



ST. JAMES
ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

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 12th and 13th, 2014*

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
January 17, 2021

Furthermore with Fr. George:

*John was standing with two of his disciples,
and as he watched Jesus walk by, he said,
“Behold, the Lamb of God.”*

*The two disciples heard what he said and followed Jesus.
Jesus turned and saw them following him and said to them,
“What are you looking for?”
They said to him, “Rabbi”—which translated means Teacher—
“where are you staying?”
He said to them, “Come, and you will see.”
John 1.35-39a*

In this week's Gospel, John reveals to us the calling forth of the disciples and particularly those we identify as Apostles. The disciples are asked a question we often ask ourselves, "What are you looking for?" At times in our lives this can be an intriguing, perhaps exciting, question to ponder and at others, particular during changes not necessarily of our making, it can be weighed down in stress and fear. What are you looking for? In the case of the disciples, they don't come up with an immediate reply but with a question, "Where are you staying?" This response shows they are uncertain but desire to be in Jesus' presence and be close to him.

There are many times when we just need the closeness of Jesus and the community of disciples to be with us, not necessarily have all the answers. I write these words when, by the time you read this, cases of positive coronavirus cases will exceed 25 million and the President of the United States will have been impeached. I find myself overwhelmed with emotion over our pandemic and our country's political unrest, while also grappling with my personal news. Being reassigned was something I knew would one day come but I feel unprepared to deal with the consequences.

Although the last weeks have been difficult, the outpouring of support has filled my heart with gratitude. I was so preoccupied by my personal situation, however, that I did not grasp the full severity and scope of the attack on the nation's Capitol until Sunday, when I found time to watch the news. Watching the proceedings during which Congress was called back to order felt surreal, especially following so many violent images at the Capitol that have aired in recent days. The horror of those images, however, was tempered by the witness that Congress indeed resumed its business. The bloodshed and violence eventually did come under control thanks to yet another group of heroic first responders who answered their call to duty.

The desire to get back to order, especially amid chaos and uncertainty, is something to which all of us can relate. We call this liturgical season "Ordinary" because God places everything in order as we journey together. As we continue to pray for one another, let us look for ways in which we can put ourselves more safely in Christ's presence – back in order – to calm the storms that threaten us. John's Gospel this week ends with Andrew, revealed as one of the first two disciples, introducing his brother to Jesus. Jesus immediately identifies Simon as Cephas, the Rock.

In the midst of all that is going on, I want to thank my parish families for being my rock. Your strength even when facing personal or communal difficulties has inspired me. My prayer for myself is that, like John, I can let go and point in the direction of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is in God's presence that we find what we are truly looking for. God bless you and thank you!

Father George

PARISH INFORMATION

SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE

Celebration of the Eucharist:

To ensure safe worship together, we are welcoming up to 80 worshipers to 9AM Sunday Mass by last name, alphabetical order. You may also worship with us online at 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.

January 2021 Mass Schedule:

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

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

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

Please call our parish office at (518) 392-4991 or send an e-mail to 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.

CONFESIONS

Please call the office at 392-4991 or email our office at 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

Music Director: Justine Rodriguez

Phone: (518) 986-9800

E-mail: 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

Do you have an item for publication in our St. James bulletin?

Please send it via e-mail to: stjofficeassistant@gmail.com

Please submit items by Tuesday at 2pm

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

FAITH FORMATION WINTER 2021 SCHEDULE:

Kindergarten through Grade 5: Home study materials available.

Grades 6 through 9: Monday nights, hybrid program

1/18 Module 6—home study

1/25 Zoom Module 6 review

Confirmation - Grade 10: Monday nights 6:30 - 8pm

1/18 MLK Day—no class

1/25 Zoom Class 6:30—8pm

INTERESTED IN JOINING OUR PARISH?

Are you interested in making St. James your spiritual home? Or just want to learn more about our community? Fill out the form below and drop it in the collection basket or email us at sjofficeassistant@gmail.com. All are welcome!

Name _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

I'm interested in the following ministries/activities:

PARISH OUTREACH

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

#1. The Annual Bedding Project is underway in the Catholic Community of Northern Columbia County (CCNCC). Please consider donating gently-used comforters, blankets, linens, and towels to share a sense of warmth and well-being with others. These items will be distributed to families in our parishes as well as through the food pantries and Catholic Charities W.I.C. program. All items that arrive this week will be offered to the Chatham food pantry.

#2. As mentioned previously, **OutReach is exploring the possibility of expanding one of our OutReach endeavors** such that it would be conducted diocese-wide eventually (while starting in our local northern Columbia community). If this idea comes to fruition, the collection of non-food items (i.e., paper goods, laundry detergent and dryer sheets, and healthcare products) for distribution to local food pantries would be the most likely project to advance initially. This effort will be our main thrust this spring. We will keep you posted.

#3. Please note: **Anyone who lost income or is experiencing reduced income due to the pandemic is welcome to call the Catholic Charities Office in Hudson at (518) 828-8660 if assistance is needed for rent, food, or heating concerns.**

#4. Catholic Charities of Columbia-Greene reports that all checks have not as yet arrived from restaurants that participated in the 6th annual "**Dining Out For Others**" fundraiser in November, 2020 in support of the Emergency Assistance Fund. The total amount raised will be reported in this column when tabulated.

#5. A handicapped gentleman, who resides in the Village of Chatham, needs a free-standing (on the floor) kitchen cabinet with shelves for storage. A separate appeal for diapers for a newborn baby in the migrant community was received this week as well. If you can help with either of these requests, please call OutReach at 518-929-4369. Thank you.

#6. Chatham Village Auto, 59 Church St., Chatham is willing to accept books (paperback or hardcover for adults) for use by their patrons while their vehicles are serviced. Interested patrons may keep the books when they leave. If you have books to share, please drop them off at the shop.

#7. Gardeners: When ordering seeds from catalog this winter to plant in your garden this spring, **please consider ordering enough to plant an extra row of vegetables for patrons of the local food pantries.** At harvest your generosity will be much appreciated.

MESSAGE FROM MICKEY

*Mickey Dennis is a St. James Church Trustee and Chair of the St. James Church Reopening Committee.
She shares this update and advice on safe worship at St. James:*

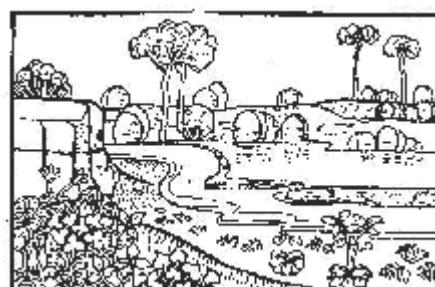
Worshiping safely during the post-holiday surge

We are all aware that COVID-19 cases are up in our area, and expect the post-holiday surge to continue through the coming weeks. St. James Church is committed to following safe worship protocols closely, including masking, social distancing, and sanitizing. We also pray for the arrival of vaccines for our community which will further protect our loved ones.

Some churches have had to suspend public worship because of outbreaks. St. James has been fortunate so far, and we will continue to follow state, local and diocesan guidelines so that we can stay open for safe worship. Here are ways you can help:

- **Please register online or by phone early, so we can contact you in the event that we need to cancel Mass for any reason.**
- **Please stay at home if you are concerned about your health or the health of anyone in your household, and stay at home if you feel symptomatic or even a little "under the weather."** Use your discretion if you are in a high-risk group when deciding to come to Mass.
- **If you do come to church, please continue to wear a mask and refrain from socializing in church.** Studies have shown that masks are highly effective at keeping people safe. Their proper use respects the lives of fellow worshipers. Please move through the gathering space to your pew directly, wait quietly and at a safe distance when waiting for your usher to seat you, and **don't "pew hop" to visit with friends** before Mass. We know this is difficult, but we love being able to worship together, but out of respect for your faith family's safety, we urge you to follow our public worship guidelines.

Remember that St. James will continue to offer online Masses weekly for the foreseeable future, since the obligation to attend Mass in person has been suspended. Please call or email our office if you have any questions or concerns, and thank you for your continued cooperation!



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

In the book, A World of Prayer, Edited by Rosalinda Bradley, Orbis Books. 2012, spiritual leaders, activists and humanitarians share their favorite prayers. These include Christians, both Protestant and Catholic, Jews, Muslims, Buddhists, Hindus, Taoists and others. This week, we offer a few for prayer and contemplation:

— — — — —

Heavenly King, Comforter, Spirit of Truth,
Present everywhere and filling all things,
Treasury of blessings and giver of life,
Come and abide in us,
And cleanse our hearts of every impurity,
And save our souls,
For you are good and love all people.

- The prayer recited at the beginning of every formal service in the Orthodox Church

— — — — —

May the Spirit of Silence open our hearts to
God's transforming love;
May the Spirit of Compassion help us to feel for
the sufferings of others;
May the Spirit of Love melt the cold hearts of those
who trample on human rights;
May the Spirit of Beauty teach us to treasure Mother Earth;
May the Spirit of Wisdom help us to learn from
spiritual leaders of every faith;
May the Spirit of Patience and Endurance
strengthen the oppressed;
May the Spirit of Courage strengthen those who
speak for those whose voice is never heard;
May the Spirit of Nonviolence bring healing,
peace and justice to those who live in countries
torn apart by conflict;
May the Spirit of Unity help us to welcome people of
every country and creed as brothers and sisters.

- Dr. Marcus Braybrooke

— — — — —

I bow to the one who signs the cross,
I bow to the one who sits with the Buddha.
I bow to the one who wails at the wall,
I bow to the OM flowing in the Ganges.
I bow to the one who faces Mecca, whose forehead touches
holy ground.
I bow to dervishes whirling in mystical wind.
I bow to the north,
 to the south,
 to the east,
 to the west.
I bow to the God within each heart.
I bow to epiphany, to God's face revealed.
I bow, I bow, I bow.

- Sr. Mary Lou Kownacki, OSB

Dear Jesus
Help me spread Your fragrance everywhere I go.
Flood my soul with Your spirit and life.
Penetrate and possess my whole being so utterly that
 all my life may only be a radiance of Yours.
Shine through me and be so in me that every soul I come in
 contact with may feel Your presence in my soul.
Let them look up and see no longer me but only Jesus!
Stay with me and then I shall begin to shine as You shine;
 so to shine as to be a light to others;
The light, O JESUS, will be all from You;
 none of it will be mine:
It will be You shining on others through me.
Let me thus praise You in the way You love best:
 by shining on those around me.
Let me preach You without preaching,
 not by words, but by example.
 by catching force,
 the sympathetic influence of what I do,
 the evident fullness of the love my heart bears for You.
Amen.

- Cardinal John Henry Newman

— — — — —

Do not try to save
the whole world
or do anything grandiose.
Instead, create
a clearing
in the dense forest
of your life
and wait there
patiently,
until the song
that is yours alone to sing
falls into your open cupped hands
and you recognize and greet it.
Only then will you know
how to give yourself
to the world
so worthy of rescue.

- Martha Postlethwaite

— — — — —

Heavenly Father, open our hearts to the silent presence of the
 spirit of your Son.
Lead us into that mysterious silence where your love is
 revealed to all who call – Marantha.
Come Lord Jesus.

- John Main

— — — — —

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,
Heather, Barbara Laspada, Richard Leggitt, Courtney Powell,
Gerry Rehagen, Anthony Roberts, Deacon Paul Roemer, Sr.,
Joseph Sikoskie, Kyle Stickles, Corinne Summers, Amy Takayoshi,
Betsey Whitbeck, Lauren Wrigley, Jack and Emma Yurish*

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

Br. Ed Boyer, 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,
Laurajean 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 Zwyciewicz*

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

MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, Jan. 17: **Irene Ansmann** by Peg Wilhelm
Ellen Bracken Lynch by Carol & Jack Corrigan
Dottie Matsen by Marilyn Martin
Julius Rutschmann by Stephen Gitto

Sunday, Jan. 24: **Paul and Nancy Donnellan** by their family
John Dunne by Pat Dieffenbach
Hermann Sigrist by Sara Cashen & Tony Muoser

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

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.

YEAR-END GIVING STATEMENTS

Please email Beth Lenahan at sjofficeassistant@gmail.com if you need a statement of your 2020 offerings for tax preparation. Thank you for your generosity!

FR. GEORGE'S NEWS



Last weekend, Fr. George announced the news that he is being assigned to a new parish, Corpus Christi Church, in Round Lake (Saratoga County). He also recorded a brief and moving video that you can view on our YouTube, Facebook and parish web page (www.stjameschatham.org) that explains this recent development.

This is sad and unexpected news for many of his parishioners and dear friends. We have been blessed that Fr. George has led our three parishes for 6 1/2 years, at a time when Diocese of Albany assignments typically last for 6. He will continue to serve as our pastor until January 31, 2021, and will begin his new ministry in time for weekend Masses on February 13-14.

Please stay tuned for more updates and information on his new assignment, who will succeed him, and how to keep in touch. We will have more details in the coming days and promise to share them with you.

We give thanks to and pray for Fr. George as he begins his new assignment and pray for each of our parish communities as we journey together in love and faith.

Do you have questions? Please contact our office at sjofficeassistant@gmail.com or (518) 392-4991 and we will route you to the right contact to answer any question or concern you might have. Debbie Halpin, our Pastoral Associate for Administration and Business Manager, will be our main tri-parish administrative contact with the Diocese, and Fr. George will continue to update us on the succession plans as they develop. Please feel free to connect with our Trustees, Mickey Dennis and Jack Yurish, as well as any of our Pastoral Council members listed in this bulletin if you'd like to learn more.





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