



St. James Parish

WITH ST. MARK'S MINISTRIES

3 Mountain Road
Farmington, CT 06032
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www.stjamesfarmington.org

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

Kathy Bullard
Doug McDowell
Molly Sherman

2027

Linda Mason
Ed Preneta
David Tompkins

Third Sunday of Advent

December 14, 2025, 10:15 a.m.

HOLY EUCHARIST RITE 2

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

◆Hymn *Creator of the stars of night* Hymnal 60

The Word of God

◆Lighting of the Advent Wreath BCP pg. 109

◆*Kyrie* Hymnal (front section) S 96

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

First Reading Isaiah 35:1–10

Psalms 146:4–9 (*responsively, the People in bold*) see insert

Second Reading James 5:7–10

◆HYMN *Hark! a thrilling voice is sounding* (vv. 1, 3) Hymnal 59

◆The Holy Gospel Matthew 11:2–11

◆HYMN *Hark! a thrilling voice is sounding* (vv. 4–5) Hymnal 59

The Sermon The Rev. George Roberts

The Nicene Creed BCP pg. 358

◆The Prayers of the People – Form VI, *responsively* BCP pg. 392

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

Silence

For all people in their daily life and work;

For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

For this community, the nation, and the world;

For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

For the just and proper use of your creation;

For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

For Sean, our Presiding Bishop, and Jeff and Laura, our Bishops; and for all bishops and other ministers;

For all who serve God in his Church.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation. We pray especially for Jer H., Maeve Cooper, Bob C., Michael R., Sara, Don, Barrett, Mary S., Emilia, Matt G., Tiffany O., John M., Brian, Avery, Cruz, Karen, Jane B., Jane, Robert Pizzanella, Geoffrey Newton, Jayla, Heather, Mark, Gary, Laurent, Tom, and all others we name, silently or aloud.

Silence; the People may add their own concerns

Hear us, Lord;

For your mercy is great.

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

Silence; the People may add their own thanksgivings

We will exalt you, O God our King;

And praise your Name for ever and ever.

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

Silence; the People may add their own petitions

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;

Who put their trust in you.

We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

Silence may be kept.

Priest and People

Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father;

in your compassion forgive us our sins,

known and unknown,

things done and left undone;

and so uphold us by your Spirit

that we may live and serve you in newness of life,

to the honor and glory of your Name;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Absolution

BCP pg. 360

The Peace

BCP pg. 360

The Holy Communion

Offertory

◆DOXOLOGY (vs. 3)

Hymnal 380

*The Great Thanksgiving – Prayer B

BCP pg. 367

*Sanctus

Hymnal (front section) S 130

- *The Lord's Prayer BCP pg. 364
- **Agnus Dei* (Lamb of God) Hymnal (front section) S 164
- *The Breaking of the Bread BCP pg. 364
- Gluten-free hosts are available.*

Communion Hymns: 67, 71, 272

- ◆Postcommunion Prayer BCP pg. 366

Announcements

- ◆HYMN *Tell out, my soul* Hymnal 437

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.
- WLP refers to *Wonder, Love, and Praise*, found in the pew book rack.



Serving this week

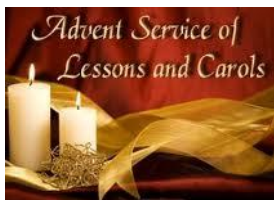
Crucifer		Chloe Roberts
Altar Guild		Barbara Hess & Joyce Bettencourt
Chalicians	8:00 a.m.	Mimi Hostetter
	10:15 a.m.	Michael DeNegris
Lectors	8:00 a.m.	Jay Hostetter
	10:15 a.m.	Dona Waugh
Ushers	8:00 a.m.	Roland Therrien
	10:15 a.m.	Jim & Donna Wilkie
Welcomer		Marge Litteral
Coffee Hour Host		Chris & Deb Butler
Care Ministry / Altar Flower delivery		Joyce Bettencourt

Today's altar flowers are given in loving memory
of my husband, Jerry.

~ Marge Litteral

We welcome all who are guests with us this week – we are so glad you are here! Please fill out one of the small cards in the pew rack and hand it to an usher so we can get to know you better.

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



Advent Lessons & Carols: Please join us **TODAY** at 5 pm for an inspiring service of *Advent Lesson and Carols* at St. James Parish. We will have special instrumental music, choral singing, and Advent hymns to join in with as a congregation. The Lessons will be read by members of St. James. All are invited to join us, following the service, for a reception in the parish hall.

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.

Where, O where, are the three wisemen and their camel? During this season of Advent and Christmas, leading up to Epiphany (celebrated on Tuesday, January 6th), the wisemen (and camel) will be “hidden” in the sanctuary, a different place each week. See if you can find them and let Fr. George know where you saw them! A bit of Advent and Christmastide fun!



Wednesday mid-day service: join us for Holy Eucharist with prayers for healing in the Chapel (behind the choir seating) at 11:30 am. Immediately following the service, you are invited to stay for lunch (bring your own lunch – brown bag or something to warm up) and time for conversation in the parish hall. All are welcome!

St. James ornaments & shelf sitters are available for purchase at Coffee Hour following the 10:15 service. Ornaments are \$15 each; shelf sitters are \$20. They are also available in the parish office during regularly scheduled hours (Monday–Friday, 9 am – 2 pm). Proceeds go to the Legacy Fund. These commemoratives make wonderful gifts!

Advent Devotionals: Each Advent we have a small devotional to help us further connect with the importance and power of the Advent season. This year we are using *Our Dear Christ Enters In* by Jane Wilke. These devotions are in the narthex and are yours to take, pray with, and grow with for Advent, as we approach the Nativity of our Lord. Each devotion – representing each day of Advent - has a brief scripture verse, a short reflection, and a prayer.



Women's Ministry *Christmas Cards & Cookie Tins* –

TOMORROW, December 15th, 5 pm. Join us for an evening of fun, levity, and doing a good deed for others. Please bring 3 dozen cookies, no nuts please, and, if you'd like, an hors d'oeuvre/snack and/or drink to share with your women friends for this fun evening. We will make cards which require coloring skills only and fill nearly 30 tins with cookies to be distributed to our shut-ins and for those at Prudence Crandall during this holiday season. Please join us for this project that is both giving and receiving during the holiday. To RSVP, please email: ldelshire@gmail.com Thank you!

Faith & Fries! THIS TUESDAY, December 16th (note the special day, a week early, for Christmas), you are invited to join us for *Faith and Fries* at Puente American-Latino Pub at 81 Main Street in Unionville. Come for dinner, have a drink or snack, whatever is comfortable for you. We will explore the question: what does God's coming in Christ as a baby/human change for us? 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.



Christmas: A Season of Hope. THIS WEDNESDAY, December 17th, at 5:30 pm, we will hold a service with Holy Eucharist in the church, acknowledging that, for some, the Christmas season can be filled with grief, anger, hopelessness, and challenge. Our service, called *Christmas: A Season of Hope*, will leave space for lament and grief while also paying homage to the promise and hope that is Christ's coming into the world. There will be a simple reception afterwards in the parish hall with cookies, coffee, and cider and just maybe a fire in the fireplace.

BIBLES for TAKING: A number of Bibles for the taking are on a card table in the parish hall. There are several different interpretations. If you need a Bible, or just want to have an extra, please help yourself. More will be added to the table as needed.

The 2026 Altar Flower Calendar is posted in the narthex (church entryway). Please sign-up for a Sunday when you would like to donate and dedicate the flowers for the day's services. Note: there will be no altar flowers during Lent.

Advent Bible study: Join us on Sundays of Advent at 12:30 pm on Zoom, for a special Bible Study of Advent. Using a theme of our Advent wreath candles – and their colors – to frame a special Bible study using verses from scripture that foretell the coming of the Messiah, from the prophets, the psalms, and the Gospel witness itself. Please plan to join us via Zoom, if you can!! Note that on December 21st the Study will begin at 1 p.m. due to our *Greening of the Church*. A wonderful way to connect to the themes of the Advent season, as we wait expectantly the coming of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.



Sundays of Advent: *O little town of Bethlehem*: We love singing the hymns and carols that frame our brief, beautiful season of Christmastide! I so look forward to singing *Hark! The herald angels sing*, *Silent Night*, *It came upon a midnight clear*, and so many other wonderful hymns that express the joy of Christ's nativity and what that birth means for the world. But have you ever really explored the words of some of our great hymns of Christmas or Advent? For the next 2 Sundays of Advent, we will dive a little deeper into the meaning and purpose of some of the great music of the Advent and Christmas season. There is no book to buy, come as you are, and this will be a fun and hopeful study of the words that frame the great tunes we have come to love. **Join us 9–9:45 am in the parish hall.**



The lectionary readings for the Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 21st are: Isaiah 7:10–16; Psalm 80:1–7, 16–18; Romans 1:1–7; Matthew 1:18–25.

Join us for *Greening of the Church*: NEXT SUNDAY, December 21st, following 10:15 a.m. worship, we'll hold our *Greening of the Church* for Christmas! We are looking for volunteers to help hang greens, wreaths and decorate the windows, all while enjoying fellowship and creating a glorious welcome for the Christmas season. If you are going to join us, please bring some clippers for trimming greens. We are also in need of fresh greens for the windowsills. If you are willing to donate them, please leave them by the sidewalk to the right of the church's front entrance. We are doing both indoor and outdoor *Greening* so dress accordingly. Blessings and we look forward to seeing you next Sunday!



Can you help fold worship bulletins? Monday, December 22nd, starting at noon., we'll have 5 services' worth of lovely worship bulletins that need to be collated and folded. If you have any time to spare on Friday morning, your assistance would be very much appreciated!! We'll use the big table in the library to give us some room to work. Thank you in advance!

Nativity Story on Christmas Eve: We are seeking folks who are interested in participating in our annual Nativity Play at the 4 pm service on Wednesday, December 24th, Christmas Eve. The sign-up sheet is located on the bulletin board on the ramp to the parish hall. If your child wishes to participate in the play, please bring them to the library by 2:15 pm on the 24th. We will have the children who wish to be animals, shepherds, etc. try on costumes and, by 2:45, we will hold a couple of play run-throughs up in the sanctuary. Please contact Fr. George if you have questions! There will be no wisemen this year, as we will include that story at our special Epiphany service and dinner on Tuesday, January 6th (more to come on that!).



Annual Appeal for Stewardship: We hope that you have been actively engaging God in conversation about your gift to our Annual Appeal for the continuing life and ministry of St. James. Please fill out your pledge card and return it as promptly as possible. Thank you to those who have already done so! As of Thursday, December 4th, we have received 100 pledges totaling \$330,948 with a goal of \$358,000. If you pledged for 2026 and requested giving envelopes, the boxed envelope sets are available in the parish hall.

Coffee Hour signups: Many thanks to who have hosted our time of fellowship this year! The 2026 signup is now on the parish hall ramp bulletin board, offering you the opportunity to host a Coffee Hour in the New Year! On your day, you make regular & decaffeinated coffee and then clean up after Coffee Hour. You may signup for as many



Sundays as you'd like – or just one! Signup to work alone or with a friend or two! Providing simple snacks (cookies, cupcakes, maybe a small gluten-free option) is nice, but **not** necessary to volunteer for this ministry.

New Year's Day Open House! Dianne Antos invites our church family to her home for a New Year's Day Open House. Stop by anytime on January 1st between 1 pm and 5 pm. Enjoy an array of appetizers and sweets with church family & friends, "old" and "new." You are asked only to bring non-perishable food items for the St. Mark's Pantry. RSVP appreciated, but not necessary: 860-677-1766. Address – 36 Burnt Hill Road in Farmington.



Outreach Corner

Outreach Meeting

Our year-end Outreach Meeting will be held **THIS MORNING** after the 10:15 am service. At this meeting we will review our outreach efforts this year to determine if they are still in line with our priorities and people's needs. Additionally, we will determine the remaining recipients of St James' Outreach contributions for 2025. Everyone with an interest in Outreach is invited to this very important meeting.

Food Collection – LAST CALL before Christmas!

Thank you to everyone in our wonderful St James Community for your generous response to our food collection effort. The food pantries' great need continues, so we continue our collection. There are two bins in the narthex: a blue one for the community food pantries and a darker bin for St Mark's Pantry. There are some items that are most needed by all the food pantries:

- Canned proteins – tuna, chicken, stews, beans, soup, chili, and other canned meats
 - Canned fruit and vegetables
 - Pasta, sauces, Mac and cheese
 - Cereal, crackers, oatmeal, snacks
 - Flour, sugar, mixes, condiments, coffee, tea
 - Personal items – toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo, deodorant etc.
- Low sodium foods
Peanut butter and jelly
Toilet paper, laundry detergent

Join the Deacons of ECCT for a Baby Shower for The Diaper Bank

To help those who can't afford diapers, this December throughout the month bring in opened or new diapers to church for collection, OR donate online at <https://www.episcopalct.org/advent-diaper-drive-gifts/>. A marked donation bin will be in the Parish Hall - thank you!

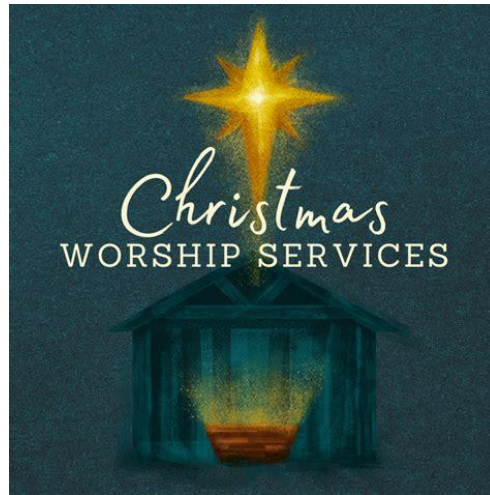


Angel Tree for Friendship Service Center & Farmington Community Services

All the Angel ornaments have been selected – THANK YOU! Now please purchase an appropriate Christmas gift(s) and return the gift(s) *unwrapped* to the Parish Hall with the ornament attached as the gift tag. It is *not* expected that all items on the tag will be donated. You may choose to fulfill all items (alone or partnered with friends at church) or just one or two items. This is a wonderful opportunity for St James to share joy with those in need in our community.



REMEMBER that the deadline for gifts is NOON TOMORROW, December 15th. If you have any questions, please see Dona Waugh or Linda Larkin. Thank you for your continued generosity!!



Worship Christ the Newborn King!

But Jesus didn't look like a king. He was a baby, he cried and got hungry. Mary was far from home and only a teenager, and Joseph was reeling after seeing angelic messengers and knowing the shame of not providing a place for his young wife to give birth. Into this world came a baby – not much of a Messiah for those who expected power and splendor. What could a baby do to heal the world?

Please take time to worship this Christmas:

Christmas Eve at 4:00 p.m. **Christmas Story** presented by a multi-generational cast of folks with holy Eucharistic to follow.

Christmas Eve at 10:30 p.m. for a festal Eucharist with choir and instrumentalists, preceded by music at 10 p.m.

Christmas Day at 11:00 a.m. A simple service of Holy Eucharist with hymns.

Hearing assist support upgrade: We have an upgrade to our sanctuary audio system which should clear up 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 discreetly placed Wi-Fi station that should help folks with hearing impairments. We have four devices which 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 *St.Jofc2010*
- + 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
- + Adjust the volume on the hearing aid device (each device comes with simple instructions).

Christmas Decoration Fund

When we celebrate together during holidays like Thanksgiving and Christmas, we are poignantly aware of those who are no longer with us. You may make an offering for Christmas flowers in memory of loved ones. Offerings may also be made in thanksgiving for our many blessings. **The deadline for donations and designations is**



THIS FRIDAY, December 19th. Make checks payable to *St. James Parish* marked "Christmas Decorations." After Christmas, the flowers will be distributed to the sick and shut-in within our parish. If you would like to help with that ministry, please call the parish office (860-677-1564). Your donation of \$35 or more is appreciated. Thank you.

**Please print as you wish the donation to be listed
in the Christmas Bulletins.**

In memory of _____

OR In thanksgiving for _____

Given by _____

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).

