Saint James the Apostle
Roman Catholic Church

Let them grow together until harvest.

Matthew 13:30

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME | JULY 19, 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, July 25:
5:00PM - Fr. Santos

Sunday, July 26:
8:00AM - Fr. Dennehy
10:00AM - Fr. Santos
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

This weekend's Gospel gives us one of Jesus' most **honest** and **consoling** images of life: ***the wheat and the weeds growing together in the same field.*** Most of us know what that feels like. We can see goodness and struggle side by side in the world around us, in the Church, in our families, and, if we are honest, even in our own hearts.

The servants in the parable want to act quickly. They ask the master whether they should pull up the weeds right away. It sounds reasonable enough. If something is harmful, why not remove it immediately? But the master sees more than they do. He knows that the roots of the wheat and the weeds have become tangled together, and that in trying to tear out one, they may damage the other.

That is **not** an excuse for indifference to evil, **nor** is it a call to pretend that sin, suffering, injustice, and pain do not matter. Rather, **Jesus is *inviting* us to trust the patience and wisdom of God.** God sees the whole field. God knows what is still growing. God understands the hidden places where grace is at work, even when we cannot yet see the harvest.

There is a great temptation in our time to sort people too quickly into categories: good or bad, right or wrong, with us or against us. But the Gospel resists that kind of simplicity. The truth is that every human heart is a mixed field. There is wheat in us that needs to be protected, nourished, and encouraged. There are weeds in us that need conversion, mercy, and time. And there is a God who does not give up on the field simply because weeds have appeared.

That is ***good news*** for all of us. The struggles we would never have chosen, the weaknesses we wish we did not carry, and the painful chapters we would rather forget can, by God's grace, **become places where *compassion, humility, patience,* and *faith* begin to grow.** God *does not* cause the weeds, but God can still bring forth wheat. He can take even what is tangled and unfinished and use it for our growth in holiness.

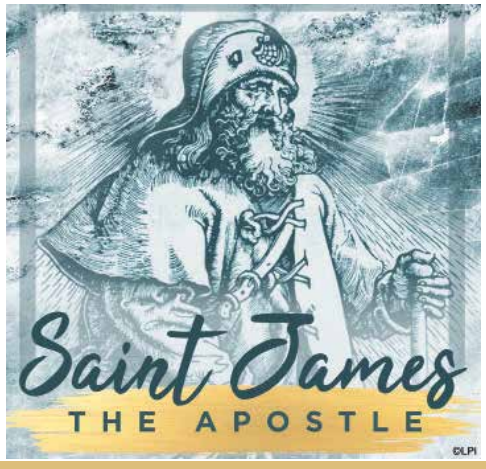
This week, perhaps we can ask for the grace to look at ourselves and one another with the patience of God. Not passively, not naively, but with hope. The harvest is not yet here. The story is not finished. And in the field of every life, God is still patiently cultivating what is good

Rev. David C. Santos, Pastor

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

[Jesus] spoke in parables, because he wished to excite them to inquiry. He spoke obscurely, to make them listen; for things plainly expressed are apt to be lightly esteemed.

— Saint John Chrysostom



SUNDAY READINGS

FIRST READING
Wisdom 12:13, 16-19
But though you are master of might, you judge with clemency, and with much lenience you govern us; for power, whenever you will, attends you. And you taught your people, by these deeds, that those who are just must be kind; and you gave your children good ground for hope that you would permit repentance for their sins.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM
Psalm 86
Lord, you are good and forgiving.

SECOND READING
Romans 8:26-27
The Spirit comes to the aid of our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes with inexpressible groanings. And the one who searches hearts knows what is the intention of the Spirit, because he intercedes for the holy ones according to God's will.

GOSPEL
Matthew 13:24-43 or Matthew 13:24-30
"The slaves of the householder came to him and said,'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where have the weeds come from?' He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' His slaves said to him, 'Do you want us to go and pull them up?' He replied, 'No, if you pull up the weeds you might uproot the wheat along with them. Let them grow together until harvest; then at harvest time I will say to the harvesters, "First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles for burning; but gather the wheat into my barn."'"

Full Mass readings can be accessed at usccb.org

HOLY WHYS: DEACON HUGH REPLIES

Dear Deacon Hugh:

My question which I prefer to remain anonymous is- Does it matter what hand you use to make the sign of the cross? I always thought it had to be done with the right hand even though you are left-handed.

Anonymous

Dear Anonymous:

You ask about a gesture that may seem small outwardly yet is spiritually significant. The Sign of the Cross is a profession of your faith in God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The Catechism teaches that this sign marks us as belonging to Christ, blesses our prayers and daily work, and strengthens us in times of temptation. It is a sign of the grace of redemption won for us by Christ on the Cross. For that reason, what matters more than anything else is that you make the sign of the cross with faith, reverence, and a sincere intention. See CCC 1235 and 2157.

In researching an answer, I found a beautiful article discussing the Roman tradition of using the right hand to make the sign of the cross. The author explained this has long been the custom of the Church based on a desire for harmony in public worship. Yet, the author points out, a custom must not be confused with an absolute law. The Church recognizes that one person may be left-handed or another physically unable to use the right arm or hand. In such cases, the essential matter is fidelity of the heart to the One whose Cross is invoked.

It is also worth remembering that even the manner of tracing the Cross is not identical in every Christian tradition. While we make the sign of the cross first by touching the forehead, the heart, the left shoulder, then the right, the Eastern Church makes the sign touching the right shoulder then the left. One tradition uses five fingers to make the sign of the cross while another uses three fingers. Yet each tradition intends the sign of the cross as a confession in the same belief in a triune God.

I hope this helps you to see that the sign of the cross is not a test. It is a humble act of belonging to Christ and a remembrance of His selfless act of love on the cross for you. Therefore, while the right hand remains the norm in the Roman Catholic Church, God looks at the heart's intention which the sign of the cross embraces.

Deacon Hugh

If you have a question you would like to ask, please email Deacon Hugh at **hkeffer@saintjamesparish.org.**

FAMILY FAITH FORMATION

Family Faith 2026-2027
Registration is now open

Early Registration and payment received on or before July 31 has a $50 discount (already showing in the registration form).

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.

Only families with **children** who will be **starting their second year of sacramental preparation next year – 2026-2027** (for the Sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Holy Eucharist), should select both "Sunday Family Faith" & "First Reconciliation/First Holy Communion (in May 2027)" when registering for next year.

Children currently in Family Faith Level 6:
Register for "Confirmation Year 1 (Receiving the Sacrament Fall 2028)"

Confirmation candidates currently enrolled in Year 2: (this year 2025-2026) **do not register for next year**; this year's registration & fees include the preparation process until your Confirmation in the Fall 2026.

Confirmation candidates currently enrolled in Year 1: Need to register for their second year of preparation process for Confirmation using the QR code above or the link you received in the email. Please select "Confirmation Year 2 (Receiving Sacrament Fall 2027)

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

STEUBENVILLE YOUTH CONFERENCE 2026

As you all know, last weekend, a group of 21 teenagers from our parish, five chaperones, and Fr. David had the privilege to attend the Steubenville Youth Conference at the campus of Franciscan University. We were also blessed to be joined by 13 teens and a chaperone from St. Bartholomew's Church.

It was an incredible experience! Throughout the weekend, the teens had the opportunity to hear inspiring speakers, participate in powerful worship, spend time in Eucharistic Adoration, attend Mass, and receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. They were able to experience all of this while surrounded by nearly 2,000 other young people who share a desire to know the Lord more deeply, grow closer to Him, and follow His will for their lives.

The theme **"Worthy: For the battle belongs to the Lord"** reminded all participants that each of us is worthy of love because we belong to Jesus. It also emphasized that we do not face our daily struggles and challenges alone. Just as David defeated Goliath by trusting in God's strength, we too are called to rely on Jesus to help us overcome our battles and to trust that His plan is always best for us.

The teens also heard a powerful message about the importance of choosing good friendships. True friends lead us closer to God, encourage us in our faith, and help us become the people God created us to be.

On several occasions, everyone united in prayer asking the Holy Spirit to rest upon us and to fill us with the courage and strength to follow God's will faithfully and, like Mary, become living vessels of Christ, carrying Jesus within our hearts and bring His love, hope, and presence to others through our words and actions.

We are grateful for this faith-filled weekend and pray that the seeds planted during the conference will continue to grow in the hearts of all who attended.

Thank you for your prayers and for all of you who donated to help us make this experience possible for our teens. God bless you!

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

Please Note: *For privacy reasons and HIPPA regulations, names may be added to the prayer list by the individual themselves, or with their* ***explicit permission*** *from the one in need of prayers. Individuals in need of prayers may also call the rectory for assistance.*

St. James is Giving Back to Springfield. Can you Lend a Helping Hand?

A few years ago, Saint James adopted a plot of land called Dr. Eckel's Island in Springfield, just down the street from our parish.

The parish is responsible for the upkeep of the island. Together, we can make this a light task while giving back to the community.

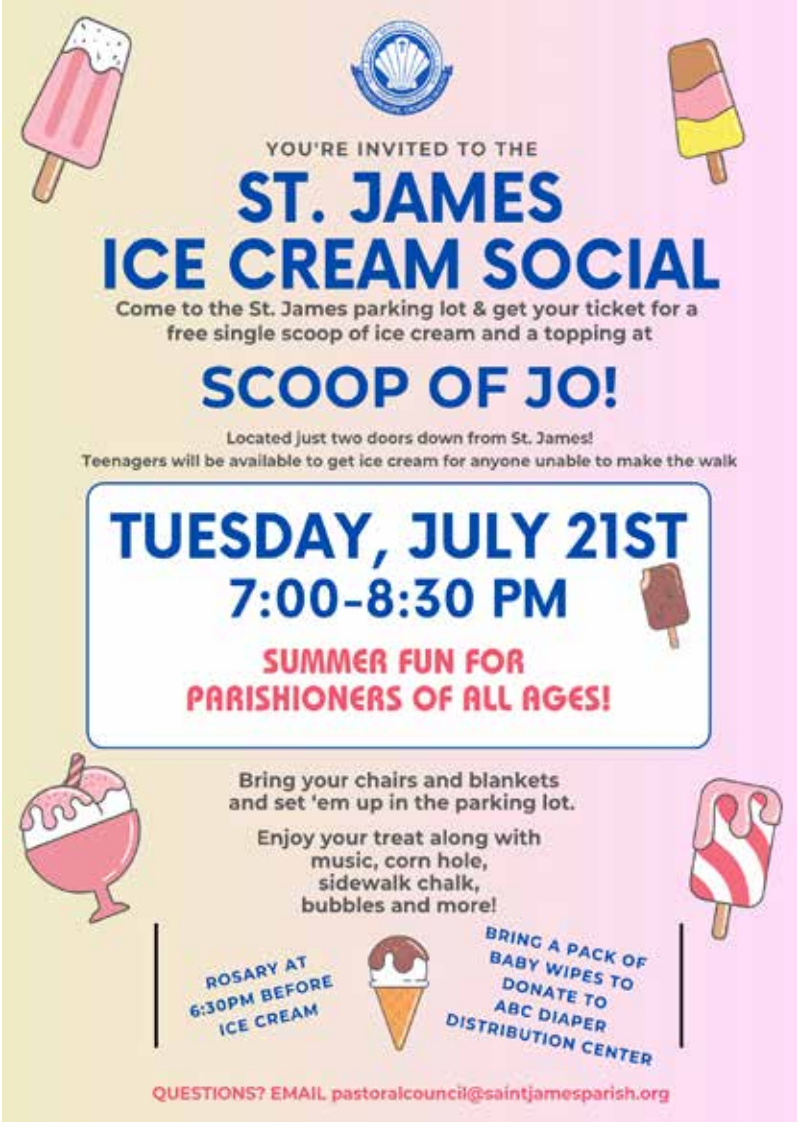
If you have a lawnmower and are able to mow the grass on the island one or more weekends, please scan the QR code.

You can mow at any time you're available that weekend.

Thank you for your consideration.
God bless.

For we are co-workers in God's service; you are God's field, God's building. - Corinthians 3:9

NEXT WEEK AT SAINT JAMES!



SIGN UP TO VOLUNTEER OR DONATE!

To donate items for the care packages and other materials for the Morning Day of Service, please click this link or scan the QR code.

https://www.amazon.com/registries/gl/guest-view/37S4WKD2YSYFF?ref_=cm_sw_r_apin_ggr-subnav-share_DTZFQRJ1EPX8EATZNPXC_2&language=en-US

Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Newark
Mount Carmel Guild Behavioral Health System
Mount Carmel Guild Schools

You Deserve a Break

July is often remembered for its excessive heat, picnics with relatives and friends and of course, time at the beach. We work very hard and deserve leisure time. Some people, due to the hardships of life, have difficulty enjoying recreation in any form. Catholic Charities reaches out to those who suffer. Please help us to continue our mission by contributing to the Donation Bin(s). God Bless.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

IMPORTANT UPDATE!

Saint James the Apostle Church
Springfield, New Jersey

GOLF OUTING

~~JULY 6, 2026~~ POSTPONED

POSTPONED TO **AUGUST 18, 2026**

MAPLEWOOD COUNTRY CLUB
28 Baker Street, Maplewood, NJ

UPDATED SCHEDULE

11:00 AM : Registration/Brunch
1:00 PM : Shotgun Start
6:00 PM : Cocktail Hour
7:00 PM : Buffet Dinner

For questions and more information, email GolfOuting@saintjamesparish.org

Saint James the Apostle Church
Springfield, New Jersey

GOLF OUTING

IMPORTANT UPDATE

GOLF OUTING 50/50

Drawing Date Changed

The 50/50 drawing originally scheduled for July 6, 2026 will now take place on **August 18, 2026** at 8:00 PM at Maplewood Country Club, 28 Baker Street, Maplewood, NJ 07040.

Due to inclement weather the Golf Outing has been postponed to August 18, 2026

All Tickets remain valid for the new date
Winner need not be present
For questions email GolfOuting@saintjamesparish.org
Thank you for your understanding and continued support of our event

SUMMER BOOK JOURNEY

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

SOCIETY OF AFRICAN MISSIONS

Who We Are

The SMA (Societas Missionum ad afros) is an international Society of missionaries founded in France in 1856 by Bishop Melchior de Marion Brésillac, and dedicated to the spread of the Gospel in Africa and among African people. As pioneer missionaries we strive to establish a local church with a local clergy wherever we serve. We engage in parish ministry, education, healthcare, justice and peace and the care of the environment.

Our Mission

At present, SMA missionaries work in 17 countries in Africa. We are around 800 priests, brothers, and lay men and women joyully witnessing the Gospel of Jesus Christ throughout Africa, and to people of African descent wherever they are.

Scan the QR Code to visit our website and find out more about our missionary work.

VNA HEALTH GROUP: SEEKING HOSPICE VOLUNTEERS

Visiting Nurse Association Health Group is inviting members of the community to join our team of hospice volunteers.

Why Become a Hospice Volunteer?

The simplest gifts are often the most profound. If you've got time, empathy, and compassion, you have the ability to support those nearing end of life. If you have been searching for meaningful ways to spend your time, we invite you to explore the role of hospice volunteer with VNA Health Group.

Companionship visits in patient's homes or local facilities, administrative projects, or comforting phone calls from our office, are just some of the ways in which our volunteers support patients and their families.

A Specialized 16-hour Training will be provided, over the course of 3 weeks.

For more information please contact: Pauline De Palma, BSW Director Volunteer Services (732) 224-6933

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, JULY 18
5:00pm **Patty Ostrowski**
r/b Family
Anna Paternostro
r/b Family

SUNDAY, JULY 19
Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
8:00am **Aurora Gozo**
r/b Ave Gozo
Rob Dobler
r/b Simone Family
10:00am **Susan Ann Capron**
r/b Gary and Mary Ellen Capron
Nico Lombardi
r/b Maria and Evan Tarabocchia
12:00pm **Maria Antelo Carreira**
r/b Ramiro Martinez and Family
Vincenza DePasquale
r/b Adam Brennan

MONDAY, JULY 20
7:30am **Marie "Cookie" Colonna**
r/b Linda and Bob Donnelly

TUESDAY, JULY 21
7:30am **Robert Ruple**
r/b Cathy, Wife

WEDNESDAY, JULY 22
Saint Mary Magdalene
7:30am **Rogelio Fernandez**
r/b Family

THURSDAY, JULY 23
7:30am **For the People of Saint James**

FRIDAY, JULY 24
7:30am **T.J. Delfino**
r/b Mother and Sister

SATURDAY, JULY 25
Saint James
8:30am **For the People of Saint James**
5:00pm **For the People of Saint James**

SUNDAY, JULY 26
Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
8:00am **Miguras Guzman**
r/b Sister
Wilfredo Muniz, Jr.
r/b Gene and Nieves Salle
10:00am **Ronnie Fusco**
r/b Carmela Fusco
Pasquale and Giovanna Circelli
r/b Anthony and Carmelina Reino
12:00pm **Mary and Joseph Giaimo**
r/b Dennis Giaimo
Elizabeth Burke
r/b Noreen Bohse

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 BAPTIZE

Emilia Beatty, Jonathan Ferreira,
Thomas Patrick Hayes, Eliana Saavedra

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

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

flocknote

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

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURES

Collection Totals
Weekend of July 11 & 12

Regular Collection:	$ 5,984.00
Online Giving:	$ 4,272.00
Total:	$ 10,256.00

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

Did you know?...
The Parish has a Building Maintenance fund. Donations to this fund are separate from the capital campaign and support the parish's ability to address maintenance needs around the campus. You can make donations anytime to the Building Maintenance fund but look for the second collection the weekend of July 25/26.

Capital Campaign Update - Thank you to everyone who has already made a pledge or gift to the capital campaign. As of July 6th, 293 families have pledged over $2.8 million. Thank you!

That's about 60% of the families/individuals that have a record of active giving to the parish. But we don't want to stop there. We'd like to see even broader participation from the parish community. So, if you haven't already, make a pledge to be a part of this exciting campaign and help us reach our next goal of participation from over 300 families. Rest assured, every amount, no matter the size, is accepted with an abundance of gratitude.

Together, *centered in hope and growing in faith,* we will build a bright future for our parish for generations to come.

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

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