



FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 1, 2024

St. James Catholic Church

*3909 Harrison * Kansas City, Missouri 64110*

"Small enough to know your name, big enough to make a difference."

Reflection from Fr. Garry Richmeier

Our theme for Advent is "We're waiting." My question is, "What's new?" In first grade I remember often waiting for recess. In junior high I remember waiting to get to highschool. In highschool I remember waiting for my moustache to grow (it kinda, sorta did). In college I remember waiting anxiously to see what grades I got on my tests and papers. As an adult I seem to be waiting a lot, from waiting in traffic, to waiting for medical test results, to waiting to hear from loved ones who live elsewhere.

We spend most of our lives waiting, it seems, and we don't really like it much. We'd much rather have whatever it is we are waiting for to show up now, not later. Then there is the uncertainty of whether or not it will arrive at all. And if there is one thing we humans don't like, it's uncertainty.

So what's new about waiting this Advent season? The waiting itself won't be new. It will be the same-old, same-old. But what can be new or different, is how we wait. We can wait with a sense of "Something's wrong with this," or we can wait with an attitude of "This is how it works." The latter attitude will cause us much less anxiety. We can wait with an attitude of fear and dread, or we can choose to approach waiting with curiosity about what will eventually happen. Most of us can do with a little less fear and dread. We can wait with a sense of confidence that we will be able to handle and deal with whatever eventually happens. After all, we are still here because that has been the case in the past. What helps in this regard is consciously keeping track of all the strengths, virtues, and abilities that God has given me to help me navigate this maze called life. And maybe most important of all, we can wait with faith and trust that no matter what happens, God will be there to make it part of the bigger picture. Just like from our mistakes can come greater abilities and skills, so God can bring about good from even apparently awful things.

If we want to change how we wait, it won't happen automatically. Like any other ability, it takes focused, conscious practice. But if we get a little better at it, we might suffer a little less as we wait. And who knows, as our attention shifts a little from the awfulness of waiting, we might catch a better glimpse of God at work, even in the waiting.

~ St. James Parish Updates ~

- **THANK YOU!**

Thank you to everyone who stayed and helped us take down our harvest decorations and put up the Advent wreath, pillars, candles, and altar cloths. The transformation of our worship space went very quickly and easily because of all of your sharing of your time and effort.

- **ST. JAMES FINANCE COUNCIL**

The Finance Council needs YOU! We are looking for 3-5 people to help oversee our parish finances. Involves quarterly (or more) meetings to review income/expenses, assist in budgeting for unexpected/larger expenses. Not a large time commitment but one that is very important to our long-term viability. Only requirement is a love for St. James. Contact Ann Carlson or Ben if you are interested or want more information.

- **ST. JAMES FAITH FORMATION**

Sunday, December 8: Our Families in Faith who are guiding their children with the "Finding God" series will meet on Sunday, December 8, after Mass, in Marian Hall. We will discuss Unit 2 from the texts, as well as the short entry on the Season of Advent. We will also learn about Mary, the Immaculate Conception. There just might be a gift from St. Nicholas, since his feast day is December 6! Come and see!

Youth Pop Up opportunity: On Sunday, December 22, our youth will have a. behind the scenes look at putting together our beautiful Nativity scene in the Church. We will begin right after Mass! Adults: please let Bonnie know if you can help supervise this pop up event. bhaghirian@yahoo.com "Nativity set up!"

Every Sunday after Mass, we extend an invitation to pray to Our Lady, with Philomena leading the Rosary in the Family Room. Feel free to add your prayers and invitation as we pray this beautiful meditative prayer.

- **ST. JAMES CALENDAR**

November 28—THANKSGIVING DAY

December 1—PANTRY SUNDAY—ADVENT BEGINS

December 4—ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE

December 8—HOSPITALITY SUNDAY

December 9—SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

December 24, 4PM—CHRISTMAS EVE MASS

December 29—FIFTH SUNDAY CELEBRATION

- **STEWARDSHIP APPEAL**



We continue to receive Stewardship Appeal Commitment Cards in the mail and through the offertory basket. A big **THANK YOU** to everyone who turned in a card so far. It is important that you turn in a card so we can update our parish roster with the information on the card, and we won't need to follow up with you with a phone call asking you to turn in your card.

We appreciate commitments of any size. You can also choose to pray for St. James over the next 12 months. A commitment card and Stewardship Appeal Brochure is attached to your Friday email.

~ St. James Parish Updates ~

• **PANTRY SUNDAY**

Pantry Sunday is this Sunday, December 1st. Bishop Sullivan Center requests peanut butter and grape jelly this month. They could also use paper bags and plastic sacks you have collected from the grocery store.

• **ST. JAMES GIVING TREE**

Our annual giving tree is set up for this season! We are partnering again with Bishop Sullivan Center to provide gifts for children in need in the KCMO area this Christmas. The tree is up since last Sunday, Nov 24th, and will be up through Sunday Dec 8th.

Advent is early this year and they need the gifts back to Bishop Sullivan by the second week of December.

We will also have ornaments for gifts and donations to Manos Amigos, for our families in Anapra!

• **VOLUNTEER NEEDED!**

Wanted! A volunteer to update the St James website every week with information about Sunday Mass, the community garden, and parish events. All information is provided each week to this volunteer. No experience required. Training will be provided. Reliable access to a PC or laptop is required. Please send your interest to website@stjkc.org or talk to Martha Belker before or after Mass. Thank you.

~ Stewardship ~

Week 11/18—11/24: **\$5,306**

Needed each week: **\$4,646**

Percent of Weekly Budget: **114%**

Actual this Fiscal YTD: **\$91,937**

Budgeted this Fiscal YTD: **\$97,566**

Percent of Budget to Date: **94%**

~ Mass Attendance ~

In-person Attendance

11/24, CHRIST, THE KING SUNDAY **132**

Livestream Attendance

11/24, CHRIST, THE KING SUNDAY **12**

~ Next Sunday's Readings ~

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Bar 5:1-9

Phil 1:4-6, 8-11

Lk 3:1-6

~ We Hold in Prayer ~

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|-----------------------|---------------------|
| • Ed Pailer | • Beverly Johnson |
| • Amie Miller | • Jeronn Cann |
| • Sarita Cann | • Punch Tuggle |
| • Carole Gary | • Mark Cann, Sr. |
| • Paul DeMerchant | • Sr. Carole Eschen |
| • Ross Beaudoin | • Judith Reed |
| • George Sitterly | • Hartleen Fredrick |
| • Wanda Decker | • Susie Roling |
| • Clare Duffy Laramie | • Teresa Maly |
| • Kate Miller | • Charles Carney |
| • Helen McDonald | • Lisa Looy |
| • Andy Bylinowski | • Pat Durkin |
| • Jermonica Cann | • Nancy Moylan |
| • Pat Marrin | • Bill Moylan |
| • Oscar Shelby | |

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

PARISH REGISTRATION

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

If you would like to register as a parishioner, registration forms are in a folder on the pamphlet rack in the church narthex. Please complete the form and drop it in the collection basket during Mass. The form is also on our website STJKC.ORG under Contact Us.

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.