



St. James Parish

WITH ST. MARK'S MINISTRIES

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The Rev. George C. Roberts, Rector

Blake Hansen, *Director of Music*
Susan Deming, *Parish Administrator*
Ray Smith, *Sexton*

Lee Febos, *Clergy Intern*
Cheryl Rusczyk, *Admin., St. Mark's Ministries*
Kim McLaurin, *Nursery Supervisor*

OFFICERS

Kathy Bullard & Stephen Hard, *Wardens*
EJ Ososki, *Treasurer*

Bonnie Sudell, *Clerk*
Jerry Hess, *Ass't Treasurer*

VESTRY

2025
Stephen Hard
Skip Mason
Bob Sudell

2026
Kathy Bullard
Doug McDowell
Molly Sherman

2027
Linda Mason
Ed Preneta
David Tompkins

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 7, 2025, 10:15 a.m.

HOLY EUCHARIST RITE 2

Prelude (*please listen in silence, preparing for worship*)

◆Hymn *God of grace and God of glory* Hymnal 595

Blessing for Church School

The Word of God

◆Opening Acclamation BCP pg. 355

◆Collect for Purity BCP pg. 355

◆*Gloria* Hymnal (front section) S 278

◆Collect of the Day (*Contemporary, in unison*) see insert

First Reading Jeremiah 18:1–11

Psalms 139:1–5, 12–17 (*responsively, the People in **bold***) see insert

Second Reading Philemon 1–21

◆HYMN *Take up your cross* (vv. 1–3) Hymnal 675

◆The Holy Gospel Luke 14:25–33

◆HYMN *Take up your cross* (vv. 4–5) Hymnal 675

The Sermon The Rev. George Roberts

The Nicene Creed BCP pg. 358

◆The Prayers of the People

Lord, thank You for creating, shaping, and guiding us. Make us stronger vessels full of Your glorious and saving power, vessels that can share with the world the love You have poured into us. We pray, responding, Lord, hear our prayer.

For the Church, particularly St. James Parish, as we begin a new program year. Give us the wisdom, patience, and strength to form disciples that follow Jesus out into the world where His people are. We pray, **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For leaders in every country, region, tribe, or town that they may use the power they have been given – or have taken – for the good of all people. We pray, **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For the outcasts, addicted, homeless, poor, the starving children, war-torn countries, and those afflicted by greed and a lust for power that all may experience Your grace. We pray, **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For all who have asked for our prayers, especially Molly Magro, Matt G., Tiffany O., Howard K., Liz & Paul Dorian, John M., Gerry Doskos, Brian, Avery, Cruz, Dominic, Joe, Karen, Jane B., Cheryl B., Sue P., Jane, Robert Pizzanello,

Geoffrey Newton, José Lopez, Jayla, Heather, Mark, Gary, Laurent, Tom, and all others for whom we pray, silently or aloud [*pause here*] ... We pray, **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For all who have died, especially Adam Briggs, and all others we pray for now, silently or aloud ... [*pause here*] ... We pray, **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Celebrant: God of unknowable power, we thank you for bringing us to another program year, another time to seek, worship, and praise You. We are Your vessels, waiting and needing to be formed. Hold, remake, and carry us along the way You would have us go. We pray, in the strong name of Jesus. **Amen.**

Confession of Sin and Absolution BCP pg. 360

The Peace BCP pg. 360

The Holy Communion

Offertory *Peace Flows into Me* Jake Runestad

◆DOXOLOGY (vs. 3) Hymnal 380

*The Great Thanksgiving – Prayer B BCP pg. 367

**Sanctus* Hymnal (front section) S 125

*The Lord's Prayer BCP pg. 364

*The Breaking of the Bread BCP pg. 364

Gluten-free hosts are available.

Communion Hymns: 10, 635, 512

◆Postcommunion Prayer BCP pg. 365

Announcements

A Birthday Prayer

Watch over us, O Lord, as our days increase; bless and guide us wherever we may be. Strengthen us when we stand; comfort us when discouraged or sorrowful; raise us up if we fall; and in our hearts may your peace which passes understanding abide all the days of our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

◆HYMN *When Christ was lifted from the earth* Hymnal 603

The Dismissal BCP pg. 366

Postlude (*please remain seated to enjoy the Postlude or depart in silence*)

- ◆ You are invited to stand, as able. * You are invited to kneel, as able.
BCP refers to *The Book of Common Prayer*, found in the pew book rack.

Serving this week

Crucifer		Chloe Roberts
Acolytes		Erik & Ella Ososki
Altar Guild		Janet LaPierre-Green & Donna Wilkie
Chalicians	8:00 a.m.	Mimi Hostetter
	10:15 a.m.	Andrea Harris
Lectors	8:00 a.m.	Kim Faubert
	10:15 a.m.	Dona Waugh
Ushers	8:00 a.m.	Dave & Kim Faubert
	10:15 a.m.	Michele Briganti & Olivia Paré
Welcomer		Anna Whilby
Coffee Hour Host		Elizabeth McBride
Care Ministry / Altar Flower delivery		Susan Rubin
Today's altar flowers are given in thanksgiving for our 37 th anniversary.		
~ Michael & Gina Pines		



Music for the 10:15 am worship service is streamed with permission under ONELICENSE #A-736322.



***Celebration Sunday*: TODAY** after the 10:15 am service we will have our Annual Celebration Sunday Picnic with hamburgers, hotdogs, an ice cream sundae bar!

Today is Celebration Sunday & there are lots of fun things for all to do including an opportunity to engage our amazing children in the knowledge and love of God. **As part of our celebration, we will have a special activity for all children. Families, please do not drop your**

children off before church. We are trying something new this Sunday. After the procession into the church, Fr. George will call the children and teachers to the front of the church. He will give them a blessing. The teachers will take the children out to the classroom for instruction. They will return to you at the sign of peace. This year's theme is "I am a vessel full of power, with a treasure from the Lord." We will have lots of fun initiating this theme, making Play Doh pots representing them and filling these pots with affirmative sticker messages representing God's love and care. We'll be melting mean-spirited rocks (baking soda) representing situations that confront us in our daily lives with bottles filled with faith, love, hope, peace, and kindness (vinegar)! Should be interesting! Hope your children can join us.

Join us online for worship this morning! Join us at 10:15 a.m. on Facebook Live (you do NOT need a Facebook account) – <https://bit.ly/StJamesLive>. **Join us on Mondays** for Morning Prayer at 9:30 am, also livestreamed on Facebook at the same link.

On a Sunday each month we say a prayer for everyone who has a birthday during that month. Another way for us to celebrate life together! If someone cannot be present because of illness, a family member may say their name, so that we may pray for them.

Keys, Keys, Keys! Our new doors are being installed! When the installation is complete, new keys will be issued. So, **if you have a key (or 2 or 3) to a door into or within the church facility, please contact the parish office** to “register” your need for a new key going forward.

Sunday Bible Study: Join us for our weekly Bible study via Zoom. **Beginning next Sunday, September 14th at 12:30 pm**, we begin a new Bible study on the first and second letters of Paul to Timothy. The second letter is often seen as Paul’s final testament and encouragement to his young disciple as Paul awaits execution in Rome. The study guides are available for pick-up in the parish office at \$10 per copy. Zoom gathering info: Meeting ID: 815 4332 7235; Passcode: 982548. We hope you join us!



Faith & Fries! We usually come together on the 4th Tuesday of each month at Puente American-Latino Pub at 81 South Main Street in Unionville. **But due to a conflict we will next gather on Tuesday, September 16th, from 7–8:30 pm.** Come for dinner, have a drink or snack, whatever is comfortable for you. We are going to explore the reality that we struggle “not against the rulers, against the authorities, but against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms” (Ephesians 6:12). C. S. Lewis will be our guide in this conversation. We invite all to come as they are able and please, feel free to invite a friend, neighbor, or co-worker! Call the church with questions.

Men’s Breakfast: On **Saturday, September 20th at 8 am**, all men of the parish are invited to join us for a time of conversation and good food at the Crazy Pancake, 17 Whiting Street, in Plainville. We’ve moved our regular 2nd Saturday of the month gathering due to the Fall Fair on the 13th. Come as you are. Everyone is responsible for his own breakfast but let Fr. George know if that is a challenge, as there is assistance available. Join in fellowship with Fr. George and a great breakfast!



The lectionary readings for Sunday, September 14th are:

Jeremiah 4:11–12, 22–28 Psalm 14; 1 Timothy 1:12–17; Luke 15:1–10.

St. Mark's Ministries Report: "I thought people would like to know that in August we had our highest use of the pantry yet this year. We served 325 families totaling 1,036 people. We are scheduled to receive a delivery on Wednesday, September 3rd. ... It's a large delivery (for us) – 2,500 pounds."

Cheryl Rusczyk, St. Mark's Ministries Manager

Our children and our families: On Sunday, September 21st, immediately following our 10:15 am service, Fr. George will facilitate a conversation on the future of St. James through the eyes of our children and families, and those who are not yet known to us. Many have noticed that we have wonderful children amongst us, elevating our life as a congregation. Some may also remember the old adage, "it takes a village to raise a child." Proverbs 22:6 says, "Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old, they will not turn from it." Sharing the faith that is in us with our children is one of the most important missions of St. James. Desiring to have more families and children should grow out of two things: the future of St. James AND the call God has placed on us to share the good news of Christ crucified with the world, children being no exception. We cannot, in the long term, hold onto sustainable growth without all of us praying faithfully about how we are all called to be a part of the process of reaching out to our youngest members here and out in the community. This includes our parents, our folks whose children are long since grown, and those who have no children but are part of the Body of Christ here, too. We have some to offer here: living water, life itself. Please plan to join us for an important presentation and conversation on September 21st, a conversation that joyfully concerns us all. This is not a heavy path but one full of promise, opportunity, and the love of Jesus.



Pastoral Care Ministry: On Saturday, September 27th, at 9:30 am, we will hold an informal gathering to discuss pastoral care ministry. Anyone who thinks they may be called to a ministry of presence, sitting with homebound folks, visiting people who are in continuing care or in the hospital, to provide companionship, are encouraged to come, listen to possibilities, and share ideas. No one will be asked to commit to anything, we will simply be starting a conversation. Coffee and light refreshments will be provided.

Lenten Devotional planned: Plans are in the works for preparing our own Lent 2026 devotional book. Who, what, when, etc.? Curious about this? Ask Dianne Antos how to get involved. On Sunday, September 28th, anyone interested in a Lenten writing/reflection project is invited to join us. **We will hold a conversation between the services at 9 am and after the 10:15 am service, as well.**



New Season Ideas a new church season can bring with it new ideas. We ask the women of our parish to share with us your ideas of what you would like to see offered over the 2025–2026 Woman's Ministry season. Please send your thoughts to 1delshire@gmail.com ASAP, so that we may capture suggestions while planning the coming year.

Morning Coffee @ Gabriela's September 24th at 10am, Gabriela Henry has graciously invited the Women of St James Parish to morning coffee at her home. Our coffee gatherings have been very successful, fun, and a great opportunity to get to know everyone better. Gabriela's address is 1 Talcott Glen #B in Farmington, CT.

I Am a Vessel of God's Power: Friday, October 17th to Saturday, October 18th at **Camp Washington, Lakeside, CT**. We are very excited about the Women's Retreat being planned for this fall for the women of St. James Parish! We are so blessed to have as our retreat leader The Rev. Canon Susanna Cates Mother Susanna received her Master of Divinity from the Episcopal Seminary of the Southwest in 2013 and has served as an ordained priest in the Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Northwest Texas, the Diocese of Newark, and now in the Diocese of New Jersey. Originally raised in the Jewish tradition, she rejoices in the diversity, openness to questions, and welcoming spirit of the Episcopal Church – and she loves to hear about everyone's faith journeys!

Our retreat is centered around *The Corinthian Song* and its Scriptural source, 2 Corinthians 4:1–15. We may sometimes feel as though the bodily “jars of clay” that house our spirits are fragile, cast down, battered, and full of confusion. But God has created us, fills us with God's own Holy Spirit, and calls us to empty ourselves through the work of discipleship and service—and as we are emptied, we are continually refilled and strengthened! Join us as we pray, honor our own ministries, find new paths of service, and celebrate God's joyful power in each one of us.

Our time together begins Friday evening at 6 pm as we arrive at Camp Washington for dinner and our evening program. We'll continue our workshops and prayers on Saturday morning, welcoming those who are joining us just for the day, and conclude by 4 pm Saturday afternoon.

The weekend includes all meals, materials and supplies, and lodging for those arriving on Friday. The cost for the weekend is \$150.50 for a single room or \$200 for a double. If you can only come on Saturday, you will miss some programming, but the cost is \$63. We do not want cost to prevent anyone from coming, so, if you need assistance, please check in with Fr. George as help is available. If you need a ride, check in with Fr. George (rector.st.james@sbcglobal.net) or Kathy Bullard (860-673-6444 or kathyrbullard@snet.net).

Hearing assist support upgrade: We had a recent upgrade to our sanctuary audio system which should clear up the volume issues some have experienced on the livestream and in the worship space itself. Please let us know if those issues are unresolved for you at home. There is a new Wi-Fi station, very discreetly placed, that should help folks with hearing impairments. We have, by way of reminder, four devices to help those who need them to better hear the service. They can be found on the table in the narthex (ask ushers for help, if needed). The process is simple and below, if you have an iPhone or Android, you can use your phone.

- + Get one of our hearing aid devices
- + Log into to *St. James Par* (our Wi-Fi network) with password *StJofc2010*
- + Go to the App Store and download *Wavecast* audio receiver (Williams).
- + Once you have the app, open it, and click on Search by channel or name
- + You can adjust the volume or the hearing aid device (each device comes with simple instructions).

MISSION STATEMENT

*We welcome all to worship and nurture spiritual growth through faith, grace and reason.
We reach out to those in need as a caring community &
live Christ's teaching to love one another.*

COMMUNION IN THIS CHURCH

All baptized Christians are welcome at the Lord's table in the Episcopal Church. If you are visiting, and have received Communion in your own parish, then please share in the sacrament with our parish. Gluten-free hosts are available. If you are not baptized, you are welcome to ask for a blessing.

GUESTS

A cordial welcome to St. James Parish. Please fill out a Welcome Card in the pew rack and place it in the collection box or hand it to an usher. We invite you to sign our guest book as you leave the church. Scan this QR code to access our website for more information about St. James Parish.

THE CHURCH IS ALWAYS OPEN FOR PRAYER & MEDITATION

The Parish Office is open Monday–Friday, 9 am–2 pm.
Sunday worship services are held at 8 am (Rite 1) and 10:15 am (Rite 2).

