

## A word from the Vicar

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*In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.'" (Matthew 3:1-3)*

Yesterday, I received my first Christmas letter of the season. Generally they are very informative, especially when they come from folks we haven't seen all year. For the most part, they also share the good things that have been happening in their lives. John the Baptist does us no such favors. Each year we hear from him at least twice during advent—always with the same message—PREPARE! John is right of course, but it sounds harsh when we are doing our dead level best to arrive at Christmas Eve in a way that does justice to its inherent holiness.

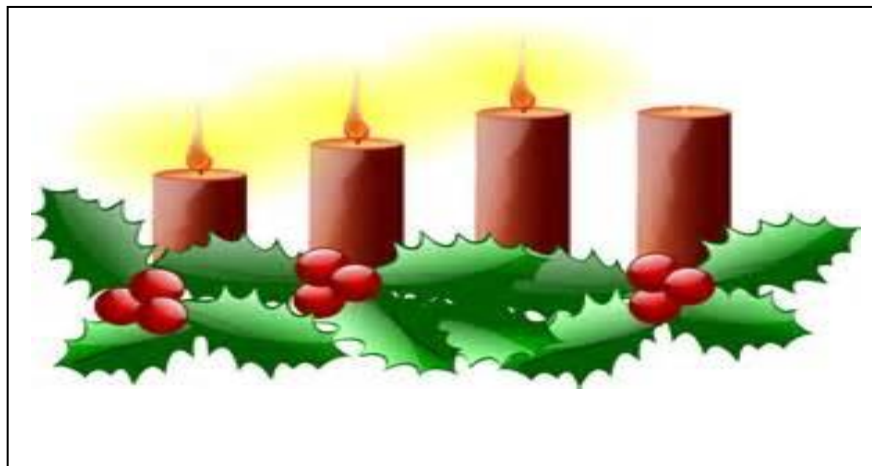
Most of us cannot simply stop the world and retreat for the season of Advent.

That makes it even more imperative then to seek out our Savior in unexpected ways and unexpected places. There are many resources that help us in that endeavor. The easiest, and perhaps the one some of us remember as children, is the Advent calendar. There is one posted on our website that can be downloaded and printed off. I found a variety of resources at [advent.bustedhalo.com](http://advent.bustedhalo.com). I also discovered a site that provides a scripture citation and a recipe each day. That can be found at <https://makereadythefeastblog.com>. If you would like a word for reflection sent to your email each day of Advent, I suggest

the Society of St. John the Evangelist. Sign up at their website which is [ssje.org](http://ssje.org).

Whichever one you select, or even in none of these appeal to you, I encourage you to be mindful this Advent that the kingdom of heaven has come near. In fact it comes near whenever we take the time to listen. May you have a blessed Advent season.

Faithfully,

## Children of Abraham Project



## Soup Kitchen Thanksgiving



## Decorating Cookies



# NEWS to share



During the holiday season the St James Soup Kitchen/Food Cupboard has many opportunities to serve. On Tuesday Nov. 15, at the Soup Kitchen's Thanksgiving dinner, 204 meals were served. Twenty four volunteers helped prepare and serve the meal. Of that number, eight were from St. James Church. Many turned around and the next day helped with the Second Harvest food drive. Ten members of the St. James parish family stood out in a chilly drizzle that Wednesday in the Family Video parking lot to accept donations of food and

money to help Second Harvest programs that help the Soup Kitchen and the Titusville Food Bank. Much of the non-perishable food items collected will find their way into the food bags given out on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month at the Soup Kitchen lunches. We are blessed by the many volunteers God has provided to make this food ministry possible.

Food ministry is about feeding souls as well as bodies. The weekly meal on Tuesdays brings people together and helps to unite our community, in fellowship and service. On December 13 the Soup Kitchen will have its Christmas holiday dinner with ham and scalloped potatoes. School children will help decorate the tables, many will brave the cold to share a

festive dinner together, as anticipation mounts for the coming of Christmas. All are invited and welcomed.

Soup Kitchen Dates and Stats:  
Tuesday meals from 12-1 PM.

Christmas Dinner Dec. 13

Bag Day- Dec.6 and Dec. 20  
(note change due to Christmas Dinner) and Barb Ives here to help with VA, SSA, Medicare and housing questions  
October meals served-498  
Food bags given out-143

Weather Note: If Titusville Schools are closed due to bad weather, Soup Kitchen will be closed. Everyone stay safe.

*Submitted by Eda Scales*

**Thank you**

A special "thank you" goes out to Kenny Beatty for refurbishing our camel. It really spruces up our Nativity Scene. If you have not had a chance to see it please take a moment to do so.





## From "A New Dictionary for Episcopalians" The Rev. John N. Wall, Jr.

**Advent:** The first season of the church's liturgical year, beginning on the fourth Sunday before Christmas (Advent Sunday) and running until the first Eucharist of Christmas. Advent is a season of preparation for remembering Christ's incarnation at Christmas and for the fulfillment of his promise to return in power and great glory. This accounts for the emphasis in many of this season's biblical readings on the end time and on God's promises for the people of Israel and the church of Christ. Advent has received renewed emphasis in recent years as the church has sought ways to counter the secularization of Christmas as a cultural holiday characterized by conspicuous consumption. The

liturgical color is purple or, in some places, blue.

**Advent Calendar:** Used to mark the passing of days in the Advent season, Advent calendars usually have a series of doors open, one for each day in the season. Behind each door is a picture or object leading up to the nativity scene revealed on December 24. Since Advent has not exactly the same number of days each year, commercial Advent calendars usually have 24 doors, one for each day in December before Christmas.

**Advent Wreath:** A circle, usually covered with evergreen foliage, with four candle holders. Candle colors may vary: four

purple or white, or three purple and one rose or pink. A purple candle is lighted on the First Sunday of Advent and each day thereafter until Christmas. A second purple candle is lighted on the Second Sunday of Advent, and so on until all four candles are lighted on the Fourth Sunday of Advent. If a rose of pink candle is used, it is first lighted on the Third Sunday, reflecting the tradition that the lessons for the Third Sunday are more celebratory than on the other Sunday's. A recent development in Advent wreaths is the Christmas candle- usually a larger white candle in the center of the wreath, lit on Christmas Eve midnight services. While large Advent wreaths are used in churches, smaller versions can form the focus of family devotions during the season.



## St. James After Dark

St. James is pleased to announce that the St. James After Dark Program will be returning again this coming February. For the third year, during the week of February 6 – 10, just about when cabin fever wants to take over, a week-long series of workshops and seminars to get you out of the house will be offered.

Last year over 50 people from the community participated in one or more of the sessions. Our goal is to expand our workshop offerings in order to attract even more interest in this year's program. The planning committee is currently

looking for those persons in our community who would like to share with others, their expertise in a hobby or craft, knowledge in a topic of interest, or simply bring people together to share in fellowship.

If you would like to lead a workshop or know of someone who might be interested, contact the church office either by phone at 827-3590 or email at [stjames@zoominternet.net](mailto:stjames@zoominternet.net). There is also a workshop proposal form located on the St. James Church website that can be submitted by someone wishing to lead a workshop.

Watch for more information in bulletins and newsletters. Publicity will start in December.



## Advent and Christmas Schedule

Thursday, Dec. 1, 5:30 pm:	The Redemption of Scrooge, part 1
Sunday, Dec. 4, 10:30 am:	St. Nicholas visits, Jesse tree ornament making
Tuesday, Dec. 6, 3:30 pm:	Pageant practice
Thursday, Dec. 8, 5:30 pm:	The Redemption of Scrooge, part 2
Sunday, Dec. 11, 10:30 am:	Boar's Head Dinner Making Gingerbread Houses
Tuesday, Dec. 13, 3:30 pm:	Pageant practice
Wednesday, Dec. 14, 5 pm:	Hanging of the Greens
Thursday, Dec. 15, 5:30 pm:	The Redemption of Scrooge, part 3
Sunday, Dec. 18, 10:30 am:	Christmas Pageant
Tuesday, Dec. 20, 3:30 pm:	A Christmas Carol (movie)
Thursday, Dec. 22, 5:30 pm:	The Redemption of Scrooge, part 4
Saturday, Dec. 24, 8 pm:	Christmas Eve Service
Sunday, Dec. 25, 10:30 am:	Christmas Day Service Blessing of Gifts

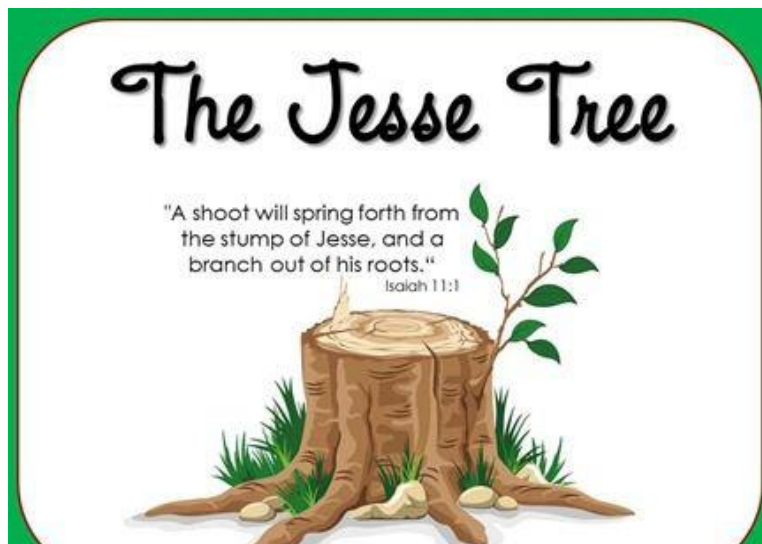


## Liturgical Participants' Schedule

	ALTAR GUILD	ACOLYTES	LECTOR	EM	USHERS	COFFEE
Dec 4	Sharon Erickson	Aaron Scott Kylee Propheter Ava Hartshorne	Barb Davidson	Dona Clendenin	Barry and Lisa Kellogg	
Dec 11	Sharon Erickson	AJ Scott Virginia Ives Briana Ives	Barb Ives	Eda Scales	Mark Conrad Gene Schlosser	Boar's Head Dinner
Dec 18	Carol Courtwright	Noni Stanford Seth Propheter Adeline Hartshorne	Gloria Baker	Randy Galmish	Richard Orner	
Dec 24	Carol Courtwright	Andrew Scott Seth Propheter Kylee Propheter	Terry Kerr	Noni Stanford	Clyde and Carol Courtwright	
Dec 25	Barb and Lori			Dona Clendenin	Richard Orner	

### COUNTERS

**Dec 4:** Terry Kerr – Kenny Beatty  
**Dec 11:** Noni Stanford- Lori Powell  
**Dec 18:** Kenny Beatty- Lynn Gagnon  
**Dec 25:** Eda Scales- Terry Kerr



# DECEMBER CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 5:30 Adult Education "Redemption of Scrooge" Part 1	2	3
4 10:30am H.E. 2 Advent  St. Nicholas to Visit Jesse Tree Ornament Making	5 Girl Scouts 6:00pm	6 Noon – Soup Kitchen Pageant Practice 3:30pm  7:00pm- AA	7 Choir Practice 7:00pm	8 5:30 Adult Education "Redemption of Scrooge" Part 2	9	10
11 10:30am H.E. 3 Advent  Boar's Head Dinner  Making Gingerbread Houses	12 Bishop's Committee 5:30pm  Girl Scouts 6:00pm	13 Noon – Soup Kitchen. Christmas Dinner  Pageant Practice 3:30pm 7:00pm - AA	14 5:00pm. Hanging of the Greens  Choir Practice 7:00pm	15 5:30 Adult Education "Redemption of Scrooge" Part 3	16	17
18 10:30am H.E. 4 Advent  Christmas Pageant	19 Girl Scouts 6:00pm	20 Noon – Soup Kitchen A Christmas Carol (movie) 3:30pm  7:00pm - AA	21 Choir Practice 7:00pm	22 5:30 Adult Education "Redemption of Scrooge" Part 4	23	24 Christmas Eve  Christmas Eve Service 8:00pm.
25 10:30am H.E. Blessing of the Gifts  Christmas Day	26 Girl Scouts 6:00pm	27 Noon – Soup Kitchen  Youth Christian Education 3:30pm  7:00pm - AA	28	29 5:30 Adult Education	30	31

**We're on the Web!**

See us at:

[www.stjamestusville.org](http://www.stjamestusville.org)