ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW An Epic Holiday Baking Challenge is upon us: each week's fellowship has a different theme (see below), and the winner gets bragging rights for an ENTIRE year! On the Sunday morning you have entered, have your treats to Saint James by 9:15 for plating; voting will happen during fellowship time. A sign-up will be available soon. *Questions: ask Rebecca or Kristin*

December 6th: Sweet Breads/Rolls
December 13th: Holiday Bars
December 20th: Cookies (Cookie Walk Day)

This is the 5th Worship weekend of the month. Every year on the months with five Sundays, we take a special offering for our Ivuga Parish. This offering (any loose change/bills) will be used for the petrol and maintenance of their motorbikes required to get from parish to parish. We also hope to purchase a third bike in the future.

Join us for Holden Evening Prayer Worship Services on Wednesdays, December 2, 9, and 16. Soup supper at 6:00pm; Service at 6:45pm. Please sign up to help with the meal at: https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904044AA4AF22A7F58-67356735-advent#/

Poinsettia Orders: If you would like to order a poinsettia(s) in honor or memory of a loved one for Christmas Eve services, fill out the information below, and make checks payable to Saint James with "poinsettia" on memo line. Orders must be received by December 7.

- ☐ 1 plant branch 4.5" pot with 3-5 blooms **$5.50** $_____
- ☐ 1 plant branch 6.5" pot with 5-9 blooms **$11.00** $_____
- ☐ 3 plant branch 8.0" pot with 12-15 blooms **$21** $_____

_____ Preferred color (white, red, pink or other)

Poinsettia is given to the Glory of God in memory/honor (**please circle one**) of:
_____by: (Your Name)

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Our Giving Tree is up! We are collecting gifts for three organizations we have supported in the past: Trinity Center at Luther Park, ChildServe, and Johnston Partnership. Grab an ornament from the tree, purchase the gift and bring to the church unwrapped by December 13.

Prayer of the Day
Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

First Reading: Isaiah 64:1-9
This lament comes from a people who have had their hopes shattered. The visions of a rebuilt Jerusalem and a renewed people of God, spoken of in Isaiah 40–55, have not been realized. Instead, the people experience ruin, conflict, and famine. This lament calls God to account—to be the God who has brought deliverance in the past. The lesson begins.
1 O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—
2 as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil—
to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
3 When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down; the mountains quaked at your presence.
4 From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him.
5 You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways.
But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed.
6 We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.
We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
7 There is no one who calls on your name or attempts to take hold of you,
for you have hidden your face from us and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.
8 Yet, O Lord, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand.
9 Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord,
and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.
The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9
As the Christians in Corinth await the advent of Jesus, Paul reminds them how the Lord has already enriched them through spiritual gifts and will continue to strengthen them until the coming day of the Lord. The lesson begins…
3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
4 I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, 5 for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—6 just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—7 so that you are not lacking in any gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. 8 He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 God is faithful, by whom you were called into the partnership of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel: Mark 13:24-37
The Holy Gospel according to Saint Mark. **Glory to You, O Lord.**
[Jesus said:] 24 "In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon
will not give its light, 25 and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the
heavens will be shaken. 26 "Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with
great power and glory. 27 Then he will send out the angels and gather the elect from the
four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.
28 "From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts
forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. 29 So also, when you see these things
taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. 30 Truly I tell you, this generation
will not pass away until all these things have taken place. 31 Heaven and earth will pass
away, but my words will not pass away.
32 "But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven nor the Son,
but only the Father. 33 Beware, keep alert, for you do not know when the time will
come. 34 It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in
charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the
watch. 35 Therefore, keep awake, for you do not know when the master of the house will
come, in the evening or at midnight or at cockcrow or at dawn, 36 or else he may find you
asleep when he comes suddenly. 37 And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."
The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Prayers of Intercession
In hope and expectation, we bring to God our prayers for the church, the world, and all in need… Strengthen your church in this season of anticipation. Nourish all people who gather around word and water, bread and cup. Reassure any whose faith feels dry that you are always near. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Come and restore the earth. Give rest to weary lands and renewed life to species at risk. Make us wise stewards of the places we call home.
God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Bring peace among all nations and communities. Embolden leaders to seek creative and sustainable resolutions to war and conflict. Show us new possibilities in places where peace has been elusive. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Sustain all who are heavy with weariness, grief, illness, or worry. Comfort families who are estranged from one another and any who are separated from loved ones.
God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Inspire liturgists, preachers, musicians, and all who lead our worship and prayer. May we be prepared as we await Christ's coming this Advent season.
God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

You embrace all the saints from the far reaches of the earth. We remember with care all who have died and now abide in their eternal home.
God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

We entrust these and the prayers of our hearts to you, most holy God, in the name of Christ Jesus our Savior. **Amen.**

What's Happening

November 28-December 4

• Saturday	5:00pm	Worship In-Person & Facebook Live
• Sunday	9:30am	Worship In-Person & Facebook Live
	10:30am	Fellowship
• Monday	9:00am	Bible Study in person
	10:30am	Chair Yoga
• Tuesday	7:00am	Men's Breakfast Group at HyVee
	9:00am	Online Bible Study (Connect Here)
	8:00pm	AA meeting, all are welcome
• Wednesday	10:30am	Chair Yoga
	6:00pm	Soup Supper for All
	6:45-7:15pm	Holden Evening Prayer (Confirmation please attend)
	7:15pm	ABIDE – Cards and hanging out
• Thursday	9:00am	Women's Coffee
• Friday		Church Offices Closed

Celebrations November 28-December 4
Birthdays: John Pietila, Camden Henry, Brad Mock
Anniversaries: None

Connect with Us!
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www.StJamesJohnston.org Here you can connect to:

- Our online service and our online giving portal
- Our calendar
- Our Online Bible Study
- Our staff and much more!