

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

# ST. JAMES

## SYNODAL CATHOLIC

## COMMUNITY MIDTOWN



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



### The Third Sunday of Advent is Gaudete Sunday: Meaning Rejoice!

“Rejoice, rejoice! Christ is born of the Virgin Mary -  
Rejoice! The time of grace has come - What we have  
wished for; Songs of joy. Let us give back faithfully.”

*English translation of the 16th-century Latin carol “Gaudete”*

#### Join Us for Mass

Every Sunday at 10 AM

#### Sacraments

##### Sacramental Minister:

Fr. Garry Richmeier C.P.P.S.  
[garrycpps@gmail.com](mailto:garrycpps@gmail.com)

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

Contact Bonnie Haghirian,  
[faithformation@stjkc.org](mailto: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](mailto:faithformation@stjkc.org).

##### Marriage:

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

##### Confession: Upon request

Email Fr. Don Farnan - [FrDon@stjkc.org](mailto:FrDon@stjkc.org)  
OR Fr. Garry Richmeier -  
[garrycpps@gmail.com](mailto:garrycpps@gmail.com)

“If we want to speak of a synodal Church, we cannot remain satisfied with appearances alone; we need content, means, and structures that facilitate dialogue and interaction within the People of God.” - Pope Francis

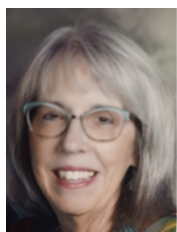
## St. James Names New Synodal Director

With approval from Fr. Don Farnan, Fr. Garry Richmeier, the Diocese, the Leadership Team, and parishioners through three Zoom sessions; St. James has appointed Diane Etzel-Wise as Synodal Director. Diane accepted the 20-hour-per-week position and begins on December 15.

Diane has been part of our synodal journey from the beginning. She brings a strong background in social work, university-level teaching, and years of experience working with the homeless population. Her communication and relationship-building skills made her a compelling candidate for Synodal Parish Director.

Her primary role will be to engage volunteers and help them find ways to share their gifts in service to St. James. From simple tasks like counting the collection after Mass to leading committees, every contribution of time and talent matters in our journey as a Synodal Parish.

Keep Diane and our parish community in your prayers.



## 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!



## Christmas Decor Day

Next Sunday, Dec. 21st, we will decorate the church for Christmas after Mass. Please stay and help if you can. There are things people of any age can do to help. We're putting up the crib, Christmas trees, decorating the altar, placing poinsettias, decorating the windows and the Advent wreath.

## Annual Chili Daze Fundraiser



Save the Date!

**Saturday, February 7, 2026**

Join us in Marian Hall for our annual chili contest, Jimbo, fabulous prizes, exciting raffles and more.

## Offering Counters Needed After Mass

Looking for a small way to help St. James? We need money counters to help each Sunday right after Mass for about 45 minutes. We need 2-3 people each week, counting cash and checks and completing the collections form. You will be paired with experienced counter(s) so you can learn without pressure. We even provide calculators! With enough people, you only do it once every 4-6 weeks.

Interested? Talk to Anne Carlson or leadership team.



The Children's Christmas Choir is practicing for the Christmas Eve Mass

## READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2025, THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



**First Reading - Isaiah 7:10-14** God gives King Ahaz a sign—a promised child called Immanuel, meaning “God with us,” to assure the people of God’s presence and faithfulness.

**Reflection Question:** What does the promise of “God with us” mean for you in moments of fear or uncertainty?

**Second Reading - Romans 1:1-7** Paul introduces himself as a servant of Jesus, called to share the gospel promised through the Scriptures, and affirms that believers are called to belong to Christ and live as holy people.

**Reflection Question:** How does knowing you are “called to belong to Jesus Christ” shape the way you approach your daily life?

**Gospel - Matthew 1:18-24** An angel tells Joseph not to fear taking Mary as his wife because her child is from the Holy Spirit, fulfilling the prophecy of Immanuel.

**Reflection Question:** Where might God be inviting you to trust Him and obey, even when His plans don’t match your expectations?

### Friendly Reminder: Stewardship Appeal Commitment Card

Please return your We Are Gifted; We Are Called commitment card by December 21. Your participation sustains our parish mission and ministries.

If you’ve already sent in your card, thank you for your generosity!



If not you haven’t, cards are available in the church pews or can be printed from our website: [StJKC.org](http://StJKC.org).

Your commitment is deeply appreciated and helps us plan for the year ahead.

Questions: Contact Bill Cordaro at: [LT@StJKC.org](mailto:LT@StJKC.org).



## ST. JAMES COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### DECEMBER

12/14 Hospitality Sunday  
12/14 Family Fun Day in Marian Hall: games, projects, lunch, and learning about Advent.  
12/16 Bus Stop Ministry 9am  
12/21 Decorate the Church for Christmas after Mass  
12/24 Christmas Eve Mass  
12/25 Christmas Day (No Mass at St. James)  
12/31 New Years Eve

### JANUARY

1/1 New Years Day  
1/4 Pantry Sunday  
1/11 Hospitality Sunday  
2/7 Chili Daze Fundraiser



## WE LIFT UP IN PRAYER

Cindy McKay Basolo, Barb Doak, Tom Dux, Cindy Etzel Swoboda, Fr. Don Farnan, 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](mailto:Bulletin@StJKC.org)

## Prayer for Father Don Farnan

Please pray for a swift recovery for Fr. Don Farnan, who had surgery on his hip on Monday. He is on the mend and we hope his recovery and rehabilitation allows him to be back with our community as soon as he's up to it.

## Month of Gratitude

As we wait for Christmas, we continue thanking the people of our parish.

The Finance Committee creates the budget & plans for the future. Money counters & deposit makers help with the weekly tasks. We are grateful.

Fundraising gathers us together for funds and fun! Thanks to the chili chefs, the raffle ticket sellers, and the cinnamon roll makers.

We appreciate the people who care for our buildings. You deal with the creaks, leaks, and sticking doors of our century old structures. Thank you for your care and attention.

The Social Justice Committee does amazing work with immigration issues. The Giving Tree for children's gifts are also part of this group's work. Thank you.

Hospitality Sunday is this week. We gratefully acknowledge the volunteers who set up, bring food, serve, and clean up.

We can't forget Rodney in the parking lot. Thank you.

To the people who connect us with parish news, the live streamers, photographers, web site manager and the bulletin creator, thank you.

May the peace of Christmas be with us all.

## ST. JAMES CONTACT INFORMATION

**Pastor:** Fr. Don Farnan,  
[frdon@stjkc.org](mailto:frdon@stjkc.org)

**Sacramental Minister:**  
Fr. Garry Richmeier, C.PP.S.  
[garrycpps@gmail.com](mailto:garrycpps@gmail.com)

**Synodal Parish Director:**  
Patrick Marrin,  
[parishstaff@stjkc.org](mailto:parishstaff@stjkc.org)

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

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

Email: [parishstaff@stjkc.org](mailto:parishstaff@stjkc.org)

**St. James Catholic Church**  
[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

**FACEBOOK**  
[@stjamesmidtown](https://www.facebook.com/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.