



From St. James' With Love

December 2023

Newsletter



**St. James Vision Statement:**

God asks us to make His love visible in our lives and community. . .  
let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth. (1 John 3:18)

## **Rowans' Cup**

This Thanksgiving I spent time with family. Rowan and I played rummy and talked. She is now the rummy king or queen until we meet again. She beat me three times in a row. Each time she won a match she danced around the table full of joy. Not a victory dance, but more a dance of pure celebration. She danced with a joy that reflects a soul full of abundant love and wisdom. Rowan is a sensitive soul, and is a blessing to everyone she meets.

As I sit, settling my soul, I begin my meditation with her cup before me. Soon my soul opens and is filled with the gift of peace that can only come from Christ, the bestower of life, abundant love and eternal wisdom.

My mind begins to drift, as my meditations become my teacher, helping me to find my way to you, oh Lord. My hope is that this cup be the conduit that draws me ever closer into the mystery of loving oneness with Christ.

With Love,

Craig+

## **Prayer List**

Linda G, Jim G, Luke A Evelyn A, Kimberly J, Nancy S, Midge, Ray K, Tony, Kathy, Jan L, Laverne and Patsy, Patty F, Betty K, Ashlyn, Rachael D, Rebecca H, Alicia, Lindsey, Jon L, Ami C, Raymond S, Winnie, Brian, Elizabeth, Randy, Rick, Cooper, Edda, Michelle R, John R, John P, David R, Jen, Heidi B, Doug, Brianna, Tim, Carol B, Karen, Dan, Carter W, Rev. Gary, Kris Packard, Charlie D, Newman family those who mourn,

students and teachers, 1<sup>st</sup> responders, the Food Pantry, those suffering from addiction, those in the military, St. James Vestry

## NOV 8, 2023 VESTRY HIGHLIGHTS

- \$1,784 was taken in at the Italian dinner
- Insulation Estimates: Two more contractors will come in late November to give estimates.
- Jim White will be contacted to give an estimate and inspection of the bell tower.
- A vestry nominating committee was formed to make recommendations to the Vestry for 2024

## SERVICES ON SUNDAY 24 DECEMBER

This year there will be two services December 24<sup>th</sup>. We will have a 9AM service in which we will celebrate Four Advent. Later, at 7PM we will return for our traditional Christmas Eve service. **Special music will begin at 6:45 PM Christmas Eve prior to the service.**

## **Christmas Bazaar**

This past Saturday, December 2nd, we held a Christmas Bazaar from 10-4 in the undercroft. Our bazaar featured many handmade items and other Christmas decorations. This bazaar will raise much needed money for Mission.

A dedicated group of volunteers worked to make this event a success. We met one Thursday per month since September to work together on craft items as well as working on items at home for the bazaar.

We also had many people helping us to set up the bazaar and price the items as well as people working the day of the bazaar as sales clerks and cashier.

Sales will continue during coffee hour from now till Christmas. If you shop with us you will find great gifts to give and the money will all go to a good cause which makes it a win/win situation.

Thank you to all who worked to make it a success and all who shopped with us. As of the end of the day Saturday we have made \$1,250.00.



We have completed all the buying and stacking of Christmas box goodies. Now comes the fun part, packing and distribution! We pack boxes on Thursday, December 7, and they are distributed on Friday and Saturday, December 8 and 9, from 9 am – 1pm. The Women's Club of Hammondsport will give out \$125 gift cards to the Hammondsport Grocery. They have also bought clothing and gifts for some of the families in Hammondsport School. High School teens will again help with the lifting and carrying of boxes up the stairs.

With December taken care of, we are already looking towards starting a new project in January. We will be giving 'pantry shopping lists' to all residents of the Senior Housing at 41 Lake Street. The residents will make their selections, and with the help of student teens from school, we will fill their orders and distribute boxes right to their doors. We will be doing this on the 1 st Saturday of every month. It will take a little trial and error to iron out the logistics, but I think it will be a successful program. Many thanks to Amanda Smith and the management company of Arbor Development who will assist us with this project.

Beth Mooney



Loaves and Fishes food pantry gave out 125 food and supply baskets for Christmas.

Clients served in November: 40 Households  
105 Clients  
33 Children  
53 Adults  
19 Seniors  
4 TFAP clients

TFAP is a government assisted program that helps us assist families that do not come to the pantry regularly, but have a need.

The food pantry is starting a new program to provide food to 41 Lake Street (Arbor Housing). The pantry will supply shopping lists and the clients will choose what they need from the list and the items will be packaged and delivered by pantry volunteers.

Food Pantry

St. John Vianney Parish

78 Sheather Street

Hammondsport, NY 14840

Open: Tuesday 3-5 and Saturday 10:30 to Noon

St. James donated 133 cans of coffee for the Christmas baskets. The Mission Committee are so appreciative to all who gave to the pantry during the course of 2023.

In appreciation,  
Leah Nichiporuk



## December Lay Schedule

Date	Chalice	Acolyte	Reader	Ushers
12/03	Leah Nichiporuk	Mary White	Luanne Graulich	Donella Barney Nancy Folts
12/10	Mary White	Jim Grillo	Kris Packard	Marietta Piersons Jim Piersons
12/17	Jim Grillo	Karen Derr	Linda Hacker	Marilyn Dowdle Linda Grillo
12/24 9AM	Karen Derr	Jim Grillo	Stella Pulver	Linda Hacker Jim Derr
12/24 7PM	Nick Forenz	Mary White	Rich Little	Charlie & Janetmarie Skinner



12/31	Leah Nichiporuk	Nick Forenz	Audrey Edmister	Linda Grillo Jim Grillo
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## December Lessons

Date	First Reading	Psalm	Second Reading
12/03	Isa 64:1-9	Ps 80:1-7,16-18	1 Cor 1:3-9
12/10	Isa 40: 1-11	Ps 85:1-2, 8-13	2 Peter 3:8-15a
12/17	Isa 61:1-4, 8-11	Ps 126	Canticle 15
12/24	2 Sam 7:1-11, 16	Ps 89:1-4, 19-26	Rom 16:25-27
12/24	Isa 62:6-12	Ps 97	Titus 3:4-7

12/31	Isa 61:10-62:3	Ps 147:13-21	Gal 3:23-25; 4:4-7
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## Faith in Christ is where Joy overcomes despair

From the Book Hazelden Daily Meditations for counselors

Life is uneven; it has its ups and downs. Days of exaltation are followed by days of despair. Sunshine alternates with shadow. Some days are too short, others too long. There are valleys to travel and mountains to climb.

It's easy to get frustrated with this changeable life. But maybe we need the differences to fully appreciate what we have. If every day had sunshine, pretty soon, ho hum, another sunny day, how boring. And it helps to remember that bad days are offset by good days. Sunshine still follows the rain.

As a counselor, remembering this helps me “let go” to think about all those who are still strong. Our failures help me appreciate our success

stories even more. Today, whatever I encounter, I'll enjoy the variety of life.

S.B.P



## **What is the Season of Advent?**

The four Sundays before Christmas is a Church season to be used as a time of preparation and light reflection. The Latin word *adventus* means “coming.” The First Sunday in Advent is the beginning of the Church year. Advent and Lent have some similarities. They are both times of preparation, repentance and renewed commitment. There are also great differences between the two. The background of Advent is the Kingdom of God is at hand. One prepares for the presence of a great King, and when Advent is over, we confront the child in the manger. Advent asks us to spiritually move from waiting in anticipation for a great powerful king to arrive only to meet the baby Jesus resting quietly in a wooden manger which causes us to experience Awe and Wonder.

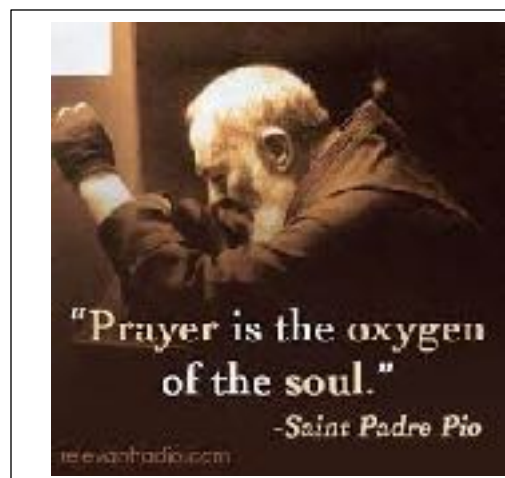
In Lent, on the other hand, one is asked to share in the suffering of the Lord, and at the end confronts the mystery of the empty tomb. In Lent

we travel from agony to compassion and triumph. In the end both Advent and Lent ask us to experience different aspects of the Christian mystery. The Church season asks all of us to enter into the Christian Mystery so we can experience the presence of Christ in His fullness.



## History of the Poinsettia

The poinsettia with its scarlet leaves, came from Mexico where it grows as a shrub. It blooms at Christmastime, and Mexicans called it “flower of the Holy Night.” It was brought to the United States by the first U.S. ambassador to Mexico, Dr. Joel Roberts Poinsett (1779-1851) who had them grown in his greenhouse in South Carolina. Eventually, they were named after him. Only since 1920 have they become potted plants. Poinsettias are now associated as much with Christmas as lilies are with Easter



**Compline Service every Monday evening at 8:30 PM**

We have compline every Monday night at 8:30PM. A 10–12-minute service of prayer, Scripture, music, and much more. Zoom address is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83857418968>

**Hymn Stories**

**O come, O come, Emmanuel**



This hymn finds its origin in the medieval Roman Church of the twelfth century and possible even earlier. It began as a series of Antiphons—short statements sung at the beginning of the Psalm or of the Magnificat at Vespers during the Advent season. Each of the Antiphons greets the Savior with one of the many titles ascribed to Him in the Scriptures: Emmanuel, Lord of Might, Rod of Jesse, Day Spring, Key of David. The melody for this text was originally a Chant, the earliest form of singing in the Church.

**From the spiritual diary of Father Craig**

**Meditation:** A river of love flows through my open and tender heart. Revealing among the reeds of my soul a hidden treasure. A treasure, more valuable than gold and pearls and precious stones. I discovered on the muddy banks and among the reeds of my Being, the treasure of who *I am*. I discovered I am not totally myself without embracing Christ's love. The two walking together, true self and Christ. They are like two little girls singing joyfully on a warm summer day, strolling hand in hand down a dusty country road. The wind blowing in their faces. I discovered *I am* I AM.