

The Spirit of St. James'

Winter 2025



Welcome to Advent!

A Season of Hope and Expectation

As we enter the joyous season of Advent full of planning, rushing and anticipation of Christmas, please take moments to invite Jesus into your day to day life. Advent is the perfect time to add practices to deepen your faith. It could be a simple morning prayer with coffee or find an Advent devotional to explore each day. St. James' offers family Advent resources and ideas on StJamesSkan.org or inside this Spirit Newsletter. Remember to visit the Weekly Doings Schedule each week for all the offerings at St. James'.

Advent & Christmas Worship at St. James'

Sunday, Nov. 30 - Advent I

Sunday, Dec. 7 - Advent II

Sunday, Dec. 14 - Advent III

Sunday, Dec. 21 - Advent IV (One Service 9 a.m.)

Christmas Eve Worship

Wednesday, December 24

**4 P.M. Family Christmas Eucharist with Pageant
(Children in pageant arrive by 3:30 p.m.)**

**7 P.M. Contemporary Christmas Eucharist
with Praise Band**

9:30 P.M. Christmas Music Prelude

**10 P.M. Traditional Christmas Eucharist
with Organ & Choir**

No Services on Christmas Day, Dec. 25

Sunday, December 28

ONE SERVICE ONLY - 10 A.M.

No Sunday School Classes Lessons & Carols

Inside this Issue

Advent Message from Mother Pilar....p. 2

Advent resources.....p. 3

Children, Youth & Families.....p. 4-5

Outreach.....p. 6

Stewardship update.....p. 8

Prayers.....p. 11

Christmas flowers.....p. 11



Enriching Your Advent Season

Dear St. James' Family,

As we enter this season of Advent, we are starting to find a rhythm with our new Sunday schedule make adjustments, and our stewardship season is winding down. Our parish has seen lots of changes this year, but I am hoping we are beginning to find our new normal. As I have begun my second year of ministry with all of you, our future looks bright, and I am excited to continue to grow together.

This year we are focusing on how we can engage more deeply as a community in the lives of those we serve and in our own faith lives. Our focus will continue to be more education and formation opportunities, fellowship and building our family ministry.

During Advent this year our formation will be focused on prayer. Beginning November 23, Christina Stavenhagen-Helgren will be leading our adult forum, which will focus on different prayer practices. This is a great way for you to explore different ways for you to connect with God and settle your mind during this busy time. Please also be on the lookout for Advent practices to try at home.

I feel honored to get to walk alongside all of you, and I look forward to the year to come.

Your Sister in Christ,
Mother Pilar

Anglican Prayer Beads

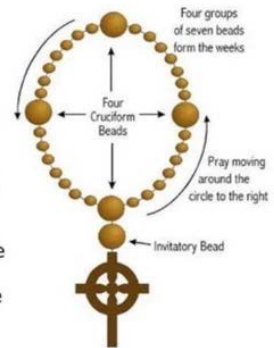
The Anglican form of this rosary style prayer method came out of a contemplative prayer group that met in the mid 1980's. The thirty-three bead design was created by the Rev. Lynn Bauman.

The use of the Prayer Beads encourages contemplative prayer by bringing our whole self into prayer – body, mind, and spirit. The pressure of our fingers on the beads helps to keep our mind from wandering and the rhythm of the prayers leads us into stillness.

The Structure of Anglican Prayer Beads

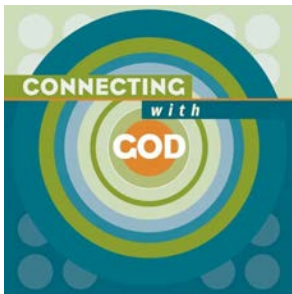
The Invitatory Bead just above the Cross is an invitation to praise and worship God much like the Invitatory (opening psalm) of the Daily Office. The Invitatory Bead is an entry point into the circle of prayer.

The four **Cruciform Beads** remind us that the Cross is the central symbol of Christian faith. They also symbolize the seasons of the solar year (spring, summer, fall, and winter) and the four points on the compass, bringing to mind the created worlds.



The Weeks are the four groups of seven beads. The Weeks remind us of the days of Creation, the temporal week, the seasons of the Church year (Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Holy Week, Easter, and Pentecost) and the seven Sacraments (Holy Eucharist, Baptism, Confirmation, Ordination, Holy Matrimony, Reconciliation of a Penitent, and Unction). The number seven also signifies wholeness or completion.

Exploring Prayer: Connecting with God in Everyday Ways - Is anyone thirsty?



Come and drink-even if you have no money! Come take your choice of wine or milk -- it's all free!
- Isaiah 55:1

Are you thirsty for a closer relationship with Jesus, God and the Holy Spirit in simple everyday ways? Advent season is a ripe time for exploring prayer practices as we wait in joyful anticipation of connecting with Jesus anew. We invite you to drop in and learn about various ways to pray, listen to each other's experiences, and take home ideas for practicing prayer -- real ways of connecting with the One who comes afresh into our hearts again and again.

Advent is a shared experience of meditation and prayer that celebrates the hope-filled arrival of Jesus. Let's join together in this exploration. We will generally meet in-between Services on Sunday mornings from 9:40 a.m.-10:40 a.m. in the Toppie Bates Lakeside room

downstairs with a view of the moving waters. Feel free to bring your coffee and snack down from upstairs. *Note: on Nov. 23 we will meet from 11 a.m. - Noon after the fellowship meal.*
Come to all or any of these informal sessions-Standard Time 9:40 a.m. - 10:40 a.m.

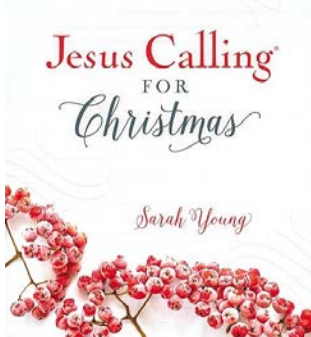
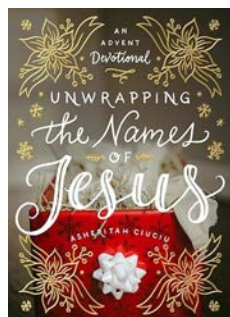
- Nov. 23 - Simple Conversational/ Listening Prayer
Special Time: 11 a.m-Noon
- Nov. 30 - Tactile Prayer: the Anglican Rosary with John Gillmeister
- Dec. 7 - Group's Choice: Psalm, Examen, Adoration, Intercession, Creation
- Dec 14 - Moving outward: Praying as we Serve

For more details: Contact Christina Stavenhagen-Helgren stavenhagen@gmail.com.



Finding Peace and Joy in Traditional Advent Practices

Devotionals



Celebrating With Your Advent Wreath

The first purple candle represents the long years of waiting for a Savior. It is the anticipation and hope that the Messiah is coming. The second purple candle represents Israel's preparation for the Christ child and our preparation for the second coming of Jesus. The third purple candle lit, the rose candle, represents rejoicing, the joy that the Messiah is coming and you're getting closer. The third purple candle represents the peace that God gives to all who wait on Him. The optional white candle in the center of your Advent wreath is actually not for Advent. Advent ends on Christmas Eve. This candle is lit on Christmas Day as a celebration of Jesus' birth. Place your wreath in a central location in your home, where everyone can enjoy it.



The Advent Calendar

These fun calendars, based on a centuries-old German tradition, are among the most popular traditions.

As you celebrate Advent with your family this year, consider using the traditional Advent calendar to make these time-honored traditions and deep spiritual truths come alive. This Advent calendar offers a wonderful opportunity to make Christ the center of your Christmas celebration as family members count down the days to the prophesied birth of the Savior of the world.

Christmas is far more than what our cultural celebrations have made of it. Especially for Christians. When this time of year comes, we pay attention to what is at the center of it all. We may enjoy the carols and decorations, but we celebrate the Advent of Jesus Christ. In his letter written from Tegel prison camp, Dietrich Bonhoeffer penned these words to his parents. "We can, and should also, celebrate Christmas despite the ruins around us...I think of you as you now sit together with the children and with all the Advent decorations — as in earlier years you did with us. We must do all this, even more intensively because we do not know how much longer we have."



Children, Youth & Families at St. James' from Sarah Jones



Hello families, I have greatly enjoyed my first weeks here at St. James' and feel very grateful for the warm reception I have received. I am looking forward to our Christmas festivities coming up. We have cookie baking on December 14 after the 10:45 a.m. service followed by caroling and handing out cookies at the Athenaeum Senior Living Center on December 19 at 4:45 p.m. After caroling we will meet back at the church for some cider and hot chocolate!

Next, we have a wonderful Christmas pageant coming up on December 24. I would really like for kids of all ages to be involved this year. We will need some high schoolers to help guide our younger sheep and angels as well as assist with set up. We also have several large speaking parts that would be great for some of our middle school and older elementary kids, plus many simple speaking parts for our younger kids. I am really excited to get to work with all the ages on this.

I am currently planning out the next year and focusing on our new youth ministry as well as expanding our offerings for kids and families. I am still getting to know families and ministries along with the general flow of the church, so please say hello when we cross paths. Here are the ministry focuses for the next year:

Youth

I will be creating a weekday evening gathering for the youth. I think this is so important for them to have the opportunity to form strong connections with each other and also receive formation content created just for them and their individual needs. I am very passionate about creating ways for the youth to serve both within the church and in the community and am planning several events they can help with throughout the year. There are also fellowship and fun events on the horizon!

For Saints in Training we will be following the lectionary most weeks and when the gospel reading is difficult to present for kids we will be working on biblical knowledge. I would like all the kids to know how to navigate and find a passage in the bible, have a general understanding of which books are in the New and Old Testament, know the names of the gospels, start understanding the Trinity, and know

the fruits of the spirit. We will also dig into how gospel stories shape how we live and present ourselves as Christians to our neighbors. I am also planning a few fun events for the kids to deepen their fellowship.



Continued From Sarah Jones

Families

I am creating more opportunities for the families of the church to get to know each other as well as the wider congregation to better know families. I would love to throw an Epiphany party, create a monthly park meet-up when the weather warms up, and hopefully put together an occasional parents night out. I want parents to feel supported in the parish and feel that they are given opportunities for fellowship. Parenting is a hard job and I want to be there for you all in your journey and create an environment where we all support each other.



Ministry Needs

Youth Volunteers: This is a new ministry and it takes a village. This program will need volunteer support. We need two adults at every event and extra chaperones for going off campus. If you are interested, let me know and we will get you into Safe Church training.

Do you like hosting events? I would love to throw a few events off campus. Please let me know if you would be willing to open your home for some fellowship next year.

Ideas: I am always looking for new places we could serve with, fun activity ideas and ministry partnerships. I have a learning curve in this area since I am so new to Skaneateles and learning about the village is very helpful to me.



Participation: Life is very busy. As a mom of two myself I completely understand that. I love the church and I am sure that those of you reading this do as well. It needs our presence to stay alive. Please join us at events when you can. No one can do everything and I would never ask you to. If you can make one more Sunday a month, one more event than you did last year, or chaperone once that is enough. If we all do our part and prioritize taking one step more towards the church that will be enough. All of those steps will add up to create amazing results! I will mail out a schedule for kids and youth events sometime in December, and I look forward to working with you all to create a flourishing church community.

Mini-Saints & Saints in Training - 2025 Schedule

November 30 - Mini-Saints ONLY & Family Advent Wreath Making during 9:30 a.m. Fellowship with Sarah Jones

*Bring in boughs and greenery.

December 7

December 14

December 21 - Mini Saints at 9 a.m. ONLY & Family Christmas Reception & FINAL Pageant Rehearsal

December 28 - NO CLASSES

January 4

Winter/Spring Session Schedule Coming Soon!

2025 Children, Youth, and Family Event Calendar

11/30 Wreath Making 9:30-10:45 a.m., Mini-Saints class only

12/7 Pageant Practice during Saints in Training class time

12/11 First YAC meeting 7 p.m.

12/14 Pageant Practice during Saints in Training class time and cookie making after 10:45 service

12/19 Caroling at 5 p.m. - leave from St. James'

12/21 Mandatory Pageant Practice and Christmas reception after service, Mini-Saints class only

12/24 at 3:30 p.m. - Pageant prep before service-Arrive for Costumes

12/28 No mini-saints or saints-in-training classes

FRIENDSGIVING AT MERRIMAN





*Everyday outreach:
It's easy to help your
neighbors!*



Hours

Monday & Tuesday receive donations
only 10 a.m.- 1 p.m.
Retail Shopping Hours
Tuesday 1-4 p.m.
Wednesday-Saturday: 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
PHONE: 315-685-5060

**You Can Make A Difference!
Help Local & Worldwide Charities
as Your Involvement is Vital!**

Due to retirements and turnover, St. James' Thrift Shop is urgently looking for volunteers who can be cashiers or baggers. Scheduling is flexible! You can serve as much or as little as 3 hours a month. This shop, run completely by volunteers serves a wide community funding numerous charitable organizations. Your involvement will make a difference. Store hours depend on the help of volunteers like you.

With increasing food costs and general inflation, we're all feeling squeezed. For some members of our community the price hikes hit especially hard. If you can, please buy an extra item or two every time you grocery shop and donate them to the Skaneateles Ecumenical Food Pantry. Leave them in the basket outside the parish hall.

The pantry needs cereal, vegetable oil (no larger than 32 oz.), 5 oz. cans of tuna, ramen noodles, boxes of hot chocolate mix (12 packets), pasta and pasta sauce, and 1-pound cans of ground coffee. Or follow the pantry on social media, which is updated frequently.

You can also purchase items through the pantry's Amazon wish list:
<https://tinyurl.com/skanpantrylist>

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

IMPORTANT: If you or someone you know is struggling to put food on the table, the pantry is open Tuesdays 9 to 11 a.m. and Thursdays 6 to 7:30 p.m. Established by St. James' and other area churches in 2001 as part of our ongoing outreach ministries, the pantry serves residents of the Skaneateles school district.

Want to do more? Adult volunteers are always needed. Contact Corinne (corinnebuterbaugh@gmail.com) or John (buterbaugh2010@gmail.com) Buterbaugh to learn more.

**If you are interested in helping,
please contact
Diane Steckel at 315-447-7113
Barb Burton at 719-641-6672**



This small yet mighty shop allows people to purchase beautiful items donated by generous local residents that enable them to save money for their family and the money raised goes out into the community serving diverse needs.

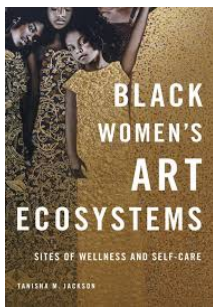
Every little bit counts! St. James' donated \$6,157 to split between Skaneateles Food Pantry & Food Bank of CNY! This was raised from collections over a few weeks. We all have change or can forgo that fancy coffee for a day. Alone our small amount isn't much but added together with our fellow neighbors, we can make a huge difference for those who go without food. We can't stop now! Remember to add giving to the local food pantries to your Christmas priorities.



Many say they don't know how to help people.
Volunteering a few hours a month at the Thrift Shop actually helps lots of people.

**In 2024, the St. James' Thrift Shop gave over \$95,000 in cash to local, national and international organizations.
To stay on track to match this record year or surpass it,
MORE VOLUNTEERS ARE REQUIRED!**

*Be the change
you wish
to see in the world.*
-Gandhi



Did You Know? By Emma Cowley

Tanisha M. Jackson is an assistant professor of African American studies at Syracuse University and she has written a book called "Black Women's Art Ecosystems-Sites of Wellness and Self-Care." Jackson explores how Black women artists use their art as a form of self-care, healing, and empowerment. She shows that art is more than creative expression — it's a way to resist

oppression, build community, and support mental and emotional wellness. Jackson connects past and present, showing how Black women's artistic traditions have long created spaces for restoration, identity, and strength. The book highlights how these "art ecosystems" serve not only as creative outlets but also as powerful tools for wellness and social change. This book is filled with beautiful art and inspiration. This book is available on amazon or www.press.uillinois.edu with 30% promo code F25UIP (offer good until 6/30/27)



A series of facilitated dialogues to hone civil discourse skills. The goal of the dialogues is not to change opinions or to debate. Rather, participants will walk away with sharpened communication

skills and increased confidence in sharing their perspective. Dialogues will take place on January 17, 24 and 31, 2026, from 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at St. James' Church Skaneateles Bringing together people with diverse perspectives. Please join us in this important work to bridge the differences that separate us.

Register at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PCY6G9W>

WELCOMING THE STRANGER:

WHAT DO OUR FAITH TRADITIONS TEACH AND CALL US TO DO?



CNY Interfaith Sanctuary Coalition
presentation

Tuesday, Dec. 2 at 7pm

Perspectives from the three Abrahamic Traditions
shared by CNY faith leaders:

Jim Brule ~ Judaism

David Pasinski ~ Christianity

Magda Bayoumi ~ Islam

Live Music by The Cadleys

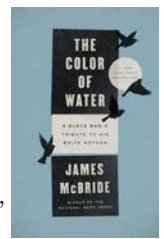
May Memorial Unitarian Universalist Society
3800 E. Genesee Street, Syracuse
Wheelchair accessible

All are Welcome!

For more information contact: Meg Ksander (315) 395-9308

New Date for Next Diversity Book Club Discussion - November 30 at Noon in the Lakeside Room

"The Color of Water" tells the story of McBride and his mother Ruth. Ruth was born in Poland and raised in Suffolk, Virginia, the daughter of an itinerant rabbi and a loving, disabled mother who spoke no English. All book discussions are casual and open to everyone. For questions, please contact Judy Holmes at judyholmes76@gmail.com or Meg Osborne at mhosborne7@gmail.com



Sometimes the best Christmas present is one you already got.



How to keep CreationCARE in the Christmas Season!

Decorations and atmosphere

- Use natural decorations: Deck your halls with real branches, pinecones, and dried fruit instead of plastic.
- Reuse and repair: Revitalize old or gently used decorations instead of buying new, single-season plastic items.
- Switch to LED lights: Use energy-efficient LED Christmas lights, which last longer and consume less energy.
- Get creative with art: Use crayons to create special, reusable decorations like a 12-days-of-Christmas candle from the nubs of old crayons.

Gifts and wrapping

- Give experiences: Gift tickets to events, spa treatments, or classes instead of physical items to create lasting memories.
- Create homemade gifts: Make handcrafted items like candles, knit scarves, or baked goods to reduce mass-produced waste.
- Swap gently used items: Organize a gift exchange where people swap new or gently used items like books or mugs.
- Choose sustainable wrapping: Use reusable gift bags, fabric, or scarves instead of plastic-coated wrapping paper, which contaminates recycling bins.
- Reuse and save bows and ribbons: Save shiny bows and ribbons for future use, as they are not recyclable and can damage machinery.

Food and waste reduction

- Minimize single-use plastics: Avoid single-use plastics like cutlery, plates, cups, and straws during holiday gatherings.
- Compost food scraps: Compost food scraps to create nutrient-rich soil and keep waste out of landfills.
- Support local and native: Buy from local businesses that use sustainable practices and consider planting native plants in your garden to preserve biodiversity.

More Needed to Meet 2026 Stewardship Goal

St. James' Church 2026

My General Operating Fund Pledge for January 1 to December 31, 2026

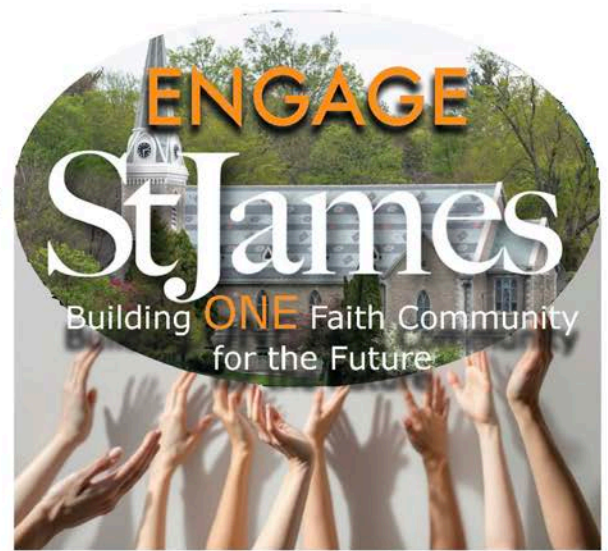
Annual Total \$ _____

I will be giving ____ weekly ____ monthly ____ one time payment of total amount

Please Check All that Apply

- ☐ I would like to make direct payments from my bank.
- ☐ I would like weekly envelopes
- ☐ Send me information about adding St. James' to my will & estate planning.

For more information, contact the parish office at 315-685-7600.



Print Name _____

Date _____

Dear St. James',

Thank you for all of your generosity and commitment to St. James' during this season of Stewardship. Unfortunately, we have only raised 76% of our \$400,000 goal. We are asking that if you have not turned in a pledge card that you do so as soon as you are able. As we move forward the Finance Committee and Vestry will need to make difficult decisions, working to cut ministry and staffing budgets to allow for us to continue to thrive as a parish. St. James' does so much to reach our wider community, serve our families and children, provide meaningful theological education and spiritual formation, and provide a space for our congregation to grow together. It takes all of us to make this happen and we are asking you to engage with the future ahead of St. James'. This community is blessed to have all of you and I encourage you to think about how you can be part of all that is to come. If you have any questions please reach out to me. Thank you!

Yours in Christ,
Mother Pilar



John Gillmeister is a third year seminarian attending Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity school in Rochester, NY. St. James' is lucky to welcome him as part of our family while he continues his journey to ordination. John's spiritual journey begins as a child being brought up by his mother and father with the help of his maternal grandmother, who instilled in him a deep love of the Lord and a passion for loving people. After graduating from Oneida high school, John initially attended Alfred University, where he played football and was a part of their BAFA fine arts program. Halfway through his junior year, John felt "the road" calling to him and toured in a band extensively throughout the United States. John and his friends jumped in a 15-passenger van and played punk rock music from Massachusetts to California and back. When the band he played in broke up, John returned to school and graduated from SUNY New Paltz with a BA in Art History. In 2018, John discerned a call from the Holy Spirit to pursue discernment for the priesthood. John felt ill-equipped, unqualified and resisted this call as long as he could. Only relenting when he says "God ran me down and I was just too tired to run anymore." John has progressed through the discernment process and is a Postulant for Holy Orders, seeking Ordination to the priesthood. John currently holds a 3.98 GPA at Colgate Rochester Crozer

Divinity School and has received his Level 1A Clinical Pastoral Education Certificate. John's passion for ministry focuses on the immeasurable grace, mercy, forgiveness, and love God offers to all people through his Son Jesus Christ. That no one is excluded from that unfathomable love. A calling for all God's children to embrace that love and responsibility to share it with everyone we meet, both inside the church walls and out in the community so the Holy Spirit can work through us in our everyday lives. John currently serves alongside Mother Pilar during worship. He also preaches, leads online Compline service on Fridays, and will be facilitating a lesson in the episcopal rosary during the advent adult study.

New Team Members Adding Energy & Talent to St. James'!

Robbie Padilla is excited to join St. James as the new organist!

Robbie's organ journey began during his graduate studies at Syracuse University. He spent his Sunday mornings playing piano at First Presbyterian Church in Chittenango, serving with choir director Michael Larkin. Being a pianist who kind-of-sort-of played organ, Robbie took full advantage of the instruction of SU's then-new organ professor Annie Laver and subsequently bought his first pair of organ shoes. Before Syracuse, Robbie spent his undergraduate college years studying music education at SUNY Fredonia. No organ-ing happened there, but he attributes much of his skills as a solo and collaborative pianist to the fantastic teachers he had in the music building. Coincidentally, Robbie also met Mother Pilar at Fredonia, only to reunite 15 years later!

Robbie spent his first few post-graduate years teaching a wide range of grade levels and disciplines within the field of music education. Some of these teaching experiences included Pre-K through 6th grade general music as well as 5th through 8th grade chorus in the Fulton City School District and a long-term substitute assignment as Jamesville-Dewitt teaching high school band and orchestra.

Since 2020, Robbie has earned a living teaching piano lessons, along with a little guitar and ukulele. In addition to teaching, he performs regularly as a solo and collaborative pianist with student and professional musicians. Some of Robbie's regular professional collaborations include Syracuse Stage, The Syracuse Orchestra, and recitals with talented soloists in the area. Though Robbie is originally from Western New York, he has lived in the Syracuse area long enough to call home. He now lives in Liverpool with his wife Christine, baby Olive, and cats Max and Piper.



Sarah Jones expanding St. James' Children's Ministry!

After a long search, St. James' was blessed to find a new leader for the Children's Ministry. Sarah Jones was born and raised near Dallas, Texas. She attended Funeral school in 2010 and spent a decade working in donation and forensics during which she earned a Bachelors of Business Management. She joins us from Tyler, Texas, where she served as the Director of Student Ministries at Christ Church Episcopal. Sarah enjoys experimenting with different recipes in the kitchen, is a certified yoga instructor and a published author. Sarah and her husband have been married since 2014 and have two children, Rogan (10) and Justine (7).

With the addition of Sarah, St. James' will now expand the program to include active programming and resources for children, youth (teens) and families. More than ever, support is needed for families of all sizes and shapes facing the tumultuous and demanding world. Sarah has hit the ground running; teaching in both Mini-Saints & Saints-in-Training Sunday School classes, led youth to assist in serving at the local Auburn soup kitchen, coordinating events such as Friendsgiving, and preparing for the live children's pageant.



Dr. Nicholas (Nick) Kilkenny becomes head of St. James' music and technology ministries!

Nick is a performer, educator and music director based in the Rochester area. After receiving his Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the Eastman School of Music, he has served as a professor of voice at various universities, including the Crane School of Music, Houghton University and currently at Nazareth University where he teaches undergraduate and graduate voice lessons, song and opera literature and studio teaching. He's received critical acclaim for his portrayal of over 40 operatic roles and over 50 concert soloist credits. Some of these include the title role in Mozart's *Le nozze di Figaro*, Renato in Verdi's *Un ballo in Maschera*, and Colline in Puccini's *La bohème*. In the Spring of 2024, Nicholas made his second appearance at Carnegie Hall to sing the bass solos of Mozart's *Vesperae solennes de confessore* with the New England Symphonic Ensemble.

Nick has been the Assistant Director of Contemporary Music and Technology at St. James' since 2022, and is thrilled to answer the call to be the choir director! If you are interested in joining the choir and singing His praise, please get in touch! We'd love to have you join us!



Served with Love

On Fridays, St. James' volunteers make sandwiches and bag meals for the Safe and Warm Coalition, a program started by Eli Gansert to assist people in need in the Auburn community.



Photos by Angelina Grevi
The Alexia Fall Workshop at
Syracuse University

*St. James' own Jon Glass is one of
the Fall Workshop organizers.*



Create Your Own Table Top Group! Table Top Groups (aka Foyer Groups) allow small groups of people from St. James' to get together outside of church. These groups allow you to meet people you may not always see or know. Please consider starting your own Table Top group in the new year. It is pretty simple: ask a few people you have met from church, include someone new and share a meal together. Fellowship is so important in our church family and sharing a meal builds community. Winter months can be long and lonely. Let's make everyone feel welcome and loved!

New Pastoral Care Training Starts in March!

The pastoral needs of St. James' is immense. One priest can't handle it alone. St. James' has a team of trained volunteers who assist in pastoral care by meeting with sick or in need parishioners to listen and be a loving presence. Two years ago St. James' trained 18 people in a mini-pastoral care program, highlighting the most important components to help others. This group reaches out with care to others at St. James' and beyond. We are ready to add numbers to our pastoral team and spread more ways to care for others. If you have any interest, please contact Nancy Graham at 315-317-0138.

Safe & Warm Ministry Featured by Syracuse University Fall Workshop

On Oct. 24, 83 students and 11 faculty from the Newhouse School of Public Communications at Syracuse University, joined 23 top visual professionals from around the country, spent the day documenting the village of Skaneateles and beyond. They shared the visual stories with the community at Skaneateles High School on November 13. St. James' Safe and Warm program was among those featured. Each Friday, St. James' volunteers make over 125 sandwiches and lunches for the homeless in Auburn and local area. This is a vital program that needs weekly volunteers and supplies. If you are willing to help out, please stop by the St. James' kitchen Fridays at 1:15pm. If you want to donate, please drop off peanut butter, jelly or bread to the St. James' kitchen.

Next Issue: The Workshop feature on the St. James' Thrift Shop

Another Successful Month of Community Service this October!

Thank you from Co-Chairs Beth Quattrociocchi and Chris Davis!

We received 14 Tops cards for Interfaith Works and 15 people participated in the Baltimore Woods CreationCARE project. We delivered a year's worth of dish detergent to the soup kitchen and filled the oil request for the food pantry. Your continued generosity allows these charitable organizations to meet their growing needs. The next month of community service will be in May!

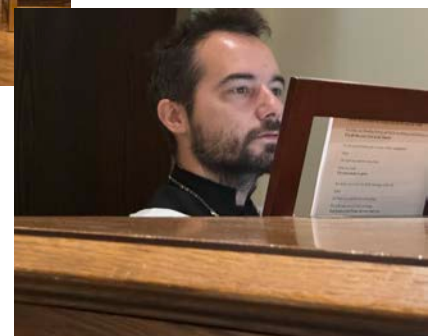
St. James' lending a a turkey feather to Meachem Elementary and filling tummies!

Another year brings another delivery of 100 turkeys to the families of Syracuse city school Meachem Elementary. A huge thank you to Connie, Earl and Amy Tuttle making this wish come true each year!



**Dr. Nick Kilkenny
Choirmaster**

**Robbie Padilla
Organist**



St. James' Prayers

Those expecting a baby: Dan & Kaley (son & daughter in law of Barb & Gary Ozminski)

Those who are sick and in need of prayer: Nancy Lee, Liz Cavender, Lois Laxton, Russ Mollica (brother in law of Marie & Steve Nickerson), Lynne Cook (friend of Marie Nickerson), Bob Bratt (husband of Tori), Nick Gilbertson (grand-nephew of Debra Rose Brillatti), Rachel (niece of Martha Stiles), Jim Lanning, Christin Posecznick (Sister in law of Laura Posecznick), Stephanie Hembach (daughter-in-law of Gay), Willie Crary (father of Roxanne Soprano), Jim & Nancy Corl, John Devins, Sharon Gannon, Ed & Mary Kay Cole, and Sandy Fillingham.

Those listed on our long term prayer list: Helen O'Neill, Travis & Aubrey Hyde (son & daughter in law of Nicole), Pat Brown, Mike Fowler, Nicole Hyde, Robert Jansen (friend of Joan Johnson), Pinky Grau, Joe Mooney, Cincy (sister of Carolyn Ebner), Kathleen Owen's (mother of Amy Schiek), Lori Schiek (sister-in-law of Amy), Stephanie (daughter of Jean Beeles), Sandy Rozek (friend of Nancy & Jim Corl), Pat Odom (mother of Michele Lytle), Brooke (Ann Scholl daughter in law), Mary Bradley, Tara Covert, Maria Malvaso, Evan Brown (Michael Brown's son), Barb Baker, Matt Bates, Tom (Nick Kilkenny's father in law), Edward, Laura Volk, & Adam Slavic (friends of Katie Grau), Dennis McEnery (friend of Helen O'Neill), Sharon Arliess, Ann Scholl, Spencer Gervasoni, Susanne Rynkiewicz, Lauren Jevis (daughter to a dear friend), Mary Beth Grau, George (husband of Barbara Kay), Jim & Nora Brown, Donna Richards, Chris Richards, Michael Brown, Linda Hawley, Pam Stewart, Ann Wolfe, Danae Hidy (daughter of Beckie & Brian Hidy), Emily Thomas, Chuck Davis (brother of Brian Davis), Iris Ramos (mother of Alberto Fry), John Spear, Jim & Patrick Malvaso (Marie Hughes' brothers), Matt & Lori Andrews (friends of Joan Johnson), Joan Johnson, Elliott Stokes (nephew of Joan Johnson), Lauren (granddaughter of Joan Johnson), Ben (grandson of Joan Johnson), Helen (sister of Brian Davis), Laila (great niece of Brian Davis), Bud Evans (brother of Don Evans), Peter & Sharon Andrus (friends of Terry Askey-Cole), Joyce Thomas, Steve Giocondo (father of Sara Jones), Vera Foehl, Rick Burton, Sean Arliss (grandson of Sharon & David Arliss), Susan Scholl, Sherry Yellot, Terry Askey Cole & Larry Cole, Sue Newlin (mother of Molly Spalding), Kaiden (grandson of Jean Beeles), Ben, David & Gretchen (grandchild of Joan Johnson, her son & wife), Kelly Ryan, Jacob Matlby (son of Kelly Ryan & Mike Spaces), Darwin Parker, Jude Ker, Linda Lavery, Judy Santillo & Ann Malvaso (sisters of Marie Hughes), Marilyn Garofalo (mother of Chris Davis), Dot Pitman, Marie Bundy, Griffin Palen, Don Evans, Linda & Nick Rossi, Tacy Chantler (sister-in-law of Carrie Chantler), Euclide Mugisho & family, Roxanne Soprano, Cathy Valentine, Linda Morse, Alberto Fry, David Bates, Scholl family, Patrick & Jonathan Arliss, Kirsten Juhl (daughter of Jim & Nancy Corl), Gwen Birchenough, Pat Gannon, Jennifer Carson (niece of Linda Lavery), Ingrid McCurdy, Ella (friend of Ingrid), Noelle (daughter of Ingrid).

All who have died: Marilyn Sell



Christmas Flower Offering 2025 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 19.** If you have any questions, please email nicole@stjameskan.org 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

The Rev. Pilar F. Padrón Parnell, Rector.....pilar@stjameesskan.org
John Gillmeister, Seminarian Intern.....john@stjameesskan.org
Laura Posecznick.....laura@stjameesskan.org
Operations & Communications Director
Nicole Bova, Parish Administrator.....nicole@stjameesskan.org
Nick Kilkenny, nick@stjameesskan.org
Choirmaster & Dir. of Contemporary Music & Technology
Robbie Padilla, Organist.....robbie@stjameesskan.org

MINISTRY LEADERS

Nancy Graham, Pastoral Coordinator.....nancy@stjameesskan.org
Terry Askey-Cole & Laura Posecznick.....laura@stjameesskan.org
Newsletter Content/Design
Jon Glass.....jnglass@syr.edu
Editor of the Spirit

Parish Nurses

Jean Gannon.....jeanrrn2@yahoo.com
Nancy Corl.....njcorl@me.com

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Thursday 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

nicole@stjameesskan.org

315-685-7600

[Facebook.com/StJamesSkaneateles](https://www.facebook.com/StJamesSkaneateles)

[Instagram.com/StJamesSkaneateles](https://www.instagram.com/StJamesSkaneateles)

StJamesSkan.org



96 E. Genesee Street Skaneateles, New York 13152

315-685-7600 StJamesSkan.org

2025

St. James' Vestry

Wardens

Doug Smith (2024-2026)

John Devins (2025-2027)

Vestry Members

John Buterbaugh (2025-2026)

Tara Covert (2024-2026)

Beckie Hidy (2024-2027)

Judy Holmes (2023-2026)

Marie Hughes (2023-2026)

Carol Murphy (2024-2027)

David O'Neill (2025-2028)

Kris Perkins (2025-2028)

Kathy Ploufe (2025-2028)

