

St. James Episcopal Church Batavia, NY

I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord"



Head of Christ

Rembrandt Harmenszoon van Rijn, 1606-1669

A Celebration of the Feast of the Holy Cross The 14th Sunday after Pentecost September 14, 2025 (9:00 a.m. zoom Liturgy of the Word) 10:00 a.m. Liturgy of the Word

Children of every age are welcome here and are invited to join in the opening and closing processions. In the front of the church, on the left side, is a "soft space" where children can "be children" and watch the service up close. Canon Johnnie will invite the children to assist him with the final blessing. Children/Youth will be asked to come forward or to stand where they are seated during the blessing. Anyone, young or old who wishes to be part of the procession are welcome to grab a banner from up front and enter the procession into God's presence and toward the altar of God.

Please join your voice to the hymns and to the bolded portions of the liturgy (Book of Common Prayer-BCP)

Prelude

Chapel Windows

G. Sewell

Welcome and Announcements - *None of us are here by accident. God has called us into this space and at this time, because God is working in our lives – individually and corporately. Please know that God loves you regardless, just as you are, and invites you into the Banquet of the Lamb.*

Opening Hymn 410 *Praise, my soul, the King of Heaven*

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Opening Sentences

BCP p. 355

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

We adore you , O Christ and we bless you.

By your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

The Collect for Purity

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Gloria (*spoken at 9 am, sung at 10*)

Hymnal S-280

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to the people of earth.

Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

The Collect of the Day

Christ for us became obedient unto death.

Even death on a cross.

The Lord be with you

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, you stretched out your arms of love on the hardwood of the cross that all might come within the reach of your saving embrace: So clothe us in your Spirit that we, reaching out our hands in love, may bring those who do not know you to the knowledge and love of you; for the honor of your Name. **Amen.**

(You may be seated for the lessons.)

A Reading from the book of Isaiah (45:21-25)

Barbara King

Declare and present your case; let them take counsel together! Who told this long ago? Who declared it of old? Was it not I, the LORD? There is no other god besides me, a righteous God and a Savior; there is no one besides me. Turn to me and be saved, all the ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other. By myself I have sworn, from my mouth has gone forth in righteousness a word that shall not return: "To me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear." Only in the LORD, it shall be said of me, are righteousness and strength; all who were incensed against him shall come to him and be ashamed. In the LORD all the offspring of Israel shall triumph and glory.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks Be to God

Psalm 98 (Let us read the Psalm responsively by half verse)

1 Sing to the LORD a new song, *

for he has done marvelous things.

2 With his right hand and his holy arm *

has he won for himself the victory.

- 3 The LORD has made known his victory; *
his righteousness has he openly shown in the sight of the nations.
- 4 He remembers his mercy and faithfulness to the house of Israel, *
and all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.
- 5 Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands; *
lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.
- 6 Sing to the LORD with the harp, *
with the harp and the voice of song.
- 7 With trumpets and the sound of the horn *
shout with joy before the King, the LORD.
- 8 Let the sea make a noise and all that is in it, *
the lands and those who dwell therein.
- 9 Let the rivers clap their hands, *
and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD, when he comes to judge the earth.
- 10 In righteousness shall he judge the world *
and the peoples with equity.

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Galatians (6:14-18)

Lily Bringenberg

May I never boast of anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For neither circumcision nor uncircumcision is anything; but a new creation is everything! As for those who will follow this rule-- peace be upon them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God. From now on, let no one make trouble for me; for I carry the marks of Jesus branded on my body. May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brothers and sisters. Amen.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Sequence Hymn 470

There's a wideness in God's mercy

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to John (12:31-36)
Glory to you Lord Christ

Jesus said, "Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die. The crowd answered him, "We have heard from the law that the Messiah remains forever. How can you say that the Son of Man must be lifted up? Who is this Son of Man?" Jesus said to them, "The light is with you for a little longer. Walk while you have the light, so that the darkness may not overtake you. If you walk in the darkness, you do not know where you are going. While you have the light, believe in the light, so that you may become children of light."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

Canon Johnnie

The Renewal of Our Baptismal Covenant

BCP p.292

(You are invited to stand as you are able.)

Celebrant Do you believe in God the Father?

***People* I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

Celebrant Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

***People* I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

Celebrant Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

People I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,(+) and the life everlasting.

*For the 5 questions of Christian Discipleship, the people will respond by saying: **I will, with God's help.***

Let us pray. May Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, and bestowed upon us the forgiveness of sins, keep us in eternal life by his grace, in Christ Jesus our Lord. **Amen.**

The Prayers of the People

Steve Hawley

Presider: Let us pray for the Church and the world.

Leader: Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church, with hopes that divisions will cease and we, as a unified Christian faith, may spread Love to all people in all places and at all times. **That we all may be one.**

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you; **That your Name may be glorified by all people.**

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons; **That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.**

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world, especially Kathy, our Governor, Donald, our President and all elected leaders. **That there may be justice and peace on the earth.**

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake; **That our works may find favor in your sight.**

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble. **That they may be delivered from their distress.**

Give to the departed eternal rest.(+) **Let light perpetual shine upon them.**

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy; **May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.**

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others: for those mentioned in our parish prayer list, *(pause for names either aloud or silently. Hold the silence until the Presider begins the prayer that follows.)*

Presider: Almighty God, to whom our needs are known before we ask, help us to ask only what accords with your will; and those good things which we dare not, or in our blindness cannot ask, grant us for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Peace

The Peace of the Lord be always with you!

And also with you.

Offertory Sentence

Let us with gladness present the offerings and obligations of our life and labor unto the Lord.

Please be seated.

Offertory Anthem

Set me as a Seal Upon Your Heart

D. Childs

Please stand as you are able.

Doxology

Old 100th

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise Him all creatures, here below.
Praise Him above ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

Eucharistic Prayer A

BCP p. 361

The Sanctus

Hymnal S-125

The Lord's Prayer

The Breaking of the Bread

Hymnal S-154

Invitation to Communion

These are the gifts of God for the people of God, take them in remembrance that Christ died for you and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

All who desire communion are welcome to receive, for this is God's Table and not ours. If you are not baptized and desire to be baptized, please speak to Canon Johnnie. We distribute the bread and the wine (in a common cup), feel free to only receive the bread if that is more comfortable for you. Gluten free options are available. All people will receive communion (or a blessing) from the main floor at the top of the main aisle. We do this so that everyone may receive communion together, as one family. If you prefer to receive a blessing, simply cross your arms over your chest when you come forward and the priest will bestow God's blessing.

Communion Hymn 321 *My God, thy table now is spread*
Communion Hymn 663 *The Lord my God my shepherd is*

Post Communion Prayer

BCP p. 365

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Blessing *Canon Johnnie invites all children present to join him for the Blessing by standing in place and holding forward their right hand.*

Closing Hymn 344 *Lord, dismiss us with thy blessing*

Dismissal

Postlude *Trumpet Tune in D Major* *D. Johnson*

*****Those attending the Zoom service please continue here.*****

The Peace of the Lord be always with you. **And also with you.**

The Doxology

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise Him all creatures, here below.
Praise Him above ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen**

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say, **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

Alleluia, Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!

We will observe a moment of silence. If you have consecrated wafers please consume one now, If you don't, please know that as others receive the sacrament, so do you!

Closing Prayer

Let us pray.

Loving God, we give you thanks for restoring us in your image and nourishing us with the spiritual food of common prayer. Now send us forth a people, forgiven, healed, renewed; that we may proclaim your love to the world and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

The Blessing

The Dismissal

Please take your bulletin home!!!

Please pray for those on our parish prayer List

Ed, Debbie, Anne & Don, Paul, Peggy, James, Wayne, Angelique, Charlene, Bill, Pat, Patrick, Judi, Kim, Devon, Tim, Jean, Diane, Tom, Rich, Jane, Pearl, Bob, Sue, James, Bill, Chad, Jeff, Shirley, Judy, Lucas, Owen, Savannah, Nancy, Greg, Grace, Celentano family, Roger, Terry, Russell, David, Kennedy, Harrison, Margaret, Lucy, Sue, Brian, Jim & Marsha, Janice, Cal, Beverly, Missy, Jolene & Mary Annette, Lois, Sharon, Melinda, Dane, Blake & Erica, 1975 Graduating Class of Dr. JH Allen Central HS.

Happy Birthday

Canon Johnnie 9-14, Jim Neider 9-15, Lily Sofia 9-20
Michael Collee & Donna Kauffman & Karen Odell 9-16

St. James Calendar

Sun, September 14	9:00 am - 9:30 am 9:00 am 10:00 am – 11:15 am 11:15 am	Zoom Service Choir Rehearsal Holy Eucharist Coffee Hour
Mon, September 15	9:00 am-2:00 pm	Office open
Tue, September 16		Office closed
	6:00 pm	Vestry Meeting
Wed, September 17	9:00 am – 2:00 pm 10:00 am 7:00 pm	Office open Canon Johnnie in office Choir Rehearsal
Thu, September 18	9:00 am – 2:00 pm 11:00 am – 2:00 pm	Office open Thrift store open
Fri, September 19		Office closed
Sun, September 21	9:00 am – 9:30 am 9:00 am 10:00 am – 11:15 am 10:15 am 11:15 am	Zoom Service Choir Rehearsal Holy Eucharist Church school Coffee Hour

Zoom meetings use the following link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8085432266?pwd=ZlBCZEI0WDQ1Szk5TEF2dFILbm4rUT09>

Meeting ID: 808 543 2266 Passcode: zrXG3y

Canon Comments: on the Power of the Cross

The Reverend Canon Johnnie E. Ross

I COR 1:18 "The message of the cross is foolishness to some, but to the Christian, it is the power of God."

The power of God can certainly been seen in the Cross of Christ, and it can be seen in the legend of how Helena, the mother of Constantine the Great, discovered the "original cross."

During the rule of her son, St. Helen decided to set out in search of the Cross on which Christ was crucified. Constantine, being more than willing to help his mother in her quest, put together a group of soldiers and servants who would guide, accompany, protect, and assist her on the journey. At the time of her quest, no one knew the exact location of the crucifixion, or where to even begin the search except in Jerusalem.

After several excavations in the Holy Land ended in disappointment, what ultimately aided in the discovery of the cross is reported to have been the aroma of basil. It was a "patch of basil," according to the story told by the Greek Orthodox Church. If you have ever grown basil you will know how wonderful that spicy-sweet smell can be and with today's presence of basil here in the Nave, you can imagine the attraction. At Helena's insistence, the team began excavating in the area below the basil and there discovered the remnants of the Holy Cross of Christ. While there are many other stories associated with how Helena knew it to be the true Cross, "it was the presence of basil", say our Greek Orthodox siblings," that aided her discovery."

The meaning of the word "basil" (vasilikos in Greek) is "*kingly, royal, brave, or valiant.*" There is debate as to how the plant got its name, but one possible explanation was that it was named by Helena herself as a result of it being found growing at the site of the Cross. Christ, "the King of Kings," makes for basil as a fitting name of the herb. While it's not considered blasphemous to use basil for cooking in Greek culture, it is not encouraged.

People grow basil everywhere, but it is use almost exclusively for religious purposes.

Another story tells of a temple build to Venus in the Second Century AD. and shown to Helena during her pilgrimage to Jerusalem. Constatine orders the temple demolished. It was during the destruction of the former and the construction of the latter, that Helena is said to have discovered fragments of three crosses.

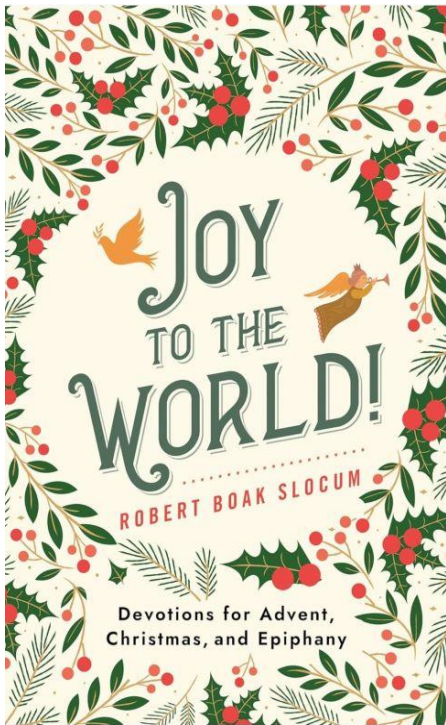
There was a woman nearby who was dying and Helena order the fragments of the three crosses to be taken to her bedside. When the woman touched the first and second crosses, her condition did not change, but when she touched the third and final cross she suddenly recovered, and Helena declared that cross to be the "True Cross of Christ."

To commemorate this feast day, I have prepared a station in the Nave for you to take home your own basil plant and an olive wood Pilgram's Cross from the Holy Land. The crosses are strategically placed beneath the basil plants in the blessed hope that you too might experience the fresh aroma of basil as you take a cross home with you. These Pilgram Crosses are designed to fit comfortably in the palm of your hand, as an aid to prayer and meditation making them the an ideal spiritual companion.

Regardless of your beliefs about the "original cross", I pray God's blessing to you and your loved ones. May the wonder aroma of basil fill you with the kind of hope that must have been given to St. Helena as she discovered the "true Cross of Christ." And may your prayers with the olive wood cross bring you healing, wholeness, happiness, and much joy.

God's Blessings & My Love,
Canon Johnnie+

Book Study from Advent through Epiphany



From Advent through Epiphany, Canon Johnnie will lead a book study with us using this beautifully designed devotional by the Reverend Robert B. Slocum. Father Slocum is an Episcopal Priest who will offer us heartwarming devotions for the seasons of Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany.

Our study will take us from the miraculous conception of Jesus to the visit of the Magi, as we experience Joy to the World! in the wonders of the God's coming to us. We will explore ways of how we can embrace the Incarnation and make it meaningful in our everyday life.

"Each devotion offers a passages from scripture, thought-provoking questions, and soulful prayers to help us contemplate God's steadfast presence and love in our lives."

You can order the book from Amazon yourself, or call the office where we will be placing a single order. This study will also be made available via Zoom for those who might find winter night driving a challenge. Funds are available for book scholarships, so please don't feel like you must be able to afford the book to attend the study. Dates and times are currently being discussed, but it is safe to say they will occur in the evening on either Tuesday or Thursday night, beginning on either December 2nd or 4th. Specifics as to the precise date and time will be announced soon.

Wardens' Report for September 2025:

We hope that you all had a fun and restful summer including opportunities to get together with friends and family. Thank you to all of the people who were involved in the summer services!

The search process has begun. A big thanks to Liz Findlay, Tim Thomas, Rick Iannello, and Tom Bringeberg for volunteering to be part of the committee along with representatives from the other churches in the Deanery. They will work together to identify the needs of St. James as well as the GRI and then pursue candidates for the Priest-in-Charge position.

Speaking of the GRI, we will continue the practice of gathering all churches in one place for each Jubilee Sunday (the fifth Sunday of the month when they occur. The next meeting of the GRI committee will be on Oct 13th at St. Paul's on Stafford.

We want to recognize Kathy Belluscio for the many years of dedicated service as Head of the Altar Guild and thank Bill Coughlin for stepping up to take over.

There are a number of outreach and fundraising events planned for October and November. Specifics will be covered in the near future. While they may be organized by the ECW, all St. James members are needed to help. Please read upcoming notices and lend a hand wherever you can.

Last week we sent 10 boxes of school supplies to two schools in Batavia including 15 backpacks paid for with St. James Outreach funds. The teachers were very pleased to be able to help out students who came to school without the necessary supplies. The school system does not take care of these children in need. It is left to the teachers. Helping students get the right start to the school year is a long-standing tradition at St. James of which we are very proud.

Community Dinner

On Saturday, October 27th St. James will be joining with the First Presbyterian Church to offer a free community dinner. It runs from 4:30-6:30 at the Presbyterian Church. It is an opportunity to connect with our neighbors on Main Street. If you are free that evening, please plan on attending. If you would like to help with this event speak to Jo-Ann or Joan.

First Time Here?

We welcome you and hope you have felt that welcome! If you'd like to learn more about St. James, please contact our priest, Canon Johnnie at canonjohnnie@gmail.com, (859)285-9361, or call the office. Keep in touch, if you wish to be added to our mailing list fill out this form and place in the offering plate or hand to an usher.

Bathrooms are located up the ramp (found at the left entrance nearest the small side altar) and then to your left.

Name

Other family members

Here You Are Welcome Regardless!



St. James Episcopal Church

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