

St. James Episcopal Church

Batavia, NY

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



Waiting for the Blessing
Mykola Pymonenko 1891

The Second Sunday after Christmas

January 4th, 2026

(9:00 a.m. zoom Liturgy of the Word)

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

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 invites everyone who would like to assist with the final blessing to stand in place and at the mention of the Trinity, Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, to gently raise your right hand, palm up.

Please join your voice to the hymns and to the bolded portions of the liturgy taken from the Book of Common Prayer-BCP, red book in the pew.

Prelude

Divinum Mysterium

arr. C. Phillips

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 that love is practiced here at St. James. Also know that it is God who invites you into the Banquet of the Lamb – A God who welcome us all!

Opening Hymn 82

Of the Father's love begotten

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.

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 God's people on 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

The Lord be with you

And also with you.

Let us pray.

O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

A Reading from the book of Jeremiah (31:7-14)

Joan Ellison

Thus says the LORD: Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, "Save, O LORD, your people, the remnant of Israel." See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north, and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labor, together; a great company, they shall return here. With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back, I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble; for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn. Hear the word of the LORD, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him, and will keep him as a shepherd a flock." For the LORD has ransomed Jacob, and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him. They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again. Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy, I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow. I will give the priests their fill of fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty, says the LORD.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks Be to God.

Psalm 84 (Let us read the psalm responsively by half verse)

- 1 How dear to me is your dwelling, O LORD of hosts! *
My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the LORD; my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.
- 2 The sparrow has found her a house and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young; *
by the side of your altars, O LORD of hosts, my King and my God.
- 3 Happy are they who dwell in your house! *
they will always be praising you.
- 4 Happy are the people whose strength is in you! *
whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.
- 5 Those who go through the desolate valley will find it a place of springs, *
for the early rains have covered it with pools of water.
- 6 They will climb from height to height, *
and the God of gods will reveal himself in Zion.
- 7 LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer; *
hearken, O God of Jacob.
- 8 Behold our defender, O God; *
and look upon the face of your Anointed.
- 9 For one day in your courts is better than a thousand in my own room, *
and to stand at the threshold of the house of my God than to dwell in the tents of the wicked.
- 10 For the LORD God is both sun and shield; *
he will give grace and glory;
- 11 No good thing will the LORD withhold *
from those who walk with integrity.

12 O LORD of hosts, *
happy are they who put their trust in you!

*A Reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians
(1:3-6, 15-19) Lily Bringenberg*

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Sequence Hymn 81 *Lo' how a Rose e'er blooming*

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Matthew (2:13-15, 19-23)

Glory to you Lord Christ

After the wise men had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son."

When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead." Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, "He will be called a Nazorean."

The Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

The Reverend Canon Johnnie E. Ross

The Nicene Creed (*You are invited to stand as you are able.*) BCP p. 358
We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection(+) of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Prayers of the People

Jim Neider

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

Leader: Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church, that our divisions may cease and we, as a unified Christian faith, may spread God's 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, + *(pause for names either aloud or silently)* **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.

We pray for those mentioned on our parish prayer list, and for those who we hold in our hearts, *(pause for names either aloud or silently)*

Silence

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 Confession of Sin

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

The Absolution

The Peace

The Peace of the Lord be always with you!

And also with you.

Offertory Sentence

Offertory Anthem

Doxology

Old 100th

Please stand as you are able.

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

Eucharistic Prayer B

BCP p. 367

The Sanctus

Hymnal S-130

The Lord's Prayer

BCP p. 364

The Breaking of the Bread

Hymnal S-154

Invitation to Communion

These are the gifts of God for us, the beloved of God: Come to the Table of

the Lord and be fed.

All who desire communion are welcome to receive, for this is God's Table, not ours. If you are not baptized and desire to be baptized, please speak to the clergy. The distribution of communion is done in both kinds, 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 center 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 to you.

Communion Hymn 114

'Twas in the moon of wintertime

Communion Hymn 84

Love came down at Christmas

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

Closing Hymn 680

O God, our help in ages past

Dismissal

Postlude

*****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 God all creatures, here below. Praise God 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 this bulletin home with you!

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, Roger, Terry, Russell, Kennedy, Harrison, Margaret, Lucy, Sue, Brian, Jim & Marsha, Janice, Cal, Beverly, Missy, Jolene, Mary Annette, Lois, Sharon, Melinda, Dane, Blake, Erica, Debbie

A message from Canon Johnnie

One of the true joys of the priesthood is what's often referred to as its ABC's - pronouncing Absolution, Offering God's Blessing, and the Consecration of bread and wine during the Eucharist - and the blessing of homes is a particular honor. For three days, beginning on the Day of the Epiphany (January 6th) and ending on January 8th, Canon Johnnie will be blessing homes. The Episcopal tradition of blessing homes during Epiphany (January 6th) involves sprinkling the front door with holy water, (in this case he will be using the living waters from the Jordan River, Israel) reciting a prayer, and marking your doorway with the inscription **20+C+M+B+26** (for the year 2026).

This mark, often referred to as "the chalking of the door," symbolizes the visit of the Wise Men (Magi) and invites Christ's blessing, with the letters representing the traditional names of the Magi, Caspar, Melchior, Balthazar. These same letters also happen to be an acronym for the Latin phrase ***Christus Mansionem Benedicat*** meaning, ***"May Christ bless this house."***

The practice of blessing homes is rooted in ancient customs of marking them for protection and blessing, a practice that hallows the domestic space, transforming it into a visible sign of faith in God's continual presence. The practice echoes Old Testament command to mark doorposts with God's word (Deuteronomy 6:4-9) and the story of the Passover story in Exodus of marking doors with lamb's blood for protection. (Chapter 12)

It is not necessary for you to be home, as Canon Johnnie will spend only a couple minutes at the front door before moving on to the next home on his list. If you would like to have your home blessed, simply call the church and give your name to Bobbi Jo and Canon Johnnie will stop by for the blessing.

Next GRI Meeting

Our next GRI gathering is Saturday, January 10th at 11 am at St. Paul's, Stafford.

Bring a dish to pass - or just your own lunch, if you prefer.

Please note that this is NOT a Deanery gathering - we will have those, but this is only for members of the GRI. All parishioners from the five GRI parishes are welcome to attend. (Think of it as an Annual Meeting of the GRI).

Peace and love to all,
Mother Barbara (MB)

It is good to have an end to journey towards, but it is the journey that matters, in the end. - Ursula K. LeGuin

St. John's, Youngstown, Priest-in-Charge
Director of The Hope Center
Dean of the Genesee Deanery
Coordinator of the Genesee Regional Initiative (Coordinating Team)

716-440-2950

St. James Calendar
Happy Birthday

Kim Isaac 1-5, Beth Collee 1-6, Nichole Heins 1-9, Lily Bringenberg 1-10

Sun, January 4	9:00 am - 9:30 am	Zoom Service
	9:00 am	Choir Rehearsal
	10:00 am – 11:15 am	Holy Eucharist
	10:15 am	Sunday School
	11:15 am	Coffee Hour

Mon, January 5	9:00 am – 2:00 pm	Office open
Tue, January 6	9:00 am – 2:00 pm	Office open
Wed, January 7	9:00 am – 2:00 pm	Office open
	10:00 am	Canon Johnnie in office
	7:00 pm	Choir Rehearsal
Thu, January 8	9:00 am – 2:00 pm	Office open
	11:00 am – 2:00 pm	Thrift store open
	5:00 pm	Advent Book Study
Fri, January 9		Office closed
Sat, January 10	11:00 am	St. Paul's Stafford
Sun, January 11	9:00 am – 9:30 am	Zoom Service
	9:00 am	Choir Rehearsal
	10:00 am – 11:15 am	Holy Eucharist
	11:15	Coffee Hour

Zoom meetings use the following link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8085432266?pwd=ZIBCZEI0WDQ1Szk5TEF2dFILbm4rUT09>

Meeting ID: 808 543 2266 Passcode: zrXG3y

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.

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 at St. James You are Welcome Regardless!

Lay Minister January Schedule

	January 4	January 11	January 18	January 25 LOW
Officiant	Canon Johnnie	Canon Johnnie	Canon Johnnie	Terry McGuire
Chalice 1	Deacon Diane	Jo-Ann Bestine		Jo-Ann Bestine
Chalice 2	Jim Isaac	Jim Isaac	Terry McGuire	
Acolyte	Kim Isaac	Kim Isaac	Jo-Ann Bestine	
Lesson 1 & Psalm	Joan Ellison	Anne Iannello	Liz Findlay	Barb King
Lesson 2	Lily Bringenberg	Barb King	Anne Iannello	Terry McGuire
Prayers of the People	Jim Neider	Jim Ellison	Jim Neider	Larry Belluscio
Ushers/Greeters	Bill Coughlin Jane McKeehen	Anne Iannello Jane McKeehen	Anne Iannello Jane McKeehen	Bill Coughlin Jane McKeehen
Building Attendant	Larry Belluscio	Larry Belluscio	Larry Belluscio	Larry Belluscio
Opener-Closer	Jo-Ann	Liz	Tim	Dorian
Live Streamers	Kevin Skelton	Kevin Skelton	Kevin Skelton	Kevin Skelton
Church School		Judy		Judy
Altar Guild	Kathy Belluscio Debbie Barone June Myers	Bill Coughlin Carol Queal Anne Iannello	Jo-Ann Bestine Joanne Fleming Donna Kauffman	Kathy Belluscio Debbie Barone June Myers



St. James Episcopal Church

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Vestry:

Kim Isaac, Liz Findlay,
Barb Pierce, Steve Rumery, Tim Thomas
Dorian Ely: Clerk of the Vestry
Bette Van Buskirk: Treasurer

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