



Voices of St. James – ADVENT/CHRISTMAS EDITION 1

REPORT FROM FR. ROGÉRIO

Dear friends

What a joy to write in this first special newsletter named Voices of St. James. I think this is the appropriate time to start a new project, as it is a new year in our Christian liturgical calendar, it's Advent!



This newsletter is like a baby that I helped to bring into the world, so I have a lot of affection for it. I ask you, group coordinators, to always send your contributions when requested, including photos for the editorial board of the newspaper, so that the following editions will be even more special. This special bulletin will be published four times a year, following the Christian liturgical year as well as the seasons of the year—spring, summer, autumn, and winter—and will be sent to all parishioners and friends of St. James via email. Well, with the introduction done, let's get to the article in this first edition.

We have reflected throughout the Sundays and in all the other formative moments we have in our parish, especially in the Advent Bible Study, on what Advent means, and we know that this is a very special time of preparation of our home, in the broadest sense of the term, for the arrival of the Savior Jesus Christ.

Advent is therefore a time of waiting, watching, and wondering ourselves about how we are doing, and then, recognizing our light and darkness, recommit ourselves to walking guided by the light. Those who love Christmas love Advent, for one event is entirely connected to the other. Advent is about waiting for something that is coming, and we know what, or rather who is coming, and this fills us with hope, peace, joy, and love. These feelings move us and help us reflect on how we should be better people, for ourselves and for the world in which we live. This good feeling speaks directly and deeply to our hearts, and in this way calls us to conversion.

With John the Baptist, we are called to prepare the way of the Lord, a preparation that cannot be done passively, for to prepare is a verb of action. For this reason we can rightly say that our Christian hope is an active hope, just as our faith is active. These are the certainties we have, which are part of our Christian identity, that assure us that in the end everything will be alright.

Advent and Christmas are indeed very special times to dust off our house (heart, mind, and soul) to receive Jesus, the way, the truth, and the life, “Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace” Isaiah 9:6

In conclusion, I leave you with this reflection: what are the areas of our lives that need to receive hope, peace, joy, and love that the baby Jesus brings us? What in us needs to be healed, therefore, illuminated by the light that the Prince of Peace gives us?

Come, Lord Jesus, teach us to recognize that you are Emmanuel, the God who walks with us today and always.

Have a meaningful Advent season and a blessed Christmas.

Fr. Rogério de Assis, incumbent



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THE FRIENDSHIP LUNCH

This initiative is a wonderful example of local churches coming together to support their community. Volunteers not only prepare and serve the meals, but also offer a warm and welcoming atmosphere to everyone who attends. The lunch has become a weekly highlight for many residents, fostering connections and a sense of belonging.

The Friendship Lunch program began several years ago as a grassroots initiative to address food insecurity and social isolation in the Kemptville community. Over time, it has grown into a cherished weekly event, providing not only nourishment but also a welcoming space for neighbours to gather and connect. Volunteers from each participating church work together to ensure the lunches run smoothly and everyone feels included.

St. John's United Church (400 Prescott Street, Kemptville) hosts a Friendship Lunch every Friday from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm; everyone is welcome and donations are free will. Five churches organize the event:

- St. John's United
- St. James Anglican
- Holy Cross
- Pentecostal Church
- House of Lazarus (Mountain)

St. James has approx. 12-14 parishioners who help to prepare the meal, serve and clean up. Anywhere from 70 to 90 people are served.

We also participate with the four churches, in a combined effort, for Thanksgiving. (October 10th) and for the December 19th Christmas lunch.

Thanksgiving and Christmas luncheons serve well over 100 people. Thanksgiving served 114 people.

David Finnie, Friendship Lunch Coordinator

200TH ANNIVERSARY PLANNING GROUP

The planning group for the St. James 200th Anniversary Celebration has been meeting occasionally over the past 10 months, mainly to bring up ideas of how we would like to mark this anniversary. It will be difficult to choose from all of the wonderful ideas that have been put forward! We set up a framework of four areas:

- Worship Services using 200-year-old form of worship, hymn sings, keynote discipleship speaker, etc.
- Celebration Events, like parish dinners, concerts, anniversary tea, etc.
- History, to update our existing history, plan newspaper articles, and run church historical tours
- Budget & Oversight

At our next meeting we will set up a proposed calendar of events leading us up to the date of our official 200th anniversary service, Sunday, May 30, 2027.

Martha Smith, People's Warden



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ECCO QUARTERLY REPORT.(NOVEMBER 2025)

The Entertainment Coordination and Community Outreach (ECCO) Committee have had a productive year in supporting several fundraising and outreach events for St. James. March, we began our year with the annual Stew Lunch on March 16th. All stews were met with high praise. They included Lamb, Chicken, Beef, Pork and Vegetarian.

On May 23rd St. James hosted the North Grenville Community Theatre (NGCT) production Romance on the Road. ECCO supported this event by selling tickets, distributing posters, and front of house presence during the event. Proceeds went to St. James. We also coordinated the staging of the highly successful Strings and Ivory Concert for St. James and Shalom Small Homes Kemptville on May 31st. As well, in May ECCO introduced the New Gift Card Fundraising initiative to the congregation with a short presentation.

In June we held the annual Seniors Tea with support from the ACW as an outreach to seniors in the community. ECCO also hosted the St. James annual BBQ for parishioners. People enjoyed hotdogs and hamburgers on a hot sunny day on the front grass of St. James. The Good Will donations from both events raised funds for St. James.



*Sibéli with the
Brazilian Hot Dog*

In September ECCO supported Fr. Rogério with his first St. James fundraiser. The Brazilian Hot Dog fundraiser with all proceeds going to St. James was held at St. John's United Church Hall. The event introduced us all to a new type of hotdog and Brazilian live music. The last event of 2025 was our annual Soup Lunch in November with delicious soups including chicken vegetable, leek and potato, broccoli, cauliflower and mushroom soup.

In December, ECCO will support the Salvation Army Fill the Bag initiative by delivering bags and sorting the collected items.

The ECCO committee is always looking for volunteers with fundraising ideas and to help support the annual outreach and fundraising initiatives. Our monthly meetings are inspiring, enthusiastic and fun. Thank you to our current team Rose Marie Hustins, Jim Chapman, David Finnie, Robert Angi, Terry Nicholls and Mandy Nicholls (Chair) for their willingness to help St. James Anglican Church continue to prosper and grow in the community.

Mandy Nicholls, ECCO Chair



ECCO meeting



Seniors' Tea



Brazilian Hot Dog Fundraiser



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WARDENS REPORT FOR ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS

We've had a busy fall at St. James! Fr. Rogério arrived on August 1, 2025, and he and Sibéli became members of the St. James Community quickly. They headed up our first Brazilian Hot Dog Supper in September! Fr. Rogério's induction service led by the bishop took place in October with a large congregation made up of his former parishioners and his current parishioners. It was wonderful to celebrate this occasion.

To give Fr. Rogério a place to work in the church, we turned the vestry room into an office. We also improved the wifi to support his computer and printer. Updating our work in the Sacristy, Terry Nicholls has laid the new flooring and painted the room, and a plug for the dishwasher has been installed. In the coming months we will design the closet space and get it finished. We have continued working on the other electrical upgrades during the fall. We also had the church doors refinished – and paid for by the Toonie Tube donations. The Toonie Tube was introduced 6 months ago, and it has been a great source of revenue to accomplish tasks which were not planned for in the current budget. The next project will be “Cash for Carpet-Stretching” to remove the wrinkle in the chancel carpet. And we want to thank the Cleaning Crew who started monthly cleaning days in the fall – they have made such a difference in bringing our building up to its clean and orderly state.

Thank you, Graeme Arbuckle, for your 5 months as our interim music director! We welcome Andrew Graham as the current music director. With both men as organists, the music from our new organ has been a pure joy.

We became aware of a need in our nursing home community. Southbridge Kemptville needed new hymn books for their facility. With \$350 from our outreach budget and 2 anonymous donations, we have purchased 65 copies of our Anglican hymnal (large-print, words only), Common Praise, to donate to the home. They will be used at the various religious services held at Southbridge.

Vanessa Skelton and Martha Smith, Wardens

LAYREADERS

What it's like being a Layreader?

On behalf of Frank and myself, we want to report how much we have enjoyed fulfilling the role of a Layreader over the past 12 months.

Not only do we worship and participate in the services at St. James on alternative weeks as we prepare the Prayers of the People, etc. but I am privileged as well to lead Morning Prayer at St. Anne's, one of the Oxford parishes within North Grenville.

Preparing sermons for worship services is challenging, but so rewarding as you study, learn, meditate, and reflect on the scriptures.

AND then the work begins as we pray and our thoughts into a succinct, thoughtful and relevant sermon, placing Jesus our Lord at the centre of our reflections and prayers.

We sincerely thank everyone in the congregation for their encouragement and kind words, as we learn and grow in this beautiful ministry and express our love for our Lord in our service to Him and to each one of you.



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If anyone of you are interested in finding more about being a Layreader, Frank and I would love to discuss this with you.

***Humbly submitted in the name of our risen, and Saviour
Frank Forbes and Heather Hyland.***

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School has been on pause this fall due to a lack of volunteers. To comply with diocesan regulations, we must have two adults present downstairs to run Sunday School. To meet these needs, we need 3-4 people to volunteer to help with Sunday School at least once a month. Training will be provided; we need people who love kids and who can get a vulnerable sector check.

Margaret Greenwood, Sunday School Teacher

MEN'S GROUP

"St. James Men's Group meets Saturday mornings at 8:00 for fellowship and friendship and round table discussions on the Bible and anything else that we want to talk about."

Jim Chapman

ENVELOPE SECRETARY

On a weekly basis, Martha and myself count the Sunday cash and cheque collection donations. This enables Martha to deposit the balanced donations in the bank, and I can enter the individual amounts in a software package to generate and provide income tax receipts at the end of the year. **For parishioners who want your donations to be counted towards your 2025 income tax receipt, you need to provide them to me by Dec. 31. Thank you.**

Carole Perkins, Envelope Secretary

P/T PARISH ADMINISTRATOR

As the p/t Parish Administrator, my duties vary from day to day and year to year. To summarize my various responsibilities, I input the envelope donations weekly into a database, which is used to generate your income tax receipts. This year I collected the information from the Parish groups to prepare the Vestry report. I have now created this newsletter from info from the various groups and designed the layout. Monthly, I prepare a church calendar for Rev. Rogério, and weekly I prepare the slides for the church service. On an as needed basis, I am responsible for the PAG program, adding, revising or deleting parishioner's requests. If anyone is in need of a name tag, I'm your contact. As well I add, revise or remove information from the Parish List. I prepare the Proclaimer's List and at the beginning of the New Year, I generate your income tax receipts. I hope I haven't forgotten anything.

Carole Perkins, P/T Parish Administrator



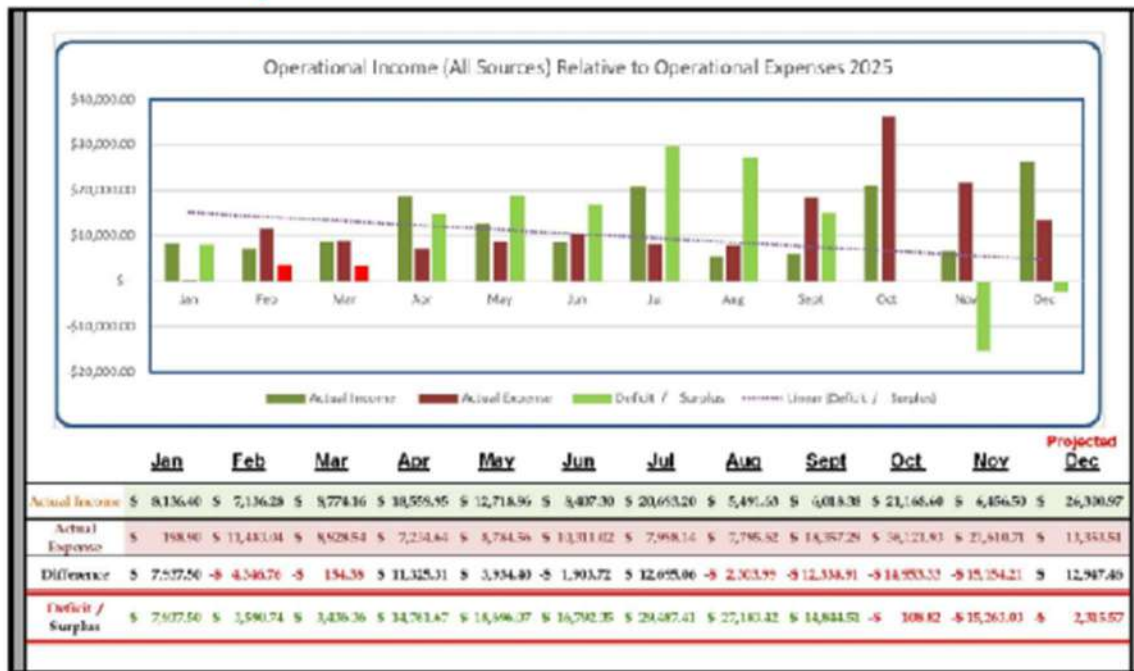
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ST. JAMES'S OPERATIONAL FINANCIAL UPDATE

“SUCCESS HAS MANY PARENTS – BUT FAILURE IS AN ORPHAN.”

So far this year, St. James has faced several financial challenges. Our insurance rates have risen yet again; we have had to finance the necessary electrical upgrades to the church; we have undertaken a refurbishment of the old organ chamber; and our cost of priestly services has returned to the prescribed level after 11 months at about 50% of normal.

As you can see from the illustration below, our deficit at the end of November is \$15,154.21 .



This would normally be a cause for concern, but factoring in our average income and expenses for December between 2020 and 2024, the deficit is projected to be about \$4,853.33. Fortunately, the ECCO team lead by Mandy Nicholls has raised a net profit \$2,646.58 through concerts, the Brazilian Hot Dog event, the twoonie tube and the gift card project in 2025. This further reduces the projected deficit to \$2,315.57. This is a success that she and her team can rightly accept the credit for and there is every indication this momentum will continue into 2026.

Since we started the year with \$26,682.55 cash in the operations fund account, it is anticipated we will start 2026 with around \$23,000.00 in that same account. Work is ongoing on the preparation of the 2026 budget. It is far too early to project final numbers, but it is certain operational costs will not be coming down.

Please take a moment to reflect on our beloved parishioners who are no longer with us. Please remember and keep in our prayers, Lois Armstrong, Monica Berridge-Sills and Keith Nixon.



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