



## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 24, 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](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)

Sr. Francis Voivedich Dan Nash

Reba Burgess Presly Silbanuz

Philomena Odu Bob Anderson

Fr. Don Farnan 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



**Annunciation to Mary**

Conrad von Soest, (fl. 1370-1420)

**Bulletin Deadline:  
Mondays**

For information/events to be posted on the website:  
Martha Belker at [bulletin@stjkc.org](mailto:bulletin@stjkc.org)

**“Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with  
you.”**

**~ Luke 1:28**

*~ St. James Parish Updates ~*

• **ST. JAMES CHRISTMAS MASS**

On December 24, Sunday, St. James has the following Masses:

10 AM—Fourth Sunday of Advent

4 PM—Christmas Eve Mass

3:30 PM—Christmas Carols

Candy Cane Reception after Mass

NO CHRISTMAS DAY MASS

NO NEW YEAR'S DAY MASS

• **FUNDRAISING UPDATE**

THANK YOU VERY MUCH to all who helped make the Cinnamon Roll Fundraiser a success. St. James made \$1,800 net!

• **SERVICE HOURS OPPORTUNITY**

One City Café is closed from December 22, 2023 to January 1, 2024. The clients who rely on the lunch and dinner provided by One City Café have nowhere to get food or grocery in the area for eleven days. All Confirmation candidates are invited to do service hours on December 27 at 10AM in the rectory to make sandwiches for lunch for the Troost Ave. clients.

• **COME HAVE LUNCH**

December 31st is the 5th Sunday of the month. Please save the date for our traditional lunch after Sunday Mass.

• **THANK YOU!**

Thanks to everyone who stayed last Sunday and help decorate the church for Christmas. It was wonderful to see youngsters (our Confirmation candidates) as well as many seasoned members helping set up the crib, decorate the wreath, hang side wreaths and garland and put decorations and figures on the window ledges.

*~ We Hold in Prayer ~*

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

*~ Stewardship ~*

Week 12/11—12/17: **\$4,208**

Needed each week: **\$4,481**

Percent of Weekly Budget: **94%**

Actual this Fiscal YTD: **\$96,617**

Budgeted this Fiscal YTD: **\$107,544**

Percent of Budget to Date: **90%**

*~ Next Sunday's Readings ~*

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

Sir 3:2-6, 12-14

Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17

LK 2:22-40

*~ Mass Attendance ~*

**In-person Attendance**

12/17, Third Sunday of Advent **173**

**Livestream Attendance**

12/17, Third Sunday of Advent **11**



## *Message from Fr. Don Farnan*

As we arrive at the end of our annual calendar, we are given the gift of Christmas, the promise of God coming into our world. It is a past, present, and future reality from which we cannot hide. In these darkest days of shortest sunlight, we greet the spiritual light of Jesus' birth and witness as each day's light grows brighter, longer. Some call this time Saturnalia; some call it the winter solstice; we call it Christmas—when the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.

Even those that want to take Christ out of Christmas are thrown for a loop. Though "X-mas" indicates a societal desire to remove Jesus from the equation, "X" actually has sacred origins. The Greek letter "X" or "chi" is the first letter of "Christ" in the language of the Gospels, and it became a common abbreviation by which people referred to the Savior of humanity. "Christ" means anointed, and "mas" means to be sent forth. So "X-mas" is rooted in the notion that, starting with the Twelve Days of Christmas, we, who have been anointed through sacramental life, are sent forth to tell and live the good news of Jesus' presence among us. We are to be the "X" factor that proclaims the incarnational miracle. During these days, with feasts on the Motherhood of Mary, the Epiphany to our world, the Holy Family, and Holy Innocents, Kwanzaa and New Year's celebrations, we contemplate our place in an ever-changing world through ever-changing times.

Each year, people of earth are challenged and divided by war, civil strife, poverty, and government failures. It peaks this year in the land that we call holy, the place of Jesus' manifestation. Just as the Lord informed us that the poor will always be with us so are we reminded that conflict accompanies us through every age. We are challenged to rise above it. The Catholic Church is deeply blessed by its rich tradition and devotion, intellectual and artistic expression, charitable outreach, and hope that it brings amidst the most discouraging circumstances. Pope Francis continues to offer inspiration through an openness and warmth that encourages all people to find solace and purpose in Christ. His concern for the poor and for a collegial church that hears the voice of marginalized citizens can bring healing beyond the spaces where sin and error have corrupted. His desire to appoint pastoral leadership on every continent and to the most remote regions of the globe awakens us to the message of the One born in Bethlehem.

Soon the message of this season will unceremoniously trail away once again, as lights are dismantled and decorations get boxed up and reshelved, and daily routines take center stage. But let us not forget the magic of the season, the luminous event of long ago and far away, the grace-filled moment that gives time and space a focal point for eternity. And let us not forget the "X" factor that makes us players in salvation history. It connects us to the heralding choirs of angels over hills where flocks are shepherded, the assent to God's will by the Virgin of Nazareth and her betrothed, the brilliance of a star that pours forth light to inflame a darkened sky for spiritual travelers, and the courage, obedience, and humility it takes from believers. Christmas is here! Let us pause to take a breath of heaven and capture a glimpse of the miracle before us. Let us also participate in giving birth to peace, joy, hope, and love.

*Peace,*

*Fr. Don*

~ Around Kansas City ~



The National Black United Front – Kansas City (NBUFKC), in partnership with the American Jazz Museum will sponsor its 41st Annual City-Wide Kwanzaa Celebration from Dec. 26- Jan. 1.

Monday thru Saturday’s celebrations will be held at the Gem Theater, 1615 E. 18th St., Kansas City, beginning at 6 p.m. with an African Marketplace featuring vendors, artisans, crafts-person and food. Each evening the celebration will begin at 7 p.m. and feature programming based on the Kwanzaa Principle of the day. Each evening will also feature talented performance from groups/ organizations in the community. The celebrations are free and open to the public.

The final day of Kwanzaa, Jan. 1, 3 p.m. at the NBUFKC office, 7714 Prospect, KCMO.

**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