

Parish Life & Beyond...

FR. PETTIGREW'S ORDINATION ANNIVERSARY — Thirteen years ago our Rector was ordained to the Sacred Order of Priests on the Feast of St. Thomas the Apostle. Please join us if you can this Friday at 12:00 p.m. when we celebrate the apostle's feast and pray for our Rector.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS AND GREENS MEMORIALS/THANKSGIVINGS — Each year we decorate the church with poinsettias and Christmas greenery for the Christmas season. You are invited to make a contribution in memory or thanksgiving of someone to offset the costs of these decorations. Please send your memorial/thanksgiving names to the church office at office@stgeorgesschenectady.org and then either place a check in the collection plate or send a check to the church. Memorials and Thanksgivings will be listed in the bulletins for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Please send your names and make your contributions by Thursday, December 19th.

CHRISTMAS GREENS — Also, those planning to trim evergreens on their home or property are asked that if they could, to time it so that the trimmings may be used for decorating the church for Christmas. For more information contact Kevin Decker, 518.569.6766

GREENING OF THE CHURCH — Next Sunday, December 22nd, after Mass, we will decorate the church for Christmas. We invite all to stay after Mass to help place the flowers and greens as well as set up the Nativity display. This is a wonderful afternoon of work and fellowship and usually takes about one hour. Snacks and refreshments will be available in the Great Hall to provide sustenance for our work.

CHRISTMAS EVE RECEPTION — After our "Midnight Mass" on Christmas Eve we have a festive reception in the Great Hall. A sign-up sheet is in the back of the church for reception food. We need both sweet and savory items. We encourage all who will be coming to the Christ-Mass to bring something to share. Items should be plated and ready to serve.

THE ANNUAL MEETING of St. George's Church will be held on Sunday, January 12th, after Sunday Mass at 11:30 a.m. A brunch will be served during the meeting.

ALL ON THE SAME PAGE — St. George's Book Club will meet after church on January 19th to discuss *The Frozen River* by Ariel Lawhon. It is both a suspenseful murder mystery and historical fiction, based on the life of a midwife in 18th century Maine. Please see Meg Hughes with any questions.

Looking Ahead

CHRISTMAS SERVICES — As you begin to make your plans for celebrating the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, here are the principal liturgies for Christmastide.

Tuesday, December 24th — Family Christmas Service: Low Mass with carols — 4:00 p.m. Lady Chapel

Tuesday, December 24th — Solemn Mass for Christmas Eve — 10:00 p.m. High Altar

Carol Concert precedes the Mass at 9:30 p.m.

Wednesday, December 25th — Sung Mass for Christmas Day — 11:00 a.m. High Altar

Sunday, January 5th — A Feast of Lights for the Eve of the Epiphany — 5:00 p.m. High Altar

PRAYER LIST — If you have a name that you would like added to the prayer list please email the church office at office@StGeorgesSchenectady.org and we will insure that this person will be remembered in the prayers.

PARISH MINISTRY SCHEDULES POSTED ONLINE — The most recent schedule of greeters, lectors, counters, and altar guild is published online. If you are interested in serving as a lector, greeter, counter, or acolyte, please speak to Fr. Pettigrew or email him at rector@StGeorgesSchenectady.org for more information.

SHAPE NOTE SINGING: All are welcome to experience the joy of singing together the beautiful a cappella harmonies and stirring songs of the Sacred Harp, a tune book and hymnal published in Georgia in 1844 and used in community singing throughout the world. We sing in the Great Hall on Saturday afternoons from 1-3:30pm. For schedule updates or more information, please contact Tarik Wareh or visit www.albanysacredharp.org



ST. GEORGE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

in the heart of the historic Stockade District

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

ADVENT III-C - 15 DECEMBER 2024

SUNG MASS - RITE I, 10AM

The Reverend Thomas J. Pettigrew, *Rector*
Dr. Brian J. Taylor, AAGO, *Director of Music*

MASS SETTING First Communion Service *John Merbecke (1505-1585)*

OPENING VOLUNTARY Toccata *Jan Pieterszoon Sweelinck (1562-1621)*

THE PREPARATION OF SACRED MINISTERS IN THE LADY CHAPEL

The Sacred Ministers, Servers & Choir offer Preparatory Prayers prior to the Entrance Procession

THE ENTRANCE, HYMN 73 The King shall come when morning dawns *St. Stephen*

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY *(people kneel)*

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

INTROIT

Sung by the Choir

Rejoice ye in the Lord; and again I say rejoice; let your moderation be known unto all men; the Lord is at hand: Be careful for nothing nor troubled; but in all things by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving; let your requests be made known unto God. Ps. Lord thou art become gracious unto thy land: thou hast turned away the captivity of Jacob. Glory be.

THE SUMMARY OF THE LAW

Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ saith: Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.

THE TRISAGION, HYMNAL S-102

Sung by all, repeated x3

(people kneel)

**Holy God,
Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One,
Have mercy upon us.**

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Advent 3

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

STIR UP THY POWER, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let thy bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

ALmighty GOD, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put upon us the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which thy Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the quick and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING*Zephaniah 3.14-20*

A READING from the Book of the Prophet Zephaniah

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The LORD has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the LORD.

V. The Word of the Lord **R. Thanks be to God****THE GRADUAL:** *Sung by the Choir**Isaiah 12.2-6*

Behold | God is my | salvation: I | will trust and | not be afraid.
 For the | Lord God is my strength | and my song: He | also is be-|come my sal-vation.
 Therefore | with joy shall ye | draw water: Out | of the | wells of sal-vation.
 And in | that day | shall ye say: Praise | the Lord; call | upon his Name.
 Declare | his doings among | the people: Make | mention that his | name is ex-alted.
 Sing un-|to the Lord; for he hath done ex-|cellent things: This | is | known in all the earth.
 Cry out | and shout thou inhabitant | of Zion: For | great is the Holy One of Israel in | the midst of thee.

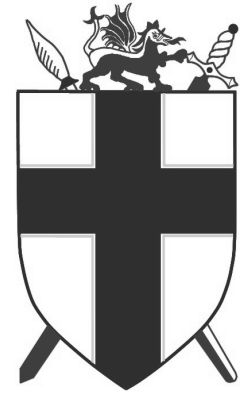
THE EPISTLE READING*Philippians 4.4-7*

A READING from the Letter of Paul to the Philippians

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

V. The Word of the Lord **R. Thanks be to God****MINISTERS OF TODAY'S LITURGY**

Celebrant & Preacher:	The Reverend Thomas J. Pettigrew, Rector
Master of Ceremonies:	Kevin Decker
Organist:	Dr. Brian J. Taylor
Cantor:	Tarik Wareh
Thurifer:	Chris Henry
Crucifer:	Daniel Miess
Acolytes:	Anne Kennison, J. J. Moran
Greeters:	Jean Greenspan, Mike Todt
Lector:	Joan Pearson
Counters:	Jon Ewbank & Bob Paska
Altar Guild:	Barb Wengrovius
Sacristan:	David & Anne Kennison

**YOUR PRAYERS ARE ASKED FOR:**

The Sick and those in need: Gabriella Rose, Katie, Fr. Michael Webber, Bishop Michael Curry, Father Charles King, Jane Ruzicka Pennacchia, Marianne Perez, John, Tai, Ruth S., Rachel, Doug, Ruth A., Francis C., Don Ingram, Suzy, Richard, Abby, Luca Taylor, Destiny & Chris Taylor, Stephanie Barr, Hooter Zimmerman, Eric, Pam, Sally, Linda S., Scott G., Sondra Lee, Robert, Linda, Michael, Jim, Crystal, Salli V., Mary Catherine, Susan, Kathleen Rose, Gwen, Alex, Alan, Doug, Ruth Nevells, Pedro, Isabella, Sarah Bringham, Monica Lusman & her unborn child

The prayer list will be reset every 3 months. Did we miss an important date for our birthday and faithful departed intentions? If you would like a name included on the prayer list or on the annual rota of intentions, send an email to rector@stgeorgesschenectady.org

The Departed: Connelly Todt (15)**Birthdays:** Jean Greenspan (21)**Baptismal Anniversaries:** Sharon Trant (21)**Wedding Anniversaries:****SERVICES THIS WEEK****Sunday, December 15** — 9:15 a.m. The Rosary10:00 a.m. — Sung Mass — The Third Sunday of Advent
Coffee Hour follows in the Great Hall**Tuesday, December 17** — 8:30 a.m. — Morning Prayer

Lectionary Study Group follows in Cranmer House at 9:00 a.m.

Wednesday, December 18 — 9:00 a.m. — Low Mass — Advent feria & Ember Day**Thursday, December 19** — 6:00 p.m. The Holy Eucharist, Rite I, with Healing — Advent feria

Theological Study Group follows in Cranmer House at 6:45 p.m.

Friday, December 20 — 12:00 p.m. — Low Mass — St. Thomas the Apostle (transferred)**Sunday, December 22** — 10:00 a.m. — Sung Mass — The Fourth Sunday of Advent

WELCOME VISITORS! We'd like to extend a warm welcome to our visitors today. Whether you live in our area and decided to worship with us today or if you are visiting from out of town, we offer you a warm Georgian welcome! There are visitor cards in most of the pews and we ask that you fill one out and give it to the Greeters at the door or simply drop it in the offering plate. We'd love to see you again. Our website, www.stgeorgesschenectady.org.

COFFEE HOUR Please join us for coffee hour after Mass in the Great Hall. Snacks, along with hot and cold drinks are available during this time of fellowship.

SUNDAY SCHOOL — Children in 1st through 6th grades are invited to go to Sunday School at the end of Mass. After coming to the rail for communion or a blessing children may go directly to the back of the church where their teacher, Mrs. Sharon Trant, will walk them over to the Shaw Lounge for their class.

THE FRACTION

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
People **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

THE AGNUS DEI, HYMNAL S-157

Sung by All

(people kneel)

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, grant us thy peace.

THE PRAYER OF HUMBLE ACCESS

Said by All

(people kneel)

WE DO NOT PRESUME to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

THE INVITATION

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

THE ADMINISTRATION OF COMMUNION

All baptized Christians may receive communion. If you wish to not receive, you are invited to come forward and cross your arms, indicating that you wish to receive a blessing. Gluten-free hosts are available.

THE COMMUNION SENTENCE

Sung by the Cantor & Choir

Say to them that are of a fearful heart: be strong, fear not; behold your God will come and save you.

COMMUNION ANTHEM

Lo, in the time appointed

Healey Willan (1880-1968)

Lo, in the time appointed the Lord will come, the mountains and hills will break forth in singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands: for the Lord shall come into his everlasting kingdom and on the throne of David he shall reign forever. Alleluia

THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Said by All

(people kneel)

Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

THE BLESSING

(people kneel)

The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, ✠ the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

THE DISMISSAL

Celebrant: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

THE RETIRING PROCESSION, HYMN 66

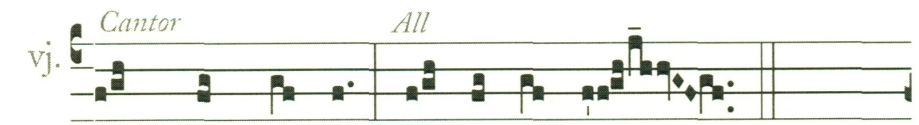
Come, thou long-expected Jesus

Stuttgart

CLOSING VOLUNTARY: Rejoice in the Lord

Henry Purcell (1659-1695)

The flowers at the High Altar are given to the gerater glory of Almighty God and in memory of Rosewitha Voigt.



AL - LE - LU - IA. Al - le - lu - ia.

Alleluia. **Alleluia.** Stir up thy strength O Lord:
and come and help us. **Alleluia.**

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 3.7-18

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO SAINT LUKE

R. Glory be to thee, O Lord.

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire." And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages." As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

V. The Gospel of the Lord.

R. Praise be to thee, O Christ.

THE SERMON

The Rector

THE NICENE CREED

(people stand)

I BELIEVE IN ONE GOD, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible; And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father; by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; he suffered and was buried; and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of the Father; and he shall come again, with glory, to Judge both the quick and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end. And I believe in the Holy Ghost the Lord, and Giver of Life, who proceedeth from the Father (and the Son); who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified; who spake by the Prophets. And I believe one holy Catholic and Apostolic Church; I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins; and I look for the resurrection of the dead ✠ and the life of the world to come. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & GREETINGS

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

As Announced

THE CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Celebrant: Ye who do truly and earnestly repent you of your sins, and are in love and charity with your neighbors, and intend to lead a new life, following the commandments of God, and walking from henceforth in his holy ways: Draw near with faith, and take this Holy Sacrament to your comfort, and make your humble confession to Almighty God, devoutly kneeling.

ALMIGHTY GOD, FATHER of our Lord Jesus Christ, maker of all things, judge of all men: We acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins and wickedness, which we from time to time most grievously have committed, by thought, word, and deed, against thy divine Majesty, provoking most justly thy wrath and indignation against us. We do earnestly repent, and are heartily sorry for these our misdoings; the remembrance of them is grievous unto us, the burden of them is intolerable. Have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; for thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, forgive us all that is past; and grant that we may ever hereafter serve and please thee in newness of life, to the honor and glory of thy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE ABSOLUTION

ALMIGHTY GOD, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him, have mercy upon you, ✠ pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

R. **And with thy spirit.**

(people stand)

THE OFFERTORY SENTENCE

Sung by the Cantor & Choir

Therefore judge nothing until the Lord comes; who will bring to light the hidden things of darkness: and will make manifest the counsels of the heart.

THE OFFERTORY, HYMN 640

Watchman, tell us of the night

Aberystwyth

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Celebrant The Lord be with you. *People* And with thy spi - rit.

Celebrant Lift up your hearts. *People* We lift them up un - to the Lord.

Celebrant Let us give thanks un - to our Lord God.

People It is meet and right so to do.

The Celebrant sings the Proper Preface of Advent

THE SANCTUS & BENEDICTUS QUI VENIT, HYMNAL S-117 (MCGREGOR) *Sung by All*

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts:
Heaven and earth are full of thy Glory.
Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High.**

✠ **Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

(people kneel)

ALL GLORY BE TO THEE, Almighty God, our heavenly Father, for that thou, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption; who made there, by his one oblation of himself once offered, a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks, he brake it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." ✠

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink ye all of this; for this is my Blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me." ✠

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, according to the institution of thy dearly beloved Son our Savior Jesus Christ, we, thy humble servants, do celebrate and make here before thy divine Majesty, with these thy holy gifts, which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; rendering unto thee most hearty thanks for the innumerable benefits procured unto us by the same.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us; and, of thy almighty goodness, vouchsafe to bless and sanctify, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, these thy gifts and creatures of bread and wine; that we, receiving them according to thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed Body and Blood.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; most humbly beseeching thee to grant that, by the merits and death of thy Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood, we, and all thy whole Church, may obtain remission of our sins, and all other benefits of his passion. And here we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, ourselves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice unto thee; humbly beseeching thee that we, and all others who shall be partakers of this Holy Communion, may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, be filled with thy ✠ grace and heavenly benediction, and made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him.

And although we are unworthy, through our manifold sins, to offer unto thee any sacrifice, yet we beseech thee to accept this our bounden duty and service, not weighing our merits, but pardoning our offenses, through Jesus Christ our Lord; By whom, and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. **Amen.**

And now, as our Savior Christ hath taught us, we are bold to say,

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Fa - ther, who art in hea - ven, hal - low - ed
be thy Name, thy king - dom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in hea - ven. Give us this day our
dai - ly bread. And for - give us our tres - pas - ses,
as we for - give those who tres - pass a - gainst us. And lead
us not in - to temp - ta - tion, but de - liv - er us
from e - vil. For thine is the king - dom, and the power,
and the glo - ry, for ev - er and ev - er. A - men.