

# St. James' Journal

September 2024

Rev. Wayne Sherrer – Priest-in-Charge



## The Season of Creation

The Season of Creation is a time to renew our relationship with our Creator and all creation through celebration, conversion, and commitment together. During the Season of Creation, we join our sisters and brothers in the ecumenical family in prayer and action for our common home.

The liturgical calendar is a result of an ancient tradition of faith communities seeking to celebrate the experience of God in their everyday lives throughout the year. The Christian tradition took on the main feasts of our faith, the salvific actions of Christ, and distributed them over a year. We have seasons to celebrate the work of God the Son, such as at Easter and Christmas, and God the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. But we didn't have a traditional period for considering the work of God the Creator, and so the Season of Creation was dedicated to considering the Scriptures that teach about the work of God the Creator.

Ecumenical Patriarch Dimitrios I proclaimed 1 September as a day of prayer for creation for the Orthodox in 1989. In fact, the Orthodox church year starts on that day with a commemoration of how God created the world. In the Episcopal Church in the United States, the Season of Creation was inaugurated in 1990 at the Church of the Redeemer in Morristown, New Jersey. The season has been widely adapted and celebrated among Episcopal congregations.

The World Council of Churches was instrumental in making the special time a season, extending the celebration from 1 September until 4 October. Following the leadership of Ecumenical

Patriarch Dimitrios I and the WCC, Christians worldwide have embraced the season as part of their annual calendar. Pope Francis made the Roman Catholic Church's warm welcoming of the season official in 2015. The season starts 1 September, the Day of Prayer for Creation, and ends 4 October, the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of ecology beloved by many Christian denominations. Throughout the month-long celebration, the world's 2.2 billion Christians come together to care for our common home.

Fr. Wayne

## Confirmation

Confirmations by the bishop will take place in the late spring. Youth ages 13-16 who want to be confirmed are asked to contact Fr Wayne at:

[clergy@stjameshackettstown](mailto:clergy@stjameshackettstown)

or the church office at: (908-852-3968) by September 15, so arrangements can be made for confirmation preparation.

## Evening Prayer at the Convent

The second annual service of Evening Prayer and ice cream social for our regional cluster of Episcopal parishes was held at the Convent of St. John Baptist on August 20. We toured the lush community garden behind the Retreat House after the Rev. Canon Andrew Wright



blessed the recently installed accessible pathway through the garden. St. James' was well represented.

Fr. Wayne

## Sunday School Starts September 22nd

We are looking forward to starting up Sunday School lessons again this fall. Our first session will be on Sunday, September 22nd. At this session, we will provide the families with the Sunday School registration form and have a lesson inspired by the Creation season. Starting in October, we plan to have two Sunday School classes each month, on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month.

Sunday School meets at 9am in the Parish Hall for a lesson and a craft. We then join everyone in church around the time of the Peace for the rest of the service. All children are welcome to attend. Parents / grandparents can stay with their children or drop them off if they are comfortable.

In addition to our regular classes, we are planning some fun activities this year, including a Halloween party. We will also be continuing our tradition of service projects, including helping to pack food bags at the holidays.

*See you soon for the start to a fun Sunday School year!*

Please contact Alicia LaForge for more information: [ali109@yahoo.com](mailto:ali109@yahoo.com) or 908-619-7766

## September Birthdays

- 09/02 Tom Niessen
- 09/07 Jean Glaser
- 09/10 Jillian Martin
- 09/14 Martha Travostino
- 09/15 Joel Contreras
- 09/17 Marie Niculcea
- 09/18 Cindy Sheard
- 09/18 Paul Bartkus
- 09/21 Gareth Jenkins
- 09/23 Peter Quelly
- 09/25 Michael Aron
- 09/25 Bill Hannigan
- 09/27 George Murphy
- 09/29 Mildred Sherrer
- 09/29 Peter Isaac Quelly
- 09/30 Amelia Vitalos



October 2024  
Journal Articles Due  
Sunday, September 29th



**Golf Outing—2024**



After a two-week rain delay, members of St. James' filled Farm View Golf Center on August 23. Pam Laura and Madelyn Frey posted the lowest and highest scores of the 20+ golfers. Several of us then enjoyed ice cream at Friendly's.



## Summer Backpack—2024

### August Update

It's August and this weekend we received our last delivery of food and completed our last packing of bags for the summer. We will conclude our last "Give" this coming weekend. Then we can look back and count all the children and families served, the number of bags prepared, the number of volunteers and volunteer hours dedicated to this project, and contemplate how to adequately give thanks for all of it.

### We feed people.

This is a church community effort that serves people beyond our church community. When this ministry is concluded we estimate that we will have served children over 400 times in roughly 80 families. We will have provided various breakfast, lunch, and snack foods meant to supplement their regular diet.

Thank You to our congregation members who have made this ministry a success! This has included members of the committee who have planned the menu and dates, folks who served on Saturday mornings to haul in, unbox, and sort the food for packing, and those who broke the cardboard boxes down. We are also thankful for the parishioners who stayed after our Sunday services to pack the bags with food. We are thankful for the folks who helped on the "Give" dates by aiding with bilingual communication, bringing bags out to the parents, and helping with setting up and taking down the Local Share Fresh Produce. Phew! This would be a gargantuan task for 3 or 5 people, but many hands do make light work. Finally, we are thankful for the camaraderie that evolved over the summer. It was rewarding to develop closer relationships with each other and especially fun to see the children enjoying the packing activities.

We feed people,

Paul, for the BackPack Committee



Diocese of Newark  
YESTERDAY, TODAY & FOREVER  
SERVING NORTHERN NEW JERSEY SINCE 1874

# Diocesan Family BBQ

## 150th Anniversary Kick-Off

Held at Cross Roads Camp, Saturday, September 21  
10 AM-4 PM, Rain or Shine

### ACTIVITIES:

Family-style Cookout • Arts & Crafts  
Bouncy House • Swimming Pool  
Kickball • Volleyball • Archery  
Hiking • High Ropes  
Tours of Cross Roads' Facilities

\$20 per person  
Kids 5 & under FREE  
\$60 max for families

Find out more & RSVP by  
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9  
[dioceseofnewark.org/150th-kick-off](http://dioceseofnewark.org/150th-kick-off)



# St. James' Journal-September 2024

## St. James' Staff & Vestry

**Priest-in-Charge:** The Rev. Wayne Sherrer

**Parish Administrator:** Rosalia Caamano

**Organist:** Dmitry Nikolaev

**Sexton:** Pauline Volkert

### Vestry

**Senior Warden:** Marvin Walker

**Junior Warden:** David Olesen

Jayne Mutascio Nona Wolosin

Janice Cipriani Ruth Najemian

Millie Quelly David Lacouture

**Vestry Clerk:** Pam Laura

**Treasurer:** Janice Cipriani

**Bookkeeper:** Barbara Olesen

**Sunday School:** Alicia LaForge

**SS Assistants:** Helen LaForge, Millie Quelly

Barbara Olesen, Editor

All Journal submissions  
should be sent to:

[stjames214@comcast.net](mailto:stjames214@comcast.net)

& [olesen@comcast.net](mailto:olesen@comcast.net)

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