



117 HUDSON AVE., CHATHAM, NY, 12037  
PARISH OFFICE: (518) 392-4991  
Stjameschatham.org  
Part of the Catholic Community  
of Northern Columbia County (CCNCC)

*Welcome, wherever you are on your life's journey.*

**Rev. George P. Fleming, Pastor**

**Our St. James Parish Mission:**

*Energized by the Eucharist and Scripture, we are a welcoming and affirming community that celebrates Christ Jesus in our midst. We value prayer, education, art, music, and the beauty of God's creation in our quest for spiritual growth and social justice in the world.*  
~Accepted at Liturgy, April 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>, 2014

**The Second Sunday of Advent  
December 6, 2020**

Furthermore with Fr. George:

*Let there be peace on earth  
And let it begin with me.  
Let there be peace on earth  
The peace that was meant to be.*

*With God as our Father  
Family [Brothers] all are we.  
Let us walk with each other  
[Let me walk with my brother]  
In perfect harmony.*

*Let peace begin with me,  
Let this be the moment now.  
With ev'ry step I take  
Let this be my solemn vow;*

*To take each moment and live  
Each moment in peace eternally.  
Let there be peace on earth  
And let it begin with me.*

Written in 1955 for an International Children's Chorus, "Let there be Peace on Earth" was wildly popular in churches just as hymns and religious music were changing in style following Vatican II. I grew up attending Catholic schools in the 60's and 70's and I think this is the song that I remember most. It was an anthem at many of our School and Children's liturgies. Well into adulthood, I remember how the easy lyrics and catchy tune were conducive for people of all ages to really belt this out.

I revisited the song out of nostalgia, and I wanted to continue the Advent themes associated with the wreath. This week we light the second candle which illuminates "Peace." What struck me about the song is that the onus of peace is on *me*. Often time we see peace a gift from the outside, but the lyrics point out that it is first and foremost our obligation to be peaceful. It doesn't end with us; it begins in us. The original lyric, "Let me walk with my brother" could be interpreted as seeing this

responsibility as not necessarily being shared it is something of which I should take ownership.

Rather than challenge *you* to be more peaceful, I need to begin with *me*. As I write these words, I am tense. It's been a long day and I have a busy week. I am up against several deadlines and have meetings every night except tonight. Christmas is coming and there's a pandemic! What does it mean for me to peaceful? First and foremost, I need to pray and place my trust in God. Every night, Pope John XXIII would do a set of prayers and meditations before going to sleep, and end by saying a variation of "It's your church, Lord. I'm going to bed." Saint John XXIII also said, "A peaceful man does more good than a learned one." There is a lot of wisdom in that!

We gain perspective that it's not all about me or all about us when we model ourselves on a particular saint, or a favorite spiritual hero, past and present, from all aspects of our lives. This weekend's first reading from the Prophet Isaiah is echoed in the very beginning of this weekend's Gospel, foretelling the arrival of St. John the Baptist:

*The beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ the Son of God. As it is written in Isaiah the prophet: Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way. A voice of one crying out in the desert: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths." (Mark 1.1-3)*

One of the best ways we can prepare the way of the Lord and make straight the journey is to be instruments of peace. Maybe it's less about working to right all wrongs than to simply make peace with ourselves and each other. It may mean we need to forgive ourselves of past mistakes and wrong turns on crooked paths. That means not waiting for someone to come forward or something to drastically change. It means making the decision to be peaceful and calmly committing to positive action. "Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me." There is no greater moment to live this out than right now, the Second Week of Advent.

*Fr. George*

## PARISH INFORMATION

### SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE

#### **Celebration of the Eucharist:**

To ensure safe worship together, we are welcoming up to 80 worshippers to 9AM Sunday Mass by last name, alphabetical order. For all those who are not ready to return to church, we encourage you to continue worshipping with us online at [stjameschatham.org](http://stjameschatham.org). The obligation to attend Sunday Mass has been suspended, and we will continue to offer online masses for the entire CCNCC community for the foreseeable future. Please check our website or Facebook page for more info and to register for Mass online.

#### **November/December 2020 Mass Schedule:**

**Sunday, Dec. 6** — Cycle 3 worshippers' last names L-P

**Sunday, Dec. 13** — Cycle 4 worshippers' last names Q-Z

**Sunday, Dec. 20** — Cycle 1 worshippers' last names A-D

**Thursday, Dec. 24** — 3PM and 6PM Christmas Eve Mass by reservation

**Friday, Dec. 25** — 9AM Christmas Day Mass by reservation

**Sunday, Dec. 27** — Cycle 2 worshippers' last names E-K

**Thursday, Dec. 31** — 4PM New Year's Eve Mass by reservation

Please call our parish office at (518) 392-4991 or send an e-mail to [sjofficeassistant@gmail.com](mailto:sjofficeassistant@gmail.com) if you would like to reserve a seat at an upcoming Mass for yourself, family member, and/or guest. **We will also do our best to accommodate you and your family if you would like to attend Mass off cycle. Kindly let us know in advance by email or phone.** Please arrive early, and be aware that wearing a mask is required. Church doors will open Sundays at 8:30AM.

We look forward to worshipping with you at St. James!

#### **PARISH OFFICE:**

**Address:** 117 Hudson Ave., Chatham, NY, 12037

**Open:** Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays

**Hours:** 9 A.M. to 1 P.M.

**Phone:** (518) 392-4991

**In Case of Emergency:** Please call (518) 303-3636

#### **ST. JAMES STAFF:**

**Parish Office Assistant:** Beth Lenahan

**Phone:** (518) 392-4991

**E-mail:** [sjofficeassistant@gmail.com](mailto:sjofficeassistant@gmail.com)

**Music Director:** Justine Rodriguez

**Phone:** (518) 986-9800

**E-mail:** [justinejrodriguez@gmail.com](mailto:justinejrodriguez@gmail.com)

#### **ST. JAMES PASTORAL COUNCIL:**

Edgar Acevedo, Nancy Carrizales, Beth Lenahan, Maria Lull, Paula Ptaszek, Gabriella Sperry

#### **ST. JAMES CHURCH TRUSTEES:**

Mickey Dennis and Jack Yurish

## FAITH FORMATION

### ST. JAMES FAITH FORMATION

We welcome families to continue enrolling in Faith Formation this fall as we launch new learning programs that are easily accessible online and through workbooks for home study.

**Preschool through Grade 5:** Sundays 10-11am online and home workbooks

**Grades 6-9 and Confirmation:** Monday night by Zoom and home study modules

**Administrator:** Angelique Hebert

**Cell Phone:** (518) 653-6542

**Home Phone:** (518) 758-1319

**Email:** [saintjamesfaithformation@gmail.com](mailto:saintjamesfaithformation@gmail.com)

### FAITH FORMATION FALL 2020 SCHEDULE:

**Kindergarten through Grade 5:** Home study materials available.

**Grades 6 through 9:** Monday nights, hybrid program  
12/7 Module 3 Review - Zoom Session, 6:30pm  
12/14 Module 4 - eLearning Home Lesson  
12/21 Module 4 Review - Zoom Session, 6:30pm  
12/28 Christmas Break

**Confirmation - Grade 10:** Monday nights 6:30 - 8pm via Zoom:

12/7 Zoom Session, 6:30 - 8pm

12/14 Zoom Session, 6:30 - 8pm

12/21 Zoom Session, 6:30 - 8pm

12/28 Christmas Break

### CONFESSIONS

Please call the office at 392-4991 or email our office at [sjofficeassistant@gmail.com](mailto:sjofficeassistant@gmail.com) if you would like to schedule a confession with Fr. George.

## ATTENTION ALL LECTORS!

**The 2021 edition of *Workbook for Lectors, Gospel Readers and Proclaimers of the Word* are now available for pickup in the kitchenette.** If you are a reader, please pick up your copy before Mass or during office hours, Monday, Wednesday, Friday from 9AM-1PM.

## WEDNESDAY ROSARY PRAYER GROUP

Please join us to pray the Rosary together **every Wednesday at 4PM** in the Gathering Space at St. James Church. All are welcome!

## MORNING BOOK CLUB DEC. 16

The next morning book club will take place on **Wednesday, December 16 at 10AM** in the Gathering Space. The featured book is *The Island of Sea Women* by Lisa See. Please call Dee Winkler at (518) 392-2297 for more information. All are welcome, and please remember to bring your mask!

## PARISH OUTREACH

For more information about OutReach, please contact  
Denise Barry, St. James OutReach coordinator,  
at (518) 929-4369

#1. The **annual Holiday Food Drive** is underway through December 25th. If you would like to contribute, please write a check payable to St. James, (with "Food Drive" on the memo line) and place it in the collection basket or mail it to St. James Parish, 129 Hudson Avenue, Chatham, NY 12037. This drive is conducted during Advent and Lent to benefit the Chatham and Ghent food pantries.

#2. If you are interested in **"adopting" a family** this holiday season, please call Outreach at (518) 929-4369. The extent of commitment is at the donor's discretion.

#3. This week Outreach referred six (6) families from the Catholic Community of Northern Columbia County (CCNCC) to the **Marion Stegmann fund for holiday assistance**. The families reside in East Chatham, Niverville, Stuyvesant, and the Village of Chatham. The Stegmann fund has served the needy since 1956. Please call Marilyn Martin at (518) 392-9751 to donate mittens and gloves for the Stegmann gift bags. -"It just doesn't seem like Christmas until you feed the needy."- Marion Stegmann

#4. Tags representing 75 requests for gifts for students at Chatham's MED building were distributed to our parishioners after Sunday Masses last month. **If you took a tag, but have not as yet returned the gift (wrapped with tag attached), please bring the gift to church by next Sunday, December 13th**, so that we can return them to the school in a timely fashion. Thank you!

#5. WIC, the "Women, Infant, Children" program conducted by Catholic Charities of Columbia-Greene, offers nutritious food benefits to women who are either pregnant, breastfeeding or postpartum, and to infants and children up to five years of age. Many foods offered by the WIC program can supplement traditional holiday meals. WIC offers more than formula and milk. A variety of foods in their food packages can help with food preparation, including fruits, vegetables, bread, milk, juice, cheese, and eggs. **If you are interested in finding out more about WIC and the qualifications involved, call (518) 828-4668 or visit [www.wicstrong.com](http://www.wicstrong.com).**

#6. A tip of the hat to the parishioner who has volunteered to provide a **holiday fruit platter and greeting cards for the COARC residents at Payn and Elm St. in Chatham**. These are offered in place of the Christmas stockings given to them in past years. Tis the season!

#7. **The Chatham Public Library** sponsors events on a monthly basis for children and adults. Programs for adults in December include "FDR: Did the President Do Enough?" an online presentation in conjunction with the Chatham Synagogue at 2 PM on December 6th. To register to receive the Zoom link, go to the library website or call the library at (518) 392-3666. For more information about children's programs, please call the

## Neighbors Help Neighbors #KyleStrong



Many thanks to the scores of friends and families who came out the Sunday before Thanksgiving in support of our pizza fundraiser benefiting the family of a young St. James parishioner, Kyle Stickles. More than 300 delectable wood-fired pizzas and dozens of donuts were snapped up to support #kylestrong, which will help Kyle in his fight against cancer.

Joseph Carlo, owner of JoesDough2Go, three amazing daughters Julia, Emma, Jaquelyn, and sister-in-law Carolyn donated their time, materials and talent to this parish-based effort. If you'd like to help #kylestrong, we invite you to send your donation to St. James Church with #kylestrong in the memo line.

And the deepest thanks to Joe and his family, who know firsthand how much a community's love and support means in a time of crisis. Like [Joe's Dough 2 Go](#) food truck on Facebook or send your thanks to Joe at [joesdough2go@gmail.com](mailto:joesdough2go@gmail.com)

## Thanks from the Haiti Committee

Writes Pat Dieffenbach, head of the Haiti Committee:

*"Again, thank you for your generosity in supporting our Haiti Ministry and we are happy to report we received more donations, over \$1,000, to put our total at about \$2,400. These funds are needed to enable us to support Fr. Jean-Mary through the winter months."*

## Adoration Chapel Adds New Hours

Are you looking for ways to deepen your prayer life during Advent? The **Our Lady of Victory Eucharistic Adoration Chapel** at the Parish of Holy Trinity in Hudson will be expanding Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament to include Monday and Tuesdays during the daytime hours, as well as the overnight hours, beginning December 14. Adorers can schedule a Holy Hour by going to the website at [OLV.WeAdoreHim.com](http://OLV.WeAdoreHim.com). For more information, or to be trained as an Adorer, please contact Cheryl at 518-755-5781, or Rebecca at 518-799-5535.

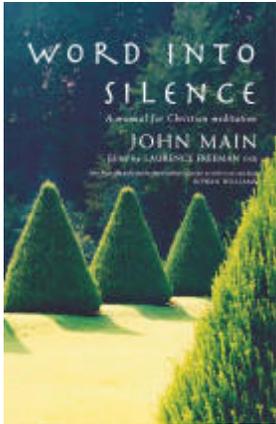
Do you have an item for publication in our St. James bulletin?  
Please send it via e-mail to: [stofficeassistant@gmail.com](mailto:stofficeassistant@gmail.com)  
*Please submit items by Tuesday at 2pm*

# PLANTING SEEDS FOR FAITH ENRICHMENT

*Edited by Nick Biggs in conjunction with the Center for Faith Enrichment*

“There is nowhere God is not.” ~Joe Mondel

Here are two related forms of prayer. Contemplative prayer (or meditation) and Lectio Divina are both, along with vocal prayer, recognized as valid forms of prayer by the Catholic Church. Both are designed to reach the same goal, union with the presence of God.



John Main OSB (1926 – 1982) in his book, Word into Silence, first published in 1980, and re-published by Canterbury Press Norwich in 2006, describes Christian Meditation and the aims and goals of this form of Prayer. He states at the outset that his term “meditation” is synonymous with such terms as contemplation, contemplative prayer, meditative prayer, etc. (p.1)

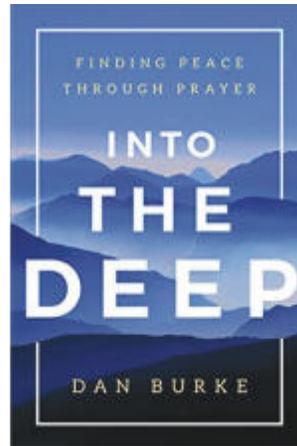
“How to Meditate – Sit down. Sit still and upright. Close your eyes lightly. Sit relaxed but alert. Silently, interiorly begin to say a single word. We recommend the prayer-phrase 'Maranatha' ["Come Lord, Come Lord Jesus"] (p.10)... Listen to it as you say it, gently but continuously. Do not think or imagine anything – spiritual or other wise.” (Preface to book)

“Meditation is the very simple process by which we prepare ourselves,... to be at peace with ourselves so that we are capable of appreciating the peace of the Godhead within us... The all-important aim in Christian meditation is to allow God's mysterious and silent presence within us to become more and more not only a reality, but *the* reality which gives meaning, shape and purpose to everything we do, to everything we are. (pp. 2 - 3)

“In its essential significance, the aim of meditation is just this: the realization of our total incorporation in Jesus Christ,... There in the silence of the Word we share His experience of hearing Himself eternally spoken by the Father... [I]t is not language or thought we need. We need only to become aware of the mystery within us... Our path into this silence is the one little word of the mantra ["Maranatha"]. (p. 33)

“...Our task in meditation is to allow our unity to be restored and for our scattered parts to move back into their proper harmonious alignment to the centre of our being... When our consciousness truly awakens to that centre, in silence, then a power is released which is the power of life, the power of the Spirit. In that power we are reformed, reunited, re-created... The mantra leads us straight to this centre.” (pp. 64 -65)

In his book, Into the Deep, Finding Peace Through Prayer, Beacon Publishing, 2016, Dan Burke describes a method of prayer which he designates as “Discovery Prayer”. This form of prayer is better known as Lectio Divina or Divine Reading. Burke recommends that you set up a “sacred space” reserved only for prayer and that you set aside 15 to 20 minutes at a certain time each day for prayer, preferably early in the morning.



**Reading.** After entering the sacred space you have set up, “...slowly and gently pray an opening prayer... Next begin with an attentive, slow reading of a short passage of Scripture in the Gospels... The goal is... to purposefully delve into the depths of any passage that will draw your heart and mind to God... (pp. 44 – 47)

**Reflecting.** “Gently and peacefully ponder what you have read, visualizing it and listening carefully for the Holy Spirit's prompting or guidance. Look for the deeper spiritual meanings of the words ... don't rack your brain or exert extreme intellectual effort as you reflect. Simply engage and allow the words and related images penetrate your heart and mind, and follow wherever God leads you through the text. (pp. 48 – 49)

**Responding.** “As you are drawn into a particular passage, begin to converse with God about what you are reading, and seek to respond with your heart... Based on what you have reflected on... you can ask for forgiveness, you can thank him and praise him, or you can ask for the grace to be changed by what you have read... (p. 50)

**Resting.** “Allow yourself to become absorbed in God's words as he invites you into a deeper kind of prayer, one that will bring you into his presence in ways that purely mental exercises could never achieve... If you give yourself to God in this way he will satisfy your ultimate thirst, your deepest needs, as the Holy Spirit prays with you, in you, and through you... ( pp. 51 – 52)

**Resolving.** “This final step involves making a clear resolution so you avoid a dangerous trap in the spiritual life: encountering God and doing nothing in response.” (p.52)

## ST. JAMES PRAYER REQUESTS

### Please keep these individuals in your prayers:

Tom Barber, Lorene Bowes, John Brady, Ellen Coleman,  
Dr. Valerie Curry, Lyle Daniels, Steven Donnellan,  
Debbie DuBois, Barbara Haywood, Heather, Barbara Laspada,  
Richard Leggitt, Connie Mondel, Courtney Powell,  
Anthony Roberts, Deacon Paul Roemer, Sr., Joseph Sikoskie,  
Kyle Stickle, Kay Toll, Lauren Wrigley,  
and Jack and Emma Yurish

### Also, please pray for the recently deceased and the comfort of their families:

John Colwill, John Dunne, Robert Gross, Philip Ilardo

### And please keep these first responders in your prayers:

Courtney Baksa, Katherine A. Behrens, Kristy Buchan,  
Tracy Crandall, Beth DeMatteo, Sarah Every,  
Laura Jean Kaninenberg Jones, Shannon Kennedy,  
Julia Kilcer, Liane Koenig, Minerva Lord, Jessica McCoy,  
Maija Moore, Celia Muoser, Bill Murphy,  
Samson Shakarian, Laura Sundstrom, Joe Testa,  
Anita Wilhelm, Carl Winkler, and Karen Zwycewicz

Please contact our parish office at (518) 392-4991 or by e-mail at [sjofficeassistant@gmail.com](mailto:sjofficeassistant@gmail.com) if names need to be added or deleted.

## MASS INTENTIONS

- Sunday, Dec. 6:** **Dolores Havlik** by Tessie Every and Family  
**Paul Martin** by Margaret Robinson  
**Brian O'Connor** by Mary O'Connor (7th anniversary)  
**Leatrice Yaroschuck** by Jane Sweet
- Sunday, Dec. 13:** **Deceased members of the Knights of Columbus**  
**Lois Lenahan** by her family (birthday remembrance)  
**Carmela Orlando** by Phil and Marie Orlando (birthday remembrance)  
**Helen Sacco** by Marcella MacDonald and Stephen Walton

## ONLINE GIVING

St. James offers the convenient option for **online giving**. This feature enables you to easily make donations, payments, and pledges to our parish — which is especially important now during this time of physical distancing. To access the St. James online-giving platform or to receive more information, please click the following link:

[www.stjameschatham.org/online-giving](http://www.stjameschatham.org/online-giving)

For those worshipers who are attending our in-person liturgies and wish to bring their offertory contribution, collection baskets will be available as you exit.

## ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS AT ST. JAMES CHURCH

Here is the schedule for Christmas and New Year's Masses for our tri-parish community. **Because of space limitations, reservations are a must—we cannot promise walk-in worshipers seating. We will continue to offer online Mass throughout the season.** Please reserve your Holiday Mass seating at St. James early online on our website, by email [sjofficeassistant@gmail.com](mailto:sjofficeassistant@gmail.com) or phone (518) 392-4991. Please leave your name, telephone number, and names of guests/family members you would like to bring to Mass with you.

### December 8

#### Feast of the Immaculate Conception

Church of St. Joseph/Stottville

~4:00 p.m. Mass for the tri-parish community  
St. James, Chatham:

~5:30 p.m. Mass for the tri-parish community followed by reconciliation

### December 24

#### Christmas Vigil Schedule

St. James, Chatham:

~3 p.m. Vigil Mass

~6 p.m. Vigil Mass

St. John the Baptist Church, Valatie:

~4:30 p.m. Vigil Mass

~7:30 p.m. Vigil Mass

The Church of St. Joseph, Stottville/Stuyvesant Falls:

~3 p.m. Stottville, Vigil Mass

~4:30 p.m. Stuyvesant Falls, Vigil Mass

### December 25

#### Christmas Day Mass Schedule

~7:30 a.m. St. John the Baptist Church, Valatie

~9 a.m. St. James, Chatham

~10:30 a.m. The Church of St. Joseph,  
Stuyvesant Falls

~12:30 p.m. (Spanish) The Church of St. Joseph,  
Stuyvesant Falls

### December 31

#### New Year's Eve Mass Schedule

~4 p.m. St. James, Chatham

~4 p.m. The Church of St. Joseph, Stottville

### January 1

#### New Year's Day Mass Schedule

(Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God):

~10 a.m. The Church of St. Joseph,  
Stuyvesant Falls

~11 a.m. St. John the Baptist Church, Valatie

~12:30 p.m. (Spanish) The Church of St. Joseph,  
Stuyvesant Falls



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