



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

Second Sunday after Christmas

January 4, 2026, 10:15 a.m.

HOLY EUCHARIST RITE 2

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

◆Hymn *The first Nowell* Hymnal 109

The Word of God

◆Opening Acclamation BCP pg. 355

◆Collect for Purity BCP pg. 355

◆*Gloria* Hymnal (front section) S 280

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

First Reading Jeremiah 31:7–14

Psalms 84 (*responsively, the People in bold*) see insert

Second Reading Ephesians 1:3–6, 15–19a

◆HYMN *On this day, earth shall ring* (vv. 1–2) Hymnal 92

◆The Holy Gospel Luke 2:41–52

◆HYMN *On this day, earth shall ring* (vv. 3–4) Hymnal 92

The Sermon The Rev. George Roberts

The Nicene Creed BCP pg. 358

◆The Prayers of the People

Creator God, in Christ You not only set the standard for obedience, but showed us how faith, humility, and obedience to Your will align and are made perfect. Teach us, Your disciples, to learn strength, love, and freedom through obedience to Your most gracious will. We pray, responding, Lord, hear our prayer.

For the Church that She may teach obedience to Your Word, revealed through Holy Scripture and made perfect in Jesus Christ. We pray, **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For the nations and leaders of the world that all may submit their will to Your gracious and loving will for all of Your people, bringing about true change for the people who need it the most. We pray, **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For all who have asked for our prayers, especially Andrea Hunt, Posy and John Beer, Jer H., 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, 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 Henry Skonieczny, and all others for whom we pray, silently or aloud [*pause here*] ... We pray, **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Celebrant: Lord Jesus Christ, You showed us the way to the Father - throughout Your ministry – by Your unique combination of humility, obedience, love, and strength. Minister to us in a world where humility and obedience can be seen as weakness or as a loss of freedom. Show us the way to true strength and courage, in Christ Jesus our Lord. **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 125

*The Lord's Prayer BCP pg. 364

*The Breaking of the Bread BCP pg. 364

Gluten-free hosts are available.

Communion Hymns: 247, 84, 85

◆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 *Joy to the world* Hymnal 100

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
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.	Janet LaPierre-Green
	10:15 a.m.	Donna Paye
Ushers	8:00 a.m.	Dave & Kim Faubert
	10:15 a.m.	Dave & Verona Schlosky
Welcomer		Stephen Karwowski
Coffee Hour Host		Janice Lee
Care Ministry / Altar Flower delivery		Nancy Thompson

Today's altar flowers are given to the Glory of God and
in thanksgiving for our families.

~ Mimi & Jay Hostetter



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.



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.

Where, O where, are 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!



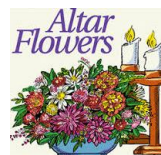
The Feast of the Epiphany will be celebrated this Tuesday evening, January 6th, 6 pm, in the parish hall, with Holy Eucharist, the coming of the Three Wisemen, a “king’s cake”, special music, a fire in the fireplace, followed by pizza (including gluten-free options) and fellowship. Invite your neighbors, bring your family!

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!

Bible Study: Next Sunday, January 11th, we will begin a study for Epiphany using Fleming Rutledge’s little book *Epiphany: Season of Glory*, as a text to engage the wider implications of our faith and life with Christ through the often-minimized season of Epiphany. The books are \$20, but please let Fr. George know if this is a challenge for you; there will be no issue. We meet via Zoom at 12:30 pm with Meeting ID: 815 4332 7235; Passcode: 982548.

Annual Appeal for Stewardship: We hope that you have actively engaged 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 Tuesday, December 30th, we’ve received 106 pledges totaling \$342,048 with a goal of \$358,000. **If you pledged and requested giving envelopes, the envelope sets are available in the parish hall.**

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.




Coffee Hour signups: Many thanks to those 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.

Pastoral Care Team conversation. This Saturday, January 10th at 9 am, Fr. Alex Kuriakose, priest in the orthodox tradition and vicar at St. Thomas Indian Orthodox Church, will join us to talk about pastoral presence, active and compassionate listening, and being intentional when visiting folks who are sick, shut in, or dying. Fr. Alex is a hospice chaplain for Vitas Healthcare and brings a wealth of pastoral experience to share with us. We will have a continental breakfast fare at 9 with programming running at 9:30–11 am. Join us for this time of growth, particularly if you are interested in pastoral ministry.

***Run, Hide, Fight* Presentation on Safety by the Farmington Police Department:** A brief presentation will be held **this Saturday, January 10th, at 1 pm** in the parish hall. While this may not be an easy topic to think about, it is an important one. The Farmington Police Department is joining us to share a *Run, Hide, Fight* presentation that walks through what to do in the unlikely event of a violent or life-threatening situation. This training is not meant to cause fear, but to provide awareness, practical guidance, and peace of mind. By understanding our options and how to respond under stress, we can be better prepared to protect ourselves and look out for one another.

Bishop Suffragan visit: Next Sunday, January 11th, we will host Bishop Laura Ahrens at both the 8 am and 10:15 am services, with a Q and A with the bishop between the services, and time with the bishop after the 10:15 am service. Come, support the work of the Episcopal Church and blessing of our suffragan bishop.

 **This Wednesday, January 7th, 6:30pm, Women's Book Club** join Tracey Roberts in leading a discussing of the book, *The Lion Women of Tehran*, by Marjan Kamali. The internet write ups state it's an "evocative read and a powerful portrait of friendship, feminism, and political activism". This sounds like a book meant for the women of St James!

Monday, January 12th, 6:30pm, Women's Game Night a casual night of game playing with your women friends! Bring a snack or beverage you'd like to share, a game if you'd like to share and levity – bring your fun, joy and laughter!

Saturday, January 31st, 2 pm, SUFFS the musical **time sensitive** – please reach out to Linda Mason via ldelshire@gmail.com or 860-515-4338 by tomorrow morning (1/5) at 10 am if you are interested in going. Tickets are \$40 and assistance is available if needed. Tony award Broadway winning musical at the Bushnell in Hartford celebrating women of the American suffragist movement.

“De-Greening” of the Church: Thank you to everyone who helped to green the church 2 weeks ago! **TODAY**, immediately following the 10:15 service, we will take down the greens from the church. Many hands make light work, and this work is much less meticulous than putting the greens up! Come to church dressed to help and we can get all this done in a jiffy! We’ll save some greens for our Epiphany service in the parish hall on Tuesday, the 6th.



Men's Breakfast: On Saturday, January 17th 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!



The 2025 St. James Parish Annual Meeting will be held Sunday, January 26th at 11:45 am in the parish hall and invite everyone to bring food to share (an entrée, a side, or dessert) and we will eat potluck style – **a signup is on the parish hall ramp bulletin board.**

We will vote on the budget, elect new Vestry members, and report on the overall state of things at St. James Parish. Join us for worship and then the Meeting. Thank you for all that you do to be Christ's light in and from this place. **Annual Report submissions are due TUESDAY, January 14th.**

The lectionary readings for Sunday, January 11th are:
Isaiah 42:1–9; Psalm 29; Acts 10:34–43; Matthew 3:13–17.

Outreach Corner

Food Pantry Collection Month: The Pantry has requested that we focus our donations on paper products, feminine hygiene and adult incontinence products, cooking oil, and canned meats (spam, chicken, etc.). Please, bring your donations to the narthex to the box labeled *Farmington Food Pantry*. Food and monetary contributions may, of course, be made any time of the year! If you wish to make a monetary contribution, write the check out to *St. James Parish* with *Farmington Food Pantry* in the note section. Thank you for your continued generosity!

Meals for Neighbors, Bristol on January 19th. St. James co-sponsors a meal for approximately 40–50 people every other month. Dave Woodford, AKA "Meatloaf Guy", spearheads this effort, and asks us to make, bake and freeze meatloaves to serve at these meals. The next event will be January 19th. Dave will distribute the baking tins on Sunday, January 11th, and pick up the frozen meat loaves on Sunday January 18th. Anyone who has questions or may be interested in helping at these meals should speak with Dave after services on Sundays.

Church by the Pond on February 7th: St. James will partner with Christ Church Cathedral's "Church Street Eats" program to host Church by the Pond in Bushnell Park in Hartford. Fr. George Roberts will offer a service, and then we will provide bagged lunches to the approximately 50-60 people who gather there. Next week we will have a signup in the Narthex to sign up for the items needed for the bagged lunches. Additionally, we ask for volunteers to make the lunches at the church in the morning as well as people to go to the event in Bushnell Park to help and distribute the lunches. If you have any questions, call Kathy Bullard @ 860-673-6444.

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).

