
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
February 3, 2024**



While I love the hymn “In the bleak midwinter,” typically sung at Christmas time, I am not as fond of living it. I have often thought that it would be nice if Christmas came later in the winter, my reason being that I love the lights and decorations that light up (illuminate?) the night. I love walking around the neighborhood or driving around and seeing homes decorated and the lights lit up with bright sights! By the beginning of January when the weather gets cold, the lights come down. The world seems a bit less bright. Many of us can find ourselves in a post-holiday funk. Spring seems to be in the distance and here we are.

In the church, we add to all of this the season of Lent. Lent is a season marked by prayer and fasting and focusing our hearts and minds on getting things right with our God. I suppose it is fitting that the weather, the external world, is bleak ... matching our internal world.

While the temptation is to close our eyes and get through these days, the alternative is to lean into the bleak midwinter. The invitation is to sit in the discomfort of the greyness – to be still and, as scripture tells us, to “be still and know that I am God.”

We have much to learn from the stillness. Our usual attempts to fix things, or to make things bright and cheery, rob us of sitting in the solitude and quietness and once again listening intently to where God is calling. The prophets speak of the still small voice within the usual busyness of life – that still small voice can be difficult to discern. In the bleak midwinter, when the world is hushed, there is a beckoning to us to be still, to sit with even what makes us uncomfortable, to step away from the usual hubbub and, instead, to listen for God speaking.

Faithfully,

Sarah



THIS SUNDAY

THE 5th SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

FEBRUARY 4, 2024

LITURGIES – *Old Testament*: Isaiah 40:21-31; *Psalm*: 147:1-12, 21c (chanted);
Epistle: 1 Corinthians 9:16-23; *Gospel*: Mark 1:29-39.

LAY MINISTERS –

Director of Music Ministry: Dr. Michael Larkin
Worship Leader: Mary Hammond
Old Testament Reader: Kenny Stafford
New Testament Reader: John Grim

Greeter: Penny Geist
Usher: Denise Jarrell
Acolyte: Tom Reilly
Altar Guild: Mary Hammond
Counters: Tom Reilly, Dawn Martinez



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.

PLEASE NOTE THIS SUNDAY'S DEADLINES:

- **Palms** – Bring your Palms from last year to church this Sunday. Additionally, if you have palms from previous years, bring them in as well – the older, the better! The palms will be burned for ashes on Ash Wednesday.
- **Pictures for Sweethearts' Day** – Please bring in pictures of YOUR SWEETHEARTS! They don't have to be only of you and your spouse (although it would, of course, be special for you to share your wedding picture)! How about pictures of your "other Sweethearts" – children, grandchildren, even your pets...!! Copies of your pictures are preferred but not mandatory – we can make copies and return originals to you. **(Please include your name on the back of each original.)** Your pictures will be displayed in the Parish Hall on the 11th!
- **Shrove Sunday Pancake Breakfast** – Thank you to those who have volunteered to bring items for the Coffee Hour/Pancake Breakfast next Sunday, February 11th! Currently, the **only items still needed are a Vegetable Strata and Cookies/Desserts.** If you are interested in donating these items, please sign up on the form in the lobby.



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 Fischbach, Jim Bender, Sandy Grim, Patti, Penny, & David Edwards, Carmen Scott, Penny Wilhelme, Diane Geist, Lindsey, Kira, Preston, Cindy, Dave, Terri Parton. Pray for those who have died.

THOSE CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK – Caleb Nelson, Nazir Washington, and Dave Spendio.

FAMILY – We will be praying this week for the Carew family. Please remember to pray for Mark 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.

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 Anglican Church of South America.

DIOCESE OF DELAWARE – Pray for Saint Anne's Church, Middletown, The Rev. Russ Bohner, Rector, and The Rev. Celeste O. Cox, Priest-in-Residence.

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.

PLEDGE CARDS have been *distributed*. This Sunday, February 4th, 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.)

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)

MEETINGS

COME JOIN OUR



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 – FEBRUARY SCHEDULE

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* (Bishop's Visit); March 17; April 21; May 19; June 16. (*Note 2/11 meeting will not be a formal meeting with Bishop due to the events of the day.)



WORSHIP MEETING: The Worship meetings are usually scheduled on the fourth Sundays of the month. The next meeting is planned for February 25.



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 – will be incorporated into the 10am worship service); Apr. 7; May 5; and June 2.



A BIG THANK YOU

to Denise Jarrell for volunteering to be our PARISH PHOTOGRAPHER!
What a Blessing and a Gift!

OUR YOUNG PEOPLE

To submit exciting details about achievements 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.

FUNDRAISER EVENT



WILLIAMS SYNDROME ASSOCIATION: Check out the ***Bender Twins' Team fundraising page!*** Click on the link below for more information. They are still accepting donations 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>

UPCOMING EVENTS



What Does It Mean To Be Chosen?

Join us **beginning February 18 through Lenten Sundays** after services to explore the answer to this question as we view the groundbreaking series, *The Chosen*. Filmmaker and author, Dallas Jenkins, beautifully presents the life of Jesus in such a way that promises to move you forever while enhancing your knowledge of scripture and what it truly means to be chosen.

Several episodes will be shown each week and light snacks will be provided. All are welcome to bring their own snacks/sandwiches if preferred.

BIRTHDAYS CALENDAR

<p><u>FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS</u></p> 	1	– Layla Tjaden	25	– Gaelen Nelson
	1	– Melina & Sophia Erdman	28	– Cassandra DeMaio-Temme
	4	– Caleb Nelson		
	8	– Nazir Washington		
	10	– Dave Spendio		
	18	– Skip Bentley		
	21	– Alberta Regan		
	22	– Ryan Warrington		
	24	– The Rev. Sarah Nelson		
	24	– James Bush		
	24	– Ken Stafford		

MISCELLANEOUS



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. **NOTE: There are No Altar Flowers during Lent.**



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 – FEBRUARY 4 – MARCH 17, 2024

Sunday, February 4

Choir Rehearsal – 9:00 a.m.
Worship Service – 10:00 a.m.
– **Ingathering of Pledge Cards** during service
Healing Mass – immediately following worship service – in Chapel
Please bring in Palms from last year due (older palms also accepted)
Sweetheart Pictures due today! ([see more details on page 3](#))

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’s Visit
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. - 12:00 noon
Service (with music) – 12:00 Noon
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

Wednesday, February 21

Bible Study – 10:00 a.m. – 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. – Lounge

CALENDAR (*continued*)

CALENDAR – FEBRUARY 4 – MARCH 17 (continued)

Sunday, March 3

Choir Rehearsal – 9:00 a.m.

Worship Service – 10:00 a.m. **

****The Healing Mass** will be part of the Worship Service to allow for the viewing of **“The Chosen” (Part 3 of 4)** which will be shown in the 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. – Lounge

Sunday, March 17

Choir Rehearsal – 9:00 a.m.

Worship Service – 10:00 a.m.

Vestry Meeting – immediately following worship service – Lounge

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK :

I can trust things will unfold the way they should.

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). (**Highlighted & Asterisked** names are new to this list.)

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

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.*