

March 9, 2025
The First Sunday of Lent
**St. James Catholic
Community in Midtown**
Small enough to know your name
Big enough to make a difference

Join us for Mass every Sunday at 10:00 am



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
Website: www.StJKC.org
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 30388, Kansas City, MO 64112
Street Address: 3909 Harrison St. Kansas City, MO 64110
St James Facebook Public Page: Only St James admin team can post to- <https://www.facebook.com/stjamesmidtown>

Bulletin Deadline: 10 pm Mondays

Email items to
Bulletin@StJKC.org.
For information to be
posted on the St. James
website, email your
items to:
website@StJKC.org.



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@StJKC.org. **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 at bhaghirian@StJKC.org.

Considering **Marriage**? Contact Phyllis McCarty, wedding coordinator, at PhyllisAMcCarty@gmail.com at least 9 months prior to the wedding date.

FAITH FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES

Sunday, March, 9,

We welcome parishioner **Michaela Meckel** to share with us her work in social justice. Come and find ways to give voice to those who are marginalized. Michaela will share opportunities for action and solidarity. It's hospitality Sunday, so get a snack, then come up front to welcome Michaela.

Sunday, March 16,

ALL parents and children, including teens, who are wanting to receive the Sacraments of **Baptism**, **First Reconciliation** and **First Eucharist**, are invited to a special meeting in Marian Hall (church basement) after Mass. We need to gather information and set dates. Please email Bonnie at her new email, bhaghirian@stjkc.org, for more information.

5TH SUNDAY COMMUNITY LUNCH!

Every 5th Sunday, following Mass, we have lunch together. Sunday, March 30 is a 5th Sunday. **We have invited our neighbors living at the Oglesby Hotel** (between Troost39 and Bishop Sullivan Center) to be our guests. **Sign up in the back of church** to help with set up, food prep, serving or clean up. Helpers will gather before Mass at 9 am. **All are welcome on March 30th--mark your calendars now.**

THIS IS WHAT A COMMUNITY-LED PARISH LOOKS LIKE

This is a special note of appreciation for **all the people who helped prepare the church for Lent**. This year, we are showcasing recently acquired banners donated to St. James by Fr. Tom Ludwig through Bonnie Haghirian.

We had **two special Ash Wednesday celebrations**. Louis Rodemann and Pat Marrin conducted a very nice noon prayer service that included the distribution of ashes for about 15 parishioners.



The Liturgy Committee planned a wonderful Ash Wednesday evening Mass that Fr. Grarry presided. The sound system didn't work so all 70+ attendees huddled together toward the front of church to hear better. St. James pulled it off wonderfully.

All photos provided by Chris Dewberry

"One does not live on bread alone."
Jesus

ST. JAMES COMMUNITY CALENDAR

- 3/9 Michaela Meckel, *Living Justly* after Mass
- 3/9 **Daylight savings begins** - Move clocks forward
- 3/14 Stations of the Cross at St. James Noon
- 3/15 St. James Community Garden 10am-12pm
- 3/16 Parish Community/Synod Meeting after Mass**
- 3/21 Stations of the Cross at St. James Noon
- 3/22 St. James Community Garden 10am-12pm
- 3/28 Stations of the Cross at St. James Noon
- 3/29 St. James Community Garden 10am-12pm
- 3/30 5th Sunday Parish Luncheon after Mass
- 4/4 Stations of the Cross at St. James Noon
- 4/5 Clean the church for Easter 9:30 am
- 4/5 St. James Garden 10am-12pm
- 4/5 Hanging folders in back of church are removed
- 4/8 Lenten Penance Service—St. Francis X 6:30pm
- 4/11 Stations of the Cross at St. James Noon
- 4/12 St. James Community Garden 10am-12pm
- 4/18 **Stations of the Cross along Troost** 12pm
- 4/19 St. James Community Garden 10am-12pm
- 4/19 Easter Vigil
- 4/20 EASTER Mass 10 am**
- 4/27 Parish Community/Synod Meeting after Mass**



ST. JAMES' THEME THIS YEAR FOR LENT IS "JOURNEYING IN HOPE"

The Crown of Thorns is large so it can easily be seen in our church. It is constructed with grapevine to remind us of Jesus' words "I am the vine; you are the branches." There are also many locust branches in it since these have large, nasty thorns which could cause pain to us or others. And finally, there is barbed wire as a reminder of our sisters and brothers who are in prisons, refugee camps or detention centers where the living Body of Christ still suffers.

QUOTE FROM POPE FRANCIS FOUND IN FR. JIM SMITH'S MARCH 2 HOMILY

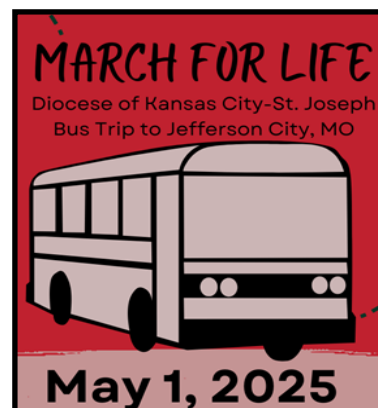
"In the midst of isolation when we are suffering from a lack of tenderness and chances to meet up, and we experience the loss of so many things, let us once again listen to the proclamation that saves us: he is risen and is living by our side. The Lord asks us from his cross to rediscover the life that awaits us, to look towards those who look to us, to strengthen, recognize and foster the grace that lives within us. Let us not quench the wavering flame (cf. Is 42:3) that never falters, and let us allow hope to be rekindled."

MARCH FOR LIFE—MAY 1, 2025

Please plan to join us on Thursday, May 1st, for a diocesan day bus trip to Jefferson City, MO, to participate in the 2025 Midwest March for Life. There we will participate in continued prayer and civic rallying for our local respect life efforts.

This bus trip will be an excellent opportunity to engage in civil demonstration, enjoy fellowship, and save on gas for your trip to Jefferson City. Win, win, win!

To register, go to: <https://www.lifeandjusticekcsj.org/march-for-life>. Questions? Email Deb Sheppard at sheppard@diocesekcsj.org.



WE LIFT UP IN PRAYER OUR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

Ross Beaudoin
Paul DeMerchant
Theresa Maly
Caroline Martin
Amie Miller
Nancy Moylan
Bill Moylan
Steve Wallace

If you or someone you know needs prayers, please send their names to Bulletin@StJKC.org.

If you had the name of a family member or friend on the previous list and want it to continue to be on the list, please resubmit it.

"You shall worship the Lord, your God, and him alone shall you serve." Jesus

ST. JAMES IS LOOKING FOR A PARISH ORGANIZER—LEADER

St. James is a parish with a rich history of living the Catholic Social Teachings at the corner of 39th and Troost in Kansas City, MO. We have a very active community comprising approximately 200 families spread over 72 zip codes in the metro area. Many of our members are older and have years of experience volunteering or working for the Catholic Church.

St. James is looking for a leader to take us into the next phase of our parish life. This is a bold move since no Catholic Church in our diocese uses this leadership model. We want to make Pope Francis' call to be a "Synodal Church" a reality at St. James.

A qualified person must be Catholic and able to:

1. Be passionate about leading the parish from a lay-led parish to a community-led, synodal parish.
2. Identify gifts in each parishioner and invite them to use their gifts to fulfill the parish mission.
3. Engage all parishioners in the decision-making process on major parish topics.
4. Provide training and support to parishioners at all levels of the parish ministry.
5. Represent the interest of the parish to the diocese and broader community.

In the past, St. James has had a leader who was a "Parish Administrator." We now seek a "Parish Organizer" to organize our gifts to make a difference in KC and the world. For more information or a complete job description, contact Bill Cordaro at bulletin@StJKC.org or call the parish at 816-561-8512.

LENTEN OPPORTUNITIES

LENTEN FRIDAYS STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Parishioners will be leading the Stations **every Friday in Lent** at noon. The Stations are a Lenten tradition at St. James where we recall the torture, death and resurrection of Jesus. This year, we are inviting parishioners to lead the Stations. Instructions and prayers will be provided. Email Bulletin@StJKC.org if you would like to lead the Stations on one of the Fridays.

GOOD FRIDAY STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Another St. James tradition is to conduct the Stations of The Cross along Troost recalling how those in Kansas City suffer abuse and/or death every day and organizations along Troost who try to put a stop to the suffering. The Stations start at noon. The starting location to be determined.

COMMUNAL PENENCE SERVICE

A penance service will be held for St. Francis Xavier, St. James and St. Therese Little Flower at St. Francis Xavier Church, 52nd & Troost, on April 8 at 6:30 pm.



On Sunday, March 9,
move your
clocks forward
one hour.

ST. JAMES' COMMUNITY GARDEN

The St. James Communal Garden work will take place every Saturday from 10 am—12 pm. Everyone is invited to help. If you have any questions, email Sarah Hirsch at archathomekc@gmail.com.

**NEXT PARISH / SYNOD MEETING IS SUNDAY,
MARCH 16, FOLLOWING MASS.
ALL ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND AS
WE CONTINUE TO WORK TOGETHER TO
SHAPE THE FUTURE OF THE PARISH!**

STAYING UP-TO-DATE ON IMMIGRATION POLICY AND CHURCH TEACHING

The first 90 days of the new presidential administration have included a flurry of activity and executive orders. As policies continue to shift, we urge you to stay updated by following the USCCB/ Migration and Refugee Services. To assist at a local level, please consider contacting VIA Immigration & Refugee Ministry, a pastoral program of the Office of Life & Justice, by contacting Raiza Guevara, guevara@diocesekcsj.org, 816.756.1850x521.

Reminder: VIA Immigration Ministry is hosting quarterly asylum clinics. Individuals interested in attending to receive asylum assistance may inquire and schedule a time with Raiza Guevara (see contact information above).

Join us for a Holy Hour presided by Bishop Johnston on **Thursday, March 13th, from 6pm-7pm, at St. Anthony Catholic Church, 309 Benton Blvd, Kansas City, MO 64124.** During this Holy Hour, we will lift our prayers and show our solidarity and care for our immigrant and refugee brothers and sisters.

ST. JAMES NEEDS SOME GREEN THUMBS

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 Bulletin@StJKC.org to learn more.



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. 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 or victimadvocate@diocesekcsj.org for more information.

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY

MARCH 16 — SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

FIRST READING — GN 15:5-12, 17-18

The Lord God promised Abram land and many descendants because Abram put his faith in the Lord. Why do you have faith in God?

Second Reading — Phil 3:17—4:1

Paul teaches the Corinthians that upon Jesus' return, he will change our bodies to conform with his glorified body. Can you imagine what a glorified body will be like?

GOSPEL— LK 9:28B-36

As Peter, James and John witnessed Jesus' transfiguration, they heard God say, “This is my chosen Son; listen to him.” As the season of Lent continues, what do you hope to hear from God?

NEXT PARISH MEETING / SYNOD

St. James continues to explore how we can be a more Synodal (Community-Led) Parish. We have had a good start with over 50 parishioners at each of the three previous meetings or Synods. This is a great representation for a parish our size.

Our next Synod is March 16 following our 10 am Mass. We plan to update the Synod on the search for our Parish Organizer and our move toward a Synodal Parish. We will also present a plan where we create more meeting space in the back of the church for our Synod Meetings. This will involve removal of some pews in the back of the church and bringing up the round tables for our Synods. By doing so, we not only talk about a Synodal Parish, but we reconfigure our space to make room for us to be Synodal.

If an individual cannot attend the meeting and has strong feelings about this move, feel free to email Bulletin@StJKC.org. We would be happy to hear your thoughts and address your questions.

“You shall not put the Lord, your God, to the test.” Jesus