

THE TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIMES

ST. JAMES

SYNODAL CATHOLIC

COMMUNITY MIDTOWN



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

“Turn to the LORD for mercy;
to our God, who is generous
in forgiving. For my thoughts
are not your thoughts, nor are
your ways my ways, says the
LORD. As high as the
heavens are above the earth,
so high are my ways above
your ways and my thoughts
above your thoughts.”

Isaiah 55:7-9

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

Eucharist to the Home-Bound:

Contact Marcus Liddell
816-832-2478 (cell)

**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

Reflection for September 20: The High Holy Days of Judaism

By Bonnie Haghirian

When people ask us, ‘Where are your people from,’ we might answer, ‘Ireland, Germany, Italy, or someplace else.’ If we answered from the perspective of our faith, we could all claim Judaism as our origin. I remember how surprised I was when I discovered that Jesus was Jewish, not Catholic, when I was in second grade.

Just as we know family traditions, it’s good to know traditions of faith.

In the Jewish world, the most important celebrations are the High Holy days from Rosh Hashanah to Yom Kippur, and Passover. There are other days, other celebrations, but Rosh Hashanah is the “head of the year,” the New Year, and Yom Kippur is the “Day of Atonement.” Rosh Hashanah is celebrated as the birthday of the world.

The ten days in between are known as the Days of Awe, and they serve a noble purpose. During those 10 days, Jews are called to reconciliation with others, within themselves, and with God. Symbolically, they work diligently on reconciling, to get their names written in “The Book of Life,” avoiding “The Book of Death.” Teshuvah is the term for repentance, and the process is very much like Reconciliation in the Catholic tradition. We go through the same process in examining ourselves, admitting our sins, asking for forgiveness, and reconciling with those we have hurt.

Completing Teshuvah, the reconciliation process, also involves works of charity, similar to penances for Catholics, and the traditions of prayer, fasting and almsgiving during Lent.

The fun of Rosh Hashanah is the good foods that are shared with family and friends to celebrate the New Year. The celebration begins with the blowing of the shofar (a hollowed out ram’s horn), to let everyone know the New Year has arrived! It’s definitely a wake up call! Wishing everyone a sweet new year comes with apples and honey, pomegranates and raisins, sweet Challah bread and wine.

Yom Kippur is the most solemn day of the year, with the focus of atonement for wrong doing. People fast from food and water for 25 hours, and spend hours in the synagogue in prayer. The holy day ends at nightfall with a final, long blast of the shofar, followed by a celebratory break-the-fast meal.

There are several other Holy days in the Jewish calendar, with Sukkot following in a few days, and others, like Hanukkah, Purim, and Passover. There is always a reason to celebrate faith and traditions.

Bonnie Haghirian

Today After Mass

Sunday, Sept 20, we will share a presentation on the Jewish High Holydays! This comes from parishioner suggestions that we learn about other faiths.

After Mass, enjoy a cinnamon roll from Thom Z. then move to the front of Church for your Rosh Hashanah treats: Challah bread, apples with honey, grape juice, and wine! We will have a brief presentation for all ages with coloring pages and handouts for our children to participate too! Blow the SHOFAR!



SAVE THE DATE

The Goldenberg Duo is performing again for us on October 18th at 7 pm. This parishioner favorite performance is put on by the Goldenberg Duo (Susie-violin and Bill- piano). It is a benefit performance for the ministries of St. James.

Tickets are \$15 per person. We will have a reception following the performance.

Confirmation Sessions Starting Soon

Parents, get it on your calendars NOW. November 29th Parents and kids: Confirmation Session after Mass in Marian Hall!



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, or head to www.StJKC.org to fill out a registration form. We can't wait to walk this faith journey with you!

Bus Stop Blessing

The hats, scarves, and gloves that are distributed at the bus stop in winter will be blessed on September 27th during Mass. Please bring your donations to church soon so they can be part of the blessing procession.

Confirmation Round UP!

October 11 after Mass. Anyone who is in at least 6th grade and has made their First Communion is able to be confirmed by Bishop Johnston. Parents and children are invited to join in Marian Hall after our Mass for materials and discussion! We will go through the dates and session designs and play a Kahoot! Come and join in the fun!

Youth Group Gatherings

St. James youth group welcomes youth from 6th grade through senior in high school to participate in our fall and winter youth events:

- **October 18th** after Mass for a 1 hour gathering
- **October 25th** - Trunk or Treat at the Ronald McDonald House (service opportunity)
- **November 8th** after Mass for a 1 hour gathering
- **November 15th** - Friendsgiving lunch after Mass (with the tri-parish youth)
- **December 5th** Saturday am service opportunity with tri-parish youth at St. Therese Little Flower

Contact Chris Dewberry at chdewbe@stjkc.org for information



Family Fun Day

Sunday, November 1: Family Fun Day! ALL are invited to participate in "Calling All Saints" Family Fun Day! Learn about our Saints, quirky and holy! Games, Bingo, prizes! This is the Feast of All Saints! ALL CONFIRMATION candidates should come with their families to learn more about Saints!

READINGS FOR SUNDAY, September 27, 2026



Ezekiel 18:25-28 God calls people to recognize that their choices matter, assuring that those who turn away from sin and practice what is right will find life.

Reflection Question: Is there an area of my life where I need to turn away from what is wrong and choose a better path?

Philippians 2:1-11 Paul calls Christians to live in humility and unity by putting others before themselves and following Christ's example of selfless love and obedience.

Reflection Question: How can I practice greater humility by putting someone else's needs before my own?

Matthew 21:28-32 Jesus teaches that true obedience is shown not by words but by actions.

Reflection Question: Are my actions truly reflecting the commitment to God that I express in my words?

Weekly Events

- Mass every Thursday at Alvin Brooks Center on Rockhurst Campus at 12:15 pm
- Peace Prayer on Zoom, every Wednesday at 6:30 pm
- Volunteer at Bishop Sullivan serving Dinner every 2nd Tuesday of the month. Our next one is October 13th.
- Choir Practice Thursdays at 7PM

If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a Catholic, or you just want to know more, please contact Bonnie! The process, OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation for Adults) is starting and it looks fabulous! Great topics, multi parish group!

Bonnie: faithformation@stjkc.org



ST. JAMES COMMUNITY CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER

9/20 Server Training After Mass
 9/20 Jewish High Holy Days Educational Class
 9/21 Leadership Team meeting at 6PM at the Parish House and on Zoom
 9/26 Miracle of Innocence Gala Fundraiser
 9/27 Server Training After Mass

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER

10/4 Pantry Sunday
 10/6 Harvesters Volunteer Day
 10/11 Confirmation Round Up
 10/11 Hospitality Sunday
 10/18 Youth Gathering after Mass
 10/18 Goldenberg Duo Concert at 7pm
 10/25 Youth Trunk or Treat at the Ronald McDonald House
 11/8 Youth Gathering After Mass
 11/15 Youth Friendsgiving After Mass



Cathedral of the Streets

"Where the vibe is alive!"

Together We Are More

St. James Catholic Parish is proud to be a part of the Cathedral of the Streets. Our Cathedral is a collaboration of three parishes dedicated to serving the Midtown area of Kansas City: St. James, St. Francis Xavier, and St. Therese Little Flower

Our parishes are dedicated to using observation of need, awareness of our location in the city and unique community members to help guide our goals and efforts. We seek to welcome and care for people who are marginalized because of who they are, what they don't have, or because of their home country. We hope to empower our neighbors and young people to join us in our faith. We embrace with gratitude the people among us with a history of following Catholic Social Teaching, as they lead by example.

Community and collaboration are how we intend to foster this mission we have been given through our unified Catholic witness in Midtown KC.

Good Faith Network Listening Sessions for Johnson County Residents

Wed. September 23rd at 7pm or

Wed. October 7th at 7pm

The Good Faith Network (GFN) is a coalition of 30 diverse faith communities across Johnson County committed to pursuing justice through grassroots community organizing. This Fall, St. Francis Xavier will be hosting two listening sessions for any interested residents of Johnson County. At the listening sessions we will share more about the Good Faith Network and also engage in a listening process that is closely aligned with a synodal approach to ministry. See the Friday email for more info.

We have a Tri-Parish Synodal Series happening at SFX, Sept 17, 24 and Oct 8 all 6-8 pm. RSVP to

Diane Etzel-Wise ParishStaff@stjkc.org



Annual Catholic Appeal

Last weekend, we invited you to reflect and pray about the blessings God has entrusted to you. This weekend, as we embrace the call to Take. Bless. Break. Share., we invite you to prayerfully make your commitment to the Annual Catholic Appeal.

As you consider your gift, ask the Holy Spirit to guide your response and how you are called to share God's blessings with others throughout our diocesan Church.



**Scan here
to donate to the
2026-2027 Annual
Catholic Appeal**



For questions or assistance, please contact the
Office of Stewardship and Development at 816-756-1850
or email stewardship@diocesekcsj.org.



WE LIFT UP IN PRAYER

Reanna Broyle, Yvonne Cann, Barb Doak, Tom Dux, Steven Hardie, Michael Heringer, June Johnson, Ric Kocher and family, Theresa Maly, Caroline Martin, Amie Miller, Oliver Mitchell, Mary O'Leary, Judith Reed, Eric Sitterley, Sean Shaughnessy, Karen Snedden, Norma and Phil Thayer, Sr. Fran Voivedich, & Steve Wallace.

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

St. James Mini Pantry Needs

Leave what you can and take what you need.
Think kids, please, during the fall months.

- Snacks
- Breakfast
- Lunches
- Simple Suppers

Thank you!

ST. JAMES CONTACTS

Pastor: Fr. Don Farnan
frdon@stjkc.org

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jkraus@sfx-kc.org

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Parish Office: 816-561-8512
Hours: M-F 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Email: parishstaff@stjkc.org

Mailing Address:
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Kansas City, MO 64112

Faith Formation Coordinators:
Bonnie Haghirian
faithformation@stjkc.org
&

Chris Dewberry
chdewbe@stjkc.org

Facebook @stjamesmidtown

www.stjkc.org
website@stjkc.org

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 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 for more information.