

St James Cathedral

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 9 a.m.

THE FESTIVAL OF

NINE LESSONS & CAROLS

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21 4 P.M.





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 pew racks and place it in the offering plate or hand it to a clergy person.

CHILDREN IN WORSHIP

Children are always welcome here, and this service is designed to actively engage them in worship. There is an open space to the front right of the pews for children 5 and under to play under your supervision and a changing station for parents of our youngest members under the church in the restrooms.

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 or minister know if you would need a gluten-free wafer. 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,

Tisa Hackney-James

Dean of the Cathedral



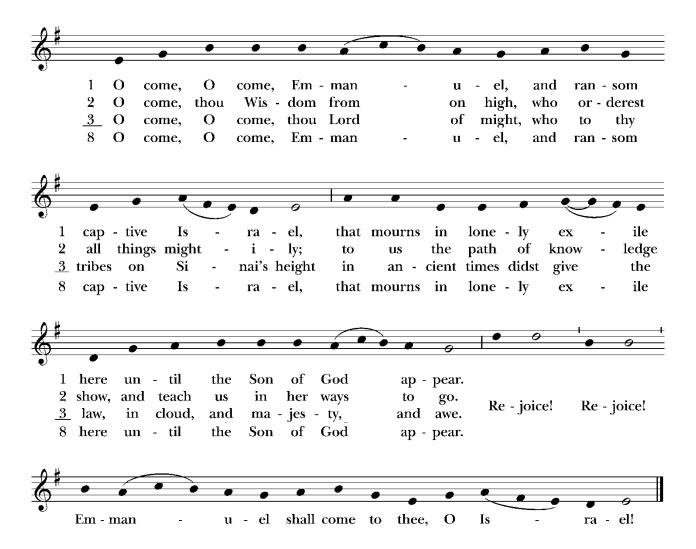
THIS WEEK'S ENEWS

Gathering

VOLUNTARY

The people stand and sing INTROIT HYMN

Hymnal 56



Words: Latin, ca. 9th cent.; ver. Hymnal 1940, alt.

Music: Veni, veni, Emmanuel, plainsong, Mode 1, Processionale, 15th cent.; adapt. Thomas Helmore (1811–1890); acc. Richard Proulx (1937–2010)

OPENING ACCLAMATION

Presider Blessed be the One, Holy, and Living God.

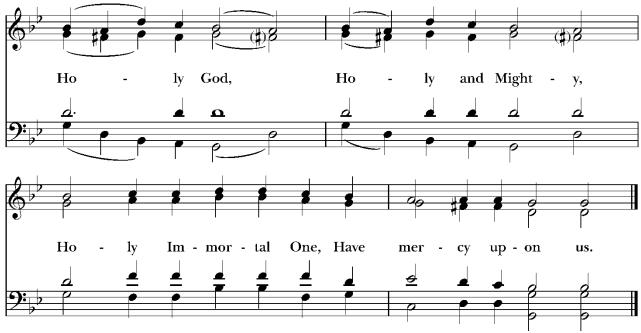
All Glory to God for ever and ever.

The presider welcomes the people to the service.

TRISAGION Hymnal S102

Prayer Leader

Turn to us again, O God our Savior, and let your anger cease from us:



Setting: Ver. Hymnal 1982, after Alexander Archangelsky (1846–1924)

Prayer Leader Show us your compassion, Lord, and grant us your salvation:

All (Repeat Trisagion refrain above.)

Prayer Leader Your salvation is near for those that fear you, that glory may dwell in our land:

All (Repeat Trisagion refrain above.)

The presider pronounces God's forgiveness, saying

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.**

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Presider God be with you.

All And also with you.

Presider Let us pray.

Eternal God, as Mary waited for the birth of your Son, so we wait for his coming in glory; bring us through the birth pangs of this present age to see, with her, our great salvation in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Please be seated.

Liturgy of the Word

FIRST READING

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

Once again the Lord God spoke to King Ahaz. This time he said, "Ask me for proof that my promise will come true. Ask for something to happen deep in the world of the dead or high in the heavens above."

"No, Lord," Ahaz answered. "I won't test you!"

Then I said:

Listen, every one of you in the royal family of David. You have already tried my patience. Now you are trying God's patience by refusing to ask for proof. But the Lord will still give you proof. A virgin is pregnant; she will have a son and will name him Immanuel. Even before the boy is old enough to know how to choose between right and wrong, he will eat yogurt and honey, and the countries of the two kings you fear will be destroyed.

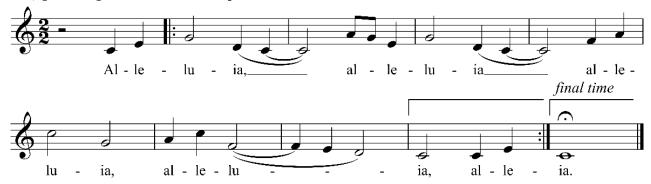
The Word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Contemporary English Version (CEV) Copyright © 2005

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

As the Deacon carries the Gospel book past the play area, all children are encouraged to join in the procession, gathering around as the Gospel is read.



Music: Repeating alleluia, Calvin Hampton (1938-1984)

HOLY GOSPEL

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

All Glory to you, Lord Christ.

This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about. His mother Mary was engaged to marry Joseph, but before they married, she learned she was pregnant by the power of the Holy Spirit. Because Mary's husband, Joseph, was a good man, he did not want to disgrace her in public, so he planned to divorce her secretly.

While Joseph thought about these things, an angel of the Lord came to him in a dream. The angel said, "Joseph, descendant of David, don't be afraid to take Mary as your wife, because the baby in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

All this happened to bring about what the Lord had said through the prophet: "The young woman will be pregnant. She will have a son, and they will name him Immanuel," which means "God is with us."

When Joseph woke up, he did what the Lord's angel had told him to do. Joseph took Mary as his wife, but they did not sleep together until she gave birth to the son. And Joseph named him Jesus.

The Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Holy Bible, New Century Version®. Copyright © 2005

SERMON

The Rev. A Frank Donaghue Priest Associate

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH



Words: Sylvia G. Dunstan (1955-1993), alt.

Music: Greensleeves, English Melody

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

We give thanks for what is good in the world and pray for the Church, the world and our local community, the sick, those who need our prayers, and those who have died.

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.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

A family from the 9 a.m. congregation lights the fourth candle of the Advent Wreath as a passage of Scripture is read.

The angel greeted Mary and said, "You are truly blessed! The Lord is with you."

Mary was confused by the angel's words and wondered what they meant. Then the angel told Mary, "Don't be afraid! God is pleased with you, and you will have a son. His name will be Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of God Most High. The Lord God will make him king, as his ancestor David was. He will rule the people of Israel forever, and his kingdom will never end."

- Luke 1:28–33

Contemporary English Version (CEV) Copyright © 2005

The presider says

God be with you.

All And also with you.

Presider Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, in this season of anticipation, we light this fourth candle, remembering the promise of new life in you. Help us to follow the example of Mary by accepting with joy the coming of your Kingdom. **Amen.**



Holy Communion

OFFERTORY

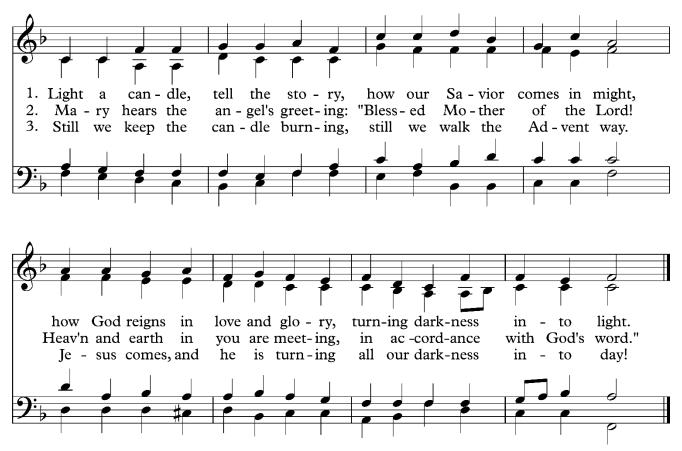


Your offering supports the ongoing mission of St. James Cathedral, including the St. James Meals, Meals Among Us, and Summer in the City. <u>Contributions are welcome online</u> at SaintJamesCathedral.org/give, by texting "SJC" to 73256, or you may place checks and cash in the collection plate.

Please stand.

OFFERTORY HYMN

Once the ushers have brought up the collection to the altar, all children and guardians are invited to gather around the altar for Communion.



Words: adapt. Stephen Buzard (b. 1989)

Music: Stuttgart, melody from Psalmodia Sacra, oder Andächtige und Schöne Gesange, 1715; adapt. and harm. William Henry Havergal (1793–1870), alt.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

Presider God be with you.

All And also with you.

Presider Lift up your hearts.

All We lift them to the Lord.

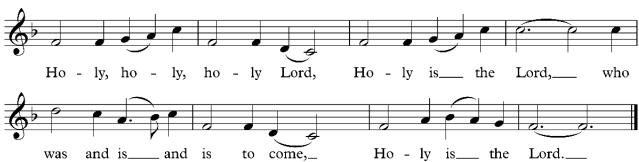
Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Reader Why is it right to give God thanks and praise?

All Listen, and we will hear.

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:



We thank you, loving Father, because, when we turned away, you sent Jesus, your Son. He gave his life for us on the cross and shows us the way to live. Send your Holy Spirit that these gifts of bread and wine may be for us Christ's body and his blood.

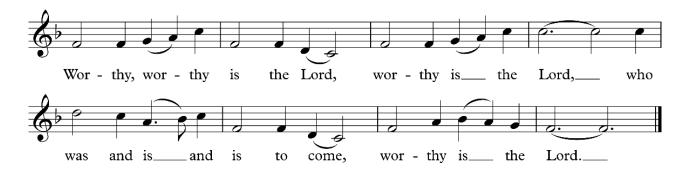
Reader Why do we share this bread and wine?

All Listen, and we will hear.

On the night before he died, when darkness had fallen, Jesus took bread. He gave thanks, broke it, and shared it with his disciples, saying: "This is my body, given for you. Do this to remember me."

After they had eaten, he took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and shared it with his disciples, saying: "This is my blood, poured out for you and for many, for the forgiveness of sins."

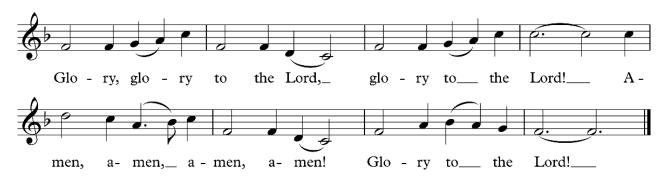
So Father, with this bread and this cup we celebrate his love, his death, his risen life. As you feed us with these gifts, send your Holy Spirit, and change us more and more to be like Jesus our Savior.

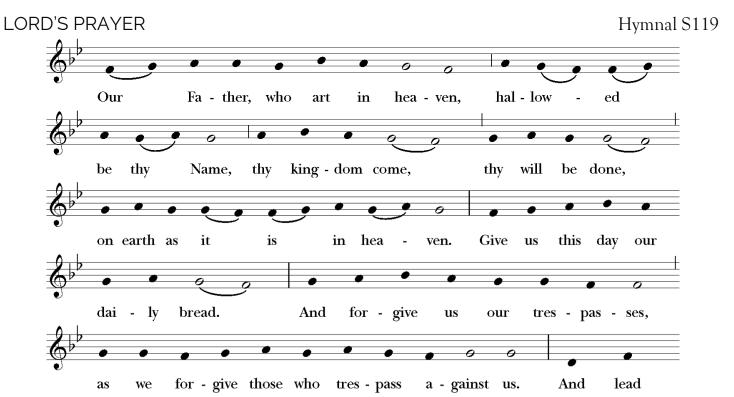


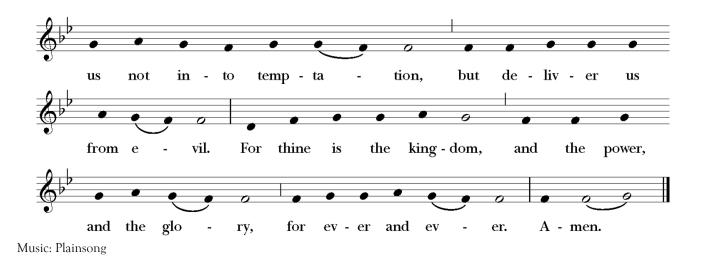
Reader Why do we follow Jesus Christ?

All Because he is God's saving Love in action.

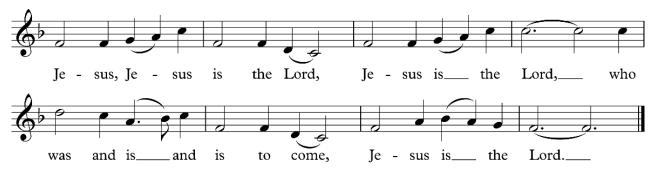
Help us, Father, to love one another, as we look forward to that day when suffering is ended, and all creation is gathered in your loving arms. And now with all your saints we give you glory, through Jesus Christ, in the strength of the Spirit, today and for ever.







BREAKING OF THE BREAD



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, cross your arms over your chest. Let the priest know if you would prefer a gluten-free wafer.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Please stand. The presider says

Let us pray.

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.

POST-COMMUNION HYMN



Words: Eleanor Farjeon (1881-1965)

Music: Besançon Carol, harm. Barry Rose (b. 1934)

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.

BLESSING

The presider prays for God's blessing on the gathered people, saying

May the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Deacon Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

VOLUNTARY

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.

CHRISTMAS AT THE CATHEDRAL Spend your Christmas at the Cathedral! See the graphic at the end of this bulletin or visit www.SaintJamesCathedral.org/Christmas for all the Cathedral has to offer this Christmas season.



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

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.



at SaintJamesCathedral.org/meals

St James Cathedral

mark your calendars and join us in celebrating 150 years since the rededication of St James rebuilt from the ruins of the Great Chicago Fire of 1871

NOW thru DECEMBER

A Sweep of History — on view in Kyle's Place

meander through time and discover the threads that bind St James with the very founding and fabric of modern-day Chicago in this spatial installation by the St James Arts Council

01 / 18 SUNDAY 2pm

The Organ Music of Leo Sowerby

Canon Director of Music Stephen Buzard offers a recital of organ music by his most esteemed predecessor, Leo Sowerby, who served at St James from 1927 through 1962, with a talk by Dr Joseph Sargent, Associate Professor of Musicology, University of Alabama, and author of *Leo Sowerby* (2024)

02 / 15 SUNDAY 4pm

Joy Rogers: Dean Emerita

a special diocesan Evensong celebrating the designation of the Very Rev Joy Rogers, Dean of the Cathedral (2006–14), as Dean Emerita

03 / 27 FRIDAY 7:30pm

Leo Sowerby: Forsaken of Man

the Cathedral Choir sings Forsaken of Man — a poignant oratorio based on St Matthew's Passion and noted for its profound expressive depth and intricate choral writing, composed in 1939 by Leo Sowerby, St James Organist & Choirmaster (1927–62)

04 / 17 FRIDAY

Cathedral Gala at the Driehaus Museum

celebrating 150 years and benefiting St James's outreach and service ministries

07 / 25 SATURDAY

Camino en Chicago

for centuries, people have made physical pilgrimages to places of spiritual significance — on the feast day of Saint James the Apostle, we undertake a Camino de Santiago en Chicago, following a route between church, civic, and cultural institutions around the city that trace their founding to St James Cathedral, Chicago

SaintJamesCathedral.org/150
FORMORE DETAILS & THE FULL CALENDAR OF EVENTS







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 Very Rev. Lisa Hackney-James

DEACON: The Rev. Rick Incorvati

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

CLERGY & STAFF

The Very Rev. Lisa Hackney-James, Dean

The Rev. Canon Steven Balke, Canon Vicar

The Rev. Canon Christopher Griffin, Community Partnerships

The Rev. Rick Incorvati, Deacon

The Rev. A. Frank Donaghue, Priest Associate

Canon Stephen Buzard, Director of Music

Canon Robert Black, Finance & Administration

Beau Surratt, Associate for Administration

Nico Tjoelker, Assistant Director of Music

Tamarra Newbern, Associate for Communications

Christine Price, Accountant

Sai Mamatha Akkineni, Staff Accountant

Shaun Bond, Senior Sexton

Jacob Perkins, Intern for Administration

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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.