

## Look Inside For . . .

### Page 2

Treasurer Report  
Senior Warden Report

### Page 3

Thank You's

### Page 4

Fellowship Opportunities  
Christmas in the Pines  
Acolyte Ministry

### Page 5

Children & Family Ministries  
Christmas Schedule  
Reader/Acolyte Schedule

### Page 6

Advent Series  
EfM  
Centering Prayer

### Page 7

Deacon's Corner  
Music Corner

**ZOOM Vestry Meeting**  
Thursday, January 6th  
10:30 am

## Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. (Isaiah 7:14)

Through Advent we will begin the Sunday liturgy with the words of a prophecy, a promise given to us. Eight centuries before the birth of Jesus, the spirit of God came to Isaiah and called him to bring hope to those who wouldn't believe that God can still work in their lives. Prophecy is an important part in the biblical history of salvation. The prophets were constantly calling people back to higher values, which are rooted in the Good News of Christ: *"Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself"* (cf. Mt 22:37)

God came to us as a child. And in our days, God comes to us through our acts of love, mercy and compassion. Christians are reminded by the prophets that the Advent of Jesus will happen through straightening the path for the Lord. Meaning, we do need to pay attention to those around us, and with penitent hearts, change our behavior. Advent and Lent are challenging seasons because they invite us to a change of mindset (*in John the Baptist's prophetic words, change of heart*).



The best icon for this season is still Mary, the young mother. Being a person of prayer, she trusted God. She knew something that the society of those days were unable to understand. In her dialogue with the archangel, she says *Yes* to be the mother of the Messiah. In her body, all the prophecies of the Old Testament become real.

For centuries, Christians around the world have recognized Mary as important character for our faith. Anglican churches around the globe have in their Cathedrals (and also in some parishes), Lady Chapels, dedicated to Mary.

At St. James, we will be celebrating one of the dimensions of the Marian theology, through the manifestations of Mary, among the indigenous in the Americas. This is a first for St. James and opens the door for a deeper understanding of the devotion of the saints in the Anglican and Episcopal tradition. It will also create cultural sensitivity, and a deeper communion with indigenous nations around the globe.

Finally, the celebration of Our Lady of Guadalupe will prepare us for the main celebrations of Christmas. You will find in this newsletter the days and times for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

The current year brought us challenges, sorrows, and joys, but the St. James community kept calm and with acts of kindness and fellowship, responded to needs promptly. Now it is time to celebrate the gift of being a beacon of light to the community. Let's celebrate Christmas pouring on the altar of God, our hearts and thanksgiving.

Fr. Sam Dessórdi Leite+

## TREASURER'S UPDATE

As of November 22<sup>nd</sup>, our Operating Income was \$12,770 more than the budget, and operating expenses were about \$35,000 less than the budget expected, for a surplus of \$44,061. These totals are about what they've been for the last few months. **THANK YOU FOR YOUR FAITHFUL GIVING!**

January 1 through November 22, 2021

	Actual	Budget
YTD Operating Income	\$ 234,802	\$ 222,032
YTD Operating Expense	\$ 190,741	\$ 225,881
YTD Surplus / (Deficit)	\$ 44,051	\$ 3,849

Gerry Carlston  
Treasurer  
([pgcarlston@cox.net](mailto:pgcarlston@cox.net))

You can contribute online to St. James at:

St. James  
975 E Warner Rd                      or     [https://tithe.ly/give\\_new/www/#/tithely/give-one-time/2407353](https://tithe.ly/give_new/www/#/tithely/give-one-time/2407353)  
Tempe, AZ 85284

**2022 Stewardship Drive: A link for the pledge card on our website:**

[https://stjamestempe.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Stewardship-Pledge-Card\\_2022.pdf](https://stjamestempe.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Stewardship-Pledge-Card_2022.pdf)

## YOUR VESTRY:

Bob Klassen (Senior Warden)	Denise Boyd
Steve Vanden Heuvel (Junior Warden)	Mary Hovden
Gerry Carlston (Treasurer)	Larry Kenyon
Ann Marie Bellamy-Bartholomew	Tara Papaccio
Joan Besonen	



It is already the season of Advent. The time of expectation. The time of building excitement. So much has happened in these past five months. We have reintroduced ourselves to being together and worshipping in person while at the same time realistically being still in transition. Yes, we are still in transition. Fr. Sam has only been with us since June 1st. While not wanting to admit it, we are still exploring how to safely worship together in-person again. And, while being way ahead of the curve, we are discovering more about what it means to digitally stream our services. Yes, we are still in transition.

Transition is a good thing to be in! It means that we are not complacent and taking it all for granted. It means we are not just doing things like we have always done them. Reaching out in ways as never before. We are moving together as followers of Christ in the tradition of The Episcopal Church. Enjoy this transition into the season of Advent.

Peace,  
Bob Klassen



The time between Thanksgiving and Christmas are the best times for us to reflect on things we are grateful for and the people to whom we are grateful. St. James has much and many people and groups to be grateful for, we have a new Priest who has brought new life and a joyful spirit to the church. We have a caring Vestry who guides our growth and keeps us solvent. We are grateful for a Parish that is loving and supportive of each other and our many outreach programs. We are thankful for a Youth Leader who guides our young ones and instructs them in the ways of the Lord and the Episcopal Church. We have two caring Wardens, the senior warden who serves as a principal liaison between the parish, the rector, and the

Bishop and the junior warden who is responsible for the upkeep of the parish buildings and grounds, of an Administrator who keeps the church wheels moving smoothly, a Deacon who does so much to support our priest and the parishioners, and for a loving God who shares His blessings and joy with all of us always.

Year-round we at St. James are grateful to have:

- ✠ A Hospitality Team who prepares lovely snacks for us after services each week as well as preparing lovely repasts for special occasions to feed our bodies.
- ✠ A Landscape Team who keeps the Courtyard in the Breezeway in tip top shape, weed free, with beautiful plants, flowers, and pottery.
- ✠ An Usher Team that welcomes and watches out for all during our weekly services.
- ✠ A Pastoral Care Team that regularly visit and give communion those who are sick and at home and a Prayer Chain who pray for those of us in need of spiritual support.
- ✠ A Digital Ministry Team that keeps us *connected virtually*.
- ✠ An Altar Guild who makes sure the Altar is prepared each week, the linens are ironed, and all the communion supplies are in order for all Sunday services, special services, and events.
- ✠ A Flower lady who sees that we have lovely flowers and decorative arrangements on the altar and around the church each week.
- ✠ An Acolyte Team that serves our priest at each service.
- ✠ A Parish nurse who provides medical care and advice to our parishioners. And....last but not least....
- ✠ A Music Team who provides beautiful and inspirational vocal and instrumental music for our services and special events to feed our souls.

This past month we truly need to acknowledge and thank *April* and *Christiaan Culbertson* for the work they do each time they come to clean the Memorial Garden fountain and for repairing and keeping the fountain in pristine condition for the enjoyment of those who's loved ones who are buried there. *April* and *Christiaan* are responsive to any request we have regarding the fountain, even if it is at the last minute or on a weekend. Thank you both so much for all you do to support St. James.



**Tuesday, December 14th**  
6:00 pm

RigaTony's Italian Restaurant  
1850 E. Warner Road, Tempe, 85284

If you haven't come before please join us for a fun evening of food and fellowship. And bring a friend! For the safety and health of everyone it is asked that you be fully vaccinated to attend.



**Join Us for Lunch!!**

Thursday, December 16th  
11:30 am

**Biscuit's**

4623 E. Elliot Road, Phoenix  
(SW corner 48th & Elliot)

## St James Bookies

**Sunday, December 19th**

December's book is "The Heart's Invisible Furies" by Jack Boyne. We will gather in the library after the 9:30 service.

Please bring a wrapped book for the gift exchange.



## Christmas in the Pines



Winter Family Camp      December 31 - January 2nd

Give yourselves the gift of time together at Chapel Rock! Continue celebrating the twelve days of Christmas and ring in the New Year together in a beautiful place! There will be stories, a campfire, carols, cocoa, crafts, and lots of holiday fun to finish the season. Prices range from \$120 to \$340 depending on number and ages of children. Partial financial assistance is available, (contact Jana Sundin, (602) 254-0976). More info can be found at [www.chapelrock.net](http://www.chapelrock.net).



### An Invitation to a Key Ministry - The Acolyte Team!

Inviting anyone age 8 years and up... to join our brilliant and dedicated Acolyte Team! No previous experience necessary. **Adults especially are encouraged to join us.** We have a rotating schedule and we work around your availability.

Acolyte special training series designed to better understand this ministry and to allow us to 'practice' how we best serve. The training will be done as a two-part training. We encourage everyone who assists as an acolyte to attend this in-person instruction: **Saturday, January 15<sup>th</sup> and Saturday January 22<sup>nd</sup> 10 am to noon.**

If you feel called or would like more information, please contact Deacon Robin ([deacon@stjamestempe.org](mailto:deacon@stjamestempe.org) or (480) 242-7178). Thank you!!

# Broader in Ministry



## Angel Tree Drivers Needed

Due to her recent surgery Eileen needs drivers to make the deliveries to the Angel Tree Families this year. She will arrange with each family on a delivery date and give them time frame when someone needs to be at the home to receive the gifts. If you are able to help with deliveries please contact Eileen Flock at [eflock@cox.net](mailto:eflock@cox.net) with the dates you are able to help with the deliveries. Thank you for all you help and support with this wonderful outreach program

### Delivery dates:

<b>December 11</b>	11:30 am - 2:30 pm	<b>December 12</b>	12 pm - 3:30 pm
<b>December 18</b>	11:30am - 2:30 pm	<b>December 19</b>	12 pm - 3:30 pm



## Christmas Eve Service

Friday, December 24th at 6:30 pm

## Christmas Day

Saturday, December 25th at 10:30 am

A Christmas Eucharistic service with Blessing of the Creche ritual.

## 1st Christmas - December 26th

9:30 am

### Lector/Reader Schedule (9:30 am)

Date	1st Reading	Psalm	2nd Reading	Prayers of the People	Offering Plates	Lay Eucharistic Ministers	Acolyte
Dec 5	Erica	Anna	Joan	Mary	Pat/TBD	Erica/Bob	Elliott
Dec 12	Carol Paulk	Audrey	Kathleen	Carol Justice	Juneva/TBD	Mary/Sheryl	Sheryl & Zac
Dec 19	Kathleen	Carol Justice	Jim Carter	Pat	Carol P/TBD	Paul/Mary	Careen
Dec 24	Joan	Carol Paulk	Chris P.	Paul	AnnMarie/TBD	Anna/Erica	Collin, Aly
Dec. 25	Rob Henry	Joan B.	Careen		AnnMarie/TBD	Pat/Careen	Careen
Dec 26	Paul	Jill	Joan	Anna	TBD	Paul/Anna	Dylan

## The Symbolism of the Advent Wreath – A 3-week Advent Study

Advent is a season for prayer, meditation, and study. This year we will have the symbolism of the Advent Wreath helping our journey towards Incarnation. The Advent series will present theologies related to the devotion of the wreath and the season of Advent. This study series will be online only, over ZOOM. Thursdays: 6pm to 7pm.

**December 9:** Mary, aka, Our Lady of Guadalupe. The saint that speaks the language of the peoples.

**December 16:** “Who proceeds from the Father,” – The Filioque question, with the theologian Dr. Paul Crego.

No registration is necessary.

### Join Zoom Meeting:

[https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83416869606?](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83416869606?pwd=dDJ1OVJYZTJUZnkyYTdyRlBoK3RtUT09)  
[pwd=dDJ1OVJYZTJUZnkyYTdyRlBoK3RtUT09](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83416869606?pwd=dDJ1OVJYZTJUZnkyYTdyRlBoK3RtUT09)

Meeting ID: 834 1686 9606      Passcode: 732783

One tap mobile

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+13462487799,,83416869606#,,,,\*732783# US (Houston)



## Efm Matters – Secretaries for God?

In Efm’s 2nd year studies, the participants are introduced to the Synoptic Puzzle. This is what Mark Allen Powell calls the composition of the Gospels in his book, “Introducing The New Testament: A Historical, Literary and Theological Survey.” In his book, he states, “Christian piety sometimes has imagined that the Gospel authors were secretaries for God.” Accompanying his text, Collins used an illustration of an unidentified Medieval painting of Saint Matthew with an angel on his shoulder whispering in his ear.

A more dramatic painting exists by Caravaggio, painted in his provocative and unique artistic style, that was not referred to in Powell’s book. The painting resembles an unconventional Saint Matthew as a peasant with bare feet and gnarled beard, with an angel behind him guiding his hands, as he writes his text in Hebrew. This painting was rejected by the Church as Caravaggio depicted a tangible and identifiable saint, humanizing the sacred.

**Centering Prayer** for spiritual health provides a way to experience God’s presence in our lives, and equips us to live faithfully and in the abundance of God’s love. All are welcome and invited! Centering prayer is at 2:45 pm on **Wednesday afternoons** via ZOOM.

Meeting ID: 910 9453 3152

Passcode: 654769

## “Sharing the Gift of Abundance ”

What a strange and wonderful time of year. Our spiritual selves find us preparing for the miracle birth – the birth of new hope and love. Our secular world selves find us preparing for another time of gift-giving even as we begin to live into this new pandemic reality. We are blessed to continue worshipping in person and with the gift of technology, online. This season, with so much happening in the world around us, let us reach out in love and understanding, tolerance, and grace, as we try to make sense of our lives today. Remembering to focus on the Good News of Christ’s birth and knowing we have the assurance of God’s love, can help us to stand together in faith. We are so blessed, and our abundance is not just the *dollars and cents kind*, but also the *talents and sense kind*. Let us continue to grow in faith, hope, and love, trusting in the goodness of the world around us and sharing this with others. Let us take action together to help those who need our time, talents, and treasures to overcome challenges. Let us continue to be the light into our communities following the Way of Jesus and bring with us the hope and love of our Lord.

Christmas Blessings,  
Deacon Robin



*“Anticipation is a gift. Perhaps there is none greater. Anticipation is born of hope. Indeed it is hope's finest expression.”*

- Steven L. Peck



### MUSIC CORNER at St James

As difficult and unnerving a year as we have all had, 2021 really sort of flew by.

A lot has happened in this year at St James, as we were still online at the beginning of the year, went to limited in person with no congregational singing on Palm Sunday, and eventually those various restrictions were lifted, and our new Rector arrived, so overall quite an action-packed time!

Advent promises to be a time of Reflection featuring various aspects of the ‘Promise’ to come. We have already celebrated one week, and we are featuring themes of Prophecy, Virgin Mary as Our Lady of Guadalupe and John the Baptist. We look forward to the celebration on the December 12th, hoping to present some celebratory Spanish songs, and possibly Mariachis.

We will have a full Christmas weekend of music Friday, Saturday and Sunday. We look forward to a traditional Christmas Eve, featuring songs that are loved and have been presented in the past. December 26th also will be a special day with music featuring Elliot and Erica Neimoth before the service and we hope to have another very engaging Spanish carol during the service that will feature flutes and a lovely solo by Myra Lin, so we invite everyone to make it a weekend of celebration with coming and sharing at church.

We want to welcome Tara Papaccio and her family back to services. It is great to have her back! We continue to work with our music team to stay a cohesive ‘family’ bringing you the best of many kinds of music, with trying to continually seek congregational participation and engagement, while still working with the deeper messages and roots of our faith.

~ ~ ~ Lali Breen