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ZOOM Vestry Meeting

Thursday, December 3rd

10:30 am

As We Wait . . .

As we enter Advent, the first liturgical season of the church year, how we celebrate and wait for the coming of the birth of Jesus doesn't really matter. As long as we go through this season together. By saying "how we celebrate", I am saying that we do not need to be in the same room together. The gift of knowledge that God has given us allows us to worship together today in ways that were never considered in the past. We are still able to await the coming together.

I remember being told that the word advent is derived from a latin word for "coming". Thus, we await the coming of the birth. This season of "coming" also other examples in this particular year. We have been worshiping and praying during the course of this pandemic and we now have news that we are awaiting the coming of lifesaving vaccines. It amazes me how we are waiting for the vaccines to save us at the same time we are waiting to celebrate the birth of Jesus. We are also waiting for candidates to be presented to the rector search committee. While none have been presented to the search committee yet, wouldn't it be amazing if this would happen during this season of hope also?



I know I have said this over and over, like an LP record with a scratch, but there is something really special about St. James. We became a new parish in October of 2019 and six months later we were faced with the unknown of a global pandemic. Since the pandemic began, we have adapted to technology that is foreign to many of us, we have actively kept and expanded our ministries, and we have led in the diocese in helping other churches with their use of technology. In short, we are St. James. As you will read in the financial report, we are behind where we wanted to be with our budget. We didn't expect a global pandemic. But the good news is that St. James has always felt the need to be good stewards of your finances and we have kept a reserve for emergencies. While we didn't want to get into this reserve, we also didn't want a pandemic.

Peace,
Bob Klassen

Annual Meeting



The pandemic has made it necessary to amend the St. James Bylaws allowing us to use the technology that will be necessary for, and voted on at the Annual Meeting, January 31, 2021. These proposed Bylaws may be found here on the St. James website: https://stjamestempe.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Bylaws-Proposed_2021.pdf.

Treasurer's Update

January 1 through November 23, 2020

As usual, our expenses - especially personnel - have been much less since we weren't able to call a full-time priest in Q2 this year. So even with our lower Operating Income we show a surplus. (Part of this surplus also includes the Small Business Administration 0-interest loans we received which will be forgiven.) But the shortfall between Actual and Budgeted Operating Income has now increased to \$83,000. The apparent Budget Surplus total of \$47,000 needs to be subtracted from the Shortfall amount to give a more accurate picture of where we stand: about \$36,000 LESS than the budget expected.

	Actual	Budget	Shortfall
YTD Operating Income	\$ 209,356	\$ 292,701	\$ 83,345
YTD Operating Expense	\$ 161,263	\$ 245,441	
YTD Surplus / (Deficit)	\$ 48,093	\$ 47,260	

I have drafted a preliminary 2021 budget which your Vestry has reviewed. Unfortunately, projected income looks like it will not be enough to pay the competitive salary and benefits that we are offering candidates for our full-time priest position. So I have had to ask the Vestry's approval to transfer up to \$40,000 from our Operating Reserves as it is needed in 2021 to maintain a balanced budget. After serious consideration, the Vestry unanimously agreed to take this step. Let's hope the full sum will not actually be required, because we've only been able to set aside about \$49,000 this entire year. The Lord has, and will provide for St. James! But He also calls us to be prudent as we look ahead to more financially uncertainty in 2021.

Gerry Carlston
Treasurer
(pgcarlston@cox.net)

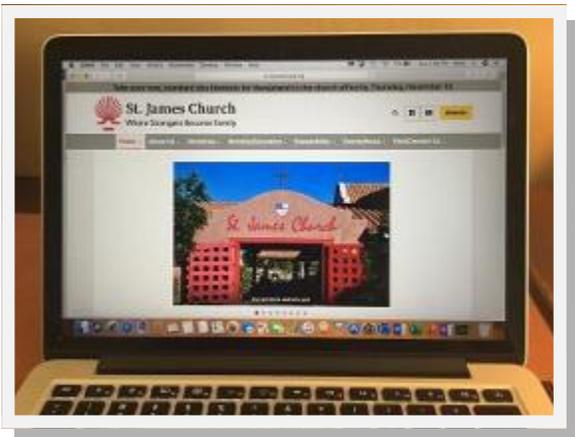
While we are only meeting virtually, please remember to keep up with our pledges and offerings. The Rector Search Committee has committed a compensation package in the search process and as a new parish. You can contribute to St. James at:

St. James
975 E Warner Rd or <https://my.simplegive.com/App/Giving/st975169>
Tempe, AZ 85284

NEW ST. JAMES WEBSITE COMES TO LIFE

BY MARY HOVDEN

A WORK IN PROGRESS FOR SEVERAL WEEKS, A SUBSET OF THE DIGITAL MINISTRY TEAM INTRODUCED A NEW ST. JAMES WEBSITE ON SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14 – SEE URL AT THE END OF THIS ARTICLE. THE DEVELOPMENT TEAM, CONSISTING OF NICK SPENCE AND MARY HOVDEN, RESEARCHED SEVERAL OTHER CHURCH WEBSITES TO CAPTURE THE 'LOOK AND FEEL' THAT THEY WANTED TO CONVEY WITH THIS NEW SITE. CLEAN/UNCLUTTERED FORMAT, EASY TO READ FONT, LOTS OF INFORMATION ABOUT ST. JAMES THAT IS EASY TO FIND, LOTS OF PHOTOS OF OUR WONDERFUL PARISHIONERS, EASY TO NAVIGATE BETWEEN SECTIONS AND PAGES, ETC. WE THINK THIS NEW SITE CAPTURED IT ALL!!



THE DEVELOPMENT TEAM ALSO RECEIVED INVALUABLE FEEDBACK FROM THREE REVIEW GROUPS: 1) TECHNICAL/USER REVIEW TEAM, 2) THE VESTRY AND 3) THE SEARCH COMMITTEE. LIAISONS FROM THE LAST TWO GROUPS WILL WORK WITH THE WEBSITE ONGOING MAINTENANCE TEAM TO ENSURE THAT WE ALWAYS HAVE THE MOST CURRENT AND ACCURATE CONTENT.

WE HOPE YOU ENJOY OUR NEW WEBSITE – IT WAS CREATED WITH LOTS OF LOVE AND CARE!!

[HTTPS://STJAMESTEMPE.ORG/](https://stjamestempe.org/)

Advent and Christmas Service Schedule

We will be streaming our worship services live from the sanctuary, with a small worship team, during Advent and for the Christmas Eve service. We will also offer communion 'on the go' the first and fourth Sundays in Advent and on Christmas Eve. Please join us on Facebook Live and/or YouTube for these very special worship services outlined below.

Sunday, November 29 at 9:30am - First Sunday of Advent

We will celebrate the lighting of the first candle in the advent wreath.
Communion 'on the go' will be given after the service from 11:00 - 11:45am in the south parking lot.
No virtual coffee hour.

Sunday, December 6 at 9:30am - Second Sunday of Advent

We will celebrate the lighting of the second candle in the advent wreath.

Sunday, December 13 at 9:30am - Third Sunday of Advent

We will celebrate the lighting of the third candle in the advent wreath.
Christingle dedication will be pre-recorded.



Sunday, December 20 at 9:30am - Fourth Sunday of Advent

We will celebrate the lighting of the fourth candle in the advent wreath.
Communion 'on the go' will be given after the service from 11:00 - 11:45am in the south parking lot.
No virtual coffee hour.



Thursday, December 24 at 6:00pm - Christmas Eve

Communion 'on the go' will be given before the service from 4:30 - 5:45pm in the south parking lot.
Christmas Pageant will be pre-recorded.
We will celebrate the lighting of the Christ candle in the advent wreath.

Friday, December 25 - Christmas Day

10am: Christmas Organ Recital from the Washington National Cathedral
Register here: <https://cathedral.org/event/christmas-day-organ-recital-4/>

Sunday, December 27 at 9:30am - First Sunday after Christmas

Pre-recorded Festival of Christmas Lessons & Music

Sunday, January 3 at 9:30am - Second Sunday after Christmas

Pre-recorded traditional worship service

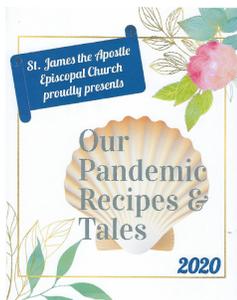


For "Communion on the Go" (bread only) Pastor Andrea and Deacon Robin will be standing outdoors on the sidewalk near Rural Road. They'll be there for about 45 minutes beginning about **11 am** (and from **4:30 to 5:45 pm** on Christmas Eve). If you would like to come and pick up communion we ask that you enter at the Warner Road entrance and proceed around the building where you will receive communion and then exit on Rural (right turn only).



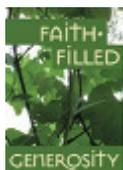
If you ever doubted that prayers work, doubt no more.....

True story: Ellie and Larry's dear friends and next-door neighbors for over 25 years in Virginia just donated \$8,000 to St. James the Apostle Church. Why, you ask, would a couple from Vienna, Virginia donate such a sum to a small Episcopal Church in Tempe, Arizona? Well, here is how God works in His mysterious ways. Tom recently sent a "catching-up" email note to Ellie filling her in on what he and Marj had been doing at their retirement community during the Pandemic. Ellie wrote back about what she and Larry had been doing personally and also telling them, devout Episcopalians, of what Larry has been doing as Junior Warden and mentioned the financial struggles St. James was for a new priest, trying to maintain an old and and Larry's struggles keeping the leaking, running in the 115⁺ summer heat. After said: "In January we sold some rental property we should do with the money we wished to properties. Our prayer: 'Lord, use us for Your months. Thinking of the upcoming holidays, I was prompted to send an email to connect with our two dear neighbors who we haven't seen since they moved to Arizona. Your response was like a letter from God. He spoke through you, saying that St. James needed money and that is where we should send it.'" So, last week Diana opened an envelope and found a check in the amount of \$8,000 donated by Tom and Marj to the Glory of God to be used where and when St. James Church needed it most. I don't know how we can all thank them for their extreme generosity other than to just say thank you and God Bless you both. We will try and get Tom and Marj on a ZOOM Social Hour one Sunday in the near future so you can all meet these two remarkable people, and we can all thank them in person. So, as you can see, The Lord answers prayers...including answered prayers for St. James. **Thank You Marj and Tom Riley for being special instruments of the Lord. And use us, Lord, for Your purpose and glory!**



We certainly owe **Jill Leatherman, her daughter Jenna, and daughter -in-law Aubrie** a huge St. James Thank You for all the hard work they put into collecting recipes and thoughts, designing the pages, creating the PDF, advertising, and selling the *St. James Pandemic Recipes and Tales Cookbook*. The book is wonderful, creative, artistic, and the recipes and tales delightful to read. To show our support and to show Jill how much we appreciate all the hard work she did to compile this wonderful book **I hope each and every parishioner will order one of these beautiful, digital books. It's the least we can do** to support Jill and to support St. James. *To order your cookbook, please visit [paypal.com](https://www.paypal.com) and send \$9 to office@stjamestempe.org. You may also send a check to the office at 975 E. Warner, Tempe, AZ 85284. If you need help ordering, please call 480-345-2686 or send email to office@stjamestempe.org. Thank you!*

We also owe a debt of gratitude to **Jill Leatherman** who organized, and **all the parishioners who donated items** to, the **eBay Arts & Crafts Auction** that started on November 27. The auction will run through December 23rd. The link to the eBay Auction is <https://www.ebay.com/str/niksgrandma>. Jill deserves a gold star, a halo, and all our thanks for her incredible efforts to raise funds for St. James in these times of the Pandemic and in St James' time of need.



The Stewardship Team wishes to thank **everyone** who turned in their pledge cards. As mentioned before, having your pledge cards in gives our Treasurer, **Gerry Carlston**, the opportunity to develop a budget based on known facts and figures to better serve our St. James financial needs/requirements. We also wish to thank **Diana Bowie** for typing all the Thank You Postcards and Follow-up Reminder cards for the Stewardship Team. We are so blessed to have you Diana.



The Vestry including **Pastor Andrea Wight, Deacon Robin Hollis, the Warden Bob Klassen, Junior Warden Larry Kenyon, Joan Besonen, Ann Marie Bellamy-Bartholomew, Mary Houden, Denise Boyd, Tara Papaccio**, and also our **Treasurer, Gerry Carlston** are to be commended for keeping our parish on course during this very difficult time of the pandemic. They and our Digital Ministry composed of **Mary Houden, Nathan Besonen, Nick Spence, Robin Hollis, Jason Houle, Parker Neff, Tara Papaccio**,



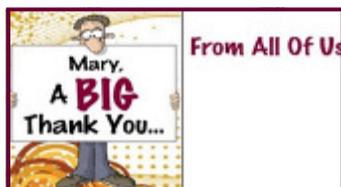
and **Damien Brandeis**, have kept us all together "in spirit" if not in person via ZOOM and YouTube when we have been constrained from being together due to the virus.

THANK YOU



Once again, we are so indebted to **Jim** and **Carrie McCullough** for originating the Annual St. James Blanket Drive and to **Jim** and **Larry Kenyon** for taking all the blankets donated by those of you in St. James to the Navajo land Coordinator at Cordes Junction. **All of you in the parish** who donated blankets deserve a huge Thank You!!!! **Eileen Flock's St James EYC** also contributed several blankets they made as a group project. You all came through with a generous donation of blankets. We also wish to thank the **Vestry** for supporting the drive. Thanks to everyone, Larry and Jim were able to take over 65 blankets to their contact at Cordes Junction. The blankets will be distributed to those in need in Navajo land.

While we are giving thanks to so many wonderful people at St James who give of their Time, Talent, and Treasure there is one person who stands out as deserving of all of our thanks for all she has done for St. James. That person is **Mary Houden**. Since Mary and Jack became members a few years ago Mary has become an involved church member volunteering for multiple activities and varied responsibilities at the church. From the start Mary has served St. James as a lay reader, to raise money for and as door keeper for Godly Play, on the hospitality committee, as hospitality chair, as Treasurer, on the Vestry, and on the Junior Warden's Building and Grounds committee. Mary also oversaw and helped establish the St. James Planned Giving/Endowment Trust, she has helped out at the St. James Musical, the St. James Ladies Tea, on the Digital Ministry, and most recently as chair of the Stewardship Team. Mary has also applied for multiple grants that have helped St. James financially during the recent Covid-19 Pandemic. The list goes on and I am sure I have not listed all of the things she has devoted her Time, Talent and Treasure to. Mary is a devoted church member, a skilled leader, an organizational wizard, a willing volunteer (no job is too big nor too small for Mary), she is a kind, gracious, and loving person.....a true example of someone doing the Lord's work. Thank you again , Mary, for all you do and all you have done for St. James.



St. James Planned Giving/Endowment Trust, she has helped out at the St. James Musical, the St. James Ladies Tea, on the Digital Ministry, and most recently as chair of the Stewardship Team. Mary has also applied for multiple grants that have helped St. James financially during the recent Covid-19 Pandemic. The list goes on and I am sure I have not listed all of the things she has devoted her Time, Talent and Treasure to. Mary is a devoted church member, a skilled leader, an organizational wizard, a willing volunteer (no job is too big nor too small for Mary), she is a kind, gracious, and loving person.....a true example of someone doing the Lord's work. Thank you again , Mary, for all you do and all you have done for St. James.



Cruzando Fronteras is asking for your help to bring Christmas to the families waiting at the border, especially the children. Below is a list of items (generic) that will bring joy to the children this Christmas, and also to let them all know, THAT THEY ARE NOT FORGOTTEN!!! The Posada this year will be December 19th at La Casa, where many of the families that reside there have been there for almost a year. They have had six children born in this time of the pandemic, with another 150+ children also residing on the property. Please assist them in this endeavor. Donations and gifts may be mailed to the address below. **Please make the check payable to The Episcopal Diocese of Arizona, note "Posada Gift" in the memo line of your check and mail to the address below.** Monetary donations can also be made online at bit.ly/azcruzando. (Please note "Posada Gift" in the memo box at the bottom of the screen). Many blessings and a Merry Christmas to you all.

The Episcopal Diocese of Arizona
969 W. Country Club Dr.
Nogales, Az. 85621

Boys	Girls	Adults
Soccer Balls	Baby dolls	Puzzles/Games
Basketballs	Pocketbooks/Purses	Crafts
Toy cars and trucks	Play toys	Adult Coloring Books

EYC December 6th 11:30 am to 1:30 pm

Let's get together and enjoy some time together catching up and getting the gifts ready for our Angel Tree families this year. We will meet in the front patio area between the church and the office. We will be preparing gift bags for the kids and putting them in boxes for delivery to the families. We will also be recording the Christmas Godly Play story to be presented for the Christmas Eve service. I look forward to seeing you all on December 6th.

Please email (eflock@cox.net) or text Eileen (480-586-1124) if you will be coming to EYC on December 6th.

Angel Tree 2020



Because of COVID, we are doing things a little different this year. **There's still time to donate!** We need all donations in by **December 6th** so that deliveries to the families can start December 13th. We hope to collect \$50 per child to purchase PJs and gifts for the children & grocery gift cards for the families. We've almost reached our goal!

Here are a couple ways to donate to this wonderful program:

- ♥ Sending a check to the church office - please put "Angel Tree" in the Memo line.
- ♥ Simple Give: please designate your contribution to Children & Family Ministries.

Thank you for all your help & support
with this wonderful outreach program!





Online Auction on eBay

Friday November 27th through December 4th

Urgent Message - Attention St. James

You can shop for unique Christmas gifts from the safety of your home!

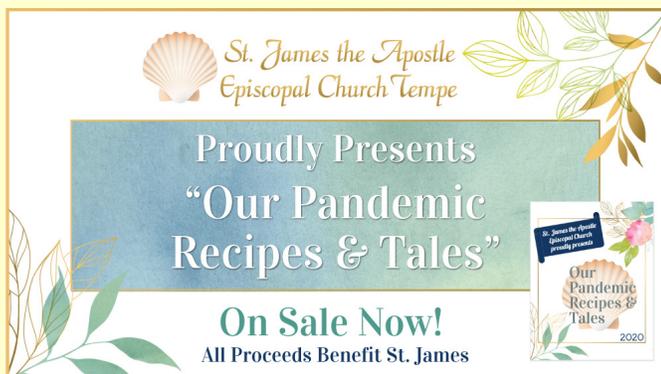
Fabulous items abound!! Shop for original arts & crafts, & other unique gifts

Spread the word to your family & friends & make more money for St James!!

Click here to shop & bid NOW!!

www.ebay.com/str/niksgrandma

St. James Cookbook On Sale Now



Are you looking for the perfect Christmas gift for family & friends this year? Nothing says 2020 like St James Pandemic Recipes & Tales. There are tried and true **recipes** that we have been cooking during this time apart. There are wonderful **tales** about us & our animals. Plus there are valuable tips and information on how we did & can survive this time.

To order your cookbook & others for gifts, please visit [paypal.com](https://www.paypal.com), state how many copies you want & send \$9.00 for each ordered to office@stjamestemple.org. You may also send a check to the office at 975 E. Warner Rd., Tempe, AZ 85284. If you need help ordering please send an email to stjamestempefundraisers@gmail.com or

call (480) 345-2686. 100 % of the proceeds go to St. James.

Join us for Virtual Coffee Hour and Fellowship each Sunday at 10:30 am after the online service!

Virtual Coffee Hour:

Topic: St. James Virtual Coffee Hour
Time: Sunday @ 10:30 am

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/99773398325?pwd=RzU0RTUyOWNUbDIwT3JHdzNtN3pHZz09>

Meeting ID: 997 7339 8325

Password: 410326

Christian Formation:

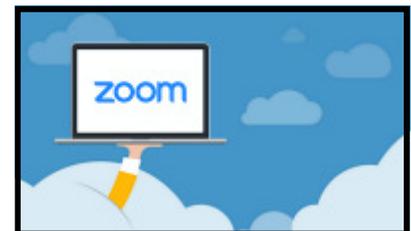
Topic: SJC- Christian Formation
Time: Sunday@ 1:30 PM Arizona

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/96775452149?pwd=UGFBSSGRvaXF2elhWTjBJamdaTnY1OT09>

Meeting ID: 967 7545 2149

Password: 053997



Readers: Online and In-Person

We have the following opportunities coming up to assist with the readings during December. We are currently planning Live Stream Services with only the Clergy and Readers in the Sanctuary. In all cases no more than 10 people will be in the sanctuary and all precautions are always in place including the wearing of masks. We are also planning a **pre-recorded service for the Sunday After Christmas (Dec. 27th) of Lessons and Carols**. We are looking to make it intergenerational and hope to get readers scheduled for the ZOOM video recording soon.

Upcoming Services where we need readers include:

Sunday	December 6th	2nd Sunday in Advent Live Stream from Sanctuary & EFM Graduation EFM graduates will read that day.
Sunday	December 13th	3rd Sunday in Advent - Christingle Sunday Live Stream from Sanctuary Need 4 Readers
Sunday	December 20th	4th Sunday in Advent Live Stream from Sanctuary Need 4 Readers
Thursday	December 24th	Christmas Eve - 6 pm. Live Stream from Sanctuary Need 4 readers
Sunday	December 27th	Lessons & Carols - PRE-RECORDED Need 6 readers to read the Bible passages.
Sunday	January 3rd	Christmas II - PRE-RECORDED Need readers for our usual line up.

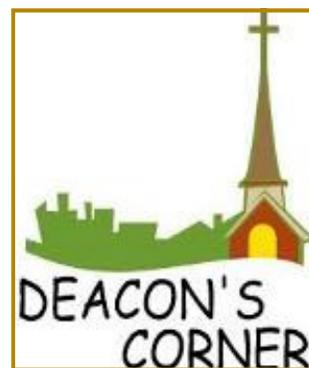
If you are able to assist, please contact either Diana in the office or Deacon Robin at robin.b.hollis@gmail.com.

Gifts of Love and Hope!

Our spiritual lives are preparing to welcome the Christ Child as we celebrate Advent. The birth of our Savior Jesus brings with it the love and hope for a better world. As a community we have experienced so many new realities that it is not something we had ever planned for or perhaps thought about. And, yet, 9 months later, our Church Family is still here, we still worship, pray and study together, we enjoy each other's company, and we continue our outreach ministries. As we wait for the coming of our Lord, we also ready ourselves for His reveal at Christmas. As some of us begin to decorate for Christmas, bringing in that joy and wonder, we know that on Christmas morn we will all have the packages of Love and Hope under our tree and in our hearts. We are so blessed by this community of St. James and the sharing of talents, time, treasure, and stewardship. We continue to grow in love! We pray for and with those who have been touched in many ways by this pandemic and the social/cultural issues of injustice. Our new Church Year has begun and bring with it, the hope for a more loving and kinder world. Thank you to everyone who has shared their spiritual gifts to keep our community thriving. Let us use this time of preparation, then, to be embraced in God's love for us and prepare to share our blessings and hope with those in need. Let us continue to be the welcoming family that is St. James and listen with our hearts as we remind ourselves, we are all members of God's family.

Christmas Blessings,

Deacon Robin





MUSIC CORNER at St James



This December is certainly one for the books. We are working flexibly through December to continue celebrating Advent and Christmas. There will be a hybrid streaming service with some 'live' music. We have much to celebrate with our new camera system and newly-designed website.

Many Thanks are due to the countless hours Nick Spence spent putting in our new system and thanks to the digital committee for getting so many details worked out.

We will certainly miss Tara in our music in December as she is laid up with a broken hip, but we are continuing with our ever-ready flexibility to make this the joyous month that we all deserve! We are all looking forward to a better 2021, with Easter being a time that more of us can be together. We miss seeing everyone. Recording music is somewhat sterile compared to being part of the worship service.

Merry Christmas to All!

~ ~ ~ Lali Breen

CHRISTINGLE SUNDAY DECEMBER 13, 2020

The Children's Society first introduced Christingle to The Church of England in 1968, and its popularity has grown since then. Christingle means 'Christ Light' and celebrates the light of Jesus coming into the world. Christingle is a great reminder to children of all ages of who Jesus is and what He came to do for the world. The lighted candle shows us that Jesus brought light into darkness.



The **orange** represents the world.



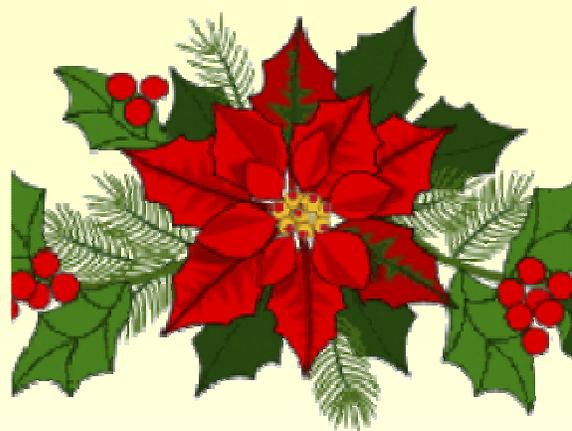
The **red ribbon** indicates God's love wrapped around the world and the blood Christ shed on the cross.



The **dried fruits and sweets** are symbols of God's creations. For many people, they also represent the four seasons.



The **lit candle** symbolises Jesus, the light of the world, who brings hope to people living in darkness.



CHRISTMAS DEDICATIONS

At this special time of year, we want to honor all those we hold close in our hearts. Please send in your dedications so we can honor all our loved ones this Christmas. Please email a dedication to diana@stjamestempe.org by **Monday, December 14th.**

Thank you!