



Christmastide

Solemn High Mass – 10 am

First Sunday after Christmas Day

26 December 2010

We welcome you to St. James'. Throughout the whole Twelve Days of Christmas we joyfully venerate the birth of Jesus the Messiah, the fulfillment of the deepest longings of the ages.

We hope that people of every background will find meaning in this celebration. All baptized persons, including children, are encouraged to receive Holy Communion.

To all, may you receive the greatest gift of all this Christmas, the gift of that peace which the world cannot give - the peace of Jesus Christ the Savior who on a wondrous night long centuries ago came to live among us in all meekness and humility.

Liturgy of the Word

At the sound of the bell, all stand for the Entrance of the Ministers.

Introit

The Celebrant first sings the Introit:

Antiphon Wis. 18: 14-15

When a pro - found still - ness com - passed | ev - 'ry - thing |
and the night in its swift | course was HALF spent, |
your all - pow - er - ful word, O Lord, | bound - ed from | heav - en's roy - al throne.

Psalm 96, 92: 1-6

1. The Lord is king, in | splen - dor robed; | robed is the Lord and | girt a - bout with strength

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son ||
and to the | Ho - ly SPIR - it.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever | SHALL be, ||
world without | END. A - men.

The Antiphon is repeated.

Entrance Hymn 93

Angels from the realm of glory

The procession goes to the Crèche as verses 1 & 2 are sung.

1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, sing your flight o'er
2 Shep - herds in the field a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your
3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions; bright - er vi - sions
4 Saints be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, watch - ing long in

all the earth; ye, who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry,
flocks by night, God with you is now re - sid - ing;
beam a - far; seek the great De - sire of na - tions;
hope and fear, sud - den - ly the Lord, de - scend - ing.

Refrain

now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth: come and wor - ship,
you - der shines the in - fant Light: na - tal star:
ye have seen his shall ap - pear

come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.

Station at the Crèche

Celebrant The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us.
People **And we beheld his glory.**

Grant, we pray, Almighty God, that as your Son, born the Savior of the world, has become the author of our heavenly birth, so he may bestow upon us the gift of everlasting life; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The procession resumes with verses 3-4 of Hymn 93.

Opening Acclamation

Celebrant
Bless - ed be God: Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Spi - rit.

People
And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ev - er. A - men.

The Celebrant says

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Gloria in excelsis (Hymn 421)

All glory be to God on high

1 All glo - ry be to God on high, and peace on earth from
2 O Lamb of God, Lord Je - sus Christ, whom God the Fa - ther
3 You on - ly are the Ho - ly One, who came for our sal -

hea - ven, and God's good will un - fail - ing - ly be
gave us, who for the world was sac - ri - ficed up -
sa - tion, and on - ly you are God's true Son, who

to all peo - ple giv - en. We bless, we wor - ship you, we raise for
on the cross to save us; and, as you sit at God's right hand and
was be - fore cre - a - tion. You on - ly, Christ, as Lord we own and,

your great glo - ry thanks and praise, O God, Al - might - y Fa - ther,
we for judgment there must stand, have mer - cy, Lord, up - on us,
with the Spi - rit, you a - lone share in the Fa - ther's glo - ry.

Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Old Testament

All sit.

Reader A Reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations. For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will give. You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God. (*Isaiah 61:10-62:3*)

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 147:13-21

Remain seated.

Refrain – sung by *Celebrant* and repeated by all



The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us.

Verses – sung by *Celebrant*

A Worship the LORD, O Jerusalem; *
praise your God, O Zion;
For he has strengthened the bars of your gates; *
he has blessed your children within you.

All repeat refrain.

B He has established peace on your borders; *
he satisfies you with the finest wheat.
He sends out his command to the earth, *
and his word runs very swiftly.

All repeat refrain.

C He gives snow like wool; *
he scatters hoarfrost like ashes.
He scatters his hail like bread crumbs; *
who can stand against his cold?

All repeat refrain.

D He sends forth his word and melts them; *
he blows with his wind, and the waters flow.

He declares his word to Jacob, *
his statutes and his judgments to Israel.
He has not done so to any other nation; *
to them he has not revealed his judgments. Hallelujah!

All repeat refrain.

New Testament

Reader A Reading from Paul's letter to the Galatians.

Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian. But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God. (*Galatians 3:23-25;4:4-7*)

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Sequence Hymn 82

Of the Father's love begotten



1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten, ere the world be -
2 O that birth for ev - er bless - ed, when the Vir - gin,
3 Let the heights of heaven a - dore him; an - gel hosts, his
4 Christ, to thee with God the Fa - ther, and, O Ho - ly



gan to be, he is Al - pha and O - me - ga,
full of grace, by the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,
prais - es sing; powers, do - min - ions, low be - fore him,
Ghost, to thee, human and chant and high thanks - giv - ing,



he the source, the end - ing he, of the things that
bore the Sa - vior of our race; and the Babe, on
and ex - tol our God and King; let no tongue on
and un - wearied prais - es be; hon - or, glo - ry



are, that have been, and that fu - ture
world's Re - deem - er, first re - vealed his
earth be si - lent, ev - ery voice in
and do - min - ion, and e - ter - nal



years shall see, ev - er - more and ev - er - more!
sa - cred face, ev - er - more and ev - er - more!
con - cert ring, ev - er - more and ev - er - more!
vic - to - ry, ev - er - more and ev - er - more!

This hymn may be performed in equal note values: ♩ ♪ ♫ ♬

Gospel Alleluia

All stand.

The Celebrant sings this verse:



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

We have seen his glory, glory that is his as the Father's only Son.

The People repeat the Alleluia Verse.

Holy Gospel

All stand.

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known. (*John 1:1-18*)

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Sermon

Father Chris King

Nicene Creed

All stand.

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.**

Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation

he came down from heaven:*

by the power of the Holy Spirit

**he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

On the third day he rose again

**All bow at
the mention
of the Incar-
nation*

in accordance with the Scriptures;

he ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.**

With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.

He has spoken through the Prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Prayers of the People

Remain standing.

The Lay Assistant announces the particular intercessions from the steps and the People are encouraged to include their own prayers and thanksgivings. The Intercessor then leads the Prayers:

As we join the whole creation and celebrate with joy the Word made flesh, let us offer prayers to God who dwells among us to the end of time, saying, "Glory and praise to you, O living God."

By the wedding of the human and divine natures in Christ Jesus, let us pray to the Lord.

Glory and praise to you, O living God.

For Lawrence our bishop, Rowan the Archbishop of Canterbury, and Katharine our Primate; for all the clergy and all who minister in Christ, and for all the holy people of God, let us pray to the Lord.

Glory and praise to you, O living God.

For all believers who put their trust in the incarnate Son of God, let us pray to the Lord.

Glory and praise to you, O living God.

For the leaders of the nations and all in authority, and for peace and justice, let us pray to the Lord.

Glory and praise to you, O living God.

For the conversion of the whole human race to our blessed Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, let us pray to the Lord.

Glory and praise to you, O living God.

For travelers, for the sick and the suffering, for the hungry and the oppressed, for those in prison, and for the dying and the dead, let us pray to the Lord.

Glory and praise to you, O living God.

For our deliverance from all affliction, strife, and need, let us pray to the Lord.

Glory and praise to you, O living God.

Remembering our most glorious and blessed Virgin Mary, James the brother of Our Lord, and all the saints, let us offer ourselves and one another to the living God through Christ, let us pray to the Lord.

To you, O Lord our God.

The celebrant concludes with this collect:

Source of grace and truth, accept the prayers we offer on this joyful feast. May we come to see the true light who shines throughout the world and who is God for all eternity; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Confession of Sin

All kneel.

The Celebrant says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence.

Minister and People

Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.

The Priest stands and says

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins
through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness,
and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.
Amen.

Peace

All stand.

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

Then the Ministers and the People greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Announcements & Blessings

Please be seated

If you are planning to travel, or need healing, please come forward to receive a blessing from the priest. Those celebrating birthdays, anniversaries, or other special occasions are invited to come forward together. The Celebrant blesses each person individually. The Celebrant then says:

To (name), O Lord, grant long life and peace and protection and many years.

The congregation then sings:

God grant them ma - ny years! God grant them ma - ny years!

God grant them ma - ny years!

When the blessings are concluded, the Celebrant says the Offertory Sentence:

Through Jesus Christ, we have been adopted as children of God, and as God's children, we are also heirs of God's kingdom, receiving all God's fullness, grace upon grace.

Liturgy of the Altar

During the Offertory Hymn, representatives of the congregation, with the children, bring the people's offerings of bread and wine for the Eucharist, money and food for those in need, to the Celebrant.

The people stand while the offerings are presented, placed at the Altar and censed.

Offertory Hymn 443

From God Christ's deity came forth

1 From God Christ's de - i - ty came forth, his man-hood from hu -
2 He joined with guests at wed - ding feast, yet in the wil - der -
3 The dis - so - late he did not scorn, nor turn from those who
4 He did not dis - re - gard the sick; to sim - ple ones his
5 Who then, my Lord, com - pares with you? The Watch - er slept, the

1 man - i - ty; his priest - hood from Mel - chi - ze - dek, his
2 new did fast; he taught with - in the tem - ple's gates; his
3 were in sin; he for the right - eous did re - joice but
4 word was given; and he de - scend - ed to the earth and
5 Great was small, the Pure hap - tied, the Life who died, the

1 roy - al - ty from Da - vid's tree; praised be his One - ness.
2 peo - ple saw him die at last; praised be his teach - ing.
3 lude the fall - en to come in; praised be his mer - cy.
4 his work done, went up to heav'n; praised be his com - ing.
5 King a - based to hon - or all; praised be your glo - ry.

Great Thanksgiving

Remain standing.

Celebrant People
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Celebrant People
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People
It is right to give him thanks and praise.

The Celebrant proceeds

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Because you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sanctus (Hymnal S130)

All sing.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and

might, Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,
 God of power and might, hea - ven and earth are
 full, full of your glo - ry. Ho -
 san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na
 in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
 in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na
 in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The people stand or kneel. The Celebrant continues

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son.

For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Celebrant and People

Celebrant
 There - fore, ac - cord - ing to his com - mand, O Fa - ther,
Celebrant and People
 We re - mem - ber his death, We pro - claim his re - sur -
 rec - tion, We a - wait his com - ing in glo - ry.

The Celebrant continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine. We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with the Blessed Virgin Mary, St. James of Jerusalem, St. Stephen, St. John the Apostle, the Holy Innocents, Thomas, Frances, Samuel and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever.
AMEN.

The Celebrant genuflects while the altar party bows in adoration of the Lord in his Eucharist. The People make a silent Act of Worship after their own custom.

The Lord's Prayer

Celebrant
 As our Sa - vior Christ has taught us, we now pray,
Celebrant and People
 Our Fa - ther in hea - ven, hal - lowed be your Name,
 your king - dom come, your will be done, on earth as in hea - ven.
 Give us to - day our dai - ly bread,
 For - give us our sins as we for - give those who sin a - gainst us,
 Save us from the time of tri - al, and de - liv - er us from e - vil.
 For the king - dom, the power, and the glo - ry are yours,
 now and for ev - er. A - men.

Breaking of the Bread

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
People **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

Fraction Anthem (Hymnal S164)

Je - sus, Lamb of God have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, bear - er of our sins have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world:

give us your peace, give us your peace.

The Celebrant says

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you and feed on Him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

We welcome and encourage all baptized persons, including children, to receive Holy Communion. The response when receiving is "Amen."

To receive by intinction, hold your hands together in prayer, and the Priest will communicate you. If you do not wish to receive Communion, please come forward for a blessing from the Priest.

A period of quiet recollection follows the Holy Communion.

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

**Eternal God, heavenly Father,
you have graciously accepted us as living members
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage
to love and serve you
with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Solemn Christmas Blessing

The priest blesses the people, saying

May Almighty God, who sent his Son to take our nature upon him, bless you in this holy season, scatter the darkness of sin, and brighten your heart with the light of his holiness. **Amen.**

May God, who sent his angels to proclaim the glad news of the Savior's birth, fill you with joy, and make you heralds of the Gospel. **Amen.**

May God, who in the Word made flesh joined heaven to earth and earth to heaven, give you his peace and favor. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

Postcommunion Hymn 573

Father eternal, ruler of creation

1 Fa - ther e - ter - nal, Ru - ler of cre - a - tion,
2 Rac - es and peo - ples, lo, we stand di - vid - ed,
3 En - vious of heart, blind - eyed, with tongues con - found - ed,
4 Lust of pos - ses - sion work - eth des - o - la - tion;
5 How shall we lose thee, ho - ly hid - den Be - ing,

1 Spi - rit of life, which moved ere form was made,
2 and, shar - ing not our griefs, no joy can share;
3 na - tion by na - tion still goes un - for - given,
4 there is no meek - ness in the powers of earth;
5 if we lose not the world which thou hast made?

1 through the thick dark - ness cov - ering ev - ery na - tion,
2 by wars and na - mals love is mocked, de - rid - ed;
3 in wrath and fear, by jea - lous - ies sur - round - ed,
4 led by no star, the ru - lers of the na - tions
5 Bind us in thine own love for bet - ter see - ing

1 light to our blind - ness, O be thou our aid;
2 his sav - ing cross no na - tion yet will bear;
3 build - ing proud towers which shall not reach to heaven;
4 still fail to bring us to the bliss - ful birth;
5 thy Word made flesh, and in a man - ger laid;

Refrain
thy king - dom come, O Lord, thy will be done.

Dismissal

Deacon
Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People
Thanks be to God.

The Mass being ended, the Celebrant and altar party repair to the sacristy for brief prayers after Mass. The Celebrant returns to greet the People.





St. James of Jerusalem Episcopal Church

26 December 2010

Quietly consider...

Reflect on how you can live the joy of Jesus' birth this and every day. How do you conduct your affairs, knowing that God's Word has made his dwelling place with you?

Prayer Starter

Living Word, let me experience your grace and truth by...

Intercessions and Thanksgivings

| | | |
|-------------|------------------|------------------|
| Ann | Mae Clarke | Alan Mason |
| Eleanor | Bob Cottrell | Eileen McCarthy |
| Ellen | Laurie Hasin | Craig Perry |
| John | Patricia Hasin | Nick Primavera |
| Kay | Quentin Hunter | Linda Roganti |
| Marc | Ellen Kase | Bill Salvesson |
| Melody | Bernie Keller | Audrey Washinger |
| Steven Bank | John W. King | Darlene Wells |
| Ann Carlo | Suzanne Leguerre | |

Celebrations

David Nicholson (B 12/29), Philip Nicholson (12/30),
Chris McNamee (1/5)

Saints & Holy Days

St. Stephen (12/26), St. John the Apostle (12/27), The Holy Innocents (12/28), Thomas Becket (12/29), Frances Joseph-Gaudet (12/30), Samuel Ajayi Crowther (12/31)

Coffee hour hospitality today is provided by Bob Cottrell.

Thank you, Bob!

- ◆ **The next vestry meeting will be on Sunday, January 9.**
- ◆ **Please remember to continue bringing food donations for the offertory and distribution to the poor.**
- ◆ **Bible Study resumes this week. Thursday, December 31 at 6:30 pm. In the Vicarage.**
- ◆ **Help make Sunday hospitality special - volunteer to "host" coffee hour. Sign up sheet on the information table or contact Moses Powell: medmass2000@yahoo.com.**
- ◆ **2011 Offering Envelopes are now available for pledging households. Margie Fraser oversees their distribution.**

Reflection & Response

On this First Sunday after Christmas our attention is directed by the readings beyond the historical event of Jesus' birth to its cosmic and saving meaning. The Gospel reading is the theological prologue to the Gospel of John. This early Christian poem describes Jesus as the Incarnation (becoming flesh) of the divine Word who is one with God, through whom God creates and redeems the world. It also expresses our unity with God by grace and faith. Thus, the birth of Jesus is not only the beginning of his story but the beginning of our story as well.



Service Schedule for the Christmas Season



Feast of the Holy Name

Saturday, January 1 at 10 am

Get your New Year off to the right kind of start with this simple service of the spoken Word and Sacrament, in honor of the Name above every name, the Holy Name of Jesus.

Second Sunday after Christmas Day:

Feast of the Holy Family

Sunday, January 2 at 8 & 10 am

On this day, we honor the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. We will also celebrate the Blessing of the Chalk, for the Epiphany marking of doorways at home.

Baptism of the Lord with the Great Blessing of the Waters

Sunday, January 9, 8 & 10 am

In this extraordinary service, the Church recalls Christ's baptism in the Jordan and our baptismal incorporation into Him. At the 10 am service, we will also bless holy water using a special liturgy for the day.

Epiphany Home Blessings

January 6 – February 11 & February 24 – March 8

It is traditional for the parish priest to bless homes during Epiphany. If you would like Father Chris to bless your home, please contact him at frchris@stjameslongbeach.org.

Upcoming Parish Events

Feast of the Epiphany with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Thursday, January 6 at 7 pm

The Epiphany is one of the Church's "high holy days", when we venerate the Lord's manifestation as Christ to the nations. A quiet, spoken word service in the side chapel, followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.

Parish Annual Meeting & Pancake Brunch

Sunday, January 30, 2011 at 9 AM

Please be sure to attend this important meeting of the whole parish, as we conduct essential business and elect new members to the vestry. The meeting will begin immediately after Mass (only one service). A pancake brunch will follow in the parish hall downstairs. We will also take our 2011 Parish Family Photo.

The Old Testament reading foretells the coming of God's Kingdom when all peoples will be gathered into God's holy place. The reading from Ephesians tells us that in Christ we have become sons and daughters of God.

This Sunday's theme, then, particularly stresses the double role of the Church's liturgy. It celebrates historical events, but in our action together as the people of God, the historical events are also revealed as eternally saving events. In the liturgy, time and space are transcended and the events of history become the events of our own lives as individuals and as a community.

Christ is born. He is born to *us*. And, He is born *today*. For Christmas is not merely a day like every other day. It is a day made holy and special by a sacred mystery. It is not merely another day in the weary round of time. Today, eternity enters into time, and time, sanctified, is caught up into eternity. Today, Christ, the eternal Word of the Father, who was in the beginning with the Father, in whom all things were made, by whom all things consist, enters into the world which he created in order to reclaim souls who had forgotten their identity. Therefore, the Church exults, as the angels come down to announce not merely an old thing which happened long ago, but a new thing which happens today. For today, God the Father makes all things new, in his divine Son, our redeemer, according to his words: *ecce nova facio omnia. Behold, I make all things new.*

Therefore, the church on earth joins with the church in heaven to sing one same song, the new song, the *canticum novum* which the prophet commanded all to sing after the world should have been redeemed by Christ, whose ancestor he knew, by revelation, that he should be. When David cried out: "Sing to the Lord a new song" he was the first precursor to intone the songs the Church would sing on this day in her liturgy, as she announces to the whole world salvation and joy. For as St. Leo says: "Today there has shone upon us a day of new redemption, a day restoring that which was lost, a day of bliss undending.

Thomas Merton

Christmas (I)

After all pleasures as I rid one day,
My horse and I, both tired, body and mind,
With full cry of affections, quite astray;
I took up the next inn I could find.

There when I came, whom found I but my dear,
My dearest Lord, expecting till the grief
Of pleasures brought me to Him, ready there
To be all passengers' most sweet relief?

Oh Thou, whose glorious, yet contracted light,
Wrapt in night's mantle, stole into a manger;
Since my dark soul and brutish is Thy right,
To man of all beasts be not Thou a stranger:

Furnish and deck my soul, that Thou mayst have
A better lodging, than a rack, or grave.

George Herbert (1593-1633)

The Rev. J. Christopher King, SCP, D.Phil.
Vicar



Marco Gargiulo
Senior Warden

Robert Cottrell
Junior Warden



Dr. Denis Nicholson
Organist