



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*

## **Third Sunday in Ordinary Time January 24, 2021**

Furthermore with Fr. George:

*The word of the Lord came to Jonah, saying:  
"Set out for the great city of Nineveh,  
and announce to it the message that I will tell you."*

*So Jonah made ready and went to Nineveh,  
according to the Lord's bidding.*

*Jonah 3:1-5*

Today's Gospel gives Mark's account of calling of the disciples, starting with two sets of brothers Andrew and Simon (soon to be called Peter) followed by James and John, Zebedee's sons. But I am beginning with a reference to the first reading from the Book of Jonah because it is remarkable in many ways. Taken out of context, this is a beautiful story of a dutiful prophet who successfully reached out to a city of 120,000 diverse people, all repenting and turning to a God that was not their own. I remembering listening with my mother, "The rest of the story" with Paul Harvey. Perhaps it would be important to reflect on the rest of the story.

Most of us remember the story of Jonah and the whale but it is easy to forget what placed Jonah there. When the God of Israel called upon the prophet to preach repentance to the people of Nineveh, Jonah refused and went the other way, toward Tarshish on a boat. In one of the first instances of a parent putting a rebellious child in "time out," God has a whale swallow him up where he will spend three days repenting and agreeing to preach to a people that were his sworn enemies and a threat to his own life. The people hear that their time is coming to an end and they miraculously repent and are saved.

Jonah does not see his work on behalf of God as a success. So filled with hate and his own sense of justice, he expects the

people not to be spared but destroyed. He will have to go off by himself and not find peace until he asks God for forgiveness and changes his mindset.

The first apostles are called forward, two by two, and they may share the same mindset, but perhaps not. How many brothers always agree with one another? The first four may be fisherman but they will be challenged and balanced by the next eight who have radically different backgrounds and most likely different points of view, one in particular. Like the people of Nineveh, they are being told that life as they knew it was ending. The Kingdom of God is at hand!

As disciples all of us are called to follow Jesus in a spirit of repentance that always allows our hearts and minds to receive the compassion and grace that heals and restores us. Our journeys are not always easy but they are always worthwhile. May God bring you forward and may we always be by each other, side by side, in prayer and support.

As I feel the call of God to journey forward in a new direction, please know you are always going to be in my heart. I look forward to returning frequently and staying in touch. By next week, we will be releasing more information which is meant to reassure everyone for a smooth and thoughtful transition for all of us. God bless you all!

*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.

#### **January 2021 Mass Schedule:**

**Sunday, Jan. 24** — Public Mass suspended

**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

*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*

## 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 2021 SCHEDULE:**

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

**Grades 6 through 9:** Monday nights, hybrid program

1/25 Zoom Module 6 review

2/1 Module 7 Home Lesson

2/8 Module 7 Review—by Zoom

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

1/25 Zoom Class 6:30—8pm

2/1 Zoom Class 6:30—8pm

2/8 Zoom Class 6:30—8pm



## MORNING BOOK CLUB

### WINTER BOOK LIST

Get a jump on your Book Club reading this winter, now that the Morning Book Club has suspended its regular meetings until the spring. The following books have been selected for future discussion:

*Ask Again, Yes*

by Mary Beth Keane

*Nickel Boys*

by Colson Whitehead

*The Ninth Hour*

by Alice McDermott

Please call Dee Winkler at (518) 392-2297 for more information. We will announce the next meeting in the bulletin and online in early spring.

## 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) 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. These items will be distributed to families in our parishes as well as through the food pantries and Catholic Charities' W.I.C. program. Each weekend a specific site is designated for sharing the goods. This weekend all items offered will be given to the Chatham food pantry for their clients. Please call the OutReach number to arrange delivery of donated items.

#2. Mr. Ron Perez, manager of the Columbia-Greene Humane Society/SPCA, advises that a large number of cats and rabbits (along with a domestic rat!) are available for adoption at the shelter. Also, anyone in need of cat or dog food for their pets is welcome to avail themselves of the shelter's supply from 11:30 AM-4PM daily (seven days a week).

#3. OutReach accepts used clothing in good condition in all sizes for men, women, and children. This service has been provided with local distribution for many years. Please note: Warm coats in particular and warm clothes in general are especially welcome during these winter months. If you have clothes to give away, please call OutReach at 518-929-4369 to arrange to share them.

#4. During the past twenty years virtually every item associated with a home has been transacted through our "Exchange" Program. All transactions are confidential and at no cost. Last week a bedroom dresser was given away to a family of social-work clients. This week OutReach is working to place a loveseat, two floor lamps, a wrought iron table with glass top and four chairs for indoor or outdoor use, small rugs, and two flat screen televisions prior to the arrival of the movers on January 27. We are looking for a floor-based kitchen cabinet for a handicapped gentleman. Please call the OutReach number if you can help.

#5. Appreciation is extended to the parishioner who assisted a large, extended family in its time of need after the holidays. Additionally, OutReach researched information for a parishioner to pursue a project that may benefit the greater community. Every so often, OutReach is called upon to help in extraordinary ways. We do what we can.

#6. A family in the migrant community is in need of diapers for a newborn baby. If anyone can help, please let us know. The families are always grateful for your generosity.

#7. As time goes by, look in this column for information pertaining to a variety of interesting topics presented by the Chatham Public Library online. The presentations are always informative and not to be missed!

## A PARISHIONER'S PRAYER

A parishioner offered this timely and beautiful prayer in a time of pandemic. Please join us as we pray:

*Almighty and merciful God,  
Source of all life, health and healing,  
Look with compassion on our world,  
Brought low by disease;  
Protect us in the midst of  
The grave challenges that assail us  
And in your fatherly providence  
Grant recovery to the stricken,  
strength to those who care for them,  
And success to those working  
to eradicate this scourge.  
Through Christ or Lord.  
Amen*



*As he passed by the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting their nets into the sea; they were fishermen. Jesus said to them, "Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men." Mk 1:16-7*

### SUNDAY READINGS

**3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time / January 24, 2021**

**First Reading:**

When God saw by their actions how they turned from their evil way,  
he repented of the evil that he had threatened to do to them;  
he did not carry it out. (Jon 3:10)

**Psalm:**

Teach me your ways, O Lord. (Ps 25)

**Second Reading:**

For the world in its present form is passing away. (1 Cor 7:31)

**Gospel:**

The kingdom of God is at hand.  
Repent, and believe in the gospel. (Mk 1:15)

# 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 a series of Daily Meditations spanning from December 31, 2020 until January 5, 2021, which can be found at [Meditations@cac.org](mailto:Meditations@cac.org), Fr. Richard Rohr writes:

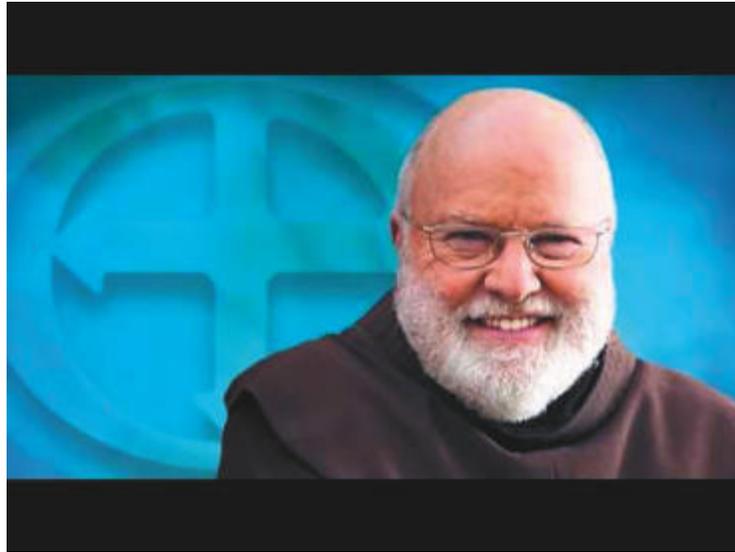
“The future, however, is finer than any past. —Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, *The Making of a Mind* “

“If you are anything like me, there is some part of you that was relieved to turn the calendar over to 2021. The new year puts at least some symbolic distance between ourselves and 2020, a year that brought so much chaos, heartbreak, and uncertainty to so many people throughout the world...

“The beginning of the new year seems like a good time to pause, 'pull back the veil,' and ask, 'Where is this all going? What is the end goal for all of us, and—for that matter—for the cosmos itself?' Is our 'late, great planet Earth' really headed toward Armageddon?...

“No matter what is going on around us, it’s important to remember that God keeps transforming creation into something both good and new. Instead of hurtling us towards catastrophe, God always wants to bring us somewhere even better. A helpful word here is 'evolution.' God keeps creating things from the inside out, so they are forever yearning, developing, growing, and changing for the good. That might be hard to see sometimes in the moment, but it’s nevertheless true.

“While more and more people seem to believe that that the universe has no form, direction, or final purpose, as Christians, we can be confident that the final goal does have shape and meaning. The biblical symbol of the Universal and Eternal Christ (Alpha and Omega) stands at both ends of cosmic time. This assures us that the clear and full trajectory of the world we know is an unfolding of consciousness with 'all creation groaning in this one great act of giving birth' (Romans 8:22)...



*Richard Rohr, OFM, is an American author, spiritual writer, and Franciscan friar based in Albuquerque, New Mexico. He was ordained to the priesthood in the Roman Catholic Church in 1970.*

“Healthy religion gives us a foundational sense of awe. It re-enchants an otherwise empty universe. It gives people a universal reverence toward all things. Only with such reverence do we find confidence and coherence. Only

then does the world become a safe home. Then we can see the reflection of the divine image in the human, in the animal, in the entire natural world—which has now become inherently 'supernatural.'...

“... What we experience when people have really met God is that there is no fear of the present because it is always full. There’s no fear of the future because a loving God is in charge. There’s no fear of the past because it has been healed and forgiven. Then people do not use God to avoid reality or to

fabricate a private, self-serving reality. They let God lead them into the fullness of Reality; not away from dilemmas and paradoxes, but right onto the horns of the human dilemma!

“Whatever reconstruction we’re going to do cannot be based on fear or on reaction. *It has to be based on a positive and fully human experience of God as a loving Presence.* True religion is ready to let God be God, and to let God lead us into a new future that we do not yet understand—and no longer even need to understand.’

He quotes the following from Thomas Keating “... God’s top priority is the creation of a world in which the goods of the earth are equitably distributed, where no one is forgotten or left out, and where no one can rest until everyone has enough to eat, the oppressed have been liberated, and justice and peace are the norm among the nations and religions of the world. Until then, even the joy of transforming union is incomplete. The commitment to the spiritual journey is not a commitment to pure joy, but to taking responsibility for the whole human family, its needs and destiny. We are not our own; we belong to everyone else.”

## 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 Leggett, Courtney Powell,  
Gerry Rehagen, Anthony Roberts, Deacon Paul Roemer, Sr.,  
Joseph Sikoskie, Kyle Stickles, Corinne Summers, Amy Takayoshi,  
Betsy 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,  
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, Jan. 24:** **Paul and Nancy Donnellan** by their family  
**John Dunne** by Pat Dieffenbach  
**Hermann Sigrist** by Sara Cashen & Tony Muoser

**Sunday, Jan. 31:** **John Dunne** by Kathy & Nick Biggs  
**Dan Flynn** (birthday remembrance) by Elaine Flynn  
**Pete Manfredi** by Stacy Wallace  
**Eugenia Daisy Melino** by Peg Wilhelm

## 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 worshippers 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](mailto:sjofficeassistant@gmail.com) if you need a statement of your 2020 offerings for tax preparation. Thank you for your generosity!

## FR. GEORGE'S NEWS



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](http://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 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](mailto:sjofficeassistant@gmail.com) or (518) 392-4991 and we will route you to the right contact. 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 have any questions or concerns.

*If you would like to send Fr. George a note or gift in thanks for his pastoral care to the St. James Church faith family, please send it to his attention to our parish office:*

St. James Church  
129 Hudson Ave.  
Chatham, NY 12037

*Many have asked about how to make monetary gifts to Fr. George. The best way is to make a check payable to Fr. George Fleming (not St. James Church) and send it with a card to our parish office. We will make sure he sees every note!*

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