



# THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

SUNDAY 3 DECEMBER 2023

THE HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II  
10:15 A.M.

## Prelude

*After the ringing of the bell, the congregation stands for the Great Litany*

## THE GREAT LITANY

Holy God, Creator of heaven and earth,

**Have mercy on us.**

Holy and Mighty, Redeemer of the world,

**Have mercy on us.**

Holy Immortal One, Sanctifier of the faithful,

**Have mercy on us.**

Holy, blessed and glorious Trinity, One God,

**Have mercy on us.**

From all evil and mischief; from pride, vanity and hypocrisy; from envy, hatred and malice; and from all evil intent,

**Savior deliver us.**

From sloth, worldliness and love of money; from hardness of heart and contempt for your word and your laws,

**Savior deliver us.**

From sins of body and mind; from deceits of the world, the flesh and the devil,

**Savior deliver us.**

From famine and disaster; from violence, murder, and dying unprepared,

**Savior deliver us.**

In all times of sorrow; in all times of joy; in the hour of our death and at the day of judgment,

**Savior deliver us.**

By the mystery of your holy incarnation; by your birth, childhood and obedience; by your baptism, fasting and temptation,

**Savior deliver us.**

By your ministry in word and work; by your mighty acts of power; by the preaching of your reign,

**Savior deliver us.**

By your agony and trial; by your cross and passion; by your precious death and burial,

**Savior deliver us.**

By your mighty resurrection; by your glorious ascension; and by your sending of the Holy Spirit,

**Savior deliver us.**

Hear our prayers, O Christ our God.

**Hear us, O Christ.**

Govern and direct your holy Church; fill it with love and truth; and grant it that unity which is your will.

**Hear us, O Christ.**

Give us boldness to preach the gospel in all the world, and to make disciples of all the nations.

**Hear us, O Christ.**

Give your people grace to witness to your word and bring forth the fruit of your Spirit.

**Hear us, O Christ.**

Strengthen those who stand; comfort and help the fainthearted; raise up the fallen; and finally beat down Satan under our feet.

**Hear us, O Christ.**

Guide the leaders of the nations into the ways of peace and justice.

**Hear us, O Christ.**

Give us the will to use the resources of the earth to your glory and for the good of all.

**Hear us, O Christ.**

Comfort and liberate the lonely, the bereaved and the oppressed.

**Hear us, O Christ.**

Heal the sick in body, mind, or spirit and provide for the homeless, the hungry and the destitute.

**Hear us, O Christ.**

Show your compassion on prisoners, hostages and refugees, and all who are in trouble.

**Hear us, O Christ.**

Hear us as we remember those who have died, and grant us with them a share in your eternal glory.

**Hear us, O Christ.**

Give us true repentance; forgive us our sins of negligence and ignorance and our deliberate sins; and grant us the grace of your Holy Spirit to amend our lives according to your word.

**Holy God,**

**Holy and Mighty,**

**Holy Immortal One,**

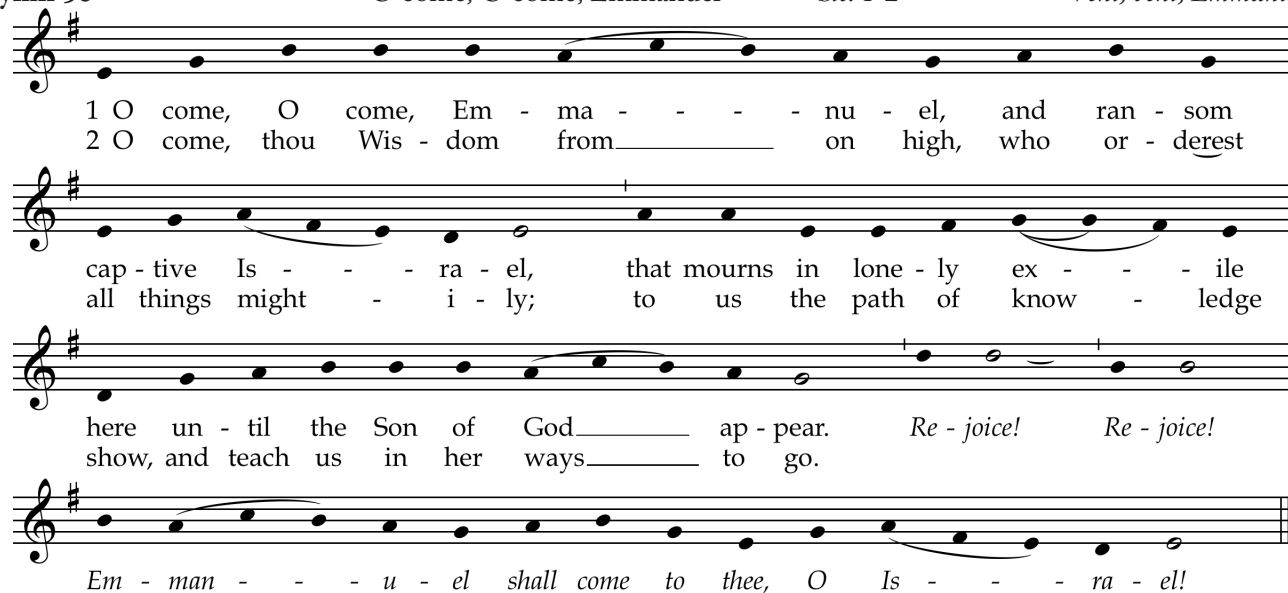
**Have mercy on us.**

## Hymn 56

“O come, O come, Emmanuel”

*Sts. 1-2*

*Veni, veni, Emmanuel*



1 O come, O come, Em - ma - - - nu - el, and ran - som  
2 O come, thou Wis - dom from \_\_\_\_\_ on high, who or - derest  
cap - tive Is - - - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - - - ile  
all things might - i - ly; to us the path of know - ledge  
here un - til the Son of God \_\_\_\_\_ ap - pear. Re - joice! Re - joice!  
show, and teach us in her ways \_\_\_\_\_ to go.  
Em - man - - - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - - - ra - el!

## The Collect of the Day

p. 211

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

*Commentary: The purpose of Isaiah's sweeping prophecy is to display God's glory and holiness through His judgment of sin and His blessing and deliverance of a righteous remnant. In this passage, Isaiah appealed to God, asking Him to have pity on Israel. At the exodus, God had done unexpected, awesome things and Isaiah prayed that instead of remaining quiet, the Lord would act again. Israel was thoroughly polluted by sin, her people unconcerned about it, yet Isaiah still appealed to God for help, asking Him to look mercifully upon Israel simply because this was the nation God had chosen and formed for Himself.*

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence-- as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil-- to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. Yet, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

The Word of the Lord.

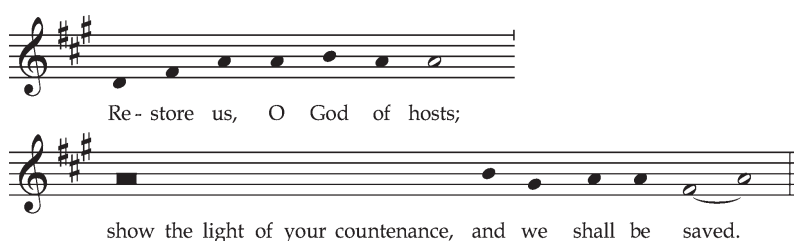
People

Thanks be to God.

### Psalm 80:1–7, 16–18

*Qui regis Israel*

**Antiphon** (The antiphon is first sung by the Cantor, then repeated by all)



Hear, O Shepherd of Israel,  
leading Joseph like a / **flock**; \*  
shine forth, you that are enthroned  
upon the / **cherubim**.

In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Ma-/**nasseh**, \*  
stir up your strength and come to / **help us**.

#### ANTIPHON

O Lord God of / **hosts**, \*  
how long will you be angered despite  
the prayers of your / **people**?  
You have fed them with the bread of / **tears**; \*  
you have given them bowls of tears to / **drink**.



*Second half of chant:*

You have made us the derision of our / **neighbors**, \*  
and our enemies laugh us to / **scorn**.

#### ANTIPHON

Let your hand be upon the man of your / **right hand**, \*  
the son of man you have made so strong for your-/**self**.  
And so will we never turn a-/**way from you**; \*  
give us life, that we may call upon your / **Name**.

#### ANTIPHON

### The Epistle: 1 Corinthians 1:3–9

NRSV, p. 1040

*Commentary: Corinth was strategically situated in the ancient world and its location brought commerce and all that went with it, including wealth, a steady stream of travellers, and vice. Paul had planted a church in Corinth and he subsequently wrote this letter to address areas of concern within the Corinthian church. As was Paul's custom, he began his letter with thanksgiving to God for what the Corinthian Christians were doing well. Paul praised the Corinthians for their gifts, if not their behavior. He reminded his readers that one day they would stand without guilt before the Lord, not on their own merits, but because God is faithful and His keeping power is eternal. Paul stated that everything God had done and will do for the Corinthians was based on the merits of Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind-- just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you-- so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

*People*

**Thanks be to God.**

### Sequence Hymn 68

“Rejoice! rejoice believers”

*Llangloffan*

### The Holy Gospel: Mark 13:24–37

*NRSV*, p.927

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

*People*

**Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said, “In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

*People*

**Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

### The Sermon

The Reverend Gray Hodsdon

### The Nicene Creed

p. 358

*Celebrant and People*

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

### Confession of Sin and Absolution

p. 360

*The Celebrant says*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Celebrant and People*

**Most merciful God,  
we confess that we have sinned against you  
in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done,  
and by what we have left undone.**

**We have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.  
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.**

**For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
have mercy on us and forgive us;  
that we may delight in your will,  
and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

*The Priest stands and says*

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

**The Peace**

p. 360

*Celebrant*      The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
*People*          **And also with you.**

**Welcome and Announcements**

**THE HOLY COMMUNION**

**Offertory Anthem**

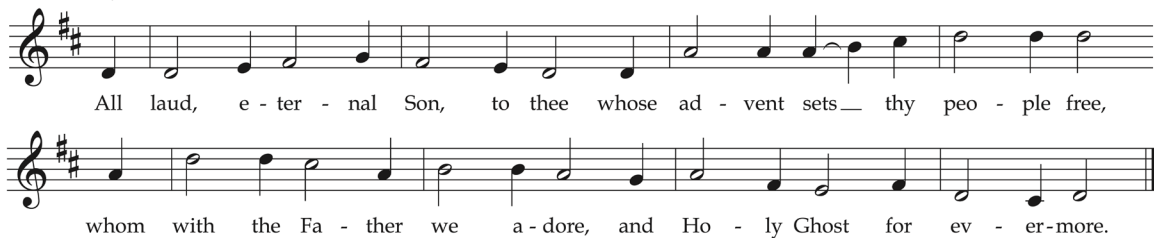
Otto Goldschmidt

A tender shoot has started up from a root of grace, as ancient seers imparted from Jesse's holy race: It blooms without a blight, blooms in the cold bleak winter, turning our darkness into light. This shoot Isaiah taught us, from Jesse's root should spring; The Virgin Mary brought us the branch of which we sing; Our God of endless might gave her this child to save us, Thus turning darkness into light.

~ William Bartholomew

**Presentation Hymn**

*Puer nobis*



**The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer B**

p. 367

*Celebrant*      The Lord be with you.  
*People*          **And also with you.**  
Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them to the Lord.**  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

*Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds*

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

*Here, a proper preface is said, then the Celebrant continues...*

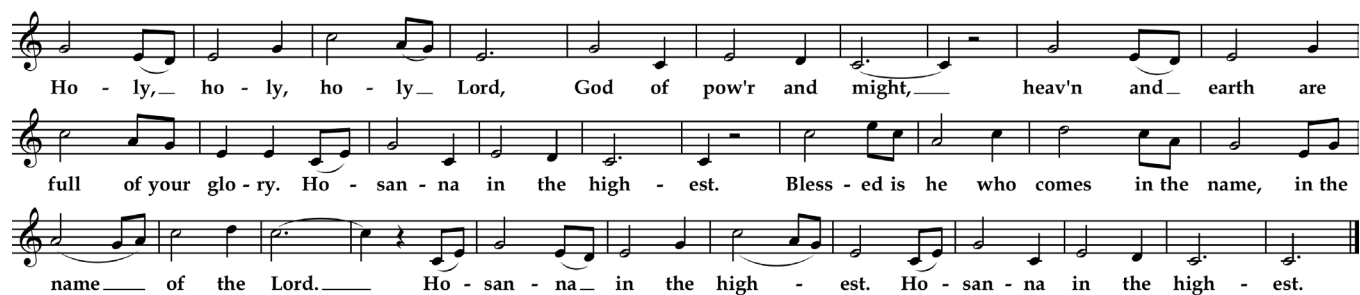
Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:



## Sanctus

“Holy, holy, holy Lord”

Resignation



*The people stand or kneel.*

*The Celebrant continues, saying in the midst of the prayer:*

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

*Celebrant and People*

**We remember his death, We proclaim his resurrection, We await his coming in glory;**

*The Celebrant continues, concluding with:*

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

## The Lord's Prayer

p. 364

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

## The Breaking of the Bread

p. 364

## Fraction Anthem: S152

*Cantor* Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.



*People* There-fore let us keep the feast. Al - le - lu - ia.

## The Communion of the People

*Gluten-free wafers are available at the main altar upon request.*

## Communion Hymns

### Hymn 53

“Once he came in blessing”

*Gottes Sohn ist kommen*

### Hymn 746

“God the sculptor of the mountains”

*Sandria*

### Hymn 51

“We the Lord's people, heart and voice uniting”

*Decatur Place*

## The Postcommunion Prayer

p. 366

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

**Almighty and everliving God,  
we thank you for feeding us  
with the spiritual food  
of the most precious Body and Blood  
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;  
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries  
that we are living members  
of the Body of your Son,  
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.**

**And now, Father, send us out  
to do the work you have given us to do,  
to love and serve you  
as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.  
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,  
be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.**

## The Blessing

May the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

## Closing Hymn 59

“Hark! a thrilling voice is sounding”

*Merton*

## The Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

p. 366

*People*

**Thanks be to God.**

## Postlude



*Celebrant: The Reverend C. Phillip Craig, Jr.*

*Preacher: The Reverend Gray Hodsdon*

*Children's Chapel: Ansley Trask*

*Organist & Choir Director: John Sullivan*

*The flowers at the altar are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of  
Mr. and Mrs. P. Huber Hanes, Jr. and Dr. and Mrs. William A. Lambeth, Jr.*

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## THIS WEEK AT ST. JAMES

### MON.- FRI., DECEMBER 4-8

- MORNING PRAYER  
8:00-8:30 AM | Zoom

### MONDAY, DECEMBER 4

- LIVING WELL IN MIDST OF GRIEF  
5:00 PM | Graham Parlor or via Zoom
- FELLOWSHIP AA  
7:00 PM | The Great Hall

### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5

- EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY  
9:00 AM | Registration Req.

### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6

- YOUTH BIBLE STUDY  
7:00 AM | 16th St. Starbucks
- ADVENT BIBLE STUDY  
11:00 AM | Graham Parlor or Zoom
- HOLY EUCHARIST  
12:10 PM | St. James Chapel

### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7

- EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY  
6:30 PM | Graham Parlor
- CHOIR REHEARSAL  
7:00 PM | Choir Room

### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8

- NO EVENTS PLANNED

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9

- NO EVENTS PLANNED

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10

#### **SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

- HOLY EUCHARIST RITE I  
8:00 AM | St. James Parish
- FAMILY BREAKFAST  
8:30 AM | Great Hall
- FAITH FORMATION HOUR  
9:10 AM | St. James Parish
- HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II  
10:15 AM | St. James Parish & Online
- IGNITE! SHOP'N'IHOP  
5:00 PM | Walmart & IHOP

EDITORIAL DEADLINES: The deadline for the December 11<sup>th</sup> Digital Grapevine is Friday, December 8<sup>th</sup>.

The deadline for the December Grapevine Magazine is December 27<sup>th</sup>. Email [communications@stjamesp.org](mailto:communications@stjamesp.org).

# TODAY AT ST. JAMES

## COMBINED FAITH FORMATION

*Sunday, December 3, 2023 | 9:10 a.m. - During Faith Formation Hour | RSVP*

Join us for an inter-generational-faith-formation hour on the first Sunday of Advent. Together we'll explore the lessons of the advent wreath and each family will have the opportunity to produce their own wreath.

## OLD WILMINGTON BY CANDLELIGHT

*Sunday, Dec. 3, 2023 | 1:00-5:00 p.m.*

This December, St. James will be joining the Latimer House and other historical downtown landmarks in opening our doors to our community for a candlelight tour. If you would like to learn more about this event or join us in greeting our neighbors, please email [communications@stjamesp.org](mailto:communications@stjamesp.org).

## LESSONS & CAROLS

*Sunday, December 3, 2023 | 5:00 p.m.*

Make plans to join us for Lessons and Carols featuring our St. James Choir! Together we'll welcome the season of Advent with song and scripture.

## UPCOMING OUTREACH PROJECTS

### ANGEL TREE PROJECT

*Gifts Due TODAY - Dec. 3*

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Southeastern North Carolina's Christmas Gift program is in full flight! This year St. James Parish has adopted 125 Angels. Have questions about this year's participation in the Angel Tree Project? Please reach out to Rachel Colonna at [rcolonna85@gmail.com](mailto:rcolonna85@gmail.com).

### MEN ON A MISSION: SERVING MEALS AT GSC

*GSC Dates: Dec. 5 & Dec 19*

*Sargent Ashley Veteran's Center: Dec. 28*

If you are interested in serving on one of the above dates, please contact Brian McMerty at [bmcmetry@arris.partners](mailto:bmcmetry@arris.partners).

### TRINITY GROVE STOCKING STUFFER DRIVE

*Deadline to donate: December 11*

Our neighbors at Trinity Grove have reached out with an invitation to support residents in need of a lift this holiday season. To donate, please bring non-slip socks, word activity books, craft supplies, coloring books, and puzzles to the Bacon House by the end of the workday on December 11th.

### POINSETTIAS & MUSIC

*Deadline: December 19th at 12:00p.m*

You are invited to participate in sharing the joy of tradition with the St. James Christmas Music & Flower Honorarium. We will be playing Christmas music and placing poinsettias and greens in honor of our loved ones this holiday season. Visit our website or call the church office to participate.

[stjamesp.org/blog/  
poinsettia/](https://stjamesp.org/blog/poinsettia/)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### ADVENT BIBLE STUDY BEGINS

*Next Meeting, December 6 | 11:00 AM | Graham Parlor or Zoom*

The Wednesday following Thanksgiving, our Wednesday Bible Study group will kick off their Advent Study. Please come as you are able.

### CHRISTMAS PAGEANT - DRESS REHEARSAL

*Sunday, December 10 | Following the 10:15 Service*

Following the 10:15 service, all of our participating children will meet in the church for pageant practice, costume pick-up, and lunch. Please make sure your child attends if they are participating in the pageant. Special instructions for pageant day will be included in your child's costume bag.

### IGNITE: SHOP'N'IHOP

*Sunday, December 10 | 5:00 PM | Walmart & IHOP*

Instead of our regularly scheduled IGNITE!, you're invited to join the St. James Youth as we take on one of our favorite annual outreach projects. We will gather at Walmart on Market Street to SHOP for families with children who need our help at Christmas. Once we complete our purchases, we will pop over to IHOP for a delicious supper. Join the fun! Help other people! Bring your friends! SHOP & IHOP! For further information contact [Cookie.cookie@stjamesp.org](mailto:Cookie.cookie@stjamesp.org) or [Jane.janerippy@yahoo.com](mailto:Jane.janerippy@yahoo.com)

### VESTRY MEETING

*Next Meeting, December 11 | 5:15 PM | Graham Parlor*

Our Vestry gathers on the second Monday of each month at 5:15 p.m. in the Graham Parlor to discuss the business of the parish and to hear from our parish family. These meetings are open and members of St. James Parish are welcome to attend.

## ST. JAMES PARISH

THE REVEREND C. PHILLIP CRAIG, JR., RECTOR

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