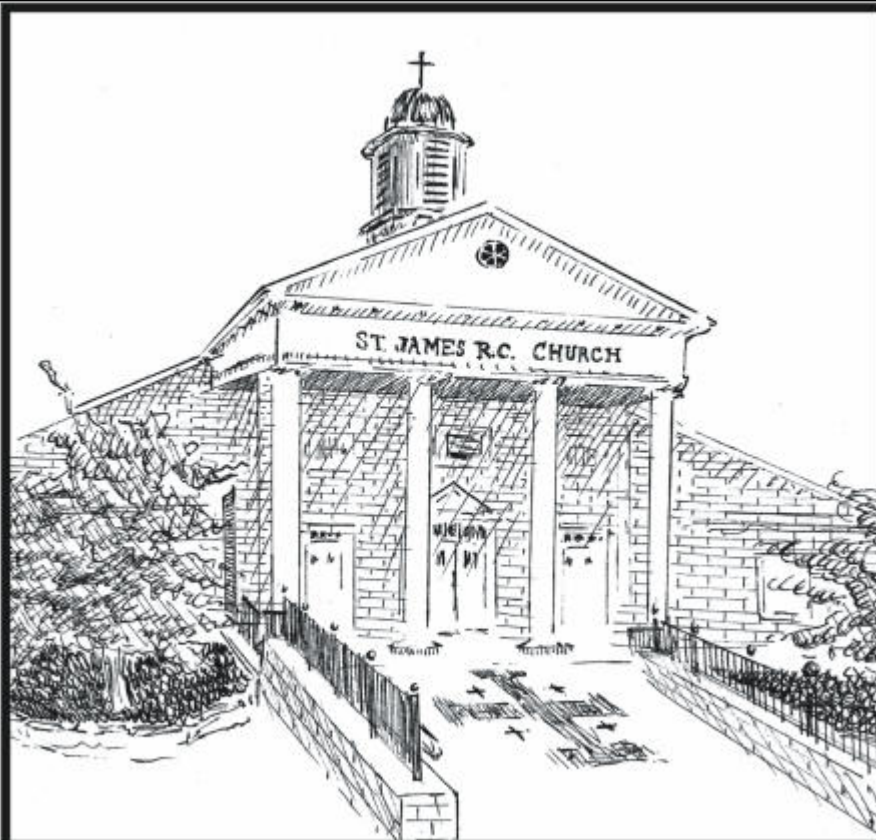


St. James R.C. Church

December 6, 2020

Second Sunday in Advent



429 Route 25A, Setauket, New York 11733-3829

Parish Office: (631) 941.4141

Fax: (631) 751.6607

Faith Formation Office: (631) 751.7287

Email: parish@stjamessetauket.org

Website: www.stjamessetauket.org

Office Hours: M-F 9am-4pm (closed for lunch 12-12:30)

Sat. 9am-2pm

“Be doers of the word and not hearers only”

2020 Mission Statement

We, the Catholic community of the Three Village area, formed as the Body of Christ through the waters of Baptism, are a pilgrim community journeying toward the fullness of the Kingdom of God, guided by the Holy Spirit, nourished by the Eucharist and formed by the Gospel.

We strive to respond to Jesus' invitation: to be faithful and fruitful disciples; to be a Good Samaritan to (our) neighbor and enemy; stewards of and for God's creation and living witnesses of Faith, Hope and Charity ... so that in Jesus' name, we may be a welcoming community, respectful of life in all its diversities.

Weekday Masses

Monday — Saturday: 8:00 am

Sunday Masses

Saturday: 5:00 pm (Youth)*

*live streamed & taped for viewing on our website and FB pages

Sunday: 8:00 am, 9:30 am (Family), 11:30am (Choir)

Holy Days of Obligation

Vigil: 7:30 pm

Day: 8:00am, 12 Noon

Special Needs Mass:

Second Saturday of the month at 1:00pm

Nocturnal Adoration:

First Friday of the Month, 7:30-8:30pm

Reconciliation

Saturdays 4:00 — 4:45 pm or by appointment

Rev. James-Patrick Mannion, Pastor

frjim@stjamessetauket.org (ext. 322)

Rev. Robert Scheckenback, Assoc. Pastor

frbob@stjamessetauket.org (ext. 320)

Rev. John Fitzgerald, in residence

Rev. Mike S. Ezeatu, in residence (ext. 326)

Business Manager: Todd Bradshaw(ext.312)

Dir. of Outreach: Kathy Vaeth (ext. 313)

Dir. of Faith Formation: Louise DiCarlo (ext. 329) Admin. Asst. Joanmarie Zipman (ext. 328)

Finance Manager: Theresa Ellner (ext. 335)

Music Co-Director: Richard Foley (631) 806.1794

Music Co-Director: Miriam Salerno (516)

263.5173

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

(RCIA): Ueli Laeng (631)941.4141

Parish Receptionists:

Megan Peters (M-F)

Nancy Gallagher (Fri and Sat) Cemetery Admin.

Parish Facilities Supervisor: Jeff Fallon

Please visit our parish website (www.stjamessetauket.org) for the latest parish information as well as weekly homilies and virtual weekly Masses. Visit the diocesan website (www.DRVC.org) for diocesan news and schedule of virtual Masses.



Mass Intentions for the week of December 6, 2020

Sunday, December 6

8am
9:30am
11:30am

Kenneth Gerold
Catherine Falvey
Our parishioners, living
and deceased,
Ann Cunningham,
Lawrence Opisso,
Catherine Gardner Falvey

Monday, December 7

8am

Tuesday, December 8

8am

Wednesday, December 9

8am

Thursday, December 10

8am

Friday, December 11

8am

Saturday, December 12

8am

5pm

Norma Motto

Anthony Bradley

Adrienne Hubbs

Kristin Casillo

Fr. Jim (L) Anniver. Blessing
Our parishioners living
and deceased,
Patrick O'Hara,
Wally Wickel, Vincent (L),
Anne Johnson (L)

Sunday, December 13

8am
9:30am
11:30am

Catherine Turner
David Brand
Patrick Sabbatino,
Kathryn Gallagher,
Danny Swain.
Patrick Tyler O'Hara

*Thank you for giving of your time,
talent and treasure*

COLLECTION UPDATE

November 29, 2020: \$8957 + 2728 (FD) = \$11,685
December 1, 2019: \$10,798

Please consider making your weekly donations on-line
by enrolling at **faith.direct/ny997**.

Doing so enables our ministries to continue to meet
the physical and spiritual needs of those in our parish
family as well as the larger community who have been
impacted by COVID19 and related job losses.

E-giving simplifies your giving and provides consistent
support to the parish. **To provide additional
assistance, please select the "offset fee option"
when setting up your donation, which will
help reduce our expenses.**

If you require assistance with the process, please call
the parish office (Tuesday 9am-1pm or Friday 9:30-
12pm) and make an appointment with Megan or
Nancy to set up your Faith Direct on-line giving
account.

Enroll today at: www.faithdirect.net

*For your continued generosity to St. James Parish of your
time, talent and treasure, I offer my deepest appreciation. May
God reward your generosity a hundredfold.*

~ Fr. Jim



MEMORIAL OPPORTUNITIES

The Parish of St. James is pleased to
provide a number of ways in which our
parishioners can memorialize their loved

ones. In addition to the celebration of a Mass in their
name, parishioners are invited to consider a memorial do-
nation of the bread and wine or altar flowers for the week.
The name(s) of your loved one(s) will appear in the bulletin
for that week.

In the rear of our church (25A side), near the statue of the
Holy Family, you will find a set of candles that offers a top
row that can be lit for one year, and holds a plaque showing
the name of the person for whom the candle is lit. The
offering for a memorial candle is \$250. Please stop by the
rectory office or call 631.941.4141 during normal business
hours when one of our secretaries will be happy to provide
you with additional information on all of these memorial
opportunities.

Pope's Intention for Evangelization

*For a life of prayer. That our personal relationship with
Jesus Christ be nourished by the Word of God and a life of
prayer.*



*Welcome to the
Parish of St. James*

No matter your present or past status in the Catholic
Church; **No** matter your current family or marital
situation;

No matter your past or present affiliation; **No** matter
your personal history, age, background, race or
color, you are invited, welcomed and accepted at
St. James RC Church.

If you are new to the area, we invite you to choose
St. James as your parish family.

PARISH INFORMATION

Sacraments

Baptism: Two Sundays per month at 1:30 pm.
Please contact the office after the fourth month of pregnancy to make arrangements.

Holy Matrimony: Please contact the office at least nine months before your desired date.

Anointing of the Sick: By request

Pastoral Council: Mrs. Roni Groth, Mr. John Holownia, Mrs. Josephine Prokop, Mr. Fred Sawicki, Mr. Michael Vaeth, Mrs. Judi Wallace

Parish Finance Committee: Mr. Edward Gutleber, Chair; Mr. Todd Bradshaw (*Business Manager*) Mrs. Theresa Ellner (*Financial Manager*), Mr. Robert Freaso, (*Parish Trustee*), Mr. Thomas Powers (*Parish Trustee*), Mr. Matthew Berger, Mr. Christopher McGeever, Mrs. Judi Wallace

Prayer Opportunities

Nocturnal Adoration: First Fridays 7:30 — 8:30 pm

Recitation of the Rosary: Monday to Saturday after the 8am Mass

Ministries:

Alpha: Mrs. Roni Groth, Mrs. Barbara Jaeckel

Bereavement Ministry: Ms. Catherine Horgan,

Mr. Dennis Reardon (*please call 631.941.4141 x341*)

Camino Café Ministry: Mrs. Sallie Culloton, Mrs. Doreen Corrado

Choir: Mr. Richard Foley, Mrs. Miriam Salerno

Sat 5pm Teen, Sun 9:30am Youth, Sun. 11:30am Adult

Christ in the Marketplace: Mr. Jack Herr (*631.941.4141*)

CYO Board: Mr. Charles Arasi, Chair; Mrs. Samantha Bradshaw,

Mr. John Case, Mr. Michael (Mike) Specht,

Mr. Patrick (Pat) Tunstead

Eucharistic Ministry to Homebound Parishioners: Joan Murray

If you or anyone you know is homebound and would like to receive the Eucharist at home, please call 631.941.4141

Fertility Care Services: Helen McCarthy, R.Ph, PharmD, CFCPI

(*hmcCarthy@optonline.net or 631.455.4137*)

Knights of Columbus, Mother Teresa of Calcutta Council #12006:

Grand Knight, Mr. Jack Simpson

Laudato Si Environmental Ministry: Mr. Robert Becherer

Liturgy Committee: Ms. Louise DiCarlo

Liturgical Ministries: EMHC-Mrs. Kathy Brown, Mrs. Mary Berretta

Readers: Mrs. Peggie McHugh Eletto

Altar Servers: Mrs. Judi Wallace, Peter Morelli, MD

Ushers/Greeters: Mr. Robert Freaso

Men's Monthly Breakfast Gathering: Mr. Tony Casale

Ministry of Consolation: Mrs. Carol Simco

Nocturnal Adoration: Mr. Eric Waxman (631) 689.9759

Our Daily Bread: (631)941.2731 ODB@stjamessetauket.org

Parish Bulletin and Website: Editor, Ms. Catherine Horgan

Contact rectory office 631.941.4141

Parish Liturgical Environment Committee:

Contact rectory office 631.941.4141

Pre-Cana Ministry: Mr. and Mrs. Diane and James Santangelo

Contact rectory office 631.941.4141

RCIA: Mr. Ueli Laeng *Contact the rectory office 631.941.4141*

Respect Life Committee of St. James: Mr. Eric Waxman

631.689.9759. *The Respect Life Committee will meet in the*

Parish Center each month (September – June) on Coffee Sunday

after the 9:30 Mass

Rosary Altar Society of St. James: Mrs. Patricia Raptoulis at

631.473.3561

Spiritual Direction: Mr. Ueli Laeng *Please call the rectory office*

631.941.4141

St. James Rosary Makers: Mrs. Mary DiBenedetto 631.236.8899

St. James Vigil Ministry: Fr. Jim Mannion, Ms. Louise DiCarlo

Wedding Facilitators: Mrs. Maureen Denzler, Mrs. Chris Weisman

Women's Scripture Study: Mrs. Cathy Roberts SJA 631.689.2645



Parish Policy

Please be reminded that as a matter of policy, any and all events, conferences, meetings, plays, sporting events, fundraising efforts, etc. must have the expressed, written permission of the pastor (or his designee) before plans can be finalized. The parish is a legal entity with certain obligations that must be considered prior to approval of events. This includes the use of the name St. James in any way, shape or form, explicitly or implicitly. Contracts with outside vendors, speakers or service providers cannot be signed by anyone other than the pastor or his designee.



Join us in praying the Holy Rosary after the 8am Mass every 1st Saturday.

"I promise to assist at the hour of death, with the graces necessary for salvation, all who on the First Saturday of five consecutive months, confess their sins, receive Holy Communion, recite five decades of the Rosary, and keep me company for fifteen minutes while meditating on the mysteries of the Rosary, with the purpose of making reparation to my Immaculate Heart."

~Our Blessed Mother

READINGS AND OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK of December 6, 2020

Sunday, December 6 Second Sunday in Advent

Monday, December 7

St. Ambrose, Bishop, Doctor of the Church

Is 35:1-10/Lk 5:17-26

Tuesday, December 8

The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Gn 3:9-15, 20/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12

Wednesday, December 9

St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatotzin

Is 40:25-31/Mt 11:28-30

Thursday, December 10

Is 41:13-20/Mt 11:11-15

Friday, December 11

St. Damasus I, Pope

Is 48:17-19/Mt 11:16-19

Saturday, December 12

Our Lady of Guadalupe (USA)

Zec 2:14-17/Lk 1:26-38

Sunday, December 13

In compliance with Diocesan policy from the Office for the Protection of Children & Young People, (516) 678.5800, ext. 573: If you suspect any child abuse, first contact Child Protective Services at (800) 342.3720 and then contact the Diocesan Hotline at (516) 594.9063. If you believe **someone is in immediate danger**, call Suffolk County Police at 911.



Mother Teresa Council, Knights of Columbus

"Spread love everywhere, and let no one ever come to you without leaving happier"
~Mother Teresa



Take twenty minutes out of your day to pray the rosary and you will see the difference it will make in your life.



Council Members Elevated to Fourth Degree



Each year, worthy Third Degree Council members have an opportunity to become members in the Fourth Degree, the highest level attainable. Each degree level emphasizes one of the pillar principles of the Order. The first three degrees emphasize charity, unity and fraternity. The fourth (optional) degree emphasizes patriotism, and solidifies the concept of God and country.

This year, a record number of Council members joined the Fourth Degree ranks and earned the special title (approved by the Holy Father) of 'Sir Knight.'

This year's worthy new Fourth Degree members are: Alan Smith, Sal Curcio, Frankie O'Brien, James Parkinson, Eric Waxman, and H. John Yantz, all of whom are viewed as extraordinary brothers by their fellow Knights. Congratulations to these worthy Sir Knights.

Christmas Car Magnets



Christmas magnets having the 'Keep Christ in Christmas' manger scene message, promoting the real meaning of Christmas, will be available after Masses during the next few weeks. Get yours now. They make great stocking stuffers as well.

As a practicing Catholic man, if you'd like to get involved with our Council as a proud Knight, call Fred @ 631-751-7375 about joining this fraternal service organization, whose guiding principles are charity, unity, fraternity, and patriotism. Or, you may join the organization as an online member by visiting

Greetings from the St. James Rosary Altar Society

Thank you to all who bought our Advent Wreath and Candle Sets. Our sale was very successful. We have some Advent Candles Sets available if you wish to purchase them. (Please call Helen McCarthy @ 631.455.4137)

We look forward to the Advent Season and the Advent Wreath & Candle Set helps us to prepare for the coming of the birth of the Babe Jesus, Our Savior, on the Great Feast of **Christmas**.

UPDATE:

This year we will need to wait for the Spring for a Rosary Social Christmas Gathering.

We can call each other or enjoy our friendships by mail and our own personal gathering.

For now, enjoy a wonderful **Advent preparation** with the anticipation of a beautiful "**Christmas celebration**".

To become a member of the Rosary Altar Society please call Pat Raptoulis at: 631.473.3561.

"Let us live as the Blessed Virgin lived: loving God only, desiring God only, trying to please God only in all that we do." St. John Vianney

Second Sunday of Advent



In a particular way, St. Joseph is a perfect intercessor **during times of trial**. His presence can help preserve unity within the Church and bring peace during difficulties.

Here is a prayer that encapsulates all of these sentiments and cries out to St. Joseph for help.

O most watchful Guardian of the Divine Family, defend the Church. Ward off from us every contagion of error and corrupting influence. O, our most mighty Protector, look favorably upon us and from heaven assist us in this our struggle with the power of darkness; and, as once you rescued the Child Jesus from deadly peril, so now protect God's holy Church from the snares of the enemy and from all adversity. Shield, too, each one of us by your constant protection, so that, supported by your example and your aid, we may be able to live virtuously, to die holily, and to obtain eternal happiness in heaven. Amen.





"Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus."

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Pray for Our Sick

Please pray for all members of the parish family, especially :

Julia Balzarno-Maglio, Robert Banish, Mary Barretta, Rosemarie Basile, Roberta Brown, Glenn Buro, Keith Buro, Caroline Caggiano, Tony Casale, Michael Carpenter, Carol Cirillo, Brian Darmody, Camille DiCarlo, Arleen Gargiulo, Lauren Giordano, Emma Giuliano, Tom Giuliano, Caleb Hernandez, Terence Hobbes, Nicole Juliano, George LaBriola, Jr., Joseph LaRosa, Mary Maio, Kayla Marianetti, Rudy Mazurczak, Diane McDonald, John McGarvey, Tom McHugh, Gianna Morelli, Brian Newman, Christine El Qadah, Gloria Ruppert, Rose Sangiamo, Debby Saunders, Linda Shannon, Brady Spennato, John Stone, Adelaide Marie Wardrope, Christine Wall, Robert Whitcomb

May they and their families, have health, strength and peace in you, O Lord. Amen.



Pray for Our Military Personnel

Please remember in prayer all of the men and women from our parish and country who serve so selflessly in our Armed Forces.

Keep them, their families, friends and loved ones in prayer as they serve our country at home and on foreign soil.

U.S. Marine Corp. 2nd Lieutenant Kyle Antonucci

U.S. Army Patrick Buckley, Afghanistan

U.S. Army Lt. Colonel Erika Holownia

U.S. Army Major Gregory C. Holownia, USA

U.S. Navy SHSN Quintin Lawrence Hurley

U.S. Army, PFC Brandon Leap

U.S. Sergeant Spec. Joseph Mandel, USA

U.S. Air Force SrA Sean T. Murray

U.S. Air Force Capt. Nicole Nowling

U.S. Army, Lt. Daniel Roberts

USMC 1st Lt. Brendan Rose, USA

USMC Lance Corp. Aeon Soler

U.S. Army Major Eric D. Waxman, USA



THE LOST HAT COMPANY would like to extend a gracious and sincere *THANK YOU* to all parishioners who supported our ministry.

Great News! Your hat makers gave 200% dedication to reach the goal of 1000+ hats, scarfs, gloves, and blankets for 2020 distribution.

The following church outreach programs will benefit:

St. James RC Church, Setauket

St. Hugh of Lincoln RC Church, Huntington Station,

Hope House Ministries, Port Jefferson

Our Lady of Miraculous Medal RC Church, Wyandanch

St. Margaret of Scotland RC Church, Selden

St. Brigid's RC Church, Westbury

St. Patrick's RC Church, Smithtown

Smithtown Gospel Tabernacle, Smithtown

St. Frances Cabrini RC Church, Coram

Plus 2 other churches

A thousand heads will stay warm this winter. We could not have completed our mission without your support. However, our coffers are now empty and we need to once again ask for your support. If everyone gave a \$1.00 or more it would help toward our 2021 goal. Your donation can be mailed or put into an envelope addressed to the Lost Hat Company and dropped into the collection basket.

NOTE: Cash intended for LHC should not be put in the collection basket without an envelope as Washington, Lincoln or Hamilton will not be able to tell Fr. Jim where you intended them to go

We thank Fr. Jim for allowing us to occupy needed closet space to store our 1000+ hats. Without his support our ministry could not operate.

KEEP WELL



In light of the public health emergency surrounding the COVID 19 outbreak, let us continue to pray to St. Raphael the Archangel:

Because you are the “medicine of God” we humbly pray to you to calm our fears and anxieties, and to grant healing to those suffering from the Corona virus; offer your protection and strength to those in the medical professions offering care to those so afflicted.

May we trust in the Lord, who is our Shepherd, as we walk through this valley of “fear and death”, in this time of darkness. May we be anointed in the Spirit’s love and ask that you always direct us in the way of peace, health and salvation. Amen.



Mask It or Casket! *A reminder about the importance of wearing a mask in church.*

Your cooperation is vital in order for us to publicly celebrate Mass.

Please visit our parish website (www.stjamessetauket.org) for the latest parish information as well as weekly homilies, virtual weekly Masses, and reflections from Fr. Jim and Fr. Fitz. Visit the diocesan website (www.DRVC.org) for diocesan news and schedule of virtual Masses.

Our current Mass schedule is as follows:

Weekdays: 8am

Saturdays: 8am and 5pm *

Sundays: 8am, 9:30am and 11:30am

*live streamed and taped for viewing on our website and FB page

Please remember that face masks/coverings must be worn at all times while within our church.



Tune in to “Religion and Rock” with Msgr. Jim Vlaun on Sunday mornings, 7:00am-8:00am on WBAB 102.3FM or 95.3FM on Long Island’s East End. Listen on Saturdays at 11:00pm on Sirius radio, Channel 159, the Catholic Channel and at 11pm on XM Satellite, Channel 117.

Next Sunday’s theme (December 13) is **“Being Prepared”**

**2020 31st Annual
National Night of Prayer for Life**

**December 8th (Tuesday) at 9pm
to December 9th (Wednesday) at 1am**

**Beginning with Benediction
of the Blessed Sacrament
at**

9pm in the Church on Tuesday, December 8th

The National Night of Prayer for Life is a prayer service consisting of exposition and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, the Holy Rosary, prayer to St. Michael, silent prayer and hymns.

Uniting the Feast of the Immaculate Conception with the Feast of St. Juan Diego to honor Our Blessed Mother, to pray through her intercession for the establishment of a Culture of Life and to ask Our Lord to REVIVE OUR LAND.

During the HOUR OF UNITY, 12 Midnight until—1 am EST, we will be united in churches across the country in prayer to end abortion, in reparation for sins against the Gospel of Life and to restore God’s blessings on America.

**All are invited to participate!
Come pray with us!**

www.NationalNightofPrayerforLife.org

THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Tuesday, December 8, 2020 is a HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION

Masses will be held on Monday, December 7 at 7:30pm

and on

Tuesday, December 8 at 8am and 12 noon



DONATING TO ST. JAMES DURING THE COVID 19 HEALTH EMERGENCY

During this time of uncertainty surrounding the *COVID19* virus, many of us will choose to remain at home and not venture out to church or other places where large groups of people may gather. While respecting that choice, please remember that our parish still needs our financial support in order to meet regular operating expenses such as electric bills, heating/cooling, water and payroll.

We recently introduced a new and exciting way for you to support our parish offertory and second collections: *Faith Direct*. With *Faith Direct*, you can make regular automatic contributions to St. James, using your credit/debit card or bank account, the same process that you may use to pay utility bills or make car payments.

Making your donations automatically means relief from the hassle of locating your offertory envelopes as you run out the door on Sunday morning, and guarantees that the church will receive your gifts even if you are unable to attend Mass. There is no fee to you, the parishioner, associated with the use of the *Faith Direct* program. Automatic contributions greatly benefit St. James by providing a predictable cash flow as well as decreasing the time and money the church expends dealing with the envelope system. *Faith Direct* will provide you with personalized offertory cards that you may place in the basket, as well as a year end tax statement.

We find *Faith Direct* to be a “win-win” for both parishioners and the parish.

If you’ve not yet enrolled, simply visit: **faith.direct/NY997** to securely enroll on line. For assistance, feel free to call Faith Direct customer service at: 1-866-507-8757 or contact the Parish Office for additional information.

If you prefer to not use technology, please continue to mail your donations to the rectory office.

Thank you for your continued support of St. James.



HELP WANTED!!

STREAMING LIVE

Throughout the pandemic, our parish has been able to “live stream” our weekend Mass and we will continue to do so for the foreseeable future.

We have been truly blessed to have parishioner Jim Townsend and his partner, Corey Arnold, (Bars and Tone Media Production) provide their services during this time. We have recently installed permanent cameras in the church which will facilitate our continued broadcasting capabilities.

This provides an exciting opportunity for members of our parish to learn the technology and become part of the team that makes this happen every week! No experience necessary—just a willingness to learn and to help St. James Parish. Ongoing training and support will be provided.

All interested parties are invited to contact Business Manager Todd Bradshaw at : 631.941.4141 ext 312 for additional information.

What are the “O Antiphons”? The O Antiphons refer to the seven antiphons that are recited (or chanted) preceding the Magnificat during Vespers of the Liturgy of the Hours. They cover the special period of Advent preparation known as the Octave before Christmas, Dec. 17-23, with Dec. 24 being Christmas Eve and Vespers for that evening being for the Christmas Vigil.

We hope these will become part of your Advent preparations this year.

The “O” Antiphons (Part two of two)

O Radiant Dawn, splendor of eternal light, sun of justice:
Come, shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death.

*Everything beyond a certain distance is dark, and yet everything is
Full of being around us. This is the darkness, heavy with promises
and threats, which the Christian will have to illuminate and animate
with the divine presence.*

Pierre Teilhard de Chardin

O Ruler of the Nations, the only joy of every human heart;
O Keystone of the mighty arch of humanity:
Come and save us whom you fashioned from the dust.

*See! The Ruler of all rulers will come.
Happy are all those who are ready now
to run out to the Lord.*

Monastic Liturgy

O Emmanuel, king and lawgiver, desire of the nations. Savior of all people:
Come and set us free. Lord our God.

*It is both terrible and comforting to dwell in the inconceivable
nearness of God, and to be so loved by God that the
first and last gift is infinity and inconceivability itself.
But we have no choice. God is with us.*

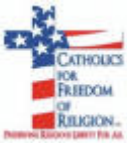
Karl Rahner

Advent Wreath Lighting Prayers *Advent Week Two*

Holy and Gracious God, we pray as we light this second candle, that we will see your kindness and hear your proclamation of Peace to the nations. May we hear the cry of your prophet, John the Baptist, who calls us to ‘*Prepare Your way and make straight Your paths.*’

May our hearts be patient in this time of pandemic darkness, yet expectant, as we pray for the coming of a vaccine and cure to this virus. May we be open to the new visions of your Kingdom, as the Baptist proclaimed; and patiently keep our hearts and minds, in the knowledge and love of your coming in Peace.

We pray ...



www.cffor.org

Focus on Religious Freedom **from Catholics for Freedom of Religion** **Supreme Court Rules for "free exercise" of Religious Freedom**

***"The liberty enjoyed by the people of these States of worshipping Almighty God, agreeable to their consciences, is not only among the choicest of their blessings, but also of their rights."* George Washington**

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled on Nov. 25, 2020, that NY Gov. Andrew Cuomo's executive order to enforce strict attendance limits on places of worship designated as coronavirus hot spots, violated the First Amendment's "free exercise" clause and actively discriminated against religious institutions. The majority decision ruled in favor of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Brooklyn and the Jewish congregations of Agudath Israel of America, because the regulations treated the houses of worship more harshly than comparable secular facilities. "The restrictions at issue here, by effectively barring many from attending religious services, strike at the very heart of the First Amendment's guarantee of religious liberty," wrote the majority decision. ⁽¹⁾

New York's rules, which the justices found to be "severe" and "inflexible," don't apply to retail stores in the same neighborhoods and in some places there are no attendance caps at all. "Not only is there no evidence that the applicants have contributed to the spread of COVID-19 but there are many other less restrictive rules that could be adopted to minimize the risk to those attending religious services," the Court held. ⁽²⁾

"This is an historic victory," said Rabbi Chaim Zwiebel. "This landmark decision will ensure that religious practices and religious institutions will be protected from government edicts that do not treat religion with the respect demanded by the Constitution." ⁽³⁾

In August, the pastors of two Colorado churches filed a "Lawsuit (that) calls both the federal government and Colorado leaders into account for their violations of the right to free exercise of religion among other abuses of power, primarily resulting from Gov. Jared Polis' COVID-19 related Executive Orders," said Thomas More Society attorneys. ⁽⁴⁾

U.S. District Court Judge Daniel Domenico ruled, "The Constitution does not allow the State to tell a congregation how large it can be when comparable secular gatherings are not so limited, or to tell a congregation that its reason for wishing to remove facial coverings is less important than a restaurant's or spa's." ⁽⁵⁾

(boisestatepublicradio.org, 11/26/20(1); msn.com, 11/26/20(2)(3); denver.cbslocal.com, 10/20/20(4); pjmedia.com, 10/21/20(5); npr.org, 11/26/20; nypost.com, 11/26/20)

"I think it is appropriate that we pay tribute to this great constitutional principle which is enshrined in the First Amendment of the Constitution: the principle of religious independence, of religious liberty, of religious freedom."

President John F. Kennedy

Fratelli Tutti: Dialogue and Friendship in Society More from Pope Francis: The Basis of Consensus



207. Is it possible to be concerned for truth, to seek the truth that responds to life's deepest meaning? If society is to have a future, it must respect the truth of our human dignity. Murder is not wrong simply because it is socially unacceptable and punished by law, but because of a deeper conviction. This is a non-negotiable truth attained by the use of reason and accepted in conscience. A society is noble and decent *not least* for its support of the pursuit of truth and its adherence to the most basic of truths.

209. Is not the indifference and the heartless individualism into which we have fallen also a result of our failure to pursue higher values, values that transcend our immediate needs?

211. In a pluralistic society, dialogue is the best way to realize what ought always to be affirmed and respected. Such dialogue needs to be enriched and illumined by clear and rational thinking, a variety of perspectives, and the contribution of different fields of knowledge and points of view. Acknowledging the existence of certain enduring values makes for a solid social ethics. Once these values have been acknowledged through dialogue and consensus we realize that they transcend our concrete situations and remain non-negotiable. Our understanding of their meaning and scope can increase, but in themselves they are held to be enduring.



This past year has been hard, with the COVID pandemic and all the lifestyle changes it brought about. This past election season has been a divisive and acrimonious time with battles played out on social media and sadly, on our own community streets.

This announcement isn't to rehash or address the various and opposing political views offered by political parties, but rather to encourage us to remember, review and reconnect to who we are and what we all mean to one another in friendship and brotherhood/sisterhood.

As we remove our political lawn signs, let us consider putting up in its place a new sign of the times; a sign that reminds us of shared cups of coffee, the borrowed cups of sugar, of our being there for one another in good times and bad, offering the shoulder to cry on, the arm to lean on, the last minute emergency baby sitter, and the extra set of eyes to watch over our kids, pets and homes. A sign that speaks of the HEART of friendship, love, respect ... a sign that represents the best of who we are as Americans, as a people of faith.

Did not Jesus command us to love one another, as He loved us; to love our neighbor as ourselves? And how appropriate for Advent; a season of new beginnings, a season of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love, a season anticipating the birth of Love in Jesus.

Make this sign a part of your Advent decorations, place it near your nativity scene or among the 'presents' you might use to decorate your lawn.

The cost is \$10 dollars; the signs can be purchased after Mass or in the rectory during the week. Let's read the signs of the times-**Love**-and let's witness Love in anticipation of the Lord's coming.

Save the date!

FRIDAY, November 27th

Continuing Until Thursday, December 10th



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Advent..... Watch

Rejoice

Prepare

Behold

We are pleased to once again welcome Bishop Andrzej Zglejszewski to present: "Advent Offerings -The Love of the Eucharist, the heart of our lives"

Wednesday, December 9th and Tuesday, December 15 at 2pm. Both offerings will be live-streamed on our parish website and Facebook pages: www.stjamessetauket.org, Facebook.com/stjamessetauket and Facebook.com/stjamesre.org

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