



St. James Parish

WITH ST. MARK'S MINISTRIES

3 Mountain Road
Farmington, CT 06032
Telephone 860-677-1564
Fax 860-677-8219
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

2026
Kathy Bullard
Doug McDowell
Molly Sherman

2027
Linda Mason
Ed Preneta
David Tompkins

Second Sunday of Advent

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

HOLY EUCHARIST RITE 2

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

◆Hymn *People, look East* WLP 724

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 11:1–10

Psalms 72:1–7, 18–19 (*responsively, the People in bold*) see insert

Second Reading Romans 15:4–13

◆HYMN *Prepare the way, O Zion* (vv. 1–2) Hymnal 65

◆The Holy Gospel Matthew 3:1–12

◆HYMN *Prepare the way, O Zion* (v. 3) Hymnal 65

The Sermon The Rev. George Roberts

The Nicene Creed BCP pg. 358

◆The Prayers of the People – Form IV, *responsively* 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 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 Pizzanello, Geoffrey Newton, Jayla, Heather, Mark, Gary, Laurent, Tom, and all others, silently or aloud. ... [*pause here*] ... Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

We commend to your mercy Antone Tavares, Sharon Murphy, and all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom [*pause here*]. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Celebrant: Hasten, O Father, the coming of your kingdom; and grant that we your servants, who now live by faith, may with joy behold your Son at his coming in glorious majesty; even Jesus Christ, our only Mediator and Advocate.
Amen.

Confession of Sin and 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: 59, 69, 67

◆Postcommunion Prayer BCP pg. 366

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 *God is working his purpose out* Hymnal 534

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
Acolytes		Ella Ososki & Anna Lapointe
Altar Guild		Janet LaPierre-Green & Donna Wilkie
Chalicians	8:00 a.m.	Barbara Mitchell
	10:15 a.m.	Bob Kissel
Lectors	8:00 a.m.	Deb Karambay
	10:15 a.m.	Elizabeth McBride
Ushers	8:00 a.m.	Richard Baba
	10:15 a.m.	Michele Briganti & Olivia Paré
Welcomer		Marge Litteral
Coffee Hour Host		St. James Choir
Care Ministry / Altar Flower delivery		Jim & Jane Vallee

Today's altar flowers are given in loving memory of our mothers:

Mary Schlosky & Veronica Backiel.

~ David & Verona Schlosky



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.

On a Sunday each month we say a prayer for everyone having 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.

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.

The lectionary readings for the Third Sunday of Advent, December 14th are:
Isaiah 35:1–10; Psalm 146:4–9; James 5:7–10; Matthew 11:2–11.

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 pews this Sunday 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.

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.

Advent Bible study: Join us on the Sundays of Advent at 12:30 pm on Zoom, for a special Bible Study of Advent. We use the theme of our Advent wreath candles – and their colors – to frame a special four-part Bible study. Continuing on the next three Sundays of Advent (December 7th, 14th, and 21st), we explore Peace (purple, candle 2), Joy (pink, candle 3), and Love (purple, candle 4). Each week is framed by 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.



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 93 pledges totaling \$289,788 with a goal of \$358,000. If you pledged for 2026 and requested giving envelopes, the boxed envelope sets will be available in the narthex (church entryway) beginning December 14th.



Advent Lessons & Carols: Please join us **NEXT SUNDAY, December 14th**, 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.

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? Running each of the next 3 Sundays of Advent (December 7th, 14th, 21st), we will dive a little deeper into the meaning and purpose of some of the great music of the Advent and Christmas season. There will be 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, each Sunday morning beginning TODAY.**



Join us for *Greening of the Church*: On Sunday, December 21st, following 10:15 a.m. worship, we'll begin our *Greening of the Church* for Christmas!

We are looking for volunteers to come 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, there will soon be a box to drop them in on the sidewalk to the right of the front entrance of the church. We are doing both indoor and outdoor Greening. Blessings and we look forward to seeing you on the 21st!

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.

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.

Men's Breakfast: On Saturday, December 13th 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. 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!



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

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 let us know that you can be there please email: 1delshire@gmail.com Thank you!

Faith & Fries! On 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 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 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 _____

Outreach Corner

Outreach Meeting

Our year-end Outreach Meeting will be held NEXT SUNDAY, December 14th 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

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

St. James Outreach Ministry provides Christmas gifts to approximately 20 individuals from the Friendship Service Center and 8-10 children from Farmington Community Services. All the Angel ornaments have been selected – THANK YOU! – and we hope



you signed your name on the corresponding sign-out chart. 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.

The deadline for gifts is NOON on MONDAY, December 15th. If you have any questions, please see Dona Waugh or Linda Larkin.

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).

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).

