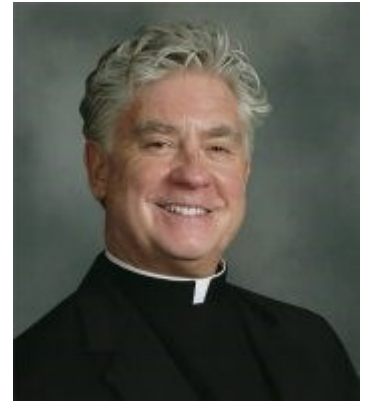




St. James Catholic Church

FR. DON FARNAN'S FIRST IMPPRESSION

I trust that my first impressions as pastor of Saint James Parish will be lasting impressions. I didn't carry much knowledge about its history with me, only that it was founded by Monsignor Keyes who was an incredibly dedicated pastor for nearly half a century. He operated like a mayor in the neighborhood, and everyone knew him; he cared deeply for his people and the recreation center he built in the 1940s became a true center for community life, for women, men, youth, children, senior citizens, and especially sports programs and social engagement. I am delighted to hear stories now about the limestone used to build the church—that it was originally intended to pier a bridge over the Missouri River. This is significant in my mind for a couple of reasons. One is that Saint James can truly be “the bridge parish” for our city and diocese. Another is that the stone that was no longer usable for its initial intent was the edifice for building a great community of faith. At times in history, we need to repurpose. Our Saint James community seems to do that well.



Like Rockhurst University that proclaims to be “in the city for good,” Saint James has a similar two-fold purpose. One is to be a stabilizing force in the urban core for as long as we can and the other is to do so with a mission to make it a better place to live, learn, work, worship, exist, and experience life together. I hope to remain as pastor through the 2020 decade (if not longer) and I hope that we, together, can enhance the 20-20 vision we seek: to be nearsighted enough to deal with issues of today and farsighted enough to plan for a bright future, to be nearsighted enough to take interest in local issues of our neighborhood and farsighted enough to understand global issues that bring about a better world. Though my primary assignment is at Rockhurst, I hope that I can contribute my abilities to the good works that go on in the parish.

I hope that, in conjunction with other agencies that work for common good and the greater glory of God, we can be a bridge from earthly life to heavenly glory, starting with bridge-building here and now. I hope we can build a bridge between the urban core and wider metropolitan community, between our parish and other parishes (or groups within them) that seek a healthier, holier, more wholesome city, between the Gospel's social mission of justice and other ecclesial ministries that are important to our diocese, between personal spirituality and communal religious institutional structures, between original purposes and a greater need to repurpose for our modern times. We can create a better vision in the 2020s decade by being the bridge for many important aspects of our faith.



Visit us at:
WWW.STJKC.ORG
 Follow us at: <https://www.facebook.com/stjamesmidtown>
 Email: parish@stjkc.org
 Phone: 816-561-8512





PROJECTS



The care and upkeep of a church built in 1912 is on-going.

Roof repairs have been completed. Plastering of the church interior walls has begun.

CELEBRATING 116 YEARS AT ST. JAMES

St. James Parish was established in late August of 1906. Its 116 years of history are worthy of great celebration. The Covid restrictions for the past two years changed our plans for the event, but solutions were found. Remember the birthday cakes as part of the drive through parking lot party? Last year box lunches were allowed, and masks and gloves were still part of our party set up. But this year, the pig roast made a flavorful return!



Cooper Olter and Ben Babaran roasted and prepared the pig for serving. Also available were chicken dishes, favorite recipes from Togo, Nigeria, Micronesia, and the Philippines as well as Sister Barb's veggie burgers. The internationally known STJ Cookie Bakers provided dessert.

Being outside on the south lawn with folks. We were entertained by young Micronesian with her incredible vocal talents, kept the celebration



was the perfect place for food and visiting women performing the hula. Suzette Woods, going well past sunset.

St. James is still on the corner of 39th and Troost. The Join us on Sundays for 10AM Mass. Plan on attending

parish is strong, determined and full of hope. the 117th anniversary in August 2023.

NEW YOUTH MINISTER FOR ST. JAMES

Fiona Odu Schulte, our new youth Minister, was born in Nigeria and grew up in Midtown Kansas City. She attended Lincoln College Prep High School, Penn Valley Community College and MIZZOU. After graduation Fiona worked in research labs, pharmacies and other areas of healthcare and is now employed as a nurse at a local hospital



A member of St. James for over five years, Fiona truly loves St. James. She says, "I have deep respect and gratitude for the diverse community of St. James and the warm welcoming hearts for parish members, our neighbors and the international community." Her goal for the Youth Ministry is to involve more youth in our congregation and encourage the upcoming generation in the Catholic faith.

In her free time, Fiona enjoys relaxing with her husband, eight month old baby and the family dog.

Please welcome Fiona to the Youth Ministry. If you are interested in joining the group or helping with the ministry, call the parish office for more information at 816 561-8512.



UPDATES

COMMUNITY GARDEN

In late April with the help of the Giving Grove, the Garden Gang added Bush Cherries, Figs, Service Berries, Clove Currants, and Black Berries to the garden. After spending a summer and fall watering these additions, we are hopeful to have fruit and berries to share starting next summer..



BUS STOP MINISTRY



Scarves, hats, and gloves await a blessing before distribution at the corner of Troost Ave. and 39th Street.

FUNDRAISING CONCERT

Performed by the Goldenberg Duo



OCTOBER FUN



Halloween and Fifth Sunday collided at the end of October. The Youth Group decorated Marian Hall for Halloween while office volunteers and staff prepared Sunday lunch. Fiona Odu Schulte and Justin Babaran hand out Halloween treats.



FAITH FORMATION SUNDAY

Faith Formation Sunday sessions resumed in September. The program has covered a presentation by MORE2 about the funding of KCPD; Ben and Jo Babaran spoke about their immigrant faith journey; two sessions presented by Lewis Diuguid on Diversity to Inclusion and Belonging. Sessions for next year are being scheduled now.

PANTRY SUNDAY

Pantry Sunday has returned. The items collected are donated to the food pantry at Bishop Sullivan Center. The new date for this collection is the fourth Sunday of the month.

KNITTING AND CROCHETING

Knitting and crocheting began meeting in person in October. Sessions are every third Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p m in the parish office. Everyone is welcome.

MASS ONLINE

Live streaming continues. If you attend Mass, we ask you to wear a mask during the service. Please stay updated on Covid vaccines and flu shots. Stay safe and be healthy.

ST. JAMES BY THE NUMBERS 2022

16	Baptisms
14	First Holy Communion
7	Adult Confirmations
3	Marriages
8	New Registered Parishioners

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

December 24, 4:00 PM - Children's Christmas Mass

December 24, 9:00 PM - Christmas Vigil Mass

December 25 - NO Christmas Day Mass at St. James

December 25, 10:00 AM - Christmas Day Mass at
St. Therese Little Flower

January 1, 10:00 AM - Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary,
Mother of God at St. James

Christmas Message

May the birth of Christ give you and your family

Hope, Love and Peace this season.

Merry Christmas!