

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

**Rev. Kyle Eads & Deacon Andy Grebe, Interim Parish Team**

**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*

## Fourth Sunday in Lent March 14, 2021

### A Lenten Reflection:

Is there something to Lent that goes beyond our own spiritual house cleaning and spiritual refinement? Yes, there is! It has to do with listening and learning so that we can take up the task of the Gospel with greater clarity and fortitude. While the spiritual refocusing of Lent is necessary, the fruit of this Lenten conversion has much more to do with learning how we can be a better Church than it does about our eternal salvation. Salvation is a gift that flows out of God's unconditional Mercy and cannot be merited. The spiritual maturity we can experience as a result of our Lenten disciplines serves to reduce the anxiety and apprehension we may experience as messengers of good, but very challenging, and unsettling, news.

St. Oscar Romero said that, "a church that doesn't provoke any crises, a gospel that doesn't unsettle, a word of God that doesn't get under anyone's skin, a word of God that doesn't touch the real sin of the society in which it is being proclaimed, what gospel is that?" When we listen to those descriptive and provocative words, do they resonate with anything in our experience? As messengers of the Gospel, we are called to bring an unsettling message to the world. If our main concern is protecting our self-interests, then we are missing something huge! Many really struggle with being rejected, dismissed, or perceived as someone who is speaking out of turn. There is a counter cultural message that must be

preached that clearly sides with the poor, marginalized, victimized, oppressed, neglected, disregarded, and lost souls throughout the world. There is a widespread misery among the peoples that is all too often allowed to fester with no one coming forward to offer a change or resolution.



**Pope Francis** @Pontifex · 1d  
**#Lent is a journey that involves our whole life, our entire being. It is a time to reconsider the path we are taking, to find the route that leads us home and to rediscover our profound relationship with God, on whom everything depends.**

540 3,770 22.8K

*Pope Francis on Twitter, March 9, 2021*

The Church can speak to the needed structural changes that will allow people to earn just wages, feed their families and share abundantly and equally in the gifts of God's good earth. Such a vision is not some optimistic fairy tale, but the vision of the Creator himself. Lent reminds us, as St. Oscar Romero also

states, that, "we are workers, not master builder, ministers, not messiahs. We are prophets of a future not our own." We are not called to labor simply for the benefit of the here and now but of the "what is to come." Our myopic vision can be replaced by a more far reaching Lenten vision that is much greater and deeper in scope. As long as we are carrying the right blueprints with us and our thoughts extend beyond ourselves, then even the little things we do and the simplest prayer we utter go a long way. They give witness to our preference for the light of Christ and not the darkness of error and sin.

## 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.

#### **March 2021 Mass Schedule:**

**Sunday, Mar. 14** — Cycle 1 worshippers' last names A-D

**Sunday, Mar. 21** — Cycle 2 worshippers' last names E-K

**Sunday, Mar. 28** — Palm Sunday; all worshippers welcome!

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.

### INTERIM PARISH TEAM

Deacon Andy Grebe

**Phone:** (518) 275-9148 **E-mail:** [andrew.grebe@rcda.org](mailto:andrew.grebe@rcda.org)

Rev. Kyle Eads

### 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

### 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 CHURCH ADVISORS:

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  
3/15 Module 9 Review—Zoom Session  
3/22 Module 10—Home Lesson  
3/29 Module 10 Review—Zoom Session

**Confirmation - Grade 10:** Monday nights 6:30 - 8pm  
3/15 Zoom Class 6:30—8pm  
3/22 Zoom Class 6:30—8pm  
3/29 Zoom Class 6:30—8pm

## Second Collection This Week: Catholic Relief Services

This week we take up The Catholic Relief Services Collection to help **Jesus in disguise**. This collection helps six Catholic agencies to provide relief and support for struggling communities and to work for peace and reconciliation among our marginalized brothers and sisters

here and around the world. Please prayerfully consider how you can support the collection. Learn more about the collection at [www.usccb.org/catholic-relief](http://www.usccb.org/catholic-relief). **You can also donate securely online at our parish website:** <https://www.osvhub.com/st-james-chatham/funds/catholic-relief-services>



## ASK DEACON ANDY



Deacon Andy Grebe, recently appointed to our Interim Transition team (along with Fr. Kyle Eads) introduces himself to our tri-parish community and shares insight into what's ahead for our Northern Columbia County faith family:

### 1. Please tell us about yourself!

**Where's home for you? Can you tell us about your family?** I currently live in Ballston Lake, Saratoga County, in a home that we purchased 4 ½ years ago when it was time to downsize as our children grew up. Before moving to Ballston Lake, we spent 16 years in Clifton Park, and before that, we lived on Long Island. My wife and I have three grown children.

**What kind of career did you have before becoming a deacon?** While we were raising our children, I worked in several different industries, banking, commercial finance, sales, education; always in a management role where I could use my experience and education to guide and improve workflow.

**How does your life experience and secular career help you in your vocation?** Because my life has always included the church, my life experience, secular career, and faith have always been intertwined. It is through my life experiences that the Holy Spirit has guided me in times of need, crisis, and care for others. The Holy Spirit never lets me down.

### 2. Tell us a little more about your vocation.

**When did you become a deacon?** I was ordained to the diaconate on May 25, 2013.

**What called you to that vocation?** My vocation story has two parts. I was raised in a family of 5 children, by my very Catholic (pre-Vatican II) mother and my Lutheran father. Growing up, mom taught my siblings and me about religion. We knew the rules, and what mom always believed the consequences of not following the rules would be. On the other hand, Dad taught us faith, about having a relationship with God, and that not always being perfect didn't mean eternal damnation. They provided us with a solid foundation in faith.

Then my son, probably 8 or 9, asked me if he could become an Altar Server. I took him to the church to meet with the person who trained the Altar Servers, and while I was waiting, the pastor came out of his office and said, "Hello Andy." I was shocked that he knew that I was a parishioner, never mind knowing my name. That brief encounter led to a friendship that allowed me to ask questions that lead to a deepening faith and eventually to an adult faith formation program that ultimately led to my ordination to the diaconate.

**What role do you serve in the Diocese and how did you choose that path?** At the moment, my liturgical assignment is at St. Mary's Church, Crescent (Waterford, NY), where I have been for the past six years. At St. Mary's, I serve at Mass, train and work with altar servers, lead the RCIA program, and do whatever our pastor, Fr. Joe Cebula, asks me to do. I have also served as an Interim Parish Administrator for the past several years. I wouldn't say that I have chosen my path as much as it has chosen me. I firmly believe that God, through the Bishop, has moved me from place to place to meet a need that existed in that community.

### 3. What's your mission at the Catholic Communities of Northern Columbia County (CCNCC)?

**Who tapped you to take on this transition project?** Deacon Frank Berning, Director of the Office of Pastoral Planning for the Diocese, asked me to be the Interim Administrator for CCNCC when Fr. George moved to Corpus Christi in Round Lake.

**What's your objective in the transition? How will you work with the parish leaders to accomplish that task?** My objectives in this role are two-fold. First, I will work closely with the trustees, finance committees, and members of the three parishes that make up CCNCC to build on the one community model that began in northern Columbia County some six years ago. My goal is to start or continue the process of consolidating operations across the three parishes so that when a new pastor is assigned, the hard work of change is at least in process.

Second, I will prepare an assessment of the communities of northern Columbia County for the Office of Pastoral Planning and the bishop to assist in the discernment process for a new pastor's appointment.

### 4. How will you be available to us as a faith family?

**Are you basing yourself here during the transition, or commuting here certain days?** Although I will not be living at any of the churches in the community, I will do my best to make myself available for the people of the community.

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**Can we reach out to you in person or by phone if we have questions or need advice?** I will be available to the communities by phone, text, or email and will do my best to be in Columbia County when a need arises. My phone number is (518) 275-9148 and my email is [andrew.grebe@rcda.org](mailto:andrew.grebe@rcda.org)

**Will you be joining us for services or meetings regularly, either in person or virtually?**

Because of my liturgical assignment at St. Mary's, I will need to work with Fr. Joe so that I can be in Columbia County for at least some weekend liturgies. However, that will not be possible until after Easter.

**What can we expect the process and timing will be to get a new, permanent pastor assigned to us?**

**How long will it take us to get a new pastor?** Unfortunately, I have no information on how long it will be before a new pastor is assigned.

**What changes do you see making before a new pastor arrives? Are there aspects of our operation or worship that will be centralized?**

**Are you planning on eliminating staffing/churches/Masses?** As I have only been in Columbia County as the interim administrator for one month, the only thing that I know needs to be done is to improve or initiate the churches' ability to live-stream Masses. Besides gathering information and proposals for the trustees and finance committees to review concerning live-streaming, I do not have any other specific changes in mind, but I will be reviewing operations and Mass schedules, none of which will be changed without review by the trustees and Pastoral Planning.

#### **5. Please speak to issues relating to sacraments and worship in our community:**

**Who do we contact when a parishioner needs a priest for the sacraments (confession, anointing, funerals, baptisms, weddings)?**

**What should we do if someone needs pastoral care, hospital visits, etc.?** Questions regarding sacramental issues or if anyone knows of a parishioner in need of a sacrament, please contact the office or reach out to me.

**Masses: what changes do you see in our Mass schedules? How will online Masses operate in the future? Do you see them continuing after the pandemic eases?**

As we look at the situation that currently exists in the Diocese of Albany, where we have 67 active priests and 127 parishes (not including parishes with multiple worship sites), we will need to look at Mass schedules that will make it feasible for one priest to preside at masses in multiple locations, especially on the weekends. Although we are blessed to have several retired priests able and willing to assist

on the weekends planning for them to preside over the long term is not a viable solution. In the near future, we will need to begin the work of developing a schedule that one priest can do across the three parishes, but at this point, the only Mass schedule change that is planned is the elimination of the Saturday, 5:30 PM Mass at St. James and the Sunday, 10:30 AM Mass at St. John's both of which have been suspended since the beginning of COVID restrictions.

**Will we be returning to daily Masses anytime soon?** There has not been any discussion about the resumption of daily Masses at this time. I anticipate that daily Masses will likely not resume until after a pastor is named and can assess the need in light of his other obligations and commitments.

**If you have any questions or need to get in touch for advice, please reach out to Deacon Andy Grebe:**

**Phone/Text:** (518) 275-9148

**Email:** [andrew.grebe@rcda.org](mailto:andrew.grebe@rcda.org)

## PARISH OUTREACH

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

#1. The Lenten Easter Food Drive is underway through April 4th to help the Chatham and Ghent food pantries. Contributions marked "Food Drive" may be placed in the collection basket. For on-line giving visit [www.stjameschatham.org](http://www.stjameschatham.org). Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

#2. "Human Interest" story from Catholic Charities of Columbia-Greene Counties: "We have a pregnant mom who was due in February. Due to complications she had to have bed rest for a couple of months which resulted in her being behind in rent. Catholic Charities was able to help with rent payments."-- Courtesy of Theresa Lux, Executive Director, Catholic Charities of Columbia/Greene.

#3. OutReach volunteers are on-call for anyone who needs rides to local appointments (medical, etc.). Approximately twenty rides are given each year. Additional drivers are most welcome. If you need a ride, please call the OutReach number, (518) 929-4369, with as much advance notice as possible.

#4. To St. James parishioners from Mary Kline, Director of Education, BOCES: "Thank you for your assistance to our migrant families. The Christmas gifts and gift cards that were provided and your assistance to our families made their holidays so much better. Thanks again for your on-going support." And, from another family: "You eased our anxiety with your lovely acceptance and willingness to help. Please extend my deepest appreciation to St. James Parish and parishioners."

## ST. JAMES PRAYER REQUESTS

### Please keep these individuals in your prayers:

Margaret Angello, Tom Barber, Lorene Bowes, John Brady,  
Bill & Tara Coleman, Ellen Coleman, Herb Coyne, Dr. Valerie Curry,  
Lyle Daniels, Helen Donnelly, Debbie DuBois, Heather,  
Patricia Kearns, Barbara Laspada, Richard Leggitt, Courtney Powell,  
Gerry Rehagen, Anthony Roberts, Marge Robinson,  
Deacon Paul Roemer, Sr., Mickey Schoeff, Joseph Sikoskie, Kyle Stickles,  
Corinne Summers, Cosimo Tessitore, Betsey Whitbeck, Ed Wilhelm,  
Lauren Wrigley, Jack and Emma Yurish

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

Kathleen Cookingham, Fr. Bob DeLeon, Maureen Kempler,  
Thomas Ribadeneyra

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

Courtney Baksa, Katherine A. Behrens, Kristy Buchan,  
Tracy Crandall, Sarah Every, Laurajean Kaninenberg Jones,  
Shannon Kennedy, Julia Kilcer, Liane Koenig, Minerva Lord,  
Jessica McCoy, Maija Moore, Celia Muoser, Bill Murphy,  
Samson Shakarian, Amy Boehme Silver, 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, Mar. 14:** John Dunne by the Gitto family  
Tod Houghtlin by Carol & Jack Corrigan  
Deceased members of the Knights of Columbus

**Sunday, Mar. 21:** Mike Baker by Peggy Wilhelm  
Brian O'Connor by Mary O'Connor (birthday remembrance)  
Barbara Thomas by Joan Perini

## 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!

## HOLY WEEK 2021

We are blessed to celebrate Holy Week together again! This year the Catholic Community of Northern Columbia County will be hosting a special service in each of our four churches. **Please be sure to make your reservations early as space is limited to preserve social distancing.** Please book online at [stjameschatham.org](http://stjameschatham.org) or call our office (518) 392-4991 to reserve your seat. All services will also be available online on our website and Facebook page:

### Holy Week 2021 Mass Schedule:

**Holy Thursday Mass** April 1 at 6 PM

St. James Church, Chatham

**Good Friday Mass** April 2 at 3:30 PM

Church of St. Joseph, Stottville

**Easter Vigil Mass** April 3 at 8 PM

St. John the Baptist Church, Valatie

**Easter Sunday Mass** April 4 at 9 & 10:30

9 AM: St. James Church, Chatham

10:30 AM: Church of St. Joseph, Stuyvesant Falls (English)

10:30 AM: St. John the Baptist Church, Valatie

## A TRI-PARISH INVITATION TO FRIDAY STATIONS OF THE CROSS

The Catholic Community of Northern Columbia County will be hosting Friday Stations of the Cross in each of our four churches beginning March 5. **Fr. Kyle Eads will also be available an hour before each service, and afterwards for private confession.** Please consider joining us on this special Lenten journey in prayer! All are welcome, no reservations needed.

### Remaining Friday Stations of the Cross Services:

March 19, 6:30 PM Church of St. Joseph, Stuyvesant Falls (Spanish)

March 26, 3 PM Church of St. Joseph, Stottville (English)

### Can't make it to the services? Worship with us online!

A beautiful video of our recent Stations of the Cross service at St. James Church is available on our website, [stjameschatham.org](http://stjameschatham.org), Facebook page, and YouTube channel. Narrated by Betty Sundstrom, directed by Edgar Acevedo and produced by Devin Overington.

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