



SAINT JAMES

the APOSTLE CHURCH



45 SOUTH SPRINGFIELD AVENUE, SPRINGFIELD, NEW JERSEY 07081-2301
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PASTOR

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PAROCHIAL VICAR

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Father John D. Dennehy

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PARISH SCHOOL OFFICE PRINCIPAL

Mrs. Caroline Ponterio, M.B.A., Ed.S.
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PARISH TRUSTEES

Mrs. Janet Petino and Mr. John Pflug

PARISH COUNCIL

saintjamesparishcouncil@gmail.com

www.saintjamestheapostle.org

SUNDAY MASSES

Vigil Mass ~ Saturday 5:00PM
7:30AM ~ 9:00AM ~ 10:30AM ~ 12:00PM

DAILY MASS

Weekday: Novena 7:10AM ~ Mass 7:30AM
Saturday: Novena 7:40AM ~ Mass 8:00AM

Evening Novena: Mondays ~ 6:30PM

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday ~ 11:00AM

RECTORY HOURS

Monday-Friday: 8:00AM~4:00PM
(closed daily 12:00-1:00PM)



Images courtesy of Google.com

A Welcoming Catholic Community of Faith.
Come Experience Christ With Us!

December 15, 2019

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

**"JUSTE ET PIE VIVAMOS, EXPECTANTES BEATAM SPERM, ET ADVENTUM DOMINI.
LET US LIVE BY JUSTICE AND MERCY AND WAIT WITH BRIGHT HOPE FOR THE LORD
TO COME."**

An Advent Sourcebook, p. 89

As we begin this Third Week of Advent, it's a good idea to look back and see what we have accomplished, or what we attempted to accomplish this Advent. While this is a season of hope, we are still involved in the preparations for Christmas. There is no way we can get away from that. But, hopefully, Advent has given us a different perspective on this season and Christmas. While we await the feast of the birth of Christ, Advent offers us the opportunity to live our lives in the hope that Jesus will return in glory. Of course, no one knows when that will happen, but it does give us a perspective in which to live.

In today's Gospel as Jesus meets the disciples of John, who is in prison, he tells them to take a look around to see what is happening. Jesus doesn't tell them that he is the one who is healing the people. They are to go back and tell John what they saw and heard because the Messianic Age has dawned and there are new experiences that have occurred.

John was sent to prepare the way of the Lord, and when Jesus appeared, John disappeared. Now, our mission is two fold. It is to celebrate the wonder of the Messiah in our world and in our lives. It is also to prepare the way for when he returns. It means that we need to let others know who Jesus is, not so much by what we say but by who we are and how we interact with one another. It also means that we live in the hope and expectation that comes from being God's children, not just during Advent, but all the days of our lives. The problem is that too often we become distracted by the events and people in our lives who can make us lose track of how we are to live.

So, we have Advent that calls us to step back, reflect on our lives and our relationship with God as revealed in Christ Jesus, and to celebrate it with each other. This helps us prepare for all the great events in our lives, and not just at Christmas. But if Jesus returned tomorrow, would we be ready to greet him with the same hope that is engendered in us during this season?

TODAY, at 3:00 PM, we celebrate our **ANNUAL FESTIVAL OF LESSONS AND CAROLS.** Please come and join us as we reflect on salvation history. This is a hopeful and joyful celebration, which helps us to prepare for the Great Feast and Season of Christmas.

HAPPY ADVENT!

~ FR. JOE

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURES

December 7 /8, 2019

\$8,960.00

\$7,240.00 Collection

\$1,720.00 Online Collection

To sign up for Online Giving go to: www.saintjamestheapostle.org

WE ALSO ACCEPT ONLINE CREDIT CARD DONATIONS

Thank you for your continued generosity!

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

Ms. Nancy Caputo, Director ~ Mrs. Colleen Tyra, Administrative Assistant

41 South Springfield Ave, Springfield, NJ 07081 ~ Main Office 973-376-2061 :: Facsimile 973-376-4079

This week is the last week of classes for 2019! Happy 3rd week of Advent, the week of *joy*! The anticipation is growing and our children are getting excited for Christmas to come! On behalf of the Religious Education Staff and volunteers we wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas and good health, peace and love in the New Year!

If you have moved or changed your email address, please let the Religious Education Office know so that we may update your family record.

No classes Sunday, December 22nd & 29th and Tuesday, December 24th & 31st!

8th Grade ~ Ms. Ann Marie Gesualdo

It's hard to believe that this Tuesday, December 17th is our last 8th grade class of the season! I am so pleased to report this class has far exceeded my expectations! We have a great time exploring the fundamentals of our faith and applying them to today's world. **We will resume classes on January 28th!**

A great big ***Shout Out and Thank you*** to the amazing team of 23 Peer Leaders that have lovingly mentored this class and are walking with them on their journey to Confirmation. My pride knows no boundaries for this dedicated and responsible group of young people!!

Confirmation ~ Ms. Ann Marie Gesualdo

Reminder to all 2020 Confirmation Families: Registration forms and payment are due in January.

If you have any questions please contact me.



YOUTH GROUP NEWS

Ms. Ann Marie Gesualdo

Please join us **TONIGHT** Sunday, December 15th for our Youth Group Christmas Party!! We will be in the gym from 7:00-9:00PM doing a little community service and just relaxing, playing games and celebrating the Season!!

Youth Group will resume on Sunday, January 5, 2020 - Discussion Topic to be announced

All high school seniors and juniors interested in being part of this year's Antioch Retreat Team please contact me – our first meeting will be Wednesday, January 8th

2nd Collection: December 14 /15 Retirement for the Religious

The Retirement Fund for Religious is taken up each year on the third Sunday of December. Across the United States, hundreds of religious communities lack financial resources sufficient to meet the retirement and health-care needs of aging members. Some 31,000 elderly sisters, brothers, and religious order priests benefit from your generosity.

Bambinelli Sunday: December 14 /15

Bambinelli Sunday is a beautiful tradition that was started by Pope St. John Paul II. *Bambinelli* in Italian means, "little baby [boy]." Bambinelli Sunday is celebrated on Gaudete Sunday, the third Sunday of Advent. Thousands of people come to St. Peter's Square bringing the Baby Jesus figurines from their crèches and nativity scenes. We invite you to bring the baby Jesus from your family's nativity set for a special blessing after all of the masses.

PARISH SCHOOL NEWS

Mrs. Caroline Ponterio, Principal ~ Mrs. Marilyn DePrimio, Administrative Assistant
41 South Springfield Avenue, Springfield, NJ 07081 ~ Main Office 973-376-5194 :: Facsimile 973-376-5228

Time to Celebrate Academic Excellence....

Report cards for the first trimester were distributed less than two weeks ago at parent-teacher conferences. The names of Saint James students earning First and Second Honors were announced during our morning prayer and those students received their certificates at the "Honor Roll Breakfast" in the Gymnasium. Congratulations to the following students on their achievement:

First Honors

GRADE 4 – Rolando Intal, Madison Mitchell, Jolie Paton, and Ryan Tavares

GRADE 5 – John Peoples and Madalyn Polinger

GRADE 8 – Jamie Jules and Ethan Pinho

Second Honors

GRADE 4 – Suhailah Abdullah, Alexia Alvarez, Demilade Dada, Giovanni German, Rachel Jules, Michael Louis, Christian McCloskey, Anthony Molina, and Isabella Valente

GRADE 5 – Alexa Castillo, Ethan Pierre Philippe, Payten Santiago and Madison Stradford

GRADE 6 – Magdalene Battista, Sophia Hetrick, Sarai Pinion, Christopher Rotolo and Colby Tavares

GRADE 7 – Gavin Diaz, Jayson Gbologa, Emmanuelle Jules, Julia Landicho and Alexandra Morales

GRADE 8 – Kumud Neupane, Ethan Stewart and Tierney Vesey

Breakfast with Santa: Oh by golly, it was so jolly having breakfast together with Santa. Thanks to all who were able to join in the fun!

"Jesus, the Greatest Gift of All" ... All are invited to our annual Christmas pageant on Thursday, December 19. There will be two performances. Our first will be at 1:00 PM and this will serve as a dress rehearsal with our students in their full-dress uniform. The evening performance will be at 7:00 PM and our students will be decked out in their holiday finest. Anyone who cannot make it to our evening performance is encouraged to attend the afternoon performance. Come out for an enjoyable and festive celebration of Christmas under the direction and guidance of our Music teacher, Mrs. Traci Burns.

Saint James the Apostle School

OPEN HOUSE

Sunday, January 26th @ 12 PM



Our students **LEARN.**
Our students **SERVE.**
Our students **LEAD.**
Our students **SUCCEED.**

OPEN HOUSE WEEK

January 13-17

from 9:00 to 11:00 AM

OPEN HOUSE

Sunday, January 26

from 12:00 to 2:00 PM

ADVENT MEMORIALS

THE ADVENT WREATH IS DISPLAYED IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Pete Petino
r/b Janet & Family

THE ADVENT CANDLES WILL BURN IN LOVING MEMORY OF.....

Ludo Nolfo
r/b Family

Mr. & Mrs. B. LoMacchio
and
Mr. & Mrs. J. Carney
r/b Patty & John Carney

Vincent & Mildred Genco
r/b Daughter, Nancy

Modesta Lordi
r/b Her Daughters, Phyllis & Anne

ADVENT "LITTLE BLUE BOOKS"

In Loving Memory of
John D. Pflug, III and Garrett Gurrieri
r/b Pflug Family



CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

CHRISTMAS EVE MASS SCHEDULE

4:00PM Family Mass

7:30PM Mass

12:00AM Midnight Mass

(Christmas concert begins at 11:30PM)

CHRISTMAS DAY MASS SCHEDULE

7:30AM ~ 9:00AM ~ 10:30AM ~ 12:00 Noon

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

Tuesday, December 31

7:00PM

Wednesday, January 1, 2020

9:00AM ~ 10:30AM ~ 12:00 Noon
(No 7:30AM Mass on New Year's Day)

PARISH INFORMATION

Keeping in Touch With One Another

**Wednesday,
December 18th
7:00PM**

**Advent Penance Service
with individual confession**

Advent Reconciliation



A FESTIVAL OF LESSONS AND CAROLS TODAY!

Sunday, December 15

3:00PM ~ In the Church

Spend an hour listening to the Christmas story as woven through the Old and New Testaments and expressed in beautiful Christmas Carols sung by the Saint James Adult and Children's Choirs.

Refreshments will follow.



Volunteers are needed to bake and donate Christmas cookies for the refreshment table at Lessons and Carols on **Sunday, December 15, 2019** at

3:00PM. Bring your cookies with you to Lessons and Carols, or drop them off in the morning when you come to church. For more information, or to volunteer to bake, please contact the Parish Publicity Committee at publicity@saintjamesparish.org.



THE THEME FOR THIS YEAR'S CHRISTMAS TREE IN THE GATHERING AREA IS ANIMALS!

St. Francis of Assisi is the patron saint of animals and he began the Christmas tradition of nativity scenes, also called crèches or manger scenes, in 1223. The first scene, which was set up in a cave, featured costumed people playing the roles of Mary and Joseph and included live animals. Local shepherds watched over their sheep in nearby fields.

In remembrance of St. Francis and to honor the child born in Bethlehem, all parishioners are invited to place an ornament of an animal or St. Francis on the tree starting December 15th. Non-breakable ornaments are best!

All ornaments will be returned when the Christmas season ends in January.

'SIMBANG GABI'

ADVENT NOVENA MASS & FELLOWSHIP/ RECEPTION

In anticipation of the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ and in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Filipino Apostolate of Union County, NJ is hosting the celebration of 'SIMBANG GABI' in 9 parishes from December 15 to 23, 2019. Please pick up a schedule of these masses in the gathering area.

On Monday, December 16, 2019 at 8:00PM, the 'Simbang Gabi' will be at Saint James the Apostle Church. Please join us in this celebration and in the fellowship after the Mass. For additional information, please call Gene and Nene Salle 516-225-5757 or Lisa Veloso 908-838-6980 or Ken Fernandez 201-486-7557.

RESPECT LIFE

Ms. Patricia Sullivan, Coordinator

MARCH FOR LIFE bus trip to Washington, DC on Friday, January 24, 2020. Help save an unborn life and change yours! Bus leaves from Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Scotch Plains. Mass begins at 6:00AM. Bus departs at 6:45AM, returns about 9:00PM. \$35 for adults, \$25 for students, includes sandwiches, drinks, snacks. **Please RSVP by December 13th.** Send check to Knights of Columbus, PO Box 302, Scotch Plains, NJ 07076. Please include name(s) and phone number(s). Make credit card payments at: mkt.om/kofc5730. For more details, please call Mike Romanyshyn at 908-868-2625 or email mromanyshyn@gmail.com.

Today's Gospel Meditation.....

Luke 21:5-19

John the Baptist paid the ultimate sacrifice of his life for speaking God's word and preparing the way for Jesus the Lord and Savior of the world. The Lord Jesus offers us the same assurance of faith and the strength to stand against every force that would try to rob us of our conviction and courage to live and proclaim the *good news* (the *Gospel*) of God's kingdom. Do you know the joy, strength, and power which Jesus gives to every one who puts their trust in him and the power of the Holy Spirit? Ask the Lord Jesus to increase your faith and hope in his promises for you.

"Lord Jesus, strengthen my trust in your word and my hope in the saving power of your kingdom. Free me from everything that would hold me back from pursuing your kingdom and your will for my life."

The third week of Advent marks Gaudete Sunday. It signifies our joy that Christmas is quickly approaching. We hear stories of our faithful ancestors and anticipate the birth of the Christ child. All this happens as we approach the Winter Solstice, the darkest day of the year. In the midst of darkness, we light candles and rejoice for the light among us and the light to come. Although there may be difficult things weighing on our minds, we are invited to see the light in the darkness and rejoice.

HOPE IN DARKNESS: CELEBRATING THE WINTER SOLSTICE

The shortest day of the year is celebrated in various ways by many cultures. Learn about and celebrate this special day of hope! **Registration is required**

Mount St. Mary House of Prayer
1651 US Hwy 22 East, Watchung, NJ
(908) 753-2091 or email: mailto:msmhope@msmhope.org

Dinner and Advent Prayer included.

Fri., Dec. 20, 5:30-9 p.m. (\$50-\$60 as you are able)

Presenter: Mary Jo Kearns, RSM



Helping the Hungry

Peace begins when the hungry are fed.
~ Dorothy Day ~

While donations of all
non-perishable goods
are always
greatly appreciated,
we will identify
priority item(s)
each month
needed by our
receiving organizations.

2020

Monthly Dates & Priority Items

January 11/12: Cereal

February 1/2: Soup

March: No Collection

April 18/19: Canned Veggies

May 16/17: Rice and Beans

June 13/14: Pasta

July 18/19: Shelf Stable Milk

Aug. 15/16: Tuna & Chicken

Sept. 12/13: Peanut Butter & Jelly

October: No Collection

Nov. 14/15: Thanksgiving Items

Dec. 12/13: Christmas Items

March 6: Lenten Supper

October 17: Breakfast Bag Assembly Morning

**St. James the Apostle Church
Springfield**

If you would like to join the Helping the Hungry Ministry and help with the sorting and distribution of the monthly collections please email either Claire or Joanne.

Claire Bernstein: clairebbernstein@gmail.com or Joanne Roethlin: roethlin@yahoo.com



All are welcome!!!

Monday, December 23rd in the Church at 7:45PM
for Advent Evening Prayer

Fr. Joe will lead us in prayerful meditation, accompanied by Matt Wilson and Janet Natale. This beautiful evening is only a half hour and a beautiful way to close out the Advent Season. Please consider joining us!



THE PRAYER CORNER

"To everything there is a season and a time for every purpose..."



INTENTIONS FOR THE SICK

At the *General Intercessions* we pray for the sick. Our prayers for the sick are very important, especially in critical times of sudden illness, surgery or worsening condition. We will continue to pray for and mention the names of the sick. When the condition improves, please call the Rectory so that the name can be removed from the list.

HOSPITAL VISITATIONS

If you or someone you know is in the hospital, please inform the hospital staff that you are Catholic and a member of Saint James the Apostle Church. Saint James will be notified and arrangements will be made for a priest or deacon to visit you. Please be sure to include the hospital information. Contact the Rectory to have a name added to the prayer list at Mass and/or to the Prayer Line.

RECEIVING COMMUNION

It is good to remind ourselves of the reverence needed when we receive the Body and Blood of Christ. When we approach the altar, if receiving on the hand, please remove any gloves beforehand. Remember to bow slightly without being ostentatious and reply "Amen".

If communion runs out, please wait in line for the Minister to return.

COMMUNION AT MASS

If you cannot walk up the aisle to receive Holy Communion and do not want to sit in the first pew, please let one of the ushers know and an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion will come to you at the end of the procession and administer the Body & Blood to you.

Please join us in prayer for the
Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament with
Miraculous Medal Novena, Rosary and Benediction on
Monday evenings in our Church.

All are welcome!
Join us Monday, December 16th at 6:30PM



DEVOTIONS AND MEMORIALS ~ *Spiritual Offerings*

To have a loved one remembered, please call the Rectory Office
Sanctuary Lamp ~ Bread & Wine ~ Flowers By the Tabernacle



BREAD AND WINE

For the People of Saint James



SANCTUARY LAMP

Yannazzone and Deeney Families
~ *Yannazzone Family*

A TIME TO BE BAPTIZED

Winston Ansah, Dominic Gigantino

A TIME TO WED



A TIME TO DIE

Joe Impagliatelli, Deacon Wilfrid Leconte,
Carol Robaldi, Mary Wood

A TIME TO HEAL

Pat Anelli, Anthony B., Paul Barbato,
Concetta Bellott, Pat Butterworth Enid Cabot,
Dolores Cardillo, John Carney, Helen Chelis,
Lena Chromowski, Phyllis Colosimo, Van Corteza,
James Curry, Maureen D., Rick Ellmer,
Alfredo Fernandes, Berta Franco, Marianne Galluccio,
Carole Griner, Steven Hensle, Laura Hughes,
Robert Hunrath, William Jackowski, Eddie Jenna,
Maryann Leach, Dina Ledogar, Maureen Le Goff,
Angelina Lipski, Richie Lipski, Carmen Lombardi,
Marian Lordi, Richard Lorenzo, Barbara Ludolph,
Reggie Malabanan, Angie Mazzarisi, Nicholas Melillo,
Richard Miele, Bob Mifsud, Aman Mo,
Moise Modestin, Timothy Morgan, Anna Massa,
Ive Mureny, Christian Murphy, Carol Muzacs,
Rafaelina Oliviero, Tom Olivo, Anna P.,
Joseph Papierz, Janet Payson, Elizabeth Piedl,
John Reiss, Epifania Rivera, Gary Ruzich,
Anthony S., Jack Silbert, Debbie Staib,
Stephanie Toth, Anne Wallis, Tom Walsh,
Mary Yobbi

A TIME OF WAR & PEACE

Tim Arentz, PFC Kevin Bernor, Brian Braine,
Sean Curran, PFC Paul Devine, Capt. Sean P. Eadie,
Stacy Enyeart, David Fenton, Shane Fenton,
Luis Fonseca, LCPL Christopher P. Garrigan,
2LT Andrew Kerwin, Stephen Patricco, Aric Patten,
Phillip Patten, Aaron Pluto, 1Lt. Stacia Rogacki,
1Lt. Steven Rogacki, LCPL Nick Wheeler



MASS INTENTIONS

SUNDAY, December 15 Third Sunday of Advent

5:00PM (SATURDAY)

Carlyn Ryan ~ *Carmela Fusco*

7:30AM

Mary Hayes ~ *Pafumi Family*

9:00AM

Luigi & Rosaria Reino ~ *Anthony & Carmelina Reino*

10:30AM

For the People of Saint James

12:00PM

Frank Romano ~ *Romano Family*

MONDAY, December 16

7:30AM

Susie LoMacchio ~ *Patty & John*

8:00PM SIMBANG GABI

Fillipino Community of Saint James

TUESDAY, December 17

7:30AM

Corwin Mokler ~ *Susan Sullivan*

WEDNESDAY, December 18

7:30AM

Rose & Bob Pollick ~ *Evelyn Leshko*

THURSDAY, December 19

7:30AM

Matilda Tillie Kuzma ~ *Chris & Laura Hegen*

FRIDAY, December 20

7:30AM

Louis Lugiano ~ *Arlene Scanlon*

SATURDAY, December 21

8:00AM

Modesta Lordi ~ *Daughters, Phyllis & Anne*

SUNDAY, December 22 Fourth Sunday of Advent

5:00PM (SATURDAY)

Ann & Vincent Pettrignani and Carmela Frio

~ *Ann & Family*

7:30AM

Joe & Mary Barbone ~ *Family*

9:00AM

James Russo ~ *Carmela Fusco*

10:30AM

Frank Romano ~ *Romano Family*

12:00PM

Angela & Daniel Raimondo

~ *Evelyn Raimondo-Kaiser & Marianne Vanvolkenburgh*

PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

Under the Guidance of the **Holy Spirit** as a
Welcoming and Diverse Community,

We, the **Parish of Saint James the Apostle**

Invite All to Worship as We Celebrate the Eucharist,
Proclaim the Good News of **Jesus Christ** and Serve the
Needs of One Another,
as We Help Build the **Kingdom of God on Earth.**