

ST. JUDE JOURNAL

JANUARY 2026

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...and more!

JANUARY CALENDAR

* * *

Parish Office

526-221-2505

Mon.-Thu.

9:30am-1:30pm

* * *

HEALING SERVICE 2nd WED

11:00 A.M.

SUNDAY WORSHIP

8:00 A.M. HE

10:15 A.M. HE



FROM THE RECTOR

Dear Parish,

I want to start off with saying "THANK YOU" to all the children and youth who participated in the Christmas Tableau – you were ALL excellent and always make Christmas Eve extra special!!

I think you all know that I believe every month is a good month for self-reflection. And, what's nice about January is that culturally this month lends itself quite well to looking back, and looking forward, towards what we hope for in this new year.

As we begin Ministry Year 2026 two things that have been on my heart are expanding service opportunities with our Mission Center; engaging with our youth and young adults in ways that they find meaningful. And to do this, I need your help – from our youth to our adults. So, please approach me if you'd like to work with me, ministry is better together 😊

And I want to share an article I read in the *Try Tank* newsletter: *What Young People Actually Notice:*

Adults often assume young people drift from faith because they lose interest. Research points to a different story. Josh Packard asked hundreds of youths and young adults to name the moments when faith felt most alive. Their answers rarely mentioned events, programs, or teaching. **Instead**, they described moments when an adult remembered something from a previous conversation, followed up after a hard week, or took their questions seriously without steering the conversation toward predetermined conclusions." Events are good, but connections are better.

"When that kind of attention is present, faith gains traction. When it is absent, even the best ministry infrastructure struggles. In the study, 75% of young people said that being

listened to helped them stay open about faith and spirituality in the future. That is not a small number. That is a roadmap.”

Isn’t this what we do well at St. Jude’s – listen to each other and show that we care about each other. Our task now is to think about how do we do this with intention for our young people.

Stay mindful, stay curious, keep being willing to try out new things, keep sharing what we love with each other and others, and continue to care for our community. As God blesses us, let us share widely our blessings.

Blessings, Mo. Jimmie Sue



VESTRY VIEWS By Laura Loud



Two months ago, we all received a letter for the 2026 Stewardship campaign. The theme focuses on stories we tell and the ways we are called to share our creativity and abundance with each other. The connections we make and support we give each other defines our congregation- our Church family.

I have been honored to be on our Church Vestry for the last several years. It is a wonderful experience. It has given me the opportunity to learn many things about our Church and Diocese. Meeting new people and representing our parishioners and Church in numerous ways is a position I take with enthusiasm and commitment. One of the ways on the Vestry is each of us are assigned as Vestry Liaisons. Mine is the Family & Friends in particular Trunk-or-Treat and Breakfast with Santa.

I helped set up and participated in the Trunk-or-Treat event. Working with such a group of wonderful people made this gathering welcoming, safe and fun for all. It was great to see our Church and parking lot filled with creativity, energy, awesome costumes and lots of candy and smiles. An annual event I look forward to being a part of.

At the Breakfast with Santa, I had the joy of serving as Mrs. Claus. I had so much fun. This role gave me the opportunity to bring smiles and laughter to children and adults. Also sharing in the joy and excitement with our Church families. Enjoying Santa, pancakes and the awesome people who made this a success made me thankful to be a part of such a caring and sincere ministry.

These experiences remind me that random acts of kindness, a smile, a small act of service connects us to one another. God’s love is reflected in many ways. I am thankful and looking forward to sharing and being a part of new exciting opportunities in 2026. Happy New Year! May God bless us all.

VESTRY HIGHLIGHTS

Treasurer's Report: Brian presents updated Treasurer's Report.

- Motion to accept Treasurer's Report. **Unanimous approval.**

Business:

- Mo. Jimmie Sue shared about HVAC updates, Parking Lot light, Fire .

Action Item:

- Approved the 2026 Budget. **Unanimous approval.**

Rector's Report:

- I made pastoral care visits and calls.
- We had a lovely and successful Breakfast with St. Nick!
- We had a ton of big bags of gifts for Adopt-a-Family 😊
- Annual Meeting is January 18th, one service, please get reports in
- We've had lovely Coffee Hours 😊



TREASURER'S REPORT By Brian Quinn

- November surplus of \$26.8K
 - Debt Reduction deposit of \$20K
 - Fair Surplus of \$18K
- November YTD Net Operating Income a deficit of **\$33K**
 - Debt Reduction \$20K received
- November YTD Net Income a surplus of \$27K
 - Includes other Funds: VBS, FMM, LGBTQAI, COVID, Loan Payoff Fund
- Pledges \$9K above through the end of November
- Assets now \$187K up from \$139K
- COVID Monies are \$17K:
 - Plan to move \$5K to Loan Payoff Fund so amount will be \$25K
 - Plan to move remaining \$12K to FMM in lieu of HVAC repairs
- Assets Have spoken to Flagstar regarding loan payoff earlier than 4/2028
 - Mortgage expenses this year was \$20.2K so, 2026 already covered.



November 2025 Financial Summary



	Yearly	Nov Actuals
Operating Income	288,352	273,932
Altar Donations	2,850	3,793
Special Offerings	2,890	5,198
Miscellaneous Contributions	17,335	24,007
Building Use	2,000	1,545
Outreach & Mission Income	4,567	5,317
Total Income	317,994	313,792
Expense		
Worship	2,188	4,836
Formation	980	300
Outreach & Mission	27,781	28,112
Stewardship	2,150	2,317
Hospitality	200	109
Building Maintenance	54,744	49,265
Rectory Maintenance	6,350	8,409
Loans and Bank Fees	19,460	18,793
Office & Office Supplies	13,940	18,608
Insurance	32,842	34,017
Miscellaneous Expenses	4,400	2,973
Personnel	202,752	187,865
Total Expense	367,787	346,708
Surplus/(Deficit)	(49,793)	(32,916)



ANNUAL GIVING UPDATE



If you haven't sent in your Annual Pledge Card, please consider doing so, every pledge makes a difference to the vitality of the parish!

As of 12/23/2025 we have a commitment of 47 pledges for a total of \$204,798.00. Our desired goal for this year is \$265,000.00.

Last year we had 62 pledges for a total of \$222,404.00 with an average pledge of \$2,859.00. Thank you to everyone who has returned their Annual Pledge!

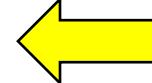


ANNUAL MEETING

Notice of Annual Meeting

Sunday, January 18, 2026

ONE SERVICE!



One service at 10:15am

Annual Reports are due to the Parish Office (sjwantagh1@gmail.com) **by January 12th**. If you wrote a paragraph or section for the Annual Report last year, or if you serve on a committee, please plan to write up a report of 2025 activity. Thank you!

NOMINATIONS FOR VESTRY

Warden and Vestry Member positions

Incumbent running for Warden: Charlie Garbowski (3rd Term)

Vestry Positions

One 3 Year Vestry Member Term: Lauren Wangner (1st Term)

Qualifications for running

Warden: Baptized and Confirmed or Received into the Episcopal Church. 18 years or older AND must also pledge.

Vestry Member: Baptized. 18 years or older AND must also pledge.

BIOGRAPHY: Incumbent Warden: 2 Year Term



Charlie Garbowski: Charlie was married to his wife Jennifer (a life-long St. Jude's member) at The Church of St. Jude in October of 2007. With a move to Wantagh in mid-2008, Charlie has been a regular attendee of St. Jude's ever since. St. Jude's has become his home, and the parish has become his family. Though not Episcopal in upbringing, he was received by the Episcopal Church in Spring of 2009 and has raised his three daughters in the faith. Over the years, Charlie has done his best to serve the Church as a Counter, Lector, Eucharistic Minister, Buildings and Grounds Committee Member, Finance Committee Member, Sunday School Teacher, Confirmation Class Co-Leader, Vestry Member (Jan 2015 - Jan 2021), and Warden (beginning Jan 2022). Additionally, he has enjoyed volunteering/assisting in varying capacities for events such as St. Jude's Country Fair, Church Picnics, Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, and "Mass on the Grass," among others. Charlie would be honored to be elected to a second term as Warden. He welcomes the opportunity to continue the great work already begun and to continue to find new ways for St. Jude's to live out Christ's love.

One 3 Year Term – Vestry – Lauren Wangner:



My name is Lauren Wangner. I've been a member of St. Jude's for two years. I was confirmed as an Episcopalian in 2024. My wife and I were married at St. Jude's in April of 2025. During this time, I've enjoyed participating in the LGBTQIA+ group, catering Coffee Hour, and helping with the Mission Center. I look forward to continuing to serve our church and community.



CLOTHING COLLECTION BIN



We are collecting used clothing and shoes in our Collection Bin. **St. Jude's receives ten cents per pound** of any items donated and receive a check on a weekly basis. None of the donations are made into rags.

Please share with your family and friends about our Clothing Collection Bin – every pound counts.





SUNDAY SCHOOL by Barbara Arnold

As part of the mission in Sunday School, students are encouraged to grow their faith by helping others. The past few months have been a great example of this and the dedication of our youth to the program.

Starting in November with the Harvest Fair, youth of all ages came to serve and share their talents to help St. Jude. Some of the tasks they helped out

for the fair was:

- Made items for the fair
- Set up
- Face painting
- Sold items
- Cleaned up

In preparation for Thanksgiving, they decorated boxes and centerpieces that accompanied the Thanksgiving meals delivery at St. Frances de Chantal.

The Advent season went by quickly with discussions that were centered on preparing our hearts for Christmas. The first day of Advent they made Advent Calendars and Advent Candles. On the third Sunday of Advent they hosted Coffee Hour to raise money for [Answer the Call](#) and helped wrap presents for Adopt a Family. Since the start of Advent, there has been buzz about the tableau. The children are excited to perform.

Thank you for the support of all of the families who help out and support all of the activities throughout the year and make them a success.

There is no Sunday School December 28th.

SAVE THE DATES:

- **Scout Sunday** is February 1st
- **Shrove Tuesday on Sunday** is February 15th.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

HOSPITALITY REPORT By Kathy Hecht



As we begin a new year, we would like to thank everyone who generously gave of their time (and goodies) to host a Coffee Hour. Thanks to all who contributed to our donation basket making it possible to purchase Coffee Hour supplies.

There are exciting things happening in the new year. During our first Coffee Hour of the New Year, on **January 4th**, we will have our annual **Three Kings Goodie Exchange**. Bring your favorite Christmas treat to share. Then fill a take-out box with treats to take home.

Annual Meeting - January 18, 2026 where vestry members and warden will be elected during Coffee Hour. There are plans for a very special day, so be sure to mark it on your calendar. You don't want to miss it.

COFFEE HOUR



A sign-up calendar for Coffee Hour hosting in 2026 is posted on the bulletin board outside the Parish Hall. Please sign up. There are lots of opportunities in the new year. Hosting with a friend makes it fun and easy. If you have any questions, see Kathy or Amy. Thank you.



ST. JUDE'S LGBTQAI+ GROUP

What our group is about



We get together for discussions and events celebrating, discussing, and helping each other complete the connection between God and the LGBTQAI+ community in the Church.

If anyone would like to be added to the LGBTQAI+ emailing list, Facebook group or if you have any questions about our group, feel free to email Mo. Jimmie Sue.

Remember ALL are welcome, the A stands for Ally! You are already a member of our group if you are a member of St. Jude's welcoming community of faith!

"Season of Epiphany White Elephant hosted by The LGBTQIA+ Group"



Everyone is invited to a White Elephant celebration on Sunday, January 11th at 12pm (pizza lunch provided) and joyful gifting. Please spend **no more than \$20** on your gift. Re-gifts are welcome. And bring it wrapped! Please RSVP by January 11th on the sign-up sheet in the hall or by contacting Amy Deppe.

We look forward to seeing y'all there!

THANK YOU FROM THE BOOK FAIRIES



Thank you so much for your donation of 12 boxes of books for Book Fairies. The books will go directly to high need Schools and Community Outreach Programs across Long Island and the five boroughs, directly impacting literacy rates in local neighborhoods.

Thank you for your support of our mission and your generous donation of books. Because ALL children deserve access to books so they can Learn, Grow, and Thrive!

In eleven years, Book Fairies has donated over 5 million books to more than 550 organizations in disadvantaged communities. With 1 in 4 children growing up without learning how to read, it is imperative that we give children the resources they need to learn and grow.



HEALING SERVICES



11:00 am to 11:30 am Healing Service will be on Wednesday, January 14th in the Chapel with Ken Norian and Chris Vanenburg.



MISSION CENTER



Dates Open: The Mission Center is open at St. Jude's on December 28 & January 11/2026. We are open from 1:00pm to 2:30pm.

Donations Needed:

- We need Diapers! We currently need Diapers in these sizes 4, 5, 6. These sizes are in high demand.
- Baby wipes.
- Baby formula (Enfamil yellow is largely requested).
- Any non-perishable food such as pasta, sauce, rice, beans, and any canned vegetables.

Volunteers are always very welcome.

THANK YOU'S



- Thank you to Erica, Janine, Allison, Laura, Rick, and Jon for putting together a wonderful Breakfast with St. Nicholas!!
- Thank you to the Sunday School Team and ALL the children and youth who participate in the Christmas Tableau!!
- Thank you to everyone for your help "greening the church" for Christmas Eve!
- Thank you to everyone who has made a pledge for the 2026 Budget year!
- Thank you to everyone who hosted a Coffee Hour!



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- Three Kings Coffee Hour – January 4th
- White Elephant – January 11th @ 12pm
- De-Greening of the Church – January 11th
- Healing Service in the Chapel – January 14th @11:00am
- Annual Meeting – January 18th (one service @ 10:15am)
- February Journal Deadline – January 19th



FIND ST. JUDE'S ON SOCIAL MEDIA



Instagram: search for @stjudeepiscopal

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/StJudeWantagh/>

YouTube: Search for @stjudeepiscopal

<https://www.youtube.com/@stjudeepiscopal>

A simple way to boost our online presence is to like and share all the wonderful events and pictures we post. Please consider giving us a "like" and a "follow".

CHURCH OFFICE CORNER

2025 Sanctuary Lamps/ Altar Flowers (Live or silk)/ Altar Candles / Mass Cards signup is online or call the office: <https://forms.gle/Q7DqqaCHm5LrvLFX6>

Please print the name of the individual(s) you wish to remember or honor. If looking for a whole month, please choose the month-long option; or for a specific date choose this instead. Please make a new form for each month (all December on one form) or choose a specific Sunday.

SURPRISE! Help US Collect Eggs to Celebrate Easter with Cascarones!

Mo. Jimmie Sue and I met in San Antonio and that is where we started our family. Every year San Antonio has a celebration called "Fiesta" which began in 1891 as a commemoration of the heroes of the Alamo. Fiesta takes place during April each year. Cascarones are a big part of the Fiesta celebration. They are also a big part of Easter celebrations! So in San Antonio, cascarones abound every spring! For the purposes of Easter, they symbolize rebirth and Jesus' resurrection. Tradition has it that a person hit with a cascaron and sprinkled with the confetti inside is brought good luck for the year. And goodness!, good luck abounds this time of year! The tradition of making cascarones and, of course, "doing" cascarones traveled with our family no matter how far we moved from San Antonio. It is something that the children (and us) look forward to each year!

Here's what we need to do to make cascarones:



Collect empty egg shells throughout Lent. To do this, crack your eggs so that there is a small opening in the top. Small enough so that there is still lots of shell left behind but big enough to get confetti into. Shake or pour out the egg. Wash your egg shell out with a bit of soap and water. Let dry. You can store your empty egg shells in egg cartons, that's the best way to keep them safe until the cascarones are cracked on someone's head!

Bring the egg shells into church by **March 22nd**. I plan to make the cascarones with the youth and young at heart on March 22nd and March 29th at coffee hour.

Once we have empty egg shells, the next step is to dye them. You can decorate them just how you decorate Easter eggs. Once the dyed eggs are dry then we fill them with paper confetti and cover the opening by gluing tissue paper over the hole.



Here are some pictures of empty shells, dyed shells, and completed cascarones so you can see what I'm talking about! I am also more than willing to answer any questions and even do egg cracking demonstrations if needed. :)

I love this tradition and so does Mo. Jimmie Sue! We look forward to sharing it with our St. Jude's family! If you have any questions, feel free to call, text, email or catch me in person :)

THE BISHOP

The Rt. Rev. Lawrence Provenzano

THE RECTOR

The Rev. Jimmie Sue Deppe

WARDENS

Charles Garbowski (2026)	Alan Hecht (2027), Clerk
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VESTRY

Michael Nersesian (2028)	Adrienne Comito (2028)
June Gerbracht (2027)	Maria Smith (2027)
Jon Mortagua (2027)	Janine Scarlatos (2027)
Laura Anne Loud (2027)	Rick Gomez-Nieto (2026)
Ken Norian (2028)	Brian Quinn, Treasurer

STAFF

Deacon: The Rev. Deacon Walter H. Fuller
Music Director: Shira Fishkin
Parish Administrator: Susan Heilig
Sunday School Coordinator: Barbara Arnold

BLESSING FOR YOUR HOME FOR THE NEW YEAR

On January 11th, I invite you to gather with your family around your main entryway to your home. You will need a piece of white chalk. This is an eastern European tradition of inscribing a blessing above the main door writing the following on the door:

20 +C+M+B + 26.

The numbers represent the current year, and the letters have two meanings, the first being the Latin for “Christ, bless this house,” and the second being the names of the magi: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar.

And as a family member writes in chalk, the others say this prayer:

Peace be to this house, and to all who dwell in it. Visit, O blessed Lord, this home with the gladness of your presence, bless all who live here with the gifts of your love; and grant that they may manifest your love to all whose lives they touch. May they grow in grace and in the knowledge and love of you; guide, comfort, and strengthen them, and preserve them in peace, O Jesus Christ, now and forever. Amen.





Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 December 8am Worship 10:15am Worship	29 CAP P.H. 7pm	30 AA 7:30pm	31	1  OFFICE CLOSED AA 7:30pm	2 9:30am Mice Makers AA 7:00pm	3
4 8am Worship 10:15am Worship Three Kings Goodie Exchange	5 CAP P.H. 7pm	6 AA 7:30pm	7	8 AA 7:30pm	9 9:30am Mice Makers AA 7:00pm	10
11 8am Worship 10:15am Worship DE-GREENING OF THE CHURCH White Elephant @12pm	12 CAP P.H. 7pm	13 AA 7:30pm	14 11am Lay led Healing Service - Chapel	15 AA 7:30pm	16 9:30am Mice Makers AA 7:00pm	17
18 ANNUAL MEETING ONE SERVICE 10:15am Worship	19 CAP P.H. 7pm Journal Deadline	20 AA 7:30pm 7:30pm Vestry Meeting	21	22 AA 7:30pm	23 9:30am Mice Makers AA 7:00pm	24
25 8am Worship 10:15am Worship	26 CAP P.H. 7pm	27 AA 7:30pm	28	29	30 AA 7:00pm	31

SJ CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Three Kings Coffee Hour – January 4th
- White Elephant – January 11th @ 12pm
- De-Greening of the Church – January 11th
- Healing Service in the Chapel – January 14th @11:00am
- Annual Meeting – January 18th (one service @ 10:15am)
- February Journal Deadline – January 19th

The Church Office is open from 9:30am to 1:30pm, Monday through Thursday; at other times please call the office and leave a message - 516-221-2505. You can always email the office. at SJWantagh1@gmail.com.

CHURCH OF ST. JUDE (EPISCOPAL)

3606 Lufberry Avenue

Wantagh, NY 11793

O: 516-221-2505

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

TO:

CELEBRATING ST. JUDE'S IN PICTURES

BREAKFAST WITH ST. NICK







SUNDAY SCHOOL MAKES ADVENT CALENDARS





WRAPPING PRESENTS FOR ADOPT-A-FAMILY





CHRISTMAS EVE TABLEAU



