

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

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

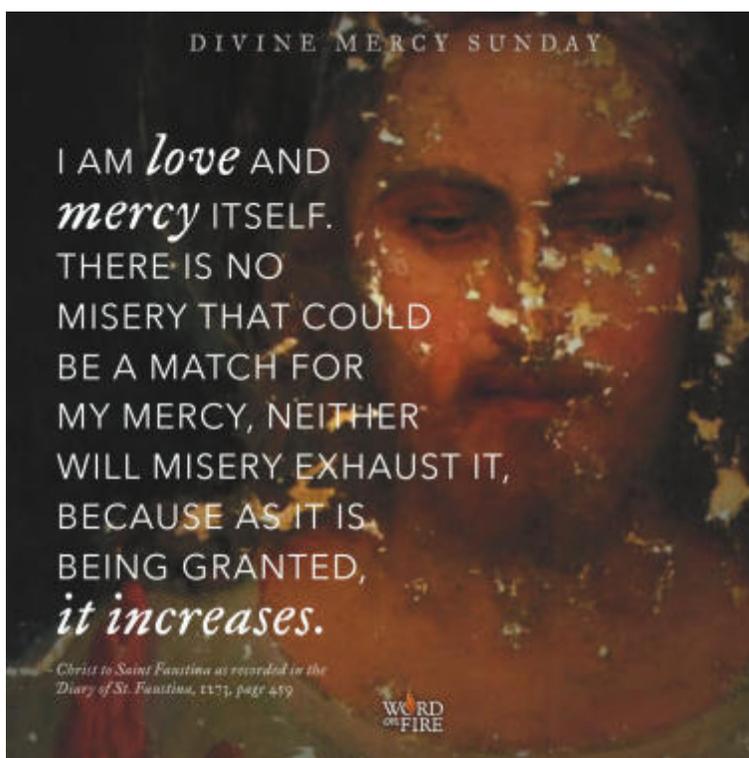
Our St. James Parish Mission:

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 12th and 13th, 2014

The Second Sunday of Easter—Divine Mercy Sunday April 11, 2021

What a wonderful joy fills us today as we ponder the inexhaustible mercy of God. "Mercy is the heart of God," Pope Francis tells us. The image of a heart has been used to point to the very life source of a person as it is the organ that allows life to flow through our veins and sustain us. Mercy is the heart of God. Imagine this dynamic, powerful, compassionate, piercing, embracing, loving, propelling, penetrating, absorbing, and enveloping, transforming presence of God flowing into the very depth of our souls. It is God's mercy that allows blood to flow through our veins. It is God's mercy that forms every atom of our being and leads us to what is true. God's mercy reveals all superficiality and falsehood, and lays bare all distortions, empty promises, weakness, and sin.

"Mercy is the force that reawakens us to new life and instills in us the courage to look to the future with hope," Pope Francis continues. God's all forgiving, compassionate love is with us. When we finally believe and accept that Christ's resurrected transfigured presence resides with us, we then find within us a strong confidence to accept life's imperfections and disappointments and move on. Every day is a new adventure in



new life. God leaves the past behind and opens doors to the future. It doesn't matter how many mistakes we made yesterday. All that matters is what we do tomorrow and what we learn along the way. It is so easy to remain tethered and mired in the past, but there is no need to do so. God is all about tomorrow and the work God has yet to do in our lives.

Mercy gives birth to hope. Hope for the greatest of sinners and hope for the worst of disasters. There is nothing God cannot do and nothing God cannot fashion. After all, everything we know and treasure was once nothing,

and look what God did with the nothing God had! The resurrected Christ stands before us with nail marks in his wrists and wounds on his body as a testament that not even injustice, suffering and death can trample over and destroy God's mercy. What have we to fear? Why do we keep ourselves from peace? Our lack of faith prevents us from going forward and fully receiving the holiness God desires to breathe upon us. Breathe in God's mercy, allow the wind of God's presence to kiss all of your sins and caress all of your fears. Exhale peace.

PARISH INFORMATION

SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE

To ensure safe worship together, we are welcoming up to 100 worshippers to 9AM Sunday Mass by last name, alphabetical order. You may also worship with us online at stjameschatham.org. Please check our website or Facebook page for more info and to register for Mass online.

April 2021 Mass Schedule:

We are welcoming families in two, rather than four cycles, limiting seating at 9AM Sunday Mass to ensure safe worship:

Sunday, April 11 — Cycle 1 worshippers' last names A—K

Sunday, April 18 — Cycle 2 worshippers' last names L—Z

Sunday, April 25 — Cycle 1 worshippers' last names A—K

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.

We will also do our best to accommodate you if you would like to attend Mass off cycle. Kindly let us know in advance by email or phone. Please arrive early, and wear a mask.

Church doors will open Sundays at 8:30AM.

OTHER SACRAMENTS

BAPTISM

Please email or call the office at sjofficeassistant@gmail.com or 392-4991 for dates and to schedule parents' preparation for Baptism at St. James Church.

RECONCILIATION

Please email or call the office at sjofficeassistant@gmail.com or 392-4991 if you would like to schedule a confession.

MARRIAGE

Please email or call the office at sjofficeassistant@gmail.com or 392-4991 at least six months in advance of your proposed wedding date. We strongly recommend you do so before making any other wedding commitments.

HOMEBOUND AND HOSPITALIZED

Please email or call our office to arrange a visit.

INTERIM PARISH TEAM

Deacon Andy Grebe

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

Rev. Kyle Eads

PARISH OFFICE:

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

Open: Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, 9AM—1PM

Phone: (518) 392-4991

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:** justinerodriguez@gmail.com

ST. JAMES CHURCH TRUSTEES:

Mickey Dennis and Jack Yurish

ST. JAMES CHURCH ADVISORS:

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

FAITH FORMATION

ST. JAMES FAITH FORMATION

We welcome families to Faith Formation 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 SPRING 2021 SCHEDULE:

Kindergarten through Grade 5: Home study materials available.

Grades 6 through 9: Monday nights, hybrid program

4/12 Module 11—Home Lesson

4/19 Module 11 Review—Zoom Session

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

4/12 Zoom Class 6:30—8pm

4/19 Zoom Class 6:30—8pm

4/25 Confirmation—2PM, Holy Trinity Church, Hudson—*details to be announced*

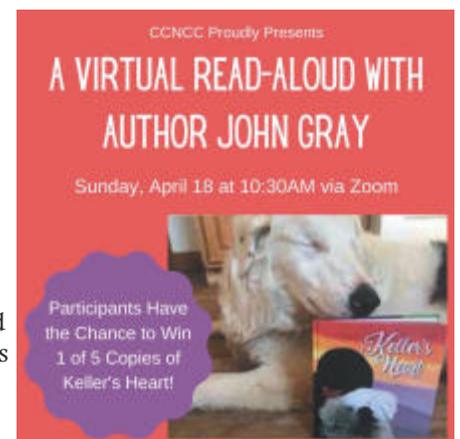
VIRTUAL READ ALOUD WITH AUTHOR JOHN GRAY

The Catholic Community of Northern Columbia County (CCNCC) is honored to host Emmy-award-winning television journalist and columnist and author, John Gray at a Virtual Read-Aloud where he will read his inspiring story, *Keller's Heart*.

Participants will have the chance to win one of five copies of *Keller's Heart*!

Join us on **Sunday, April 18th at 10:30 AM via Zoom** (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81275520622>) for this special event!

Click here to view the Facebook event: <https://fb.me/e/3AeV1o5QD>



PARISH OUTREACH

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

#1. **Thanks to all who supported the Easter Food Drive** which benefits the Chatham and Ghent food pantries. We'll update you on the final total contributed when tabulated.

#2. **Catholic Charities of Columbia and Greene Counties routinely helps individuals and families through its Emergency Assistance Programs. Here's one story:** "Jackie was a scared teenage mother to a six-month old when she and her grandmother, Mary, reached out to Catholic Charities. Jackie moved in with Mary after fleeing an abusive relationship. Mary was barely able to support herself after evicting Jackie's mom for stealing from her. Their immediate needs were met working with Catholic Charities staff to enroll in WIC, apply for SNAP benefits (food stamps), and receive food from the pantry. They were given help budgeting and applying for public assistance through the Department of Social Services for ongoing support. Jackie and Mary also received a car seat that will grow with the baby and a pack-and-play to be used for safe sleeping." Every day the staff at Catholic Charities (431 East Allen St., Hudson) encounters men, women, and families like Jackie and Mary who struggle to put food on the table, secure safe housing, and more. Their annual fundraiser, "Hands Across the Community," is now underway to help people in the twin counties.

#3. **The Chatham Public Library** offers something for everyone in April. All programs will be held on-line. For adults, Lloyd the Geek will provide computer tutoring from 3-5PM on April 20. Sign up for an appointment with tech expert Heather Lloyd by calling the library at (518) 392-3666. For children, Lego Club will meet on April 19. See what you can build together over Zoom using Legos at home. Take home craft kits on April 12 and 26 in lieu of in-house programming. For more information please call the library.

#4. **Our parish delivered 167 greeting cards** to the residents of the Whittier Complex and the Payn Home, and the COARC residents at Payn and Elm for Easter and Passover.

#5. This week parishioners donated blankets and men's wear that were distributed in St. John the Baptist parish and to a few families in our parish. **If you have clothing to pass along or furniture or household items, please call the OutReach number at (518) 929-4369.** All donated items will be distributed in the Catholic Community of Northern Columbia County.

#6. Please share this information with those in need: **"Catholic Charities of Columbia/Greene serves all people in need regardless of race, religion, or lifestyle. Our food pantry is open on Mondays, 9-noon, and Wednesdays, 12-5, in Hudson"**

#7. **Calling all gardeners:** When planting your garden this spring, please sow an extra row of vegetables and fruits to share with the local food pantries at harvest. Thank you.

TEENS HELPING SENIORS

Volunteer shoppers to provide grocery shopping and medication pick up services- complete a form by email or contact by telephone. Service is free. Contact: <https://teenshelpingseniors.org/albany-newyork/>

EARLY ALZHEIMER'S SUPPORT AND EDUCATION MAY 20-JULY 8

For those seeking support for Alzheimer's, the Alzheimer's Association is offering an 8 week program designed for a person with early stage Alzheimer's disease and their caregiver. **The program runs through May 20th to July 8th, one session per week.** It is a great opportunity for both to learn and plan for the future. Registration and a pre-screening is required. To schedule a pre-screening, please call Meagan DeMento at (518) 888-5563 OR mdemento@alz.org

2021 YOUNG WRITERS' CONTEST: SPENCERTOWN ACADEMY ARTS CENTER

While many important community programs have been postponed or re-imagined in past months, Spencertown Academy Arts Center WILL host its 2021 Young Writers' Contest for high school students in our region. We are pleased to offer prizes in two categories, Fiction/Short Story and Nonfiction/Essay or Memoir. **Submissions will be accepted from Monday, March 1 through Monday, May 3rd, at: Story@SpencertownAcademy.org.** To see all contest rules, and the works of last year's first place winners, please go to <https://spencertownacademy.org/annual-events/young-writers-contest/>

MORNING BOOK CLUB RESUMES MONDAY APRIL 12, 9AM

The Morning Book Club resumes its monthly meetings Monday, April 12 in the Gathering Space. Here are the books which have been selected for future discussion:

<i>Ask Again, Yes</i>	by Mary Beth Keane
<i>Nickel Boys</i>	by Colson Whitehead
<i>The Ninth Hour</i>	by Alice McDermott

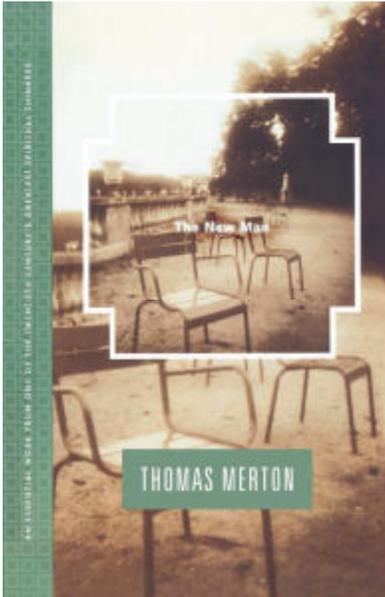
Please call Dee Winkler at (518) 392-2297 for more information. Bring a mask, and join us!

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

Thomas Merton on Reuniting with God



In his book, *The New Man*, Ferrar, Straus & Giroux, 1962, Bantam edition 1981 (the page references are to this edition), Thomas Merton posits the idea that humans are constantly trying to reunite with God, that life without faith in God is doomed in death. He says: “True life...is freedom transcending the self and subsisting in *'the other'* by love. It is entirely received from God. It is a freedom which 'loses its life in order to find it,' instead of saving its own life and thereby losing it. The perfection of life is spiritual love... (p. 7)

“... [T]he image of God is the summit of spiritual consciousness in man. It is his highest peak of self-realization... To reach one's 'real self' one must, in fact, be delivered by grace, virtue and asceticism, from the illusory and false 'self' whom we have created by our habits of selfishness and by our constant flights from reality. In order to find God, Whom we can only find in and through the depths of our own soul, we must therefore first find ourselves... (p. 36) “... [B]ut we are incapable of knowing and experiencing reality adequately unless we see things in the light of Him who is All Being, all real... (p. 39)

“... One of the keys to real religious experience is the shattering realization that no matter how hateful we are to ourselves, we are not hateful to God... Our love is a need. His a gift. We need to see good in ourselves in order to love ourselves. He does not. He loves us not because we are good, but because He is...” (p. 56)

Merton argues that Adam in the Garden of Eden, prior to eating the fruit forbidden to him by God, enjoyed a perfect relationship with God. What man since then has been trying to do is bridge the abyss between himself and God created by Adam's fall, the original sin, and become reunited once again with God.

Merton then cites St. Bernard who sees the fall... “as a collapse into ambivalence in which the historical 'nature' in which man was actually created for supernatural union with God is turned upside down and inside out, and yet *still retains its innate capacity and 'need' for divine union.*” Merton continues: “The human soul

is still the image of God, and no matter how far we travel away from Him into regions of unreality, it never becomes so completely unreal that its original destiny can cease to torment it with a need to return to itself in God, and become, once again, real... [Man] cannot rest unless he rests with God ... the Living God, not the God that can be objectified in a few abstract notions, but the God Who is above all concepts. Not the God of a mere notional or moral union, but the God who becomes One Spirit with our own soul! This alone is the reality for which we are made. Here alone do we finally 'find ourselves' – not our natural selves but out of ourselves in God. For our destiny is to be infinitely greater than our own poor selves...” (pp. 59 – 60)

“... [A]ll men have to struggle to regain the spontaneous and vital awareness of their *spirituality*, of the fact that they have a soul that is capable of coming to life and experiencing profound and hidden values which the flesh and its senses can never discover alone. And this spirituality in man is identified with the divine image in our soul.

“Self-realization in this true religious sense is then less an awareness of ourselves than an awareness of God to whom we are drawn in the depths of our own being. We become real, and experience our actuality... when, transcending ourselves and passing beyond reflection, we center our whole soul upon the God Who is our life. That is to say we fully 'realize' ourselves when we cease to be conscious of ourselves in separateness and know nothing but the one God Who is above all knowledge. (pp. 70 – 71)

“What this means in practice is fidelity and attentiveness to the Words of God... To be 'aware' of God is to enter into contact with the One, Who, infinitely hidden and transcendent, cannot be known as He is in Himself unless He reveals Himself to us. But God speaks to us, in His Scriptures, and has given Himself to us in His Son – our whole life of faith is a life of attentiveness, of 'listening' in order to receive the word of God into our hearts... It is the listening and obedience to the word of God that restores the Divine likeness in our souls, and brings us the truth that makes us free.” (p. 72)

“... We transcend ourselves, we see ourselves in a new light, by losing sight of ourselves and no longer seeing ourselves but God. Thus in a single act we accomplish the double movement of entering into ourselves and going out of ourselves which brings us back to the paradisiacal state for which we were originally created.” (p. 73)

In the next *Planting Seeds* we shall see Merton's view of the role of Christ as mediator between man and God.

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, Matt Giordano, 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, Michelle Tully, Betsey Whitbeck, Ed Wilhelm, Lauren Wrigley, Jack and Emma Yurish

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

Dr. Armand Basmajian, 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 if names need to be added or deleted.

MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, Apr. 11: Paul Donnellan by Carol & Jack Corrigan
Deceased members of the Knights of Columbus
 Bob & Dot LaMay by Peggy Wilhelm
 Sheila Woodlock by Rosemarie Siegel

Sunday, Apr. 18: Elizabeth Blume by Jean Blume
 Michael P. Mansion by Joe & Patricia Korfhage
 Thomas Ribadeneyra by Pat Dieffenbach
 Michele Rigney by Ann Denvir

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!

TRI-PARISH WORSHIP CALENDAR

TUESDAYS

9 AM: Church of St. Joseph, Stuyvesant Falls
Rosary prayer followed by Communion service and Eucharistic Adoration

WEDNESDAYS

9:15AM: St. James Church, Chatham
Morning prayer
4 PM: St. James/Chatham
Rosary prayer

SATURDAYS

3 PM: St. John the Baptist, Valatie
Confession

SATURDAY VIGIL MASSES

4 PM: St. John the Baptist, Valatie
 Church of St. Joseph, Stottville

SUNDAY MASSES

7:30 AM: St. John the Baptist, Valatie
9 AM: St. James Church, Chatham
10:30 AM: Church of St. Joseph, Stuyvesant Falls (English)
1:30 PM: Church of St. Joseph, Stuyvesant Falls (Spanish)

Church of St. Joseph

Stottville: 2824 Atlantic Avenue, Stottville, NY 12534
 Stuyvesant Falls: 1820 U.S. Rte. 9, Stuyvesant, NY 12173

St. James Church

117 Hudson Avenue, Chatham, NY 12037

St. John the Baptist Church

1025 Kinderhook St., Valatie, NY 12184

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:

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