



CORPUS CHRISTI SUNDAY

June 2, 2024

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

Reflection from Fr. Garry Richmeier

I've always been baffled by the term "rules of war." In every military conflict I've ever seen or heard of, historians and commentators describe who is, and especially, who isn't following the rules of warfare. So I Googled it to see if I could come to any more clarity about it. I found the commonly held principles of the rules of war, which include military necessity, distinction, proportionality, humanity, and honor. I won't go into each of those, but suffice it to say, they are all pretty general and open to interpretation. I also found some specific actions that most countries believe are forbidden by these principles. These include torture, targeting civilians, and mistreating prisoners of war.

This all sounds good and sensible, but I have yet to hear about or see an armed conflict where the rules of war are followed, including the present well-publicized conflicts in Gaza and the Ukraine. Civilians, including women and children, usually take the brunt of the violence in any war. We've coined the term "collateral damage" to describe this, implying it's not that important and it's unavoidable, so it isn't really our fault and isn't immoral when civilians get killed. Over the years our country has repeatedly criticized other militaries for torturing prisoners of war. Yet we did the same thing at Guantanamo Bay with our "enhanced interrogation techniques" (another euphemism used to make it sound acceptable). And that's only one that got publicized. I suspect other similar incidents are kept from the public eye.

I've concluded that there really aren't any "rules of war" that anybody follows. The first principle, "military necessity," pretty much gives militaries freedom to do whatever they want. No matter how horrendous the result of the military action, they can always defend it by saying it was "necessary" in order to win the war. That is how Israel is defending the killing of 36,000 people (at last count), mostly women and children. And apparently most of the rest of the world agrees that this is a "military necessity." The rules of war are really just window dressing we use to try to make the killing of other people look respectable, civilized, restrained, and even patriotic. The rules of war help us deny the real horrors of war and our direct moral responsibility for the death of thousands of human beings. It helps us believe that as long as we follow the rules, we're OK.

Jesus often criticized the civil and religious leaders of his day for professing to follow the law and the rules, while in reality, using their positions of authority to abuse others. He said the only rule that mattered was the law of love, and that all other rules had to be evaluated in that light. I'm pretty sure he would say that how we practice our modern rules of war has very little to do with the law of love he lived and preached.

~ St. James Parish Updates ~

- **PANTRY SUNDAY**

Pantry Sunday is this Sunday, June 2. Bishop Sullivan needs tuna, Mac and cheese, canned soups, peanut butter, toilet paper, bar soap and toothpaste.

- **ST. JAMES HARVESTERS VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY**

Our regular Harvesters volunteer day this month is Tuesday, June 4 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.

- **HOSPITALITY SUNDAY**

Next Sunday, June 9, is Hospitality Sunday. Plan on staying right after Mass for some hospitality treats. It is also the Sunday our pastor Fr. Don Farnan celebrates the Eucharist with us.

- **ST. JAMES COMMUNAL GARDEN**

Summer planting is almost complete. Join us this Saturday at 9:30 to put up trellises and plant sweet potatoes and beans. The following veggies are read to be picked:

East Garden

Kale

Green Onions

South Garden

Bed 2 - Lettuce

Bed 6 - Swiss Chard, Mustard and Turnip Greens

- **ST. JAMES CALENDAR**

June 2—PANTRY SUNDAY

June 9—HOSPITALITY SUNDAY

June 16—FATHER'S DAY - NO FAITH FORMATION SESSION

June 30—FIFTH SUNDAY CELEBRATION



• **AROUND KANSAS CITY**

Journey to New Life Annual Event is on June 5, 2025. We want to pack the house and speak our truth about JTNL [Annual Fundraiser - Journey to New Life, Inc.](#)

There is unfortunately an **execution on June 11**. Please join in and sign the petition. [Clemency For David Hosier \(salsalabs.org\)](#)

JuneteenthKC is proud to present the 7th Annual Juneteenth Cultural Parade Saturday, June 1st, STARTING AT NOON, Pre-Parade Show 11:00-11:45 AM. JOIN the celebration! Watch over 100 parade entries marching into the heart of the 18th & Vine Historic Jazz District.

Pride Month is June.



~ We Hold in Prayer ~

- | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| • Ed Pailer | • Clare Duffy Laramie |
| • Amie Miller | • Jarron Cann |
| • Sarita Cann | • Beverly Johnson |
| • Carole Gary | • Oscar Sherlby, Sr. |
| • Paul DeMerchant | • Kate Miller |
| • Ross Beaudoin | • Matthew Cann, Jr. |
| • Bernadette Kangni-Soukpe | • Brenda Chapman |
| • George Sitterly | • Helen McDonald |
| • Wanda Decker | • Punch Tuggle |
| • Cele Breen | • Wilson Olter |
| | • Andy Bylinowski |

~ Stewardship ~

Week 5/20—5/26: **\$2,941**
 Needed each week: **\$4,481**
 Percent of Weekly Budget: **66%**
 Actual this Fiscal YTD: **\$210,716**
 Budgeted this Fiscal YTD: **\$210,607**
 Percent of Budget to Date: **100%**

~ Next Sunday's Readings ~

TENTH SUNDAY IN OT
 Gn 3:9-15
 2 Cor 4:13—5:1
 Mk 3:20-35

~ Mass Attendance ~

In-person Attendance	
5/26, Trinity Sunday	130
Livestream Attendance	
5/26, Trinity Sunday	9

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.