of the Advent wreath, we are reminded of God’s boundless love and our collective hope as a faith community. Let us embark on this journey together, discovering joy in simplicity and strength in our unity.

May this Advent season bring peace, joy and the assurance that Christ comes to meet us where we are, offering love beyond measure.

## Be Sure to Add these Simple Advent Prayers & Activities to Your Family Traditions



Download from [StJamesSkan.org](http://StJamesSkan.org) or  
pick up hard copies on Welcome Tables







Mother Pilar Added a New Tradition to All Saints Sunday! - Shell Ornaments with the names of those baptized over the last year.



# AdventWord

DECEMBER 1-25 **2024**

1 HUMILITY	14 PROCLAIM
2 ABUNDANCE	15 REJOICE
3 REDEMPTION	16 GENTLENESS
4 SPROUT	17 TRUST
5 EARNESTLY	18 GATHER
6 FAITHFULNESS	19 HOME
7 SAFETY	20 LOVE
8 SPLENDOR	21 MERCY
9 REFINE	22 LIFTED
10 JOY	23 SHINE
11 PREPARE	24 COME
12 RIGHTEOUSNESS	25 FRUIT
13 SALVATION	

adventword.org

Forward Movement

## Christmas with Jesus

Toddler Class  
for ages 18 months-4 years old with adult

Mondays in December 9:30-10:15 a.m  
Westminster Church 17 William Street, Auburn

Attend one or all classes

Please reserve your free spot by emailing CE@westminsterauburn.org or calling 315-253-3331

Each class will include a story from "The Baby Bible" Christmas Story Book, a song, and parachute play, followed by age-appropriate and themed opened play including sensory activities, playdough, and crafts.





Saints in Training Making Christmas Craft



This year, the Children's Christmas Pageant will be LIVE! This means, we need to practice. Please let Miss Mo know if you are interested in participating either in the pageant, music, ushering, reading, etc. Everyone is to be included! Be sure to mark your calendars for the Rehearsal Dates below. If you have any questions, let Miss Mo know.

#### Pageant rehearsals

**Sunday, December 15 from 10:15-11:00**

Located In the SIT classroom. Practice music and get kids used to their groups.

**Saturday, December 21 from 11:00-12:30**

This day, we will "mark" the different sections of the pageant, not focusing on content but just movement, and then go into the parish hall for costume fittings. Pizza lunch at noon.

**Sunday, December 22. from 10:15-11:00**

Run-through the pageant in the parish hall.

**Celebrate the season with fun, food, and holiday cheer for the whole family!**

#### **Delicious Christmas Breakfast**

Enjoy a cozy meal featuring pancakes, warm eggs, sausages, fresh fruit and milk.

#### **Exciting Games**

Pass the Gift: Sit in a circle and pass wrapped gifts while hearing the genealogy of Jesus.

Sardines: A classic hide-and-seek game (some areas off-limits).

Duck, Duck, Goose: With an angelic twist — "Barren, barren, blessed!"

#### **Creative Crafts**

Snow Globes: Create magical snow globes using special kits.

Christmas Candle Holders: Design beautiful candle holders with mod-podge and tea lights.

#### **Christmas Story Dramatics**

Put on costumes and act out the nativity story with guidance from our storyteller, Mike, as Gabriel.

#### **Service Project**

Make ornaments to bring joy to elders or Meals on Wheels recipients:

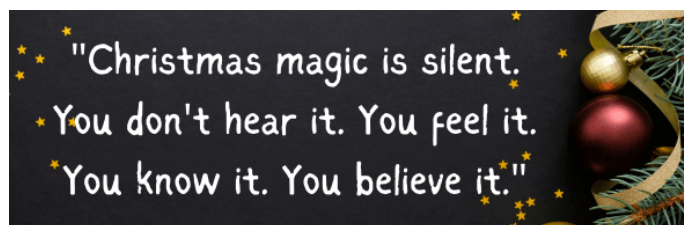
- Paper Snowflake Angels
- Walnut Babies

#### **Community Spirit**

Look for our glowing angel sign out front and inviting signs at our partner churches!

**This event is Free and open to all.**

**Bring your family, friends, and holiday spirit!**



#### **Did You Know?**

By Emma Cowley

"Giving Tuesday" is on December 3 this year.

Giving Tuesday is a day that recognizes that we all have the

power to drive change and make a difference through generosity. This is important now more than ever to support businesses owned by people of color, Black-owned businesses, Indigenous peoples organizations and any not for profit organizations that work to make change for equity, inclusion and justice. Mark your calendars this Giving Tuesday to find an organization, nonprofit or business to support, volunteer or donate to. <https://www.givingtuesday.org>

**GIVING  
TUESDAY**



## St. James' Prayers

**For those expecting a child:** Michael and Erin Valentine ( son and daughter-in-law of Cathy), Katie Grau-Zavaleta and Antonio Zavaleta.

**Those who are sick and in need of prayer:** Jean Clark, Dan Johnson, Iris Ramos (mother of Alberto Fry), Kathy Ploufe, Liam & Ryan Weston, Joan Johnson, Nicole Hyde, Mary Beth and Pinky Grau, Marlene (mother of Laura Abbott), Sarah (daughter of Martha Stiles), Sharon Gannon, Carolyn Edwards, Louise Stevens, Bob Temple, Dan Fowler, Judy Reilly, Andy & Dorothy Pierce, Dianne Vitkus, Ken Roffo (Katelyn Roffo's father).

**Those listed on our long term prayer list:** Sue Palen, Lori Irvin, Theresa Wilson (friends of Joan Johnson), Henry (friend of Carolyn Legg), Sophie and Lucas Jantzen, Ginny Pfau, twin children Morgan and Robert (friend's of Joan Johnson), Helen (sister of Brian Davis), Laila (great niece of Brian Davis), Bud Evans (brother of Don Evans), Mindy Gilbert, Bill Stinson (Uncle of Carolyn Legg), Peter & Sharon Andrus (friends of Terry Askey-Cole), Hayden Withey, Erik Withey, Helen O'Neill, Dave and Jason ( friends of Barbara Kay), Clare Fraumeni (mother of Marie Nickerson), Joyce Thomas, Christine Dengler ( sister-in -law of Kathy & Mark), Ed Cole, Steve Giocondo (father of Sara Jones), Vera Foehl, Sandy Fillingham, Rick Burton), Sean Arliss (grandson of Sharon & David Arliss, Jonathan's son), Susan Scholl, Suzy Jones, Sherry Yellot, Terry Askey Cole & Larry Cole, Sue Newlin (mother of Molly Spalding), Kaiden (grandson of Jean Bess), Ben, David & Gretchen (grandchild of Joan Johnson, her son & wife), Kelly Ryan, Sara Talley (granddaughter of Nora & Jim Brown), Sarah Jones, Jacob Matlby (son of Kelly Ryan & Mike Spaces), Ed Blum, Robbie Clark ( brother of Kristina Abbott), Adam Newlin (brother of Molly Spalding), Tara Covert Lanning, Merz family (family of Dan Johnson), Darwin Parker, Jude Ker, Edith Palmer (mother of Sue Palen), Nicole Hyde, 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), Helen Burlingame (sister of Brian Davis), Betty Hunt (mother of David Peebles), Marilyn Garofalo (mother of Chris Davis), Dot Pitman, Alexander Sturdivant (friend of Nancy & Rick Austin), Marie Bundy, Linda Hawley, Griffin Palen, Don Evans, Linda & Nick Rossi, 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), Mary O'Neill, Bob Doolittle, Lisa Mitchel (friend of Nancy Harris), Linda Morse, Danae Hidy, Alberto Fry, Doris Buss, Belva Morton (mother of Kathy Ingianni), David Bates, Helen Dayal, Scholl family, Patrick & Jonathan Arliss, Jason Weston (son of Susan Gibides), Jim Corl, Kirsten Juhl (daughter of Jim & Nancy Corl), Gwen Birchenough, Pat Gannon, Jennifer Carson (niece of Linda Lavery), Tricia McMurdy (friend of Nancy Austin), Ingrid McCurdy, Ella (friend of Ingrid), Noelle (daughter of Ingrid), Christine Posecznick (sister-in-law of Laura).

**Those who have died:** Edith Palmer (mother of Sue Palen), Victoria "Vicky" (Randall) Updegrove (niece of Jean Gannon), Rick Fairs (brother of Bev Smith)

All those people across the world in harms way due to war, natural disaster, or any violence.

Thank you Lord for all the blessings in this life and the life of St. James', help us to remember with gratitude this Advent season and the rest of the year.



**All Saints at St. James' November 3 was extra special this year.  
Thank you to everyone who created this special worship!**



## 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 Mother Pilar or Nancy Graham to help you connect with someone for one visit or more, listening presence.**  
Mother Pilar Parnell [pilar@stjameskan.org](mailto:pilar@stjameskan.org)  
Nancy Graham [nancymgraham4@gmail.com](mailto:nancymgraham4@gmail.com)

## Prayer Always Available at Communion

Just a reminder that during worship services, you may come to the peace altar to receive individual prayer for whatever weighs on your mind. Trained Stephen ministers (St. James' Parishioners) are there to listen and offer confidential prayer.

## Healing Eucharist Wednesdays at Noon

Each Wednesday, Mother Pilar celebrates a healing Eucharist both in-person and online. This service is growing in attendance and popularity. It offers a brief yet powerful worship that can support you through the rest of your week. If you can't make it, view it online at [Facebook.com/StJamesSkaneateles](https://Facebook.com/StJamesSkaneateles).



## St. James' Thrift Shop Needs Baggers and Helpers for the Dickens Holiday Season

The "All Volunteer" crew at the Thrift Store is stretched to the max and is in dire need of people to simply come and help bag purchases and watch/assist customers. **No register duty required.** If you are able to help even for a few hours, please contact Laura Bigness at 315-870-9563.



## Say a Prayer, Light a Candle

St. James' now offers anyone in need of prayer to light a candle at the peace altar. The Nave (main church room) is open during Parish Office hours from Monday-Thursday 9 a.m.-3 p.m.



## Dive Deeper Bible Study Celebrates 5 Years!

The Rev. Dr. Chuck Stewart, St. James' Deacon, responded to the need for Adult Bible Study during the pandemic 5 years ago. It is still going strong today! Anyone can join in on Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. on Zoom. Each week the group dives into the upcoming Sunday's readings and Gospel. It is a wonderful way to enrich your knowledge of the Word and be extra prepared to hear Sunday's message.

If you would like to join in the Dive Deeper Zoom Bible Study, contact Deacon Chuck at [cnstewartsyr@gmail.com](mailto:cnstewartsyr@gmail.com).





## LIVE *with* GRATITUDE, GIVE *with* JOY

**Thank you** to everyone who sent in their 2025 pledge to St. James' operating budget. Your commitment enables us to create an accurate budget and be good stewards of your gifts. If you still would like to give, please fill out a pledge card found on either welcome table and drop in the offering plate or in the parish office. Any questions, please contact Nicole Bova, parish administrator in the office. Again, St. James' offers so much to so many and its because of your generosity.



**Wanted: New Winter Coats All Sizes - Donations can be dropped off in the bin outside the Parish Office.**



### October's Month of Community Service: Giving with Purpose was a Huge Success!

Thank you to all who brought in items for the Skaneateles Food Pantry. St. James' always answers the call to help those in need. Below are the impressive donation grand totals for the month. Many people will not go hungry because of your kindness. Thank you to the organizers of our Month of Community Service-Beth Quattrociocchi and Christine Davis. Their organization and

passion for giving keeps this ministry rolling. AND a big thank you to Corinne & John Buterbaugh for collecting the donations, organizing them, and bringing them to the Food Pantry each week. This is no small task! Great job everyone! Don't forget that the Skaneateles Food Pantry is open and accepts donations year round! See you all in May for our next Month of Community Service project!

### Grand Totals for Giving with Purpose

Mesa/Corn Flour - 9 bags  
Mayo - 2 jars  
Veg. Oil - 25 bottles  
Chiles/canned - 4 cans  
Canned Fruit - 51 cans  
Soup - 26 cans  
Vegetables - 19 cans  
Pasta - 40 boxes  
Rice - 44 bags  
Cereal - 5 boxes  
Black Beans - 131 cans  
Assorted Beans - 15 cans  
& MORE Misc. Food Items!

### Donate a can (or two) for our neighbors in need

As you notice sales or deals at the grocery store, consider buying an extra item and bringing it to church. Leave it in the basket outside the office. The Skaneateles Ecumenical Food Pantry serves residents of the Skaneateles School District. It needs nonperishable items, especially cereal, 100% fruit juice, canned black beans, canned fruit, pasta, Chunky soups and small cans of ground coffee (decaf or regular). **Questions?** Contact John Buterbaugh (buterbaugh2010@gmail.com or 703-638-0941) or Corinne Buterbaugh (corinnebuterbaugh@gmail.com or 571-215-6693).



### Safe & Warm Outreach Program at St. James'

St. James' RJRC along with other local agencies offer respite care to people who are homeless in Cayuga County. It's called Safe and Warm. The project offers safe space every Friday afternoon from 3 to 5 p.m. in the Harriet Tubman Church where people can grab a hot beverage, snacks or simply hang out. Safe and Warm also includes an outreach component in which some 150 bag lunches are prepared and delivered to families and individuals living in motels in the Auburn area. The lunches are prepared weekly at St. James'. This program depends on donations and volunteers.

The weather is getting colder so these services are vital to so many people. Please consider helping in any small way you can.

#### YOU CAN HELP

Donate nonperishable food items (bread, creamy peanut butter, jelly, wrapped snacks)

Help make bag lunches at St. James'

Become trained to staff the Safe and Warm physical site in Auburn

Help deliver lunches to people living in motels in Auburn

Monetary donations can be made to the "Harriet Tubman Liberation Foundation" with Safe and Warm in the comment section of the check. This is a tax deductible gift as the Foundation is a Section 501(c) 3 charity.

For more information, contact Meg Osborne at mhosborne7@gmail.com or call the Parish Office at 315-685-7600.



## STAFF

The Rev. Pilar F. Padrón Parnell Rector .....pilar@stjameskan.org  
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Nancy Graham, Coordinator of Pastoral Care.....nancy@stjameskan.org

## MINISTRY LEADERS

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Editor of the Weekly News ~ Laura Posecznick.....laura@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

2024

## St. James' Vestry

### Wardens

Bill Spalding (2023-2025)

Doug Smith (2024-2026 )

### Vestry Members

Margie Amberge (2022-2025)

John Devins (2024-2027)

Beckie Hidy (2024-2027)

Judy Holmes (2023-2026)

Marie Hughes (2023-2026)

Tara Covert-Lanning (2024-2026)

Carol Murphy (2024-2027)

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

*"It is Christmas  
every time you let  
God love others  
through you...yes,  
it is Christmas  
every time you  
smile at your  
brother and offer  
him your hand."*

—MOTHER TERESA



96 E. Genesee Street Skaneateles, New York 13152 StJamesSkan.org 315.685.7600