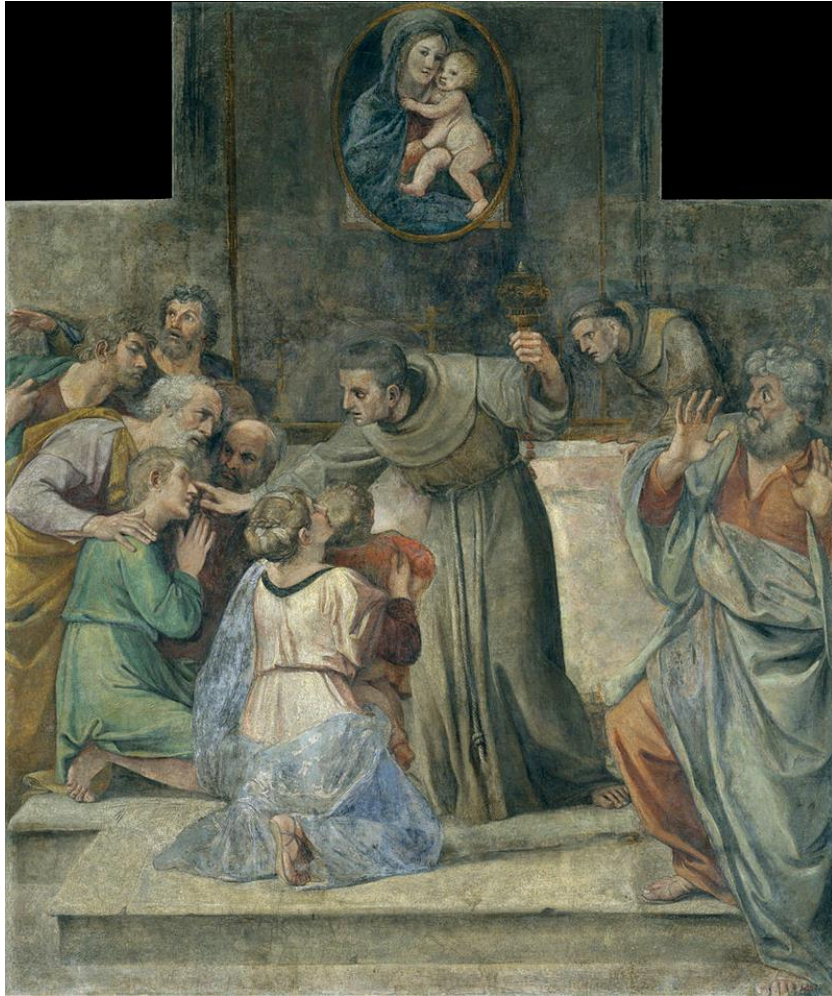


# St. James Episcopal Church Batavia, NY

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



*Healing the Man Born Blind  
Annibale Carracci 1560-1609*

**The Fourth Sunday in Lent**  
**March 15<sup>th</sup>, 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

*Praise and Thanksgiving*

*arr. D. Wood*

### 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 as the Church. 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! So come, let us worship the Lord our God.*

Opening Hymn 493

*O for a thousand tongues to sing*

## **The Liturgy of the Word**

### Opening Sentences

BCP p 355

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

**His mercy endures forever.**

Jesus said; Blessed are the poor in spirit,  
**for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

Blessed are those who mourn,  
**for they shall be comforted.**

Blessed are the meek,  
**for they shall inherit the earth.**

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,  
**for they shall be satisfied.**

Blessed are the merciful,  
**for they shall receive mercy.**

Blessed are the pure in heart,  
**for they shall see God.**

Blessed are the peacemakers,  
**for they shall be called children of God.**

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake,  
**for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.  
**Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.**

You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored?  
**It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet.**

You are the light of the world.  
**A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house.**

As children of God, let your light shine before others so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

*-The Beatitudes, Matthew 5:3-16 (ESV)  
adapted from Christ-Centered Worship by Bryan Chapell*

### The Confession of Sin

Let us confess our sins to God, our neighbor and ourselves.

**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 Trisagion (spoken at 9 am, sung at 10)

Hymnal S-100

**Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One, Have mercy upon us. Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One, Have mercy upon us. Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One, Have Mercy upon us.**

Collect of the Day

The Lord be with you

**And also with you**

Let us pray

Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. ***Amen.***

*A Reading from the first book of Samuel (16:1-13)*

*Terry McGuire*

The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the LORD said, "Take a heifer with you, and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.' Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you." Samuel did what the Lord commanded and came to Bethlehem.

The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, "Do you come peaceably?" He said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice. When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the Lord's anointed is now before the LORD." But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart." Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." Jesse made seven of his

sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen any of these." Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here." He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The LORD said, "Rise and anoint him; for this is the one." Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

The Word of the Lord  
**Thanks Be to God**

*Psalm 23 (Let us read the Psalm in unison with the reader beginning...)*

The LORD is my shepherd; **I shall not be in want. He makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters. He revives my soul and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake. Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; you have anointed my head with oil, and my cup is running over. Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.**

*A Reading from the book of Ephesians (5:8-14)*

*Jim Neider*

Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light—for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

"Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

The Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

Sequence Hymn 490     *I want to walk as a child of the light*

*The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to John (9:1-41)*

**Glory to you, Lord Christ**

As Jesus walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know." They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet."

The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight

and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him." So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out. Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him. Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind." Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains."

The Gospel of the Lord  
**Praise to you Lord Christ**

The Nicene Creed

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 Peace

The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And also with you.**

Offertory Sentence

Offertory Anthem

*Please stand as you are able*

**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 D

BCP p. 372

The Sanctus

Hymnal S-124

The Lord's Prayer

BCP p. 364

The Breaking of the Bread

Hymnal S-161

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 664

*My Shepherd will supply my need*

Communion Hymn 339

*Deck thyself, my souls with gladness*

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 Lenten Blessing

*Canon Johnnie invites all children present to join him for the Blessing*

Closing Hymn 645

*The King of love my shepherd is (verses 1,2,5,6)*

Dismissal

Postlude

*Prelude in C Major*

*J.S. Bach*

**\*\*\*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.

**God of abundance, you have fed us with the fellowship of love your  
Son taught us, making us one with all your people in heaven and  
on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we  
may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue for  
ever 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**

Anne & Don, Charlene, Bill, Pat, Patrick, Richard, Sue, Jackie, Teddy, Kerrie, Bill, Roger, Cal, Jolene, Mary Annette, Brian, Blake, Erica, Meagan, Christina and members of the Armed Forces

### **Prayer Chain**

If you would like to join or have questions please contact Carol Queal at (585)813-5769

### **Cathedral Sandwiches**

Following this morning's service we will be making sandwiches in the kitchen. The sandwiches will be going to our downtown Cathedral where many unhoused people gather for lunch. If you are not in a hurry to leave today stay and lend a hand. It doesn't take long with many people helping.

### **Hats and Mittens**

It doesn't feel like spring yet, but the stores have started marking down their winter hats and mittens. We plan to once again collect such items for our area school children who come to school without proper winter gear. We bring the items to both the elementary and middle schools so all sizes are needed. We already have a bin started here at church to collect and save the hats and mittens until next winter. If you run across a bargain, scoop it up and bring it to church. We'll store it until next season.

## **Lenten & Holy Week Schedule**

*Ash Wednesday - February 18 7am – 9am*

*Holy Week is March 29 - April 5*

*Mark your calendar for:*

*Palm Sunday, March 29th*

*Maundy Thursday, April 2, 5:30PM*

**Good Friday observances will be in Facebook**

Good Friday, April 3, at 12:00 Stations of the Cross & 6:30PM Community Good Friday Here!

**Lenten Book Study** - *"The False White Gospel,"* by Jim Wallis  
beginning Thursday, February 26 - March 26, 2026, 5PM

Come join in the fun... and if you need a book, please call the office and let Bobbi Jo know that.



## Gethsemane Prayer Garden

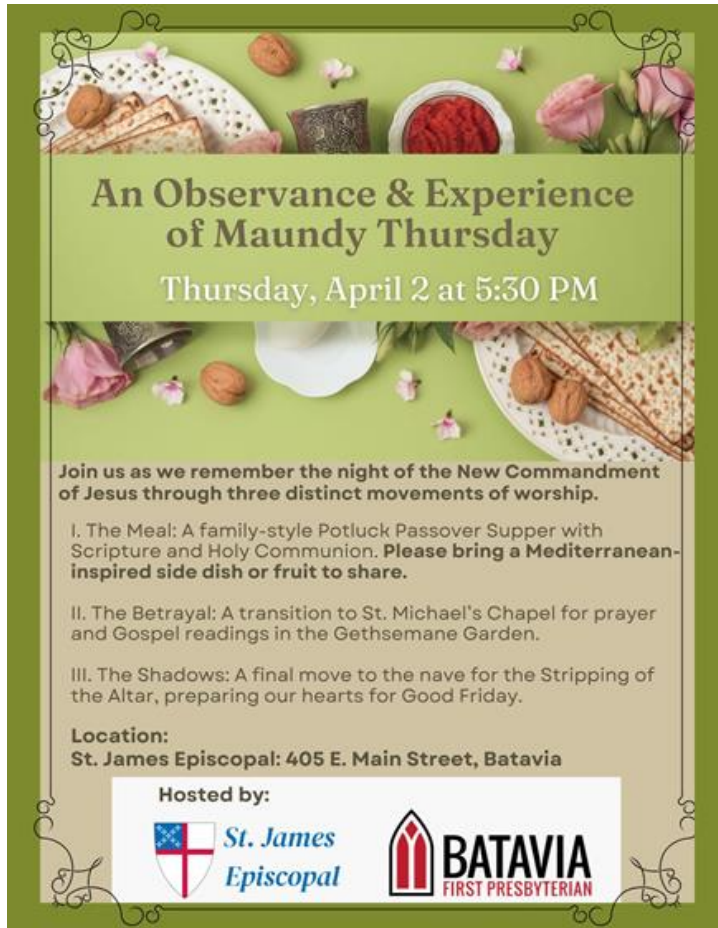
Coming to Saint James with your help...

Please, please, PLEASE consider loaning us a houseplant or two for this garden. The more we have the better! Once the Gethsemane Prayer Garden is all set up (the target date is Sunday, March 15th) you will be invited to spend some time there on your own or with family and friends. You are also invited to attend the Maundy Thursday Service, April 2nd, where we will eat the Passover Meal, share in Communion, visit the Garden, and Strip the Altar.

I can promise a powerful experience for those in attendance. The Presbyterian Church will be joining us on Maundy Thursday and they have estimated 30-40 people attending, so we need to have a good showing as well.

If you are inclined to share one of your house plants, please drop it by the office and leave them on the table outside Bobbi Jo's office, or if it's a large plant, just set it on the floor outside of Canon Johnnie's Office.

Thank you!



**An Observance & Experience of Maundy Thursday**  
Thursday, April 2 at 5:30 PM

Join us as we remember the night of the New Commandment of Jesus through three distinct movements of worship.



I. The Meal: A family-style Potluck Passover Supper with Scripture and Holy Communion. **Please bring a Mediterranean-inspired side dish or fruit to share.**

II. The Betrayal: A transition to St. Michael's Chapel for prayer and Gospel readings in the Gethsemane Garden.

III. The Shadows: A final move to the nave for the Stripping of the Altar, preparing our hearts for Good Friday.

**Location:**  
St. James Episcopal: 405 E. Main Street, Batavia

Hosted by:

**Community**  
**GOOD FRIDAY**  
**Worship Gathering**

You are invited to remember the ultimate love of Christ through his death on the cross.

Friday, April 3rd, at 6:30 pm  
St. James Episcopal Church  
405 E. Main St.



First Baptist Church

Batavia First Presbyterian

St. James Episcopal



**EASTER EGG HUNT**

Sunday, March 22, 1- 2:30 pm  
300 EAST MAIN ST. BATAVIA, NY



**BATAVIA**  
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN



*St. James Episcopal*

All are welcome, no exceptions!  
[www.fpcbatavia.org](http://www.fpcbatavia.org)

- Face paint
- Egg Hunt
- Donuts
- Goodie Bags
- Pictures with the Easter Bunny



## **St. James Calendar**

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

Mon, March 16	9:00 am – 2:00 pm	Office open
Tue, March 17	9:00 am – 2:00 pm	Office open
	6:00 pm	Vestry Meeting
Wed, March 18	9:00 am – 2:00 pm	Office open
	6:30 pm	Choir Rehearsal
Thu, March 19	9:00 am – 2:00 pm	Office open
	11:00 am – 2:00 pm	Thrift store open
Fri, March 20		Office closed
Sun, March 22	9:00 am – 9:30 am	Zoom Service
	9:00 am	Choir Rehearsal
	10:00 am – 11:15 am	Liturgy of the Word
	10:15 am	Sunday School

### **Zoom meetings use the following link:**

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

Meeting ID: 808 543 2266 Passcode: zrXG3y

[canonjohnnie@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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.*

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Name

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Other family members

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**Here at St. James You are Welcome Regardless!**



## **St. James Episcopal Church**

405 East Main Street  
Batavia, NY 14020

The Rev. Canon Johnnie Ross  
[canonjohnnie@gmail.com](mailto:canonjohnnie@gmail.com)

The Rev. Deacon Diane Cox  
Faith Community Nurse  
[dscox@rochester.rr.com](mailto:dscox@rochester.rr.com)

John Novak  
Organist/Choir Director

Bobbi Jo Voelker  
Administrator

### Wardens:

Jo-Ann Bestine, (585) 409-0031 [jbistine152@rochester.rr.com](mailto:jbistine152@rochester.rr.com)  
Tim Thomas, (585) 754-6449 [tthomas2522@gmail.com](mailto:tthomas2522@gmail.com)

### Vestry:

Kim Isaac, Liz Findlay,  
Steve Rumery, Terry McGuire, Tom Bringenberg  
Dorian Ely: Clerk of the Vestry  
Bette Van Buskirk: Treasurer

Office Phone: 585-343-6802  
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