



SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 5, 2024

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

Reflection from Fr. Garry Richmeier

Stephen Batchelor writes:

"[the] self is afflicted with a gnawing doubt that something essential to it is lacking. I appear to be self-sufficient, but crave to be loved and recognized by others; I project self-assurance, but feel as though I'm wearing a mask; I present a cheerful exterior, but inwardly suffer a quiet desperation; I affirm my singularity but suspect that I am a jumbled collection of roles." (from *Living With the Devil*)

Batchelor names some thoughts and feelings that are pretty much universal among us human beings. Recognizing we are a "jumbled collection" of stuff on the inside often results in a critical view of ourselves. We often start thinking "There's something wrong with me." This drives us to further hide what's "wrong" with us from others, as we put on more and more facades and false fronts. It may cause us chronic stress as we try to be perfect, or it may cause us to give up trying anything at all. It can lead to all kinds of broken relationships. And since we see ourselves as flawed, we automatically assume others are flawed too. We then tend not to trust others. Worse yet, we can be very judgmental of others, which we use to distract ourselves from our self-critical inner voice that continuously tortures us.

An alternative is, first of all, to be compassionate with ourselves. Having the gamut of good, bad, and ugly stuff in us is unavoidable. It is reality. It is human. We will never be perfect. To deny reality is a sure-fire way to drive ourselves nuts. But having compassion for one's imperfect self enables us to stop wasting our energy on self-incrimination and self-loathing. We can then use that energy to increase our ability to do good, which pretty much automatically limits the effects of our faults, failures, and imperfections.

Being compassionate with ourselves makes it much easier to be compassionate with others. We can then recognize that the inner struggles of others are the same as ours. Our judgmentalism then tends to disappear, and we may even be drawn to helping others in their struggles by sharing what successes we've had in this regard.

Jesus knew well that people had good, bad, and ugly stuff in them. The ugly stuff was what led to his crucifixion. But for him there was only one message to preach, and only one thing to do -- love your neighbor as yourself. Or in other words, be compassionate with yourself and you'll be compassionate with others.

~ St. James Parish Updates ~

- **FAITH FORMATION**

Many thanks to our Nigerian Community for sharing their music, joy, and thanksgiving with the parish two Sundays ago. A special thanks to Philomena for sharing her story of growing up in Nigeria, where the Church is the center of community life. And we are grateful for being well fed, with the feast of Nigerian food, to celebrate the "Good Mother" award that was given to Gladys from her home parish. The procession and music during Mass helped us celebrate Good Shepherd Sunday in a beautiful, joyful way!

Our next Faith Formation Sunday is Pentecost, May 19. The Social Justice committee is sponsoring a Parish Ministry Fair for every one to learn what our parish is doing, and to invite all of us to find our place in this wonderful community. More information will follow. Plan on staying a bit after Mass, sharing snacks and checking out to see how your gifts and talents can help our parish thrive!

On Pentecost, we invite our newly confirmed youth to attend Mass for a special presentation and gift. We hope to see you there!.

- **NEW PARISHIONER OUTREACH**

If you are new to St James and would like to join our parish, please complete a registration form on the St James website, <http://www.stjkc.org>. You may also complete a paper copy found on the bulletin board in a folder in the back of church. Either scan the paper copy and email it to parish@stjkc.org, or put it in the collection basket during Mass. If you have any questions, please call the parish office, 816-561-8512.

- **ST. JAMES HARVESTERS VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY**

Our regular Harvesters volunteer day this month is Tuesday, May 7 from 6-8 pm.

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 contact/text Barbara Schepers at 816-810-8809 if you plan to attend.

- **PANTRY SUNDAY**

This Sunday, May 5, is Pantry Sunday. Bishop Sullivan Center needs pudding cups, fruit cups, granola bars, single serve tuna pouches, and toilet paper.

- **ST. JAMES COMMUNAL GARDEN**

The plan for this Saturday, May 4th, starting at 9:30 am is to put out tomato and pepper cages; plant tomatoes, pepper, and eggplants; and mulch. Beds are ready to be planted. It is a good plan. We shall see if the weather cooperates.

Check your email or Facebook before leaving for the garden. Morning thunderstorms are in the forecast for Saturday. I will send out an email to those on the Garden email list and add a comment to this week's Facebook post finalizing our plans.

- **ST. JAMES CALENDAR**

May 4, 4—9:30PM, BEHOLD KC

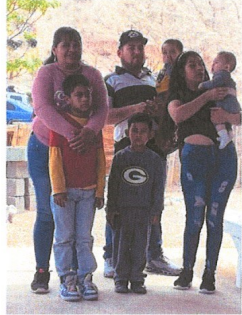
May 5—PANTRY SUNDAY

May 12—MOTHER'S DAY

May 19— PENTECOST SUNDAY and MINISTRY FAIR

Dear Friends of Anapra/Poleo – This is an urgent plea. It has been a tough year for fundraising. We lost some of our funding sources this year and need to raise \$20,000 in the next 10 weeks to meet our long-time commitments to the community in Anapra.

Your dollars provide education for elementary thru college students, winter heat for elderly people, Christmas food baskets, early education workshops for young moms, and more.



Now is the time! We have a matching grant for all donations received between now and June 1, 2024. Invite your friends and family to also be part of this loving and special community by taking advantage of this limited time offer to double their dollars.

Make a one time donation Or schedule monthly payments on our website manosamigaskc.org or mail to: Manos Amigas, 8426 Clint Dr #352, Belton, MO 64012

Blessings and thanks from our brothers and sisters in Anapra/Poleo.



~ We Hold in Prayer ~

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|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| • Ed Pailer | • George Sitterly |
| • Amie Miller | • Wanda Decker |
| • Sarita Cann | • Cele Breen |
| • Carole Gary | • Clare Duffy Laramie |
| • Paul DeMerchant | • Jarron Cann |
| • Ross Beaudoin | • Beverly Johnson |
| • Bernadette Kangni-Soukpe | • Oscar Sherlby, Sr. |
| | • Kate Miller |

~ Stewardship ~

Week 4/22—4/28: **\$3,450**
 Needed each week: **\$4,481**
 Percent of Weekly Budget: **77%**
 Actual this Fiscal YTD: **\$197,214**
 Budgeted this Fiscal YTD: **\$192,683**
 Percent of Budget to Date: **102%**

~ Next Sunday's Readings ~

ASCENSION SUNDAY
 Acts 1:1-11
 Eph 4:1-13
 Mk 16:15-20

~ Mass Attendance ~

In-person Attendance
 4/28, 5th Sunday of Easter **139**
Livestream Attendance
 4/28, 4th Sunday of Easter **13**

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.