A circular painting of the Nativity scene, showing the Virgin Mary and Joseph looking down at the infant Jesus in a manger. A bright star shines in the sky above them. The scene is set against a dark, starry background.

THE SAINT JAMES EXPERIENCE

The
Saint James Cathedral-Basilica
Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 24 , 2023



**SAINT JAMES
CATHEDRAL-BASILICA**

MASS TIMES:

Weekday Mass: Monday–Friday 12:00 PM

Sunday Mass: 11:00 AM

Most Reverend Robert J. Brennan, D. D., Bishop

Reverend Bryan D. Patterson, S.T.L., Rector

Deacon Ronald Rizzuto, Pastoral Administrator

Mrs. Isabel Navarro, Secretary

Mrs. Rosa Paulsen-Williams, Secretary

Mrs. Bee Y. Santos, Creative Director

**PARISH FOUNDED IN 1822 | DESIGNATED CATHEDRAL IN 1853
ELEVATED TO MINOR PAPAL BASILICA IN 1982**

250 Cathedral Place, Brooklyn, NY 11201 (718) 852.4002 www.brooklyncathedral.net



From The Rector of Saint James Cathedral-Basilica

Dear parishioners and friends of Saint James,

Merry Christmas! I think that statement presupposes a “Merry Christmas to you!”, “May you have a Merry Christmas!” or “I hope you’re having a Merry Christmas!” And this is my sincere desire. It seems just about everyone believes we have had a rough year in 2023. And, if we are in doubt, right about now there will begin the end of year reviews filled with info on what happened, ‘who we lost’ and other significant events of the recent past that have resulted in a sort of communal exhaustion.

Nevertheless, I do feel “Merry Christmas!” said with conviction is in order. At any given moment we are in a position to receive divine favor, to be surprised by joy (—impatient as the Wind/I turned to share the transport) because we are Christians with a God, who, as I have been saying . . .

“Jesús siempre llega a tiempo. Cuando más desesperado yo estoy. Me dice, “Soy tu amparo y abrigo, no temas, yo soy”

“Jesus always arrives on time. When I am most desperate. He tells me, “I am your protection and shelter, do not be afraid, I am.” (Song by Samuel Hernandez)

Christmas and the Christmas season is filled with stories of the unexpected, kings receiving messages from God, unforeseen visitors from afar, elderly people having children, a Virgin giving birth to the Son of God. Just because life’s been a struggle right up to now doesn’t mean it will stay that way. In fact, it’s guaranteed that it won’t. It’s the season of Christmas.

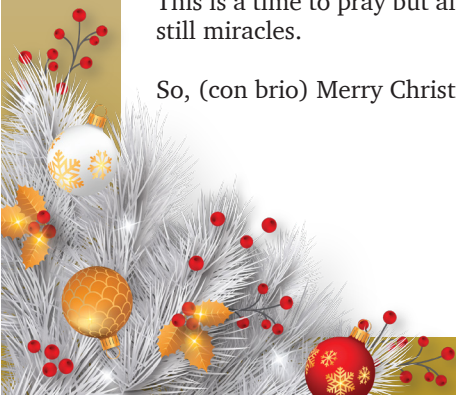
With all this magic even Magi in the air, I am reminded of an ancient school of Chinese Buddhism, the Garland or Flower Ornament School. They use the phrase “Entry into the inconceivable”. You may have heard me refer to this before. I think it’s a beautiful way to describe the season and the Gospel Jesus is bringing us. It speaks directly to the sense many have of foreboding. All the apprehension may seem quite reasonable, convincing, with all kinds of supporting evidence. But Christ is born. Now matter how bad it looks, there has to be some hope because that is why he is born – to bring hope to a hopeless world.

Crying eyes and hand-wringing aside, we can take to heart what the Archangel Gabriel says to a bewildered young lady from Nazareth, “Nothing, you see, is impossible with God.” How things will change, we may not know, but with faith we can hang on to God’s promises and begin our “Entry into the inconceivable” with God and open ourselves up to a limitless horizon of grace, to an ever-growing light as we let go of our need to be right about why things should, must, have to go wrong.

This is a time to pray but also to spray for humbugs and expect good things to happen. Even little miracles are still miracles.

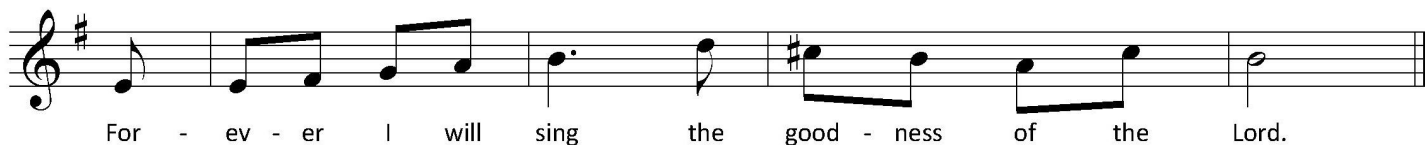
So, (con brio) Merry Christmas!

Peace and love,
Fr. Bryan Patterson



**READING I****2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16****(Proclaimed in Spanish)**

When King David was settled in his palace, and the LORD had given him rest from his enemies on every side, he said to Nathan the prophet, "Here I am living in a house of cedar, while the ark of God dwells in a tent!" Nathan answered the king, "Go, do whatever you have in mind, for the LORD is with you." But that night the LORD spoke to Nathan and said: "Go, tell my servant David, 'Thus says the LORD: Should you build me a house to dwell in?' "It was I who took you from the pasture and from the care of the flock to be commander of my people Israel. I have been with you wherever you went, and I have destroyed all your enemies before you. And I will make you famous like the great ones of the earth. I will fix a place for my people Israel; I will plant them so that they may dwell in their place without further disturbance. Neither shall the wicked continue to afflict them as they did of old, since the time I first appointed judges over my people Israel. I will give you rest from all your enemies. The LORD also reveals to you that he will establish a house for you. And when your time comes and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your heir after you, sprung from your loins, and I will make his kingdom firm. I will be a father to him, and he shall be a son to me. Your house and your kingdom shall endure forever before me; your throne shall stand firm forever."

Response: TE ALABAMOS, SEÑOR**RESPONSORIAL PSALM****Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29****READING II****Rom 16:25-27**

Brothers and sisters: To him who can strengthen you, according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery kept secret for long ages but now manifested through the prophetic writings and, according to the command of the eternal God, made known to all nations to bring about the obedience of faith, to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ be glory forever and ever. Amen.

GOSPEL**Lk 1:26-38**

The angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary. And coming to her, he said, "Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you." But she was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. "Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." But Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I have no relations with a man?" And the angel said to her in reply, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. And behold, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren; for nothing will be impossible for God." Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

Advent IV B**Open: 497 - The King shall come when morning dawns vv 1-3****Offertory: 480 - Savior of the nations, come vv 1 - 3****Communion: 17 - IGospel Canticle****Anthem: The Angel Gabriel****Recession: 494- Awake! Awake and greet the new morn****Postlude: Blessed Be That Maid Marie / Branle de la Torche - Ballet / Praetorius**

Music Licensing through OneLicense.net Account # A-700587

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT December 24, 2023

“Do not be afraid, for you have found favor with God.” Consider following Christ more closely as a priest or in consecrated life. Talk to your priest or reach out to **Fr. Matt Mason**, the Vocations Director at (603) 663-0196 or mmason@rcbm.org.

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve : 11:00 AM
Christmas Vigil: 12:00 Midnight
Christmas Day: 11:00 AM-
Celebrate with **Bishop Brennan**

LIFE CENTER OF NEW YORK, INC.

The Life Center of New York is dedicated to helping women who are in crisis pregnancy to make the choice for life through pro-life counseling that is informative, honest, and sensitive to the emotional needs of women. We offer pro-life alternatives to abortion. In addition, we provide emotional, spiritual and material support such as cribs, clothing, diapers etc, through pregnancy and after the birth of the child and can refer for emergency housing. For further information, Contact us at 718-748-4992 or E-mail: laura@lifecenterny.com



FAITH LEADS TO FAITHFULNESS

We are all being called to serve God and are in need of candidates interested in liturgical formation as Ministers of Hospitality (Ushers), Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, Lectors, and Altar Servers at Saint James Cathedral-Basilica.

If you are interested in serving at St. James and meet the requirements for Liturgical formation listed below, please see **Fr. Bryan** or **Deacon Ron** after mass or e-mail at: rector@brooklyncathedral.net

LITURGICAL FORMATION

The process for determining the suitability of candidates for service at the Altar involves:

- * *Observation* : Candidates should express by words and actions that they are reasonably living their baptismal call to service.
- * *Discernment*: Prayer is an integral part of continuing to discern their service and the type of service they will offer.
- * *Collection of information*: Candidates must provide sacramental certificates of baptism, confirmation, and marriage (if applicable).



MASS INTENTIONS

SUNDAY - 11:00 AM & Vigil 12:00 Midnight - December 24, 2023	MONDAY - 11:00 AM Christmas Day December 25, 2023	TUESDAY - 12:00 AM December 26, 2023
People of the parish	Venable White	Anne & Tullio Versachelli
WEDNESDAY- 12:00 AM December 27, 2023	SUNDAY - 12:00 AM December 28, 2023	SUNDAY - 12:00 AM December 29, 2023
Joseph R. Lyons	Shouria Karnati	Deseased Members of The Machak & Morawski Families
LECTORS	Decemcer 24, 2023 11:00 AM <i>Beatrice DiCostanzo & Mireyda Reyes</i> Decemcer 24, 2023 12:00 Midnight <i>Dan McCardell & Elina Cruz</i>	Decemcer 25, 2023 11:00 AM <i>Mary Pradt & Mireyda Reyes</i> Decemcer 31, 2023 <i>Chul Lee & Elina Cruz</i>
COFFEE HOUR HOST	Decemcer 24, 2023 <i>No Coffee Hour</i>	<i>Coffee Hour will resume on Jan 7, 2024</i>

O Mary, you are the Mother of God for you brought forth the Son of God. Teach me how to bring forth Jesus in the lives of all those I will encounter this day. Amen.





YOUR DAILY CAMINO

24th DECEMBER - SUNDAY

“And did you know that your cousin Elizabeth conceived a son, old as she is? Everyone called her barren, and here she is six months pregnant! Nothing, you see is impossible with God.”

~Gospel of Saint Luke 1:36-38

25th DECEMBER - MONDAY

A holy day has dawned upon us. Come, you nations, and adore the Lord. For today a great light has come upon the earth.

26th DECEMBER - TUESDAY

“You desire that which exceeds my humble powers, but I trust in the compassion and mercy of the All-powerful God.”

~Saint Stephen

27th DECEMBER - WEDNESDAY

“God is love.”

~Saint John

28th DECEMBER - THURSDAY

“According to the monks, it was very unlucky to begin any work upon whatsoever day that falls on (Holy Innocents), whether on a Monday, Tuesday, or any other day, nothing must be begun on that day through the year.”

~Reverend Henry Bourne

29th DECEMBER - FRIDAY

“All saints give testimony to the truth that without real effort, no one ever wins the crown.”

~Thomas Becket

30th DECEMBER - SATURDAY

“The darkness of the whole world cannot swallow the glowing of a candle.”

~Robert Altinge



WEEKLY PRAYERS

CHRISTMAS PRAYER

Lord, in this holy season of prayer and song and laughter, we praise you for the great wonders you have sent us: for shining star and angel's song, for infant's cry in lowly manger. We praise you for the Word made flesh in a little Child. We behold his glory, and are bathed in its radiance.

Amen.

PRAYER OF SAINT STEPHEN

Almighty and everlasting God, Who didst consecrate the first-fruits of Thy martyrs in the blood of blessed Stephen the deacon; grant, we beseech Thee, that he may pray for us, even as he also prayed for his persecutors, to our Lord Jesus Christ Thy Son, Who liveth and reigneth world without end.

Amen.

THE COLLECT PRAYER OF SAINT JOHN THE APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST

(Indulgence 300 days once a day)

Almighty Father, through the Merciful Lord, we beseech thee to cast thy bright beams of light upon thy Church, that it, being instructed by the doctrine of thy blessed Apostle and Evangelist Saint John, may so walk in the light of thy truth, that it may at length attain to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

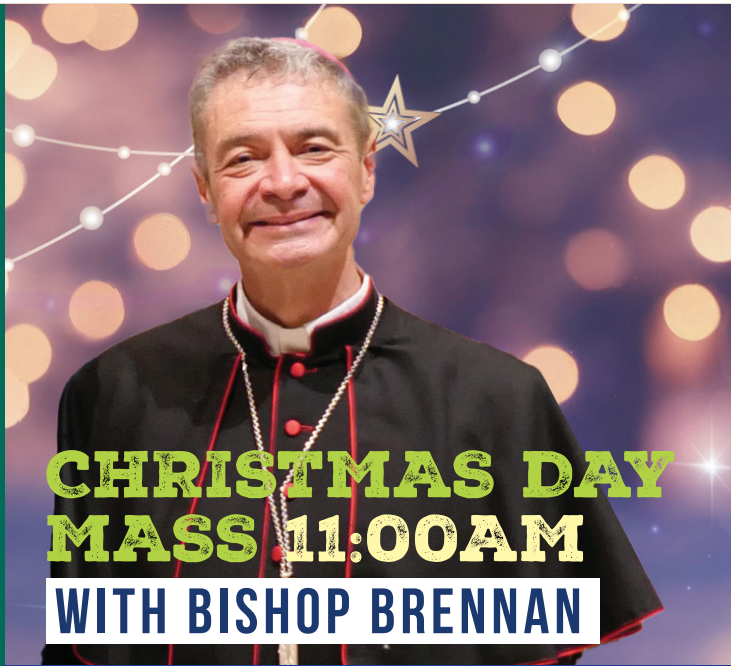
Amen.

PRAYER OF THE HOLY INNOCENTS

Lord, you gave Saint Peter Canisius Lord Jesus, we thank You for Your blessed martyrs, the Holy Innocents. We praise You for the holy sacrifice they made by dying in place of You, and we ask You to hear their prayers on our behalf. Holy Innocents, you were the victims of a proud and evil man who cared nothing for the sacredness of your lives.

Amen.





CHRISTMAS DAY MASS 11:00AM WITH BISHOP BRENNAN

Date: December 25, 2023
Time: 11:00 AM
@ Saint James Cathedral-Basilica

Join us in celebrating Christmas morning Mass with Bishop Robert Brennan. All members of our cherished Saint James family and friends are warmly invited to partake in this special occasion. Let us come together to share in the joy and spirit of Christmas as we commemorate the birth of Jesus Christ. Your presence will add to the warmth of our community, and we look forward to welcoming you for this festive and meaningful celebration.

The Season of Advent

WEEK 1

Hope

Remind us
Jesus is Coming

WEEK 2

Peace

Remind us
to prepare the way
of the Lord



Remind us
The joy of the coming
birth of Jesus

Remind us
of the gift of
God's love, Jesus

WEEK 3

Joy

WEEK 4

Love

A SPECIAL MASS TO CONSECRATE YOURSELVES TO THE PROTECTION OF THE HOLY FAMILY

An Invitation to Families & Everyone



A SPECIAL MASS TO CONSECRATE YOURSELVES TO THE PROTECTION OF THE HOLY FAMILY

SUNDAY, JANUARY 7 2024
10:30AM

ST. JAMES CATHEDRAL BASILICA
250 Cathedral Place
Brooklyn, NY

Refreshments immediately following Mass.



BISHOP DAILY COUNCIL #17000





Weekly HIGHLIGHT

Saint James Cathedral-Basilica

SACRAMENTAL INFORMATION



BAPTISM

Parents are requested to contact the Rector to make the necessary arrangements for the Baptism of their child.



FAITH FORMATION

Religious Education is provided for children from 1st to 8th grade in preparation for the Sacraments and adult classes are also available. Please contact the office for more information.



MARRIAGES

Couples are requested to make arrangements at least six months before the actual date of the wedding.



ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

The Blessed Sacrament is exposed for a Holy Hour each Friday from 11:00 A.M. to 12:00 noon.



SACRAMENT OF PENANCE

When we sin, the Holy Spirit calls us to conversion, to turn away from sin and to turn toward God. Friday: 12:40-1:00 P.M.



VISITS TO THE SICK

Please call the office 718-852-4002 to notify us if any one is in the hospital or ill at home so that a pastoral visit can be made.

MASS SCHEDULE

Weekends: Sunday 11:00 A.M.
Weekdays: Monday - Friday 12:00 Noon

OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday 9:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.

WATCH THE MASS ON TV

Mass is broadcast live from The Saint James Cathedral-Basilica at 12:00 Noon Monday-Friday and at 11:00 A.M. on Sundays via NET TV. You can watch us via Verizon FiOS (channel 48), Time Warner Cable (channel 97), and Cable Vision (channel 30), and live-streamed on the Internet at <http://netny.tv>