

**January 19, 2025, Second Sunday of Ordinary Time**

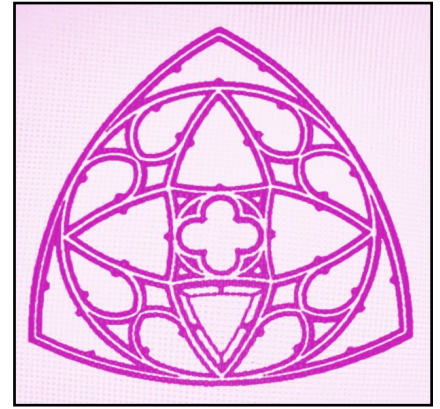
# St. James Catholic Community in Midtown

**Small enough to know your name  
Big enough to make a difference**

3909 Harrison, Kansas City, MO 64110

[Parish@StJKC.org](mailto:Parish@StJKC.org)

[www.StJKC.org](http://www.StJKC.org)



## 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.

**Parish Office Phone:** 816-561-8512

**Office Hours:** 10:00A-3:00P, Monday, Wednesday & Friday

**Email:** [Parish@StJKC.org](mailto:Parish@StJKC.org)

**Website:** [www.StJKC.org](http://www.StJKC.org)

**Mailing Address:** P.O. Box 30388, Kansas City, MO 64112

**Street Address:** 3909 Harrison St. Kansas City, MO 64110

**St James on Facebook Public:** Only St James admin team can post - <https://www.facebook.com/stjamesmidtown>

## Bulletin Deadline: 10 pm Mondays

Email items to  
[Bulletin@StJKC.org](mailto:Bulletin@StJKC.org).

**For information/  
events to be posted on  
the St. James website,  
email your items to:**



## Sacramental Preparation Information

For information on preparation for the Sacraments of **Baptism, First Reconciliation, and First Eucharist**, please contact Bonnie Haghirian, our Faith Formation Coordinator, at [bhaghirian@yahoo.com](mailto:bhaghirian@yahoo.com).

**Confirmation** preparation will start this fall.

**Rite of Christian Initiation** in the Catholic Church (Adult Baptism, Eucharist, Confirmation) will take place as needed. Contact Bonnie Haghirian, our , at [bhaghirian@yahoo.com](mailto:bhaghirian@yahoo.com).

Considering **Marriage**? Contact Ben Babaran at [bbabaran@stjkc.org](mailto:bbabaran@stjkc.org) at least 9 months prior to the wedding date.

## YOUR CONTACT INFO IS NEEDED

Communication is critical for the success of a Community-Led Parish. To communicate effectively, we need the parishioner's current contact information. If you are not receiving parish weekly emails or didn't receive the November Stewardship Appeal Packet in the mail, we don't have your correct contact information. Email your correct name, phone, email and street address to

[Parish@StJKC.org](mailto:Parish@StJKC.org). If you prefer, you can call the office at 816-561-8512.

The parish will not sell your contact information at any time.

## Next Parish-Wide Meeting is After 10 am Mass on January 19.

As we move closer to being a Parishioner-Led community, communication is important. Fr. Don Farnan and the Transition Team is setting aside the **third Sunday of each month** for our Parish-Wide Meeting to discuss important issues facing the parish. We encourage everyone to participate. If you would like to discuss something at the meeting, please email your thoughts to [Parish@StJKC.org](mailto:Parish@StJKC.org).

## Tax Letters

Annual Contribution Tax Letters reflecting your 2024 contributions to St. James Community are in the back of the church. Please pick up your letter. We will mail any remaining letters.

## Embracing God's Love and Justice

By Joy Eke

*"Let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream."*

(Amos 5:24)

As Catholics, we are called to live a faith rooted in God's love, revealed through Jesus Christ, who taught us, *"Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you."* (Luke 6:27). This love transcends divisions and unites us as one in Christ: *"There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus."* (Galatians 3:28)

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. embodied this Gospel truth, tirelessly working for justice and proclaiming, *"Love is the only force capable of transforming an enemy into a friend."* His life mirrored God's command to care for the marginalized and seek righteousness, as written: *"What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with your God?"* (Micah 6:8)

Reflecting on Dr. King's legacy, we see his vision of a world where people are judged by character, not skin color, aligned with God's Kingdom—a

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## St. James Community Calendar

1/19 All-parish meeting after Mass

1/20 MLK remembrance service at St Therese 10 am

1/20 St Elizabeth's Blood Drive 2pm-6pm

1/23 Choir practice at church 7pm

1/23 Transition team meeting 1pm

1/30 Choir practice at church 7pm

1/30 Transition team meeting 1pm

1/25 Faith & Racial Healing—Visitation

2/2 Pantry Sunday (For Bishop Sullivan Center)

2/6 Choir practice at church 7pm

2/6 Transition team meeting 1pm

2/9 Hospitality Sunday – Mingle & treats after Mass

2/16 All-parish meeting after Mass

3/2 Pantry Sunday (For Bishop Sullivan Center)

3/4 Mardi Gras

3/5 Ash Wednesday

3/6 Choir practice at church 7pm

3/6 Transition team meeting 1pm

3/9 Hospitality Sunday – Mingle & treats after Mass

3/16 All-parish meeting after Mass

4/18 Stations of the Cross along Troost 12pm

4/20 EASTER

## Ben and Jo Say "Thank You"

Ben and Jo Babaran thank the St. James Community for their love and support over the years. St. James has been family to them, and they will miss being in the mix of all that is happening in the community. Some people wanted to know if they could send an appreciation gift to them. Ben suggested sending a memorial gift to Rockhill Manor in honor of Mike O'Neal, who, over the years, Ben had taken under his wing. Send to: Mike O'Neal Memorial, c/o Rockhill Manor, 4235 Locust St, Kansas City, Missouri 64110. Make checks out to "Rockhill Manor."



## NEW PARISHIONERS

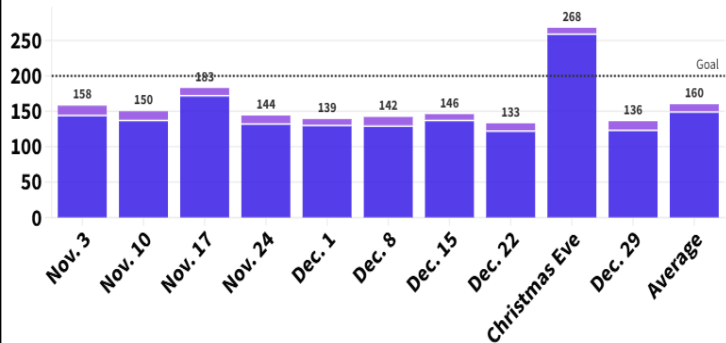
**All are welcome at St. James.** We are an inclusive community of faith following the gospel of Jesus who never excluded anyone and who lived justly. If you want to learn more about St. James Community, please get in touch with staff (Parish@StJKC.org) or visit our website at [www.StJKC.org](http://www.StJKC.org) to complete a registration form.

## Mass Attendance

The graph below displays the last two months for 2024. When omitting Christmas Eve Mass, the average attendance was 159.

■ In-person ■ Online

### # of attendees



## Sharing Your Time & Talent

### Big Thank You!

Thank you to all who stayed last Sunday to take down the **Christmas decorations**. Lots of people worked on this, and it went very quickly. Most were finished by 11:35, which is fantastic.

Several **poinsettias** in the church can still be taken home after the January 19 Mass. We want to keep about 3 for decorations if they continue to live.

### Sunday Money Counters Needed

1. We need at least two unrelated adults over 18 each Sunday. (Students under 18 can help along with a parent for service hours but are not counted as one of the adults.)



2. You would count the money from the offertory basket after Sunday Mass as often as you choose, such as monthly or every other month. You can sign up as a team or be assigned to work with someone else.

3. It takes about 20-30 minutes right after Mass in the parish office.

4. Training will be provided, and reminders will be sent. If you plan to be away, you can get a substitute. For more information or to volunteer, contact Denise Simeone at [denisesimeone@hotmail.com](mailto:denisesimeone@hotmail.com).

### First Reconciliation & First Eucharist

Suppose you or someone in your family has not celebrated their First Reconciliation and/or First Eucharist. In that case, we will have a signup sheet with Bonnie Haghirian in the back of the church on Sunday, January 19<sup>th</sup>, and Sunday, January 26<sup>th</sup>. We need to start preparing for these Sacraments and ensure that everyone can celebrate and receive these gifts of our Faith. For more information, contact Bonnie at [bhaghirian@yahoo.com](mailto:bhaghirian@yahoo.com).

### We Lift Up In Prayer Our Fellow Parishioners and Friends

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

### Green Thumbs Needed

Spring will be here soon, and it will be time to spruce up the flower planters around the church and rectory. Flowers make the church look “lived in” and sends the message that something special is happening inside. We are looking for someone to manage the planters throughout the growing season. **Look at your thumb; if it is green, you have a calling.** Contact [Parish@StJKC.org](mailto:Parish@StJKC.org) to find out more.



### Knitting and Crocheting Group

The Knitting and Crocheting group will not meet at the parish office on Tuesday, February 18, at 6:30 p.m. We are asking for donations of yarn, knitting needles, or crochet hooks. The back of the church has a basket for bus stop donations, and yarn donations will fit nicely there. Hats and gloves are distributed at the bus stop at the corner of 39th and Troost.

**Since Oct. 2024, 827 hats, scarves or pairs of gloves have been distributed at the corner. Keeping warm in Mid-town!**



For more information, contact Mary Vincent at [mpv3@swbell.net](mailto:mpv3@swbell.net). See you next month; stay warm!

We have a vision that is amazing and exciting. We are inviting you to invest yourself through the resources that God has given you – your energy, your prayers, and your money – in this work to which God has called us.

Henri Nouwen

### Readings for January 19, 2025

*Second Sunday of Ordinary Time*

Isaiah 62:1-5

1 Corinthians 12:4-11

John 2:1-11

### Readings for January 26, 2025

*Third Sunday of Ordinary Time*

Nehemiah 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10

1 Corinthians 12:12-30

Luke 1:1-4; 4:14-21



## Embracing God's Love

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place where love and justice reign. His example inspires us to stand against prejudice and inequality, embracing God's call to be instruments of peace and justice.

Let us recommit to this mission, remembering that Christ's love and God's justice are for all people. May we, inspired by Christ and leaders like Dr. King, bring His light and peace to a world in need.

Let us pray: Heavenly Father, You are the source of love, justice, and truth. Through Your Son, Jesus Christ, You have shown us the path of mercy and humility. Inspired by leaders like Dr. King, may we love as You love, work for justice, and bring peace to the world. Amen.

## The Transition Team

The Team continues to meet every Thursday at 1 pm. Our task is to assist in redefining our parish as a parishioner-led community and direct the search for our Parish Organizer. The potential Parish Organizer will be brought before the parish before a contract is offered.

If you have a question or concern, feel free to contact anyone of the Transition Team.

Martha Belker - martha.belker@sbcglobal.net

Bill Cordaro - billycord4@gmail.com

Fr. Don Farnan - frdon@stjkc.org

Diane Etzel-Wise - dianeew72@gmail.com

Donna Arnone—Bookkeeper@StJKC.org

## Q & A Please submit your questions to:

[Bulletin@StJKC.org](mailto:Bulletin@StJKC.org)

### Q: What is the difference between a Lay-Led Parish and a Community-Led Parish?

We have had a Lay-Led Parish for at least 20+ years. In this model, the lay Parish Administrator creates a Parish Leadership Team or Parish Council and then utilizes the Leadership Team to make the major decisions for the parish. In a Community-Led Parish, the entire parish convenes and makes the major decisions for the parish.

### Q: What kind of leadership does a Community-Led parish need?

Ben Babaran has been our lay Parish Administrator for the last 10 years. An administrator sees to it that the work of the parish is done. We are moving toward a leader who is a **Parish Organizer** who organizes the parishioner gifts of times and talent, ensuring that the work of the parish is done. There is a general expectation that every member must be engaged in the work of the parish.

### Q: Is there a sample of what a Community-Led Parish look like?

Recall that on October 27, 2024, we presented the "State of the Parish" talk during the homily and then asked the community if they support conducting an annual Stewardship Appeal in November. The community strongly supported conducting an appeal. On December 15, we conducted a Parish-Wide meeting after Mass, explained what a Community-Led Parish is, and asked if the parish wanted to move in this direction. The meeting was streamed live and recorded for viewing later. The community strongly supported moving forward with becoming a Community-Led Parish. Asking the entire community is central to a Community-Led Parish.

### Q: What is Asked of Community Members in a Community-Led Parish?

Three things are asked of the community members.

1. Stay informed of what is going on in the parish.
2. Attend the monthly Community Meetings on the third Sunday of the month.
3. Become more engaged in the parish by sharing your gifts of time, talent, and treasure with the community.

**The Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph is committed to combatting 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 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 If the abuse involves a priest, deacon, employee, or volunteer of the Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph, report the suspected abuse to the Diocesan Ombudsman, Joe Crayon, at 816.812.2500

or [crayon@ombudsmankcsj.org](mailto:crayon@ombudsmankcsj.org). The Diocese has a sincere commitment to providing care and healing resources to victims of sexual abuse and their families. Please contact the Victim Advocate, at 816.392.0011

## What does scripture say about sharing our gifts—Stewardship?

**In today's second reading**, St. Paul lists gifts dispensed to Christian community members by the Holy Spirit. Each gift bestowed has a specific purpose for the person for whom it is intended: wisdom, knowledge, faith, healing, mighty deeds, prophecy, discernment, tongues, and interpretation. These gifts are not meant to be kept hidden by the recipient but to be shared with the community. As we begin a new year, let us reflect on the gift the Holy Spirit has given to each of us. Do we recognize this gift? How was it intended that we use this gift? Are we being good stewards of this gift?