



## THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

January 5, 2025

### *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*

Many people make New Year's resolutions in January. Many people give up on those resolutions by February. Good intentions are great, but without accompanying planning, perseverance, and effective execution, good intentions don't have much of a chance of producing results. If change in one's life is actually going to happen, it takes much more than good intentions.

Making a realistic plan is one thing needed to effect change. It feels good to imagine that I will be in better physical shape in the new year, or will be more well read, or whatever. But the next step is to get very specific about how to reach that goal. That means lining up the resources needed (sufficient time set aside, money if needed, someone else's help, etc.) Then you plan how exactly to use those resources (the when, where, how details). It is critical that the plan be realistic. Many people have grandiose, unrealistic ideas of what they want to accomplish, but soon realize that they have bitten off more than they can chew and then give up. Matching the goal/plan with the available resources is crucial.

Change also is more achievable if broken up into smaller steps. I may want to lose 30 pounds, but focusing on losing one pound at a time will work better. It takes quite a while to lose 30 pounds, and it's easy to get discouraged and give up. Losing 1 or 2 pounds takes less time and can be encouraging, and a motivation to keep going.

Then there is the perseverance needed to stick with the plan and the execution of the plan. We live in a society that attempts to eliminate the need for perseverance in any endeavor. We'd much rather have a pill to make us lose weight than have to endure the longer haul of eating right and exercising. We want to simply buy a new item when the old one breaks, instead of the more labor-intensive fixing of the old item. Quick, superficial relationships are touted as love because true loving relationships take time and perseverance.

Perseverance is a challenge, but some things can help us keep going. Having the support of others can give us a boost when we feel like quitting. Keeping track of small successes is also important, instead of focusing only on the failures. Predicting that we will falter sometimes can lessen the shock of setbacks, and help us start again. And maybe the most important thing is to be gentle and compassionate with yourself. It is almost impossible to persevere with a critical, blaming voice in one's head saying you'll never reach your goal. Most of us need to practice changing that voice to a more encouraging one.

These strategies can help us keep New Year's resolutions, but they can be helpful as a general approach to life's challenges any time of year.

## *~ St. James Parish Updates ~*

### • **ST. JAMES MOVES CLOSER TO A COMMUNITY-LED PARISH**

The nearly 60 parishioners attending Sunday's December 15th parish-wide meeting advanced a proposal to develop and nurture a community-led parish model for St. James Midtown. Community-led means you, the parishioners, take a more active role in determining the future of our parish. Since no parishes in our diocese use this model, we will learn as we go. Communication and transparency are critical for success.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!** St. James will hold parish-wide meetings after Mass on the third Sunday of each month. These monthly meetings will discuss topics impacting St. James and its future and seek parishioners' input. **ALL ARE STRONGLY ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND.** The parish transition team, consisting of Fr. Don Farnan, Diane Etzel-Wise, Martha Belker, Ben Babaran, and Bill Cordaro, has been asked to guide this process until we have installed our new parish leader. The team will also keep the parish running in the interim.

### **YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION 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. Please send your email address, phone number, and mailing address, along with your name. The parish will not sell your contact information at any time.

### **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO ANSWER THE PARISH PHONE.**

We are looking for individuals willing to answer the parish phone and take messages during the day, no more than one day a week. You can do this from home. If interested or have a question, email [parish@StJKC.org](mailto:parish@StJKC.org).

**Community-Led Parish Questions & Answers** (Please note that what we are doing is novel for Catholic parishes. Therefore, we are developing the model as we go.)

#### **Q: What kind of parish leadership is needed to move toward a Community-Led Parish?**

A: Ben Babaran has been our parish administrator for 10 years. However, moving to a Community-Led Parish requires a different type of leader. One who looks more like a parish organizer than an administrator. An organizer's primary focus is engaging parishioners in making the major parish decisions, engaging them in the parish's work and ministries, and supporting them as they take on more of the parish's responsibilities.

#### **Q: How will the new Parish Organizer be hired?**

A: The Transition Team is responsible for identifying a potential organizer. We are composing a job description and plan to post the position with the diocese and other publications that may attract the type of leader we seek. Once a candidate is identified, we plan to bring the candidate to a parish-wide meeting so parishioners can meet the candidate before a contract is offered.

#### **Q: Who will lead the parish while we look for a Parish Organizer?**

A: St. James is very fortunate to have so many volunteers in parish leadership roles, and they plan to continue in their ministry. Fr. Don has asked Martha Belker, Bill Cordaro, and Diane Wise to take over Ben's remaining duties.

*~ St. James Parish  
Updates ~*

• **ST. JAMES CALENDAR**

- January 5—PANTRY SUNDAY
- January 12—HOSPITALITY SUNDAY
- January 19—PARISH-WIDE MEETING

**Community Blood Center** **Blood Drive**

**Get loud. Donors needed.**

Join us and get a Chiefs shirt!

**St. Elizabeth Catholic Church**

**Monday, January 20th  
2:00 PM - 6:00 PM**

**Seton Hall (Church Basement)  
14 West 75th Street**

Park in the lot behind the church, access from 74<sup>th</sup> Terrace.

**Prepare to donate**

- Eat well and hydrate
- Bring a photo ID
- Feel good and symptom free
- Must be 17+ or 16 with parental consent form
- Meet minimum weight requirements

For full eligibility requirements and COVID-19 information, visit [savealifenow.org/eligibility](https://savealifenow.org/eligibility).



**Sign up** at [savealifenow.org/group](https://savealifenow.org/group) and use **group code JN**. For additional information and scheduling, contact David Brown at [dbrown@swdarchitects.com](mailto:dbrown@swdarchitects.com).

877.468.6844 • [savealifenow.org](https://savealifenow.org)



*~ Next Sunday's Readings ~*

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7

Acts 10:34-38

Luke 3:15-16, 21-22

*~ Stewardship ~*

Week 12/23—12/29: **\$4,059**

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

Percent of Weekly Budget: **87%**

Actual this Fiscal YTD: **\$126,804**

Budgeted this Fiscal YTD: **\$120,796**

Percent of Budget to Date: **105%**

*~ Mass Attendance ~*

**In-person Attendance**

12/29, FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY **123**

**Livestream Attendance**

12/29, FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY **13**

*~ 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](http://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.