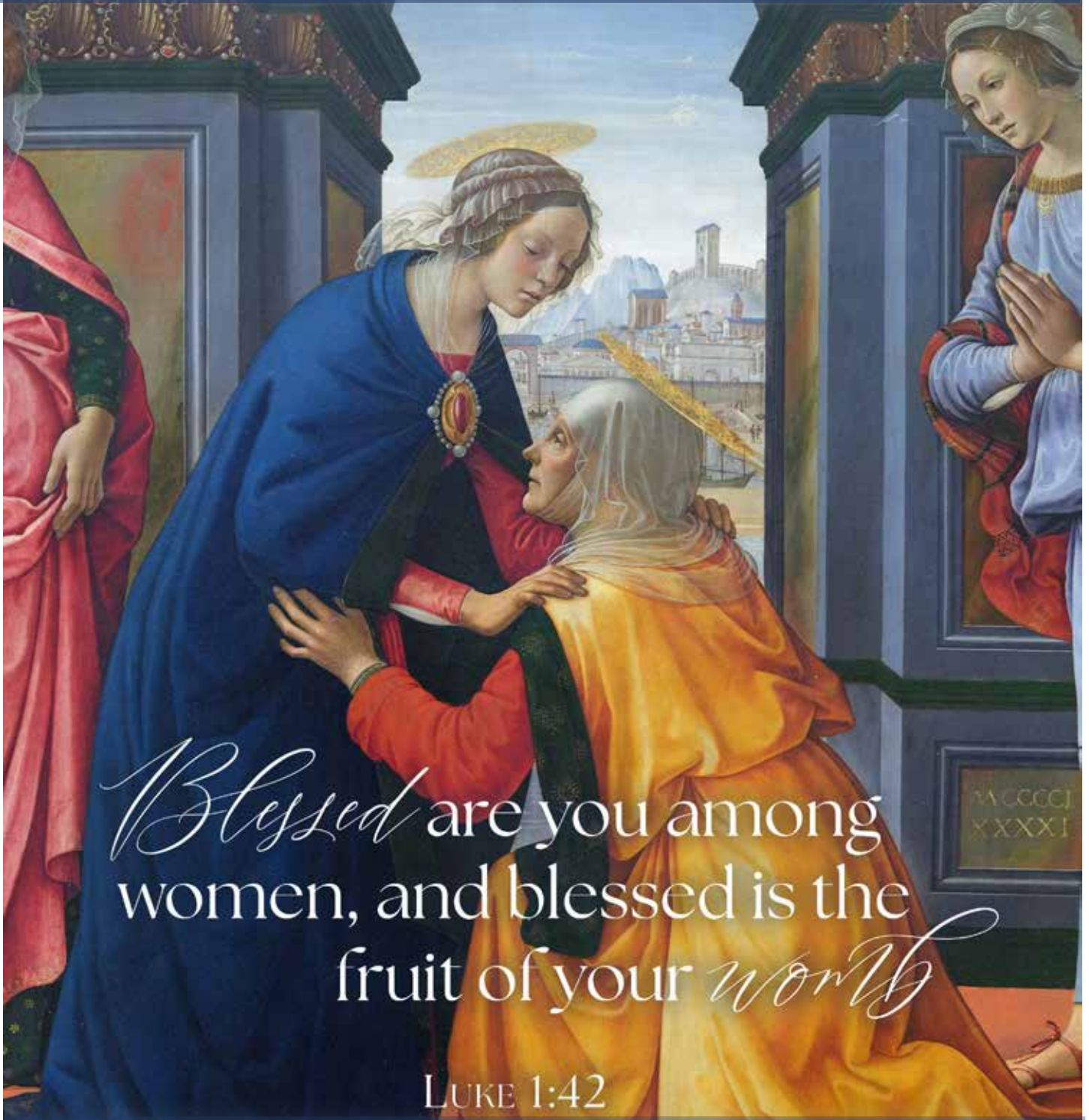




# SAINT JAMES THE APOSTLE Roman Catholic Church



*Blessed* are you among  
women, and blessed is the  
fruit of your *worth*

LUKE 1:42

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT | DECEMBER 22, 2024

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

**YOU ARE**  
*Welcome Here*

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

**Office Hours:**

*(Closed 12PM-1PM for Lunch)*

Mon 8:30AM-3PM

Tue - Thu **CLOSED**

Fri 8:30AM-3PM

**Church Visiting Hours:**

Mon-Fri: 8AM-2:30PM

Sat: 9AM-1PM

**MASS SCHEDULE:**

**Saturday, December 28:**

5:00PM - Fr. Santos

**Sunday, December 29:**

8:00AM - Fr. Dennehy

10:00AM - Fr. Paladino

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

Second Saturdays at 3PM

## PASTOR'S COLUMN

### MESSAGE FROM FR. DAVID SANTOS



Dear Friends,

The Christmas season is one that is profuse with merriment and joy, and in this day and age, with a heavy emphasis on giving and receiving gifts. In our culture, the exchange of presents among friends, family, coworkers, and even casual acquaintances can cause a great deal of stress and can be a big contributor to the frenzied seasonal pace we often lament.

As a Catholic community of faith, we at St. James have a beautiful opportunity to flip the script, and make this season one that is centered, not on presents, but on God's **presence**.

Throughout the season of Advent, we were invited by the Church's liturgy and readings, parish programs, and our personal devotions to prepare our hearts for the birth of Jesus Christ, and to attune our souls to the multitude of ways that, as St. Paul write in 1 Corinthians 13:6, God's Spirit "dwells within" us.

I pray that each of you receives many gifts of God's presence this season:

- Each time you receive the **EUCCHARIST**, may the body, blood, soul and divinity of Christ unite you with God and with each other.
- Each time you pause to **PRAY**, may your covenantal relationship with God be fortified and may you feel yourself drawing closer to Him.
- Each time you hear Christ speak through **SCRIPTURE**, may the gift of his Word resonate with your spirit.
- Each time you gather in **WORSHIP**, may you join your hearts together as the Body of Christ, becoming his continued presence in our world.

We are blessed to have so many opportunities to center God's presence this Christmas season. I am grateful to celebrate alongside you and I am privileged to server you as your pastor. **MERRY CHRISTMAS!**

May God bless you this Christmas season!

Fr. David C. Santos, Pastor







## SUNDAY READINGS

### FIRST READING

#### Micah 5:1-4a

He shall stand firm and shepherd his flock by the strength of the LORD, in the majestic name of the LORD, his God; and they shall remain, for now his greatness shall reach to the ends of the earth; he shall be peace.

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

#### Psalm 80

Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

### SECOND READING

#### Hebrews 10:5-10

Brothers and sisters:

When Christ came into the world, he said: "Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but a body you prepared for me; in holocausts and sin offerings you took no delight. Then I said, 'As is written of me in the scroll, behold, I come to do your will, O God.'"

### GOSPEL

#### Luke 1:39-45

Mary set out and traveled to the hill country in haste to a town of Judah, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the infant in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled."

Full Mass readings can be accessed at [usccb.org](http://usccb.org)

## FAMILY FAITH FORMATION 2024-2025



Wishing you and your families a beautiful and very merry Christmas.

Our next Family Faith session will be on **Monday, January 6th at 6PM.**

We will all gather together in the church to celebrate Three Kings Day, also known as the feast of the Epiphany.

### NEXT SESSIONS for Confirmation preparation groups:

#### Confirmation Year 1 Group –

On Tuesday, January 14 from 7PM to 8:30PM.

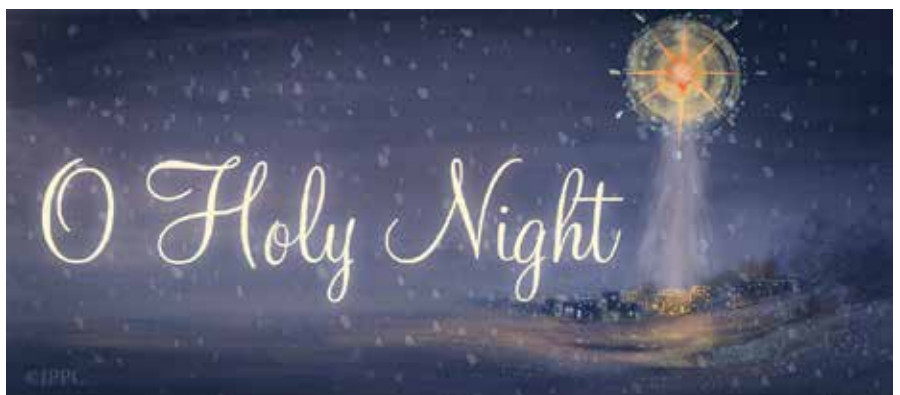
#### Confirmation Year 2 Group –

On Tuesday, January 28 from 7PM to 8:30PM.

The calendar dates for both Sunday Family Faith and Confirmation preparation sessions can be found on the Family Faith Formation page of the parish website.

If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to Ana.

**Ana Serra-Prescott | Family Faith Formation Office  
(973) 376-2061 | [aprescott@saintjamesparish.org](mailto:aprescott@saintjamesparish.org)**





Thank you to everyone for coming out in the rain to support this great community event! Despite the rain, runners and walkers came together to complete the 3.1-mile course before enjoying their Thanksgiving feasts. A heartfelt thank you to all this year's sponsors and the generous parishioners of St. James. Special thanks also go to Chief Cook and the Springfield Police Department, Scott Seidel and the Springfield Auxiliary Police, the Springfield First Aid Squad, and all the volunteers who made the event possible.

Special thanks to our sponsors - Tracy Beveridge CPA, ANEW Kitchen & Bath, Ken's Marine, Blasi Architecture L.L.C & Prime Time Mortgage Corp and all the generous parishioners of St James. Thanks to the SPD, Springfield First Aid Squad, Springfield Auxiliary Police and all the volunteers.

**Congratulations to our winners:**

- Fastest girl - Victoria Turner**
- Fastest boy - Elliott Reines**
- Fastest female - Catriona Corbett**
- Fastest male - Colin Riley**
- Fastest Family - The Reines Family (Claudia, Elliott & Paul)**
- Fastest Parishioners - Eliana McNamee & Michael Sarracino**

This year's event was an overwhelming success (compared to 2023) with a total registered - 370 vs 375 Runners - 217 vs 194 Walkers - 122 vs 120. Once the final accounting is complete, 10% of the net proceeds will be donated to the Springfield Auxiliary Police.

**Christmas**



In Luke's Gospel we read, "Whoever has two tunics is to share with the one who has none (Lk 3: 11)." Perhaps you received new clothing for Christmas. Why not donate your used clothing and other needed items such as small appliances, shoes, linens, sheets, towels, stuffed animals, tools, novels and children's books to the Catholic Charities Donation Bin(s) accessible on the Church's grounds. Thank you and Merry Christmas.



**Rosary and Novena Mondays at 6:30 PM**

Join us in the church every Monday as we pray the Rosary and the Miraculous Medal Novena.

Also livestreamed on the parish Facebook page.

O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee.

**SAINT JAMES BOUTIQUE**

Be sure to visit the online boutique 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!



**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](mailto:PrayerLineMinistry@saintjamesparish.org)

# CELEBRATE ADVENT & CHRISTMAS AT SAINT JAMES

## *Advent and Christmas Mass Schedule*

### **CHRISTMAS EVE MASS SCHEDULE**

**Tuesday, December 24**

4:00 p.m. Family Mass, 6:00 p.m. Mass

\*Mass at Midnight

Christmas Carols begin at 11:30 p.m.

### **CHRISTMAS DAY MASS SCHEDULE**

**Wednesday, December 25**

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

### **Feast of the Holy Family**

Sunday, December 29

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

### **NEW YEAR'S EVE MASS**

Tuesday, December 31 at 5:00 p.m.

### **NEW YEAR'S DAY MASS**

### **SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD**

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

\* *Live Stream Masses*



## *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 will burn  
in Loving Memory of:

**Bollmeyer, Bava, Belnavis  
& Genco Families**  
r/b Nancy Caputo & Family

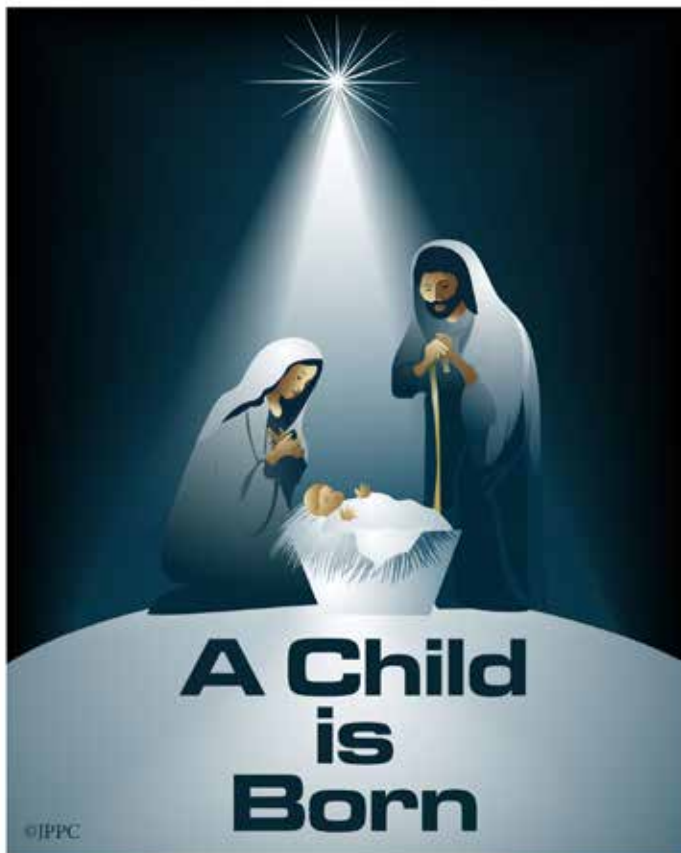
**Mr. & Mrs. B. Lo Macchio and  
Mr. & Mrs. J. Carney**  
r/b Patty & John Carney

**Gene Melleno**  
r/b Wife, Robin

**Barbara Germinder**  
r/b Daughter, Robin

Advent "Little Books"  
in Loving Memory of:

**John D. Pflug, III & Garrett Gurrieri**  
r/b Family



*Jesus*  
THE REASON FOR THE SEASON



# *Christmas Memorials*

**LARGE CHRISTMAS TREE IN NARTHEX  
IS DISPLAYED IN LOVING MEMORY OF**

***The Swajkowski & Felegi Families***  
r/b Cynthia Swajkowski and Family

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

***The Deceased Members of  
the DelMauro Family***  
r/b The Battaglia Family

***Grandson, Michael P. Bongiovanni***  
r/b Deacon Jerry and Family

***Nic Cacouris***  
r/b Wife, Joan Bratsch

***Tony Graziano***  
r/b Anne Graziano and Family

***Paul and Ann Marie Bentivegna***  
r/b The Bentivegna Family

**LARGE WREATH IN SANCTUARY  
IS DISPLAYED IN LOVING MEMORY OF**

***Matthew Swajkowski***  
r/b Cynthia, Matthew, Ali, & Sloane

**WREATH OVER BLESSED VIRGIN MARY  
(OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE)  
IS DISPLAYED IN LOVING MEMORY OF**

***Marie & Ettore Vecchione***  
r/b Daughter, Jill

**MEDIUM WREATH OVER ST. JAMES  
IS DISPLAYED IN LOVING MEMORY OF**

***Philip & Rose Ann Citro***  
r/b Daughters & Family

**LARGE WREATH OVER DOORS INSIDE  
CHURCH IS DISPLAYED  
IN LOVING MEMORY OF**

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

**LARGE WREATH OVER DOORS IN THE  
NARTHEX IS DISPLAYED IN LOVING  
MEMORY OF**

***John D. Pflug, III & Garrett Gurrieri***  
r/b Family

**WREATHS ON COLUMNS OUTSIDE THE  
CHURCH ARE DISPLAYED  
IN LOVING MEMORY OF**

***Deceased Members of the Battaglia Family***  
r/b The Battaglia Family

***Deceased Members of the Zara Family***  
r/b The Battaglia Family

***Angela & Daniel Raimondo***  
r/b Evelyn Raimondo-Kaiser &  
Marianne Van Volkenburgh

***Hanna Grasso***  
r/b Niece, Joan Bratsch & Family

***Louis Stiglitz***  
r/b Marilyn Stiglitz, Wife

***Susan Lang***  
r/b Marilyn Stiglitz, Mother

***Mary Moessner***  
r/b Marilyn Stiglitz, Daughter

***Lewis Moessner***  
r/b Marilyn Stiglitz, Daughter

***Patricia Morris***  
r/b Marilyn Stiglitz

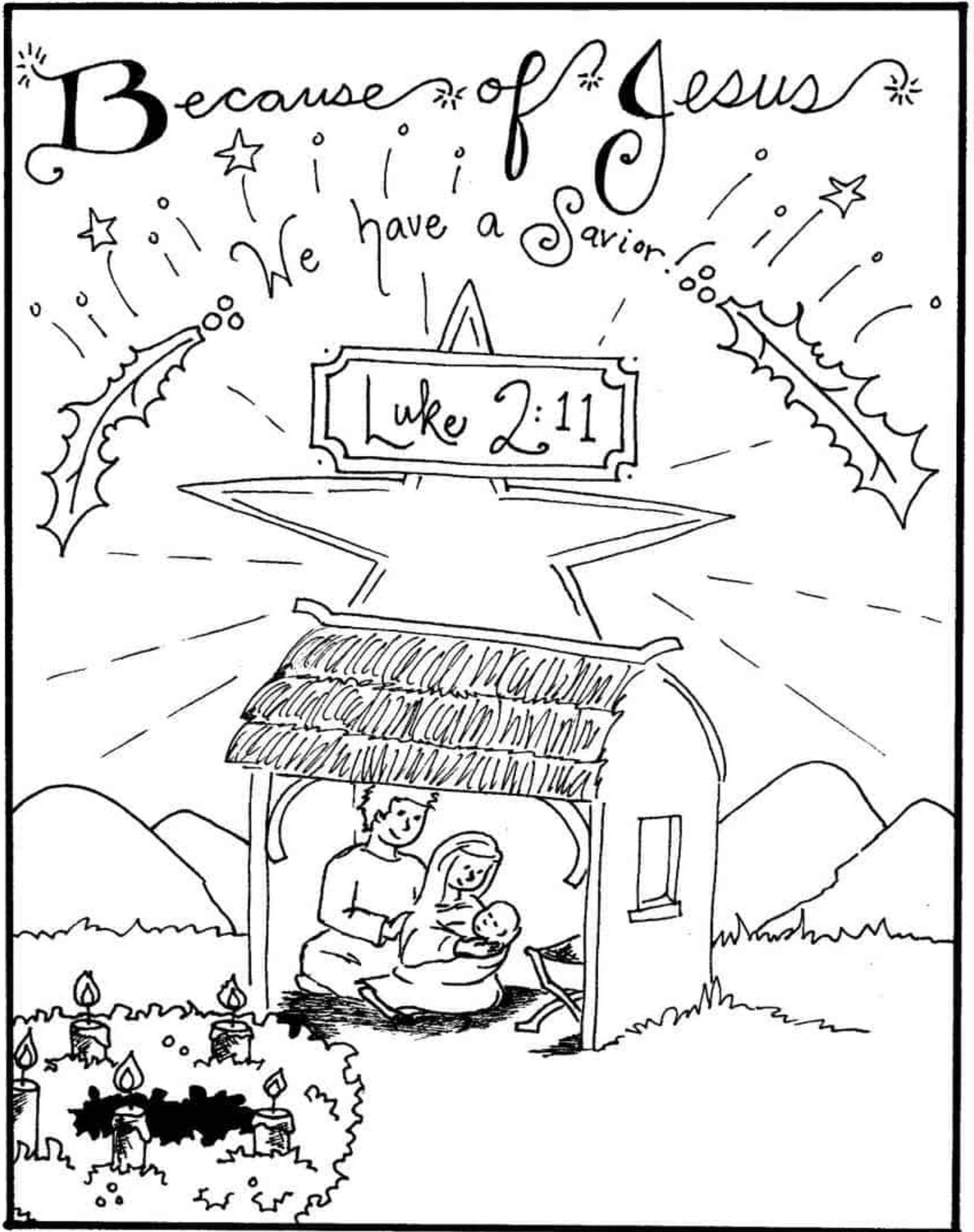
***Mary Stawasz***  
r/b Marilyn Stiglitz

**CHRISTMAS CRÈCHE INSIDE THE CHURCH  
IS DISPLAYED IN LOVING MEMORY OF**

***Raffaele & Sabino Battaglia***  
r/b The Battaglia Family

**CHRISTMAS CRÈCHE OUTSIDE THE  
CHURCH IS DISPLAYED IN LOVING  
MEMORY OF**

***Pete Petino***  
r/b Family



## WHY IS JESUS' BIRTHDAY CALLED CHRISTMAS?

*The English language term for Jesus' birthday is unique, as the word does not have any connection to what we would normally call a person's birthday.*

Throughout December you probably will hear the phrase, "**Merry Christmas!**" It is a phrase that many Christians now fight to use, but what does "Christmas" really mean?

The English word is unique and differs greatly from how other language groups refer to Jesus' birth.

For example, Italians say "**Buon Natale,**" which has at its root the Latin word *natus*, meaning "**born**" (referring to Christ's birth). Spanish speaking people have a similar phrase, "**Feliz Navidad,**" that has the same Latin root word.

### Christ's Mass

In England a different tradition arose in the 11th century for labeling Jesus' birth. According to the *Catholic Encyclopedia*, "The word for Christmas in late Old English is **Cristes Maesse**, the **Mass of Christ**, first found in 1038, and *Cristes-messe*, in 1131."

In modern English it became "**Christmas**" and follows a custom of combining the word "Mass" with the main focus of a particular feast day.

Throughout the liturgical year in England there is the feast of "**Michaelmas**" (in honor of St. Michael); "**Candlemas**" (a day when candles are blessed at Mass); and "**Marymas**" (referring to major feasts in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary).

December 25 then became known as "**Christ's Mass,**" a day when Mass is celebrated in honor of Christ's birth.

Christmas is a very common term used in the English language. Sometimes it is good to take a step back and learn the origins of this popular word that is also used in secular culture.

*By: Philip Kosloski - published on 12/09/24  
Source: <https://aleteia.org/2024/12/09/why-is-jesus-birthday-called-christmas>*

## 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](http://www.NewarkPriest.com), email [NewarkPriest@rcan.org](mailto: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, DECEMBER 21

5:00pm **Tillie Catenacci**  
r/b Granddaughters  
**Ricardo Gankee**  
r/b Gene and Nieves Salle

## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22

### Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:00am **Maria Santos**  
r/b Dennis McNany  
**Joseph Daniel Tancreto**  
r/b Leticia Perez

10:00am **Ronnie Fusco**  
r/b Carmela Fusco  
**Luigi and Rosaria Reino**  
r/b Anthony and Carmelina Reino

12:00pm **John Clark**  
r/b Marie Clark  
**Victor Vecchione**  
r/b Vickie Steinbeck

## MONDAY, DECEMBER 23

7:30am **Clem Daly**  
r/b Andrew Maybo

## TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24

8:30am **Daniel and Angela Raimondo**  
r/b Evelyn Raimondo-Kaiser and  
Marianne Van Volkenburgh

4:00pm **For the People of Saint James**

6:00pm **For the People of Saint James**

12:00am **For the People of Saint James**

## WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25

### The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)

8:00am **For the People of Saint James**

10:00am **For the People of Saint James**

12:00pm **For the People of Saint James**

## THURSDAY, DECEMBER 26

### Saint Stephen

8:30am **Adoracion A. Cruz**  
r/b Gene and Nieves Salle

## FRIDAY, DECEMBER 27

### Saint John

7:30am **Diane Johnson**  
r/b Lena Johnson

## SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28

### The Holy Innocents

8:30am **Jose and Marcela Videna**  
r/b Gene and Nieves Salle

5:00pm **Irene and Jack Mahoney**  
r/b Nancy Mahoney Rajs  
**Alfonso Cacciatore**  
r/b Wife

## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29

### The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

8:00am **Veronica Joseph**  
r/b Daughter  
**Maria Santos**  
r/b Virginia Quimson

10:00am **Grace Clementi**  
r/b Rosenberger Family  
**Ernest Reedy**  
r/b Wife and Children

12:00pm **Caeser and Edward Rivano**  
r/b Marion Rivano  
**Michael Salimbeni and  
Sister Irene Salimbeni**  
r/b Family



**SANCTUARY LAMP:**  
For the People of Saint James

**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.*

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## A TIME TO BAPTIZE

Luke William Maneiro  
Alisia Grace Rodriguez

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## A TIME TO HEAL

Pat Anelli, Jackie Belitti, Barbara Bentz, Severina Bion, Victoria Burns, Gerry Campagnola, Enid Cabot, Dolores Cardillo, Thara Chandran, Lena Chromowski, Phyllis Colosimo, Celine Correia, Joseph Covino, Marie Crosby, James Curry, Ronald D'Angelo, Diane Deitz, Jean DePasquale, Carmela DeSarno, Robert Devon, Jr., Marguerite Duchantier, Victoria Egner, Luca Favia, Alfredo Fernandes, Berta Franco, Ann Graziano, 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, Menotti Joseph Lombardi, Jr., Marian Lordi, Richard Lorenzo, Barbara Ludolph, Erica Luther, Toni Ann Marabello, Maria Martino Fender, John Mannarino, Angie Mazzarisi, Thomas McGarvey, Leonard McGinley, Stan Mickham, Richard Miele, Andres Montero, Timothy Morgan, Martin Muguerza, Ive Mureny, Christian Murphy, Carol Muzacs, Michael Neer, Mary O'Connor, Anna P., Ben Rumer, Anthony S., Alice Serrao, Jack Silbert, Ray Slater, 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.*

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## A TIME OF WAR AND PEACE

Tim Arentz, Lance Corporal Kevin Bernor, 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



*Lord,  
Hear Our Prayer*

## PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

# DO YOU LIVE IN UNION COUNTY AND NEED HELP WITH:

**Housing Insecurity?**  
**Rental Assistance?**  
**Legal Representation?**  
**Credit Counseling and more?**

Please contact **JOE CORREA** immediately:  
[jcorrea@thewaterfrontproject.org](mailto:jcorrea@thewaterfrontproject.org)



As part of our effort to communicate more effectively with you, we have launched an e-newsletter through a platform called Flocknote. The newsletter will contain parish news, event updates, and much more. Here's how you can sign up:  
**Text NEWSLETTER to 84576 OR Sign up on the website:**  
[saintjamestheapostle.flocknote.com](http://saintjamestheapostle.flocknote.com)

## STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURES

### Collection Totals

#### Weekend of December 7 & 8

|                     |           |                  |
|---------------------|-----------|------------------|
| Regular Collection: | \$        | 6,172.00         |
| Online Giving:      | \$        | 4,560.00         |
| <b>Total:</b>       | <b>\$</b> | <b>10,732.00</b> |

*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](http://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, 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.

During this season of giving, what will your gift to St. James be?

Make your tax-deductible Christmas gift to Saint James today. Thank you for your continued generosity!

Remember...

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





## 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  
ctyra@saintjamesparish.org

### **BOOKKEEPER**

Mrs. Katie Hyman  
businessoffice@saintjamesparish.org

### **PARISH TRUSTEES**

Mrs. Janet Petino and Mr. John Pflug