



SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

July 23, 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.

## 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

Website 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
Fr. Garry Richmeier, Sacramental Minister	garrycpps@gmail.com
Ben Babaran, Parish Administrator	bbabaran@stjkc.org
Robert Basolo, Music Minister	rbasolo@shb.com
Beaurina Olter, Bookkeeper	beauolter@gmail.com
Fiona Odu Schulte, Youth Minister	fiona.odu@gmail.com
Joe Crayon, Ombudsman	816-812-2500
Victim Advocate	victimadvocate@diocesekscj.org

## Parish Leadership Team

Sr. Francis Voivedich	LT@stjkc.org	Dan Nash
Reba Burgess		Presly Silbanuz
Brandi Studer		Philomena Odu
Bob Anderson		Fr. Don Farnan
Ben Babaran		

## Parish Finance Council

Ben Babaran	Michael Waldeck	Finance@stjkc.org
Andrew Shepard	Anne Carlson	
Fr. Don Farnan	Peter Hughes	



## Parable of the Mustard Seed

A painted window at the YMCA training center for German leadership in Kassel

"The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed."

~ Matthew 13:31

**Bulletin Deadline:**  
**Mondays**

*~ St. James Parish Updates ~*

• **FIFTH SUNDAY CELEBRATION**

Next Sunday, July 30, is the fifth Sunday of the month of July. Come join us for our traditional Fifth Sunday celebration right after Mass next Sunday in the Marian Hall. Our Micronesian community will be our hosts.

• **ST. JAMES COMMUNITY GARDEN**

The garden and the gardeners are happy about the recent rains. All of your favorite summer veggies are ready to harvest except sadly tomatoes:

**South Garden**

South End of Bed 5: Basil

Beds 8 and 9: Peppers      Bed 10: Eggplant

Bed 16: Swiss Chard      Beds 17 and 18: Kale

South Bed: Blackberries

• **BETWEEN THE CRACKS FUND—2nd QUARTER REPORT**

Six families, seven kids, and six single parents were helped with rent, utilities, and medication.

• **117th ANNIVERSARY RAFFLE TICKETS**

Raffle tickets for the St. James 117th Anniversary are now for sale in the back of the church.



**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](mailto: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



## Reflection from Fr. Don Farnan

### WORD CEREAL

Polarity is natural but polarization stymies progress and stability. Community and communion are good, but communism is not. Secularity is a reality, but secularism is damaging. The clerical state can be holy, but clericalism is evil.

Comedian and social analyst, George Carlin, offered numerous ponderances on words we use and phrases we say in which there is a thin line between similarity and difference: *“Why does ‘fat chance’ and ‘slim chance’ mean the same thing?” “Why is ‘phonics’ not spelled the way it sounds?” “Why do we sing ‘Take me out to the Ball Game’ when we’re already there?” “How come ‘abbreviated’ is such a long word?”* He liked duck season and deer season but wondered why we have ‘tourist season’ if you can’t shoot at them. He contemplated whether a stupid person could be a ‘smart-ass,’ and urged FedEx to merge with UPS so they could become *Fed Up*. He accepted that two wrongs don’t make a right while admitting that three lefts can. He pondered why we call it ‘lipstick’ if her lips can still move, and why we call the time of day we move slowest ‘rush hour’.

Carlin’s observations brought laughter and reflection. As our ecclesial and federal governments deal with struggles of an increasingly polarized church and country, we could use a bit of his word-humor to enlighten and lighten us. Political issues are overwhelming: the economy and student loan forgiveness, safety and urban homeless, drugs, and crime, immigration and child trafficking, the sanctity of life and care for underprivileged people at every age and stage of living. Democrats and Republicans need each other, as do husbands and wives. Though Carlin tried his approach in marriage counseling: *“I’ll try to be nicer if you try to be smarter,”* we know that existing together takes lots of work and willingness to build upon common ground. But it will never work if we insist on dwelling in bunkers of ideological extremes where *“isms”* reign.

Socialism or communism, though rooted in community and care for one another in our society, usually results in misery and oppression. Secularity, where church meets society, is different from secularism, where societal mores and trends overwhelm and water down the religion to make it less sacred. The clerical state, that helps spiritual leaders connect laity with God, is different from clericalism, where the ordained exalt themselves and lord it over others whom they consider to be ontologically inferior. Polarity holds in balance contradictory tendencies or opposing forces—like men and women or conservatives and liberals—but polarism or polarization keeps them from ever coming together. It is interesting to me that most church liberals and progressives today conserve original traditions of the early church while most conservatives and traditionalists do not. Maybe this is little more than word-cereal or, as Carlin also once asked: *“Do you think illiterate people get the full effect of alphabet soup?”* Excepting those who appreciate irony, it need not be given any more thought.

But I’ll leave you with this final ponderance as “election season” revs up, as the president continues to nibble on children and forget where he is, as the former president continues to cruelly insult opponents with bombastic insults, and as the vice-president continues to offer up incomprehensible word-salads amidst intermittent laughs and gaffes. Whether it’s Trump or Biden, our pastor or pope, we might heed another of Carlin’s profound statements: *“His people would follow him anywhere—but mostly out of curiosity.”*

~ *Around Kansas City* ~

**Hiroshima/Nagasaki Remembrance**

Please join PeaceWorks KC in the annual Hiroshima/Nagasaki Remembrance. We'll hold our free event on Sunday, Aug. 6, with vegetarian potluck at 6pm and our speakers at 7pm, including Hiroko Komiya, principal of the Kansas City Japanese School; poet artist Erika Sakata; and Analisa Colom-Todd, whose mother did Japanese flower arranging, Ikebana. For info, see [pwkc.org](http://pwkc.org).

**Rosary for Peace and Healing**

St. Francis Xavier Church has extended a special invitation to us all to join them praying the Rosary for peace and healing for the KCMO community. They gather at 8am every Wednesday and Friday at the white crosses in front of the church at 52nd and Troost. Afterwards the names of all murder victims of 2023 are recited. At this time 113 of our sisters and brothers in Kansas City have been murdered.

~ *Stewardship* ~

Week 07/10—07/16: \$3,502

Needed each week: TBD

BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023—2024

IS BEING PUT TOGETHER

~ *We Hold in Prayer* ~

- Ed Pailer
- Amie Miller
- Artice Cann
- Matthew Cann, Jr.
- Steven Cann, Sr.
- Sarita Cann
- Patricia Cann
- Beverly Johnson
- Bill Pickett

~ *Next Sunday's Readings* ~

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN OT

1 Kgs 3:5, 7-12

Rom 8:28-30

Mt 13:44-52

~ *Mass Attendance* ~

In-person Attendance	
07/16, 15th Sunday in OT	86
Livestream Attendance	
07/16, 15th Sunday in OT	8