

St. James Episcopal Church Batavia, NY

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



John the Baptist
1837-1857
Aleksandr Andreevich Ivanov

The Third Sunday of Advent December 14th, 2025
(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.

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!

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Today we light three candles, first two purple, **the candles of Hope and Peace** and the third pink **candle of Joy**.

Celebrant: "Each candle has a meaning. The first candle is **HOPE**, the second candle is **PEACE**, and the third candle is **JOY**."

The Bringenberg's: A reading from the book of Isaiah (55:12) "For you shall go out in joy, and be led forth in peace; the mountains and hills before you shall break forth into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands"

Celebrant: Gracious God, you came to us in human flesh and you abide with us in the Holy Spirit. Fill us with your joy, and help us shine as a light to the world. Through Jesus Christ, who makes our joy complete. **Amen**.

Opening Hymn 68

*Rejoice! rejoice, believers*The Liturgy of the WordOpening 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*)

And in despair I bowed my head "There is no peace on Earth," I said For hate is strong and mocks the song Of peace on Earth, good will to men; Then rang the bells more loud and deep God is not dead, nor doth He sleep The wrong shall fail, the right prevail With peace on Earth, good will to men

Amen.

The Collect of the Day

The Lord be with you

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

A Reading from the book of Isaiah (35:1-10)

Joan Ellison

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you." Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion

shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks Be to God.

Psalm 146:4-9 (Let us read the psalm responsively by half verse)

- 4 Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help! *
whose hope is in the LORD their God;
- 5 Who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; *
who keeps his promise for ever;
- 6 Who gives justice to those who are oppressed, *
and food to those who hunger.
- 7 The LORD sets the prisoners free; the LORD opens the eyes of the blind; *
the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;
- 8 The LORD loves the righteous; the LORD cares for the stranger; *
he sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.
- 9 The LORD shall reign for ever, *
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!

A Reading from the Letter of James (5:7-10) *Lilo Townsend*

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Sequence Hymn 76 *On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry*

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Matthew (11:2-11)

Glory to you Lord Christ

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me." As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.' "Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

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

Anne Iannello

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

Celebrant offers and concluding prayer.

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

Prepare the Way, O Zion

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

The Sanctus

The Lord's Prayer

BCP p. 367

Hymnal S-130

BCP p. 364

The Breaking of the Bread Invitation to Communion

Hymnal S-154

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 615 "Thy kingdom come!"

Communion Hymn 444 *Blessed be the God of Israel*

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 Final Blessing by raising their right hand as he begins to speak.

Closing Hymn 438 *Tell out my soul, the greatness of the Lord*

Dismissal

Postlude *Rejoice, Rejoice Believers* arr. P. Manz

******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, 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, John

Stewardship Summary

Many thanks for your continued generosity and dedication to St. James. These are the results of our Stewardship drive for 2026 "Tell out My Soul": 39 pledges for a total of \$130,650! That's wonderful! Stewardship remains one of our primary focuses year round, but it is important to recognize how much we promise to give back next year in response to God's blessings!

Hats and Mitten Tree

We will be continuing our long tradition of collecting warm winter wear for the children who need it. Donate hats, scarves, mittens, and gloves in all sizes. There is a tree in church on which to hang them. We have very cold winters and not all children are dressed to battle our cold season. The items collected will be delivered to an elementary school and our neighboring Middle School. So remember to pick up a warm hat or mittens when you are out doing your Christmas shopping.

Upcoming events around the GRI

St. Paul's, Stafford - December 17th - 5:30 to 7:30 - Come have soup and meet the Grinch!

St. Mark's, LeRoy - December 13th and 20th - 10 to 4; 14th and 21st - 12 to 4 - "The Joy Project" holiday display

St. Mark's, LeRoy - December 13th - 3 pm and 7 pm - "Her Christmas Carol" - presented by the Bloomfield Rotary Players

Advent Music Meditations

3PM December 14th

Voice students of Lauren Picarro-Hoerbelt, Instructor at Genesee Community College

**ST. JAMES EPISCOPAL CHURCH
BATAVIA INVITES YOU TO**

CHRISTMAS AT ST. JAMES

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19,
7:00 PM**

*A concert of Christmas music to refresh
our souls in preparation for the birth of Christ*

All are welcome!

**FEATURING
JEFFREY THOMPSON, TENOR
JOHN NOVAK, ORGAN
AND FRIENDS**

405 East Main Street
Batavia, NY 14020

No admission fee, donations for organ
preservation gratefully accepted

St. James Calendar
Happy Birthday

Peter Mark 12-14 & John Tabb 12-19 & Jack Kershner 12-20

Sun, December 14	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
	3:00 pm	Voice students concert

Mon, December 15	9:00 am – 2:00 pm	Office open
Tue, December 16	9:00 am – 2:00 pm	Office open
	6:00 pm	Vestry Meeting
Wed, December 17	9:00 am – 2:00 pm	Office open
	10:00 am	Canon Johnnie in office
	7:00 pm	Choir Rehearsal
Thu, December 18	9:00 am – 2:00 pm	Office open
	11:00 am – 2:00 pm	Thrift store open
	5:00 pm	Advent Book Study
Fri, December 19		Office closed
	7:00 pm	Christmas at St. James
Sun, December 21	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

Zoom meetings use the following link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8085432266?pwd=ZlBCZEI0WDQ1SzK5TEF2dFILbm4rUT09>

Meeting ID: 808 543 2266 Passcode: zrXG3y

CHRISTMAS IN THE GENESEE REGIONAL INITIATIVE

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Christ Church, Albion:

Christmas Eve – Holy Eucharist at 4:00 p.m. (joined by St. Paul's, Holley)
Sunday, December 28 at 11:00 a.m. – Festival of Lessons & Carols

St. James, Batavia:

Christmas Eve – Holy Eucharist at 5:30 p.m.
Christmas Morning – Morning Prayer at 10:00 a.m. in St. Michael's Chapel

St. Paul's, Holley:

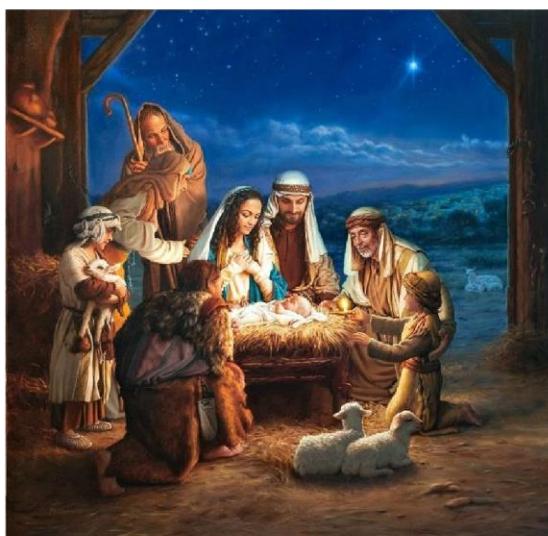
No Service for Christmas; joining with Christ Church, Albion on Christmas Eve at 4:00 p.m.
Sunday, December 28 – Holy Eucharist at 9:00 a.m. (*please note the change from 5:00 p.m.*)

St. John's, Medina:

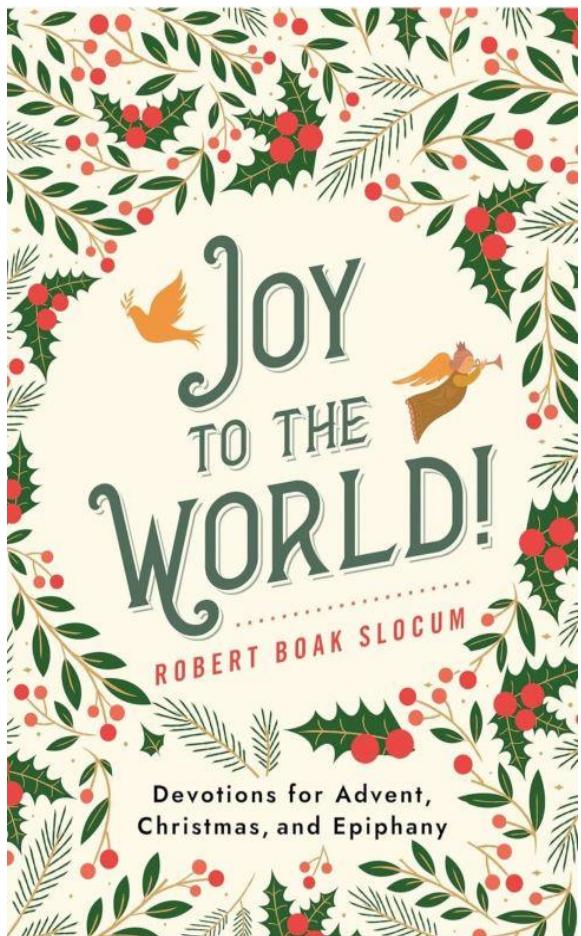
Christmas Eve – Festival of Lessons & Carols at 4:00 p.m.

St. Paul's, Stafford:

Christmas Eve – Festival of Lessons & Carols at 4:30 p.m.



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 through 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 passage from scripture, thought-provoking questions, and soulful prayers to help us contemplate God's

steadfast presence and love in our lives."

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 will be Thursday evenings at 5PM, with the last meeting being January 15th. I have also arranged for you to meet the author and ask questions of him. This will take place by Zoom. Please join the group. I bet you will not regret it.

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!



St. James Episcopal Church

405 East Main Street
Batavia, NY 14020

The Rev. Canon Johnnie Ross
canonjohnnie@gmail.com

The Rev. Deacon Diane Cox
Faith Community Nurse
dscox@rochester.rr.com

John Novak
Organist/Choir Director

Bobbi Jo Voelker
Administrator

Wardens:

Jo-Ann Bestine, (585) 409-0031 jbestine152@rochester.rr.com
Jim Ellison, (717) 503-5749 jellison@gmail.com

Vestry:

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

Office Phone: 585-343-6802
Johnnie's cell phone: 859-285-9361
Website: www.sjecbataviany.org
Email: Saint.James2@sjecbataviany.org

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