



# *St. James Catholic Church*

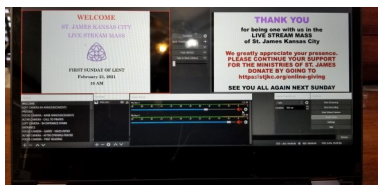
## *2021 Lent Newsletter*

### **PASTORAL MESSAGE**

The past months have brought us multiple storms, the biggest of which is the Covid-19 pandemic. Along with the pandemic storm came economic crisis, unemployment, job loss, illness, isolation and loss of loved ones. Then recently, we faced a winter storm that brought frigid temperatures. St. James Kansas City persevered through these storms! We survived a lockdown, months of no Mass celebrations, virus infection and social distancing. This newsletter informs all that St. James Kansas City parishioners, moved by the mission of the church and trusting in God's LOVE, gave to help those affected by the storms, gathered in-person and virtually and cared for each other. It is appropriate that the season of Lent has started because Lent is a call to keep trusting in God and working together through life's desert and mountain-top experiences. Be St. James! Be blessed! Be thankful! Be kind! Be respectful! — Fr. Mike & Ben

### **ST. JAMES IS TUNED IN!**

A few minutes before 10 AM on Sunday morning, viewers begin to access online Mass at St. James. Perhaps they are casually dressed and sipping a cup of coffee. At 10, the at-home viewers and in-church, masked and socially distanced attendees are joined together as Mass begins.



Prior to that though, much has already happened. Two days before, the music for Sunday's Mass is re-confirmed and photos of each hymn are created. Scanned to a laptop, the files are edited to create a 46 scene production guide which is needed for Mass. The license for streaming is checked for updates.

### **SCENE PRODUCTION GUIDE**

On Saturday, a basic check of the equipment occurs. The main computer is checked for any problems. There are three cameras, one in the loft, another used for congregational shots and the focus camera, which also need to be readied. The back-up laptop is inspected and ready to go—just in case. The scene list is finalized and printed.

On Sunday, an hour before Mass, all of the devices are turned on, focused and checked for sound quality. The Facebook live stream key is accessed. When all of that is accomplished, St. James is ready to go live!

After Mass has concluded, the work continues. The entire recorded video of the Mass is up-loaded to YouTube. That generally takes about 45 minutes. The equipment needs to be turned off and secured, the lights turned out and church locked up.

Live-streaming doesn't happen magically. Ben and Justin Babaran are the technical production experts behind the scenes. They bring us together each Sunday using their expertise. St. James thanks you for your gifts and time. You make it look so easy! Now we realize it is not.



**JUSTIN & BEN BABARAN  
WORK TOGETHER DURING  
LIVE-STREAMING**

## THANK YOU!

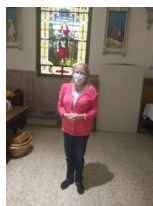
In-person Mass at St. James is socially distanced and masked. Five people are present each Sunday presiding, ushering, welcoming and directing music. A rotating group of lectors and cantors help provide essential parts of the worship experience.



**FR. GARRY**



**SR. BARBARA**



**ANNE**



**ROBERT**



**ANDREW**

## CIRCLES OF 8

In August of last year, dozens of parishioners signed up for Circles of 8, small groups creating community together in this isolating time. Six months later, the five Circle groups are still going strong and have engaged in a variety of activities based on interests and skills of the group. One group went Christmas caroling to homebound parishioners, another group talks by phone biweekly to accommodate those without Internet. One group is watching videos together and holding discussions, and another will dig into Lent by doing weekly reflections together. One group encouraged neighbors to vote back in the Fall and another helped out by sorting jewelry at Troost39 Thrift Store. One group adopted a family from the Giving Tree and was able to purchase additional food for the family by pooling their resources. Overall, the Circle of 8 small groups have been a wonderful way for parishioners to stay in touch, learn parish news, and fight off isolation during quarantine. There is still space to join a group, contact the parish office if you'd like to join us.



**CHRISTMAS CAROLING**

## YOUTH GROUP/CONFIRMATION



**NOVEMBER 1, 2020**

Presenting the confirmed teens of St. James Catholic Church.

The Youth Group continues to meet regularly via Zoom.

The Youth Group is for young people in 6th through 12th grades. If your children are interested in joining the group, please contact the parish office.



**CONFIRMATION BLESSING**

## LITURGY

St. James Catholic Church celebrates Mass each Sunday at 10 AM. The church can accommodate 100 in-person attendees following the guidelines of the city and the diocese. If you like to attend Mass in-person, please let the parish office know. If you are not ready to come to church for Mass, please join us for the livestream.

Stations of the Cross is prayed every Friday of Lent at noon.

Holy Week will be celebrated this year. Stay tuned for the details.



**LENTEN CROSS**

## COMMUNITY GARDEN

The Pandemic hit at the start of the planting season last year. Concerned about the



**FILLING IN A TRENCH**

safety of the Garden Gang, we switched to working in the garden wearing masks while social distancing. Without in-person Mass, we invited people to pick their own produce. Looking back over the year, the Garden Gang increased in numbers; produce seemed to pick itself; and with more volunteers, we delivered more veggies to Bishop Sullivan for

distribution...so many blessings came to the Garden from the Pandemic.

If you would like to join us in the garden this year, contact the parish office.



**DIGGING POTATOES**



**LEVELING WATER TANKS**

## SOCIAL JUSTICE

Work on immigration issues regarding green cards, naturalization and citizenship continues.

Anticipated changes in immigration laws may increase requests for green cards. Grants are being researched or renewed to help fund this program.

The 2020-2021 school year began in Togo with 105 students receiving tuition aid. A web site for the Togo Project is being developed.

Christmas gifts for twenty five children were donated to Bishop Sullivan Center through the parish Giving Tree. That project also included the opportunity to provide funds for heating oil in Anapra, Mexico. Information about helping create packets for Vacation Bible School in Anapra will be available soon.

## FINANCE COMMITTEE

There is tremendous support for St. Vincent de Paul Fund otherwise known as Between the Cracks Fund which gives St. James the capacity to help those affected by the pandemic financially. The Fund helped many families with utilities, rent, medicine and transportation. While the said Fund makes St. James true to her mission, we are behind in our support for our operational budget. Please do not forget your contributions that make our parish run.

There is a secure and convenient way of giving your contributions to St. James. Please go to this link: <https://stjkc.org/online-giving>.

If you prefer to mail your donations, please send them to:

St. James Catholic Church

P.O. Box 30388

Kansas City, MO 64112

## KNITTING AND CROCHETING

The parish Knitting and Crocheting Group has met twice a month at the Rectory for several years. The group gathers to make hats and scarves for Bus Stop Ministry. COVID restrictions last year changed how we could gather. One member of our group found a “crafty” solution, a recurring Zoom meeting. Every week a group text is sent out, and to keep us grounded, it contains a greeting, the day of the week, the date and a reminder of the Zoom session that night. This began in March of 2020, and we have continued to be together for forty seven consecutive weeks.

Some in the group don't knit or crochet, but they untangle yarn, sort items for Bus Stop or have helped out by doing a socially distanced Bus Stop session. Hats and scarves have been completed and distributed. As of February 5th, over 1,200 items have been given out.

We share recipes, give advice about what flowers or vegetables to plant where, welcome babies into the world, hear family stories and learn amazing things about each other. When the winter holidays came, no one was alone on Thanksgiving or Christmas. We have become texting wizards!

Some serious situations have affected our group: the death of a parent, the anxiety of waiting for Covid test results, the group members' mild cases of Covid and two serious and complicated surgeries. We prayed and offered support in many ways. Along the way, we spoke of politics and the election. Everyone had a voting plan, and we awaited the prolonged results together.

We are a happy group and laugh often as we meet. One member insists on telling silly jokes. The latest is: why are dogs not good dancers? Answer--because they have two left feet. Our amusement each week features the on-screen guest appearances by the dogs and cats of each household. They make us laugh and happy that they were sharing all of this with us.

The group has no weekly agenda or world problems to ponder. We don't have earth-shattering answers to life-changing questions. We deal with the stuff of life. Nothing important-we are just taking care of each other. But maybe that is the most important thing in the world these days.



**HATS READY FOR BUS STOP**



## BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS



The project to re-expose the Trinitarian Cross stained glass window has started. All the organ pipes, metal and wooden, have been taken out. Soon, light will again shine through that stained glass window.

It is good to see new garage doors!

### WOODEN ORGAN PIPES



### NEW GARAGE DOORS

## ANNIVERSARY AT ST. JAMES

Last August, the parish observed its 114th year with a drive-through event in the church parking lot. Party hats and favors as well as snacks were given out to the masked and socially distant party goers. With us outside were the pigs, the



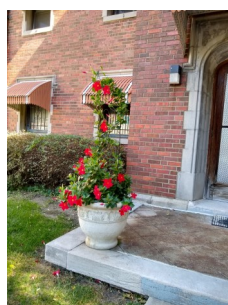
### THE ANNIVERSARY CAKES



### THE PIGS

raffling kind not the roasting kind. The anniversary cakes were created from rolls of toilet paper and loads of ribbon! A collection of hygiene products for Bishop Sullivan Center yielded enough items to make over 50 personal hygiene bags for distribution at the food pantry.

Preliminary planning for this year's 115th party has begun. August 21, 2021 is the tentative date. You can help out now by wearing a mask, practicing social distancing and getting vaccinated. There is great hope the plans will not change due to Covid restrictions.



Where there is hope, there's life. It fills us with fresh courage and makes us strong again." — Ann Frank

### ST. JAMES CATHOLIC CHURCH CONTACT INFORMATION

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WEBSITE: <https://stjkc.org>

FACEBOOK PAGE: <https://www.facebook.com/stjamesmidtown>