



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 Feast of the Holy Family  
December 27, 2020**

**Furthermore with Fr. George:**

*The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
Upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom  
A light has shown.  
Isaiah 9:1*

We have been journeying with the Prophet Isaiah throughout the Sunday readings this Advent season and now we return toward the beginning with the great promise that a light has shone in the darkness. How profound these words are for us this year. In a world of gloom and darkness, new hope shines as the vaccine is rolled out to essential workers and those at risk.

Our liturgies in person and online will focus on the readings traditionally shared at Midnight or at Night. The Gospel of Luke places the birth of Christ in historical context by specifying that Caesar Augustus decreed that the whole world should be enrolled during the time when Syria and Judah were ruled by Quirinus. The events of this year place our Christmas celebration in historical context as well but for each of us there is an opportunity to experience the essential quality of what makes this season so special and necessary to recharge our spirits.

My heart is filled with gratitude that we have turned a significant corner, and this is magnified by my appreciation for all those who have been journeying with us, especially my parish families. In my understanding truly all of us are essential and the prayers and assistance we have all received has been invaluable. So many different forms of support have made a true difference in how we see each other and how we are united this Christmas with all people of good will.

I am so indebted to our staff, lay ministers, church leaders and volunteers working and praying together. People are not just

doing their "jobs," they are going beyond the call of duty to minister to our people. I am grateful to everyone in church or at home who continue to send their prayers, best wishes and concerns. We may be socially distant, but I have never felt more spiritually close.

The essence of the Christmas season has always been profound but this year we are blessed with new reasons to embrace faith, hope, love, and joy. Our Christmas this year has not been downsized. Indeed, this season has been expanded to reveal the power of light over darkness. We still have much to face and we know of the challenges of our time, but God is with us. We are not alone. We have each other and we have our God. This is the bond that unites us.

We may be limited by what we can "put on" such as parties, large gatherings, and events, but we can "put on" something more essential. I am going to close with the words found in the Letter of Paul to the Colossians. Before I do that, please know of my prayers, continued concern, and deep affection for you all. May God bless, console and inspire you this Christmas and may you feel God's love into the new year.

*Put on, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved,  
heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience,  
bearing with one another and forgiving one another,  
if one has a grievance against another  
as the Lord has forgiven you, so must you also do.  
Above all these put on love,  
that is the bond of perfection.  
Colossians 3.12-14*

*Father 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. You may also worship 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 tri-parish community for the foreseeable future. Please check our website or Facebook page for more info and to register for Mass online.

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

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

**Thursday, Dec. 31** — 4PM New Year's Eve Mass—all worshippers welcome

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

**Sunday, Jan. 10** — Cycle 4 worshippers' last names Q- Z

**Sunday, Jan. 17** — Cycle 1 worshippers' last names A-D

**Sunday, Jan. 24** — Cycle 2 worshippers' last names E-K

**Sunday, Jan. 31** — Cycle 3 worshippers' last names L-P

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.

### 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.

#### 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 winter 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 WINTER 2020 SCHEDULE:

**Kindergarten through Grade 5:** Home study materials available — now on Christmas Break.

**Grades 6 through 9:** Monday nights, hybrid program  
12/28 Christmas Break

**Confirmation - Grade 10:** Monday nights 6:30 - 8pm via Zoom:  
12/28 Christmas Break



### WITH THANKS FROM THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS:

The Knights of Columbus wish the parishioners of St. James a very Blessed Christmas and thank all of you who contributed to our "sponsor a seminarian" program. We received over \$500 and were able to send seminarian Daniel Vallejo a check just in time for Christmas. Anyone who would still like to contribute for an Easter gift may do so by making your check payable to the Knights of Columbus #3466 and dropping it in the collection basket or sending it to PO Box 302, Ghent, NY 12075. Thank you!

## PARISH OUTREACH

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

#1. Happy New Year! **Blessings to all from St. James OutReach!**

#2. **The Annual Bedding Project will be underway in the Catholic Community of Northern Columbia County (CCNCC) during January and February.** Please consider donating gently-used comforters, blankets, linens, and towels to share a sense of warmth and well-being with others. The items will be distributed to families in our parishes as well as through the food pantries and Catholic Charities W.I.C. program.

#3. Appreciation is extended to all who supported our **Holiday Food Drive** in December to benefit the Chatham and Ghent food pantries. The amount collected will be reported when tabulated. Our Holiday Food Drive is conducted in Advent and Lent to benefit the pantries.

#4. **Suggested items when contributing to the food pantries** in January include **canned stews, soups, boxed quick breads (such as pumpkin and banana), tapioca and rice pudding in plastic containers, and laundry detergent** (always much needed). Thank you for your consideration.

#5. **Many thanks to the Columbia/Greene Humane Society (ASPCA) for sharing supplies from its pet food bank** during 2020 as in past years. St. James OutReach volunteers transport the supplies from the shelter in Greenport to the Chatham and Ghent food pantries for the patrons' pets. The January delivery will be made this week.

#6. **Hats off to those parishioners who contributed to the success of OutReach endeavors during the holiday season.** We were helped by volunteers who shopped for those in need using money donated to the church for that purpose, and by other parishioners who used their own money to fulfill wish lists. Support from the greater community was extraordinary as well with special reference to the Chatham Lions Club, Chatham Synagogue, Christ Our Emmanuel Lutheran Church, St. James Knights of Columbus, Whittier Complex, and several local businesses that wish to remain anonymous. It is truly a moving experience when associating with all these generous people.

#7. Calling all parishioners! **If you know of specific needs that OutReach may help to address among members of our parish or in our greater community, please let us know.** We are honored to assist if feasible.



*And it came to pass that on a cold winter's night, in the town of Bethlehem, in the humblest of circumstances, the Son of God was born in a manger. Thus God came to Earth and became man.*

### **Behold the Gift!**

*And the Son said that God loved all His creation and through His teachings and life showed that the Kingdom of God was open to all – sinners, the marginalized, lepers, tax collectors, gentiles; that all were included in God's salvation. He also reduced the existing law of the Jewish people to two simple propositions; that you should love your God with all your heart and soul, and that you should love your neighbor as yourself. This is the way to that salvation that God makes open to all.*

### **Receive the Gift!**

*And, in obedience to His Father's will in dying upon the cross for our sins, he asked God to forgive those who had condemned Him to death and forgave the thief who asked. He demonstrated no wrath, only the love that allowed Him to forgive. This is God's forgiveness, available to all, as shown by the Son. And in His resurrection, he conquered death and manifested God's promise of life after death. As the centurion said at the crucifixion of the Son, surely this is the Son of God.*

### **Accept the Gift!**

*And the gift is God's love for all of his creation. And we as members of the community of Christians, "Jesus assembled," are the spirit of the Son present on Earth. Take the gift, burnish it, and share it with all others. Let God's love be a part of all that you do, say and think. In this way the gift of God's love will spread; conquering hate, wrath, divisiveness, sin and all the other ills that beset us.*

### **Share the Gift!**

## 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

“The Wise Men from the East and the Flight Into Egypt.” In this chapter of his book, The Infancy Narratives, Jesus of Nazareth, Image, 2012, Pope Benedict continues his exegesis or interpretation of the story of the birth of Jesus.

[On who the Magi were:] “They could have been astronomers; but not everyone who could predict and observe the conjunction of the planets would have associated this with a king in Judah who held some significance for them... We know that from Tacitus and Suetonius that speculation was rife at the time that the ruler of the world would emerge from Judah...

“All kinds of factors could have combined to generate the idea that the language of the star contained a message of hope. But none of this would have prompted people to set off on a journey, unless they were people of inner unrest, people of hope, people on the lookout for the true star of salvation. The men of whom Matthew speaks were not just astronomers. They were ‘wise.’ They represent the inner dynamic of religion toward self-transcendence, which involves a search for truth, a search for the true God and hence ‘philosophy’ in the original sense of the word. Wisdom, then, serves to purify the message of ‘science’: the rationality of that message does not remain at the level of intellectual knowledge, but seeks understanding in its fullness, and so raises reason to its loftiest possibilities.

“While the prophetic content of these texts [Is. 1:3, Ps. 72:10 and Is. 60] expands the provenance of these figures to include the extreme west [east?], tradition has further developed this idea of universality by conceiving them as kings from all three known continents: Africa, Asia and Europe... [I]n the kingdom of Jesus Christ there are no distinctions of race and origin. In him and through him, humanity is united, yet without losing any of the richness of variety.

“Later the kings came to be associated with the phases of human life – youth, maturity, and old age. This too makes good sense, highlighting the fact that each of the various stages of human life finds its true meaning and its inner unity in companionship with Jesus.

“The key point is this: the wise men from the east are a new beginning. They represent the journeying of humanity toward Christ. They initiate a procession that continues throughout history. Not only do they represent the people who have found the way to Christ: they represent the inner aspirations of the human spirit, the dynamism of religions and human reason toward him/.” (pp. 95 – 97)

[In discussing the star, Pope Benedict writes:] “...[I]n the first instance, the star leads the wise men as far as Judah. It is quite natural that their search for the newborn king of the Jews should take them to Israel's royal city and to the king's palace. That, surely, is where the future king must have been born. Then they need the direction provided by Israel's sacred Scriptures – the words of the living God – in order to find the way once and for all to David's true heir.

“...[I]n the letters that he wrote from prison to the Ephesians and the Colossians, Paul emphasizes that the risen Christ has conquered all the powers and forces in the heavens, and that he reigns over the entire universe. The story of the wise men's star makes a similar point: it is not the star that determines the child's destiny, it is the child that directs the star... human nature assumed by God – as revealed in God's only-begotten Son – is greater than all the powers of the material world, greater than the entire universe.” (pp. 100 – 102)

“The star had evidently receded from view in Jerusalem. After their encounter with the words of Scripture, [‘And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the leading cities of Judah, for from you shall come a ruler (cf. Micah 5:1) who will govern my people Israel.’ (cf. 2 Sam 5:2)] it shone for the wise men once more. Creation, interpreted by the Scriptures speaks to humanity again... ‘When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy’ (Mt 2:10). It is the joy of one whose heart has received a ray of God's light and who can now see that his hope has been realized – of one who has found what he sought, and has himself been found.

“‘Going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him’ (Mt. 2:11)... (p. 105 – 106)

[With respect to the flight of the Holy Family to Egypt and subsequent return, Pope Benedict says:] “For the evangelist, the history of Israel begins afresh when Jesus returns from Egypt to the Holy Land. Israel's first homecoming from the land of Egypt had in many respects been a failure. Hosea tells us that in response to the father's call, the ‘son’ [people of Israel] ran away... This running away from the call to liberation leads to a new form of slavery... Israel constantly finds itself back in Egypt...

“With the flight into Egypt and the return to the promised land, Jesus grants the definitive Exodus. He is truly the Son. He is not going to run away from the Father. He returns home, and he leads others home. He is always on the path towards God and thus he leads the way back from exile to the homeland, back to all that is authentic and true. Jesus, the true Son, himself went into ‘exile’ in a very deep sense, in order to lead all of us home from exile.” (pp. 111 – 112).



*The Adoration of the Magi, 1619 by Diego Velázquez.  
The Prado Museum*

## ST. JAMES PRAYER REQUESTS

### Please keep these individuals in your prayers:

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

### Also, please pray for the recently deceased and the consolation 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. 27:** **John Dunne** by Betty & John Sundstrom  
**Philip Ilardo** by Rosemary Calvey  
**Myrtle & Russell Mulford** by Treacy & Tony Terracciano

**Sunday, Jan. 3:** **Michael Patrick Bowler** by Carol & Jack Corrigan  
**John Dunne** by Emma & Jack Yurish  
**Mary Ann O'Gara** by Pat Dieffenbach

## 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.

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

## NEW YEARS AT ST. JAMES CHURCH

Here is the schedule for New Year's Masses for our tri-parish community. **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 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

## A NEW YEAR'S BLESSING WITH FR. GEORGE BY ZOOM

Come help us say GOODBYE to 2020 and pray for a blessed 2021 on New Year's Eve with Fr. George!

We'll be gathering briefly online and by phone at 7PM ... here's how to join either by computer, or simply by dialing in on your phone (you don't need a computer to listen in). Let's count our blessings for this past year, and pray for each other and our world as we ring in the New.

Join Zoom Meeting on computer/tablet/smartphone:  
[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89191745866?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89191745866?pwd=Zm1FeWdyazlsZjdlamFRN3p2VkI5QT09)  
pwd=Zm1FeWdyazlsZjdlamFRN3p2VkI5QT09  
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