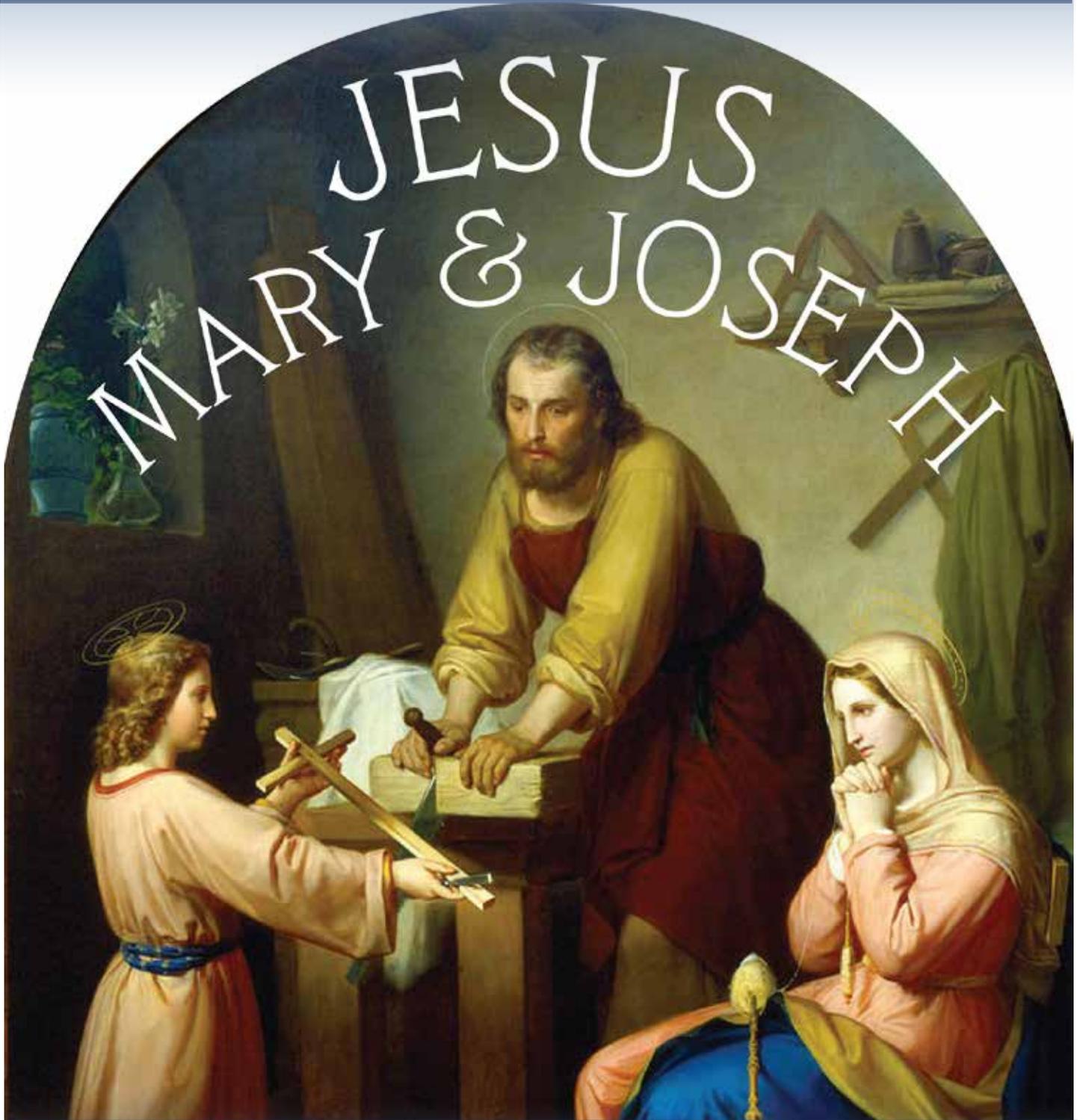




SAINT JAMES THE APOSTLE Roman Catholic Church



FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH
DECEMBER 29, 2024 | 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 8:30AM-12PM

Wed **CLOSED**

Thu - Fri 8:30AM-3PM

Church Visiting Hours:

Mon-Fri: 8AM-2:30PM

Sat: 9AM-1PM

MASS SCHEDULE:

Saturday, January 4:

5:00PM - Fr. Dennehy

Sunday, January 5:

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

Second Saturdays at 3PM

PASTOR'S COLUMN

REFLECTION ON THE READINGS



This weekend the Church celebrates the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. It's a better time than ever to reflect for a moment on **FAMILY**. I once heard a family therapist say, "It is important for every family to get its saints out of heaven and its sinners out of hell." The point is that it doesn't pay to either idealize or demonize our families (or fellow family members).

Often our perceptions of family go unexamined and yet exert powerful influences on our world view—including our view of faith and community. Friends, I invite you for a moment to pause and reflect on the following questions:

- *Abraham trusted God's promise of boundless heirs, even despite the evidence to the contrary. Do I trust God that my life and my work will prove fruitful?*
- *The heart of what makes a family are bonds of **love** and **respect**. What are my feelings about family? Who would I consider to be the key members of my "family" in my day-to-day life? Do the patterns of my biological family continue on to affect today's relationships?*
- *The gospel tells of wonderful predictions offered by Simeon and Anna. How do early expectations of family members affect me today?*
- *It must have been puzzling for Joseph and Mary to live with the knowledge that the "favor of God" was upon their only son. How do we live with those around us, working together day by day and yet knowing that they are called to be saints (even as we are)?*

When the feast of the Holy Family arrives every year, these questions rise up in us, too. Because the scripture readings, which may seem out of step with our modern lives on any Sunday, on this feast in particular really seem from outer space! The myth of the "perfect" holy family hasn't served our families well. Our families are hardly perfect. There are leaks in the family ark, and kinks in the family links. We have stories to tell, and we have secrets that we never tell. **But what held the family of Jesus together and made them holy is the same power that's available to us: the bond of love.** St. Paul says in Colossians: "And over all these put on love, that is, the bond of perfection." **Families are never perfect, but love perfects the bond that holds us together.**



Fr. David C. Santos, Pastor

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

If you want to bring happiness to the whole world, go home and love your family.

— *Saint Teresa of Calcutta*



SUNDAY READINGS

FIRST READING

SIRACH 3:2-6, 12-14

Whoever honors his father is gladdened by children, and, when he prays, is heard. Whoever reveres his father will live a long life; he who obeys his father brings comfort to his mother.

OR

1 SAMUEL 1:20-22, 24-28

As you live, my lord, I am the woman who stood near you here, praying to the LORD. I prayed for this child, and the LORD granted my request. Now I, in turn, give him to the LORD; as long as he lives, he shall be dedicated to the LORD."

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 128

Blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.

OR

Psalm 84

Blessed are they who dwell in your house, O Lord.

SECOND READING

COLOSSIANS 3:12-21 OR 3:12-17

Put on, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another, if one has a grievance against another; as the Lord has forgiven you, so must you also do.

OR

1 JOHN 3:1-2, 21-24

See what love the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called the children of God. And so we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we shall be has not yet been revealed. We do know that when it is revealed we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.

GOSPEL

LUKE 2:41-52

After three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions, and all who heard him were astounded at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him, they were astonished, and his mother said to him, "Son, why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been looking for you with great anxiety." And he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he said to them. He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them; and his mother kept all these things in her heart. And Jesus advanced in wisdom and age and favor before God and man.

Full Mass readings can be accessed at usccb.org

SAINT JAMES CHOIR CHRISTMAS CAROLING

On Saturday, December 14th the Saint James Christmas Choir came together to serenade our friends at Arbor Terrace Senior Assisted Living Home; which has now become an annual tradition. There were 11 of us who lead the singing of classic Christmas carols wishing them a Merry Christmas and bringing some joy and holiday cheer to the seniors living there. The concert was a big hit with many joining in the fun. A great time was had by all. We were rewarded by seeing all the smiling faces and hearing the residents singing along with us.



St. James Christmas Choir from left to right: Connie Garcia, Nancy Osgoodby, Mary Albright, Darin Cerreto, Marilyn Stiglitz, Geri Ann Kazimar, Nancy Starzinky, Gene Salle, Jessie Duma; keyboard, Dinah Duma, and Dominic Cerreto on guitar. Camera shy: Dendee Veloso.



FAMILY FAITH FORMATION 2024-2025



Hoping everyone is enjoying this Christmas Season.

Wishing you and your families a beautiful end of this year 2024 and a happy and blessed 2025.



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.

(Don't forget to complete your reflections on The Chosen episodes assigned. They are due the day before the sessions mentioned above)

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**

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

Rosary and Novena Mondays at 6:30 PM



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!



Rectory Holiday Office Hours

Tuesday, December 31st: 8:30am - 12pm

Mass will be celebrated at 7:30am and 5:00pm

Wednesday, January 1st: CLOSED

Morning Mass will be celebrated at 9:00am

H A P P Y N E W Y E A R

Christmas Mass Schedule

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

9 NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS FOR CATHOLICS

Kick the year off with these resolutions that are easy to keep!

1. KNOW YOUR DAILY SAINTS

Over your morning coffee, juice, or water, take five minutes to learn about the saint of the day. Chat with your kids about the saint and help enrich their religious education.

2. DRINK MORE WATER

By cutting out or reducing sodas and juices, you'll help your health and reduce your use of plastic bottles, while also giving your body the most essential element it needs. We're called to look after God's creation, and that means our bodies, too!

3. MAKE HOMEMADE TREATS

Try swapping out store-bought goodies for ones made at home. Doing this once a week with junior chefs by your side is great time spent together and cuts down on processed food.

4. SAY A FAMILY ROSARY

Set aside time in the week to pray a Rosary together as a family. Spend these moments in prayer and reflection and it will make a big difference for your family.

5. CARRY OUT AN ACT OF KINDNESS

Although you may already carry out random acts of kindness, or are involved in charity work, be more intentional about it by dedicating a day each week or each month.

6. TURN DOWN THE HEAT

If you're in good health and want to do your part for the environment, try turning down the thermostat a degree or two.

7. WALK MORE

There are many benefits to walking: it's great for the environment, and it boosts physical and mental health. While taking a stroll you can take in the beauty of your surroundings or even say a little prayer.

8. SAY SOMETHING POSITIVE

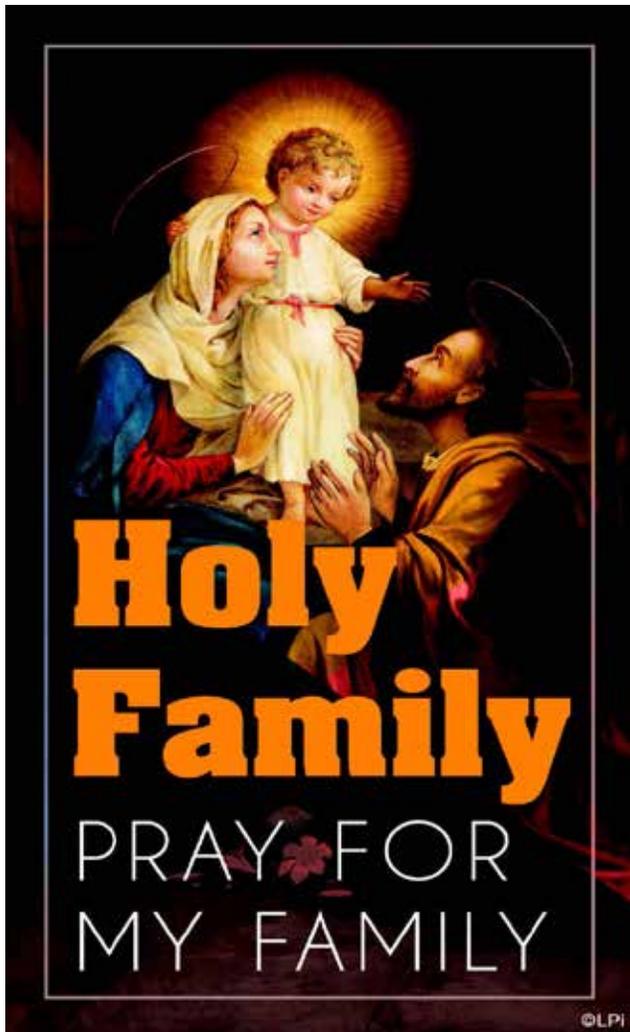
Find something good that has happened to you during the day you can give thanks to God. Begin the practice of gratitude, which is the key to a consistently joyful life.

9. SAY "YES" TO NEW CHALLENGES

Do something that you might feel reluctant to do ordinarily. By stepping out of your comfort zone, you'll not only be putting your faith in God but in your own abilities.

Author: Cerith Gardiner, published on 01/02/20 - updated on 12/31/22

Source: <https://aleteia.org/2020/01/02/9-new-years-resolutions-for-catholics>



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

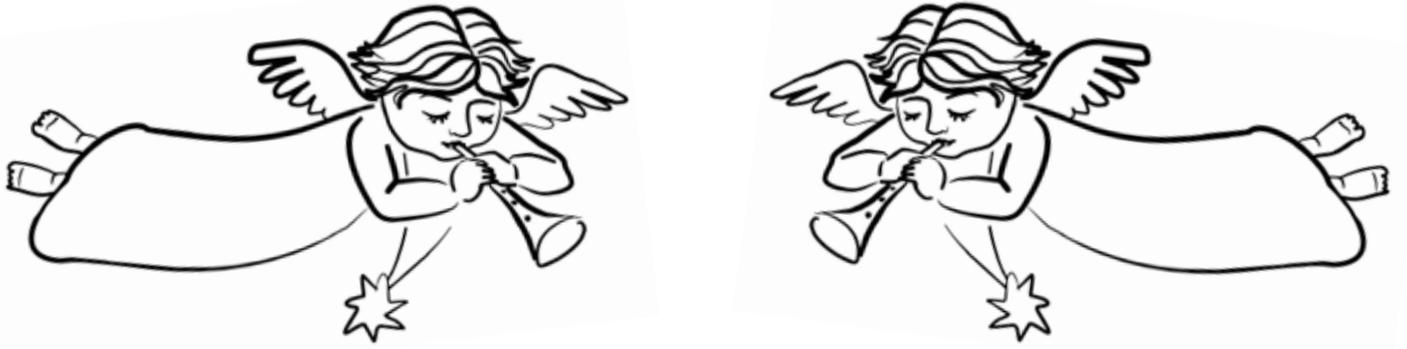
**CHRISTMAS CRÈCHE INSIDE THE CHURCH
IS DISPLAYED IN LOVING MEMORY OF**

Raffaele & Sabino Battaglia
r/b The Battaglia Family

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

Pete Petino
r/b Family

FOR THE KIDS



AROUND THE COMMUNITY

Mount Saint Mary House of Prayer
1651 US Hwy. 22
Watchung, NJ 07069

Tuesday, December 31 from 9:30am-3pm
YEAR END DAY OF PRAYER

Spend this last day of the year reflecting on the many gifts God has bestowed on you. Day begins and ends with communal prayer. Bring a bag lunch. In Person Program. \$20-\$30 as you are able.

Friday, January 3—5, 2025

SILENT DIRECTED WEEKEND RETREAT

An atmosphere of prayerful quiet. An experience of personal prayer based on scripture. Daily spiritual direction. Begins with light supper on Friday evening at 6pm and ends by 1pm on Sunday. Proof of COVID vaccination is required at time of registration. In Person Program. \$210 for the weekend; \$100 deposit.

Information and Registration can be found on our website: www.msmhope.org. Call us at 908-753-2091 or email us at msmhope@msmhope.org



SEASONS is a non-denominational group of individuals who have lost a partner and are interested in discussing various ideas and topics which may be useful in one's life.

We welcome everyone to participate in our activities. Meetings take place monthly on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays at the First Presbyterian Church
11 Springfield Ave. Cranford, NJ

Thursday, January 09, 7pm

Bob Laudati will lead a discussion on What are You Looking for in 2025.

Thursday, January 23, 7pm

Rico Micioni will talk to us about how we can Recycle Our Stuff effectively.

For more information, contact Bob Laudati at 908-322-7762 | rdlaudati@aol.com, or Lorraine at 908-418-8602.

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, DECEMBER 28

The Holy Innocents

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

MONDAY, DECEMBER 30

7:30am **Michele McNany**
r/b Dennis McNany

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31

7:30am **Jose and Marcela Videna**
r/b Gene and Nieves Salle

5:00pm **For the People of Saint James**

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 1

The Octave Day of the Nativity of the Lord Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God New Years Day

9:00am **For the People of Saint James**

THURSDAY, JANUARY 2

Saint Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen
7:30am **Francis Congema**
r/b Gary and Mary Ellen Capron

FRIDAY, JANUARY 3

7:30am **Vincenzo Morico**
r/b Rosa Zotti and Grandchildren

SATURDAY, JANUARY 4

Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton
8:30am **Victoria DeAugustine**
r/b Kathleen Kakalettris

5:00pm **Maria Pellegrino**
r/b Connie Garcia and Family
John Montana, Jr.
r/b Judy and Ron Ciuffreda

SUNDAY, JANUARY 5

Epiphany of the Lord
8:00am **John Montana**
r/b Janice Montana
Ettore Vecchione
r/b Jill, Daughter
10:00am **John Pflug Sr.**
r/b Vicki Sarracino
Cosma and Salvatore DeNichilo
r/b Inneo Family
12:00pm **Angelina and Carmelo Rivano**
r/b Marion Rivano
Antonio Rojas
r/b Maryann Rienzo



SANCTUARY LAMP:
For the People of Saint James

BREAD & WINE:
John Montana, Jr.
r/b Judy and John Ciuffreda

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, 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.

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



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

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURES

Collection Totals

Weekend of December 14 & 15

Regular Collection:	\$	7,230.00
Online Giving:	\$	4,615.00
Total:	\$	11,845.00

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.

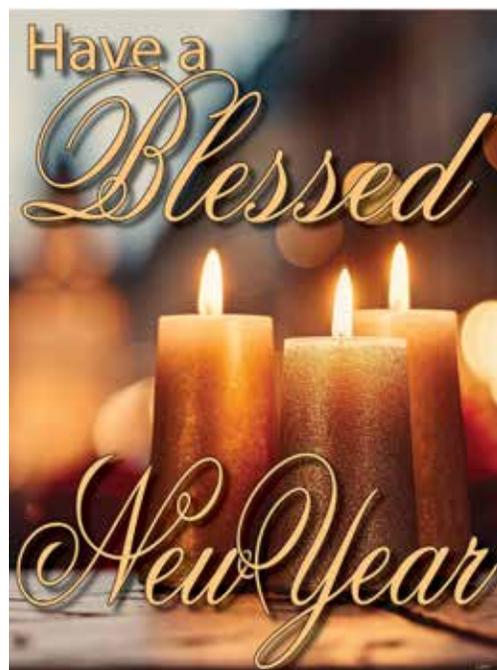


FINANCE
Parish Finance Council

FINANCE COUNCIL CORNER

May the blessings of God be with our St. James parish community in the New Year.

Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.
Luke 2:14



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