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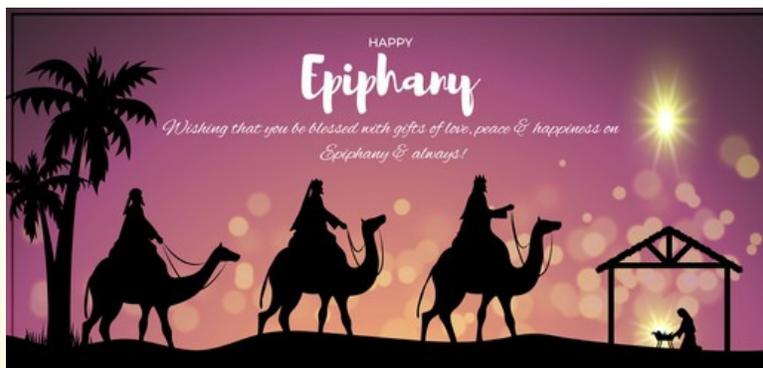
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ZOOM Vestry Meeting
Thursday, February 3rd
10:30 am



Living in the mystery of the Epiphany of Our Lord

Is also a season for love and care for one another

The season of Epiphany is here. The word Epiphany means “manifestation”. In Christian tradition it means that God has and is manifesting his presence in our lives. The bright light that ends all darkness. However, there is another, similar word, I like using for epiphany: “awaken”. To be awakened to God’s presence is to be aware that God is with us every hour, day, and time of our lives.

In this awareness of the divine presence, we feel more equipped to act with love and properly care for one another.

January came with the unpleasant news of a new wave of a COVID variant. News that will prevent us from gathering in person for worship for a while. I invite you, sisters and brothers, to see this decision as an act of love and care for those who are more vulnerable in our congregation. We are still living during a pandemic crisis, and even though it is a challenging time, we can avoid infecting others if we keep safe and healthy practices.

During January we will stay in touch using the social media tools we have, like Facebook and YouTube. We also will be in dialogue through email, telephone, and Sunday virtual Coffee Hour.

Nobody should feel alone in the community during this season. Let’s support one another through phone calls, text messages and emails, and stayed connected.

The month of January offers themes to meditate upon. We just celebrated the Feast of the Three Kings. We will also meditate upon the Confession of St. Peter (January 18), and the Conversion of Saint Paul (January 25). These two feasts also establish the beginning and the end for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

We will meet again in person in February, when we celebrate Black History Month.

There are several exciting events planned for February. We will have a special guest with us: Rev. Gayle Fisher-Stewart, author of the book: Black and Episcopalian: The Struggle for Inclusion.

Please, stay safe and in touch. Until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of his hand.

Fr. Sam Dessórdi Leite+
Rector

TREASURER'S UPDATE

Thank you for your faithful giving to St. James! For the year our total Operating Income was a about \$11,000 more than the budget expected (including the Federal stimulus money.) Operating expenses were \$27,875 less than budgeted, reflecting the lower Personnel costs for the first half of 2021.

January 1 through December 31, 2021

	Actual	Budget
YTD Operating Income	\$ 258,612	\$ 247,489
YTD Operating Expense	\$ 224,377	\$ 252,252
YTD Surplus / (Deficit)	\$ 34,235	\$ 4,763

Gerry Carlston
Treasurer
(pgcarlston@cox.net)

You can contribute online to St. James at:

St. James
975 E Warner Rd or <https://tithely.com/give/new/www/#/tithely/give-one-time/2407353>
Tempe, AZ 85284

Thanks to all who already submitted their 2022 pledge cards. Our budget committee will meet soon to finalize our 2022 budget. It's not too late to complete and turn in your pledge card! If you've lost yours, extra copies are available in the narthex or online.

A link for the pledge card on our website:

https://stjamestempe.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Stewardship-Pledge-Card_2022.pdf

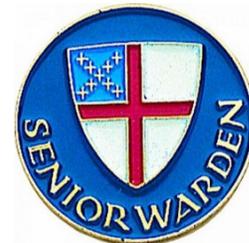
YOUR VESTRY:

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	

Happy New Year!

How is it possible to recap this year.? We began the year, worshipping entirely online, to having a limited live congregation, to ... You know how this story goes. We all lived it together. Our story this year also, and most importantly, includes Fr. Sam sharing his ministry with us here at St. James. Fr. Sam is the first formally called rector in the history of St. James. And... Our current story with Fr. Sam began on June 1st and continues full speed. 2022 beware, St. James is on a roll! Join us on February 6 for our first Annual Meeting with Fr. Sam. This new era is exciting.

Peace,
Bob Klassen





We are indebted to all who donated blankets to the Navajo land collection and to **Jim McCullough** and **Sheryl Houle** for taking them up to the Navajo contact in Cortez Junction. We must not forget that **Carrie** and **Jim McCullough** started the blanket drive many years ago to help keep our Navajo Indian brothers and sisters warm in the brutal cold of the winter in their mountain homeland. Thank you, Carrie and Jim.

Special thanks go to all who participated in the Our Lady of Guadalupe production and to the **Hospitality Team** for the wonderful repast after the children's Mariachi Band played at last week's service. What a joy it was to see all the young people perform. It was great to see so many of the parents of the kids join us after the service, too. **Lali Breen** deserves a big thanks for arranging for the young people to be there for our enjoyment.

Nick Spence should be named the *light of our lives* for "illuminating" the church and especially for repairing the lights that shine on our lovely "Red Doors" and the lights that shine on the front of the Church that faces Warner Road. Nick does so many things, so quietly, around the church. He makes life better in so many ways for those of us who attend St. James. Thank you, Nick, you are indeed appreciated.



How do we thank **Dylan Flock** and his merry band of Boy Scouts for building the "Take a Book, Leave a Book Lending Library" that now graces the front of the church facing Rural Road and for providing two lovely benches upon which people can sit and read or just relax a bit if they care to? Dylan, you and your scout friends all did such a great job on the project, it looks fantastic.

The generosity of St. James parishioners is overwhelming; this is to thank everyone who donated blankets or PJs/Nightgowns to UMOM's Halle Homeless Women's Shelter for 125 homeless women. The women will welcome the warm clothing and coverings this winter. And UMOM Women's Auxiliary and the ladies at Halle are so grateful to **Ruth Flinn** for the 141 pillowcases she made as Christmas gifts for the women so that they can pack up the pillow cases with personal belongs, take them with them when they find permanent housing, and use them on their beds in their new homes. Thank you Ruth.

If you know of anyone who deserves to be thanked for what they do at or for St. James, please let Ellie Kenyon know by email at ejkenyon6315@verizon.net or by phone at (480) 248-7457 and she will include them in the monthly *Newsletter Thank You Column*.

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

EfM Matters



EfM participants toasted the end of 2021 and beginning of 2022 with a festive Christmas dinner and discussions about the Books of Joshua, Judges and John, and Chapter 10 – Latin Christendom: New Frontiers (500-1000), from MacCulloch's 'History of Christianity'. From left to right: Caren Henry, Keith Porter, Joe Albo, Gerry Carlston, Kristy Carlston and Carol Paulk. Missing: Carol Justice. (Photo by MJ Porter).

*Ladies
Night*

January's Ladies Night is cancelled due to the increased spread of the Omicron variant.

We look forward to getting together next month.

**MEN'S
MINISTRIES**

Join Us for Lunch!!

Thursday, February 24th
11:30 am

Biscuit's

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

St James Bookies

Sunday, February 20th

February's book is "A Spark of Light" by Jodi Picoult. We will gather in the library after the 9:30 service.



Warmer in Fellowship

Angel Tree 2021: We were able to buy and deliver gifts to 42 children this year. It all starts with the donations, thank you so much to everyone who sent in donations for Angel Tree. I get such joy out of hearing the children's excitement of receiving gifts from St James year after year.

I was able to make many of the purchases of the gifts online and have them delivered. I wanted to Thank Thelma Chapek for all her hard work with helping to wrap and sort the gifts for each of the children to make the delivery of the gifts easier.

This year with me not being able to drive to deliver to the families I was able to enlist the help from Kevin Flock, Brandon Flock, Marcia Wright and Father Sam to make the delivers to the 21 Families over serval days before Christmas.

Thank you so much for helping me make this outreach such a success year after year.

Eileen Flock

OUR NEW LITTLE FREE LIBRARY

The Library was installed by Dylan Flock as his Eagle Scout project along with 2 benches for people to sit and read. Dylan is also collecting books to be placed in the Library. A box for donated books is located in the narthex. Little Free Library is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to be a catalyst for building community, inspiring readers, and expanding book access for all. Little Free Library book-sharing boxes play an essential role by providing 24/7 access to books (and encouraging a love of reading!) For more details, please visit the website, www.littlefreelibrary.org.



ZAC'S HOULE'S EAGLE PROJECT

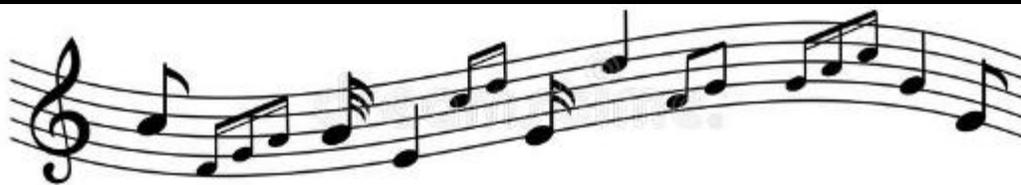


For his Eagle project, Zac is collecting school supplies for the SARRC preschool here at St James. He is having a party on **Tuesday, January 11th** from 6-8:30 pm in the Student Building at Foothills Baptist Church (15450 S. 21st St Phoenix, 85048) where you can learn about his project and select items from their wish list to purchase and return to him. Please talk to Sheryl if you can't make it to the party but still would like to help with a donation.

Pastoral Care Team Ministry - 2022

The ministry of our St. James Lay Pastoral Care Team is an important way for us to provide care, connection, and support to those in need. Working with our clergy, there are a number of pastoral care roles we can explore. If you feel called to serve as a member of the Pastoral Care Team (Lay Eucharistic Visitors), please contact Deacon Robin. Introduction and training for this ministry will be conducted after the first of the year. Also, in order to participate, the Diocese requires that those in the ministry complete the Safeguarding God's Children and God's People training. This training is completed online through a number of modules and done at your own pace. Many of our St. James' members have completed this already. Once you speak with Father Sam or Deacon Robin to confirm your interest in participating, we will share more information about this part of the training. Thank you in advance for helping with this important ministry.

Questions: Please contact Deacon Robin (480) 242-7178) or deacon@stjamestempe.org.



MUSIC CORNER at St James

2022 is definitely still a year of mystery for many of us.

Life has never really settled down since the pandemic started in March of 2020. As we head into the 2-year mark of our current new normal, we are happy that St James has successfully come back to in-person services and welcomed a new priest, and that we can continue with bringing you a variety of musical experiences.

With our recent outreach with the KMS Mariachis, we hope to find more ways to reach the community and show them the St James community.

For January, we still have a week of Christmas and then our Epiphany celebration on January 9th, which will be another Feast day so we hope to have extra musical 'excitement'.

We always welcome new additions to our music program. There are a number of reasons why our music is selected and how it is performed, but if you are wondering please ask me at a service and if you have any comments or suggestions, please let me know at a service or email me at lb.dbstrings@gmail.com.

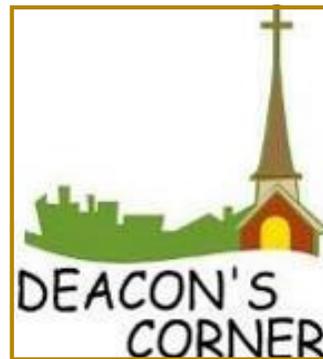
~ ~ ~ *Lali Breen*

Christmas at St. James



“Open Hearts in the New Year”

As we celebrate the new year and give thanks for our blessings amid the “new normal” in our lives, we have an even greater opportunity as Christians to open our hearts to the call of new ministry opportunities. As we begin 2022, we rejoice in the birth of our Savior as we are reminded of those who are experiencing or have experienced challenges in their lives. While our church calendar moves us quickly from our Lord’s birth to his Baptism and the beginning of His ministry, life continues to move us just as quickly and we want to remember our promises made for the new year. As we enter into 2022, let us open our hearts to our Baptismal Covenant...being mindful of those in need and taking action where we can...and being mindful of and open to our own spiritual health. If we can focus on our actions, employing our “holy listening” skills, then we can continue to make progress in opening our hearts to the hope and love we have to share including the opportunity to seek out new ministries. Thank you for the blessing you bring to our St. James family. Wishing you a spirit-filled and heartfelt 2022!



Blessings,
Deacon Robin

Lector/Reader Schedule (9:30 am)

Date	1st Reading	Psalm	2nd Reading	Prayers of the People	Offering Plates	Lay Eucharistic Ministers	Acolyte
Jan 2	Erica	Kathleen	Jim Carter	Pat	Ann Marie/Susan	Erica/Paul	Elliott
Jan 9	Carol Paulk	Audrey	Bob	Mary	Ann Marie/Susan	Jim/Carol P	Sheryl & Zac
Jan 16	Carol Justice	Denise	Joan	Anna	Ann Marie/Susan	Anna/Mary	Careen
Jan 23	Careen	Carol Paulk	Anna	Erica	Ann Marie/Susan	Paul/Jim	Elliot
Jan 30	Kathleen	Jill	Pat	Carol P.	Ann Marie/Susan	Mary/Pat	Dylan



Acolyte Special Training Series

We are in need of those called to serve as acolytes!!!! No previous experience necessary. Adults especially are encouraged to join us. This training series is 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 acolytes to attend. **Saturday, January 15th and Saturday, January 22nd** from 10 am to noon at St. James. If you feel called to serve or would like more information about this ministry, please contact Deacon Robin (deacon@stjamestempe.org or (480) 242-7178). Thank you!!