

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 Fourth Sunday of Easter
Good Shepherd Sunday
April 25, 2021**

“He is the stone rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone.” Acts 4: 11

Any builder worth his or her salt knows the value and importance of a cornerstone. Properly laying and securing this primary unit determines how the rest of the project unfolds and its success. Cornerstones are necessary elements not only of buildings but of lives as well. Many human beings conduct the business of their lives paying little attention to a grounding reference or starting point. Hence, what unfolds is a tapestry of relativism, with few anchors or guideposts and many impulsive choices. Some consider love to be their cornerstone. While this may sound attractive and useful, the pursuit of love without a simultaneous pursuit of its source can be shallow and self-focused. Just because a person chooses to do no harm and love others does not mean that they are living in truth and properly anchored to the real cornerstone.

Jesus is the true and authentic cornerstone and shepherd. It is only in following the Risen One as the way, the truth, and the life that we can move from being well grounded ethical people to properly focused moral ones. Proper conduct, a true sense of justice, wisdom, virtue, moral principles, faith, hope, and love will be difficult to find unless we listen to the right Voice. It is



The cornerstone of the original St. James Church, 1901.

when we learn to listen to the voice of God that we begin our journey on the road to salvation. It is only the Good Shepherd, the authentic and solid cornerstone, who can guide us through life's questions and challenges and bring us to the safe and proper pasture.

A person's life only has meaning when the cornerstone is properly selected and set. Understanding themselves only as random acts of creation, existing without intent or purpose, will color

their choices and influence their decisions. The foundation of their lives will be simply a matter of preference and choice, leaving benchmarks of growth and higher ideals optional to pursue. Whereas people who believe that they are fashioned and loved into existence by a God who purposely made them, have this incredible unconditional relationship at their source which has tremendous significance. Their allegiance is not to themselves but to their Creator. Life, then, is an adventure in search of this Creator God and a journey of self-discovery that seeks to unite their will to His. There is a cost. We have to give up our life in order to gain our life. As ironic as that sounds, it is true. It is only when we finally figure this out that the true cornerstone of our lives will be properly laid and we can, with God's help, get about the business of properly constructing a temple that endures.

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 register and worship with us online at stjameschatham.org.

April/May 2021 Mass Schedule:

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

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

Sunday, May 2 — Cycle 2 worshippers' last names L—Z

Sunday, May 9 — Cycle 1 worshippers' last names A—K

Sunday, May 16 — Cycle 2 worshippers' last names L—Z

Sunday, May 23 — Cycle 1 worshippers' last names A—K

Sunday, May 30 — Cycle 2 worshippers' last names L—Z

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 call Dee Winkler at (518) 392-2297 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:** justinejrodriguez@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

As we conclude a year of home and online faith formation, we are already preparing for next year's sessions, which we hope will include in-person classes.

We welcome families to Faith Formation as we plan for the fall, and encourage you to get in touch if you would like more information about enrolling your child, or if you would like to volunteer to become a catechist or assist us in this beautiful ministry!

Administrator: Angelique Hebert

Cell Phone: (518) 653-6542

Home Phone: (518) 758-1319

Email: saintjamesfaithformation@gmail.com

First Communion students:

First Reconciliation: Monday, April 26, 6PM, St. James Church

First Communion Retreat: Saturday, May 1, 10—11:30 AM, St. James Church parish hall

First Communion: private Mass to be announced

Confirmation: private Mass Sunday, April 25, 2PM at Holy Trinity Church, Hudson

Starting September 2021:

Preschool through Grade 5: Sundays 10—11 AM

Grades 6-9 and Confirmation: Monday nights 6:30—8 PM

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 and Communion service

4 PM:

St. James/Chatham

Rosary prayer

SATURDAYS

3 PM:

St. John the Baptist, Valatie

Church of St. Joseph, Stottville

Confession available at both churches before Mass

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

(518) 799-5411

Stottville: 2824 Atlantic Avenue, Stottville, NY 12534

Stuyvesant Falls: 1820 U.S. Rte. 9, Stuyvesant, NY 12173

St. James Church

(518) 392-4991

117 Hudson Avenue, Chatham, NY 12037

St. John the Baptist Church

(518) 758-9401

1025 Kinderhook St., Valatie, NY 12184

PARISH OUTREACH

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

#1. Thanks to everyone who supported our annual **Easter Food Drive** which benefited the Chatham and Ghent food pantries. A total of \$200.00 was collected. Surprisingly, both food pantries have had lighter utilization in the last few months. Home delivery by the Chatham pantry is available for those in need due to the kindness of a small army of volunteer drivers. Because of the generosity of the community, both pantries have set aside funds for non-food items. Families within the Chatham Central School District may avail themselves of the funds for help with such expenses as medical and electric bills. Families with children who attend Chatham schools should approach the school's social workers for information. The organization, Chatham Community Cares, supports families needing help who patronize the Ghent Food Pantry.

#2. This week a large amount of clothing and bedding donated by a parishioner was given to a family residing in in the Parish of St. Joseph in Stuyvesant Falls. All donations of used clothing and household goods are distributed in the Catholic Community of Northern Columbia County. Men's clothes (suits, etc.) are expected this weekend. **If you are aware of families or individuals who may need useful items, please let us know by calling the OutReach number at (518) 929-4369.**

#3. Bedroom dressers, a twin bed, and end tables are needed by social work clients. If you have these items, or any **household items to give away**, please call the Outreach number to access our Exchange Program.

#4. This week OutReach volunteers delivered a large amount of **pet food** from the Columbia-Greene Humane Society (SPCA) to the local pantries. There is still a substantial amount available at the shelter for anyone who has need of it. Please call Ron Perez, manager at (518) 828-6044 to arrange pick-up if interested.

#5. **Uel Wade's Annual Scholarship Competition**, featuring five talented high school musicians, has been scheduled for May 22 at Uel's studio. The students will be competing for as much as \$10,000. The performances will be streamed via link to be sent out after the competition. Kindly submit any donations to Uel Wade, 40 Church St., Chatham in advance of the competition to facilitate planning.

#6. **On April 30 from 10AM-12 noon Catholic Charities in Columbia-Greene Counties will host a Spring Cleaning Give-Away** at their Hudson office at 431 East Allen St. Each household will be given laundry detergent, soap, shampoo, toilet tissue, and facial tissue. Please bring your own bag, plan to park on the street, and follow directions to the event. This event is free to the public.

CONFIRMATIONS

Please join us in congratulating 8 of our young people, as they are sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit during a private Confirmation Mass on Sunday, April 25:

Mariah Kratt

Nicole Meyers

Olive Mountain

Jillian Perry

Hannah Pinto

Aiden Shea

Jillian Silver

Morgan VanWie

We ask that you keep them in your prayers on this special day!

PRESCHOOL REGISTRATIONS

The Preschool at Stuyvesant Falls has openings for the 3-year-old and 4-year-old programs for the school year starting September 2021. Please help us spread the word!

For more information please contact the Preschool at 518-799-5411 ext. 7 and leave a message. Holly Taylor, the preschool teacher, will return your call.

JOIN THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS



**Knights of
Columbus**

The **Knights of Columbus** are a faithful, proud group of men serving our parish and community. We meet on the second Thursday of each month. If you have a desire for camaraderie and the interest to serve others, please contact George Quinn, Financial Secretary of St. James Council #3466 at (518) 588-1307 or gquinn1110@gmail.com

PLANTING SEEDS FOR FAITH ENRICHMENT

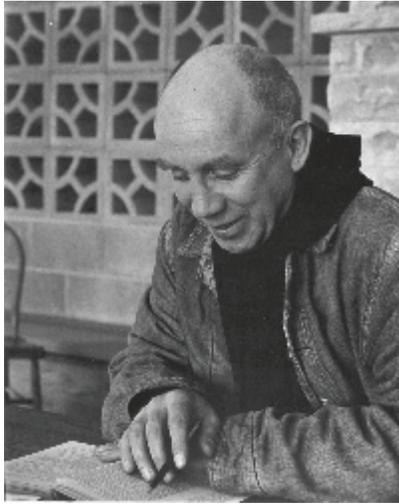
Edited by Nick Biggs in conjunction with the Center for Faith Enrichment

“There is nowhere God is not.” ~Joe Mondel

What is a Life in Christ?

In the chapter, “Life in Christ”, of his book, *The New Man*, Bantam Edition, 1981, Merton writes:

“Christ, Whom we can see and remember and imagine, is the way to an unimaginable Father. The Beginning... The End. From Whom the Word Himself IS, for Whom the Word IS. By Whom we are in the Word. For Whom we are. We have never seen Him. We have never thought of Him purely as He is in Himself. We cannot. He is hidden. He is unthinkable. We cannot name Him, until the Spirit of Christ, springing up within the depths of our own Spirit, makes us know Him by making us sons: sons of the Hidden One, sons of the Beginning, sons of the Source, sons of the Word He speaks out of the infinite depths of His own unspeakable silence. Sons because, like His Son, our whole being knows it comes from Him and tends to Him Who is hidden, Who has 'made darkness the cloak about him' [Psalm 17:12]. This darkness is forever impenetrable unless the Father reveals Himself to us in the Son. Even the Son is unknown to anyone but the Father. But the Son manifests Himself and His Father in the Holy Spirit Whom He gives to us...



Fr. Thomas Merton, OCSO, at Gethsemani Abbey

“It is thus that we 'ascend' to the Father – by finding the Father within us as He is within the Son. 'Thou Father in me and I in them... In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me and I in you.' Clearly, whatever our knowledge of the Father may be, it is a sharing in the union of the Father and the Son.

“But what is the nature of that union? It is a union of two persons in one nature. There is no division in the divine substance, no separation, no cleavage between the Father and the Son. They are distinct, yet inseparably one. So much so that if we see the one (and we can see the Word Incarnate) we see the other. Even though we do not pause to make the distinction of Persons. For they are one. After telling the Apostles that no one could come to the Father except through the Son, He went on to say that they had already seen the Father, for they had seen the Son.” (pp. 102 – 103)

“In saying that He is the 'way' Jesus adds that He is the truth and the life. He is the truth, because the way is Truth, and in Himself He contains the Truth, which is the beginning and the

end. He is the life because, knowing Him we live by Him as He lives by the Father. This communion in His truth and life immediately puts us on the 'way' to the Father. We are in contact with the stream of life and power that flows from the hidden source, and ascending the stream we are making our way to the Source of life. The contact and ascent are made through faith – faith which sees that Jesus is the Son and that He comes forth from the Father. This faith sees that while Jesus comes forth from the Father, the Father remains in Him. And it sees that Jesus lives in us, and that the Father lives in us with Him. Christ is then the 'way' to the Father because He brings the Truth and the Life of the Father into direct contact with our souls by sending His Spirit into our spirit, to make us one with Him.” (p. 104)

Merton then goes on to examine the concept of “free will”. He writes: “Freedom of choice is not, in itself, the perfection of liberty. But it helps us take our first step toward freedom or slavery... The free man is the one whose choices have given him the power to stand on his own feet and determine his own life according to the higher light and spirit that are in him. The slave... is the man whose choices have destroyed all spontaneity in him and have delivered him over... to his own compulsions, idiosyncrasies, and illusions... He is commanded by his own weak flesh and its passions...

“If we are to live as free men in the supernatural order, we must make free supernatural choices. We do this by obeying God out of love. The discourse of the Last Supper is full of remarks about the importance of this obedience: but we will never understand the obedience of Christ unless we remember, always, that His obedience is not merely justice, it is love. It is not merely homage of our wills to God's authority, it is the free union or our wills with God's love. We do not obey God because we have to but because we want to. That is precisely the nature of the free spiritual option that makes us sons of God...

“Christianity is a religion of love. Christian morality is a morality of love. Love is impossible without obedience that unites the wills of the lover and the One loved. But love is destroyed by a union of wills that is forced rather than spontaneous. The man who obeys God because he is compelled to, does not really love Him. God does not want the worship of compulsion, but worship that is free, spontaneous, sincere, 'in spirit and in truth'...

“The gift of free will is therefore like a talent given to us by God and like the servants in the parable we are meant to use that talent, not bury it in the ground. We are meant to invest it in good actions, actions that correspond to our own reality and our vocation, which make us at once more real and free, so that by our liberty we become closer to God. But we remain free to destroy our own liberty by turning away from the source of life, from truth, from the way of God...” (pp. 105 – 108)

ST. JAMES PRAYER REQUESTS

Please keep these individuals in your prayers:

Margaret Angello, Tom Barber, John Brady,
Ellen Coleman, Dr. Valerie Curry, Lyle Daniels, Helen Donnelly,
Matt Giordano, Patricia Kearns, Barbara Laspada, Richard Leggitt,
Tony Muoser, Michael Petillo, Courtney Powell, Anthony Roberts,
Marge Robinson, Deacon Paul Roemer, Sr., Joseph Sikoskie, Kyle Stickles,
Corinne Summers, Deacon Peter Trawinski, Cosimo Tessitore,
Michelle Tully, Ed Wilhelm, Lauren Wrigley, Jack and Emma Yurish

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

Lorene Bowes, Herb Coyne, Lois Fornaro, Lorretta Grebe

And please keep these first responders in your prayers:

Courtney Baksas, 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. 25: **Jim Cashen** by Meg Cashen
Kathleen King Laing by Annebeth &
Craig Dillon
Thomas Ribadeneyra by Mary Beck
**The St. James Church Confirmation
Class of 2021**

Sunday, May 2: **Kathleen Cookingham** by Matt Torrey &
Theresa Rossi
John Dunne by Connie Mondel
Thomas Ribadeneyra by Carol & Jack
Corrigan
Therese Saulnier by Marie & Phil
Orlando

ONLINE GIVING

St. James offers the convenient option for **online giving**. Your support helps us to continue our ministries and strengthen our faith community. 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, collection baskets will be available as you exit. We deeply appreciate your ongoing support of our beloved St. James Church.

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!

MAY 22: OUTDOOR SALE TO BENEFIT HAITI DONATION DATES: MAY 16, 17 AND 19

The Haiti Committee is pleased to announce an Outdoor Sale on **Saturday, May 22 from 9AM—3PM**. Goods for donation can be brought to St. James Church on the following dates:

Sunday, May 16: 10AM-1PM

Monday, May 17, 10AM-1PM and 5-7PM

Wednesday, May 19, 10AM-1PM

The sale will help Ste. Cécile, our twin parish in Haiti, provide food for parishioners, meals for school students, help with damaged housing, salaries for teachers, and maintenance of the Church and the school.

Items for sale will include: Kitchen Ware, Garden Items, Toys, Knick Knacks, Gift Ware, Decorative Items, Linens, Hardware and Tools, Small appliances, Glassware, Jewelry, Holiday Décor, plus much more! Questions? Please call Pat Dieffenbach at (518) 392-7947.

BOOK CLUB MEETINGS

Clubs meet monthly in the Gathering Space at St. James Church.
Please wear a mask and join us!

May 3 at 3 PM: The Afternoon Book Club will meet to discuss *Becoming* by Michelle Obama. Email Marie Orlando for more information at morland6@gmail.com.

May 17 at 9:15 AM: The Morning Book Club will discuss *Nickel Boys* by Colson Whitehead. Call Dee Winkler for more information (518) 392-2297.

TROUBLE FINDING A VACCINE?

Many seniors, especially those without internet service, have found it difficult to find vaccine appointments. If you or someone you know needs help, please call the **Columbia County COVID-19 Vaccine Information Line** and someone will assist them in registering for a vaccine appointment. **The Vaccine Information Line number is 518-697-5560 and is available Monday – Friday, 900am-4:00pm.** Thank you for helping us help our seniors!

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

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