



St. James Episcopal Church

296 Titicus Road, North Salem, New York





St James is a community of hope.

We invite the light of God through good times as well as those times that have challenged our faith, most especially these past two years of the pandemic. We reside in a beautiful country setting, we worship in an historic church set high on a hill, complimented by a spectacular renovated barn called the St James Village Hall, a gathering place for the entire community.

We believe that we are all seekers on a quest for meaning and purpose and wish to create a renewed connection with the Divine. We invite all, whoever and wherever they are on life's journey, to join us in our prayer life, our social life and our outreach to the world around us. We are changing and evolving creatures of God and in these turbulent times, we strive to be a beacon of hope for each other and for our community.

St James honors the traditions of the past while embracing new visions of what it means to be an Episcopalian today.



The history of St James is bound up with the beginnings of this country.

Saint James Church North Salem was founded in 1731 and the first rector, Epenetus Townsend, was installed in 1768; after having been sent to England for Holy Orders by two wardens of Saint James Church. The first church was built on Titicus Road in 1761.

One of twelve original parishes in the state of New York, St James was first incorporated in 1786 as St James Church in the town of North Salem.

Our present church building is the second church built on our present site; built on the foundation of the second St James Church building, the first on the site, which had fallen into disrepair during the Civil War. The second church was built in 1810, with funding assistance from Trinity Wall Street Manhattan. The present and third church was built with funds raised by the women of Saint James Church.

Saint James was yoked with it's daughter parish, Saint Luke's in Somers, for many years. The churches were un-yoked in 1989 and Saint James called it's first full time rector. We have had two Rectors, one Priest in Charge, and five interim priests, some of these spiritual leaders were with us for more than three years.

Saint James has always served as a place of celebration and solace in the town of North Salem; it was here that the community gathered after 9/11 and the community came together at Saint James to celebrate and support our immigrant neighbors at a difficult time. We hope to be able to continue to share our sacred space for solace, reflection and celebration with the town of North Salem, for many years to come.





WE ARE ENGAGED!

MINISTRIES

Brewster Food Pantry

The Pantry is located in Brewster, New York (neighboring community) and serves the food insecure in northern Westchester and neighboring Putnam County. Volunteers from three Parishes including Saint Lawrence O'Toole, Saint James Church and Inglesia Fuentes de Garcia church, the host church, operate the Pantry. Food, diapers, school supplies, toys, clothing and cleaning supplies are offered to seven hundred and fifty individuals per month. The Pantry is funded by grants from NYS and donations. St James has two active volunteers and we support their efforts through food and monetary donations.

Midnight Run

Since 1997 the teens of St James and the North Salem community, together with their chaperones and volunteers, have fed and clothed the homeless in NYC through the The Midnight Run Organization at least twice a year. It is an important community service activity for our youth and encouraged by parents throughout North Salem.

Refugee Resettlement

After a successful volunteer effort in resettling a family from Syria five years ago, St James is again partnering with IRIS in Danbury CT to help resettle a new refugee family from Afghanistan. St James has provided volunteers, furniture, clothing and monetary donations. We hope to continue this effort as more refugees are resettled in this area.





Friends of Karen

Founded by Barbara McGuiness, a former parishioner of St James after the loss of her daughter, this organization provides emotional support and resources for families with critically ill children. St James supports Friends of Karen each Christmas with donations and gifts.

Sullivan Men

Sullivan House is a home for developmentally disabled men. They have been members of St James since the late 1980s and attended church regularly prior to the pandemic; they also gathered with our youth group for activities such as craft projects, Valentine's Day celebrations and gardening projects at their home. We look forward to welcoming them back.

Interfaith Prison Ministry

A new initiative, St James will be working with St Matthew's in Bedford, to provide care packages for the women of the Bedford Correctional Facility. A few of our members will be trained for visits with inmates.

A Taste of Joy Community Suppers

Started during the pandemic two years ago, our mission is to provide take home meals as a way to connect with our community during lockdown. It also serves as a fundraiser for the parish. As part of this program, many meals were donated to the Brewster Food Pantry and the Brewster Cares Organization. There have been six Taste of Joy dinner events produced over a period of nineteen months with four hundred and eighty-six dinners taken home by patrons and one hundred and eighty seven dinners donated. We hope to be able to continue these dinners in person.



WE LOVE OUR PARISH HOME

Church

St James is a lovely historic church set high on a hill at the crossroads of Titicus and June Roads in the center of North Salem. It includes a 100+ year old Odell organ and a baby grand piano. The church has a capacity of 150. In addition to our regular Sunday services, the sanctuary is filled for weddings, baptisms, confirmations, funerals, blessings of the animals service, and musical events.

Columbarium

In 2013, we received a generous donation from a local family to create a columbarium garden. After much consideration and hard work from dedicated volunteers, a final design was installed and the Columbarium was dedicated in October 2021. Currently, we have four internments with sixty-one additional spaces.

St James Village Hall

In 2013, the decision was made to renovate our parish hall previously renovated in 1958. The goal was to provide space for the growing community of North Salem as well for our parish activities. We installed an elevator to provide for handicapped access. The new renovation includes space for North Salem Nursery School, church offices and handicapped accessible bathrooms on the first floor.

On the second level, there is a spacious meeting hall, able to be divided into two, which is served by an elevator between the floors. There is also a large new kitchen, designed to serve parish functions as well as larger catered events. The Village Hall is also available to be rented for various events, providing additional income.





NORTH SALEM NURSERY SCHOOL

The North Salem Nursery School was founded in 1968 through a charter with St James Church. The founder, Lois Adamsen, a much beloved parishioner, saw a need for a preschool to serve local families. It is a North Salem Institution; and has served many North Salem families over the years, as well as some from surrounding towns.

After Lois' retirement, leadership was assumed by Mary Ellen LaRocca, another parishioner, and NSNS has currently been led by parishioner Karen Midkiff over the last twenty-two years.

At this time, there are thirty-two children enrolled in the Nursery School; served by a faculty of four. The school is located on the first floor of The Village Hall. It's entrance is across the hall from the parish offices. During the week, the nursery school has also utilized the second floor of the Village Hall if it is not already in use. Support and caring for the Nursery School has been an important priority for our parish.

On Sundays the nursery school offers their space to the Sunday school.



WORSHIP

Sunday Service

St James has one 10:00 am traditional service and an ecumenical gathering at 8:30 am each Sunday. During the last five years, we have celebrated a bi-monthly Eucharistic service with Morning Prayer on alternate Sundays. Holy Eucharist had been celebrated by our half time priest. Currently the Deacon and lay leader officiants lead Morning Prayer and supply priests lead Eucharistic Services as they are available to come to us. We welcome an eclectic approach to worship. *Parishioners regularly joined streamed Sunday morning services through out the pandemic.*

Black Coffee & Prayer

Every Sunday morning at 8:30 am an ecumenical group made up of parishioners and the community at large gather for prayer, study and meditation. This lay led group was faithfully attended throughout the pandemic in person and virtually.

Music

An integral part of our worship as well as outreach to the community, the St James music program is loved by all. The Music program has flourished under the dedication and professional guidance of our Music Director, Dr. Michael Mulder. Our volunteer choir participates each Sunday as well as instrumentalists from our community and the youth of our parish. Our Annual Christmas Concert is a beloved holiday tradition in North Salem. It is a community wide event. Recently, we have many requests for a second annual concert to take place in the late spring or summer. We enjoy traditional as well as contemporary music.

Prayer Group

Bi weekly, the St James Prayer Group meets to pray for those who are in need. This team of dedicated parishioners keep the power of prayer front and center.





OUTREACH AND FUNDRAISERS

Auction

Our primary fundraiser over the past sixty-three years is the St James Auction. It is held on the last Saturday in July, and includes an auction and sale of donated items from the community, a silent auction, a quilt raffle (created by dedicated St James parishioners), a country kitchen, a plant sale, and a luncheon grill and refreshments. Many volunteers make the auction happen; many from the parish and many from the North Salem Community. It is people raiser as well as a fundraiser.

Special Events:

A Christmas Concert, A Taste of Joy Community Suppers, Chili cook-offs, annual square dance, Shrove Tuesday pancake suppers and welcome back picnics. Pre Pandemic we have had two successful theme based dinners, a Mystery Theater and a Cabaret. We hope to continue these in the future. In 2021, we held a Dedication of the Columbarium and the Village Hall Walkway.

Meditation

A weekly Meditation Group meets each Wednesday evening in the Village Hall led by a community volunteer.

Yoga

Yoga class meets in the village Hall on Saturday mornings, led by a community member.





WE HAVE DIFFERENT GIFTS ACCORDING TO THE GRACE GIVEN US - Romans 12:6

We are an established close knit community of faith seeking to be relevant to all; to the young families of today, to our elders and to those in between. We currently are a parish of primarily fifty to seventy-five year olds, with a few young families among us. We currently have 37 communicants in good standing.

We are a group who pull together and accomplish goals. We celebrate and value each others' gifts and what they bring to our mission. They are consistently offered with a generosity of spirit.

We are dedicated to our church and have, throughout the recent pandemic, held weekly services in the church and on line as well as holding Black Coffee and Prayer gatherings in both modalities. This was made possible by the active involvement of our Deacon and Lay Leaders.

We seek to be challenged to bring The Good News to the world around us and to live it in our daily lives. We are working to find ways to have more engagement with the community around us and to find new ways to include those people in our activities and ministries.

Our attendance and pledging have been reduced during the pandemic and we are hopeful that as we emerge from the lockdown, participation will increase.

We have begun to embrace technology to reach our parishioners as well as a wider audience. We send out a weekly newsletter on email, post events on social media and wish to expand and improve our website. In our survey, many respondents have requested a sound system in the church and a significant number support the installation of a multi media system with video capability for the church and the village hall.



NEW BEGINNINGS

We hope that a new priest will partner with us to engage with our surrounding community and to grow our church. We hope that a new priest will help us to find ways to reach out to young families, and our former and future parishioners. We seek a compassionate, experienced pastor to guide us through life's challenges. Warmth, humor and tolerance are important personal qualities. We have enjoyed thoughtful, inspiring and challenging sermons by our Deacon and volunteers and we hope to attract a priest that can continue in this spirit.

Community engagement is important to our parish and North Salem. We hope that a new priest will be a participant in the community and active in our parish life.

In the past, the Priest at St James participated in the Annual Blessing of the Hounds each fall. They led the prayer of thanksgiving for our wide open land, foxes, wild animals and especially the horses and riders. This has become an important tradition in this equestrian community and we would like to be able to bring it back.

We are hopeful that a St James priest will help us to find new ways to serve the wider North Salem Community and will support and guide us in that effort.

St. James Episcopal Church
Stjamesns.com

Our Town of North Salem
northsalemny.org/about