

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

# ST. JAMES

## SYNODAL CATHOLIC

## COMMUNITY MIDTOWN



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



### The First Sunday of Advent at St. James

Today is our first Sunday of Advent for 2025. As we enter this season of busy days, take note of the moments that point to Christ: setting up your advent wreath, the lighting of the first candle, our prayers of the season. Advent points us to the coming of Christ into our world; remember too that we are called by God to continue Christ's work in our world. Is there a better season to show God's love than during Advent?

### Join Us for Mass

Every Sunday at 10 AM

### Sacraments

#### Sacramental Minister:

Fr. Garry Richmeier C.P.P.S.  
garrycpps@gmail.com

#### Baptism, First Reconciliation, First Eucharist & Confirmation:

Contact Bonnie Haghirian,  
faithformation@stjkc.org

#### Rite of Christian Initiation in the Catholic Church:

(Adult Baptism, Eucharist, Reconciliation & Confirmation) takes place as needed.  
Contact Bonnie Haghirian at  
faithformation@stjkc.org.

#### Marriage:

Contact Phyllis McCarty,  
Marriage Coordinator  
phyllisamccarty@gmail.com  
(at least 9 months prior to wedding date)

#### Confession: Upon request

Email Fr. Don Farnan - FrDon@stjkc.org  
OR Fr. Garry Richmeier -  
garrycpps@gmail.com

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.

## The Month of Gratitude

St. James has so many reasons for gratitude. This week we specifically want to thank our Faith Formation director, Bonnie, and all of the wonderful volunteers who help make Faith Formations happen. This ministry has many parts: Adult formation, family religious instruction, and children's liturgy of the word.

Each week in Children's Liturgy we have musicians, teachers, parents and volunteers who provide lessons, snacks and guidance to the children of the parish. Thank you for your dedication to our youngest parishioners.

Preparation for the sacraments of Baptism, First Reconciliation, First Communion, and Confirmation are also included in Faith Formations. Thank you to those who facilitate the scheduling and teaching of these sacraments.

Adult Faith Formation happens once a month featuring speakers or field trips. Hospitality is an integral part of this formation offering as well. Thank you to everyone who helps with this ministry!



## Welcome to St. James

We are a warm, inviting community rooted in the inclusive love of Jesus—who broke down barriers, showed compassion, and invited everyone to the table. Here you'll find open hearts, meaningful worship, and opportunities to live out justice and kindness.

Reach out to our friendly staff at [ParishStaff@StJKC.org](mailto:ParishStaff@StJKC.org), or head to [www.StJKC.org](http://www.StJKC.org) to fill out a registration form. We can't wait to walk this faith journey with you!

## The Giving Tree

Our annual Giving Tree is set up for this season! We partner with Bishop Sullivan Center to provide gifts for children in need this Christmas. The tree will be up through 12/7. Gifts are due back to church by Sunday, December 7th. With Advent so early this year, gifts are due back sooner!

We will also donate to Manos Amigos, for families in Anapra. There are tree ornaments with QR codes to donate directly to Manos Amigos.

Spread the Christmas joy!

## Advent Procession

There's a sign-up sheet in the back of church for volunteers to carry the Advent candles in the Entrance Procession on the Sundays of Advent. We need 1 person for the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday, 2 for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday, etc. Please sign up only once. Especially for the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays, it would be nice to have a family for the 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays.

## 5th Sunday Family Lunch Today

### Sunday, November 30th After Mass

Come celebrate the gift of community as we share a meal together! Marian Hall will be filled with good food, laughter, and the warmth of the St. James family. Whether you've been here for years or this is your first visit, your presence makes our table complete.

- A buffet of home-style favorites
- Warm conversation with old friends and new!
- A relaxed, kid-friendly atmosphere

Bring your appetite, and join us for an afternoon of food, family, and friendship. We can't wait to see you there!

## READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2025, THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT



**First Reading - Isaiah 11:1-10:** This passage foretells Jesus as a Spirit-filled ruler from David's line who will bring perfect justice, transform creation with peace, and draw all nations to God.

**Reflection Question:** In what way does God's vision of righteous leadership and peace invite you to examine your hopes, values, and actions in a world longing for justice and harmony?

**Second Reading - Romans 15:4-9:** Scripture gives believers endurance and hope, calling them to live in unified love so that Jews and Gentiles alike may glorify God for His mercy.

**Reflection Question:** How does Paul's call for unity, endurance, and shared worship in this verse encourage you to extend grace and pursue harmony with others who differ from you?

**Gospel - Matthew 3:1-12:** John the Baptist calls people to repent as God's kingdom draws near and points to the greater One who will baptize with the Holy Spirit and fire.

**Reflection Question:** How does John the Baptist's call to repentance and readiness in Matthew 3:1-12 invite you to realign your heart and actions with God's coming kingdom today?

# STEWARDSHIP

Stewardship Commitment Sunday is on December 7, 2025. By now, every parish household should have received a Stewardship Packet in the mail. Inside you'll find a brochure explaining why your annual support is vital for 2026, along with a commitment card to share your pledge.

your commitment anytime by contacting the parish office.

Questions? Contact Bill Cordaro at [LT@StJKC.org](mailto:LT@StJKC.org). Thank you for sharing your time, talent, and treasure with St. James as we build up the Kingdom of God together!

Please return your card by December 7, either by mail or during Sunday Mass. Remember, you can adjust



## ST. JAMES COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### NOVEMBER

11/30 First Sunday of Advent  
11/30 Fifth Sunday Parish Family Lunch after Mass  
12/7 Stewardship Sunday  
12/7 Saint Therese Little Flower Advent Concert at 2pm  
12/7 Last Day to Bring Giving Tree Gifts  
12/13 Penance Service at St. James at 10am

### DECEMBER

12/14 Family Fun Day in Marian Hall: games, projects, lunch, and learning about Advent.  
12/24 Christmas Eve  
12/25 Christmas Day  
12/31 New Years Eve



### WE LIFT UP IN PRAYER

Cindy McKay Basolo, Barb Doak, Tom Dux, Cindy Etzel Swoboda, Michael Heringer, Theresa Maly, Caroline Martin, Amie Miller, Judith Reed, Eric Sitterley, Sean Shaughnessy, & Steve Wallace.

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

## Pantry Sunday December 7<sup>th</sup>

Bishop Sullivan requests for this month are as follows:

- Peanut butter and jelly,
- Canned fruit
- Personal Hygiene Items
- Soap
- Toothpaste
- Deodorant
- Shampoo

Thank you for your continued support!

## Give and Take

In light of recent changes to food support, St. James has a Give and Take style food pantry for our parishioners located in the live-stream room for those in need or wishing to donate.



## Traveling or Sick?

Don't forget that St. James streams Mass live each Sunday on our Facebook page, St. James Midtown, KC. The video remains on the feed for you to watch later if needed.

**Tune in!**

## ST. JAMES CONTACT INFORMATION

**Pastor:** Fr. Don Farnan,  
frdon@stjkc.org

**Sacramental Minister:**  
Fr. Garry Richmeier, C.PP.S.  
garrycpps@gmail.com

**Synodal Parish Director:**  
Patrick Marrin,  
parishstaff@stjkc.org

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

Hours: 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM  
Monday-Friday

Email: parishstaff@stjkc.org

**St. James Catholic Church**  
www.stjkc.org

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

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

**FACEBOOK**  
@stjamesmidtown

### 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 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

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 at [ombudsman@ombudsmankcsj.org](mailto:ombudsman@ombudsmankcsj.org) or 816-213-6024.

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 816-714-2357 or [victimadvocate@diocesekcsj.org](mailto:victimadvocate@diocesekcsj.org) for more information.