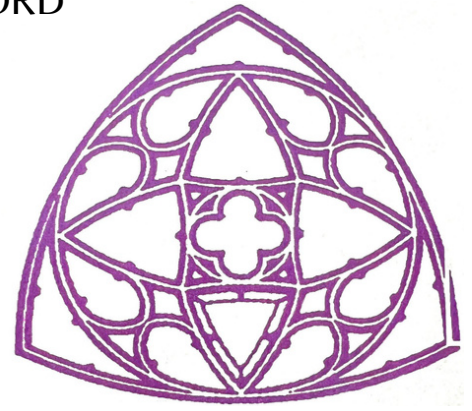


THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD

# ST. JAMES SYNODAL CATHOLIC COMMUNITY MIDTOWN



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



## 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

“We are a missionary Church, a Church that builds bridges and encourages dialogue, a Church ever open to welcoming, like this [St. Peter's] Square with its open arms, all those who are in need of our charity, our presence, our readiness to dialogue and our love.” - Pope Leo XIV

# Happy Easter

A blessed Easter to all St. James members, friends and visitors! For those who are not familiar with the term SYNODAL, used in our church name, we discerned in November of 2024 to begin following Pope Francis' vision for a synodal "collaborative/parishioner led" Church. Our path forward has been developing day by day and it's both messy and exciting! Each member of our Catholic parish has something unique and beautiful to offer. We are still growing and imperfect but seek daily for renewal through the vision of Pope Francis, and now, Pope Leo. Please read up on our journey to plant dreams here at the corner of 39th and Troost in the additional pages of our bulletin entitled: "The Synodal Process: the Church's Way of Proceeding." We are all learning, growing, and loving together!



## 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!



## Easter Egg Hunt

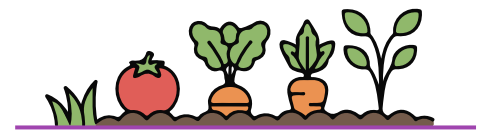
After Mass today we will have our annual Easter Egg hunt! Small children may hunt in the cloister garden outside of the south doors of the church. Older children will gather on the south lawn!

## Don't Miss Fr. Don's Triduum Message: "Empty Tomb to Upper Room" in our Friday Email

To be sure you are receiving our weekly Friday Email, you can sign up at the bottom of our website home page [STJKC.ORG](http://STJKC.ORG) or you can email [BULLETIN@STJKC.ORG](mailto:BULLETIN@STJKC.ORG) and let us know you want to be added.

## The Garden Gang is Back

All are invited to join the Garden Gang Saturday mornings from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm to plant, tend, and harvest veggies in the St. James Communal Garden. Follow the garden progress this year on St. James Catholic Church (Midtown) on Facebook or St. James News at [stjkc.org](http://stjkc.org).



## Thank You Margo!

Special thanks to Margo Sheperd for sponsoring the St. Carlo Acutis exhibit last weekend. She shared it with Sion Lower School students and folks from various parishes, including St. James, St. Patrick (north), St. Francis Xavier and St. Therese Little Flower. Thank you, Margo!

## READINGS FOR SUNDAY, APRIL 12, 2026, SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER



**Acts 2:42–47** The early church devoted themselves to teaching, fellowship, prayer, and generosity, resulting in a unified and growing community.

**Reflection Question:** What practices can I adopt to help build deeper community and shared faith within my parish?

**1 Peter 1:3–9** Believers are given new birth into a living hope through Christ, sustaining them with joy even through trials as their faith is refined.

**Reflection Question:** How can I find joy and purpose in difficult seasons by trusting in what I cannot yet see?

**John 20:19–31** Jesus appears to His disciples after His resurrection, offering peace and calling them to believe, even without physical sight.

**Reflection Question:** What does it look like for me to trust and believe in Jesus without needing tangible proof?

# April is National Volunteer Month

As we enter the month of April with hearts celebrating over the resurrection of Christ, let us also consider putting our joy and faith into action. Pray over ways you can volunteer and serve your parish and community. For ideas, visit [Lifeandjusticekcsj.org/volunteer](http://Lifeandjusticekcsj.org/volunteer) or [stjkc.org](http://stjkc.org) and click on “Volunteering at St James” at the top of the Welcome page.

If you’re already plugged into volunteering at the parish or

in our community, pray over your service, those you serve, and those ministering with you.

- Troost39 Thrift Store
- Between the Cracks - Bus Stop Ministry
- Communal Garden
- Choir
- Childrens/Youth Ministry
- Harvesters First Tuesday Volunteers
- So many more!



## ST. JAMES COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### APRIL

4/5 Easter Sunday & Easter Egg hunt after Mass  
 4/5 Pantry Sunday  
 4/7 Harvesters Volunteer Tuesday  
 4/12 First Communion and Baptism Sunday; cookie reception after Mass  
 4/12 Hospitality Sunday  
 4/19 Baptism Sunday  
 4/19 Parish Wide Synod Meeting after Mass  
 4/23 Knitting Ministry at 6:30 pm

### APRIL/MAY

4/26 Faith Formation after Mass - The Life of a Benedictine Oblate, Renee' Roosa  
 5/3 Pantry Sunday  
 5/5 Harvesters Volunteer Tuesday  
 5/10 Hospitality Sunday  
 5/17 Parish Wide Synod Meeting after Mass  
 5/24 Pentecost Sunday  
 ~Every Saturday at 10 AM: Communal Garden Gang

## Annual Catholic Appeal

Last fall, parishioners were asked to donate to the Annual Catholic Appeal. Below are the totals for St. James to date. The Diocese and the parish split the proceeds. Once our goal is met, a greater percentage comes back to the parish. Additional funds come back to St. James in the form of Diocesan grants to support parish-based ministries and programs. Thank you for your generosity in meeting both goals set for us. Donations can still be made on the Diocese's website. Be sure to designate it to St. James Kansas City.

- STJ total 1x gifts/pledge commitments: \$12,484
- STJ parish goal: \$7,563 (165%)
- STJ total parishioners who participated: 39
- STJ parishioners who participated goal: 37
- Diocesan goal: \$2,012,204
- Diocesan total 1x gifts & pledge commitments: \$2,322,404

## Don't Miss Harvesters Tuesday Volunteering this Week 4/7

Contact Barbara Schepers at 816-810-8809 to help out! Let's pack hope together. See you there!



## WE LIFT UP IN PRAYER

The husband and family of Martha Agnew, Cindy McKay Basolo, Barb Doak, Tom Dux, Cindy Etzel Swoboda, Michael Heringer, June Johnson, Laverne Johnson, Theresa Maly, Caroline Martin, Noella Cole, Amie Miller, DeAndre Olison, John Rehtin, Judith Reed, Eric Sitterley, Sean Shaughnessy, Karen Snedden, & Steve Wallace.

If you or someone you know needs prayers please send their names to [Bulletin@StJKC.org](mailto:Bulletin@StJKC.org)



**3/29/26 Attendance:**  
156 In-person  
7 Online

## 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:**  
Diane Etzel-Wise  
[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 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

**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.

# The Synodal Process: The Church's Way of Proceeding

by Joe Paprocki, D.Min.



**How** an organization comes to a decision is as important as what is being decided. Every organization has a “way of proceeding” when it comes to making major plans and decisions. In some organizations, decisions are made by one person, with or without input from others. In other organizations, decisions are made by a democratic process (majority rule).

What about the Church? What is our “way of proceeding” when it comes to making plans and major decisions? While the Church has a hierarchy of authority, those in authority do not act as dictators making decisions in isolation. Nor is the Church a democracy, leaving decisions to a majority vote. The Church’s way of proceeding is known as synodal (SIH-nuhd-al).

Simply put, a synod (SIH-nuhd) is an assembly of Church leaders who address and make recommendations regarding a situation or a matter of great importance. A synod is not a deliberative body with decision-making powers. Rather, the assembly of leaders meets to engage in a structured conversation surrounding an issue, with the goal of making recommendations for the final decision-maker. A synod of priests and lay people in a diocese takes place to advise the bishop. A synod of bishops takes place to advise the pope.

Synods do not follow Robert’s Rules of Order (parliamentary procedure), which is a secular model for procedural meetings, with the end goal of making a decision based on a majority vote. Rather, a synod is characterized by a process of discernment and consensus. It is a spiritual rather than a political process. This synodal way of proceeding is characterized by:

- **Non-Confrontation.** The goal of the synodal process is to engage key stakeholders in a non-confrontational approach to making a major decision or recommendation when there are deep emotions involved.
- **Engagement.** The issue at hand is to be stated clearly. Everyone involved in the process must have an opportunity to state his or her views and to influence the synodal process.
- **Gathering of Diverse Ideas.** A facilitator (usually not the final decision-maker) gathers the input and ideas of all participants in order to shape proposals that incorporate everyone’s input. The proposals are not specific courses of action, but rather recommendations for direction—in other words, a way of moving forward.

- **“Taking the Temperature of the Room.”** Every participant has an opportunity to reflect prayerfully on the information available and to offer his or her stance on the proposal(s), whether that be voicing support, offering amendments and changes, disapproving of the proposal with explanations, or offering alternative solutions or directions.
- **Prayerful Discernment.** All participants engage in prayerful reflection, asking that God’s will be done and that the final recommendations further the Kingdom of God. Such prayer may include moments of silence as well as Scripture readings, intercessory prayer, and even singing and offering praise.
- **Theological Reflection.** Scripture and Church teachings are consulted and reflected upon to shed light on the situation at hand.
- **Continuing Discussion.** Discussion continues until any areas of disagreement are reduced or eliminated.
- **Consensus.** The process continues until consensus is reached, meaning that the final recommendations are ones that everyone can abide by even if not fully in agreement. Such a process avoids parliamentary procedures that tend to favor those who are more assertive and vocal and discriminate against those who are more introspective.

The synodal process takes time and effort. The goal is not efficiency, but rather effectiveness and engagement—a way of enabling members of the Body of Christ to influence how the Body will proceed. It is a Spirit-led, formational process that shapes the People of God.

In their book, *What’s Your Decision?* authors J. Michael Sparough, SJ; Jim Manney; and Tim Hipskind, SJ, remind us that a good decision is always preceded by a “God decision.” They remind us that, as St. Ignatius taught, God cares deeply about our decisions (individual and communal), and we can come to know God’s will for us. A synodal Church does not allow itself to be bogged down by politics or manipulated by people with agendas. Rather, a synodal Church is guided by the Holy Spirit. The only agenda is God’s mission to proclaim the Kingdom of God.

Pope Francis has brought the theme of synodality (SIH-nuh-DAL-it-ee) to the forefront of the Church. He convened a synod of bishops in Rome on October 10, 2021. That synod is being followed by local synods in dioceses around the world. Then, following two years of preparation, listening, and discernment, bishops will once again assemble in Rome in October, 2023, to complete the synod. The goal of this synodal process is to renew the Church and collectively discern a future for it by considering the following:

- ways of increasing participation of ordinary Catholics.
- reforming unsustainable and outdated church-governance styles and models.
- focusing on missionary evangelization.
- reaching out to those on the margins.

According to Pope Francis, “The purpose of the Synod...is not to produce documents, but ‘to plant dreams, draw forth prophecies and visions, allow hope to flourish, inspire trust, bind up wounds, weave together relationships, awaken a dawn of hope, learn from one another and create a bright resourcefulness that will enlighten minds, warm hearts, give strength to our hands.’” (Preparatory Document, #32)