



THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

March 3, 2024

St. James Catholic Church
*3909 Harrison * Kansas City, Missouri 64110*

Reflection from Fr. Garry Richmeier

Isn't it interesting the things that change over time? For example, I used to exercise to stay in good athletic shape. At some point I realized that was no longer going to happen. Now I exercise simply to keep from getting fat! Another example: I used to argue with people to prove I was right and they were wrong. At some point I realized I was never going to succeed with that. Now I simply state what I believe to be true, knowing that some will agree with me and some will disagree, and continue discussion rather than argument (that's on my good days of course). Those are a couple of things for me that have changed over time and have made life for me much more peaceful and enjoyable.

As a species, we tend to have difficulty with some aspects of change, and we blindly hold on to how it has been in the past. This can cause us problems. For example, some hold onto a certain traditional interpretation of the 2nd amendment, even though it was written when guns were single-shot muskets and not automatic multi-round assault rifles. Mass shootings are the price we are paying for refusal to make common sense changes. Religions are notorious for setting in stone their laws, customs, rituals, and beliefs, ignoring many societal changes, and arguing that other religions are wrong. The situation in the middle east is only the most recent result of the refusal to adapt and grow. Religions' refusal to adapt and change is also why many young people today are not participating in organized religion.

We have begun the season of Lent, as many of us have done for many years. And it may seem like a tradition that never changes. We do the same rituals, hear the same scriptures, hear the same homilies, etc. But we are not in the same place we were last Lent. We are a year older, with a year of new experiences, and hopefully are a year wiser. And that year has brought many changes to the world around us which we must negotiate. So life forces us into a different spot from year to year, and even from week to week sometimes. Some strategies that have helped us in the past are still helpful, while some cause us problems. We need to discern which is which.

Lent can be a time of reviewing where we've come from and where we're going. This includes identifying beliefs, attitudes, and behaviors which may have helped in the past, but which are now problematic. Those are things to let go of, as difficult as that may be. Then we can consider what beliefs, attitudes, and behaviors can help us live the gospel message better at this particular point in time.

Change is inevitable. Being flexible in adapting to change can bring us more peace and enjoyment in life. Blindly holding on to "how we've always done it" in every aspect brings heartache, suffering, and division.

~ St. James Parish Updates ~

- **ST. JAMES LENTEN SCHEDULE**

Fridays in Lent at noon—Way of the Cross inside St. James Church
March 6, Wednesday, at 7PM—Lenten Penitential Service

- **FAITH FORMATION SUNDAY**

Do you ever wonder why we do what we do - especially during Holy Week?
This is your chance to learn more about the rituals of Holy Week!
March 17, after Mass, we will meet in the church as we welcome Biagio Mazza to help us appreciate our quickly approaching Holy Week.

- **ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT**

It's time to start helping the Easter Bunny!
Please bring plastic eggs and small, wrapped candy for our annual Easter Egg Hunt!
Baskets will be at the entrances of church, and our youth will be stuffing and hiding eggs. Youth will gather on Palm Sunday after Mass to stuff the eggs so they can be hidden before Mass on Easter Sunday.

- **ST. JAMES HARVESTERS VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY**

Come join our regular Harvesters volunteer day this month is Tuesday, March 5 from 6-8 pm. We get a little workout while supporting a good cause.
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 email/text Barbara Schepers at bschep@aol.com or 816-810-8809 if you plan to attend.

- **FUNDRAISING**

Thanks to everyone who cooked, set up, bought raffle tickets, played Jimbo, ate a brownie or ate some chili at last week's Chili Daze fundraiser. The event was fun-filled; the chili fantastic; the prizes fabulous. The net profit was over \$600 which will be enough to pay for the plaster repair and painting in the north and south sacristies.
Save the date for the next fundraiser to help with the expenses for plaster repair and painting the wall surrounding the Fourteenth Station. It happens April 13th, Saturday, and is entitled "Karaoke at the Corner". Please watch for more details.

- **ST. JAMES MARCH CALENDAR**

March 6, 7PM—Lenten Penitential Service
March 14, 6PM—Parish Growth Committee Meeting
March 17, after Mass—Faith Formation Sunday
March 19, 6:30PM—Knitting & Crocheting
March 24, 9:45AM—Palm Sunday, Blessing of Palms in Gleed Park
March 28, 7PM—Mass of the Lord's Supper/Holy Thursday
March 29, NOON—Walking Stations of the Cross Along Troost
March 29, 7PM—Veneration of the Cross/Good Friday
March 30, 8PM—Easter Vigil
March 31, 10AM—Easter Sunday Mass

• **DEVOTIONAL CARDS OF NEW PAINTINGS**

Devotional cards of the four paintings by Kansas City artist Kwanza Humphrey that hang on the north and south walls of St James Church are on the ledges by the paintings. A few also are on the guest book table. These cards are provided by our parish for all parishioners, guests and visitors who come to St James. We will have more printed as the supply runs low. Our website also has images of the paintings and the artist at:

<https://stjkc.org/our-stories>.

• **LENTEN BOOKMARKS**

The Lenten bookmark printer copy is available on our website <https://stjkc.org/resources> for you to print from home, work, etc. Please note that the two-sided bookmark was created from two pieces of paper. When printing the bookmark from our website, the outcome will be two sheets, each with three bookmarks on them. Please feel free to share the bookmark with friends and family.



~ Stewardship ~

Week 2/19—2/25: **\$6,683**
 Needed each week: **\$4,481**
 Percent of Weekly Budget: **149%**
 Actual this Fiscal YTD: **\$160,077**
 Budgeted this Fiscal YTD: **\$152,354**
 Percent of Budget to Date: **105%**

~ We Hold in Prayer ~

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------------------|
| • Ed Pailer | • Ross Beaudoin |
| • Amie Miller | • Bernadette Kangni-Soukpe |
| • Matthew Cann, Jr. | • George Sitterly |
| • Sarita Cann | • Phoebe Moore & her parents |
| • Bill Pickett | |
| • Carole Gary | |
| • Paul DeMerchant | |

~ Next Sunday's Readings ~

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT
 2 Chr 36:14-16, 19-23
 Eph 2:4-10
 Jn 3:14-21

~ Mass Attendance ~

In-person Attendance	
2/25, 2nd Sunday of Lent	149
Livestream Attendance	
2/25, 2nd Sunday of Lent	14

St. James Catholic Church 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.

St. James Catholic Church 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

Weddings

Contact the Parish Office at least 9 months prior to the wedding date

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

Bulletin Deadline: Mondays

For information/events to be posted on the website: Martha Belker at website@stjkc.org

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

2nd Sunday - FAITH
FORMATION SUNDAY

3rd Sunday - HOSPITALITY
SUNDAY

4th Sunday - PANTRY
SUNDAY

5th Sunday - 5th SUNDAY
CELEBRATION