



## SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 7, 2024

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

### *Reflection from Fr. Garry Richmeier*

Try to imagine, if you will, a one-sided coin. There is no such thing, and even our imaginations can't picture what that might look like. A coin has to have 2 sides, otherwise it can't exist. It is that way with all of reality -- you can't have black without white, good without bad, pleasant without unpleasant, etc. Without opposite sides, nothing can exist.

That really doesn't make sense to us human beings, and we have a difficult time accepting the fact that opposites are needed for everything to exist. We think it should be possible to eliminate the side that we don't like (the bad, the unpleasant), and be left with only the side we do like (the good, the pleasant). Therefore much of our energy goes to getting rid of the "bad" while preserving the "good." Our legal system operates with this philosophy, as does our medical and psychological professions, and even our religions.

In most religions we are taught at an early age that life's goal is to get rid of sin so what will be left is pure goodness. That sets us up for trying to reach the impossible goal of becoming a one sided coin. Not only do we never reach the goal, but religion often reinforces our "badness" by telling us there is something wrong with us for not reaching the goal. It is a form of "crazy making" that hinders us from really accepting ourselves and others, because no one is the "perfect" one-sided coin.

Instead of wasting so much energy on the impossible task of trying to get rid of the "bad" (including those "bad" people), we could redirect that energy into increasing the good. That is something we can accomplish. When we work for a goal that is possible to reach, we find more peace and contentment, and we stop driving ourselves nuts by trying to do the impossible.

I think this is what Jesus was saying with the parable about not pulling up the weeds growing next to the wheat. The bad cannot be removed without destroying everything. Easter is not about Jesus doing away with suffering, pain, and death. It is about his message of loving (increasing the good) and trusting that God will take care of the rest.

## *~ St. James Parish Updates ~*

- **CHURCH ENVIRONMENT**

Thanks to all the people who came to decorate St. James on Holy Saturday. We were able to make the Crown of Thorns bloom, put up the Easter font and get it ready to be used, ready the candles for the Vigil service, and decorate the altar with cloths and flowers to celebrate Christ's resurrection.

- **BLESSED CARLO ACUTIS BOOK**

Copies of "**Blessed Carlo Acutis: A Saint in Sneakers**" are available in the back of the church to the newly Confirmed youth and all the youth of the parish.

- **FAITH FORMATION**

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

- **PANTRY SUNDAY**

Starting April, Pantry Sunday has been moved from the fourth Sunday to first Sunday of the month. Bishop Sullivan Center needs pudding cups, fruit cups, granola bars, single serve tuna pouches, and toilet paper.

- **FUNDRAISING**

What do Beatles, brats, blues have in common?

Karaoke on the Corner—includes karaoke and line dancing

Saturday, April 13th, 5-8 pm in Marian Hall

Entrance: \$10.00 - includes food, drinks, and dessert

- **ST. JAMES COMMUNAL GARDEN**

Potatoes, kale, and lettuce plants were planted in the raised beds last Saturday. This Saturday, April 6, at 10:00 am, we will be filling the last raised bed with top soil mix, watering, and planting onions, Swiss chard, mustard, turnips, and kohlrabi. Planting, watering, and weeding will continue through the months of April and May.

- **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 CALENDAR**

- April 6, 10AM—Funeral Mass of Tarson Estak (Micronesian)
- April 7, 10AM—Pantry Sunday
- 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 26, afternoon—Funeral Mass of Ann Lillis
- April 28, 10AM—Soleil Rusca will receive her First Holy Communion.



*~ Stewardship ~*

Week 3/25—3/31: **\$4,472**  
 Needed each week: **\$4,481**  
 Percent of Weekly Budget: **99%**  
 Actual this Fiscal YTD: **\$182,520**  
 Budgeted this Fiscal YTD: **\$174,759**  
 Percent of Budget to Date: **104%**

*~ We Hold in Prayer ~*

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

*~ Next Sunday's Readings ~*

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER  
 Acts 3:13-15, 17-19  
 1 Jn 2:1-5a  
 Lk 24:35-48

*~ Mass Attendance ~*

<b>In-person Attendance</b>	
3/31, Easter Sunday	<b>281</b>
<b>Livestream Attendance</b>	
3/31, Easter Sunday	<b>11</b>

## 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](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

### 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](mailto:parish@stjkc.org)

For information/events to be posted on the website: Email to [website@stjkc.org](mailto: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](mailto:true.francis@diocesekcsj.org) for more information.