



## THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

May 21, 2023

# St. James Catholic Church

3909 Harrison \* Kansas City, Missouri 64110

### Our Mission

We, the people of the St. James community in faith, commit ourselves to building the Reign of God for all people, serving especially our neighbors in Midtown, Kansas City.

### Our Vision

St. James Parish will be a vital Catholic Christian presence at the crossroads of Kansas City, meeting the spiritual needs of our members and impacting both the midtown neighborhood and the larger community. We will be a growing and diverse community where worship and sacramental life are joyful and vibrant; where people are empowered to live the Gospel; and where, especially, the needs of the poor and disenfranchised are lovingly and humbly addressed.



**The Ascension**

John Singleton Copley (1738-1815)

### Mass Schedule

Sunday **10:00 am**

### Confessions

By appointment only

### Parish Office

**(816) 561-8512**

Office Hours: 9:00 --3:00, Monday-Friday

Email [parish@stjkc.org](mailto:parish@stjkc.org)

Website [stjkc.org](http://stjkc.org)

Address 3909 Harrison St.  
Kansas City, MO 64110

P.O. Box Number P.O. Box 30388  
Kansas City, MO 64112

### Parish Staff

Fr. Don Farnan, Pastor [frdon@stjkc.org](mailto:frdon@stjkc.org)

Fr. Garry Richmeier, Sacramental Minister [garrycpps@gmail.com](mailto:garrycpps@gmail.com)

Ben Babaran, Parish Administrator [bbabaran@stjkc.org](mailto:bbabaran@stjkc.org)

Robert Basolo, Music Minister [rbasolo@shb.com](mailto:rbasolo@shb.com)

Beaurina Olter, Bookkeeper [beauolter@gmail.com](mailto:beauolter@gmail.com)

Fiona Odu Schulte, Youth Minister [fiona.odu@gmail.com](mailto:fiona.odu@gmail.com)

Joe Crayon, Ombudsman 816-812-2500

Victim Advocate [victimadvocate@diocesekscj.org](mailto:victimadvocate@diocesekscj.org)

### Parish Leadership Team

[LT@stjkc.org](mailto:LT@stjkc.org)

Toni Pennisi Wurth Bob Anderson

Connie Anderson Mary Vincent

Chris Zaroor Chuck Wurth

Fr. Don Ben Babaran

### Parish Finance Council

[Finance@stjkc.org](mailto:Finance@stjkc.org)

Ben Babaran Michael Waldeck

Andrew Shepard Anne Carlson

Fr. Don Farnan Peter Hughes

**Bulletin Deadline:  
Mondays**

The eleven disciples went to Galilee,  
to the mountain to which Jesus had  
ordered them.

~ Matthew 28:16

## ~ St. James Parish Updates ~

- **WELCOME TO ST. JAMES**

Alba Ines and Celso Antonio Ruiz-Meckel will be baptized this Sunday. Let us welcome them to St. James and to the church at large. Congratulations to their parents, Antonio and Michaela, whose marriage will be validated during Mass this Sunday.

- **2023 GRADUATES**

If you are graduating this year or you know anybody who is graduating from any education level, please send to the parish office the names of the graduates .

- **T-SHIRT FUNDRAISER**

To help defray the cost of the painting of the church, new St. James T-shirts are ready for order. To order, fill out the order form attached with this bulletin or get an order form in the back of church after Sunday Mass. Send your order to parish@stjkc.org or hand the form to volunteers. You can pre-pay for your order by sending the total amount of your order using Venmo to @StJamesKC or pay by CASH, CARD or CHECK with the help of volunteers. T-shirts are \$25.00 each. They come in three different designs, four different colors and are shown at the top of the order form.

- **PANTRY SUNDAY**

Next Sunday, May 28, is Pantry Sunday. Some suggestions: cereal, crackers, tuna, jelly, or peanut butter.



### Office of Child and Youth Protection

The Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph is committed to combating sexual abuse in the Church. If you are a victim of sexual abuse, or if you *observe or suspect* sexual abuse:

1. Call the Missouri Child Abuse Hotline at 1-800-392-3738 (if the victim is currently under the age of 18), and
2. Contact your local law enforcement agency or call 911, and
3. After reporting to these civil and law enforcement authorities, report suspected *sexual abuse of a minor or vulnerable adult* to the **Independent Ombudsman, Joe Crayon**, at 816-812-2500, if the abuse involves a priest, deacon, employee, or volunteer of the Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph.

The Diocese has a sincere commitment to providing care and healing resources to victims of sexual abuse and their families. Please contact Whitney True-Francis, the **Victim Assistance Coordinator** at 816.392.0011 or true.francis@diocesekcsj.org for more information.

### SUNDAYS AT ST. JAMES

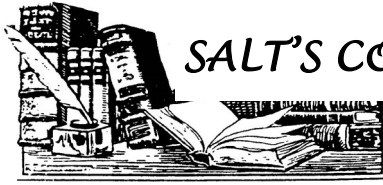
1st Sunday - TROOST39  
OPEN W/ HOSPITALITY

2nd Sunday - FAITH  
FORMATION SUNDAY

3rd Sunday - HOSPITALITY  
SUNDAY

4th Sunday - PANTRY  
SUNDAY

5th Sunday - 5th SUNDAY  
CELEBRATION



## SALT'S COMMENTARY FOR ASCENSION SUNDAY

### Big Picture:

1) This is the seventh of the seven weeks of Eastertide (poetically one more week than the six weeks of Lent), and the fourth of four weeks exploring Jesus' teachings about faith, discipleship, and living in intimacy with God. This Sunday is often celebrated as "Ascension Sunday," marking the risen Jesus' departure after 40 days of dwelling with the community of disciples. Next week is Pentecost, the birth of the church!

2) Bethany was a village about two miles east of Jerusalem, on the lower slopes of the Mount of Olives — and the Mount of Olives was the place God was expected to appear on "the day of the LORD" to reign "over all the earth" (Zech 14:4-9). It's the same place from which Jesus begins his Palm Sunday procession into Jerusalem (Luke 19:29-40).

3) For Luke, who also wrote Acts, the bookends of Jesus' ministry are baptism and ascension, "the baptism of John until the day he was taken up from us," and Acts is about the birth and early work of the church (Acts 1:22). Thus the Ascension serves as a key turning point in the overall two-volume story, the hinge between Part One and Part Two. Indeed, the Book of Acts could be subtitled, "Jesus Ascends, the Holy Spirit Descends, and the Church is Born."

4) Many in Luke's audience would have understood the details of Jesus' ascension to mirror Elijah's (2 Kings 2) — though here there are no chariots or horses of fire, but rather simply an enveloping cloud, the ancient symbol of divine presence (for example, see Exodus 24:15-18). Elijah's departure includes a succession (his protege, Elisha, takes up his mantle), and Jesus follows the same pattern: he bequeaths his mantle to the church. The figures in white robes add to the atmosphere of heaven-on-earth, recalling the "two men in dazzling clothes" the women encounter at Jesus' tomb (Luke 24:4).

### Scripture:

1) After all the weeks and months and more the disciples have spent with Jesus during his public ministry prior to his resurrection, and now after 40 days with him after the resurrection, we might think the disciples would be starting to catch on, that they'd have at least a decent understanding of what Luke calls "the scriptures." But they don't. They're still confused and mixed up and doubtful — joyful, yes, but "in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering" (Luke 24:41). And so even here, in his very last moments with them before his ascension, Jesus is still their teacher: Let's go over this one more time... He "opens their minds to understanding the scriptures" — which is to say, prior to this eleventh-hour moment, even after all they'd been through, the disciples' minds were still closed (Luke 24:45).

2) Luke's larger point here is that there's a difference between "knowing" scripture and truly understanding it, and even the most well-informed, scripture-quoting Christians — even the disciples! — need Jesus as a guide and teacher in order to grasp the essential good news. In other words, it's never simply about "what the Bible says." It's always about understanding the Bible with wisdom and grace. **(PLEASE SEE CONTINUATION OF THE COMMENTARY IN THE BULLETIN INSERT)**

~ Around Kansas City ~



**Violence in Our City Retreat**

**Saturday, June 3, 2023**

**9:00 am – 12:00 Noon**

**St. Francis Xavier Church**

**1001 E 52<sup>nd</sup> Street, KCMO**

In preparation for our retreat, please consider the following questions:

- ❖ *What do I think is the root cause of gun violence in our city?*
- ❖ *How can I make a difference in the reduction of gun violence where I live?*
- ❖ *What is my response as a Christian to the present situation?*
- ❖ *Metropolitan areas such as St. Louis and Kansas City are hindered by state law in having reasonable gun control measures. How can this be corrected?*

8:30-9:00 Registration and refreshments

9:00 Panel of Speakers with breakouts:

- ❖ Rosilyn Temple, Founder & Program Director of KC Mothers in Charge
- ❖ Rev. Jacqueline McCall, Associate Pastor of Discipleship and Ministries for St. James United Methodist Church
- ❖ Johnny Waller, Clear My Record Expungement Project Manager, UMKC School of Law

11:15 am Prayer Service

Sign-ups are always helpful for planning purposes, but not necessary. Visit <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040A4CA5AF2EA6FF2-violence> to sign up. Contact Steve Bruns ([sbruns51@gmail.com](mailto:sbruns51@gmail.com)) or Sue Robb ([srobb@sfx-kc.org](mailto:srobb@sfx-kc.org)) for more information.

~ Stewardship ~

Week 05/08—05/14: \$3,376

Needed each week: \$4,308

Percent of Weekly Budget: 78%

Actual this Fiscal YTD: \$177,266

Budgeted this Fiscal YTD: \$189,552

Percent of Budget to Date: 94%

~ We Hold in Prayer ~

- Ed Pailer
- Amie Miller
- Artice Cann
- Matthew Cann, Jr.
- Marion Shaw
- Sarita Cann

~ Mass Attendance ~

In-person Attendance

05/14, 6th Sunday of Easter 179

Livestream Attendance

05/14, NO LIVESTREAMING

~ Readings ~

PENTECOST SUNDAY

Acts 2:1-11

1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13

Jn 20:19-23