



# 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 & David Tompkins, *Wardens*  
EJ Ososki, *Treasurer*

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

### VESTRY

2026  
Kathy Bullard  
Doug McDowell  
Molly Sherman

2027  
Linda Mason  
Ed Preneta  
David Tompkins

2028  
David Hrdlicka  
Carol Kirkwood  
Michael Slusarz

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**The First Sunday in Lent**

**February 22, 2026, 10:15 a.m.**

## HOLY EUCHARIST RITE 2

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

### The Word of God

◆The Great Litany		Hymnal (front section) S 67
◆Kyrie		Hymnal (front section) S 96
◆Collect of the Day ( <i>Contemporary, in unison</i> )		see insert
First Reading	Genesis 2:15–17, 3:1–7	
Psalm 32 ( <i>responsively, the People in bold</i> )		see insert
Second Reading	Romans 5:12–19	
◆HYMN	Now let us all with one accord (vv. 1–3)	Hymnal 147
◆The Holy Gospel	Matthew 4:1–11	
◆HYMN	Now let us all with one accord (vv. 4–5)	Hymnal 147
The Sermon		The Rev. George Roberts
The Nicene Creed		BCP pg. 358
◆The Prayers of the People – Form IV		BCP pg. 388

Let us pray for the Church and for the world. Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation. We pray especially for Lisa, Danielle Harris, Jer H., Bob C., Michael R., Emilia, Matt G., Tiffany O., John M., Brian, Avery, Cruz, Karen, Jane B., Jane, Robert Pizzanello, Geoffrey Newton, Jayla, Heather, Laurent, Tom, and all others, silently or aloud. [pause] Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

We commend to your mercy all who have died, especially Barbara Campbell, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Celebrant: Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your apostles, "Peace I give to you; my own peace I leave with you." Regard not our sins, but the faith of your Church, and give to us the peace and unity of that heavenly City, where with the Father and the Holy Spirit, you live and reign, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## Confession of Sin and Absolution

BCP pg. 360

## The Peace

BCP pg. 360

## The Holy Communion

Offertory *O Lord, Throughout These Forty Days* arr. by R. W. Gieseke

◆ DOXOLOGY (vs. 3) Hymnal 380

\*The Great Thanksgiving – Prayer A BCP pg. 361

\**Sanctus* Hymnal (front section) S 130

\*The Lord's Prayer BCP pg. 364

\*The Breaking of the Bread BCP pg. 364

Gluten-free hosts are available.

\**Agnus Dei* Hymnal (front section) S 164

Communion Hymns: 448, 150, 143

◆ Postcommunion Prayer BCP pg. 365

◆ Lenten Prayer (*in unison*)

BCP pg. 832

## Blessed Savior, at thi

ng out your

Blessed Savior, at this hour you hung upon the cross, stretching out your loving arms: Grant that all peoples of the earth may look to you and be saved; for your tender mercies' sake. Amen.

## Announcements

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.

The hand-hewn cross crafted by John Newton will anchor our prayers during this upcoming Lenten season. We have used John's cross in Lent for a number of years and it has been a blessing as we focus our Lenten prayers. We ask that, if you would like to place a prayer concern/need on the Cross, you come up after the service (or anytime you wish to come by the church), take a card (available at the Cross itself), write your prayer request on it, place the card on the Cross with an iron nail provided in the bowl (use the hammer, if you would like) in solidarity with Christ's Passion. Be blessed this Lent!



### *Serving this week*

Crucifer		Chloe Roberts
Acolytes		Erik & Ella Ososki
Altar Guild		Nina Hayes & Elizabeth McBride
Chalicists	8:00 a.m. 10:15 a.m.	Armen Michalak Carol Kirkwood
Lectors	8:00 a.m. 10:15 a.m.	Debra Karambay Dona Waugh
Ushers	8:00 a.m. 10:15 a.m.	David & Kim Faubert Michael DeNegris & Tim Milligan
Welcomer		Stephen Karwowski
Coffee Hour Host		Dave & Dena Tompkins



**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.

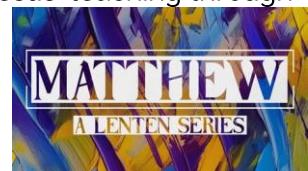
**Music for the 10:15 am worship service** is streamed with permission under ONELICENSE #A-736322.

**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.



**Lenten Devotionals:** We stand at the threshold of another holy season of Lent. In your pews, please find devotionals for each of the days of Lent. These devotionals were written by your fellow members of St. James Parish. Each devotion begins with a passage of scripture. We are invited, by these devotions, to explore the many ways Lent can minister to, grow, and engage us with a deeper understanding of who God is to us. Take a devotional and share in this journey with us.

**Lenten series on Wednesdays of Lent – Matthew’s Gospel: Healing, parables, & storytelling:** Matthew’s Gospel has a deep desire to show us that Jesus healed through exorcising demons, touching and blessing the sick and needy. Jesus’ teaching through parable is a form of healing, too. Jesus ministers to us and grows us as His disciples by deepening our understanding of who He is and how He saves us. **Beginning this Wednesday, February 25<sup>th</sup>**, and going through the four succeeding Wednesdays (March 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, and 25<sup>th</sup>), all are invited to explore a portion of Jesus’ witness in the Gospel of Matthew. With our intern, Lee Febos, Fr. George will lead any curious about Christ’s power to heal and teach, beginning with an overview of Chapter 8 in the Gospel of Matthew, in which Jesus heals, teaches, and exorcizes demons. **We will begin each night with soup and salad at 5:30 pm, and then continue until around 7 pm** for conversation, questions, and perhaps a new perspective on Matthew.



**Stations of the Cross.** Join us on Fridays of Lent at 5:30 pm, for an exploration of the ancient form of prayer and worship known as The Stations of the Cross. The Stations were said in the medieval world when a pilgrim could not journey to Jerusalem to walk the way of Jesus, the Stations of the Cross. We will gather each Friday in Lent to pray a beautiful set of prayers combining “The Stations of the Cross” found in the St. Augustine Prayer Book and a beautiful poem written for our Stations by Dianne Antos. We use, as our focus of prayer, 14+ beautiful stations done in various art mediums by members of our own parish. If you have never experienced this time of beauty, repentance, prayer, and grace – or if you have come in the last two years we have held this time as sacred – join us and be blessed.

The lectionary readings for next Sunday, March 1<sup>st</sup> are:  
Genesis 12:1–4a; Psalm 121; Romans 4:1–5, 13–17; John 3:1–7.

**Lenten Bible Study:** Beginning TODAY, the first Sunday in Lent, we will start a new Bible study. We will use the text *Lent: A Season of Repentance and Renewal* by Esau McCaulley as our guide through five Sundays of study (February 22<sup>nd</sup>, March 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, and ending the 18<sup>th</sup>). The books are in, so see Fr. George or call the office for your copy. The cost of the book is \$15, if you are able. We meet via Zoom at 12:30 pm with Meeting ID: 815 4332 7235; Passcode: 982548.

**Dominican Mission fundraiser!** We are running our envelope fundraiser again for April's mission to the Dominican Republic. On the parish hall kiosk are envelopes labeled \$1 to \$100. Please take one (or two), place the designated amount in the envelope, and place it in the offering plate or bring it (or mail it) to the parish office. Last year we raised \$5,000 (! ! !), which we can only do if every envelope is taken. Will you help us? If you have questions about our mission to the Dominican Republic, please see Fr. George.



**Faith & Fries:** This Tuesday, February 24<sup>th</sup>, 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 talk about thriving in challenged times. 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.

**First Sunday Breakfast:** Find delicious food and fellowship at *First Sunday Breakfasts* cooked by a great crew of men of the parish: pancakes, sausage, bacon, eggs, juice and coffee as good as Mom made. A gluten-free option will also be available. And, of course, much good conversation! So, join us **next Sunday, March 1<sup>st</sup> from 9 am–9:45 am**, bring your family and neighbors, and share in the great food from our Men's Group.



**Men's Breakfast:** On Saturday, March 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 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. 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!

**Pastoral Care Ministry:** The Pastoral Care group will meet **Saturday, March 7<sup>th</sup>** from 9–11 am. The group discussion will be led by parish members Carol Merrill and Dr. Carolyn McGaughey. Carol is a commissioned Stephen Minister and Carolyn is a commissioned Stephen Leader and Minister. Information about the ministry and the experiences of the ministry will be shared. Discussion will also focus on the “Art of Listening”; what it is and why it is important. In addition, the group will explore “presence”, an essential element of pastoral care. Join the group as they continue to explore providing Pastoral care to our St James family. Coffee and Pastries will be provided.



**Fellowship Committee forming:** St James is very blessed to have so much new growth and involvement in church activities! We are starting a Fellowship Committee to provide TEAMS of folks who will work together to plan and coordinate our bigger events. These events may be church dinners, concerts, picnics, or special guests. Additionally, it will make sure there is training and coordination of our Sunday coffee hours. Please consider being a part of this committee. **The first meeting will be after the 10:15 service on Sunday, March 8<sup>th</sup> in the library.** If you have any questions, please call Kathy Bullard at 860-673-6444.

## *Women's Ministry*

**Sunday, March 8<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm, Potluck Lenten Dinner with Compline.** Join your women friends for an evening of dinner, conversation and a compline service led by our very own Clergy Intern, Lee Febos.

**Town Hall on Capital Projects. On Sunday, March 15<sup>th</sup>, immediately following the 10:15 am service,** we will host an informational Town Hall, as part of coffee hour, on Capital/Major Projects for our building and grounds. Our Capital Committee, a subcommittee of our Vestry, has been working since the fall on identifying and vetting major projects toward repairing and/or improving our building and grounds, including making the building more accessible for people with mobility issues. We will share what work has already been done in the last year and share work that has been done to gather information on other projects that might be done. The Capital Committee very much wants to hear from you; the March 15<sup>th</sup> gathering is not only to share information, but to gather it from our parish. What questions do you have? What concerns might you want to share? What projects might you desire to champion that your Capital Committee or Vestry have not yet identified. Please, please come and share the time with us as we move forward building up our future together.



**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 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
- + Adjust the volume on 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).

