



THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

November 5, 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.



Woe unto You, Scribes and Pharisees

James Tissot (1836-1902)

## 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 LT@stjkc.org

Sr. Francis Voivedich Dan Nash

Reba Burgess Presly Silbanuz

Philomena Odu Bob Anderson

Fr. Don Farnan Ben Babaran

## Parish Finance Council Finance@stjkc.org

Ben Babaran Michael Waldeck

Andrew Shepard Anne Carlson

Fr. Don Farnan Peter Hughes

**Bulletin Deadline:**

**Mondays**

"Whoever exalts himself will be humbled;  
but whoever humbles himself will be exalted."

~ Matthew 23:12

## ~ St. James Parish Updates ~

### • HARVESTERS OPPORTUNITY

Our regular Harvesters volunteer day this month is Tuesday, November 7 from 6-8 pm. Harvesters is located at 3801 Topping Ave. Volunteers must be 8 years old or older. All volunteers are required to wear closed-toed shoes, long pants. Consider bringing 1 canned or other non-perishable food item. Please contact/text Barbara Schepers at 816-810-8809 if you plan to attend.

### • ST. JAMES COMMUNITY GARDEN

The 2023 garden production season has officially ended. The remaining sweet potatoes, onions, and garlic can be found in the back of church. Continue to check the East, South and T39 back door gardens for the surviving greens (kale, collards, mustard and turnip greens, lettuce, beets, and arugula).

Work in the garden will continue, as we tidy it up, mend raised beds, mulch trees and beds, water, and plant garlic. Contact Sarah Hirsch (816.728.6115) if you are interested in helping either Saturdays or during the week.

### • SAVE-THE DATE

The new four paintings that adorn the south and north doors of the church will be blessed during Mass on Sunday, November 19.

### • ST. JAMES ADOPTS A BUS STOP

St. James Church Kansas City has adopted the 39th St. and Troost Ave Bus Stop. This means St. James is responsible for the upkeep of the corner.



## ~ We Hold in Prayer ~

### ~ Stewardship ~

Week 10/9—10/15: **\$1,279**  
 Needed each week: **\$4,481**  
 Percent of Weekly Budget: **29%**  
 Actual this Fiscal YTD: **\$66,995**  
 Budgeted this Fiscal YTD: **\$76,177**  
 Percent of Budget to Date: **88%**

- |                     |                   |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| • Ed Pailer         | • Bill Pickett    |
| • Amie Miller       | • Bonita Shelby   |
| • Artice Cann       | • Pat Marrin      |
| • Matthew Cann, Jr. | • Carole Gary     |
| • Steven Cann, Sr.  | • Carman Shelby   |
| • Sarita Cann       | • Punch Tuggle    |
| • Patricia Cann     | • Paul DeMerchant |
| • Beverly Johnson   | • Gloryann David  |

### ~ Next Sunday's Readings ~

THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN OT  
 Wis 6:12-16  
 1 Thes 4:13-18  
 Mt 25:1-13

### ~ Mass Attendance ~

<b>In-person Attendance</b>	
10/29, 30th Sunday in OT	<b>120</b>
<b>Livestream Attendance</b>	
10/29, 30th Sunday in OT	<b>11</b>



## *Reflection from Fr. Garry Richmeier*

There is an image deeply rooted in our collective psyche regarding how this reality of ours works. We almost automatically see our world as a battle between good and evil. This image is well entrenched in most religions, often depicted as a contest between God and the devil. A perfect example of this in Catholicism is the prayer to Michael the Archangel, where we implore him to battle Satan for us and cast him back into hell. In this cosmic world-view, we are called to battle on the side of the "good," resisting and destroying whatever and whoever is "bad." "Onward Christian Soldiers" is a beloved Christian hymn and rallying cry in this regard. This requires us to identify who/what is good and who/what is bad, so that we know who/what we are fighting against. So when Ronald Reagan called Russia the "evil empire," it was clear to many that fighting the evil was our duty. Or when our last president called migrants crossing our southern border murders and rapists (evil), he was trying to do the same thing. We do the same thing within ourselves also. We identify the bad things (sin, weakness, faults, etc.), and then fight them or try to get rid of them. In this view of cosmic battle, there is very little that is neutral. Most everything is either good or bad, black or white. And while we're battling, we have little time or energy for anything/anyone else.

The trouble with accepting the world-view that everything is a battle between good and evil is that we doom ourselves to everlasting battle, conflict, and violence. Our human history of war, with the situations in Israel and Ukraine as simply the most recent examples, shows how attached we are to the good vs. evil idea. Congress dooms itself to impotence because of the adversarial relationship between the political parties, as each battles the evil "other." Individually we doom ourselves to a life of shame, guilt, and incrimination as we battle against our weaknesses which we can never get rid of because they are parts of us. As a society we doom ourselves to never ending racial conflict as we demonize each other.

We don't have to doom ourselves to a life of never-ending fighting/battle. Evil will remain with us whether we battle it or not. We might as well do something different that has a better chance of reducing the evil we tend to battle. That involves cultivating a world-view that is not adversarial, but is collegial. We work at seeing our purpose, not as Christian soldiers, but as creators of unity and cooperation. Our main goal then is not to destroy something, but to create and build something. We look for what will unite us so that together we will be strong enough to withstand and deal with the evil when it happens. Recognizing and promoting the good in ourselves and in others (rather than fighting the evil) invites the good in ourselves and others to come forward even more. This can be called building the Reign of God, which simply battling evil will never accomplish.

Hanging on the cross, Jesus said "Father, forgive them. They know not what they do." This may be his greatest teaching regarding promoting the good (e.g. forgiveness) rather than battling evil..

*Peace,*

*Fr. Garry*



## ELECTION GUIDE | Nov. 7, 2023 Kansas City-area elections

Please click this link to see the election guide:

<https://www.kshb.com/news/local-news/election-guide-nov-7-2023-kansas-city-area-elections>

### 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