



EASTER SUNDAY

March 31, 2024

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

Easter Message from Fr. Don Farnan

Saint Augustine famously proclaimed, *"We are Easter People and Alleluia is our song!"*

We celebrate this grace each spring against our Christian version of *March Madness* where we get caught up in spiritual victories and defeats that seem to reflect the atmospheric pressures of lion and lamb. While "the big dance" of college basketball dramatizes the hopes of Cinderella and small schools facing Goliaths, we partake in the drama of Jerusalem, the holy city, that Jesus entered 2,000 years ago to conquer sin and evil. The Christian chaos or madness involves chrism oils and anointing chosen ones much as Jesus, Himself, was anointed before fulfilling His destiny. It involves waving palm branches and singing *"hosanna in the highest."* It includes washing feet, Jesus' agony in the garden, the passion of Christ, encountering Sanhedrin, chief priest, procurator, and death squad. It re-presents Our Lord's scourge at the pillar, coronation with thorns, carrying of the cross, and our own walking stations that recall horrific encounters as well as the kind acts of good souls. As we reverence the cross and keep a fast, we claim solidarity with Jesus and His suffering while participating in the mysterious "eternal now" of both crucifixion and resurrection that co-exist in our reality. At the vigil service, we hear the stories of salvation history from the beginning of creation. Returning to primordial symbols of fire and water, we praise our redemption as nature's annual cycle brings us, once again, from winter into spring, cold into warmth, darkness into light, and death into life. As we move from ashes to Easter, it is a journey from desert to mountaintop in which we, too, can attest: *We are Easter People and Alleluia is our song!*

Of course, the spiritual wrestling match will continue within us—for good and evil are always fighting for control of our world and possession of our souls. It is a maddening chaos that remains, in part, because the Easter story is incomplete and unclear. The central focus of the celebration is an empty tomb. One Gospel mentions an earthquake that took place. One records a white-clad figure inside the tomb; another mentions two. One tells about a woman, Mary Magdalene, who went there first; another mentions several women going. Whether it was one woman or several, just women or women and later men, we are told that they searched for the Messiah. The accounts differ, like the chaos and confusion of searchers that morning, and of disciples into that day, and of a growing crowd into the weeks that followed. As Easter People, we are left with an empty tomb and maddening chaos that causes us to search. Our Easter Egg hunts today remind us of the search for the Risen Christ.

This apex event of our faith might encourage us to truly become Easter People, people who go forth from tragedy to bring triumph or who help others move from sorrow to saving grace. Easter People are all around us—you have seen them, talked with them. Through prayer and spiritual encounters, they come to know not just the Jesus of history but the Christ of faith. Through faith, they understand that there is more to our reality than life and death. They search for Christ in our midst and discover the hidden treasures of the presence of God all around us. They continue the message and mission that Jesus brought to earth by the

(Continued in the next page)

Easter Message of Fr. Don continued....

lives the live, the people they help, the hope they give, and the grace they are. Inspired by the annual spring drama, they shine light into our world's darkness, like Christ bursting forth from the tomb of death. They are convinced that our God is not a god who believes in graves but rather destroyed the grave because He personifies life. Easter People complete the resurrection story by their actions and make it more clear to those they encounter on earth's journey. Let us be Easter People who sing a tune of Alleluia, who cannot be kept down but who, like our Savior, continue to rise, go forth, and bring life to others.

We are Easter People and Alleluia is our song!

~ St. James Parish Updates ~

- **ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT**

Our teens are invited to come to Easter Mass EARLY! Meet with Fiona to hide eggs before Mass begins!

All children are invited to look for eggs after Easter Mass. Young children will be in the Cloister Garden, with older children on the South Lawn. Bring your Easter basket if you have one. .

- **FAITH FORMATION**

Thank you to those of you who were able to hear Biagio Mazza's presentation on Holy Week. It was wonderful to have so many people for our first Faith Formation Sunday! Special thanks to Nancy Moylan for the delectable Irish Soda Bread for our St. Patrick's Day treat and to Chris Dewberry and Linda Art for offering hospitality.

For your calendar: Please make plans to attend our second Faith Formation Sunday on April 21, after Mass. Joy Eke and friends will present "Nigerian Life Traditions with Music and Dance."

- **HARVESTERS VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY**

Come join our regular Harvesters volunteer day this month is Tuesday, April 2 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**

What do bags of boots, B.B. King, and brownies have in common? To find out, come to Marian Hall on April 13, Saturday, at 5 PM. Bring \$10 for food, fun, and fancy footwork!

• **ST. JAMES CALENDAR**

- March 29, 7PM—Veneration of the Cross/Good Friday
- March 30, 8PM—Easter Vigil — Vicky Amor will receive Confirmation.
- March 31, 10AM—Easter Sunday Mass—Easter Egg Hunt (NO 5th Sunday Celebration Lunch)
- April 6, 10AM—Funeral Mass of Tarson Estak (Micronesian)
- April 7, 10AM—Ellyana Yates will be baptized. Ella Michalski will receive her First Holy Communion.
- April 13, 11:30AM—Funeral Mass of Maria Ringlen, mother-in-law of Presly Silbanuz
- April 14, after Mass—Hospitality Sunday
- April 21, after Mass—Faith Formation Sunday
- April 28, 10AM—Soleil Rusca will receive her First Holy Communion.

• **SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE**

The Social Justice Committee is inviting you to 2 actions regarding the scheduled execution of Brian Dorsey on April 9:

- 1) call MO Governor Mike Parsons (573) 635 3222 STRONGLY encouraging him to commute Brian's death sentence;
- 2) join us, with MADP (Missourians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty), to vigil at the corner of 39th and Troost, from 5:00 to 6:00 PM on Tuesday April 9, the hour before Brian is scheduled to be executed. Bring the prayer card you will receive on Sunday. Thank you. St. James Social Justice Committee.

• **ST. JAMES COMMUNAL GARDEN**

Saturday, March 30th, is going to be a great morning to fill raised beds with top soil and plant POTATOES, kale, lettuce, and more. POTATO-lovers, in particular, be there starting at 10:00 am.

~ Stewardship ~

Week 3/18—3/24: **\$3,002**
 Needed each week: **\$4,481**
 Percent of Weekly Budget: **67%**
 Actual this Fiscal YTD: **\$178,048**
 Budgeted this Fiscal YTD: **\$170,278**
 Percent of Budget to Date: **105%**

~ We Hold in Prayer ~

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

~ Next Sunday's Readings ~

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER
 Acts 4:32-35
 1 Jn 5:1-6
 Jn 20:19-31

~ Mass Attendance ~

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|------------------------------|------------|
| In-person Attendance | |
| 3/24, Palm Sunday | 170 |
| Livestream Attendance | |
| 3/24, Palm Sunday | 5 |

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

St James on Facebook

Public, only St James admin team can post - <https://www.facebook.com/stjamesmidtown>

Private, must request to join, members can post - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/157616239340>

Bulletin Deadline: Mondays—Email to parish@stjkc.org

For information/events to be posted on the website: Email to 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.