
The Weekly Parish Light 2024

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

From the Rector – The Rev. Sarah Nelson January 20, 2024



I grew up in a family where three topics were not discussed: politics, sex, and money. To this day, I have a hesitancy about such topics.

When I was newly ordained, as was that Bishop's custom, I was invited to his home for supper. One couple there was David, the founding priest of OASIS, and his partner. (OASIS was a ministry of the Diocese of Newark (New Jersey) to support gay and lesbian people, their families and friends.) David and his partner were good friends but the third couple was quite obviously a bit awkward with these two gay men. Once coats were collected, the Bishop launched into a conversation asking about our thoughts on marriage. This was a good while ago and gay marriage was nowhere on the radar. I remember thinking, "Is this really dinner conversation?" After a few awkward moments, the Bishop went on to clergy stipends – how much did we make in our positions, was this commensurate with our education, experience, and other awkward topics. So within a short time, we had broached two of the three "topics not to discuss in public." My Bishop, though, did not stop there. The next few minutes, the Bishop spoke about Tom Keene, the Governor of New Jersey, and his recent thoughts and actions. Okay, now we were at three out of three!

I remember my own awkwardness at that dinner. I also learned that while perhaps not comfortable, I will survive such discussions. All of these years later, I still do not look forward to such conversations but I know that I will survive and they are necessary.

Over these next few weeks at Saint James, we will be discussing our stewardship to our parish. Stewardship has traditionally been divided into three categories: the pledging of our time, our talent, and our treasure to the ministry of this parish. In a small parish such as ours, the gift of each of you is bountiful. In contemporary vernacular, each of you wear many hats. Some of your gifts are "front and center," like reading or singing in the choir. Some of those gifts are quiet ... a hug, "life is hard," replacing tea towels in the kitchen. Your gifts of time and talent are the energy and the fuel which keep us going. I am also aware that those gifts are interesting because as the Prayer of Saint Francis tells us, "It is in giving that we receive."

Your pledge card has space for you to identify where your gifts of time and talent are seen. Because you have done something in the past does not mean that you cannot try something new. Your treasure is the third category. Talking about money is never easy. We know, though, of the everyday expenses of heat and light, or salaries, and grass cutting and yard care. Those expenses are real.

This Sunday (January 21st) you will receive your pledge card. I invite you to pray and ponder and have conversation with the people in your life. Of course, there is no monetary amount that can be set for the community which supports you in your life of relationship with your God. So pray, talk with God. I love the line from John Denver, "Talk to God and listen for God's casual reply."

On the 28th of January, we will offer our pledges of time, talent, and treasure to God, knowing that with God, all things are possible.

I live in gratitude for each of you and for your prayerful pledge to the ministry of this parish.

Faithfully,

Sarah

**Funeral Service Details for
PAULA M. SZCZUKA**

When: Saturday, January 20, 2023
Visitation: 9:30am – 10:00am
Services: Will begin at 10:00 am
Location: The Episcopal Church of the Advent
Address: 401 N. Union Street
Kennett Square, PA 19348



***NOTE: A card will be available on Sunday, January 21st
at St. James for signatures to send to the family.***

[Click here](https://www.nicholsgilmore.com/obituary) for obituary, or go to Nichols-Gilmore website:
<https://www.nicholsgilmore.com/memorials/paula-szczuka/5361694/>



THIS SUNDAY

**THE 3rd SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY
JANUARY 21, 2024**

LITURGIES – *Old Testament:* Jonah 3:1-5, 10 ; *Psalm:* 62:6-14 (chanted);
Epistle: 1 Corinthians 7:29-31; *Gospel:* Mark 1:14-20.

LAY MINISTERS –

Director of Music Ministry: Dr. Michael Larkin
Worship Leader: George McDowell, Skip Bentley
Old Testament Reader: Lisa Bowe
New Testament Reader: Marsali Hansen

Greeter: Sandy Grim
Ushers: Penny Geist, Carol Hall
Acolyte: Tom Reilly
Altar Guild:



Sunday School is available for all children during the 10:00 am worship service. Sunday School Lessons are planned to match the Lectionary reading for the week. A discussion about the lesson and a craft or activity will follow. The children join their families in church for the Eucharist, or if Miss Tina is singing in the choir, the children will come in during the peace. All children are welcome to attend our class, even if they are not here every week or are just visiting. Please ask a Greeter to direct you to the classroom.



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 George, Patti, Penny, & David Edwards, Carmen Scott, Penny Wilhelme, Diane Geist, Lindsey, Kira, Preston, Cindy, Dave, Jim, Terri. Pray for those who have died., especially Paula Szczuka, Nancy, Charles, Sean.

THOSE CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK – Georgina Martinez, Nazeef Bush, Andi Bender, Dawn Martinez, and Denise Jarrell.

FAMILY – We will be praying this week for the Bush family. Please remember to pray for James, Michele, José, and Adriam during the service on Sunday and keep them 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.

Prayer for Coral Springs

Jesus, I ask for comfort and hope for those who are in nursing homes. May they feel your presence and know you see them as precious and having your love in their hearts. May they be treated with dignity. I also pray for the caregivers. They have such a hard job and many times don't receive acknowledgement for what they do. May they know the importance and beauty of their job and realize they are bringing you to the people they are serving. Please give them strength when they become tired and when the job becomes very stressful. May the people who make decisions regarding the money that nursing homes receive know they too will be older one day and to be sensitive to the needs and challenges of these wonderful people. Amen.

ANGLICAN CYCLE OF PRAYER – Pray for the Diocese of Akoko (Nigeria).

DIOCESE OF DELAWARE – Pray for Daughters of The King and Anamachara Fellowship.

MINISTRIES

ATTENTION, VESTRY MEMBERS! – Pictures will be taken of Vestry members, not only for our own parish information, but also in preparation of the Bishop's Visit on Sunday, February 11. You will be notified of date of when Pictures will be taken.

HOSPITALITY – We are really a busy Team!

- The next “event” coming up is the **Bishop’s Visit** on February 11th! Along with Bishop Brown being with us, that day is also our “Shrove Sunday” Pancake Breakfast! We’ve also scheduled our Sweethearts’ Day! See next bullet item.) **And WE NEED YOUR HELP!** There is a Sign-Up Sheet for what we would like to have donated for our Pancake Breakfast (food items and supplies) on February 11th! An announcement will be made on Sunday as a reminder to check the Sheet for what we need – and please help us by signing up! Thanks so much! Carol & Marti
- **Also on February 11th,** and since it’s only 3 days away from Valentine’s Day, we would like to have a **Sweethearts’ Day!** From this Sunday (January 21) through Sunday, February 4, we are requesting pictures of YOUR SWEETHEARTS (copies preferred but not mandatory – we can make copies and return original to you) – how about showing off your wedding picture, or a picture of your sweetheart(s): spouse, child(ren), grandchild(ren), etc.??? (Please include your name on the back.) Your pictures will be displayed in the Parish Hall on the 11th!

MEETINGS



WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY – 2024 SCHEDULE

You are invited to join in a study of scripture with others seeking to know God. Each Wednesday we will gather at 10:00 a.m. in the Lounge to consider the words of the Gospel for the coming Sunday. While we will be meeting in person, if you would like to join us by Zoom, please let the office know. I hope that you will join us. Sarah

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY – 2024 SCHEDULE

- January 10 – ~~John 1: 43-51~~ (cancelled)
- January 17 – ~~Mark 1: 14-20~~ (cancelled)
- January 24 – Mark 1: 21-28
- January 31 – Mark 1: 29-39
- February 7 – Mark 9: 2-9
- February 14 – ASH WEDNESDAY
- February 21 – Mark 8:21-28
- February 28 – John 2:13-22



VESTRY MEETINGS: Vestry meetings are scheduled on the following dates:

February 11 (with Bishop); March 17; April 21; May 19; June 16



WORSHIP MEETING:

The next Worship meeting is scheduled for **this Sunday, January 21.**



HEALING SERVICES:

Healing services are generally held on the first Sunday of each month in the Chapel immediately following the 10am worship service. They have been scheduled on the following dates: Feb. 4; Mar. 3; Apr. 7; May 5; and June 2.

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>

2024 STEWARDSHIP

OFFERING ENVELOPES: Our prayerful consideration of our pledges begins this month. Offering envelopes are now available if you would like to use them. When you arrive Sunday morning (1/21/24), Sandy Grim will be at the Greeter's Table. She will give you the envelopes and record your number.

As each has received a gift,
 use it to **serve one another**,
 as good stewards
 of God's varied grace:
 1 Peter 4:10 (ESV)

PLEDGE CARDS will be *distributed* this Sunday (Jan. 21). Next week, on Jan. 28th, we will celebrate our *Ingathering Sunday* when we all are encouraged to make our pledges of what we plan to give to St. James in 2024. (Each Pledge Card received will be linked to your envelope, if you desire to use the envelopes.)

BIRTHDAYS

<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		

OUR YOUNG PEOPLE

Update: January 20, 2024 – Issue 4



Congratulations

to Nazeef Bush on recently winning his first Wrestling Match! Nazeef is a Freshman at William Penn High School.

Well done! We're so proud of you!

I hope that you will share things about young people you know. This will also give each of us something to talk about when we encounter these members of our church.

To submit details about your Young Person, please email information (and if you desire, a picture) to: martilarue828@gmail.com. Please know that by sending us a picture, you will be authorizing and agreeing to having your youth's picture appear in our newsletter.

MISCELLANEOUS



Anyone at St. James interested in being our PARISH PHOTOGRAPHER?

It would be ideal if “our photographer” can “see” something and take a shot of it for our bulletin board, or *Parish Light*, or even a picture to go along with an article we could submit to the Diocesan *The Net*!! Think about it; if you're interested, email Marti LaRue (martilarue828@gmail.com).



Altar Flowers: If you would like to place flowers on the altar in thanksgiving or in memory of a loved one, flower forms are available on the table in the church foyer, or you may contact the church office. The cost for flowers is \$30.00. Checks should be made payable to: St. James Church. Please write “Altar Flowers” on the memo line of your check. The check can be placed in the Offering plate or dropped off at the office.

Coral Springs Nursing Home: On the First Sunday of the month during our worship service, Rev. Sarah will consecrate the Host that will be distributed to the residents of Coral Springs Nursing Home on every other Monday each month.



CALENDAR – JANUARY 21 – MARCH 17, 2024

Sunday, January 21

Choir Rehearsal – 9:00 a.m.

Worship Service – 10:00 a.m.

- Distribution of Pledge Cards

Begin accepting “**Sweetheart** Pictures ” (Details on page 4 of this newsletter)



Worship Meeting – immediately following worship service – in Lounge

Wednesday, January 24

Bible Study – 10:00 a.m. in Lounge

Sunday, January 28

Choir Rehearsal – 9:00 a.m.

Worship Service – 10:00 a.m.

- Ingathering Sunday (Pledge Cards)

Wednesday, January 31

Bible Study – 10:00 a.m. in Lounge

Sunday, February 4

Choir Rehearsal – 9:00 a.m.

Worship Service – 10:00 a.m.

Healing Mass – immediately following worship service – in Chapel

Sweetheart Pictures due today! ([see more details on page 4](#))

Wednesday, February 7

Bible Study – 10:00 a.m. in Lounge

Sunday, February 11 – Bishop’s Visit

Choir Rehearsal – 9:00 a.m.

Worship Service – 10:00 a.m.

Bishop Brown will meet with Vestry

Shrove Sunday Pancake/Bacon or Sausage/Strata in Parish Hall

Sweethearts’ Day – Pictures on display during Breakfast

Wednesday, February 14 – Ash Wednesday – LENT Begins

Prayers for Imposition of Ashes – 11:00 a.m.

Service (with music) – 12:00 p.m.

Service (with music) – 5:00 p.m.



Sunday, February 18

Choir Rehearsal – 9:00 a.m.

Worship Service – 10:00 a.m.

Viewing of “The Chosen” (Part 1 of 4) – Parish Hall – Light snacks

(CALENDAR continued on next page)

CHURCH CALENDAR (continued)

Wednesday, February 21

Bible Study – 10:00 a.m. in Lounge

Sunday, February 25

Choir Rehearsal – 9:00 a.m.

Worship Service – 10:00 a.m.

Viewing of “The Chosen” (Part 2 of 4) – Parish Hall – Light snacks

Wednesday, February 28

Bible Study – 10:00 a.m. in Lounge

Sunday, March 3

Choir Rehearsal – 9:00 a.m.

Worship Service – 10:00 a.m.

Healing Mass – immediately following worship service – in Chapel.

Viewing of “The Chosen” (Part 3 of 4) – Parish Hall – Light snacks

Wednesday, March 6

Bible Study – 10:00 a.m. in Lounge

Sunday, March 10

Choir Rehearsal – 9:00 a.m.

Worship Service – 10:00 a.m.

Viewing of “The Chosen” (Part 4 of 4) – Parish Hall – Light snacks

Wednesday, March 13

Bible Study – 10:00 a.m. in Lounge

Sunday, March 17

Choir Rehearsal – 9:00 a.m.

Worship Service – 10:00 a.m.

Vestry Meeting – immediately following worship service – in Lounge

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK :

If the future seems overwhelming, remember that it comes One Moment at a Time.

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: Carol Hall and Marti LaRue

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	Aaron Richers
Allysa	Henry Diaz	Kathy	The Roche Family
Amy	John DiOrio	Melvin Kessler	The Family of
Andrienne	Ross Donovan	Kiara	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 Krznuski	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 Pierce
Barry Boulden	John	Marie Marcinkowski	Seth
Paula Boulden	Joan Frati	The Martinez Family	Linda Sheesley
Myrle Bowe	Ginny	Mary Helen	The Slocomb Family
Ronald Boyce	Diane Geist	Jude Matejkovic	Earlene Smith
Doris Brown	Fred Geist	Melvin	Dan Sommers
Charles Brown	Gerike Family: Adam,	Missy	Kenny Stafford
Eleanor Buchanan	Lindsey, & Oliver	Carmen Moore	Dorothy Stephens
Crystal Bush	Glenn	Shirley Moore	Steve
Douglas Bush	The Gracie Family	Ann Moses	Gavin Stiteler
David Butters	Brittney Griffin	Jay Muckle	The Family of
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