
The Weekly Parish Light 2023

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



From the Rector – The Rev. Sarah Nelson

December 30, 2023



This week between Christmas and New Years always feels a bit “other” to me. Even figuring out what day of the week it is or when, with the holiday schedule, the trash will be picked up is a challenge. The push to get everything done is over. The anticipation about what gifts to give and what we will receive are both behind us. It isn’t quite yet time to make resolutions and begin the new year. These days between Christmas and New Year’s Day are sort of between times, not yet but almost. There is a sort of peace found between the two great lights. There is also a sense of these days being out of the ordinary. Life a little off-kilter.

While a bit of a stretch in our everyday way of thinking, this week is akin to our lives of faith. Jesus the Christ has been born. Jesus has lived among us. Jesus has been crucified died and buried. The Christ has risen from the grave. Jesus Christ has promised to come again. So we wait. Me? Wait in this weird, in-between time? We wait in the betwixt and between time. We wait – having witnessed the Holy Birth and awaiting his Divine return.

Sometimes it is good to be slightly off, sometimes it is good to have things slightly out of the ordinary. Sometimes it is good to have our perspective changed. It is good because in these moments we have the possibility of seeing things differently.

In these days, perhaps we can look up and be enlightened by the natal star. Perhaps in these betwixt times, we might be amazed at the acts of grace like animals giving of their shelter, so that everyone knows that there is a place for them. Perhaps in these days of between time, we might be made aware of the wondrous need for love and compassion for creation.

I do hope that these days are filled not only with, yes, quiet and peace, but also of the miracle of our faith. Christ has come. Christ *will* come again.

Faithfully,

Sarah

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS
December 31, 2023

LITURGIES – *Old Testament*: Isaiah 61:10 – 62:3; *Epistle*: Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7;
Psalm: 147 (said); *Gospel*: John 1:1-18.

LAY MINISTERS –

Director of Music Ministry: Dr. Michael Larkin
Worship Leader: Mary Hammond
Old Testament Reader: Skip Bentley
New Testament Reader: Kenny Stafford
Acolyte: Tom Reilly

Greeter: Penny Geist
Usher: Carol Hall
Altar Guild: Mary Hammond
Counters: Tom Reilly & Dawn Martinez



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.

Anyone wishing to have someone **placed on or taken off the prayer list** may email Marti LaRue ([martilarue828@gmail.com](mailto:martilae828@gmail.com)) or call the church office at 302-994-2029.

THOSE CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK – Eric Purdy, Bryanna Madden, and Carol Hall.

FAMILY – We will be praying this week for the Bowe family. Please remember to pray for Lisa during the service on Sunday and keep her 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 Eglise Anglicane du Rwanda.

DIOCESE OF DELAWARE – Pray for the Brandywine Collaborative Ministries, Wilmington: Calvary-Hillcrest Church and Church of the Ascension. The Vestry Leadership and Parishes.

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 31st!** We need to replenish the kitchen supplies for our Monthly 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 31st.** 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>

<p><u>JANUARY BIRTHDAYS</u></p>	2	– Eric Purdy	22	– Nazeef Bush
	3	– Bryanna Madden	22	– Andi Bender
	3	– Carol Hall	24	– Dawn Martinez
	7	– Christina Pastore	25	– Denise Jarrell
	9	– Amy Holcomb	29	– Charlotte Ruggieri
	12	– Kaymari Castro	31	– Tom Hall
	16	– Jack Malloy		
	17	– Stumpy Moore		
	17	– Arianna Hinds		
	21	– Georgina Martinez		

CALENDAR – DECEMBER 31, 2023 – JANUARY 10, 2024

Sunday, December 31

(First Sunday after Christmas)

NO Choir Rehearsal

Worship Service – 10:00 a.m.

Saturday, January 6

(The Epiphany of Our Lord Jesus Christ)

Sunday, January 7

(1st Sunday after The Epiphany and The Baptism of Our Lord Jesus Christ)

Choir Rehearsal – 9:00 a.m.

Worship Service – 10:00 a.m.

Healing Service – in the Chapel after the 10:00 a.m. service

Coffee Hour & Fellowship – in the Parish Hall after the 10:00 a.m. service

Wednesday, January 10

Bible Study (**Tentative**) - Lounge

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK :

God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference.

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



***Adults & Kids
enjoying the Mingle & Jingle at
Tony's Bistro on December 14, 2023!!***



ST. JAMES HIGHLIGHTS IN PICTURES! (continued)



***Children's Christmas Pageant – Super Heroes Meet Baby Jesus
10AM Worship Service – December 17, 2023***

ST. JAMES HIGHLIGHTS IN PICTURES! (continued)



***Beautiful Lights at Quiet Christmas Service
on Sunday, December 17, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.
(Part of the Circle of Blessings is behind the red & green votives!)***

ST. JAMES HIGHLIGHTS IN PICTURES! (continued)



Our Future!



Food Donations from St. James packed up in Sarah's car ready to take to Richey School!

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

