



SAINT JAMES

the APOSTLE CHURCH



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OFFICE: 973-376-3044 :: FACSIMILE: 973-376-0560



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Father Joseph F. Barbone, M.A.
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PAROCHIAL VICAR

Father Antonio N. Kuizon
ankui@aol.com

PERMANENT DEACONS

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[www. SaintJamesTheApostle.org](http://www.SaintJamesTheApostle.org)

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DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Ms. Nancy Caputo, M.Ed., Spec. Ed-ASD, Cert.
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PARISH TRUSTEES

Mrs. Janet Petino and Mr. John Pflug

PARISH COUNCIL

saintjamesparishcouncil@gmail.com

RECTORY HOURS

Monday-Friday: 8:00AM~3:00PM
closed daily 12:00-1:00PM)

[Click to join us on Face Book!](#)



A WELCOMING CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF FAITH.

COME EXPERIENCE CHRIST WITH US!

December 20, 2020

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

**“EGREDIETUR VIRGA DE RADICE JESSE,
ET REPLEBITUR OMNIS TERRA GLORIA DOMINI:
ET VIDEBIT OMNES SALUTARE DEI.**

**A NEW SHOOT SHALL SPRING FROM THE ROOT OF JESSE,
AND ALL THE EARTH WILL BE FILLED WITH THE GLORY OF THE LORD. ALL FLESH
WILL SEE THE SALVATION BY OUR GOD.”**

An Advent Sourcebook, p. 130

The Gospel for the Fourth Sunday of Advent is always about Mary because the Feast of Christmas, the birth of Christ, is only a few days away. Today's Gospel from Luke is the story of the Annunciation, when Mary was told that she was to be the Mother of the Savior.

Talk about a life changing experience! No wonder she was surprised by the announcement. Even though she was just 15, she was able to trust God enough to allow him to guide the rest of her life. Mary reminds us of unshakeable faith in God, and it can be that way with us if we are open and receptive to where God leads us. Mary is also an example of fidelity to God and to his Son, Jesus. While she may not have understood everything that was happening, she trusted God enough to follow where he led her. Unlike Mary, sometimes we try to have everything organized and in order before we decide to act.

Mary is also a faithful disciple, willing to listen and follow the Lord. She is also a woman of strength; she needed to be that with all the difficulties she had to face in her life, especially when her Son was executed. There is a lot that we can draw from Mary, hoping that we can be just as faithful to Jesus as she was. In so many ways, we can look to Mary as we prepare to celebrate the Feast and Season of Christmas.

As is mentioned elsewhere in today's bulletin, the number of parishioners that can attend Christmas Eve and Christmas Day masses is limited, and attendance at mass is by reservation only. Please call the rectory to make a reservation. The 4:00PM Christmas Eve mass and the 10:30AM Christmas Day mass will be live-streamed. Those parishioners with underlying health conditions or those who are older should watch mass at home and remain safe.

On behalf of our entire Parish Staff: FR. TONY, DEACON JERRY, DEACON HUGH, NANCY CAPUTO, DAN PALKO, OUR SUPPORT STAFF & MYSELF, I want to offer you and your families our best wishes for a MERRY & BLESSED CHRISTMAS & CHRISTMAS SEASON. While it will be a different Christmas because of the pandemic, may it truly be a time of peace, joy and hope for us all.

MERRY CHRISTMAS!! BUON NATALE!! FELIZ NAVIDAD!!

~ Fr. Joe



STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURES

\$8,551.00

\$6,574.00 Church Collection

\$1,977.00 Online Collection

\$1,100.00 Immaculate Conception

\$678.00 Retired Priest

To sign up for Online Giving go to:

www.saintjamestheapostle.org

**WE ALSO ACCEPT ONLINE CREDIT CARD
DONATIONS**

Parishioners wishing to mail-in or drop off their weekly contribution in the Rectory mail slot are welcome to do so

OR

To make a donation to help our parish, please visit our GoFundMe page:

<https://charity.gofundme.com/donate/event/archdiocese-of-newark?lang=en-us>

Select Team: Saint James the Apostle, Springfield
(all donations are gratefully accepted)



MASS INFORMATION

Vigil Mass ~ Saturday 5:00PM

Sunday 7:30AM ~ 9:00AM ~ 10:30AM ~ 12:00PM

(10:30AM Mass Facebook / YouTube)

DAILY MASS

Weekday: Novena 7:10AM ~ Mass 7:30AM

Saturday: Novena 7:40AM ~ Mass 8:00AM

NOVENA

Monday Evenings ~ 7:00PM

Facebook / Zoom only

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

By Appointment



SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Due to the ongoing need for social distancing, there are no group baptisms at this time.

The Sacrament of Baptism is celebrated individually.

Please call the rectory to schedule your infant's baptism.



SACRAMENT INFORMATION

PLEASE CALL THE RECTORY FOR INFORMATION CONCERNING

THE RCIA PROCESS

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is a process where individuals who seek to receive the Sacraments of Initiation or who have never been baptized enter into full communion with the faith.

BAPTISM ~ CONFIRMATION ~ MARRIAGE ~ SACRAMENT OF THE SICK

VOCATIONS

Is God calling you to the priesthood or Religious Life?

Speak to one of our priests or call the Vocations Office 973-497-4365.

CHRISTMAS EVE & CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES

Information during Covid-19

Dear Fellow Saint James Parishioners:

As we all prepare for a very different Christmas, here are a few suggestions to help you:

The capacity of the church is 77 people seated. There are additional spots in which folks can stand during the Mass along the perimeter of the church. If you are planning to attend one of the Christmas Eve or Christmas Day Masses you must either **call the rectory or email me** at jbarbone546@gmail.com by December 23rd with the number of people (including children) and the time / day of your preferred mass. This is very important because of the limited number of people allowed in the church at one time. The Christmas Eve 4:00PM and 10:30AM Christmas Day Masses will be live-streamed for those who do not feel comfortable attending Mass in person.

If you or someone in your household is not feeling well, or you have an underlying health concern, please stay home and attend one of the virtual masses.

The names will be checked at the entrance of the church by the ushers and those who have not signed up will not be allowed into the church until those who have signed up are present. This is meant to keep everyone safe.

We are following directives sent to us by the archdiocese. I ask for your patience and understanding since this is a different procedure than what we are used to doing.

Thank you. God bless you.

Any questions or comments, please let me know.

Fr. Joe



MESSAGE FROM FR. JOE

Regarding Attending Mass during Covid-19

Dear Fellow Saint James Parishioners:

It is great to be back together in church for Mass, but things are a little different. Senior citizens and those with underlying medical conditions are encouraged to remain at home and watch the Sunday online 10:30AM Mass, which we will continue to live-stream.

If you do come to church for Mass, please remember the following:

1. You must wear a mask to enter the church and you must keep your mask on at all times while in the church, including during Mass.
2. As you go from the Gathering Area into the church, please use the appropriate door to enter and exit the church.
3. Please observe the one-way aisles, which are marked with blue tape on the floor.
4. You must maintain social distancing while in the church.
5. Half of the pews have been taped off to maintain social distancing. There are pieces of blue tape on each pew where you can sit. They are also on the floor by the back walls for those who prefer to stand. This area is also marked for social distancing.
6. Family members can sit together, but everyone else must sit 6 feet apart.
7. The weekly collection baskets will not be passed from parishioner to parishioner. They will be on the baptismal font. Please drop in your donation as you enter or exit the church.
8. There is no procession of the bread and wine ("bringing up the gifts").
9. Please do not shake hands when sharing the sign of peace. Instead, wave, nod, or bow slightly.
10. There are three Communion stations: one in the center, one by the organ, and one by the ambo. The ushers will direct you to maintain social distance.
11. Hosts can no longer be placed directly on a parishioner's tongue by a priest, deacon, or Eucharistic Minister. You must receive the Host in your hand and place it on your tongue. There is no receiving from the Cup.
12. When it is your turn to receive Communion, approach the priest or deacon, receive the Host in your hand, step aside, raise or lower your mask, and place the Host on your tongue. Immediately replace your mask over your mouth.
13. The candles in the Gathering Area have been turned off and they are taped.
14. There are no printed bulletins. Bulletins are posted online on the parish website.
15. The Worship books have been removed from church. You may bring your own booklet, iPad or iPhone to use during Mass.
16. You will also notice that everything that can be touched has been removed from the church. There is no Holy Water.
17. Once Mass is over, please quickly exit the church so that the pews can be sanitized for the next Mass.
18. If you want to socialize with others whom you may not have seen in a while, please do so outside of church and not in the Gathering Area.

If you have any questions or are unsure of what to do while in church, please ask an usher. I ask your patience as we attempt to navigate through all of this. We realize this is a very different situation for all of us. It can work if we work together. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to let me know.

Stay safe!

Fr. Joe

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

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

Main Office 973-376-2061 :: Facsimile 973-376-4079

A tremendous **“THANK YOU”** to everyone who donated Gift Cards to the Virtual Secret Santa collection for Family Promise families! Your generosity continues to astound us!

Happy Fourth Week of Advent!! This week is the week of “love” may the love of Christ shine within you!

Thank you to the First Eucharist families who joined our Zoom last Monday. We appreciate your support and can't wait until the Spring to celebrate with you and your child!!!

Colleen and I wish you a very Merry Christmas and a New Year filled with peace, happiness and good health!

Fr. Joe and the staff of Saint James hope that you will continue to join us in the virtual events planned during the rest of Advent and the Christmas Season. While our ability to gather together may have changed, our ability to pray together hasn't. We are looking forward to sharing this time with you virtually!

First through Sixth Grades:

Our next Zoom Classes take place today!

Tuesday 6th Grade we will see you at 4:00PM on December 22nd



CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

CHRISTMAS EVE MASS SCHEDULE

4:00 p.m. Family Mass (live-streamed)

7:30 p.m. ~ Mass at Midnight

CHRISTMAS DAY MASS SCHEDULE

7:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m.,

10:30 a.m. (live-streamed)

12:00 p.m. Noon

Feast of the Holy Family

Blessing of families at all Masses

Saturday, December 26 at 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 27 at 7:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 12:00 p.m. Noon

NEW YEARS MASSES: SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

Friday, January 1, 2021

(No 7:30 a.m. Mass)

Mass celebrated Thursday, December 31 at 7:00 p.m.

Friday, 9:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 12:00 p.m. Noon

**** Schedule subject to change****

ADVENT MEMORIALS

THE ADVENT WREATH IS DISPLAYED IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Those who lost their battle with Covid-19

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

First Responders

Deacon Dan O'Neill

Health Care Providers

Janice Bongiovanni

ADVENT "LITTLE BLUE BOOKS"

In Loving Memory of

John D. Pflug, III and Garrett Gurrieri

r/ b Pflug Family

CHRISTMAS MEMORIALS

THE CRÈCHE IN THE SANCTUARY
IS DISPLAYED IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Raffaele & Sabino Battaglia
r/b The Battaglia Family

THE WREATH IN THE SANCTUARY
IS DISPLAYED IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Matthew Swajkowski
r/b Cynthia & Matthew Vincent & Alison Swajkowski

THE POINSETTIAS ADORNING THE ALTAR
ARE DISPLAYED IN LOVING MEMORY OF
The Deceased Members Of Saint James

r/b Parishioners
Deceased Members of the DelMauro Family
r/b Battaglia Family

THE POINSETTIAS AT THE SHRINE OF OUR
LADY OF GUADALUPE IS DISPLAYED IN
LOVING MEMORY OF

The Zara Family
r/b The Battaglia Family

THE WREATH PLACED AT THE SHRINE OF ST.
JAMES IS DISPLAYED IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Anne Marie Genninger & Carolyn Nelson
r/b Religious Education Community

THE POINSETTIAS PLACED AT THE
BAPTISMAL FONT ARE DISPLAYED IN
LOVING MEMORY OF

The Deceased Members Of Saint James
r/b Parishioners

THE POINSETTIAS AT THE SHRINE OF
ST. JAMES ARE DISPLAYED IN LOVING
MEMORY OF

The Battaglia Family
r/b The Battaglia Family



THE CHRISTMAS TREES IN THE SANCTUARY
ARE DISPLAYED IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Michael Pierson Bongiovanni, Jr.

Janice Bongiovanni
r/b Deacon Jerry

Tony Graziano
r/b The Family

Bollmeyer & Genco Families
r/b Nancy Caputo

Angelina Crucitti
r/b The Bentivegna & Lefkowitz Families

THE WREATHS ON THE OUTDOOR
COLUMNS ARE DISPLAYED IN LOVING
MEMORY OF

Joseph & Mary Barbone
r/b The Family

Edward J. Graziano
r/b Colleen McDonald

Viola Morano
r/b Daughter, Marylou Kjelle

THE CHRISTMAS TREES BY THE OUTSIDE
CRÈCHE ARE DISPLAYED IN LOVING
MEMORY OF

Irene Kareivis & Catherine McCluskey
r/b Kathy & Joe Kareivis

THE WREATH OVER THE DOORS IN THE
GATHERING AREA IS DISPLAYED IN
LOVING MEMORY OF


Louis Stiglitz
r/b Marilyn Stiglitz


THE WREATH OVER THE DOORS INSIDE
THE CHURCH IS DISPLAYED IN LOVING
MEMORY OF


The Fischer, Ragosa & Dondero Families
r/b Francine R. Fischer



PARISH INFORMATION



St. James the Apostle Church
JOIN US
**ONLINE ROSARY
& NOVENA**
EVERY MONDAY at 7:00 P.M.

www.facebook.com/saintjamestheapostle/live/



Join us in the Gathering Area of the Church or log on to the Saint James the Apostle Parishioner Face Book Page to join us on YouTube!

Thank you to all the Saint James Parishioners who purchased Gift Cards for the virtual Secret Santa for Family Promise of Union County!

Through your generosity, many families will have a merrier Christmas!

May God continue to bless you in the New Year!

Pat Sullivan & Nancy Caputo

Has your child been baptized but not catechized or received their sacraments?



Are they of school age and not yet baptized?

Do you have a special needs child needing catechesis?

Please call or email the Religious Education Office.

SUNDAY READINGS ~ December 20, 2020

Visit: <http://www.usccb.org/> to receive daily Scripture Readings

FIRST READING: Samuel 7:1-5, 8B-12, 14A, 16

When King David was settled in his palace, and the LORD had given him rest from his enemies on every side, he said to Nathan the prophet, "Here I am living in a house of cedar, while the ark of God dwells in a tent!" Nathan answered the king, "Go, do whatever you have in mind, for the LORD is with you." But that night the LORD spoke to Nathan and said: "Go, tell my servant David, "Thus says the LORD: Should you build me a house to dwell in?" "It was I who took you from the pasture and from the care of the flock to be commander of my people Israel. I have been with you wherever you went, and I have destroyed all your enemies before you. And I will make you famous like the great ones of the earth. I will fix a place for my people Israel; I will plant them so that they may dwell in their place without further disturbance. Neither shall the wicked continue to afflict them as they did of old, since the time I first appointed judges over my people Israel. I will give you rest from all your enemies. The LORD also reveals to you that he will establish a house for you. And when your time comes and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your heir after you, sprung from your loins, and I will make his kingdom firm. I will be a father to him, and he shall be a son to me. Your house and your kingdom shall endure forever before me; your throne shall stand firm forever."

Tan pronto como el rey David se instaló en su palacio y el Señor le concedió descansar de todos los enemigos que lo rodeaban, el rey dijo al profeta Natán: "¿Te has dado cuenta de que yo vivo en una mansión de cedro, mientras el arca de Dios sigue alojada en una tienda de campaña?" Natán le respondió: "Anda y haz todo lo que te dicte el corazón, porque el Señor está contigo." Aquella misma noche habló el Señor a Natán y le dijo: "Ve y dile a mi siervo David que el Señor le manda decir esto: "¿Piensas que vas a ser tú el que me construya una casa, para que yo habite en ella? Yo te saqué de los apriscos y de andar tras las ovejas, para que fueras el jefe de mi pueblo, Israel. Yo estaré contigo en todo lo que emprendas, acabaré con tus enemigos y te haré tan famoso como los hombres más famosos de la tierra. Le asignaré un lugar a mi pueblo, Israel; lo plantaré allí para que habite en su propia tierra. Vivirá tranquilo y sus enemigos ya no lo oprimirán más, como lo han venido haciendo desde los tiempos en que establecí jueces para gobernar a mi pueblo, Israel. Y a ti, David, te haré descansar de todos tus enemigos. Además, yo, el Señor, te hago saber que te daré una dinastía; y cuando tus días se hayan cumplido y descanses para siempre con tus padres, engrandeceré a tu hijo, sangre de tu sangre, y consolidaré su reino. Yo seré para él un padre y él será para mí un hijo. Tu casa y tu reino permanecerán para siempre ante mí, y tu trono será estable eternamente."

The word of the Lord

R. Thanks be to God!

La Palabra del Señor.....

R. ¡Gracias a Dios!

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

PSALM 25

R. To you, O lord, I lift my soul, to you, I lift my soul.
R. A ti oh Señor levanto mi alma, a ti levanto mi alma

SECOND READING: ROMANS 16: 25-27

Brothers and sisters:

To him who can strengthen you,
according to my gospel and the proclamation of
Jesus Christ,
according to the revelation of the mystery kept secret
for long ages
but now manifested through the prophetic writings and,
according to the command of the eternal God,
made known to all nations to bring about the obedience
of faith,
to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ
be glory forever and ever.
Amen.

Hermanos:

A aquel que puede darles fuerzas para cumplir
el Evangelio que yo he proclamado,
predicando a Cristo,
conforme a la revelación del misterio, mantenido en
secreto durante siglos,
y que ahora, en cumplimiento del designio eterno de
Dios,
ha quedado manifestado por las Sagradas Escrituras,
para atraer a todas las naciones a la obediencia de la fe,
al Dios único, infinitamente sabio, démosle gloria,
por Jesucristo, para siempre.
Amén.

The word of the Lord

R. Thanks be to God!

La Palabra del Señor.....

R. ¡Gracias a Dios!

Gospel Acclamation

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done
to me according to your word.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

R. Aleluya, aleluya.

Yo soy la esclava del Señor;
que se cumpla en mí lo que me has dicho.

R. Aleluya.

Priest / Deacon: The Lord be with you.....

R. And with your Spirit...

Priest / Deacon: A reading from the Holy Gospel
according to Luke....

R. Glory to you O Lord

Sacerdote / Diácono: El Señor esté contigo ...

R. Y con tu Espíritu ...

Sacerdote / Diácono: Una lectura del Santo Evangelio
según Mateo ...

R. Gloria a ti, oh Señor ...

with your thumb, make a little sign of the cross, first on your forehead; then on your lips; then on your heart

GOSPEL: Luke 1:26-38

The angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary. And coming to her, he said, "Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you." But she was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. "Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." But Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I have no relations with a man?" And the angel said to her in reply, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. And behold, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren; for nothing will be impossible for God." Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

En aquel tiempo, el ángel Gabriel fue enviado por Dios a una ciudad de Galilea, llamada Nazaret, a una virgen desposada con un varón de la estirpe de David, llamado José. La virgen se llamaba María. Entró el ángel a donde ella estaba y le dijo: "¡Alégrate, llena de gracia, el Señor está contigo." Al oír estas palabras, ella se preocupó mucho y se preguntaba qué querría decir semejante saludo. El ángel le dijo: "No temas, María, porque has hallado gracia ante Dios. Vas a concebir y a dar a luz un hijo y le pondrás por nombre Jesús. Él será grande y será llamado Hijo del Altísimo; el Señor Dios le dará el trono de David, su padre, y él reinará sobre la casa de Jacob por los siglos y su reinado no tendrá fin." María le dijo entonces al ángel: "¿Cómo podrá ser esto, puesto que yo permanezco virgen?" El ángel le contestó: "El Espíritu Santo descenderá sobre ti y el poder del Altísimo te cubrirá con su sombra. Por eso, el Santo, que va a nacer de ti, será llamado Hijo de Dios. Ahí tienes a tu parienta Isabel, que a pesar de su vejez, ha concebido un hijo y ya va en el sexto mes la que llamaban estéril, porque no hay nada imposible para Dios." María contestó: "Yo soy la esclava del Señor; cúmplase en mí lo que me has dicho." Y el ángel se retiró de su presencia.

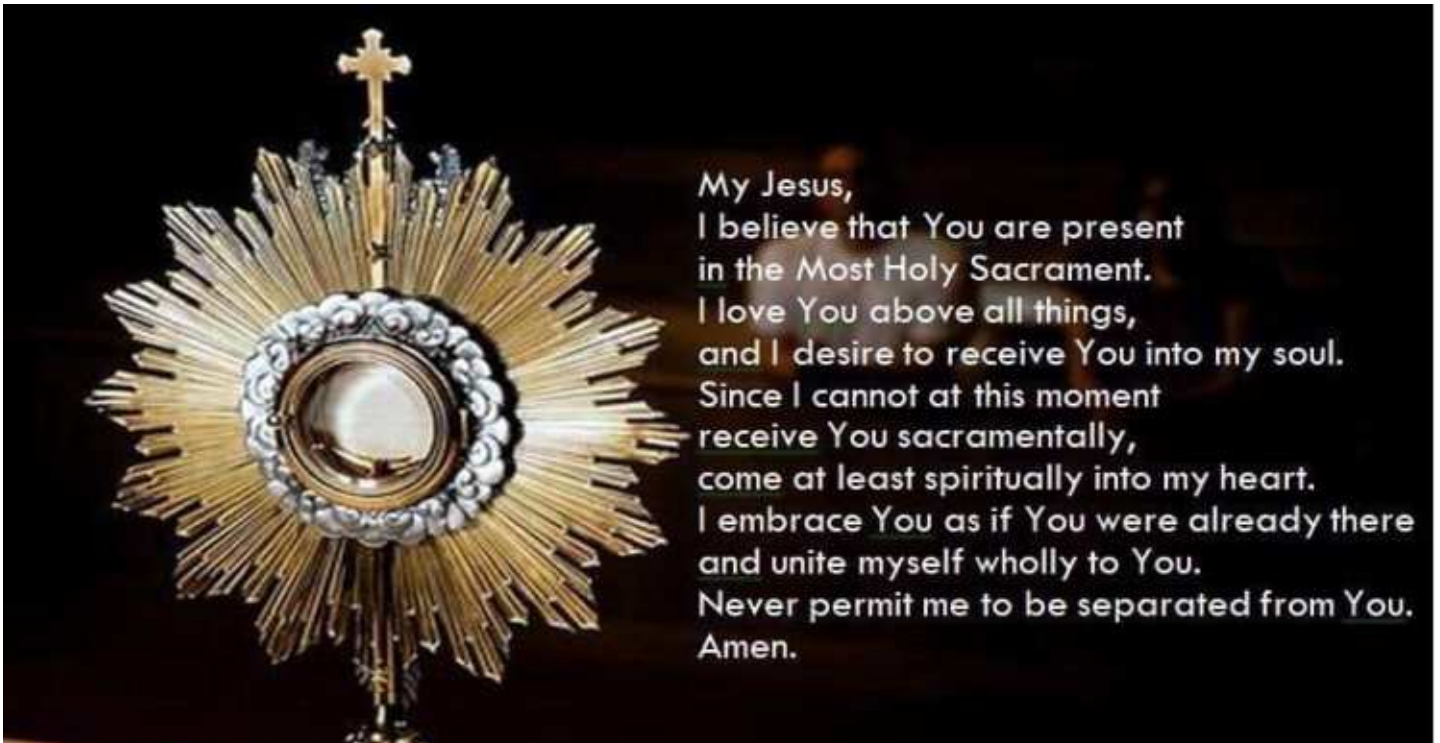
Priest / Deacon:

The Gospel of the Lord

R. Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ!

El Evangelio del Señor

R. ¡Alabado seas, Señor Jesucristo!



My Jesus,
I believe that You are present
in the Most Holy Sacrament.
I love You above all things,
and I desire to receive You into my soul.
Since I cannot at this moment
receive You sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart.
I embrace You as if You were already there
and unite myself wholly to You.
Never permit me to be separated from You.
Amen.

Gospel Reflection:

Luke 1:26-38

What is the key that unlocks the power and grace of God's kingdom in our personal lives? Faith and obedience for sure! God gives us grace and he expects us to respond with the same willing obedience and heartfelt trust as Mary did. When God commands he also gives the help and means to respond. We can either yield to his grace or resist and go our own way. Do you believe in God's promises and do you yield to his grace?

Heavenly Father, you offer us abundant grace, mercy, and forgiveness through your Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ. Help me to live a grace-filled life as Mary did by believing in your promises and by giving you my unqualified 'yes' to your will and plan for my life.

**SCRIPTURE READINGS: SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2020
THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH**

FIRST READING: Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14 ~ SECOND READING: Colossians 3:12-21

GOSPEL: Luke 2:22-40

HYMNS

Gathering Hymn: Come Sing a Home & Family

Communion Procession: O Little Town of Bethlehem

Hymn of Sending Forth: Go Tell It on the Mountain

HYMN OF GATHERING

ADVENT GATHERING SONG

Gently
mp James J. Chepponis

Come, come Em - man - u - el.

Come, Em - man - u - el.

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O Come, O Come,
EMMANUEL

Images courtesy of Google Images

HYMN DURING COMMUNION PROCESSION

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



1. O come, O come, Em - man - u - el,
 2. O come, O Wis - dom from on high,
 3. O come, O come, great Lord of might,
 4. O come, O Rod of Jes - se's stem,
 5. O come, O Key of Da - vid, come,



And ran - som cap - tive Is - ra - el,
 Who or - der all things might - i - ly;
 Who to your tribes on Si - nai's height
 From ev - 'ry foe de - liv - er them
 And o - pen wide our heav'n - ly home;



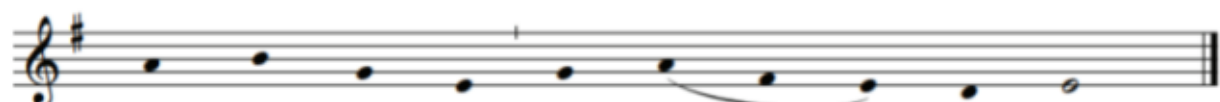
That mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
 To us the path of knowl - edge show,
 In an - cient times once gave the Law
 That trust your might - y power to save,
 Make safe the way that leads on high,



Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 And teach us in her ways to go.
 In cloud and maj - es - ty and awe.
 And give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.
 And close the path to mis - er - y.



Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el



Shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

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MINISTRY CHRISTMAS MESSAGE!

The Parish Publicity Committee would like to wish everyone at Saint James a Merry Christmas and a New Year filled with peace, good health, and many more blessings from the Lord.

"The angel said to them...I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people." Luke 2:10



Lord, you made the journey of the unborn child and became one of us through the birth of your son, Jesus Christ.

Lord, you are the divine architect of every human life. At Christmas you join with the life you created through the child born in Bethlehem.

Lord, you made women and men in your image. Let this Christmas fill all of us with the awe and wonder of your gift of creation. Cleanse the world of all that rejects life.

Let our Christmas joy be the joy of welcoming and protecting every human life in all stages and for all time!

Amen.

Thank you for your generous support of our ministry this year. Wishing all of you and your families, a very Blessed Christmas!

Respect Life Ministry

Parishioners are encouraged to bring your iPhone and/or iPad to Mass with you to access the weekly bulletin and follow along with the readings and sing the hymns!

To access our parish website go to: www.SaintJamesTheApostle.org

Go to the bottom, right side of the website and click either the parish bulletin or click the USCCB website.

The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) December 25.

There are four Masses that are celebrated for the Feast of Christmas and each is given its own set of readings to help us contemplate Christ's birth. The Gospel for the Vigil Mass on Christmas Eve is taken from the beginning of the Gospel of Matthew. The Mass at midnight proclaims the birth of Jesus through the Gospel of Luke. The Mass at dawn on Christmas morning continues the story of the birth of Jesus as found in Luke's Gospel, ending



with the shepherds' visit to the infant Jesus. In each of these Gospel readings, we hear portions of the infancy narratives with which we are familiar. The Gospel for the Christmas Mass during the day is taken from the beginning of John's Gospel, but this part of John's Gospel is not an infancy narrative like those found in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke. Instead, John's Gospel starts at the very beginning and presents the Creation story as the framework for announcing the Incarnation. John's opening words echo the first verse in the Book of Genesis. This framework invites us to view Jesus' birth from God's perspective. Each of the Gospels makes clear that Jesus' birth was the result of God's initiative. John's Gospel, however, emphasizes that Jesus' birth was the divine intention from the moment of Creation. As we observe in today's reading, the Gospel of John includes highly philosophical and theological language. One example that particularly stands out in this Gospel is John's repeated references to "the Word" in the opening verse. This expression (logos in the Greek) borrows from a concept found in both Jewish and Greek thought. Jews used this phrase to describe God's action in the Creation story, for example, and in the Wisdom literature. In Greek thought, the logos was understood as an intermediary between God and humanity. John and others in the early Church adopted this language to describe God's incarnation in Jesus. As the term was used to express the Trinitarian faith of Christians, the Word came to be equated with the Second Person of the Trinity. In this prologue to the Gospel of John, we also hear the main themes that will be developed in his Gospel. These are often presented as dualities: light and dark, truth and falsehood, life and death, and belief and unbelief. We also hear in this prologue a unique aspect of John's Gospel, the theme of testimony. John the Baptist was sent by God to testify to Jesus, the light. Others in this Gospel will also offer testimony about Jesus. The reader is invited to accept this testimony, which bears witness to Jesus, the Son of God. But even more directly, Jesus' action and words will testify to Jesus' identity as God's Incarnate Word. Thinking about Jesus' birth in these theological and cosmological terms is particularly appropriate as we celebrate the Feast of Christmas in the darkness of winter. At this time, nature itself seems to remind us of the darkness of sin. Into this darkness, in the midst of our sinfulness, God comes to dwell among us. John's Gospel reminds us that through the Incarnation, God saves us from the darkness of sin and makes us his children.

Source: www.LoyolaPress.com

**Saint of the Week Saint Stephen Feast Day December 26.
Patron Saint of bricklayers and stonemasons.**

One of the first deacons of the Church was a man named Stephen, a man filled with the Holy Spirit and with faith. Besides his job of overseeing the distribution of the poor, he also preached. A group of Jewish Hellenists strongly resented Stephen's preaching of salvation through Jesus. The situation became so tense that they found witnesses to falsely testify that Stephen had committed blasphemy. Stephen was arrested and brought to the court. The odds were against him and Jesus said, "When they hand you over, do not worry about how you are to speak or what you are to say; for what you are to say will be given to you in that hour; for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your father speaking through you (Mathew 10:19-20). Stephen knew he would be helped by the Holy Spirit, and he wasn't afraid. When Stephen testified in court, he made two major points. First he believed that God could be found everywhere, not just in a single place like temple or a single person like Abraham. Second he demonstrated how from the beginning, the Israelites had consistently rejected God's messengers, prophets, and chosen servants. And now they rejected and killed God's Son who had



been sent to them. Those who had been listening to Stephen were blinded by anger so strong that they didn't even wait for normal court proceedings. They rushed toward him, dragged him out of town, and stoned him. Stephen was the first person killed for Christ. His last words were "Lord, do not hold this sin against them" (Acts 7:60).

Prayer to Saint Stephen

We give your thanks,
O Lord of glory,
for the example of the first martyr who looked up
to heaven and prayed for his persecutors
to Your Son Jesus Christ,
Who stand at Your right hand,
where He lives And reigns with You and the Holy Spirit,
One God, in glory everlasting.
Amen.

Source: www.LoyolaPress.com



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.

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.

RECEIVING COMMUNION

A reminder that during the Covid-19 restrictions, the Eucharist can only be received in the hands. It is good to remind ourselves of the reverence needed when we receive the Body and Blood of Christ.

When we approach the altar 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.

The ushers are available to assist you during the reception of Holy Communion and before / after Mass.

A Prayer for Persons Suffering from the Coronavirus

Merciful God, hear our fervent prayer for all who suffer from the coronavirus.

*May those who are infected receive the proper treatment
and the comfort of your healing presence.*

*May their caregivers, families and neighbors be shielded
from the onslaught of the virus.*

Give solace to those who grieve the loss of loved ones.

Protect and guide those who strive to find a cure,

that their work may conquer the disease and restore communities to wholeness and health.

*Help us to rise above fear. We ask all this through the intercession of Our Lady of Lourdes,
and in the name of your Son, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit, now and forever.*

Amen.

A TIME TO BAPTIZE



A TIME TO WED



A TIME TO HEAL

Franco Amato, Pat Anelli, Ginnie Attanasio, Monina Avella, Joyce Bauman, Concetta Bellott, Barbara Bentz, Severina Bion, Arlene Boja, Leo Brady, Victoria Burns, Gerry Campagnola, Enid Cabot, Dolores Cardillo, Helen Chelis, Lena Chromowski, Lucia Cocuzza, Phyllis Colosimo, Celine Correia, James Curry, Maureen D., Richard Delany, Anthony De Santis, Carmela DeSarno, Victoria Egner, Rick Ellmer, Alfredo Fernandes, Berta Franco, Martin Gignac, Carole Griner, Steven Hensle, Laura Hughes, Robert Hunrath, Eddie Jenna, Irene Kurpieski, Dana Kelley, Art Kistler, Maryann Leach, Dina Ledogar, Maureen Le Goff, Lucille Lerner, Andy Lindgren, Angelina Lipski, Chenoa Lipski, Richie Lipski, Marian Lordi, Richard Lorenzo, Barbara Ludolph, Erica Luther, Dana Majewski, Angie Mazzarisi, Leonard McGinley, Stan Mickham, Richard Miele, Julie Mohnhunn, Andres Montero, Mario Morelli, Timothy Morgan, Ive Mureny, Christian Murphy, Cassidy Musson, Carol Muzacs, Michael Neer, Mary O'Connor, Rafaelina Oliviero, Anna P., Berit Phair, John Reiss, Gary Ruzich, Anthony S., Jack Silbert, Todd Sitomer, Debbie Staib, Davis Stewart, Stephanie Toth, Tracy Tuten, Filomena Vairo, Anne Wallis, Elisa Warshall, Kay Winski, Joseph Yobbi, Mary Yobbi

A TIME TO DIE

Elizabeth Collins, Richard Marchitto, Giacomo Nese, Filippa Nolfo,
Linda O'Connor, Rev. Arthur Shute,
and all who have died from Covid-19

A TIME OF WAR & PEACE

Tim Arentz, Lance Corporal 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, LCPL Kyle Thomas Lynaugh, Stephen Patricco, Aric Patten, Phillip Patten, Aaron Pluto, 1Lt. Stacia Rogacki, 1Lt. Steven Rogacki, LCPL Nick Wheeler



MASS INTENTIONS

SUNDAY December 20 Fourth Sunday of Advent

5:00PM (SATURDAY)

Tillie Catenacci ~ *Granddaughters*

7:30AM

Ludo Nolfo ~ *Wife, Maria*

9:00AM

Pasquale & Giovanna Circelli
~ *Anthony & Carmelina Reino*

10:30AM

Eleanor McCusker ~ *Barbara Weber*

12:00PM

Ernest Reedy ~ *The Schmidt Family*

MONDAY, December 21

7:30AM

Theresa Blasi ~ *Family*

TUESDAY, December 22

7:30AM

Elanor Carney ~ *Patty & John Carney*

WEDNESDAY, December 23

7:30AM

Mary & John Ostrowski ~ *John & Joann Ryan*

THURSDAY, December 24 Christmas Eve

7:30AM

Michele DiMaria ~ *Linda & Bob Donnelly*

4:00PM

For the People of Saint James

7:00PM

For the People of Saint James

12:00AM Midnight

For the People of Saint James

FRIDAY, December 25

The Nativity of the Lord

7:30AM

For the People of Saint James

9:00AM

For the People of Saint James

10:30AM

For the People of Saint James

12:00PM

For the People of Saint James

SATURDAY, December 26

8:00AM

Robert Oxner ~ *Wife, Serafiña Oxner*

SUNDAY, December 27

Holy Family, Jesus, Mary & Joseph

5:00PM (SATURDAY)

Tony Bagnato, Ann, Vincent, Carmella ~ *Ann & Family*

7:30AM

Mary Hayes ~ *Brian & Gianna Hayes*

9:00AM

Luigi & Rosaria Reino ~ *Anthony & Carmelina Reino*

10:30AM

Carol House ~ *Bob House*

12:00PM

Ralph DeFino ~ *Judy, Joe & Family*



DEVOTIONS AND MEMORIALS ~ *Spiritual Offerings*

To have a loved one remembered, please call the Rectory Office

Sanctuary Lamp ~ Bread & Wine ~ Flowers By the Tabernacle



SANCTUARY LAMP

For the People of Saint James



BREAD

Joe & Mary Barbone ~ *Family*

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.**