

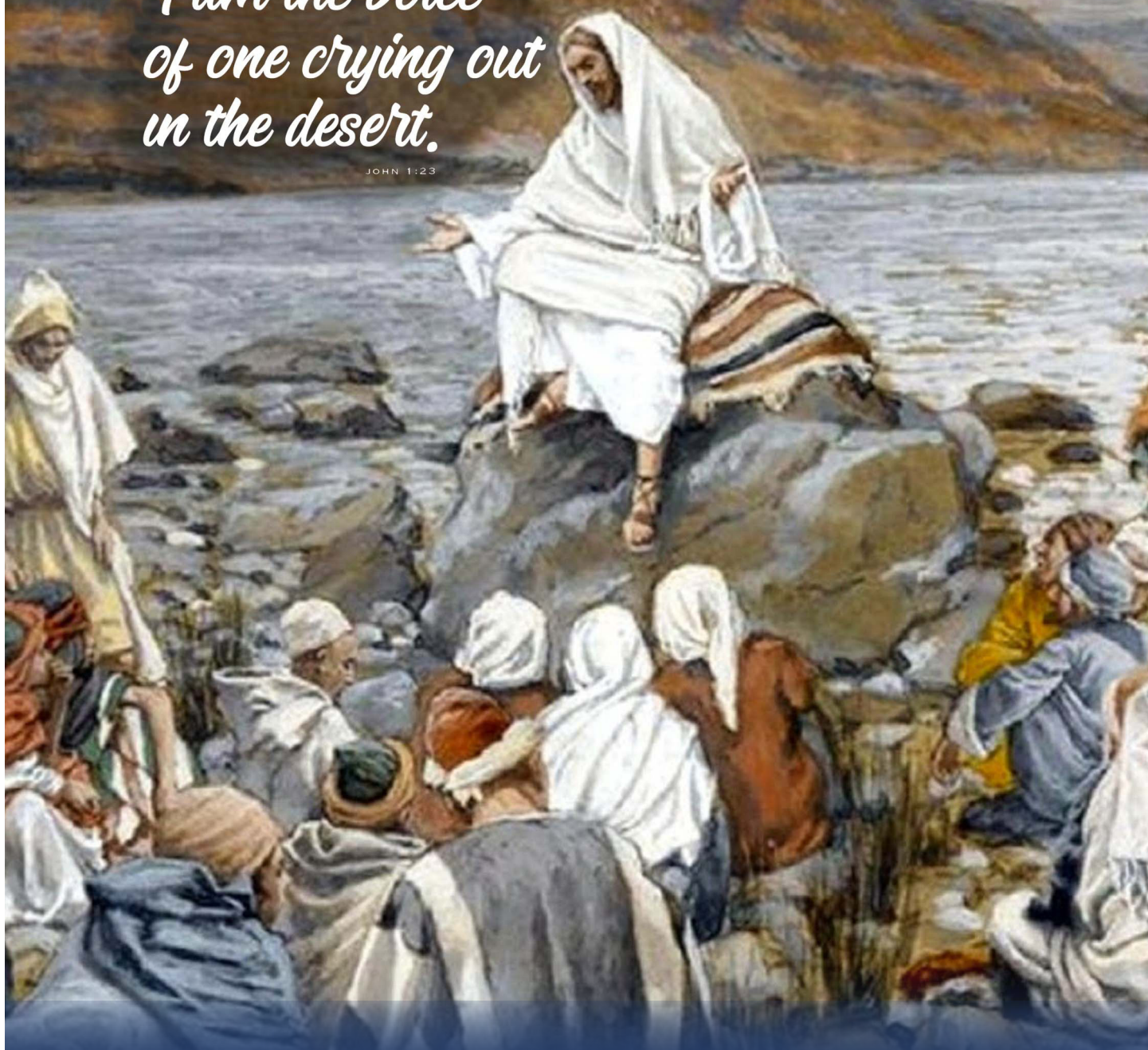


SAINT JAMES THE APOSTLE

Roman Catholic Church

*I am the voice
of one crying out
in the desert.*

JOHN 1:23



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT | DECEMBER 17, 2023
www.saintjamesparish.org

YOU ARE Welcome Here

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

Office Hours:

(Closed 12-1PM for Lunch)

Mon-Tue 8:30AM-3PM

Wed 8:30AM-7PM

Thu-Fri 8:30AM-3PM

Church Visiting Hours:

Mon-Fri: 8AM-2:30PM

Sat: 9AM-1PM

MASS SCHEDULE:

Saturday, December 23:

5:00PM - Fr. Paladino

Sunday, December 24:

9:00AM - Fr. Santos

Christmas Eve:

4:00PM - Fr. Dennehy

6:00PM - Fr. Santos

12:00AM - Fr. Paladino

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 7:00PM in the
Church and on Facebook
Live

Eucharistic Adoration:

Wednesday Holy Hour at
7PM

Second Saturdays at 3PM

PASTOR'S COLUMN



REFLECTION ON THE READINGS

I've often said that Advent is a time for each of us to *prepare our hearts to receive Jesus Christ anew at Christmas....so how's your heart doing?* This Sunday's readings give us what we need to answer that question.

We are closer to the moment of Incarnation when God takes on a human identity, becomes flesh, and dwells among us (Christmas!). God becoming human casts new light on our own identity. We see both Isaiah and John the Baptist wrestling with questions of identity. Friends, it's an opportunity to check in on our own sense of identity. Set aside some time to reflect on the following questions:

- Before discovering our true identity it's necessary to wade through "lies" we've been told and have told ourselves about who we are from early on. What lies about your own identity linger in your heart, blocking knowledge of your identity as a beloved child of God?
- When pressed as to his own identity, John the Baptist says he is a voice. That's an interesting way to describe himself. How would you describe yourself? As a voice? A heart? An ear? An open hand? An iron fist? A backbone?
- Both Isaiah and John the Baptist lay claim to having been "sent" by God. In what way do you feel sent? To do what? To be what? Are you living your true and intended God-given identity?
- In this season of darkness John testifies to the light. How might you testify to the light in your words and in your deeds? Where can you point to the light of Christ radiant in our life as a community?
- Saint Paul urges that people "test everything" and keep what is good. How open are you to testing new ideas? How confident are you that you know what is worth keeping or worth tossing?

Who are you, and what's in your heart? Prepare your heart to receive Jesus Christ anew this Christmas!

Fr. David C. Santos

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

The true secret of love consists in this: we must forget self like Saint John the Baptist and exalt and glorify the Lord Jesus.

—Saint Peter Julian Eymard



SUNDAY READINGS

FIRST READING

Isaiah 61:1-2A, 10-11

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring glad tidings to the poor, to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners, to announce a year of favor from the LORD and a day of vindication by our God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Luke 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54

My soul rejoices in my God.

SECOND READING

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus.

Do not quench the Spirit.

Do not despise prophetic utterances.

Test everything; retain what is good.

Refrain from every kind of evil.

GOSPEL

John 1:6-8, 19-28

A man named John was sent from God. He came for testimony, to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to testify to the light.

And this is the testimony of John. When the Jews from Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to him to ask him, "Who are you?" He admitted and did not deny it, but admitted, "I am not the Christ."

Visit www.usccb.org to access Mass readings online.

SAINT JAMES MINISTRIES



Family Faith Formation

This weekend, on **Saturday, December 16th**, our children preparing to receive the sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Eucharist in 2024, are receiving their Sacramental Enrollment Blessing at the **5PM Mass**. Please, pray for them and their families as they prepare for this important time in their faith lives.

Confirmation preparation **Year 2** group – Our next session is this **Tuesday, December 19th from 7PM to 8:30PM** in the Church. Make sure to complete the reflection on The Chosen (episodes 2 & 3).

If you need any information or have any questions or concerns, please contact me at aprescott@saintjamesparish.org, (973) 376-2061.

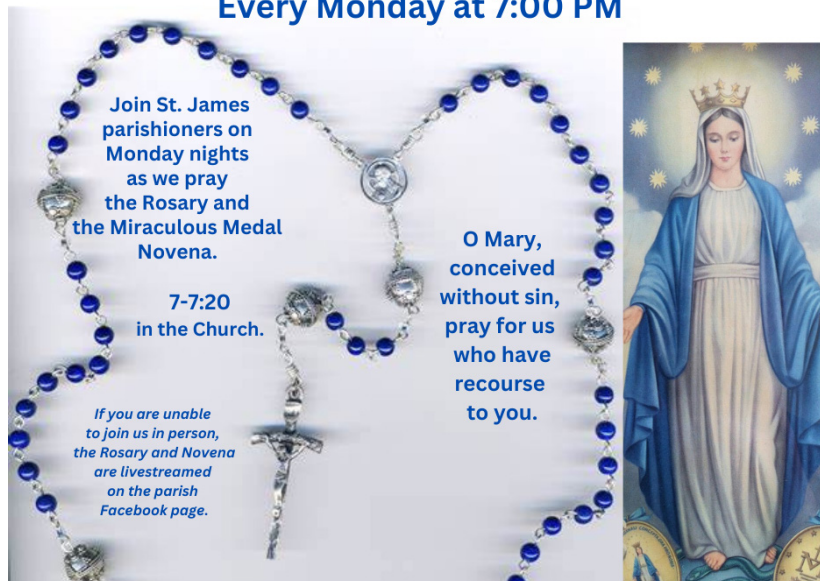
Saint James Prayer-Line Ministry

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

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

ROSARY AND NOVENA

Every Monday at 7:00 PM



**** No Novena Monday, December 25th ****

UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS

The Bereavement Ministry and The Mental Health & Well-Being Ministry
personally invite you to join our special

Blue Christmas Mass

Wednesday, December 20th at 7:00 p.m.



A light shines in the darkness

The intention of the Blue Mass is especially for those for whom the Christmas season is a profoundly sad and lonely time, a reminder of loss and brokenness. The death or impending death of a loved one, loss of health or employment, family crises, and depression are some of the many reasons that Christmas can be painful and isolating.

One can grieve knowing they are not alone and be comforted and strengthened by the love of Christ and those present. Join us for yourself, for someone you love or for those who suffer around the world. ***All are welcome.***

Refreshments will be served after the mass.

Please RSVP at: **Bereavement@saintjamesparish.org**

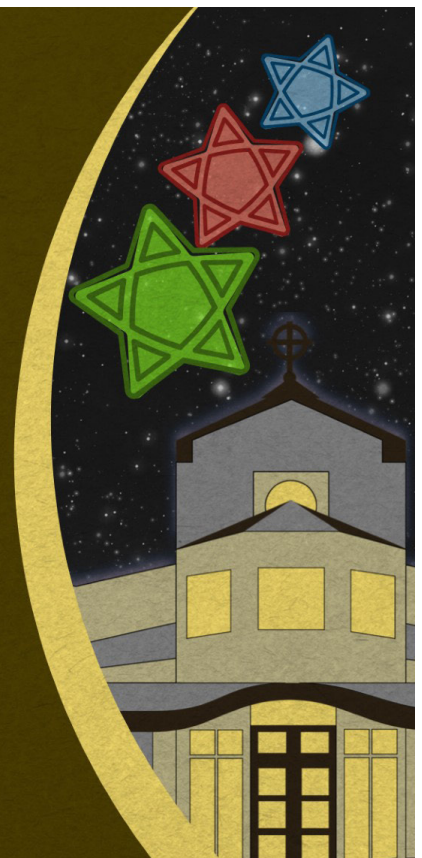


FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22

SIMBANG GABI

MASS AT 8:00 PM

Simbáng Gabi (*lit. Night Mass*) is a devotional nine-day series of Advent Masses practiced by Filipino Roman Catholics in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary in anticipation of Christmas. Everyone is invited to attend.



CELEBRATE ADVENT & CHRISTMAS AT SAINT JAMES

Advent and Christmas Mass Schedule

Lessons & Carols

Sunday, December 17 at 3:00 p.m.

Simbang Gabi: Filipino Novena Mass

Friday, December 22 at 8:00pm

Sunday, December 24th:

4th Sunday of Advent

9:00 a.m. Mass only

CHRISTMAS EVE MASS SCHEDULE:

Sunday, December 24

4:00 p.m. (Family Mass) and 6:00 p.m. Mass

Mass at Midnight

Christmas Carols begin at 11:30 p.m.

CHRISTMAS DAY MASS SCHEDULE

Monday, December 25

8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m., 12 noon

Feast of the Holy Family

Sunday, December 31 at 8:00 a.m.,

10:00 a.m., 12 noon

NEW YEAR'S DAY MASS

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

Monday, January 1 at 9:00 a.m.



Advent Memorials

**The Advent Wreath is displayed
in Loving Memory of:**

Angela & Daniel Raimondo

r/b Evelyn Raimondo-Kaiser &
Marianne Van Volkenburgh

**The Advent Candles burn
in Loving Memory of:**

Bava, Belnavis, Bollmeyer & Genco Families

r/b Nancy Caputo

Mr. & Mrs. B. LoMacchio and

Mr. & Mrs. J. Carney

r/b Patty & John Carney

Gene Melleno

r/b Wife, Robin

Barbara Germinder

r/b Daughter, Robin

Advent "Little Blue Books"

In Loving Memory of:

John D. Pflug, III & Garrett Gurrieri

r/b Family



FOR THE KIDS



AROUND THE COMMUNITY



Christmas Concert With The Orchestra of St. Peter by the Sea

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2023 ~ 7:00PM AT
ST. JAMES CHURCH 149 GROVE STREET
WOODBIDGE, NEW JERSEY



Join us for a magical evening of music with
Father Alphonse Stevenson
conducting
the Orchestra of St. Peter by the Sea

There's no better way to start the Christmas season than
to experience Father Alphonse and his 42-piece orchestra
and distinguished vocalists.
Be sure to get your tickets early for this annual sell out!

TICKETS \$50/\$30

*The Parish staff will assign seats
in the order reservations are received*

To order tickets,
please scan
the QR code



or visit our website at
stjamesonline.org

Questions?
Call the parish office:
732-634-0500 x100



6th to 8th
Graders Only

PARISH HOUSE PARTY AT THE PARISH HOUSE WITH DJ TONE

SATURDAY,
DEC 30
7:00-10:00 PM

PARISH HOUSE
37 CHURCH MALL,
SPRINGFIELD

Food, snacks,
music & dancing.

Registration
required

Register Here



Call for info
848-221-7163

Hallow ADVENT

JOIN THE ADVENT PRAY25 CHALLENGE

Deepen your prayer life this Advent with Hallow, a Catholic prayer and meditation app that helps us all find peace in God.



Your parish has gifted you
Hallow access through Easter!

hallow.com/holyday



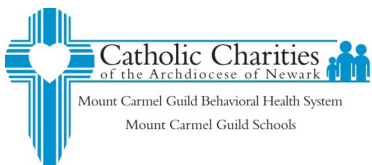
Download on
App Store



Get it on
Google Play



**It's the most wonderful
time of the year!**



These are the words of a Christmas song that is most familiar to us, however, for some individuals and families this is a time of sadness, frustration, and deep anxiety. Catholic Charities has always been a beacon of hope in these situations. Please help us to continue the mission by contributing all forms of used clothing, small appliances, shoes, linens, sheets, towels, tools, knickknacks, stuffed animals, novels, and children's books to our Donation Bin(s).
Thank you.

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 Priesthood? Are you being called? Visit the Archdiocese of Newark Office of Priestly Vocations. Call: 973-313-6190. Email: info@newarkpriest.com. Social media: @NewarkPriest. Web: newarkpriest.com

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 & RCIA

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.

MASS INTENTIONS, PRAYERS & DEVOTIONS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16

5:00pm **Betty Macciachera**
r/b Mary, Tommy & Julia Walsh
Stephen F. Colligan
r/b Frances Hui

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17

Third Sunday of Advent

8:00am **Mary Ann Bujnowski**
r/b Tom Bujnowski &
Patricia Kuzma
Nicolaos Cacouris
r/b Carmela Fusco
10:00am **Tony, Carmella, Ann & Vincent**
r/b Ann & Family
Anselmo Gabriele
r/b Mr. & Mrs. Pasquarelli
12:00pm **Susie LoMacchio**
r/b John & Patty Carney
Eleanor Carney
r/b John & Patty Carney

MONDAY, DECEMBER 18

7:30am **Marie Guthrow**
r/b Mother

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19

7:30am **Betty Macciachera**
r/b Rossomando Family

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20

7:30am **Sabastiana Macciachera**
r/b Bernstein Family

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21

7:30am **Vincent Plaza**
r/b Bernstein Family

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22

7:30am **Robert Ruple**
r/b Carrie Somberg

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23

8:30am **Victor Vecchione**
r/b Vickie Steinbeck
5:00pm **Tillie Catenacci**
r/b Granddaughters
DiGiacomo Family
r/b Assunta Cacciatore

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24

Fourth Sunday of Advent

9:00am **James Sporer**
r/b Rosenberger Family
Deceased Members of the
Sullivan Family
r/b Pat Sullivan
Ernest Reedy
r/b Wife & Children
Matthew Klein
r/b Mom

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24

Christmas Eve

4:00pm **For the People of Saint James**
6:00pm **For the People of Saint James**
12:00am **For the People of Saint James**

SANCTUARY LAMP:

Albert Van Havere
r/b Cerreto Family

BREAD & WINE:

Sr. Alice Cardillo, Maryknoll Missionary
r/b Cerreto Family

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

A TIME TO HEAL

Pat Anelli, Jackie Belitti, Anita C. Bentz, Barbara Bentz, Severina Bion, Deacon Jerome Bongiovanni, Victoria Burns, Gerry Campagnola, Enid Cabot, Dolores Cardillo, Thara Chandran, Lena Chromowski, Phyllis Colosimo, Celine Correia, James Curry, Diane Deitz, Jean DePasquale, Carmela DeSarno, Robert Devon, Jr., Marguerite Duchantier, Victoria Egner, Alfredo Fernandes, Berta Franco, Ann Graziano, Carole Griner, Steven Hensle, Laura Hughes, Eddie Jenna, Dana Kelley, Dexter Kennedy, Art Kistler, Irene Kurpieski, Camille LaTouche, Dina Ledogar, Maureen Le Goff, Lucille Lerner, Andy Lindgren, Angelina Lipski, Chenoa Lipski, Richie Lipski, Menotti Joseph Lombardi, Jr., Marian Lordi, Richard Lorenzo, Barbara Ludolph, Erica Luther, Toni Ann Marabello, Maria Martino Fender, John Mannarino, 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., Erin Pado, John Reiss, Ben Rumer, Anthony S., Richard Salort, Alice Serrao, Jack Silbert, Ray Slater, Stephanie Toth, Tracy Tuten, Anne Wallis, Elisa Warshall

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, Brian Braine, 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, 2LT Andrew Kerwin, LCPL Kyle Thomas Lynaugh, Stephen Patricco, Aric Patten, Phillip Patten, Aaron Pluto, 1LT John Rogacki, Capt. Stacia Rogacki, Capt. Stephen Rogacki, 2LT Raymond Williamson

*Lord,
Hear Our Prayer*



THANK YOU TO THE PEOPLE OF ST. JAMES FOR YOUR CONTINUED GENEROSITY!

The 2nd Annual 5k For Thanks held on Thanksgiving morning had 375 participants. Proceeds from the event were **\$11,542.92**. A donation of **\$1,154.30** was made to the Springfield First Aid Squad.

Thank you to the members of Parish Life, the fundraising committee and all the volunteers who made this event a success!



Thank you to those who made free will offerings for the Babies in the Womb Feel Pain car magnets. A donation of **\$120.00** was made to LifeNet to carry on their Pro Life mission.

GRATEFUL • THANKFUL

blessed

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURES

Collection Totals

Weekend of December 2 & 3

Regular Collection:	\$	5,784.00
Online Giving:	\$	3,943.00
Total:	\$	9,727.00

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!

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?... Your gifts of time, talent and treasure show your love for Jesus. During this season of giving, what will your gift to St. James be?

Remember...

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



CENTENNIAL CORNER

Be sure to visit the Centennial website page:



saintjamestheapostle.org/centennial to see photos of past events, view Centennial video interviews, and visit the Centennial Boutique (online store) for Saint James the Apostle Parish commemorative apparel and items. We have hoodies, quarter-zips, polos, and more! Scan the QR code to check out all of our merchandise!



OUR PARISH IS SERVED BY:

PASTOR

Father David C. Santos
frsantos@saintjamesparish.org

PERMANENT DEACON

Deacon Jerry Bongiovanni
Please call the rectory to reach Dcn. Jerry

PERMANENT DEACON

Deacon Hugh A. Keffer
hkeffer@saintjamesparish.org

PERMANENT DEACON

Deacon Michael DeRoberts
deaconderoberts@saintjamesparish.org

WEEKEND ASSISTANT

Father John Dennehy

PARISH COUNCIL

pastoralcouncil@saintjamesparish.org

DIRECTOR OF FAMILY FAITH FORMATION

Mrs. Ana Serra-Prescott
aprescott@saintjamesparish.org

PASTORAL ASSOCIATE

Ms. Nancy Caputo
ncaputo@saintjamesparish.org

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRY

Mr. Philip La Gala
musicdirector@saintjamesparish.org

OFFICE MANAGER

Mrs. Colleen Tyra
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BOOKKEEPER

Mrs. Katie Hyman
businessoffice@saintjamesparish.org

PARISH TRUSTEES

Mrs. Janet Petino and Mr. John Pflug