

An Invitation to a Traditional Christmas.

In St. James Church is featured a large Nativity Scene, that measures 36 square feet. You are welcome to come. The diorama itself contains 80 pieces and has been set up each Christmas for the last several years by parishioner Peter Mancini. A special piece to look for when you visit the church is a black baby Jesus, made from porcelain which was purchased in Assisi, Italy. At the top of the Nativity is a ruined Roman temple with the baby Jesus, Mary and Joseph sheltered at its base. As St. Thomas Aquinas said; "Over ancient forms of worship a new rite of grace prevails". (from the hymn "Tantum Ergo") Jesus' birth replaces the old order.

In addition to the crumbling of the old order symbolized by the ruins of the pagan temple, you will notice that as soon as you cross the city gates, you will notice the abundance of food laid out on a festive table. There is abundance of water as Jesus is the source of our living water. There is a pond, a well and a basin where birds are drinking. The abundance of food reminds us that often, Jesus taught his disciples during meals.....as in the wedding of Cana, the multiplication of loaves and fishes as well as at the Last Supper.

2023 marks 800 years since the original Nativity scene. It was set up by St. Francis in Greccio, near Assisi, a small hamlet and used real people and animals. This was the time of the Crusades, the 1200s, and St. Francis was negotiating with the Sultan to end the bloodshed. The Sultan agreed to let the Franciscans have custody of the Christian sites in the Holy Land, and they are still there to this day.

We welcome you to a traditional Christmas. Visit our historic church, see our beautiful stained glass windows, hear our church bell ring out. While you view the Nativity Scene with children keep out a sharp eye for a sleeping boy and 10 cats!

Upcoming services: You are welcome to visit.

Looking Ahead

Sunday, December 3 – First Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 10 – Second Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 17 – Third Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 24 – Fourth Sunday of Advent

9:00 a.m. at Christ Church

11:00 a.m. at St. James

Christmas Eve – The Nativity of Our lord

5:00 p.m. at Christ Church

7:30 p.m. at St. James

Monday, December 25 – Christmas Day

Joint Service at St. James at 10:00 a.m.

Sunday, December 31 – The Epiphany of the Lord

9:00 a.m. at Christ Church

11:00 a.m. at St. James

The Nativity will be displayed until Candlemas, at the end of January.

St. James Anglican Church, 7 Bond St. E. Fenelon Falls