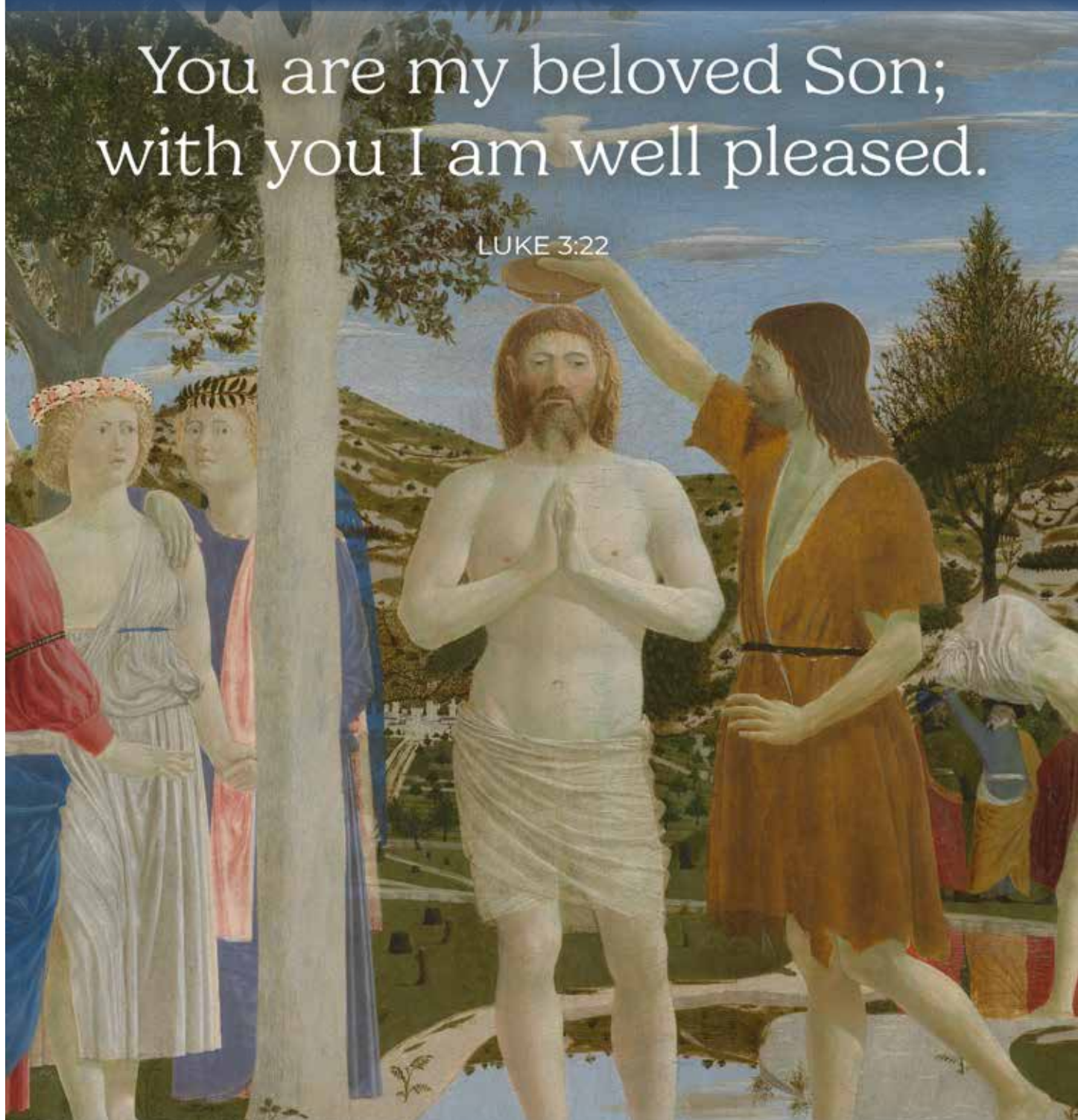




SAINT JAMES THE APOSTLE Roman Catholic Church

You are my beloved Son;
with you I am well pleased.

LUKE 3:22



THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD | JANUARY 12, 2025

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-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, January 18:

5:00PM - Fr. Paladino

Sunday, January 19:

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

REFLECTION ON THE READINGS



Pope Saint John Paul II once said that the most important day in his life wasn't the day he became a priest, or a bishop, or a cardinal, or even pope. The most important day in his life was... **day of his baptism.**

Today, on the last day of the Christmas Season we celebrate the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. As we commemorate this important day in the life of Jesus

Christ, we're asked by the Church to consider and reflect on the meaning of baptism in our lives.

One of the earliest descriptions of baptism is repeated in the Catechism of the Catholic Church as **VITAE SPIRITUALIS IANUA**, which is Latin for **the doorway of the spiritual life.**

In other words, baptism is the **way in**, it is the way in which we gain access to the sacraments. Baptism is the condition for the possibility for an authentically spiritual life as Christ exemplified and intended. In short - **Baptism is about belonging to God!**

To grasp the full meaning of this is to understand something decisive about Christianity. You see, Christianity is not primarily about becoming a good person...or doing the right thing...or having a heart of gold, because anybody - a Pagan, Muslim, Jew, non-believer - could be any of those things. And mind you, I'm not bad-mouthing it. I hope that we're all *nice* people with *hearts of gold*. I hope we all do the right thing; but see, none of that is distinctive to Christianity.

Friends, Christianity's primary concern is about belonging to God and living out of that space. **What we do and how we act should flow from this reality!**

Henri Nouwen, a priest and prolific spiritual writer, put it this way:

*You see, many of my daily preoccupations suggest that I belong more to the world than to God. A little criticism makes me angry, and a little rejection makes me depressed. A little praise raises my spirits, and a little success excites me. It takes very little to raise me up or thrust me down. Often, I am like a small boat on the ocean, completely at the mercy of its waves. All the time and energy I spend in keeping some kind of balance and preventing myself from being tipped over and drowning shows that my life is mostly a struggle for survival: **not a holy struggle, but an anxious struggle resulting from the mistaken idea that it is the world that defines me.** As long as we belong to this world, we will remain subject to its competitive ways and expect to be rewarded for all the good we do. But when we belong to God, who loves us without conditions, we can live as he does. **The great conversion called for by Jesus is to move from belonging to the world to belonging to God.***

Friends, the world tries so hard - and often succeeds - to convince us of who we are and what we are worth, and that we ultimately belong to the world - and sadly we allow ourselves to believe it.

PASTOR'S COLUMN CONTINUED

You see, **Baptism** and the **Sacraments** are God's ways of reminding us that we don't belong to the world. **Baptism** and the **Sacraments** are the tools that help us move from *belonging to the world to belonging to God!*

I invite you to allow this question to stay with you this week:

To Whom Do You Belong?... To God or to the World?

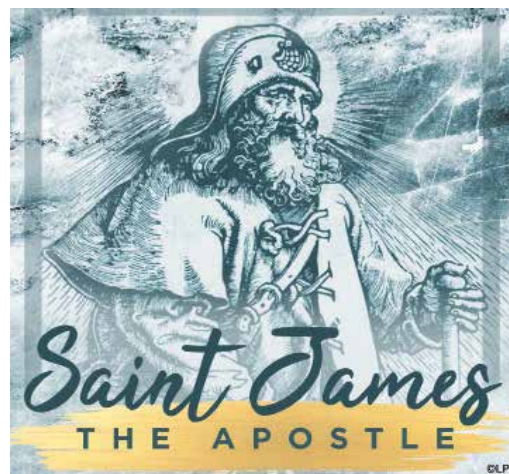


Fr. David C. Santos, Pastor

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

In Baptism the form of Christ's death is impressed upon [one's] own. . . Anybody living in the strength of Christ's Baptism lives in the strength of Christ's death.

— *Dietrich Bonhoeffer, The Cost of Discipleship*



SUNDAY READINGS

FIRST READING

Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11

Here comes with power the Lord GOD, who rules by a strong arm; here is his reward with him, his recompense before him. Like a shepherd he feeds his flock; in his arms he gathers the lambs, carrying them in his bosom, and leading the ewes with care.

OR

Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7

I, the LORD, have called you for the victory of justice, I have grasped you by the hand; I formed you, and set you as a covenant of the people, a light for the nations, to open the eyes of the blind, to bring out prisoners from confinement, and from the dungeon, those who live in darkness.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 104

O bless the Lord, my soul.

OR

Psalm 29

The Lord will bless his people with peace.

SECOND READING

Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7

The grace of God has appeared, saving all and training us to reject godless ways and worldly desires and to live temperately, justly, and devoutly in this age, as we await the blessed hope, the appearance of the glory of our great God and savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to deliver us from all lawlessness and to cleanse for himself a people as his own, eager to do what is good.

OR

Acts 10:34-38

"In truth, I see that God shows no partiality. Rather, in every nation whoever fears him and acts uprightly is acceptable to him."

GOSPEL

Luke 3:15-16, 21-22

After all the people had been baptized and Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."

Full Mass readings can be accessed at usccb.org

FAMILY FAITH FORMATION 2024-2025



On Monday, January 6, in the evening, the Family Faith families gathered together to celebrate the feast of the Epiphany. It was a session filled with joy, laughter, music, food, and activities. Thank you to our volunteers who helped plan and put this beautiful program together. From the music, the Gospel reading, the young parishioners who played the Three Kings, King Herod, and the Star, the Confirmation candidate who helped with the spotlight, to all the adults who made the event run smoothly and possible. It was a celebration we all enjoyed. Thank you!! 👑❤️



Our **next Family Faith session** is **Sunday, February 23.**

Reconciliation retreat for children who will be receiving the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Eucharist for the first time this year is on **Sunday, February 2** from **1:30PM to 3:30PM at St. James.**

The children will receive the **Sacrament of First Reconciliation** on **Saturday, February 8 at 11:30AM** in the church.

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.



Steubenville Youth Conference 2025 July 18-20, 2025

As we did last summer, we are organizing a trip to the Steubenville Youth Conference at Franciscan University this summer.

If you are in 8th grade or High School and are interested in attending this Summer's Youth Conference, please complete the interest form by using the QR code below. Feel free to share it with your friends.

We will have a meeting with all the information, but we want to see how many young people would be interested so that we can start the preparations.

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

2025 Theme



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

SAINT JAMES WELLNESS MINISTRY

The objective of the ministry is to promote a healthy parish community. Do you have an interest or expertise in any of the aspects of wellness?

Can you lead a parish group for jogging, exercise, yoga, meditation or rebalance health wellness?

If you have an interest or an idea to promote a healthy parish, please contact us at
wellnessministry@saintjamesparish.org



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.



If you received the parish book gift, '**33 Days to Eucharistic Glory**', join us as we consecrate ourselves to the Eucharist as a parish.

The book contains short articles to be read daily for 33 days.

We started **Day 1** on **January 1** and we are now on **Day 12**. It's not too late to join. You may go back to the previous articles if you have time.

Participants are invited to attend one of two consecration sessions in the church.

Saturday, February 1st at 4:30pm
or

Sunday, February 2nd at 11:30am

**Please be sure to read the Day 33 article before the session.*



SAINT JAMES THE APOSTLE
ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
SPRINGFIELD, NEW JERSEY

Would you like to make Prayer Shawls or
Baptismal Blankets for Saint James?!!
We are adding to our supply and would love your help!

Prayer Shawls:

- Typically 60 x 20, but flexible
- Any color or pattern

Baptismal Blankets:

- Ranging from 18-24 inches square
- Any pattern; white only

Completed shawls and blankets can be
dropped off at the Rectory
or we can arrange pick up.
They will be blessed, packaged and
delivered to those
in need (prayer shawls) and the
newly baptized (blankets).

Common features:

- Method of creation: Knit, Crochet, Loom, Loop Knitting... and more!
- Patterns: we have several to share, or use your own!

Questions?
Want more info?
Maybe you have yarn to donate?
Contact us at

prayershawlministry@saintjamesparish.org



The men of the Parish are invited to gather for hospitality and discussion of the Sunday gospel readings.

This is a great opportunity for men to grow in their faith, meet new folks, and share their experiences of their faith journey.

The first meeting for 2025 will take place
Saturday, January 25 at 9am
(after the 8:30am Mass)
in the upstairs conference room
in the Rectory.

You are encouraged to attend the Mass, but it is not required.

If you are interested,
please email John Prescott at
MensMinistry@saintjamesparish.org

PATIENCE LOVE CHARITY

FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE

We Are His Witnesses: A Pastoral Letter from Cardinal Tobin



As we welcome the New Year, Cardinal Tobin invites all Catholics in the Archdiocese of Newark to read **We Are His Witnesses**, his pastoral letter outlining new pathways for the future of the Archdiocese. Rooted in Pope Francis' call for pastoral conversion, missionary discipleship, and synodality, the letter reflects on our shared journey of faith and calls us to embrace renewal, collaboration and missionary outreach. This multi-year initiative will guide us in shaping a vibrant, hopeful future for our Church community.

Read **We Are His Witnesses** and join this journey of faith as we respond to Christ's call to be His witnesses in the world.



Read the full letter in English or Spanish by visiting rcan.org/we-are-his-witnesses/ or scan the QR code.

ANNUAL ²⁰²⁵ APPEAL

The 2025 Annual Appeal has begun! Each year we are invited to participate in the Annual Appeal, which is an opportunity to support essential ministries and programs of our Archdiocese. Your sacrificial support makes it possible for us to carry out the important work that we are called to do as missionary disciples of Jesus.

Please consider participating in this year's Appeal to help make a significant difference in many lives within our Archdiocese.

Please make a gift online today by visiting rcan.org/sharing, scanning the QR code, or join us for In-Pew Weekend on March 1 and 2.



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Merry Christmas!!! I pray that you all experienced profoundly Our Lord's love, peace and joy this Christmas season, and continue to do so as we enter into the new year.

As 2024 comes to a close, I cannot help but be in awe of all that the Lord has done in this past year alone for all the students at George Mason, our team, for you, and for me. When I answered the Lord's call on my life to be a missionary, His call was not only for my life or the lives of the students here, but yours as well! Jesus had in mind each and every one of you, written on His Heart, when He invited you to support His ministry through me to reach lost souls on campus, students thirsting for His love, and people longing to grow deeper in their faith and relationship with Him. All of this would not be possible without your prayers and support, and I thank Our Lord every day for your kindness and generosity.

Over the course of Advent, I often contemplated on the joyful anticipation in waiting for Our Lord in His birth and His Second Coming, but what a gift it is to realize that while we wait, it is He who keeps us company! He is with us, right here and now, ever so present in each other, the Church, in the sacraments, and in the Eucharist. Our Hope has arrived, let us turn to Him with contrite and humble hearts and let Him fill us with His everlasting mercy and love!

May God bless you in His abundant mercy and generosity, and may you all have a blessed New Years!

In Christ,
Cheyenna

PRAYER INTENTIONS

Know of my prayers for you! If you have any special prayer intentions I can pray for you this upcoming month, please feel free to respond to my newsletter with your intentions!

This upcoming month, I would kindly ask prayers for:

All of our students, missionaries and staff attending SEEK 25 at the beginning of January, for safe travels and an increase in openness to the Lord

The student-athletes, for conviction of the Eucharist and a deeper desire to know Christ

Our student leader workshop on January 19th

Chiara, one of my disciples, who will be leading her first Bible study this upcoming semester!

My disciples, Bible study participants, and team

Thank you and may God bless you!

In Christ,

Cheyenna
Cook



✉ cheyenna.cook@focus.org

🌐 <https://focus.org/missionaries/cheyenna-cook/>



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Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John [...] As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased." (Matthew 3:13-17)

AROUND THE COMMUNITY

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 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.



"Every End Is A New Beginning"



These words are very hopeful and encouraging as we begin the New Year. For some who lack physical necessities and struggle with numerous problems on a daily basis, hope is a fleeting word. The many programs of Catholic Charities aim to restore hope and dignity. Please help us by contributing to the Donation Bin(s) in the parish. We need used clothing, small appliances, shoes, linens, sheets, towels, stuffed animals, novels, knickknacks, and children's books. Thank you and God Bless.

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, JANUARY 11

5:00pm Carmela and Romuldao Circelli
r/b Carmela Fusco
Jim Genco
r/b Carmen Lombardi

SUNDAY, JANUARY 12

Baptism of the Lord

8:00am Mario Garcia
r/b Family
Maria Santos
r/b Nancy and Nathan Mahoney-Rajs

10:00am Maria DePinto
r/b Inneo Family
James Genco
r/b Nancy Caputo

12:00pm Caesar and Edward Rivano
r/b Marion Rivano
Aderita Alvarado Solano
r/b Johnny and Monica Lopez

MONDAY, JANUARY 13

7:30am John Mahoney
r/b Daughter

TUESDAY, JANUARY 14

7:30am Mildred and Vincent Genco
r/b Nancy Caputo

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15

7:30am Maryann Marchese
r/b Patricia David

THURSDAY, JANUARY 16

7:30am James Cryan
r/b Linda and Bob Donnelly

FRIDAY, JANUARY 17

Saint Anthony

7:30am Ana Maria Roca Giralt
r/b Ana Prescott

SATURDAY, JANUARY 18

8:30am Kathleen Congema
r/b Gary and Mary Ellen Capron

5:00pm Scherly Longo
r/b Carmela Fusco
Donald Schwerdt, Sr.
r/b Rita Lombardi, Angela and Pasquale Mazzacuva

SUNDAY, JANUARY 19

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00am William Patrick Burke, Sr.
r/b Corbett Family
Maria Santos
r/b Mary Ellen Patricco

10:00am Lorraine Yachmetz
r/b Angela Ragonese
Vincent Mastria
r/b Victoria Sarracino

12:00pm James F. Carney
r/b Patty and John Carney
Antonio Rojas
r/b Mary Oles



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.

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, 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

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURES

Collection Totals

Weekend of December 28 & 29

Regular Collection:	\$	4,727.00
Online Giving:	\$	4,610.00
Total:	\$	9,337.00

Weekend of January 4 & 5

Regular Collection:	\$	6,756.00
Online Giving:	\$	4,415.00
Total:	\$	11,171.00

Total Christmas Gift donations to date: \$67,148
Parish Goal: is \$70,000.

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

Happy 2025! It's a new year. As you make your new year's resolutions, resolve to sign up for recurring giving online.

Did you know?...

Online giving is a convenient and efficient option for parishioners to give to the church. It's also quick and easy to get started. Go to the parish website today or scan the QR code in the bulletin to get started. If you have any questions, contact the rectory office and they will connect you with a member of the Finance Council.

Remember...

Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops.
Proverbs 3:9



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

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