Saint James the Apostle
Roman Catholic Church

Take Up Your Cross

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME | AUGUST 30, 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, September 5:
5:00PM - Fr. Paladino

Sunday, September 6:
8:00AM - Fr. Santos
10:00AM - Fr. Dennehy
12:00PM - Fr. Santos

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, Peter goes from being called the "rock" to being rebuked as an obstacle. Why? Because he cannot accept that God's plan will pass through ***suffering, sacrifice,*** and ***the cross.***

Peter loves the Lord, but in that moment he wants Jesus to follow his way instead of learning to follow the way of Jesus.

Friends, how often do we do the same? We may say we trust God, but when life becomes difficult or uncertain, we can be tempted to take control, impose our own plans, or decide that we know better. Yet ***discipleship begins when we allow Christ to lead***—not only when His path is easy to understand, but especially when it calls us to surrender, patience, and trust.

Jesus tells us that whoever wishes to come after Him must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow Him. This is not a call to *misery*, but to **freedom**. *When we stop clinging to our own way, we make room for God's grace to work.* When we get behind the Lord, we discover that the cross is not the road to nowhere, but the road to resurrection.

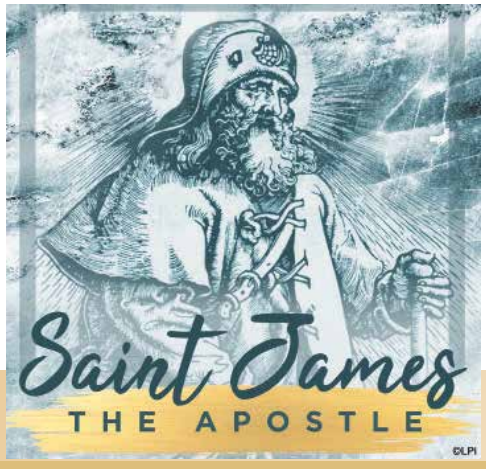
This week, let us ask for the humility to recognize where we may be standing in God's way. May we have the courage to step back, listen more deeply, and follow Christ more faithfully. The Lord's plan may cost us something, but it always leads us to life.

Rev. David C. Santos, Pastor

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

No sin, failure, humiliation, or exclusion can diminish the profound value of a human life that God has willed and called into being.

—Pope Leo XIV



SUNDAY READINGS

FIRST READING
Jeremiah 20:7-9
I say to myself, I will not mention him, I will speak in his name no more. But then it becomes like fire burning in my heart, imprisoned in my bones; I grow weary holding it in, I cannot endure it.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM
Psalm 63
My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

SECOND READING
Romans 12:1-2
I urge you, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God, your spiritual worship. Do not conform yourselves to this age but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and pleasing and perfect.

GOSPEL
Matthew 16:21-27
Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. What profit would there be for one to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? Or what can one give in exchange for his life? For the Son of Man will come with his angels in his Father's glory, and then he will repay all according to his conduct."

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.**

The Rectory Office is closed
Monday, September 7, 2026
Morning Mass will be celebrated at 8:30am

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.****

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

Our Family Faith Sessions dates have been approved. They can also be found on our parish website.

Family Faith Formation - 2026-2027 Calendar

8:00am / 10:00am / 12:00pm Mass
Family Faith sessions begin in the FMG Cafeteria immediately following each Mass!

New Family Orientation: Monday, September 14 @ 7:00pm - Church

First Holy Eucharist parents meeting: Monday, September 14 at 8:00pm – Church

Family Faith Sessions

September 27, 2026
Friday, October 9 at 6PM – Rosary for families with children - Church
October 25, 2026
Wednesday, October 28 at 6PM – Eucharistic Adoration for families with children - Church
November 15, 2026
December 6, 2026
Tuesday, January 5, 2027, at 6PM - Feast of Epiphany Celebration - Church
January – No Session – Parents meetings instead (dates emailed and by appointment)
February 7, 2027
March 7, 2027
Tuesday, March 9 at 6PM – Rosary for families with children - Church
April 18, 2027
Wednesday, April 21 at 6PM – Eucharistic Adoration for families with children - Church

Families with children receiving First Holy Eucharist this year (additional sessions besides the retreats):

- **Saturday, October 10** at OLL from 10AM to 12 noon
- **Saturday, February 27, 2027 at St. James Church** from 9AM to 10AM in church
- **Saturday, April 10, 2027 at St. James Church** from 9AM to 10AM in church (if No Eucharistic Retreat that day, otherwise session will be on **Thursday, April 8** at 6PM in church)

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)

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

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

SPECIAL SECOND COLLECTION

Cardinal Tobin has asked the parishes of the Archdiocese of Newark to prayerfully and generously support those affected by the devastating earthquakes in Venezuela, Colombia and Indonesia.

A second collection will be taken up at all the Masses this weekend to support Catholic Relief Services' response and provide critical assistance to families and communities in need.

Parishioners may also make donations directly and expeditiously to Catholic Relief Services at **crs.org**.

If you have any questions, please contact Fr. Timothy Graff at **Rev.Timothy.Graff@rcan.org**.

Thank you for your generous support of our brothers and sisters in need.

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**.

MORE AT SAINT JAMES!

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 code to Register Today!

SAINT JAMES THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC CHURCH

LIFE IN CHRIST SEMINAR

A FIVE-SESSION FAITH SERIES

MONDAYS 7:00PM
Join us for rosary at 6:30PM
SEPT 21 & 28 | OCT 5, 12, & 19

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.

To register, scan the QR code or send an email to LCSC@saintjamesparish.org.
Visit our website for more information: saintjamestheapostle.org

45 South Springfield Ave, Springfield, NJ 07083

THE SAINT JAMES THE APOSTLE ADULT FAITH FORMATION TEAM INVITES YOU TO JOIN US FOR A SUMMER BOOK JOURNEY WITH:

HUMILITY RULES

By Fr. Augustine Wetta

"With warmth, wit, and honesty, Humility Rules presents a fascinating window into the way of the monk, showing how Saint Benedict's wisdom enables us to find freedom in Christ wherever we make our home."

AVAILABLE IN PAPERBACK AND KINDLE ON AMAZON

PLEASE JOIN US IN SEPTEMBER TO DISCUSS!

- Tuesday, September 22 at 7PM
  In the Narthex

Questions? Email us at adultfaithformation@saintjamesparish.org

GOD KNOWS

when to send you exactly what you need.

AROUND THE ARCHDIOCESE

You are cordially invited to a 25th Anniversary special 9/11 Remembrance Mass as we gather to honor and remember the lives lost on September 11, 2001.

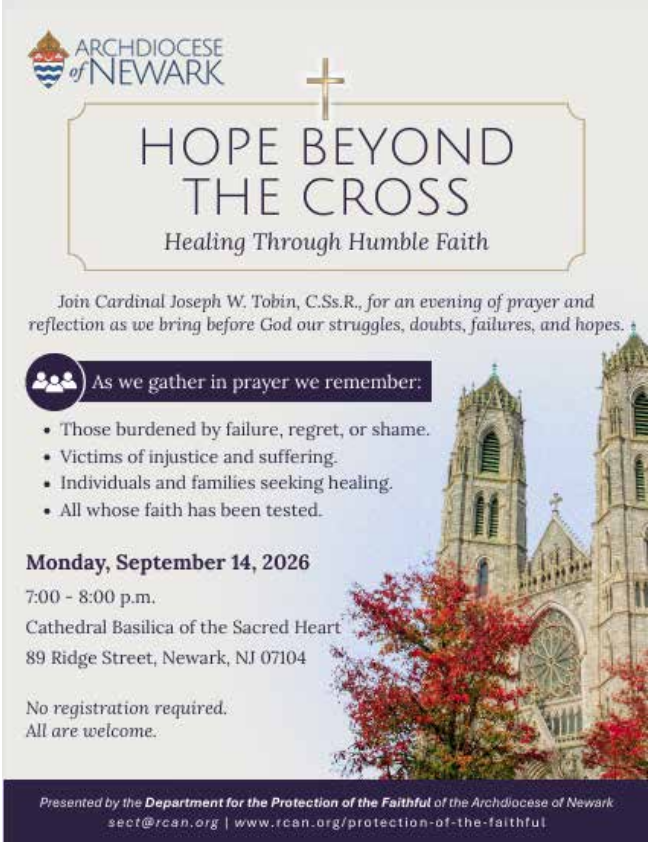
Friday, September 11, 2026 at 7:00 PM
St. Genevieve Church, 200 Monmouth Road, Elizabeth, NJ 07208

Celebrant:
The Most Reverend Bishop Elias R. Lorenzo, O.S.B.
Homilist: Father John Gordon

Following the Mass, refreshments will be provided by the Union Federation of the Knights of Columbus and the JFK Assembly.

Twenty-five years after that tragic day, we keep our promise of "Never Forgotten." We look forward to praying together and standing in solidarity with all who were affected.

MORE FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE



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 29
The Passion of Saint John the Baptist
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

MONDAY, AUGUST 31
7:30am **Agnes A. Marshall**
r/b Randy, Rose, and Jules Landicho

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1
7:30am **Philip Citro**
r/b Joan Bratsch

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2
7:30am **Bea Stracy**
r/b Theresa and Michael Quick

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3
Saint Gregory
7:30am **Anne Lofredo**
r/b Gary and Mary Ellen Capron

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 4
7:30am **Marcela and Jose Videna**
r/b Gene and Nieves Salle

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 5
8:30am **Jane White**
r/b Family
5:00pm **John Sr., Amelia, and John Jr. Montana**
r/b Janice Montana
Antonio and Giovanna Circelli
r/b Carmela Fusco

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6
Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
8:00am **Susana H. Fernandez**
r/b Catuncan Family
Giovanna Bruno
r/b Maria Bruno and Family
10:00am **Peter DiCosmo**
r/b Family
Maria Grazia Sangregorio
r/b Angela and Aurielo Mazzacuva
12:00pm **Aurora Perdomo**
r/b Maria Chavarriaga
Elba Circelli
r/b Alberto and Angelina Circelli

SANCTUARY LAMP:
Philip Citro
r/b Joan Bratsch

BREAD & WINE:
For the People of Saint James

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

THANK YOU

FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT!

50 / 50

WINNING TICKET:

No. 148

PAYOUT: $3,000

Drawing held: Tuesday – August 18, 2026

Maplewood Country Club

Proceeds benefit Saint James the Apostle Church

Thank you for your continued support.

flocknote Keep up-to-date with parish news, event updates, and more!

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

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURES

Collection Totals
Weekend of August 22 & 23

Regular Collection:	$ 5,970.00
Online Giving:	$ 4,067.00
Total:	**$ 10,037.00**

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

The Finance Council would like to say THANK YOU for your continued generosity and support of our parish.

Your gifts, whether of *time, talent or treasure*, enable the parish to expand on the great work that we are doing in spreading God's word and offering service to the community.

Capital Campaign Update - Thank you to everyone who has already made a pledge or gift to the capital campaign. *As of August 20th, 334 families have pledged $3.6 million. This includes the donor match.* 🎉🎉🎉

2026 Annual Appeal Update - We met our 2026 Annual Appeal Stretch Goal! By collecting stretch goal funds prior to June 30th the parish is eligible for the 2% assessment rate reduction. Thank you for your generous support and participation.

Remember... The generous will themselves be blessed, for they share their food with the poor. Proverbs 22:9

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
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bereavement@saintjamesparish.org
Helping the Hungry:
helpingthehungry@saintjamesparish.org
Wellness Ministry:
wellnessministry@saintjamesparish.org
Vocations Ministry:
VocationsMinistry@saintjamesparish.org