



St James Cathedral

CHICAGO

Forged in Fire: From Age to Age



"Saint Joseph's Dream (El Sueño de San José)" by Francisco Goya

Holy Eucharist

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 21, 2025 at 8 a.m.

SaintJamesCathedral.org

65 East Huron Street, Chicago, Illinois 60611

Phone 312-787-7360

Welcome to St. James Cathedral!

Whether you are visiting or are a regular worshipper, you're not just welcome at St. James – you belong! This booklet contains everything you need to worship with us today. If you would like to learn about the mission and ministry of the cathedral, please complete one of the visitor cards available in the pews and place it in the offering plate or hand it to a clergy person.

HOLY COMMUNION

We offer God's gracious gift of Holy Communion to anyone who wishes to receive it. If you prefer to receive a blessing, come forward and cross your arms over your chest. Let the priest know if you would need a gluten-free wafer or alcohol-free wine. We are also happy to bring Communion to you if you are unable to come to the altar rail. Please let an usher know if this would be helpful for you.

PARKING

On Sundays, reduced-rate parking is available at R.O.W. Parking Garage (50 E. Ohio) for \$2 for up to six hours from the time of entering the garage. Discounts are also available for all-day parking at Ohio Ontario Self Park (33 W. Ontario) for \$11. To receive a reduced-rate parking voucher, please go to the welcome table in the narthex or the reception desk in the Welcome Center.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Restrooms are in the Welcome Center connected to the east end of the cathedral and below the front entrance of the cathedral.

GET INVOLVED

There are a variety of ways to become involved, whether you are a committed follower of Christ, an occasional visitor who appreciates our programming, or fall somewhere in between.

Refreshments are available after the service, where we look forward to getting to know you and helping you connect with this vibrant and historic community!



The Very Rev. Lisa Hackney-James,
Dean of the Cathedral



THIS WEEK'S ENEWS

Gathering

OPENING ACCLAMATION

The people stand as the clergy enter the chapel.

Presider Blessed are you, holy and living One.

All **You come to your people and set them free.**

The presider welcomes the people to the service.

CONFESSION OF SIN

Deacon Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

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 presider pronounces God's forgiveness.

KYRIE

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Presider The Lord be with you.

All **And also with you.**

Presider Let us pray.

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The people are seated.

Liturgy of the Word

FIRST READING

A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah. (7:10-16)

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, "Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven." But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test." Then Isaiah said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted."

The Word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God..**

PSALM 80:1-7, 16-18

Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,
stir up your strength and come to help us.

O Lord God of hosts,
how long will you be angered despite the prayers of your people?

You have fed them with the bread of tears;
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

You have made us the derision of our neighbors,
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand,
the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.

And so will we never turn away from you;
give us life, that we may call upon your Name.

Restore us, O Lord God of hosts;
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

HOLY GOSPEL

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew. (1:18–25)
All **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

“Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel,”

which means, “God is with us.” When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife but had no marital relations with her until she had given birth to a son, and he named him Jesus.

All The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Christ.

SERMON

The Rev. A. Frank Donaghue
Priest Associate

In 325, the first ecumenical council of the Church established the Nicene Creed as a universal statement of faith for every Christian. Through the 20th century, international ecumenical councils, biblical scholars, and language experts worked together to achieve the most accurate English translation. In 2018, The Episcopal Church voted to include this version in our prayer book to reclaim the original meaning of the Nicene Creed.

Notice, for example, that "he" pronouns for the Holy Spirit were not in the Creed as originally written, therefore this version also does not include them.

Please stand.

NICENE CREED

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, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again 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, *who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who 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

After each prayer, the response is

Reader Lord, in your mercy,
All **Hear our prayer.**

The presider concludes, praying

Almighty God, as your blessed Son Jesus Christ first came to seek and to save the lost; so may he come again to find in us the completion of his redeeming work; for he is now alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. **Amen.**

PEACE

The presider says

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

The people greet each other in the name of the Lord.

Holy Communion

OFFERTORY



Your offering supports the ongoing mission of St. James Cathedral, including the St. James Meals, Meals Among Us, and Summer in the City. Contributions are welcome online at SaintJamesCathedral.org/give, by texting “SJC” to 73256, or you may place checks and cash in the collection plate.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

Presider The Lord be with you.

All **And also with you.**

Presider Lift up your hearts.

All **We lift them to the Lord.**

Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

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 sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing. 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:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God. Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love. Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said: “Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.” As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again, he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said: “Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice.

Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made.

In the fullness of time bring us, with all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world.

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.**

LORD'S PRAYER

The presider introduces the Lord's Prayer.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: grant us peace.

The presider says

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

We offer God's gracious gift of Holy Communion to anyone who wishes to receive it.

If you prefer to receive a blessing, come forward and cross your arms over your chest.

Let the chalice minister know if you would prefer a gluten-free wafer or alcohol-free wine.

THE ST. JAMES CAPITAL CAMPAIGN PRAYER

The presider says

Let us pray.

Faithful God,

you call us to be living stones in a spiritual temple.

Bless the mission and outreach of this cathedral church.

By the power of your Holy Spirit,

enable us confidently to restore its fabric,

trustfully to reimagine our vocation,

and boldly to renew our ministries in your name.

Make this place a house in which your love dwells

and in which all your people find welcome.

Grant this, we pray, through the One who leads us ever onwards in your service,
Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

ADVENT BLESSING

May Almighty God, by whose providence our Savior Christ came among us in great humility, sanctify you with the light of his blessing and set you free from all sin. **Amen.**

May he whose second Coming in power and great glory we await, make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love. **Amen.**

May you, who rejoice in the first Advent of our Redeemer, at his second Advent be rewarded with unending life. **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.**

DISMISSAL

Deacon Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

IN OUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK

FOR THOSE COMMENDED TO THE PRAYER OF THE CATHEDRAL COMMUNITY: Ginger, Jane, Loya, Andronica, Ibukun, Ted, Lois, Mary, Yvonne, Lee, John, Rachael, Bill, Felicia, Jonah, Katie, Cynthia, Patricia, Charlotte and Richard, Joan, Lizzy and Ben, Chris, Marianne, Joan, Graham, Bob

FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED AND HAVE BEEN COMMENDED TO THE PRAYERS OF THE CATHEDRAL COMMUNITY:

FOR ALL THOSE WHO DIED BY GUN VIOLENCE IN CHICAGO IN THE PAST WEEK INCLUDING: Vindaris, Antoine, Eugene

DIOCESAN PRAYER CYCLE: For our bishop, Paula, and our Presiding Bishop, Sean; For the ecumenical relationships between the churches in full Communion with the Episcopal Church: the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; Church of North India; Church of South India; Church of Pakistan; Church of Bangladesh; the Old Catholic Churches; the Philippine Independent Church; the Mar Thoma Syrian Church of Malabar; and the Moravian Church in America, Northern and Southern Provinces.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sign up for our weekly newsletter at SaintJamesCathedral.org/enews.

ADULT FORMATION AT ST. JAMES **Today at 10 a.m. in Kyle's Place:**
We continue looking at practical ways that we can get involved in socially-conscious work in the world



THIS WEEK'S ENEWS

CHORAL EVENSONG FOR CHRISTMAS SUNDAY, JANUARY 4 AT 4 P.M. Though the decorations may come down and the holidays may seem to be over, in the Church Christmas is a 12-day season of celebration! Join the Cathedral Choir for Choral Evensong and one last opportunity for beloved Christmas carols until next year. This service features American composer Morten Lauridsen's ethereal anthem "O magnum mysterium," beloved for its kaleidoscopic harmonies and intimate depiction of the nativity. A festive reception will follow in Kyle's Place.

THERE IS STILL TIME TO PLEDGE FOR 2026 Thank you to everyone who has made a pledge to support St. James financially in 2026. We're almost at our goal and **we can exceed it with your help.** If you haven't yet made your pledge, there's still time to join in. Make your pledge online at SaintJamesCathedral.org/pledge. Thank you for supporting our shared ministry.

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE ADJUSTMENTS The Cathedral Offices will be closed beginning December 25 and will reopen Monday, January 5. There will be no Zoom Morning Prayer or 12:10 p.m. Eucharist from December 24 through January 2 – these will resume on Monday, January 5. Formation resumes on Wednesday nights beginning January 7.



CHRISTMAS

AT THE CATHEDRAL

NINE LESSONS & CAROLS

Sunday, Dec. 21 at 4 p.m.

Patterned after the famous carol service from King's College in Cambridge, this service recounts the story of Christ's Nativity in scripture and music led by the Cathedral Choir and Choristers.

FAMILY EUCHARIST & CHILDREN'S PAGEANT

Wednesday, Dec. 24 at 4 p.m.

Children from the St. James community and neighborhood present the Christmas story during this family-friendly service.

LESSONS & CAROLS FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

Wednesday, Dec. 24 at 7 p.m.

We recount the story of the Nativity through scripture, choral music sung by the Cathedral Choir and Choristers, and beloved Christmas Carols sung by the entire congregation.

SOLEMN EUCHARIST

Wednesday, Dec. 24 at 10 p.m.

Our principal celebration of Christmas with festive Christmas music led by the Cathedral Choir. The organ prelude begins at 9:30 p.m. Incense is used at this service.

CHRISTMAS DAY

Thursday, Dec. 25 at 10 a.m.

A smaller, quieter celebration of the Nativity with music led by members of the Cathedral Choir.

SaintJamesCathedral.org/Christmas

LITURGICAL MINISTERS

PREACHER: The Rev. A. Frank Donaghue

PRESIDER: The Rev. Canon Steven Balke

DEACON: The Rev. Rick Incorvati

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

SUNDAYS	8 a.m.	Holy Eucharist (<i>Spoken</i>)	Chapel
	9 a.m.	Holy Eucharist (<i>Family</i>)	Cathedral
	11 a.m.	Holy Eucharist (<i>Choral</i>)	Cathedral
		Live-Stream Service (<i>see enews, website, or YouTube</i>)	
FIRST SUNDAYS	4 p.m.	Choral Evensong (<i>Oct–June</i>)	Cathedral
WEEKDAYS	9 a.m.	Morning Prayer (<i>see enews, or website</i>)	Zoom
	12:10 p.m.	Holy Eucharist	Cathedral
	5:45 p.m.	Choral Evensong (<i>Wednesdays, Sept–June</i>)	Cathedral

CLERGY & STAFF

The Very Rev. Lisa Hackney-James, <i>Dean</i>	lhj@saintjamescathedral.org
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CATHEDRAL CHAPTER

Susan Fickling, *Senior Warden*, Allen Moye, *Junior Warden*, Erin Maus, *Chancellor*, Paul Thompson, *Treasurer*, Elizabeth Wakefield-Connell, *Secretary*, Lisa Ahmad, The Rev. Maurice Charles, Phil Debush, John Fischer, Greg Gerber, Ryan Middlebrook, Michele Mitchell, Maria Price, Keith Schmidt, The Rev. Eileen Shanley-Roberts, and Eric Weddle



St. James Cathedral is an Episcopal Church, a member of the Worldwide Anglican Communion.