

A WELCOMING CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF FAITH • SERVING SPRINGFIELD, NEW JERSEY SINCE 1923

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OUR PARISH IS SERVED BY:

ADMINISTRATOR Father David C. Santos frsantos@saintjamesparish.org

PAROCHIAL VICAR Father Antonio N. Kuizon ankui@aol.com

WEEKEND ASSOCIATE Father John Dennehy

PERMANENT DEACONS Deacon Jerry Bongiovanni jerryjan133@aol.com

> Deacon Hugh A. Keffer hak07081@verizon.net

PARISH ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT Ms. Michelle Sblendorio msblendorio@saintjamesparish.org DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRY Mr. Daniel R. Palko dpalko@saintjamesparish.org

DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION Ms. Nancy Caputo, M.Ed., Spec. Ed-ASD, Cert. ncaputo@saintjamesparish.org

> ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT Mrs. Colleen Tyra ctyra@saintjamesparish.org

PARISH TRUSTEES Mrs. Janet Petino and Mr. John Pflug

PARISH COUNCIL saintjamesparishcouncil@gmail.com

RECTORY HOURS: Monday-Friday: 8:30AM~3:00PM (closed daily 12:00-1:00PM)

www. SaintJamesTheApostle.org





October 24, 2021THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

MESSAGE FROM FR. DAVID SANTOS

Dear Parishioners,

This weekend we publish our 2021 Annual Parish Report. Please know how fortunate I feel to serve you. Further, I am privileged to be working with a great clergy and lay staff, and very gifted Finance and Pastoral Councils.

In this report, the Finance Council and I hope to provide you with a snapshot of our current state of the parish. As you read the report, we ask that you do so keeping in mind the following: the purpose of the report is more than just a snapshot of where we are as a parish, it is an important point of departure as we move forward in faith towards where we want to go. My experience in the military taught me the value of a very basic yet crucial detail when navigating from Point A to Point B...*you need to know where Point A is before you move to Point B!* This report is our Point A. This report should help give us a clear yet sobering picture of where we are so that we can begin moving towards where we want to be as a parish community.

As you can see in the State of the Parish Report, while the number of registered families is quite good for a midsized suburban parish (1,694), when we look at the actual number of people who attend Mass and who consistently contribute financially, we see a less optimistic picture. If you look at our financial trends, they are worrying, even before you take into account the effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic. Sunday, Christmas and Easter collections have declined in each of the past two years, along with most other revenues. Some of this, we know, is because of demographics - older parishioners leave or pass away and younger families enter the scene loaded down with consumer debt, mortgages, and even student loans. However, we suspect this is largely due to a decreased participation in giving altogether.

You will also notice an increase in Building, Utilities, and Equipment Costs, which is in large part due to the parish assuming the responsibility of paying for the utilities and maintenance of the school building. Thankfully this Fall we were able to successfully negotiate a short-term lease with the Springfield Board of Education (Walton School) for our school building. However, this is only temporary, which means in short order we'll once again be assuming the cost of maintaining an empty school building that is slowly deteriorating.

In our efforts to meet the needs of the present while at the same time assuring a solid grounding for our parish's future, I have been actively working with the Finance Council in exploring options for our dilapidated convent building and aging school building that would not only service our significant legacy and mounting debt (over \$600,000.00), but also address various needs of our parish. Overall, your parish leadership is doing what we can to curb expenses as we creatively seek revenue generating projects and work towards building a parish steward-ship-centered giving model.

While I understand that there have been a number of challenges over these past few years that have impacted us as a community of faith, I am not willing to shrug my shoulders and say that this is just how it is. I am filled with tremendous excitement and optimism at our parish's potential. Please be assured that I am wholeheartedly willing to do my best and give my best to this parish community – *but I and the rest of the lay leadership need your help!*

As you can see from the annual State of the Parish report, our first hurdle is a financial one. The initial step that we need to collectively take to begin moving from Point A to Point B is to **generously increase our weekly giving**.

After prayer and discernment, it is our hope that many, if not all, parishioners respond generously to this appeal in a way that gives us the momentum we need to build an increasingly vibrant parish community of faith, dedicated to the mission of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We need your support to keep going and to improve on what we've already achieved.

Friends, I hope you would agree that St. James has the potential to become an increasingly dynamic parish family. The parish clergy, staff, lay leadership, and I are all working hard to make St. James a prayerful place to worship, a great place for families and parish life, as well as a place where anyone can apply his or her talents for the good of all.

Thank you and God's blessings on you and your families!

I remain sincerely yours in Christ,

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STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURES

\$7,471.00

\$5,432.00 Mass Collection \$2,039.00 Online Collection \$724.00 2nd Collection (World Mission) *To sign up for Online Giving go to:* www.saintjamestheapostle.org

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

WE ALSO ACCEPT ONLINE CREDIT CARD DONATIONS

FRAUD ALERT: Emails are being sent out by scammers claiming to be members of the Saint James parish community, including Fr. David Santos. **Please disregard any emails from anyone claiming to be associated with Saint James, including Fr. David Santos, with solicitation to purchase gift cards or offer any other cash donations.** In any event, please feel free to call the parish rectory to confirm any and all solicitation before contributing. We have contacted the local authorities to make them aware.



SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Please call the Rectory to schedule your child's baptism.



ADULT SACRAMENTAL 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.

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION SECOND SATURDAY OF THE MONTH

3:00~ 4:00PM on the 2nd Saturday of the month for Eucharistic Adoration Next Adoration is November 13th Confession every Saturday at 4:00PM





Join us outside in the Rosary Garden (weather permitting) or Gathering Area of the Church (if raining) or log on to the Saint James the Apostle Parishioner Facebook Page to join us on YouTube.

All are welcome!

SAINT JAMES THE APOSTLE CHURCH BULLETIN ::

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

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

Congratulations to our high school freshmen who were sealed with the Holy Spirit yesterday!!!! May He continue to guide them and protect them.

Just a reminder that there are NO classes on Tuesday, November 2nd. Classes resume for grades 1 though 7 on Tuesday, November 9th.

If your child is of school age and never baptized, baptized in a different faith, or has special learning needs, please email or call me. All children are welcome in our Faith Formation Program.



October Gives Us a Unique Beauty

October is resplendent with the beauty of nature. The fall gives us an invigorating lift. We seem to feel "fully alive" looking forward to a new beginning filled with energy. Would you be willing to channel some of that energy to help those less fortunate by sorting through your home for the following: clothing, small appliances, shoes, tools, linens, sheets, towels, stuffed animals, novels and children's books? The Donation Bin(s) are accessible in the parish parking lot.



Thank you.

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 child with special needs needing catechesis?

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Please call or email the Religious Education Office.

MUSIC MINISTRY



SAINT JAMES YOUTH CHOIR

This Wednesday October 27, 2021 there will be a meeting in the church at 4:00PM of all those interested in our parish YOUTH CHOIR. Parents are invited! The YOUTH Choir is open to children in grades 3 to 8. It would be great if we could work on building up our forces.

Choristers experience participating in the parish Sunday Liturgies once a month in addition to Christmas, Easter and other celebrations. YOUTH CHOIR equips singers with a foundation in basic vocal technique and gives them individual opportunities to lead the congregation in sung prayer. Rehearsals will be on Wednesdays from 4:00 – 5:00PM in the church. Please contact Dan Palko with any questions at <u>dpalko@saintjamesparish.org</u>.



See what a Catholic Education can offer your child!

Mother Seton Regional High School One Valley Rd., Clark, NJ 07066

OPEN HOUSE <u>TODAY!!!</u> Sunday October 24, 2021 Girls in grades 5-8 1:00-3:00 p.m. by appointment only Website: motherseton.org to register Admissions: 732-382-1952 Ext. 127

"The Future is Hers"



1600 Martine Ave, Scotch Plains, NJ 07076 www.unioncatholic.org 908-889-1600

Freshman Foundations Program Information Session Tuesday, October 26, 2021 at 7:00PM

> **General Information Session** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 at 7:00PM

For additional information, or to reserve your spot, visit our website at <u>www.unioncatholic.org</u> or call 908-889-1600, ext. 302



Spotlight on Faith (November 2-3, 2021)

Spotlight on Faith: The Creed: Our Heritage of Faith

This course will explore the rich heritage of our beliefs as presented in Part 1 of The Catechism of the Catholic Church. We will engage in a conversation with the basic mysteries of our faith, the Trinity, the Incarnation and the Church, as a way of shedding light on our own understanding of God's invitation to friendship and discipleship.

Presenter: Dr. Sylvia McGeary

Dr. Sylvia McGeary holds a doctorate degree in Philosophy from the Fordham University School of Religion and Religious Education. With over 25 years of experience as a parish religious educator and pastoral minister, Dr. McGeary is a master teacher of the Catholic faith and an innovative adult faith formation leader.

The Spotlight Courses are open to everyone wishing to learn more about their Faith!

Please use this link to register: Spotlight on Faith!





SAINT JAMES THE APOSTLE CHURCH BULLETIN ::

OCTOBER 24, 2021

PRAYER-LINE MINISTRY

Members of this ministry pray for the people who are ill, in the hospital, undergoing surgery, or who have been in involved in an accident, are grieving the loss of a loved one or any other special intention. If you know someone in need of prayers or if you would like to become a member of this ministry, please contact Maureen Bernor at:

973-376-5934 or email your request to: reenebowler@comcast.net.



Do you know someone who might find comfort from a Prayer Shawl or Prayer Blanket?

Members of the Prayer Shawl Ministry create handmade shawls and blankets that are delivered to those suffering from illness or grief, or to the homebound and the elderly. A prayer shawl can also be a special gift to a new mother and her child. The shawls are a simple and loving way to

provide comfort and support, particularly to those experiencing a time in their lives when additional prayers would be especially welcome. They also remind the recipients of the continued prayers of the Saint James parish community. It's a wonderful way to bring a bit of joy and hope to a friend or loved one.

During this Coronavirus pandemic, if you know someone who would benefit from the gift of a Prayer Shawl or blanket please contact the rectory or email Claire Bernstein: clairebbernstein@gmail.com.

This Prayer of Blessing is included with each Prayer Shawl:

May God's grace be upon this shawl, warming, comforting, enfolding and embracing. May this mantle be a safe haven, a sacred place of security and well-being. Sustaining and embracing in good times as well as in difficult ones. May the one who receives this shawl be cradled in hope, kept in joy, graced with peace, and wrapped in love.

With love and all blessings from the Prayer Shawl Ministry

Prayer to Saint Joseph Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer, Sponse of the Blessed Virgin Mary. To you God entrusted his only Son; Jn you Mary placed her trust; With you Christ became man. Blessed Joseph, to us too, Show yourself a father And guide us in the path of life. Obtain for us grace, mercy and courage, And defend us from every evil. Amen.



pray for us.

Feasts and Saints of the Week...

Saints Simon and Jude. Feast day October 28.

How do you feel when you are chosen to do something important? Honored, surprised, nervous? Some of the apostles must have felt as you do.

After spending much time in prayer, Jesus decided to choose 12 men, 12 rather unlikely candidates, who would be his apostles and proclaim the Kingdom of God to all people. Simon the Zealot was one who was called. The Zealots were a Jewish group who believed that the promise of the Messiah meant a free and independent Jewish nation where they would never have to pay taxes to the Romans again. Some Zealots were also very concerned that the spiritual ideals of their religion be kept. But others in the group acted more like modern-day terrorists by raiding, killing, and inciting riots. Simon was known as "the zealot" to distinguish him from Simon Peter.

At the same time, Jesus called Jude Thaddeus, brother of James, most likely a fisherman by trade. Along with 10 other men, these two followed Jesus, lived with him, fled when he underwent his Passion, and rejoiced when he rose from the dead. At Pentecost they were filled with the Spirit and a burning desire to spread the Good News to all. Jude traveled to Mesopotamia to preach, and Simon went to Egypt. Eventually they both ended up in Persia, modern-day Iran. There they worked together evangelizing the people until they were both martyred. These two unlikely candidates for apostleship finally witnessed to the risen Lord with their lives.

Traditionally Saint Jude the Apostle is identified with the author of the Letter of Jude in the New Testament. He has also come to be known as the saint of hopeless cases.

Source: https://www.loyolapress.com







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

Margaret Furner ~ Sam & Family



BREAD

Margaret Furner ~ Sam & Family

A TIME TO BAPTIZE

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A TIME TO HEAL

Pat Annelli, Barbara Bentz, Severina Bion, Victoria Burns, Gerry Campagnola, Enid Cabot, Dolores Cardillo, Thara Chandran, Helen Chelis, Lena Chromowski, Phyllis Colosimo, Celine Correia, James Curry, Maureen D., Carmela DeSarno, Robert Devon, Jr., Victoria Egner, Sergio Evanglista, Alfredo Fernandes, Berta Franco, Carole Griner, Steven Hensle, Joan Hobson, Laura Hughes, Lisa Jackowski, Eddie Jenna, Mary Keegan, Dana Kelley, Dexter Kennedy, Art Kistler, Irene Kurpieski, Dina Ledogar, Maureen Le Goff, Lucille Lerner, Andy Lindgren, Angelina Lipski, Chenoa Lipski, Richie Lipski, Marian Lordi, Richard Lorenzo, Barbara Ludolph, Erica Luther, Toni Ann Marabello, Maria Martino Fender, Angie Mazzarisi, Leonard McGinley, Stan Mickham, Richard Miele, Andres Montero, Timothy Morgan, Martin Muguerza, Ive Mureny, Christian Murphy, Cassidy Musson, Carol Muzacs, Michael Neer, Mary O'Connor, Rafaelina Oliviero, Anna P., Berit Phair, John Rendeiro, John Reiss, Ben Rumer, Anthony S., Richard Salort, Alice Serrao, Jack Silbert, Rose Sinopoli, Ray Slater, Stephanie Toth, Tracy Tuten, Anne Wallis, Elisa Warshall, Peggy Wysock

Please Note: For privacy reasons and HIPAA regulations, names may only be added by **members of the immediate family** after they have received permission of the one who is sick. In the event of serious illness or hospitalization, the rectory should be notified. Visits to the sick and homebound are made by the priests, deacons and ministers of the Eucharist. It is not necessary for someone to be "gravely ill" to receive the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick.

A TIME TO DIE

For all who have died from Covid-19

A TIME OF WAR & PEACE

Tim Arentz, Lance Corporal Kevin Bernor, Brian Braine, Sean Curran, Capt. Sean P. Eadie, Stacy Enyeart, David Fenton, Shane Fenton, Luis Fonseca, LCPL Christopher P. Garrigan, Cpt. Brian Jacobs,
2LT Andrew Kerwin, LCPL Kyle Thomas Lynaugh, Stephen Patricco, Aric Patten, Phillip Patten,
Aaron Pluto, 2nd Lt. John Rogacki. Capt. Stacia Rogacki, Cpt. Steven Rogacki, Lt. Raymond Williamson

SAINT JAMES THE APOSTLE CHURCH BULLETIN ::

OCTOBER 24, 2021

PAGE 9



Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. Amen.

All Saints Mass Schedule

Monday, November 1, 2021 7:30AM ~ 12:00PM ~ 7:00PM All Souls' Day

Tuesday, November 2, 2021 Prayer Service ~ 7:00PM

TODAY'S READINGS:

October 24, 2021 Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Visit: <u>http://www.usccb.org/</u> for Scripture Readings (click the link to access the readings)

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 31:7-9 ~ SECOND READING: Hebrews 5:1-6

GOSPEL: Mark 10:46-52

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.