

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

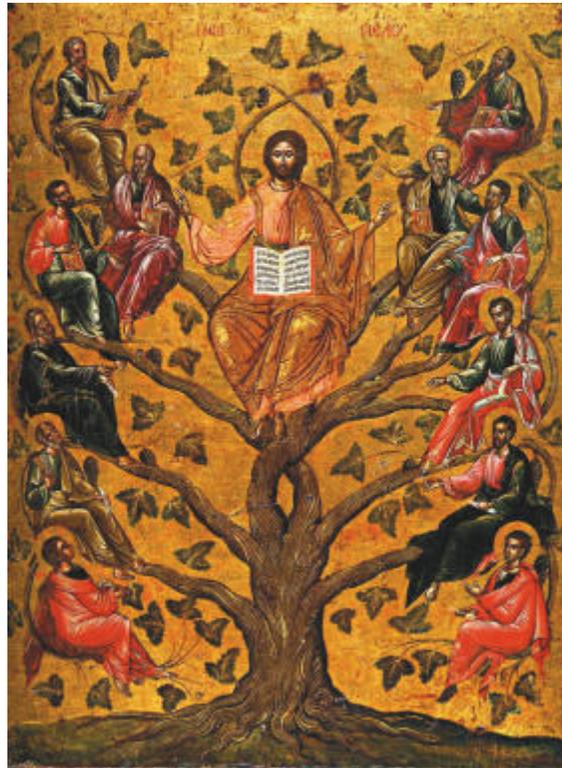
The Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 2, 2021

Gospel Reflection

“Spiraling out of control,” is a phrase that can easily describe the current display of human existence. In addition to the violence, unrest, uneasiness and turmoil that are common elements of our daily news, other essential pieces are misplaced or missing. Many lack an objective center around which to order and structure their lives or a clear set of definable goals or mores to act as guideposts and life directives. It appears that “feelings” have become a “new god” and traditional structures and ideals set aside. It is almost as if history only shows that we got this whole thing wrong and many are determined to finally set things right. The real truth, however, is that while wrongs and errors are certainly a part of our often-checkered past, it is hardly the case that all was wrong. It is not our task to rewrite the history of our lives, but to learn from mistakes that were made, and preserve the perennial wisdom at the root of our successes. Learning is an essential part of being human.

The question becomes, however, from whom do we learn? Some have such a hard time placing God in that position, but that is precisely where God needs to be. God is the Master Teacher from whom all of humanity learns and gets its cues. It is in and through this relationship with the Gardener of Life that we are fashioned and pruned into the people we are



Christ the True Vine, 16th century Greek icon

intended to be and can be. It is only in God that we are able to find our best selves. Sadly, many think that religion too, as well as history in general, has also gotten all this wrong. Yet, our resurrection faith tells us differently. We are reminded, today especially, that we are meant to remain in Christ as Christ remains in us. We are also reminded that Jesus, the Incarnate God, is the vine upon which we grow, the branches that flow from the source of God's life.

Giving up our will to God's can be a painful endeavor. It is not easy to set our own desires and wants aside and allow God to step in and direct and guide our growth. But this is the only way to prevent deadly weeds from overtaking us and bringing us to a place of self-destruction. God's commandments are the very guideposts and benchmarks we need, yet many seek to remove them from all public view because they appear to limit self-expression and suppress what is considered by many to be “human freedom.” They are the only way we can find freedom, however. And, until we learn this fundamental lesson, we will continue to spiral out of control, never really knowing who we are, what our potential can be or how life really can be lived. We will not know peace.

©LPi

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.

May 2021 Mass Schedule:

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

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 call (518) 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 call (518) 392-4991 if you would like to schedule a confession.

MARRIAGE

Please email or call the office at sjofficeassistant@gmail.com or call (518) 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:** 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

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: private Mass to be announced

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

9:15 AM:

St. James Church, Chatham

Morning prayer and Communion service

4 PM:

St. James Church, Chatham

Rosary prayer

THURSDAYS (BEGINNING MAY 13)

9 AM:

St. John the Baptist, Valatie

Morning prayer and Communion service

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. Our springtime **Collection of Non-Food Items** will be conducted on Sundays in May. Other parishes in the Catholic Community of Northern Columbia County (CCNCC) are invited to participate in this biennial event which is held in May and September to benefit the Chatham and Ghent food pantries. Paper goods, healthcare products, diapers (any size), laundry detergent and dryer sheets, and toiletries are needed. A receptacle will be placed in the Gathering Space on weekends this month. Thank you!

#2. **Set aside old eyeglasses, please!** Our annual Collection of Used Eyeglasses will be held again this summer from June through Labor Day. Please bring prescription glasses, sunglasses, and reading (magnifying) glasses from the Dollar Store to the Gathering Space for distribution by Lions, International. Every year we request that our donated glasses be sent to Haiti, homeland of our sister parish.

#3. Our Exchange Program (of furniture, bedding, clothes) continues to be the most active OutReach endeavor on virtually a daily basis. **Please call the OutReach number at (518) 929-4369 if you have items to give away or if you know of individuals or families in need of specific items.** This week two portable sewing machines and nine large plastic bags filled with men's clothing were given away in the CCNCC. Bedroom dressers and end tables are needed by social work clients. All transactions are confidential and at no cost.

#4. Please note: Families with children in the Chatham Central School District may avail themselves of funds set aside for non-food items and for help with such expenses as medical and electric bills. If interested please contact your school's social workers. The organization, **Chatham Community Cares, provides support to individuals and families needing help who patronize the Ghent Food Pantry.**

#5. Suggested items for May when contributing to the local pantries include **cleaning products, canned fruits and vegetables, sealed bread, and cold cereal.**

#6. **Catholic Charities' Prevention Educators will be attending the Hope Rocks Co-Greene event on May 13 from 5PM-10PM at the Greenville Drive-In in Greene County.** Hope Rocks of Co-Greene focuses on looking at issues of addiction, suicide, mental illness, and social isolation. The theme for the evening is "Unity For Our Own Community". Center for Disease Control regulations will be required and practiced. Please attend this safe event.-Courtesy of Theresa Lux, Executive Director, Catholic Charities of Columbia-Greene.

#7. **Upcoming:** Our annual OutReach Meeting will be held in late June. We will review current programs and discuss future plans. Please try to attend. Your input drives our course.

OFFERTORY UPDATE

Finance Committee Chair Phil Mossman and Tri-parish Business Manager Debbie Halpin have prepared this brief summary report on St. James Church's regular and special collections to date. Going forward, these results will be issued on a monthly basis.

As we all know, Mass attendance has been down sharply due to the pandemic, whose economic impact has also affected many in our community. We are blessed, however, to have been able to reach so many through online worship, and are delighted that parishioners are rejoining us in person for Mass and other worship and service ministries. Additionally, online giving has increased, which has partially offset the drop in weekly offerings. Our staff, Deacon Andy Grebe and our Finance Committee have been working together to reduce expenses where possible without negatively affecting our ministries.

Below please find a snapshot of our collections for the fiscal quarter just ended in March, and a comparison to 9 months of the regular offerings for the previous fiscal year which began in July:

	Q3 Jan—Mar 2021	Q1—3 Jul—Mar 2020	Q1—3 Jul—Mar 2021	Q1—3 \$/% Change
Regular offerings	\$46,148	\$157,021	\$145,083	(\$11,938)
Holy Days (excl. Xmas)	\$347			(8%)
Special (flowers, CRS, Missions, etc.)	\$1,799			
Christmas collection	\$8,295	\$10,391	\$8,295	(\$2,096) (20%)

Our next report will summarize April giving and provide a detailed update on other important capital and ongoing projects at St. James.

We deeply appreciate your prayerful and generous support of our beloved St. James Church and its ministries within our community.

BE ALERT TO SCAMS!

It has come to our attention that several parishioners have received scammed emails purporting to be from Fr. Kyle. They request the reader to purchase gift cards, or contact Fr. Kyle by email reply. **DO NOT ACT ON OR REPLY TO THESE MESSAGES.**

If you receive a dubious email or text message from someone purporting to be Fr. Kyle, please call the office at (518) 392-4991 or email us at sjofficeassistant@gmail.com.

Also, **contact the New York State Police at (518) 851-2001.** The case officer will take your information (including the suspect text or email) as part of this investigation.

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

Prayers and Reflections



O Lord my God,
 Teach my heart this day where and how to see you,
 Where and how to find you.
 You have made me and remade me,
 And you have bestowed on me
 All the good things I possess,
 And still I do not know you.
 I have not yet done that
 For which I was made.
 Teach me to seek you,
 For I cannot seek you
 Unless you teach me,
 Or find you
 Unless you show yourself to me.
 Let me seek you in my desire,
 Let me desire you in my seeking.
 Let me find you by loving you,
 Let me love you when I find you.
 - *St. Anselm*

May God the Father bless us,
 may Christ take care of us,
 the Holy Ghost enlighten us all the days of our life.
 The Lord be our defender and keeper of body and soul,
 both now and for ever, to the ages of ages.
 - *St. Ethelwold*

Dearest Lord, teach me to be generous;
 Teach me to serve thee as thou deservest;
 To give and not to count the cost,
 To fight and not to seek for rest,
 To labour and not to seek reward,
 Save that of knowing that I do thy will.
 - *St. Ignatius Of Loyola*

Govern everything by your wisdom, O Lord, so that my soul
 may always be serving you
 in the way you will
 and not as I choose.
 Let me die to myself so that I may serve you;
 let me live to you who are life itself.
 Amen.

- *St. Teresa Of Avila*

O God, who in this wondrous sacrament hast left unto us a
 memorial of thy passion;
 grant us so to venerate the sacred mysteries of thy body and
 blood,
 that we may ever continue to feel within ourselves the blessed
 fruit of thy redemption.
 Who livest and reignest God, for ever and ever.
 - *St. Thomas Aquinas*

Faith in the resurrection of Jesus says that there is a future for
 every human being; the cry for unending life which is a part of
 the person is indeed answered. God exists: that is the real
 message of Easter. Anyone who even begins to grasp what this
 means also knows what it means to be redeemed.
 - *Pope Benedict XVI*

Faith is to believe what you do not see. The reward of faith is to
 see what you believe.

- *St. Augustine of Hippo*

Faith is like a bright ray of sunlight. It enables us to see God in
 all things as well as all things in God.
 - *St. Francis de Sales*

To one who has faith, no explanation is necessary. To one
 without faith, no explanation is possible.
 - *St. Thomas Aquinas*

Understanding is the reward of faith. Therefore seek not to
 understand that thou mayest believe, but believe that thou
 mayest understand.

- *St. Augustine*

Thus understanding and love, that is, the knowledge of and
 delight in the truth, are, as it were, the two arms of the soul,
 with which it embraces and comprehends with all the saints the
 length and breadth, the height and depth, that is the eternity, the
 love, the goodness, and the wisdom of God.

- *St. Bernard*

Listen and attend with the ear of your heart.

- *St. Bernard*

We must fear God out of love, not love Him out of fear.

- *Saint Francis de Sales*

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., Joseph Sikoskie, Kyle Stickle,
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, Lorretta Grebe, Deacon Paul Roemer, Sr.

And please keep these first responders in your prayers:

*Courtney Baks, 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, 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

Sunday, May 9: **Stephen Gitto**—birthday wishes from Peggy Wilhelm
Deceased members of the Knights of Columbus
Gloria Wedge by Carol & Jack Corrigan
Rodney Wright by Stephen Gitto

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.

Suggested Items for Donation: Knickknacks, new/gently used tablecloths, jewelry, handbags, decorative items, frames, vases, dishes, glassware, small working kitchen appliances, working lamps, craft materials, small furniture items such as end tables, coffee tables, small children's toys (in working order) children's games (all pieces must be included), hand tools, garden tools, garden decorative items, CDs, DVDs, stationery supplies.

**All items should be clean & in saleable condition.
Donation slips will be available.**

Sorry, But We Cannot Accept: Clothing, shoes, books, magazines, linens such as bed sheets, towels, blankets, VHS tapes, cassette tapes, TVs, computers, typewriters, microwaves, air conditioners, baby furniture, baby high chairs, children's car seats, large furniture, large appliances, sports equipment.

Questions? Please call Pat Dieffenbach at (518) 392-7947.

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.

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.



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