



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 22, 2024

St. James Catholic Church

*3909 Harrison * Kansas City, Missouri 64110*

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

Message from Fr. Don Farnan

The religious stories of the Christmas season inspire us to a deeper understanding of our own earthly existence. Jesus came into the world in space and time, as do we: a particular century, nation, culture, family history, religious affiliation, and much more. His nativity changed the lives of some people in remarkable and incomprehensible ways, starting with Mary and Joseph. They influence us to respond to the voice of God and the guidance of angels with obedience, humility, and courage, as they did. But different things are required of us in twenty-first century America than of them in first century Israel, as Catholics and as privileged people who live with freedom, in wealth, and through advances that they wouldn't comprehend.

As we consider how Mary offered her assent to God's will and how Joseph trusted God through a mysterious pregnancy, nocturnal locutions, threat of murder to his wife and child, homelessness, their plight into a foreign land as refugees, a child missing for several days, and other hardships, we realize that our personal modern journey, no matter how difficult, is not outlandish to their struggles. Perhaps they can also help us empathize with those who suffer similar predicaments now as outcasts, immigrants, asylum seekers, those suffering poverty, mental illness, panic, or loss, and those without homes or support systems.

The nativity story ends with the gift of the Magi on the twelfth day of Christmas. It is, perhaps, an incentive for us, after exchanging gifts with one another, to bring our gift to God, to utilize the blessings entrusted to us so that Christ's presence on earth continues to be manifest. Consider how we can advance the story in the year ahead, a jubilee year for Catholicism, a holy year that implements the synod of the church-universal by bringing life to our faith-community, and a year that holds great promise for our parish.

At Saint James, we are assessing our identity as a community-led, justice-minded, worship-inspired parish that is shaped by an international presence that reflects the gift of Pentecost and grace of the Holy Spirit. Clearly, here, all are welcome; yet we face challenges of financial stability and growth. As we ponder our relationships with other institutes and social agencies in the area, we will continue to go deeper in our efforts to respond strongly to the needs around us. I look forward to opportunities that lie ahead in 2025.

Blessings in this sacred season of new life and great hope. Continue your very merry, happy, holy, holly-jolly time, and let's pray for one another as we usher in the new year.

~ St. James Parish Updates ~

- **LITURGICAL MINISTERS NEEDED**

There are sign-up sheets in the back of church for you to use to volunteer your talents to help with ministries for our Christmas Eve Mass, for Mass on Dec. 29th - Holy Family Sunday, and for Mass on Jan. 5th - the Epiphany. Please sign your name so we can provide for our worship on those days.

- **ST. JAMES CALENDAR**

December 24, 4PM—CHRISTMAS EVE MASS; CAROLING STARTS AT 3:30PM

December 29—FIFTH SUNDAY CELEBRATION

January 5—PANTRY SUNDAY

January 12—HOSPITALITY SUNDAY

- **CHURCH INSIDE WALLS AND NARTHEX CEILING TILES**

The Narthex acoustic ceiling tiles that fell have been replaced while the inside walls of the Livestreaming Room and Children's Liturgy of the Word/Cry Room were re-painted.

- **THANK YOU TO BEN AND JO**

Note cards, envelopes, and pens are in the back of church. Please take a moment to write a thank you, retirement, congratulations, or holiday message to Ben and Jo. Place your message in the red bags on the back table. We will give them to Ben and Jo next weekend on 5th Sunday.

- **STEWARDSHIP CORNER**

St. James continues to be an agent of change in our community every day. **Thank you for your work on behalf of the Kingdom of God.**

We have nearly 73 returned commitment cards for our **Annual Stewardship Appeal**. This is about 33% of our total 220 parish households. After the first of the year, we will be sending reminder letters to those who we have not received a card from. Our goal is to have 100% of our parish households return a card, even if you can't make a financial commitment at this time. This will tell us you have prayed about and considered our request for a 2025 financial commitment to St. James. **We ask that parishioners start to make their new contributions after January 1 so your contributions can be included in the 2025 totals.** If you have already contributed to your 2025 Stewardship Appeal, please contact Martha Belker at 913-515-5789.

- **TOGO STUDENT**

Please be informed that EVODA KODJOVI YAYRA EMMANUEL who was suffering from sickle cell anemia passed away last August 9, 2024. Thank you to all the St. James parishioners who supported his education. Let us keep Evoda and his family in our prayers.





May God bless you and your family this very special season.

Merry Christmas!

- with love from all of us.

The Parish Staff

Fr. Donald Farnan, Pastor
 Fr. Garry Richmeier, Sacramental Minister
 Ben Babaran, Parish Administrator
 Bonnie Haghirian, Faith Formation Director
 Robert Basolo, Director of Music
 Fiona Schulte, Youth Minister
 Beaurina Olter, Bookkeeper/Secretary

Christmas Mass

December 24, Tuesday

4:00 PM

January 1, 2024

NO New Year's Day Mass at St. James

December 25, Wednesday

NO Christmas Day Mass at St. James

St. Elizabeth 10 am

St. Francis 10:30 am

St. Peter's 10 am

~ Stewardship ~

Week 12/09—12/15: **\$5,296**

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

Percent of Weekly Budget: **114%**

Actual this Fiscal YTD: **\$106,389**

Budgeted this Fiscal YTD: **\$111,504**

Percent of Budget to Date: **95%**

~ Mass Attendance ~

In-person Attendance

12/15, 3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT **137**

Livestream Attendance

12/15, 3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT **9**

~ Next Sunday's Readings ~

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

Sir 3:2-6, 12-14

Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17

Lk 2:41-52

~ We Hold in Prayer ~

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| • 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 | • Theresa 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.