
The Weekly Parish Light 2023

St. James Episcopal Church · 2 S Augustine St. · Wilmington DE 19804 · 302-994-2029

December 23, 2023





The season of the incarnation is upon us: that time where the Divine and the human touch in a marvelous and life-changing way; the time when God comes to live among us; the time when God's love for us is made real. The greatest of all gifts, the gift of the Christ child.

Last Sunday was a human glimpse at the miracle of the season. In the morning we were treated to the children of our parish in their joy and excitement, tempered with a bit of anxiety of what was to come, tell the story of the birth of this beyond superhero, Jesus. You no doubt have seen the picture or statue of another hero: Santa, kneeling at the cradle of the newborn Jesus. Last week we witnessed the superheros of our day – Batman, Cat Woman, and The Hulk bowing at the cradle of Jesus ... an acknowledging power and true authority in this newborn baby. There was excitement, joy, and exuberance filling our community.

Later on in the evening, there was a Quiet Christmas. This quiet, reflective time where the celebration of light and hope, even in the darkness of our lives, was given space to be recognized. The peace which the Saviour promises was deeply felt – that peace which is also a part of Christmas.

The next day, a car filled with food and hats and socks and mittens was delivered to Richey School. Scripture tells us to shout out glad tidings, to proclaim the Good News of great joy to all. The joy and giving of Christmas spread in our community.

I wish for you and those you love a merry Christmas. My hope is that you know the excitement and joy of Christmas. I hope that you experience the peace of God's presence in the quiet. I hope that you take in the goodness of sharing the Good News by sharing your faith.

In this season of excitement of hope and joy, my prayer is for you and for us all to know God's loving, abiding presence on this day and always.

Faithfully,

Sarah

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 24, 2023

PLEASE NOTE: There will be two services this Sunday, Christmas Eve. At 10:00 a.m., Advent 4, there will be a service of Morning Prayer. Later, at 6:30 p.m., we will have a Christmas Eve Service with Holy Eucharist and Lessons & Carols with singing by the Parish Choir.

SERVICE OF MORNING PRAYER - 10:00 a.m.

SUNDAY'S LITURGIES – *Old Testament:* 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16; *Epistle:* Romans 16:25-27; *Gospel:* Luke 1:26-38.

LAY MINISTERS –

Director of Music Ministry: Dr. Michael Larkin
Worship Leader: Marti LaRue
Old Testament Reader: John Grim
New Testament Reader: Lisa Bowe
Acolyte: Denise Jarrell

Greeter: Sandy Grim
Usher:
Altar Guild:
Counters: Tom Reilly &



The fourth and last Candle on the Advent Wreath (the Candle of Peace) will be lit by the Children of St. James.

HOPE, LOVE, JOY, PEACE

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE - 6:30 p.m.

LITURGIES – *Old Testament:* Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11; *Psalms:* 96 (said);
Epistle: Titus 2:11-14; *Gospel:* John 1:6-8, 19-28.

Also included during this service will be Lessons & Carols!

LAY MINISTERS –

Director of Music Ministry: Dr. Michael Larkin
Worship Leader: Dawn Martinez
Old Testament Reader: Tom Hutt
New Testament Reader: Tom Hutt
Acolyte: Tom Reilly

Greeter: Penny Geist
Usher: Carol Hall
Altar Guild: Dawn Martinez
Counters: Tom Reilly, Dawn Martinez



The fourth and last Candle on the Advent Wreath (the Candle of Peace) will be lit by the Geist Family.

HOPE, LOVE, JOY, PEACE



PARISH PRAYER LIST – Please see the last page of this newsletter and pray for those in need of our prayers for strength, guidance, or healing, especially Patti, Penny, & David Edwards, Carmen Scott, Penny Wilhelme, Diane Geist, Lindsey, Kira, Preston, Cindy, Dave, Jim, Terri. Pray for those who have died. Pray also for Presiding Bishop Michael Curry who is recovering at home after surgery from a fall earlier this month.

Anyone wishing to have someone **placed on or taken off the prayer list** may email Marti LaRue (martilarue828@gmail.com) or call the church office at 302-994-2029.

THOSE CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK – Sandy Grim, Mark Hutchinson, Eliza Nelson, Nicholas Harvey, and Constance Ruggieri.

FAMILY – We will be praying this week for the Bentley family. Please remember to pray for Skip during the service on Sunday and keep him in your thoughts during the week.

A Prayer for Families: Heavenly Father, in whom we live and move and have our being, we humbly pray to you to guide and govern us by the Holy Spirit, that in all the cares and occupations of our daily life, we may never forget you, but remember that we are ever walking in your sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ANGLICAN CYCLE OF PRAYER – Pray for The Episcopal Church in the Philippines.

DIOCESE OF DELAWARE – Pray for Christ Church, Christiana Hundred, Wilmington, The Rev. Ruth Lawson Beresford, Rector, The Rev. Michael Kurth, Associate Rector, and The Rev. Stacey M. Carpenter, Priest Associate.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS!



“NORM” THE TURKEY

Anyone who plucked Norm’s feathers and have **NOT** brought in your supplies for the kitchen yet, would you **please bring them in this Sunday, December 24th!** We need to replenish the kitchen supplies for Sunday Coffee Hours and upcoming events! Thank you.




We need your small glass jars to use for votives for the Epiphany Three Kings Sunday Celebration in January. There is a box in which you can put the jars **through this Sunday, December 24th.** Thank you.

FUNDRAISER EVENT



WILLIAMS SYNDROME ASSOCIATION: Check out the *Bender Twins' Team fundraising page!* Click on the link below for more information and to donate to this wonderful Association on behalf of Samantha and Autumn! (If you are unable to open the link below, copy and paste into your URL.)
<https://events.williams-syndrome.org/team/500609>

| <u>DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS</u> | | |
|---|----|----------------------|
|  | 3 | – Samantha Holmberg |
| | 8 | – Christian Padovani |
| | 9 | – Chase Carew |
| | 12 | – Jason Grahe |
| | 13 | – Dottie Huber |
| | 24 | – Sandy Grim |
| | 24 | – Mark Hutchinson |
| | 27 | – Eliza Nelson |
| | 29 | – Nicholas Harvey |
| | 31 | – Constance Ruggieri |

CALENDAR – DECEMBER 24 - 31

Sunday, December 24

(Advent 4)

Choir Rehearsal – 9:00 a.m.

Worship Service – ***Morning Prayer*** – 10:00 a.m.

(Christmas Eve Service)

Call for Choir – 6:00 p.m.

Worship Service - ***Holy Eucharist*** and ***Lessons & Carols*** - 6:30 p.m.

Monday, December 25 – *Merry Christmas!*

No Worship Service

Sunday, December 31 (First Sunday after Christmas Day)

NO Choir Rehearsal

Worship Service – 10:00 a.m. (no choir)

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK :

Fall seven times – STAND UP EIGHT!

**ST. JAMES HIGHLIGHTS IN PICTURES!
(PART 1 OF 2)**



Showing of *Coco*
October 2023



Ofrenda Dia De Los Muertos
November 2023



“Norm the Turkey”
November/December 2023

ST. JAMES HIGHLIGHTS IN PICTURES! *(continued)*



Pearl Harbor Day Ceremony
December 7, 2023



MSgt and a
Cadet from
DMA (Left)

(Lunch was
prepared by the
DelVets
Women)



St James' Cookie Walk sold
during lunch (Above)

**PART 2 OF PICTURE HIGHLIGHTS
WILL BE IN NEXT WEEK'S ISSUE.**

ST. JAMES VESTRY

Sr. Warden: George McDowell
Jr. Warden: Tina Geist

Christian Education Chair: Tina Geist
Finance: George McDowell/Tina Geist
Outreach Chairs: Dawn Martinez and Janice Fischbach
Pastoral Care Chairs: Dawn Martinez and Marti LaRue
Property Chairs: Tom Reilly and Andi Bender
Hospitality/Fellowship Chairs: Marti LaRue and Carol Hall
Worship Chairs: John Grim and Dawn Martinez
Recording Secretary: Marti LaRue
Clerk of the Vestry: Janice Fischbach



A Prayer for Ukraine

God of peace and justice,
we pray for the people of Ukraine today.
We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons.
We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow,
that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them.
We pray for those with power over war or peace,
for wisdom, discernment and compassion to guide their decisions.
Above all, we pray for all your precious children, at risk and in fear,
that you would hold and protect them.
We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace.
Amen.

*Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby
Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell*

Prayer in the Midst of Violence

Lord, in our shock and confusion, we come before you
in our grief and despair in the midst of hate,
in our sense of helplessness in the face of violence,
We lean on you.

For the families of those who have been killed, we pray.
For the shooters – *help* us to pray, Lord.
For the communities that have lost members, their anger, grief, fear,
We pray.

For the churches striving to be your light in darkness
beyond comprehension,
We pray.

Lord of all, gather us up – your creatures, your world –
and bring an end to the violence.
Come, Lord Jesus.
Amen.

*Taken from “**Prayer for mass violence**” by Grace Claus
written for *faithward**

Prayer for Refugees

O Lord God, you led your people through the wilderness
and brought them to the promised land.
Guide us now so that, following your Son, we may
walk alongside vulnerable refugee families as
they build a new life in the county of your love and mercy. Amen.

ST. JAMES PRAYER LIST – Please use this Prayer List and include the following people in your daily prayers. Names will remain on the prayer list for one month. If you want to keep someone on the list, add, or remove anyone, please email (stjamesnew@verizon.net) or call the church office (302-994-2029).

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|--------------------------|---|
| Abigail | Cullen Kate Deal | Joshua John | The Pat Purdy Family |
| Alan | Frank Dean | Sister Julian | Reese |
| Alethia | Diana and Pevan | Carolyn Karney & Family | Neil Reilly |
| Alex | Rose DelliGatti | Juanita Kavanaugh | The Rev. Reuben Rodriguez |
| Allysa | Henry Diaz | Kathy | Aaron Richers |
| Amy | John DiOrio | Melvin Kessler | The Roche Family |
| Andrienne | Ross Donovan | Kiara | The Family of Fr. Ruben Rodriguez |
| Anna | Deborah Earley | Ritchie Kinlaw | Roy |
| Anne | Vern Earley | Kira | Emily Ruggieri |
| Christina Azwol | Patti Edwards & Family | Sara Kirk | Henry Saffer |
| Tony Andres | Penny Edwards | Susan Kriznuski | Sally |
| Sage Andrews | Carol Edwards & Family | Marti & Ron LaRue | Daniel Sanchez |
| Barbara | Ellie Rose | Laura | Gabriela Santiago |
| Scott Battaglia | Eli | John Lewis | Mike Scarpetti |
| Seth Bayless | Eric | Liam | Scott |
| Jim Bender | Janice Fischbach | Lilly | Carmen Scott |
| Trish Bender Bayless | George Fischbach | Lois | Richard Scott |
| Jeff Biscoe | Mary Ellen | Allen Luckey | The Francis Scott Family |
| Bobbie Blevins | Kira Fix | Cindy & Dave Mahoney | Maria Perdikis |
| Eileen Borders | John & Harriet Flynn | Mallory | Mike PierceSeth |
| Barry Boulden | John | Marie Marcinkowski | Linda Sheesley |
| Paula Boulden | Joan Frati | The Martinez Family | The Slocomb Family |
| Myrle Bowe | Ginny | Mary Helen | Earlene Smith |
| Ronald Boyce | Diane Geist | Jude Matejkovic | Dan Sommers |
| Doris Brown | Fred Geist | Melvin | Kenny Stafford |
| Charles Brown | Gerike Family: Adam, Lindsey, & Oliver | Missy | Dorothy Stephens |
| Eleanor Buchanan | Glenn | Carmen Moore | Steve |
| Crystal Bush | The Gracie Family | Shirley Moore | Gavin Stiteler |
| Douglas Bush | Brittney Griffin | Ann Moses | Paula Szczuka |
| David Butters | Scott Gunn | Jay Muckle | The Sotkiewicz Family: Joanna, Michael, Hannah, Charles |
| Fran Pearlman-Butters | Carolyn Halfen | Randy Murray | Thomas |
| Cameryn | Ike Hammond | Sara Musselman | Lorayne Titter |
| Caroleen | Lindsey Hammond | Natalie | Jack Tucker |
| Carolyn | Amy & Rick Harra | Maren Nelson | Shon Tucker |
| KayMaire Castro | Major Scott M. Harra | The Rev. Sarah Nelson | Tyler |
| Cathy | Nancy Hoffman | Sue Nelson | Jack |
| Wayne Chapman, Jr. | Travis Hoffman | Nicholas | Betty Ann VanHekle |
| Chris | Holly | Noah | Preston VanHekle III |
| Cindy | Eileen Hughes | Cassandra Norsworthy | Mary Wade |
| The Clapp Family | Peter Huiner and Family | Paula Orty | Nancy Walls |
| Linda Clark | Kaylee Jackson | Mark Parton | Valerie Warrington |
| Clint | Jennifer | Terri Parton | Missy Wieland |
| Bill Cole | Jenna & John | Debbie Papa | Penny Wilhelme |
| Brittany Collins | Jeremy | Madeline Pepe & Children | Andy & Linda Wolf |
| Christina Conaway | Jim | Pat | |
| Presiding Bishop Michael Curry | Joan | The Pease Family | |
| Daisy | Joe | Maria Perdikis | |
| Dave | | Mike Pierce | |
| | | John Pumphrey & Family | |

For those serving our country: National Guard: Terron Barnes, Brad Pastore, Christina Pastore;
U.S. Army: Maj. Scott M. Harra. *Give grace, O Lord, to our brothers and sisters in Christ who suffer physically and emotionally, that they may be healed. Grant them trust and love that their prayers may be answered and that they may be relieved from their suffering. Amen.*

Rev. 12/16/23