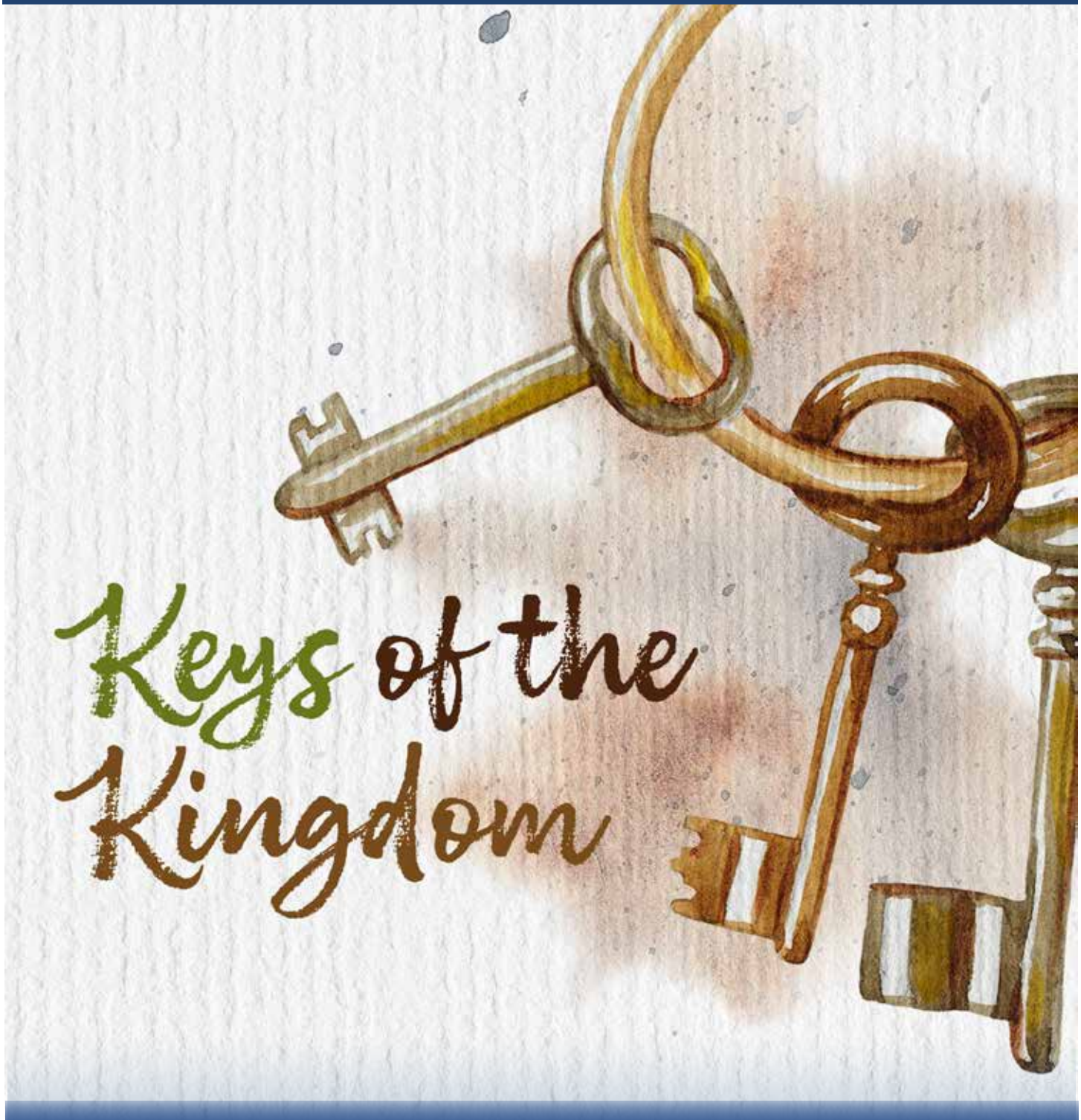
Saint James the Apostle
Roman Catholic Church



Keys of the Kingdom

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME | AUGUST 23, 2026

www.saintjamesparish.org

YOU ARE Welcome Here

45 South Springfield Ave,
Springfield, NJ 07081
(973) 376-3044

Summer Office Hours:
(Closed 12PM-1PM for Lunch)

Mon-Tue 8:30AM-3PM
Wed 8:30AM-7PM
Thu 8:30AM-3PM
FRI CLOSED

Church Visiting Hours:
Mon-Fri: 8AM-2:30PM
Sat: 9AM-1PM

MASS SCHEDULE:

Saturday, August 29:
5:00PM - Fr. Santos

Sunday, August 30:
8:00AM - Fr. Paladino
10:00AM - Fr. Santos
12:00PM - Fr. Dennehy

DAILY MASS:

Mon-Fri:	**7:30AM**
Saturday:	**8:30AM**
U.S. Holidays:	**8:30AM**

RECONCILIATION:

Saturday at 4:00PM
or by Appointment.
Please call the Office.

DEVOTIONS:

Rosary & Novena*:
Mondays at 6:30PM
in the Church and on Facebook Live

Eucharistic Adoration*:
Wednesday Holy Hour at 7PM *(Third Wednesday of each month will have live music.)*

Second Saturdays at 3PM

**The First Rosary and Wednesday Adoration of the month are for Priestly and Religious Vocations*

PASTOR'S COLUMN

REFLECTION ON THE READINGS

In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus asks His disciples a question that is as important today as it was at Caesarea Philippi: ***"Who do you say that I am?"***

It is not merely a question about public opinion or religious knowledge. **It is a deeply personal question—one that every disciple must answer.**

Like the familiar story of the blind men and the elephant, we often see only part of the picture. Human understanding is limited, and our vision can be shaped by our experiences, assumptions, and the voices around us. Yet limited vision **does not mean** there is no truth. The elephant is still there. Truth is still real. And in the Gospel, Peter is given the grace to proclaim that truth: Jesus is **"the Christ, the Son of the living God."**

This confession is the heart of our faith. Christianity is not simply about admiring the teachings of Jesus or appreciating the good He did. **It is about recognizing who He is**. If Jesus is truly the Son of God, then His words, His mercy, His sacrifice, and His call to follow Him take on eternal meaning.

In a world filled with many competing voices and many partial answers, Jesus invites us to move beyond hearsay and to make a personal act of faith. "Who do you say that I am?" **The way we answer that question shapes the way we pray, the way we live, the way we love, and the way we understand ourselves.**

St. Francis of Assisi once prayed, "Who are you, my God? And who am I?" These two questions belong together. When we come to know Christ more clearly, we also come to know who we are more deeply: beloved sons and daughters of God, called to live as His disciples.

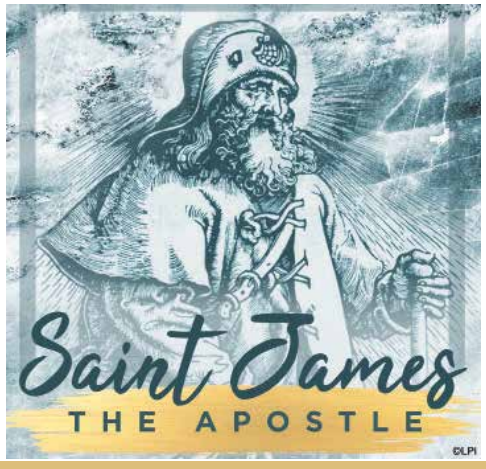
May we ask for the grace of Peter's faith, so that in the midst of uncertainty, confusion, and partial vision, we may recognize Jesus for who He truly is and allow that truth to transform who we are.

Rev. David C. Santos, Pastor

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"Moved by the grace of the Holy Spirit and drawn by the Father, we believe in Jesus and confess: 'You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.' On the rock of this faith confessed by St. Peter, Christ built his Church."

— **Catechism of the Catholic Church, 424**



SUNDAY READINGS

FIRST READING
Isaiah 22:19-23
"I will place the key of the House of David on Eliakim's shoulder; when he opens, no one shall shut, when he shuts, no one shall open. I will fix him like a peg in a sure spot, to be a place of honor for his family."

RESPONSORIAL PSALM
Psalm 138
Lord, your love is eternal; do not forsake the work of your hands.

SECOND READING
Romans 11:33-36
Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How inscrutable are his judgments and how unsearchable his ways! *For who has known the mind of the Lord or who has been his counselor? Or who has given the Lord anything that he may be repaid?* For from him and through him and for him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.

GOSPEL
Matthew 16:13-20
He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter said in reply, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."
Jesus said to him in reply, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah. For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my heavenly Father. And so I say to you, you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven. Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." Then he strictly ordered his disciples to tell no one that he was the Christ.

Full Mass readings can be accessed at usccb.org

HOLY WHYS: DEACON HUGH REPLIES

Dear Deacon Hugh:

I heard that Pope came out and said we were to treat everyone equally. How can that be? What do you think?

Anonymous

Dear Anonymous:

What an interesting question. Let's walk through it together. In May, the Pope published an encyclical called ***Magnifica Humanitas*** where he applied traditional Church Social Doctrine to evaluate the use and governance of artificial intelligence. Pope Leo XIV insisted that every one of us possesses a God-given worth that no machine, system, or economic goal can replace. And because the use of technology is never neutral, the Church insists it must be governed by transparency, responsibility, and commitment to the common good, especially when applied to the poor and marginalized. The use of any innovative technology must safeguard human dignity. Innovations must serve people and cannot reduce anyone to a means for profit, a cog in a war machine, a data point to be bought and sold, or an obstacle to efficiency.

In the end, the Church does not mean that every person must be treated in exactly the same way; rather, it teaches that every person must be respected as possessing the same God-given dignity, while our response should be shaped by each person's particular needs. Jesus explains how this works where says, "For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me." God meets people at their needs and raises them up. This is dignified treatment. I hope this helps you understand the Church's teaching better.

Deacon Hugh

If you have a question you would like to ask, please email Deacon Hugh at **hkeffer@saintjamesparish.org.**

KINDNESS
always the right choice

FAMILY FAITH FORMATION

Family Faith 2026-2027 Registration is open

If you are seeking to grow in faith as a family, Family Faith Formation is the place for you. It's a partnership between our parish and parents of the children we teach. Our goal is to support each family in the spiritual development of their children. This partnership works best when we work together, each doing our part to ensure the children are receiving the foundation they need to develop a life-long relationship with Jesus Christ. Together, we are one family, one body of Christ, and a true sign of His presence in the world. All are welcome at St. James.
We look forward to the opportunity of welcoming you to our parish program!

Please use the QR code to access the Registration form and fee payment.
(The form is to register 1st to 9th graders – One form per family)

*****Anyone new to the program, please call, email, or make an appointment to meet with Mrs. Prescott before registering.*****

Families with **children** who will be **starting their second year of sacramental preparation this coming school year (2026-2027)** for the Sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Holy Eucharist, should select both "Sunday Family Faith" and "First Reconciliation/First Holy Communion (in May 2027)" when registering.

Children who completed Family Faith Level 6 in 2025-2026:
Register for "Confirmation Year 1 (Receiving the Sacrament Fall 2028)"

Confirmation candidates who completed Year 1 last school year (2025-2025): Need to register for their second year of preparation process for Confirmation using the QR code above or the link you received in the email. Please select "Confirmation Year 2 (Receiving Sacrament Fall 2027).

Confirmation candidates receiving the sacrament this October, do not register for this coming school year.

DATES FOR THIS YEAR'S SESSIONS (2026-2027)

Although we are still waiting for confirmation on our Family Faith Sessions dates, please see our September meetings and Session below:

Monday, September 14 – 7PM: New families Orientation

Monday, September 14 – 8PM: First Holy Communion Parents Orientation

Sunday, September 27: First Family Faith Session (session will include distribution of at-home resources). More information on this day will be emailed to all registered families as the date is still pending approval. As soon as our dates are confirmed, all families registered will receive an email.

Confirmation Year 1 and Year 2 Sessions *(Dates are finalized and can be found on parish website)*
Tuesday, September 8 - 7PM: Confirmation Year 1 parent/candidate meeting
Tuesday, September 8 - 8PM: Confirmation Year 2 parent candidate meeting

CONFIRMATION YEAR 1 SCHEDULE
(7th Grade)

Tuesdays - 7:00-8:30PM at the Church

September 8 – 7PM (Parent and child meeting)

October 6
November 10
December 1
January 12
February 9
March 16
April 6

CONFIRMATION YEAR 2 SCHEDULE
(8th Grade)

Tuesdays - 7:00-8:30PM at the Church

September 8 – 8PM (Parent and child meeting)
October 20
November 17
December 15
January 26
February 23
March 23
April 20
June 1 – 7PM (Parent and child meeting)

*Retreat in Fall 2027 (Date TBA)
Last session in Fall 2027 (Date TBA)
Interviews in Fall 2027 (Dates TBA)

Candidates receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation this October 2026
A reminder to **sign up for your interview** using the link that will be emailed to you next week.
Interviews are on Saturday, September 12.
Remember that your **last session** is on Tuesday, September 15 from 7:00PM to 8:30PM.
And your **retreat** is on Saturday, September 26.

ADULT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR THIS COMING SCHOOL YEAR!

We are looking for volunteers to join our Family Faith Formation Program to volunteer as Catechists, Classroom Aides, Adult Session Aides, and Hall Monitors.

If after prayerful consideration, you are interested and feel called to volunteering in any of those capacities, or have more questions, please contact Ana Serra-Prescott at **aprescott@saintjamesparish.org**, call **(973)376-2061**, or stop by the rectory.

LOOKING FOR PEER LEADERS FOR THE 2026-2027 CONFIRMATION CLASSES

If you are in high school, have received the Sacrament of Confirmation, are currently a parishioner at St. James, and are interested in being a peer leader for this coming year's Confirmation Prep Groups, call or email Ana Serra-Prescott to schedule an interview.

*Please know that if selected, you **must** be able to commit to:

- Attending all 7 sessions or 14 (if you chose to volunteer for both groups) plus the parent and candidate meeting on September 8.
- Attend the Confirmation retreat and the Confirmation Masses in the Fall of 2027 (if you will be volunteering for the Confirmation Year 2 group, unless you will be away in college)

Ana Serra-Prescott | Family Faith Formation Office
(973) 376-2061 | aprescott@saintjamesparish.org

SAINT JAMES PRAYER-LINE MINISTRY

Members of this ministry pray for people who are ill, in the hospital, undergoing surgery, or have been in an accident, are grieving the loss of a loved one, or any "Special Intention" (Restored Health).

If you know someone in need of prayers, or if you would like to become a member of this ministry, please contact Maureen Bernor by e-mail: **PrayerLineMinistry@saintjamesparish.org**

Please Note: *For privacy reasons and HIPPA regulations, names may be added to the prayer list by the individual themselves, or with their **explicit permission** from the one in need of prayers. Individuals in need of prayers may also call the rectory for assistance.*

SAINT JAMES BOUTIQUE

Visit our online boutique for St. James the Apostle Parish apparel & more!

JOIN THE ST. JAMES CHOIR!

You are invited to join the music ministry at St. James the Apostle as we begin a new season in September under the direction of Mr. Philip La Gala.

Our choir provides music at the 5:00pm (monthly), 10:00am (twice month), and 12:00pm noon (monthly) Masses, from September through June. We also enhance liturgies during holy days and special masses.

Rehearsals take place every Thursday in the Church, beginning promptly at 7:00pm and typically last about an hour. All interested members (high school age and older) are welcome to join our community of song and no prior singing experience is necessary. Please contact Philip La Gala with any questions at **musicdirector@saintjamesparish.org**, or feel free to speak with him after mass.

Our first rehearsal will take place on Thursday, September 17th at 7:00pm in the Church.

COMING SOON AT SAINT JAMES!

SAINT JAMES TIN CAN AUCTION NEEDS YOUR CONTRIBUTION TO MAKE IT A SUCCESS!

One of the major highlights of the annual Saint James the Apostle Parish Festival is the Tin Can Auction—and your help is needed to make this year's event even more successful than in the past.

The Tin Can Auction is a tricky-tray-type event. Festival goers purchase raffle tickets for prizes donated by area residents and merchants. Saint James needs contributions of prizes—goods, services, event tickets and other items - to make its Tin Can Auction a success.

If you own a business or wish to donate goods, services, event tickets or other items, please contact Antoinette Miller through the Rectory office 973-376-3044 or email **tincanauction@saintjamesparish.org**.

COMING IN SEPTEMBER!

Saint James the Apostle Adult Faith Formation

Women, Wine, and Wisdom

September 18, 7:00pm

Saint James Church and Narthex

"From Busy to Blessed"

Talk to be given by

Sr. Marlene Milasus, OSB

Retreat Center Director, Benedictine Sisters of Saint Walburga Monastery in Elizabeth

Scan the QR to Register Today!

SAINT JAMES THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC CHURCH

LIFE IN CHRIST SEMINAR

A FIVE-SESSION FAITH SERIES

Are you seeking a deeper connection with Jesus and have your life transformed by the Holy Spirit? Are you interested in growing your faith and actively participating in church?

Meet Christ, Live Christ, and Share Christ

The Life in Christ Seminar is a course that aims to renew our understanding of God's call to us as Catholics. It comprises five sessions that incorporates prayers, songs, teaching, and group discussion.

MONDAYS 7:00PM

Join us for rosary at 6:30PM

SEPT 21 & 28 | OCT 5, 12, & 19

45 South Springfield Ave, Springfield, NJ 07083

Register today by scanning the QR code or visiting our website at saintjamestheapostle.org

Live Share Christ

AROUND THE ARCHDIOCESE

ARCHDIOCESE of NEWARK
OFFICE OF CAMPUS MINISTRY

The Newman Apostolate of the Archdiocese of Newark is called to bear witness to Jesus Christ by encouraging college students to strive towards Christian spiritual, moral, and intellectual development.

Connect with Campus Ministry

Montclair State University
Campus Minister: Sebastian Perez
Sebastian.Perez@rcan.org
Instagram: @montclair_redhawkcatholic
www.redhawkcatholic.com

Ramapo College of NJ
Campus Minister: David Donohoe
David.Donohoe@rcan.org
Instagram: @ramapo_newman
www.ramaponewman.com

Kean University
Campus Minister: Lucia Pasternak
Lucia.Pasternak@rcan.org
Instagram: @keancatholics
www.keancatholics.com

NJIT & Rutgers-Newark
Campus Minister: Deacon Carl Lordi
Carl.Lordi@rcan.org
Instagram: @newmanclubnwk
www.newarknewmancatholic.com

Stevens Institute of Tech
Campus Minister: Brooke Pasker
Brooke.Pasker@rcan.org
Instagram: @stevensnewman
www.stevensnewmancatholic.com

Director of Campus Ministry for the Archdiocese of Newark:
Rev. James Chern
Rev.James.Chern@rcan.org

Assistant Director:
Lynn Nolte
Lynn.Nolte@rcan.org

SACRAMENTS

BAPTISM

Please call the Rectory to schedule your child's Baptism: (973) 376-3044

RECONCILIATION

4:00PM on Saturdays or by appointment.

VOCATIONS

Thinking about the priesthood? Are you being called? Reach out to Father Patrick Seo and the Office of Priestly Vocations for the Archdiocese of Newark! Visit **www.NewarkPriest.com**, email **NewarkPriest@rcan.org**, follow **@NewarkPriest** on social media, or call **(973) 313-6190**.

Do you know someone who...

Was never baptized, or was baptized in another Christian denomination, and has expressed interest in becoming Catholic? Was baptized Catholic as a child, but has not celebrated the Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist? Has a child over the age of seven who has not been baptized?

Saint James the Apostle Church offers an opportunity to come together in a small group to learn more about our faith. Sessions focus on the teachings and experience of Church and prepare individuals to celebrate the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist during the Easter season. There are separate sessions for adults and for children/youth. You are welcome to participate in the process with your questions, your insights and your faith story in a warm, accepting setting.

For more information, please call (973) 376-2061

ADULT SACRAMENTAL INFORMATION & OCIA

The Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA) 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. Please call the Rectory for information concerning the OCIA process.

MASS INTENTIONS, PRAYERS & DEVOTIONS

SATURDAY, AUGUST 22
The Queenship of The Blessed Virgin Mary
5:00pm **Angela Minieri**
r/b Angela and Pasquale Mazzacuva
Frank Chavez
r/b Irene and Michael Batosh

SUNDAY, AUGUST 23
Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time
8:00am **Chuck Cancella**
r/b Bill and Antoinette Miller
John Tuma
r/b Rob and Sue Hagenbush
10:00am **John Mannarino**
r/b Mom, Dad, and Brother
Jim McElroy
r/b McElroy Family
12:00pm **Raymond Lanza**
r/b Joann Rullo
Michael Patuto
r/b Wife

MONDAY, AUGUST 24
Saint Bartholomew
7:30am **Beatrice Stracey**
r/b Rob and Sue Hagenbush

TUESDAY, AUGUST 25
7:30am **Antony Lofredo**
r/b Gary and Mary Ellen Capron

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26
7:30am **Carol Agresto**
r/b Raffaela Conetta

THURSDAY, AUGUST 27
Saint Monica
7:30am **For the People of Saint James**

FRIDAY, AUGUST 28
Saint Augustine
7:30am **Walter and Bambi Misdom**
r/b Lesniewski Family

SATURDAY, AUGUST 29
The Passion of Saint John the Baptist
8:30am **Marc Ginsberg**
r/b Al Pavoni
5:00pm **Carl Quick**
r/b Michael and Theresa Quick
Elaine Messina
r/b Patricia Sullivan

SUNDAY, AUGUST 30
Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
8:00am **Leonido Salle**
r/b Gene and Nieves Salle
Angela Minieri
r/b John and Cindy O'Reilly
10:00am **Antonio Guzman**
r/b Daughter
Susana Fernandez
r/b Gene and Nieves Salle
12:00pm **Vincenza DePasquale**
r/b Adam Brennan
Maria Minicozzi
r/b Alberto and Angelina Circelli

SANCTUARY LAMP:
John Mannarino
r/b Mom, Dad, and Brother

BREAD & WINE:
John Mannarino
r/b Mom, Dad, and Brother

To memorialize the Sanctuary Lamp by the Tabernacle or the Bread and Wine, please call the Rectory Office.

A TIME TO HEAL

If you would like a person to remain on the list after four weeks, please contact the rectory.

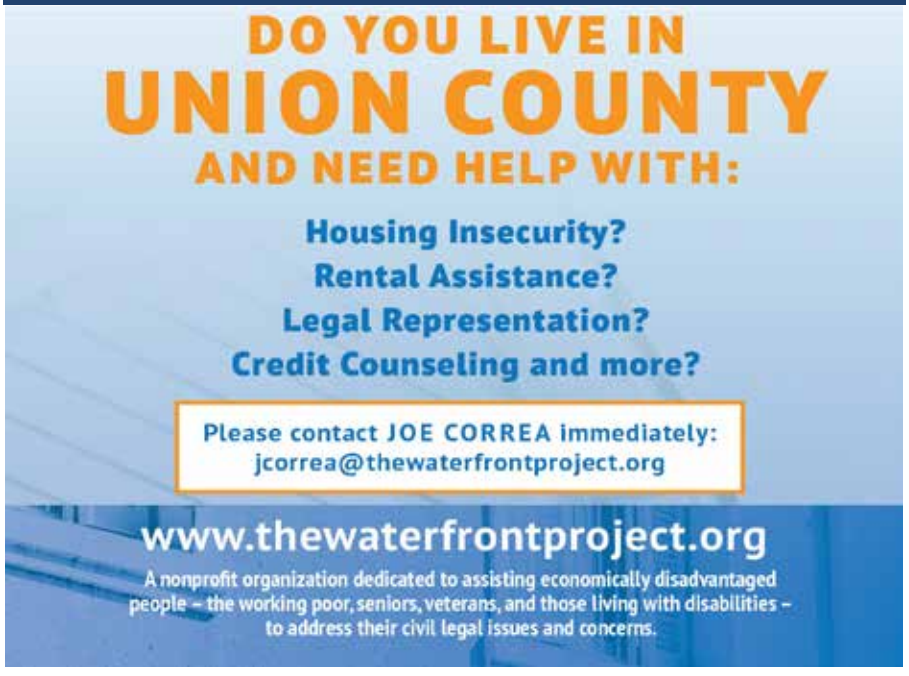
JoAnn Marie DeLouisa, Alberto Fernandez, Jocelyn Sperlazza ✝ Fran Wagner ✝ Yvonne Jezior, Joseph, Nancy Bernosky

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 OF WAR AND PEACE

Tim Arentz, Lance Corporal Kevin Bernor, Major Jeffrey Bordenave, Brian Braine, First Lt. Jonathan Canny, Sean Curran, Maj. Sean P. Eadie, Stacy Enyeart, David Fenton, Shane Fenton, Luis Fonseca, LCPL Christopher P. Garrigan, 2LT Christopher W. Impellizzeri, Capt. Brian Jacobs, LCPL Kyle Thomas Lynaugh, Stephen Patricco, Aric Patten, Phillip Patten, Aaron Pluto, 1LT John Rogacki, Capt. Stacia Rogacki, Capt. Stephen Rogacki, 2LT Raymond Williamson

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT



flocknote

Text NEWSLETTER to 84576 *OR*
Sign up on the website:
saintjamestheapostle.flocknote.com

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURES

Collection Totals
Weekend of August 15 & 16

Regular Collection:	$	5,617.00
Online Giving:	$	4,327.00
Total:	$	9,944.00

We 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.

ONLINE GIVING

To sign up for Online Giving, please visit saintjamesparish.org or scan the QR code with your smartphone.

Thank you for your generosity!

REPORT FINANCIAL MISCONDUCT CONFIDENTIALLY: If you suspect financial misconduct, use ***EthicsPoint***, an independent and confidential reporting tool that helps the Archdiocesan community address issues while promoting positive parish, school and workplace environments. Visit ***www.rcan.org*** for the hotline and reporting link.

FRAUD ALERT: Please be aware that 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.

FINANCE
Parish Finance Council

FINANCE COUNCIL CORNER

Did you know?...
The Parish has a Building Maintenance fund. Donations to this fund are separate from the capital campaign and support the parish's ability to address maintenance needs around the campus. You can make donations anytime to the Building Maintenance fund but look for the second collection the weekend of August 22/23.

Capital Campaign Update - Thank you to everyone who has already made a pledge or gift to the capital campaign. As of August 10th, 332 families have pledged $3.2 million. Thank you!

That's about 65% of the families/individuals that have a record of active giving to the parish. But we don't want to stop there. We'd like to see even broader participation from the parish community. So, if you haven't already, make a pledge to be a part of this exciting campaign. Rest assured, every amount, no matter the size, is accepted with an abundance of gratitude.

Together, *centered in hope* and *growing in faith*, we will build a bright future for our parish for generations to come.

Remember...
Give, and it will be given to you. Luke 6:38

GRATEFUL • THANKFUL
blessed

OUR PARISH IS SERVED BY:

PASTOR
Rev. David C. Santos
frsantos@saintjamesparish.org

PERMANENT DEACONS
Dcn. Jerry Bongiovanni (Retired)
Dcn. Hugh Keffer
hkeffer@saintjamesparish.org

WEEKEND ASSISTANT
Rev. John Dennehy

PASTORAL ASSOCIATE/LSEC
Ms. Nancy Caputo
ncaputo@saintjamesparish.org

DIRECTOR OF FAMILY FAITH FORMATION
Mrs. Ana Serra-Prescott
aprescott@saintjamesparish.org

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRY
Mr. Philip La Gala
musicdirector@saintjamesparish.org

OFFICE MANAGER
Mrs. Colleen Tyra
ctyra@saintjamesparish.org

BUSINESS MANAGER
Mrs. Katie Hyman
businessoffice@saintjamesparish.org

TRUSTEES
Ms. Rita Lombardi and Mr. Dennis McNany

PARISH MINISTRY EMAIL ADDRESSES:

Parish Council: pastoralcouncil@saintjamesparish.org
Parish Life: parishlife@saintjamesparish.org
Lectors: lectorministry@saintjamesparish.org
Eucharistic Ministers: emministry@saintjamesparish.org
Men's Ministry: MensMinistry@saintjamesparish.org
Prayer Line: prayerlineministry@saintjamesparish.org
Ministers of Hospitality: MOH@saintjamesparish.org
Altar Servers: altarservers@saintjamesparish.org
Liturgical Ministers: liturgicalministers@saintjamesparish.org

Adult Faith: adultfaith@saintjamesparish.org
Bereavement Ministry:
bereavement@saintjamesparish.org
Helping the Hungry:
helpingthehungry@saintjamesparish.org
Wellness Ministry:
wellnessministry@saintjamesparish.org
Vocations Ministry:
VocationsMinistry@saintjamesparish.org