



FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

March 17, 2024

St. James Catholic Church

*3909 Harrison * Kansas City, Missouri 64110*

Reflection from Joan DeMerchant

“...This journey is Our Destiny.”

Yes, Kansas City is celebrating St. Patrick’s Day; the evenings are now longer and brighter; buds and blossoms are everywhere; and Easter is just a heartbeat away. We need to wait a minute, though...today’s readings remind us that we have to get through some suffering before we break out the Hallelujahs.

Lent calls us to penitence and change, but as we move toward Holy Week and Easter, we’re confronted with the reality that we can’t really get anywhere without actual suffering. We say it’s part of life, and it is. As people of faith, we explore it through another lens.

There isn’t a person here who hasn’t lived through...or isn’t living through suffering. We can see and hear it from one another when we gather as a community. We see it in aging and wounded bodies and shoulders bent from painful worries about ourselves and our loved ones. We hear about it in the issues we’re trying to faithfully address. St. James is in the heart of where suffering can be found. We’re “down and dirty” in it, as some would say...close to a lot of poverty and pain and always at the edge of existence in a church system that seems to favor economic stability and membership statistics. We can’t watch the news without being bombarded with the lack of affordable health or child care, homelessness, Covid’s aftermath, the wars in Ukraine and Gaza, thousands seeking entry at the border, or holding onto democracy amid the rise of autocracy, etc. Suffering touches everything from the personal to the universal.

Who is this God who demands such suffering? I ask myself that sometimes. And what’s the point? The God of the Old Testament sounds like one tough God. Many writers—including today’s Jeremiah—experienced God as forgiving, but only after demanding discipline and suffering from the people. Jesus himself tells us in the Gospel that God calls him to suffer, and that he does so for us.

There are different perspectives on the meaning of this. I’m still not always sure who this God is. The only perspective that makes any sense is that suffering means something if endured for the sake of others...whether that’s my suffering, yours, or Jesus’. And whether it calls us to ease the burden of one another in whatever way we can. 39th and Troost is sacred because of the suffering people who interact here, and that includes us. We can’t solve everything...can’t be in Ukraine or Gaza or Haiti or El Paso or Washington. But we can be with and for one another wherever we are in our pain. We’re told that Easter is coming. It’s a long journey, whose end we cannot see. We will be pondering this again next year. We will suffer through this together. And God—whoever that is—will be with us.

~ St. James Parish Updates ~

- **HOLY WEEK SERVICES SIGN-UP SHEETS**

There are sign-up sheets in the back of church for people to sign up for the ministries during our Holy Week services. Please sign up for the services you know you'll be able to attend. This week, please only sign up for one of the ministries so that all of our parishioners will have a chance to minister during the week.

- **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!

This Sunday, 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.

- **PALM SUNDAY SCHEDULE**

The Ecumenical Blessing of Palms will be at the East Lawn of Central Presbyterian Church (3501 Campbell St, Kansas City, MO 64109) NOT at Gleed Park. Due to the distance, the Rite of Blessing will start at 9:30am. After the blessing, St. James parishioners will process to St. James Church. If you think you cannot walk the full distance, please drive or ride with somebody.

St. James parishioners are invited to join St. Mark Hope and Peace Lutheran Church and Central Presbyterian Church parishioners who will celebrate an Ecumenical Service for Palm Sunday at 10:30 a.m.

- **FUNDRAISING**

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 17, after Mass—Faith Formation Sunday

March 19, 6:30PM—Knitting & Crocheting

March 24, 9:30AM—Palm Sunday, Blessing of Palms in Central Presbyterian Church

March 28, 7PM—Mass of the Lord's Supper/Holy Thursday

March 29, NOON—Walking Stations of the Cross Along Troost starting at the Kansas City Board of Education (2901 Troost Ave.)

March 29, 7PM—Veneration of the Cross/Good Friday

March 30, 8PM—Easter Vigil

March 31, 10AM—Easter Sunday Mass—Easter Egg Hunt (NO 5th Sunday Celebration Lunch)

• **ST. JAMES COMMUNAL GARDEN**

Two more raised beds were added last Saturday. The Garden Gang looks to add soil to the beds in a couple of weeks and then they will be ready to. It is time to plant! This Saturday at 10:00 am, we will plant the early spring greens and veggies.



~ Stewardship ~

Week 3/04—3/10: **\$6,078**
 Needed each week: **\$4,481**
 Percent of Weekly Budget: **136%**
 Actual this Fiscal YTD: **\$171,198**
 Budgeted this Fiscal YTD: **\$161,316**
 Percent of Budget to Date: **106%**

~ We Hold in Prayer ~

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|---------------------|------------------------------|
| • 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 ~

PALM SUNDAY
 Is 50:4-7
 Phil 2:6-11
 Mk 14:1—15:47

~ Mass Attendance ~

In-person Attendance	
3/10, 4th Sunday of Lent	135
Livestream Attendance	
3/10, 4th 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