

DAYDREAMS OF A PASTOR...

The year 2023 was another Good Year for St. James. The number one story was the great celebration of the feast of St. James and the Parish Picnic. It was a great time for us as one parish family to come together and share our joys. The nine days of novena at the feast of Our Lady of La Salette and the Religious appreciation day was another memorable event in the history of our parish. I also take this opportunity to thank all of you for the love and appreciation you have for the priests, religious and deacons.

The 50th ordination anniversary celebration of Fr. Tom Sickler, M.S was a memorable one for all of us and we together made it possible. We welcomed Fr. Rene Parent, M.S back home to St. James after 35 years. We were blessed with the ordination of Deacon Joseph Delaney, a dedicated add on to our administration team. The parish mission was a great success, which helped our family to stay together and prepare for the great feast of Easter. I cannot forget the talks of Fr. John and his great singing. Thank you Fr. John. I thank the Parish council, Finance council, Vocation committee and K of C for all the time you have spent preparing for all these events.

We celebrated the 1st Holy Communion of our children from the School and the Religious Education. We also celebrated the Sacrament of Confirmation of 24 young adults from our parish and school. Thanks to the teachers from the school and Religious Education for their preparation.

There were many celebrations at St. James School that were also memorable. I thank the Principal and the staff for all that they do for the better future of St. James School and the hundreds of volunteers that keep St. James School on the high level of excellence that personifies the school.

We celebrated the 1st death anniversaries of Fr. John O'Neill, M.S and Sr. Anila SABS and in 2023 we saw many of our wonderful parishioners and friends go home to God. Let us continue to remember all those special people in our prayers. May they all rest in peace!

Many renovations and improvements continued within the Church, School, Rectory, Convent and Church Hall within the year. I know it was possible only with your support.

I also take this opportunity to thank Fr. John Welch, Fr. Rene Parent our deacons, sisters and office staff for their continued dedication to St. James. Thanks a million to the Trustees, Pastoral Council, Finance Council, Vocation Committee, School Board, Home and School Association, Teachers, Religious Education, Men's Bible Study Group, R.C.I.A., Baptism Prep, Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, Ushers, Knights of

Columbus, the Altar Boys and Girls, the Music Ministry, the Collection Counters, the Maintenance Group, the Development Committee, the Endowment Committee, the St. James Athletic Association, The Friends of Assisi, The Friends of La Salette, St. James School Finance Committee, the Pourings & Passages, the Craft Group, the Bingo Workers, Cemetery staff, Bingo, 1000 Club, "150 Club", "200 Club, Car donations, Golf Tournament and the Raffle Committee. Thanks to all our Sponsors and Benefactors and all who support St. James!

The best story of 2023 continues to be the generosity of our parishioners. We love the spirit of generosity in administrators, teachers, staff, workers, volunteers, and parishioners.

I strongly believe that the most important thing that keeps us united is our prayer, Eucharist, Monthly Holy Hour and the many other liturgies. Thanks to all for your participation and dedication. Let us continue to pray together and work together in this New Year.

May God bless us all!
Fr. Roy Parayil, M.S.

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**First Reading: 1 Samuel 3:3b-10, 19**

This powerful story describes Samuel, who at the time was the servant of the high priest. The Lord called out to Samuel, who twice thought Eli had called him. They gradually realized that it was the Lord who called for him. So the third time Samuel answered and the Lord remained with Samuel as he grew.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 6:13c-15a, 17-20

Paul explains to the Corinthians that their body is a temple of the Holy Spirit. He tells them to avoid lewd conduct, and glorify God by keeping their bodies pure.

Gospel: John 1:35-42

John told two of his disciples that Jesus is the Lamb of God. They turned and followed him, immediately curious and attracted to him. Andrew told his brother Simon about Jesus. Simon also came to meet Jesus, who renamed him Cephas, or Peter.

PARISH EVENTS

Wednesday – Devotion to the Infant Jesus of Prague
Every Wednesday at 8:30AM.

Rosary for Vocations - Tuesdays and Thursdays at 8.30AM.

Wednesday – Bingo in the Church Hall at 7PM.

Men's Bible Study – Fourth Monday of every Month at 7PM in the Church Hall.

Holy Hour – Every Third Monday of the Month.

Our next Holy Hour is January 15, 2024.

Vocations Committee Meeting – January 16th at 6PM.

Finance Meeting – January 23rd at 6PM.

Parish Council Meeting – January 25th at 6PM.

THE VIGIL LIGHTS... are burning brightly in prayer for Peace in our World and St. James Parish families.

MARIAN SHRINE FLOWER ARRANGEMENT...

The flower arrangement for the Blessed Mother's Altar for the weeks January are open.

WEEKLY OFFERING.....12/31.....\$4844.00

Initial Offering.....\$1575.00

1/14 – Renovation Fund; 1/21 – School Support; 1/28-St. James School Debt Reduction; 1/28 - Super Raffle

Schedule for January 20 and January 21, 2024

	4:30PM	7:00AM
Celebrant:	Fr. Roy Parayil	Fr. Rene Parent
E. Minister:	Ernie Charron Diane Charron	John Lupien Julie Dupont
Lector:	Phyllis Morrison	Ralph Oriola
	9:00AM	11:00AM
Celebrant:	Fr. Roy Parayil	Fr. Rene Parent
E. Minister:	Bev Richardson Rosalie Boire	John Brady Michelle Brady
Lector:	Adam Brindamour	

PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS...Loving and generous God, it is You who call us by name and ask us to follow You. Help us to grow in the love and service of our Church as we experience it today. Give us the energy and courage of Your Spirit to shape its future. Grant us faith-filled leaders who will embrace Christ's mission of love and justice. Bless St. James parish by raising up dedicated and generous leaders from our families and friends who will serve Your people as Priests, Deacons, Brothers, Sisters and Lay Ministers. Inspire us to know you better and open our hearts to listen to Your call. We ask this through Christ our Lord... Amen.
Our Lady of La Salette, Reconciler of Sinners, pray without ceasing for us who have recourse to You.

PRAYER TO ST. MICHAEL...

St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our defense against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray, and do Thou, O Prince of the heavenly host, by the power of God, thrust into hell Satan and all the evil spirits who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

Masses

MONDAY, January 15,

9:00AM Greg...by Mom

9:00AM For the Souls in Purgatory

TUESDAY, January 16,

9:00AM Arthur, Marie & Imelda Brodeur...by estate

9:00AM Sr. Doris Gamlin

WEDNESDAY, January 17,

Saint Anthony, Abbot

9:00AM Terry Sypek...by Robert St. Onge

9:00AM Rich Turner...7th Anniversary...
by the Desaulnier family

THURSDAY, January 18,

9:00AM Philip Larrow...17th Anniversary...by family

9:00AM For Peace in our world

FRIDAY, January 19,

9:00AM Walter Barlow, Sr....birthday...by family

9:00AM Elizabeth Rondeau...by estate

SATURDAY, January 20,

Saint Fabian, Pope and Martyr; Saint Sebastian, Martyr

4:30PM Matthew & Jessica...by Mom

4:30PM The Kuszaj family...by Patricia, Barbara & Michael

SUNDAY, January 21,

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:00AM Joyce Nadeau...2nd Anniversary...by family

7:00AM Carol Ann Wiltout...Month's Mind...by family

9:00AM Brian LeBeau...by niece, JoAnn

9:00AM Fr. John O'Neill

11:00AM Victor & Claire Gregorie...by cousin

11:00AM Fr. Joe Whalen

LASALLETTE MASSES

In memory of Frederick & Adelyn Bodenschatz

In memory of David & Sophie Horvat, by son, Joseph

In memory of Ray Veillette...by wife, Diane

2024 Masses Available

There are 7AM, 9AM and 11AM Weekend and 9AM Weekday Mass openings available for the 2024 yr. Please call the office at 860-774-3900 or place intentions in the basket at 10.00ea.

"Fr. John O'Neill Memorial Fund

Dear Parishioners and friends,

We all know the love Fr. John O'Neill, M.S. had for St. James School. The School had a place in his heart and he dedicated his life for the betterment of the school.

To honor Fr. John and for the continuous support of the school we have started a fund called, **"Fr. John O'Neill Memorial Fund"**. A new account has been opened for St. James School **please make your check payable to St. James Church and in the memo; please specify – Fr. John O'Neill Memorial Fund.**

As of Dec 25th the donations have amounted to \$45,005.00.

SIGN-UP- SHEET FOR WEEK OF PRAYER AT HOME

The sign-up sheet for a week of prayer at home for vocations is at the main entrance of the church. We humbly request all families to pray for vocations. Set aside a few minutes praying for vocations and inspiring our children at home. Please sign-up for a week of prayer. Those who sign up for the weekly prayer will dedicate themselves by praying the Rosary and Vocation Prayer from Sunday through Saturday. Let us continue to pray for an increase of vocations to the Priesthood and Religious life.

PRAYER AT HOME – 1/6 – Ernie & Diane. Please consider signing up.

St. James School News

We are happy to report that our 8th grade calendar fundraiser was VERY successful. We surpassed our \$5000 goal, raising \$5505! Our thanks and appreciation to ALL of the parishioners who helped with this event.

The winners so far are as follows:

- January 1: Michael Bourgeois--\$100
- 2: Mr. & Mrs. Edward Burns---\$25 Stop & Shop
- 3: Melissa Gaboury---\$25 Target & \$25 Michael's
- 4: Erin Blackmar---\$50 Shell Gas
- 5: Robert Dow---\$30 Weidele's Pizza Pub
- 6: Grace Silver----Mohegan Sun Celtic Women
- 7: Dani Duran----\$100
- 8: Anne Cote----\$50 Old Navy
- 9: Ileana Delean----\$50 Cumberland Farms
- 10: Sean Mazzarella----\$50 Target

Elyse McAteer
Principal

S.O.S. Save our School... St. James School wishes to thank all of our donors for their generous contributions to the St. James School Tuition Assistance Scholarship Fund. We ask you to consider making a voluntary donation on the occasion of a death of a loved one (in lieu of flowers) or on the occasion of a happy event; e.g. wedding or anniversary (in lieu of flowers. "Save Our School" envelopes are at the entrances to the church.

PLANNING A WEDDING... Arrangements for your marriage should be made with the Church first, as this is the most important part of your wedding day. To secure your wedding date with the church you must first have the initial interview with one of the priests and also have paid the church deposit.

POURINGS AND PASSAGES BOOKSTORE... A used book store and coffeehouse is now open at 103 Main Street, Danielson, CT. Hours of operation are Wednesdays to Saturdays, 10AM to 5PM. The store is closed Sunday to Tuesday, holidays and snowy days. Please patronize, promote and support our bookstore. Net profits benefit St. James School. For more info, please call 860-774-1712, (Wednesdays to Saturdays) or leave a message. God bless you all! Jim

Diocesan News:**Deepening Our Faith through the Sacraments**

Join us on Tuesday, January 25th from 7 – 8:15PM virtually for a deepening of our faith through the Sacrament of Vocation- Holy Orders. Our keynote is Sr. Elissa Rinere, C.P. the former Diocesan Chancellor. The Catholic Church's sacrament of Holy Orders is a sacrament of apostolic ministry. It continues the mission that Christ entrusted to his apostles until the end of time. It includes three degrees: episcopate (*bishop*), presbyterate (*priest*), and diaconate (*deacon*). "Holy orders" means "set apart for a sacred purpose"; let's explore this purpose together. To register, please contact Marianne at manicholas@norwichdiocese.net or call 860-848-2237 ext. 304.

RCIA Retreat... The Office of Faith Events and the Awaken team are gearing up to assist Candidates and Catechumens prepare for receiving the Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil. Spend the day discovering God's unconditional love for you, learn about the gifts of the Holy Spirit, develop a meaningful prayer life, and experience God's mercy in reconciliation. The Holy Spirit Awaken Retreat for RCIA will take place on Saturday, February 24th at Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Quaker Hill from 9:30am – 5pm with Mass from 5pm to 6pm. To register, please contact Marianne Nicholas at manicholas@norwichdiocese.net or call 860-848-2237 ex.305.

Diocesan News... Calling All Young Adults! Ages 18-39, Are you a young adult seeking authentic community? Are you looking for a place to deepen your relationship with Jesus and increase your understanding of the Catholic faith? Join one of **Crossroads for Christ** seven chapters today! Meeting in the greater Hartford area, Stamford, Middletown, Mystic, New Haven, Waterbury and Watertown. For more information go to www.crossroads4christ.org or email info@crossroads4christ.org

St. James Parish news:

Leading a parish Pro-Life committee is an opportunity to make a profound impact on the sanctity of life within our community. By taking up this vital role, you become a beacon of hope and support for those who cannot speak for themselves. Your dedication to promoting a culture of life will contribute to fostering a community that cherishes and protects the dignity of every human being, from conception to natural death. Leading a Pro-Life committee allows you to collaborate with like-minded individuals, working together to organize events, raise awareness, and provide resources that empower individuals and families to choose life. If you are interested in participating in, or leading this committee, please contact Deacon Rene Barbeau or Deacon Joe Delaney. 860-774-3900 – St. James Office.

PLEASE NOTE... The rectory office is closed on Monday. Office hours are 8:30AM to 3:30PM Tuesday thru Friday. Emergencies any time.

CHRISTMAS GIFT

Christmas and Year End Giving is not only a Catholic tradition, but Christmas marks the beginning of the Ultimate Gift, God's gift of His only son, Jesus Christ. Christmas of course, celebrates the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Tradition holds that the three kings or wise men followed the star to bring gifts to the newborn king, beginning a tradition of gift giving to the Christmas season we enjoy each and every year.

But what about the gifts that God has bestowed upon each and every one of us during the year and throughout our lifetimes? We are merely stewards of these gifts. Christmas and years end is a spiritual opportunity to make a return to God for His many blessings at Christmas and years end. A Catholic Gift of Faith.

An Investment in Your Parish

For many years, our Catholic parishes have benefitted from the enormous contributions and dedication of religious men and women (priests, brothers and sisters) who have given their entire lives in the service to parishes, schools, dioceses and many other Church ministries. Now, our Catholic Church and educational ministries are even broader and serve more people than ever before despite the decline in the numbers of religious. Many dedicated lay people now staff these programs and must be compensated with just and living wages. Your Christmas and year end gift is an investment in these quality programs.

Many people enjoy using Christmas and years end as a special time to give to their favorite Catholic institutions. Christmas and year end giving provides many advantages to you, the donor. Many feel St. James is their favorite school. The knowledge that your gift is assisting a favorite Catholic institution, (St. James) and advancing the mission of the Catholic Church here on earth. Celebrate the joy of Christmas by giving in the true spirit of the season. A last reminder to make that special gift or increased gift that you've wanted to make during the year. Most importantly, make a return to God of your blessings at Christmas and assist St. James to attain its spiritual and programmatic goals; serving God's people and His Church here on earth.

Year - End Giving

Thanks for all you do. Every organization has a program called Year End Giving. Most parishes follow this lead. Here at St. James, many people and corporations send us a Christmas Gift. For the past 20 years people have asked us to send them a reminder to remember St. James at Christmas. This year we will be using our bulletin space to say thanks and recommend the following. We will have a second collection at the Christmas Masses. We have the largest attendance of the year and it will help our debt. Some former parishioners continue to remember St. James Parish and St. James School. We could use the extra help at Christmas. We will remember (your loved ones in a Christmas Novena of Masses. (From Christmas to the Epiphany).

For parishioners who contribute every week, this note is just for your information. But there will be a voluntary collection and it will take place on Christmas, a Day of Gifts. It will be the second collection. You may use the Year-End envelopes found at each entrance to the church. Thanks again.

Enclosed is My Year End Donation to St. James

NAME _____ Amount Enclosed _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip Code _____

IN MEMORY OF _____ AND _____

2024 S.J.S.A. THOUSAND CLUB

SIGN-UP TODAY FOR THE 2024 CLUB. We appreciate your support. All proceeds benefit St. James School. Please sponsor new members so we can fill the club. Dues are only \$60.00 per year or \$5.00 per month.

MONTHLY AWARDS: \$2,000 in awards are given away each month...20 awards monthly, 240+ chances to win.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Please inform Kathy Hall (860)774-7635 of any address changes. Kathy is the "keeper of the records".

OUR NEXT DRAWING WILL BE HELD ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17th AT 8:30AM IN THE CHURCH HALL.

PLEASE SPONSOR A NEW MEMBER SO WE CAN FILL THE CLUB.

If you have any questions concerning dues etc. Please call Kathy Hall (860) 774-7635.

S.J.S A. THOUSAND CLUB**PLEASE REGISTER EARLY!**

Your Choice of number if available _____ Sponsor name if applicable _____

Name: _____ Telephone _____

Address: _____
PO Box or Street Address Town State Zip Code

Email Address _____

You can place it in the weekly collection, mail it to the rectory or give it to Kathy Hall. 860 774-7635.

