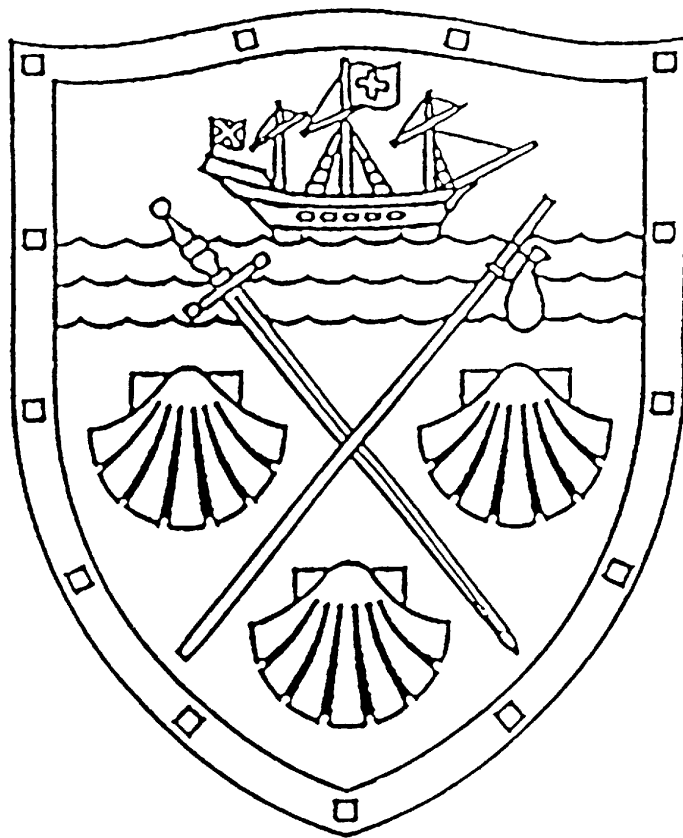




The Third Sunday of Advent

December 14, 2025
Choral Evensong at 4:30pm

The Cathedral Church of St. James
Diocese of Toronto • Anglican Church of Canada

Welcome to St. James Cathedral

This sacred land is the territory of several Indigenous Nations - the Wendat, the Haudenosaunee, and the Anishnaabe, and the Métis peoples, with special recognition to the Mississaugas of New Credit. We also acknowledge that we are on the shores of Niigaani-gichigami/Lake Ontario. This territory is governed by the Dish With One Spoon Wampum Belt Treaty, an agreement between the Haudenosaunee Confederacy and the Anishnaabe Confederacy to peaceably share and sustain the life of the Great Lakes. In the spirit of that Treaty we seek to place at the centre of our gatherings the values of respectful reciprocity, diversity, peace, responsibility, and mutual aid.

Liturgical Note:

In the context of Christian Liturgy, Israel does not refer to the current political state, but either to the historic Hebrews of the ancient Near East or, in Christian theology, to all people who put their faith and trust in Jesus Christ.

For more information, visit our website by clicking the QR code on the right.



Want to stay informed about what is happening at your Cathedral?
Sign up for **E-Connections** on our website at www.stjamescathedral.ca
(scroll to the bottom of the page).

Questions? Speak to a sidesperson – the people wearing gold name tags.

Children & Families

Sunday School meets every week at the 11:00am service.

Please email Karyne Whalen at kwhalen@stjamescathedral.ca for more information.

For more information on our Children's Community Choir,
please email Director Cara Halpin at chalpin@stjamescathedral.ca

Accessibility

A Wheelchair Accessible All-gender Washroom is located
at the front of the Cathedral through the doors by the pulpit.

Assisted hearing devices are available from the sidespersons.

Coffee Hour

Please join us at Snell Hall following the 9:00am and 11:00am service.

Parking

There are a range of affordable parking lots available around the Cathedral.

Please see the leaflets at the back of the Cathedral or
online at stjamescathedral.ca/contact for more information.

Connect with the Cathedral

Visit our website at stjamescathedral.ca | Follow us on Facebook at facebook.com/stjamesto

*As this is a very public and open space, please be aware of your personal belongings.
Do not leave them unattended in the Cathedral or in the Cathedral Centre.*

Today at St. James

Officiant & Homilist: The Reverend Canon Geoffrey Sangwine

Cathedral Clergy: The Reverend Canon Kristen Pitts

Lector: Edwin Hawken

Director of Music & Organist: Thomas Bell

Associate Organist: Jean-Paul Feo

Wayne Vance Organ Scholar: Joshua Duncan Lee

Sung by The Choir of St. James Cathedral

The flowers in the Cathedral are given to the glory of God.

Welcome! We are glad you have joined us for worship.

Please ensure that cell phones are muted.

Choral Evensong

Our practice at Evensong is to stand for the choir processions, the canticles, and the hymn; to sit for the Bible readings, the Psalms and the homily; and to kneel or sit for prayer. You are invited to assume postures that support your comfortable and prayerful engagement in this service.

Prelude I. Allegro moderato e serioso from Sonata I

Felix Mendelssohn

Welcome

Introit **This is the Truth Sent from Above**

Arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams

This is the truth sent from above,
The truth of God, the God of love;
Therefore don't turn me from your door,
But hearken all, both rich and poor.

The first thing, which I do relate,
That God at first did man create
The next thing, which to you I tell,
Woman was made with him to dwell.

Thus we were heirs to endless woes,
Till God the Lord did interpose
For so a promise soon did run
That He'd redeem us with a Son.

And at this season of the year
Our blest Redeemer did appear
He here did live, and here did preach,
And many thousands He did teach.

Thus He in love to us behaved,
To show us how we must be saved
And if you want to know the way
Be pleased to hear what He did say.

Please stand when the organ plays.

Preces and Responses

Richard Shephard

Officiant O Lord, open thou our lips;

Choir And our mouth shall show forth thy praise.

Officiant O God, make speed to save us;

Choir O Lord, make haste to help us.

Officiant Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen.

Officiant Praise ye the Lord;

Choir The Lord's Name be praised.

Psalm 103

Choir Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and all that is within me bless his holy name.
Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and forget not all his benefits;
Who forgives all your sins
and heals all your infirmities;
Who redeems your life from the Pit
and crowns you with faithful love and compassion;
Who satisfies you with good things,
so that your youth is renewed like an eagle's.
The Lord executes righteousness
and judgement for all who are oppressed.
He made his ways known to Moses
and his works to the children of Israel.
The Lord is full of compassion and mercy,
slow to anger and of great kindness.
He will not always accuse us,
neither will he keep his anger for ever.
He has not dealt with us according to our sins,
nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.
For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so great is his mercy upon those who fear him.
As far as the east is from the west,
so far has he set our sins from us.
As a father has compassion on his children,
so is the Lord merciful towards those who fear him.
For he knows of what we are made;
he remembers that we are but dust.
Our days are but as grass;
we flourish as a flower of the field;
For as soon as the wind goes over it, it is gone,

and its place shall know it no more.
But the merciful goodness of the Lord is from of old
and endures for ever on those who fear him,
and his righteousness on children's children;
On those who keep his covenant
and remember his commandments to do them.
The Lord has established his throne in heaven,
and his kingdom has dominion over all.
Bless the Lord, you angels of his,
you mighty ones who do his bidding
and hearken to the voice of his word.
Bless the Lord, all you his hosts,
you ministers of his who do his will.
Bless the Lord, all you works of his,
in all places of his dominion;
bless the Lord, O my soul.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was
in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

First Lesson

Isaiah 13:6-13

Reader Wail, for the day of the Lord is near; it will come like destruction from the Almighty! Therefore all hands will be feeble, and every human heart will fail, and they will be dismayed. Pangs and agony will seize them; they will be in anguish like a woman in labour. They will look aghast at one another; their faces will be aflame. See, the day of the Lord comes, cruel, with wrath and fierce anger, to make the earth a desolation, and to destroy its sinners from it. For the stars of the heavens and their constellations will not give their light; the sun will be dark at its rising, and the moon will not shed its light. I will punish the world for its evil, and the wicked for their iniquity; I will put an end to the pride of the arrogant, and lay low the insolence of tyrants. I will make mortals more rare than fine gold, and humans than the gold of Ophir. Therefore I will make the heavens tremble, and the earth will be shaken out of its place, at the wrath of the Lord of hosts on the day of his fierce anger.

Reader Here ends the lesson.

Magnificat

Service for Trebles by Thomas Weelkes

Choir

My soul doth magnify the Lord,
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.
For he hath regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden.
For behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.
For he that is mighty hath magnified me; and holy is his Name.
And his mercy is on them that fear him throughout all generations.
He hath showed strength with his arm;
he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
He hath put down the mighty from their seat,
and hath exalted the humble and meek.
He hath filled the hungry with good things;
and the rich he hath sent empty away.
He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel;
As he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed for ever.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was
in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Second Lesson

John 5:30-47

Reader

‘I can do nothing on my own. As I hear, I judge; and my judgement is just, because I seek to do not my own will but the will of him who sent me.

‘If I testify about myself, my testimony is not true. There is another who testifies on my behalf, and I know that his testimony to me is true. You sent messengers to John, and he testified to the truth. Not that I accept such human testimony, but I say these things so that you may be saved. He was a burning and shining lamp, and you were willing to rejoice for a while in his light. But I have a testimony greater than John’s. The works that the Father has given me to complete, the very works that I am doing, testify on my behalf that the Father has sent me. And the Father who sent me has himself testified on my behalf. You have never heard his voice or seen his form, and you do not have his word abiding in you, because you do not believe him whom he has sent.

‘You search the scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that testify on my behalf. Yet you refuse to come to me to have life. I do not accept glory from human beings. But I know that you do not have the love of God in you. I have come in my Father’s

name, and you do not accept me; if another comes in his own name, you will accept him. How can you believe when you accept glory from one another and do not seek the glory that comes from the one who alone is God? Do not think that I will accuse you before the Father; your accuser is Moses, on whom you have set your hope. If you believed Moses, you would believe me, for he wrote about me. But if you do not believe what he wrote, how will you believe what I say?’

Reader Here ends the lesson.

Nunc Dimittis

Service for Trebles by Thomas Weelkes

Choir Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace,
according to thy word.
For mine eyes have seen thy salvation,
which thou hast prepared before the face of all people;
To be a light to lighten the Gentiles,
and to be the glory of thy people Israel.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen.

Apostles' Creed

Officiant I believe in God
All **the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth: And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, Born of the Virgin Mary, Suffered under Pontius Pilate, Was crucified, dead, and buried: He descended into hell; The third day he rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, And sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; The holy Catholic Church; The Communion of Saints; The Forgiveness of sins; The Resurrection of the body, And the Life everlasting. Amen.**

Officiant The Lord be with you.

Choir And with thy spirit.

Officiant Let us pray.

Choir Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

Officiant Our Father
Choir who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

Officiant O Lord, show thy mercy upon us;
Choir And grant us thy salvation.

Officiant O Lord, save the King;
Choir And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.

Officiant Endue thy Ministers with righteousness;
Choir And make thy chosen people joyful.

Officiant O Lord, save thy people;
Choir And bless thine inheritance.

Officiant Give peace in our time, O Lord;
Choir Because there is none other that fighteth for us, but only thou, O God.

Officiant O God, make clean our hearts within us;
Choir And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

The Collects

Officiant God for whom we watch and wait, you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of your Son: give us courage to speak the truth, to hunger for justice, and to suffer for the cause of right, with Jesus Christ our Lord.
Choir Amen.

Officiant O God, from whom all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works do proceed: Give unto thy servants that peace which the world cannot give; that our hearts may be set to obey thy commandments, and also that by thee we being defended from the fear of our enemies may pass our time in rest and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Saviour.
Choir Amen.

Officiant Lighten our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord; and by thy great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of thy only Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Choir Amen.

Anthem
Choir

O Thou the Central Orb

Charles Wood

O Thou, the central orb of righteous love,
Pure beam of the most High, eternal Light
Of this our wintry world, Thy radiance bright
Awakes new joy in faith, hope soars above.

Come, quickly come, and let thy glory shine,
Gilding our darksome heaven with rays Divine.

Thy saints with holy lustre round Thee move,
As stars about thy throne, set in the height
Of God's ordaining counsel, as Thy sight
Gives measured grace to each, Thy power to prove.

Let Thy bright beams disperse the gloom of sin,
Our nature all shall feel eternal day
In fellowship with thee, transforming day
To souls erewhile unclean, now pure within. Amen.

Homily

An offering will now be taken to support the life and ministry of the Cathedral.

Donate to St. James Cathedral
by scanning or tapping
the QR code or visit

st-james-cathedral | [CharityProfile](#) | [Donate Online \(canadahelps.org\)](http://DonateOnline.canadahelps.org)



Hymn at the Collection

Tune: Little Cornard

All Hills of the North, rejoice, river and mountain-spring,
hark to the advent voice; valley and lowland, sing.
Christ comes in righteousness and love, he brings salvation from above.

Isles of the Southern seas, sing to the listening earth,
carry on every breeze hope of a world's new birth:
In Christ shall all be made anew, his word is sure, his promise true.

Lands of the East, arise, he is your brightest morn,
greet him with joyous eyes, praise shall his path adorn:
your seers have longed to know their Lord; to you he comes, the final word.

Shores of the utmost West, lands of the setting sun,
welcome the heavenly guest in whom the dawn has come:
he brings a never-ending light who triumphed o'er our darkest night.

Shout, as you journey home, songs be in every mouth,
lo, from the North they come, from East and West and South:
in Jesus all shall find their rest, in him the universe be blest.

Text: Charles Ernest Oakley
Music: Martin Shaw

Offertory Prayer

Canon Let us pray.

God of abundance and growth, you water the seeds of faith and nourish us with your Spirit. Receive these gifts we bring, and bless them for the work of your kingdom, that your love may take root in every place, and your justice bear fruit in every heart. In Christ we pray.

People Amen.

Prayers

A Prayer of Saint John Chrysostom

Officiant Almighty God, who hast given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplications unto thee; and dost promise that when two or three are gathered together in thy Name thou wilt grant their requests: Fulfil now, O Lord, the desires and petitions of thy servants, as may be most expedient for them; granting us in this world knowledge of thy truth, and in the world to come life everlasting.

People Amen.

Advent Prose



All Drop down, ye heavens, from above, and let the skies pour forth righteousness: let the earth be fruitful, and bring forth a Saviour.

Officiant Ye are my witnesses, saith the Lord, and my servant whom I have chosen; that ye may know me and believe me:
I, even I, am the Lord, and beside me there is no Saviour:

and there is none that can deliver out of my hand.

All Drop down, ye heavens, from above, and let the skies pour forth righteousness: let the earth be fruitful, and bring forth a Saviour.

The Grace

Officiant The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost, be with us all evermore.

People Amen.

Final Response

Edward Woodall Naylor

Officiant The Lord be with you;

Choir And with thy spirit.

Officiant Let us bless the Lord.

Choir Thanks be to God.

Postlude

PRAYER CYCLE

This week, please pray for:

Igreja Episcopal Anglicana do Brasil; Tecumseth Deanery and Scripture Circle

PASTORAL CARE

If you know someone who would appreciate a call from our pastoral care team, please email pastoral@stjamescathedral.ca or call 416-364-7865, press 1 to leave a message.

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ST. JAMES CATHEDRAL-CONNECTIONS - Sunday, December 14, 2025

Regular services at 8:00am, 9:00am (*Worship Together*), 11:00am, and 4:30pm.

Children & Families: Sunday school at 11:00am. **Coffee Hour:** After 9:00am & 11:00am.

Notice of Retirement



We announce the retirement of our Vicar and Sub Dean, The Reverend Canon Dr. Stephen Fields, from full-time ministry, effective June 30, 2026. Ordained in 1981, he has served the church in New York, Barbados, and Toronto, including here at St. James Cathedral since 2021. His ministry has been marked by a deep commitment to proclaiming Christ, advocating for the poor and marginalized, and challenging the Church to confront racism. We give thanks for his ministry and for all who have shared in his journey, as he looks forward to continuing to serve the Church as God calls after a time of rest. His final Sunday of full-time service at the Cathedral will be May 31, 2026, the 45th anniversary of his ordination to Diaconate.

Our Merry Moments service returns



We're delighted to once again offer these 30-min Advent and Christmas services filled with beloved carols, readings, and a short homily. These joy-filled gatherings are perfect for anyone, and especially those who may not usually attend church or prefer a shorter service. This service is offered multiple times to accommodate a variety of schedules:

Dec. 16: 4:00pm (in person & online) & 6:00pm

Dec. 18: 1:00pm & 5:30pm

Dec. 20: 10:30am (see below) & 1:00pm

The 10:30am service on Dec. 20 will be led by our Children's Community Choir. After the service, head out to the West Lawn for a Live Nativity Animal Petting Zoo from 11:00am to 1:00pm, complete with hot chocolate and snacks for everyone.

This is a family-friendly event for the whole community, so bring your friends and neighbours to share in the joy and spirit of Christmas!



Friday, Dec. 19 at 7:30pm:

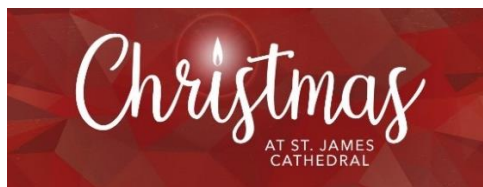
***La Nativité du Seigneur* by Olivier Messiaen played by Rashaan Allwood**



La Nativité du Seigneur
by Olivier Messiaen

Nine musical meditations on the birth of Jesus are interspersed with poems and Bible readings. *La Nativité* is of the most startlingly original works ever created for the organ. Olivier Messiaen, a deeply devout musician, conceived a series of nine musical tableaux which reflect not only upon the actual events of the nativity – the shepherds, the wise men – but the profound implications of these events for us today. The organ portrays the story in music, which ranges from quiet, timeless introspection to shattering excitement. Biblical readings and poems by George Herbert, W.H. Auden, Malcolm Guite, Tennyson, and others will intersperse the musical reflections. Donations are welcome to support the work of the St. James and Community Refugee Committee.

Dec. 24 & 25: Christmas Eve & Christmas Day



Let's celebrate together the miracle of the Incarnation when the blessings of hope, peace, joy, and love came to us in the child of Bethlehem. Join us with family, friends, and invite your neighbours!

Wednesday, Dec. 24: Christmas Eve

4:00pm: Festive Organ Recital*

4:30pm: Lessons & Carols*

7:30pm: Choral Eucharist*

Thursday, Dec. 25: Christmas Day

8:00am: Said Eucharist

10:30am: Choral Eucharist*

*Also live-streamed on the Cathedral YouTube channel at youtube.com/stjamescathedraltoronto

Share the Joy: Ways to support our Drop-In program this Christmas!



Volunteer with us:

On Christmas (Dec. 19)

Boxing Day (Dec. 26)

New Year (Jan. 2). Shifts will run between 9:00am to 5:30pm. Come spread some holiday cheer!

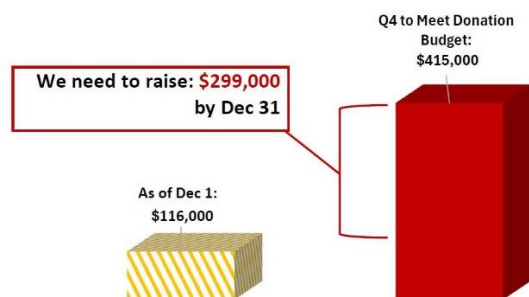
For details or to volunteer, please contact Kathy Biasi – Outreach Manager at 416 364-7865 Ext. 222 or kbiasi@stjamescathedral.ca

On behalf of the Drop-In program, thank you for the ongoing support and care you show at this time and throughout the year. Your generosity helps make the Drop-In a welcoming, safe, and caring community for all our neighbours and volunteers.

St. Bartholomew's Food Drive: Thank you for your support

If you can, please support the food program by donating nonperishable food items in the red bin located at the King Street entrance of the Cathedral. Donations accepted until Dec. 31.

'Tis the Giving Season!



Your generosity fuels the Cathedral's mission. As we approach year-end, donations are 26% below target, and we need \$299,000 by December 31 to reach our annual budget. Be part of the mission.

Give today! Every gift matters. Donate by December 31 to receive a 2025 tax receipt.

Choose one of the following easy ways to give:

1. **E-Transfer:** to gifts@stjamescathedral.ca, include name and address for tax receipt. Tax receipts will be issued for gifts of \$20 or more in 2026.
2. **Give Online:** www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/st-james-cathedral/
3. **In-Person:** Drop off your donation in the secure mailbox, mounted in the vestibule at the 65 Church Street entrance doors.
4. **Other Ways to Give**, please visit:
stjamescathedral.ca/donate/give-online
or scan our QR code:



LOOKING AHEAD

Thursday, January 1: New Year's Day & Bishop's Levee

12:15pm: Said Eucharist

1:30pm-2:45pm: Receiving Line and Reception with the ringing of the Bells of Old York

2:45pm: Festive Music for Brass Quintet

3:30pm: Choral Evensong with the presentations of the Order of the Diocese of Toronto

Sunday, Jan. 4 at 4:30pm:

Epiphany Lessons and Carols with the Chalking of the Doors

Join us for a beautiful Epiphany service of readings, hymns, and choral music as we follow the journey of the wise men and reflect on the early ministry of Jesus. We will also bless the cathedral and all who will enter in the coming year through the ancient ceremony of the chalking of the doors. The service begins with an organ recital at 4:00pm. All are welcome!

Monday, Jan. 19 at 2:00pm: The York Group and Will Postma

We are delighted to welcome Will Postma, CEO of Alongside Hope (formerly PWRDF), as our guest speaker. Come enjoy an afternoon of learning and fellowship. No RSVP.

Info: stjamescathedral.ca/community/york-group

THIS WEEK AT THE CATHEDRAL

Morning Prayer – online only at 8:30am

Holy Eucharist at 12:15pm

Monday to Saturday via the Cathedral YouTube channel Monday to Saturday in St. George's Chapel.

Visit us: The Cathedral is open Monday-Saturday from 10:00am–3:00pm
The Cathedral Centre offices are open Monday-Friday from 9:00am–4:00pm

Online Morning Prayer:

Join our clergy and fellow members of the Cathedral from Monday to Friday for Morning Prayer in our **Zoom Chapel**.

To access, please follow this link: <https://bit.ly/MPatSJC> or scan the QR code. For more information, visit: stjamescathedral.ca/morningprayer/



Tuesday: Organ Recital in the Cathedral at 1:00pm. Free admission, donations welcome

Wednesday: Scripture Circle gathers this week in the Cathedral Centre at 11:00am and will resume on Jan. 7.

Friday: Drop-In from 1:30pm to 3:30pm. We welcome our guests for a nutritious meal

Dec. 19 at 7:30pm: *La Nativité du Seigneur* by Olivier Messiaen played by Rashaan Allwood.

Saturday: Children's Community Choir Rehearsal from 9:30am to 10:30am on Dec. 20, and resuming on Jan. 10, 2026

St. James Cemetery: Seasonal Wreath program, Pre-planning services & Plots available.
Info: 416-964-9194, cemetery@stjamescathedral.ca or visit stjamescemetery.ca

Sunday Services – Dec. 21, 2025

8:00am: Said Eucharist

9:00am: Worship Together*

11:00am: Choral Eucharist*

4:30pm: Christmas Lessons & Carols*

*Live-streamed on the Cathedral YouTube channel at youtube.com/stjamescathedraltoronto

Readings for

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 7:10–16

Psalms 80:1–7, 16–18

Romans 1:1–7

Matthew 1:18–25

The Cathedral Church of St. James exists today through the gifts of time, talent, and treasure of both past and present members of the Cathedral community.

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and love in the city.

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Facebook/Instagram: @stjamesto / **YouTube:** stjamescathedraltoronto

St. James Cemetery: (416)964-9194 / stjamescemetery.ca / cemetery@stjamescathedral.ca