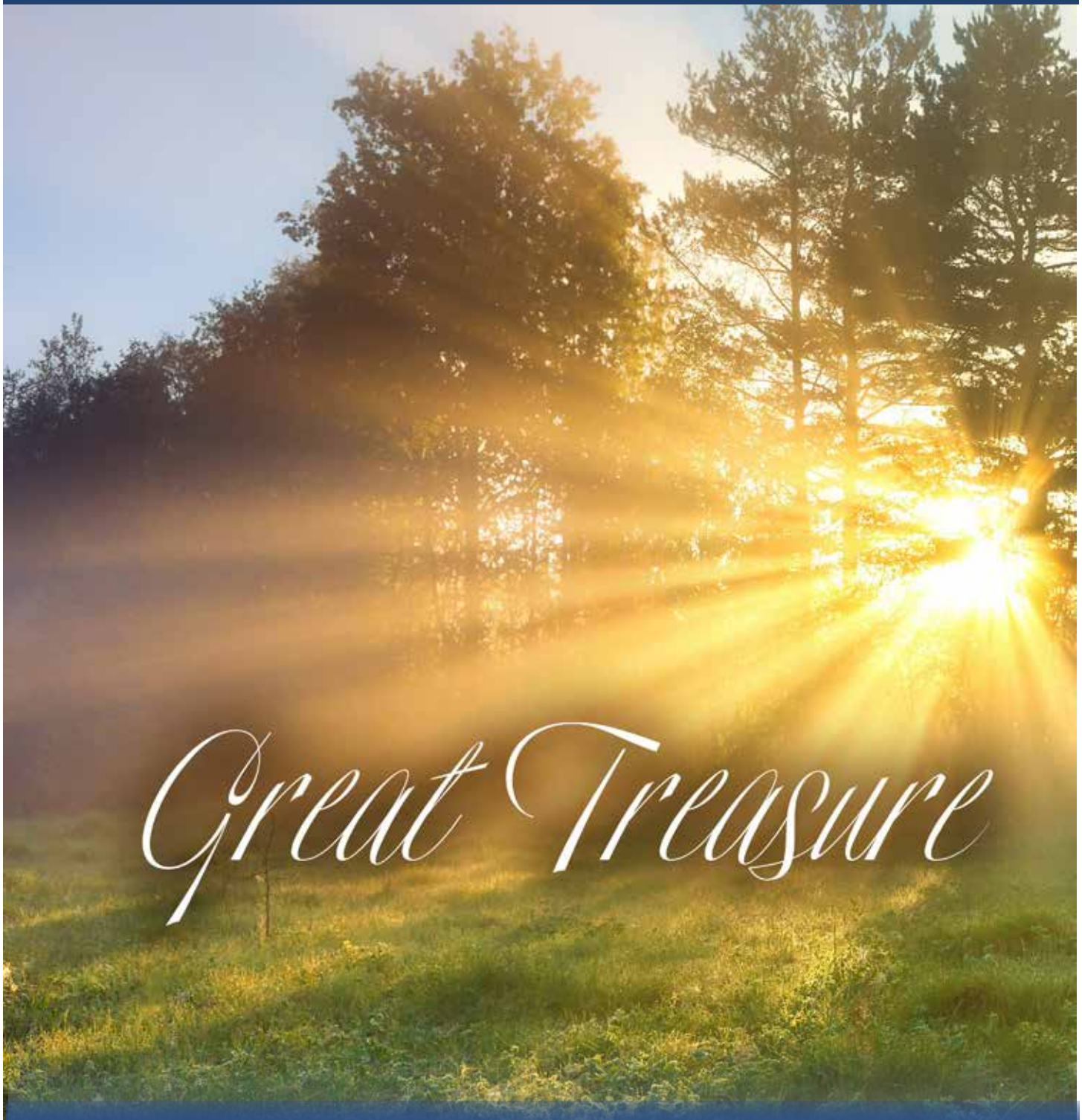
Saint James the Apostle
Roman Catholic Church



SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME | JULY 26, 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, August 1:
5:00PM - Fr. Paladino

Sunday, August 2:
8:00AM - Fr. Paladino
10:00AM - Fr. Dennehy
12:00PM - Fr. Dennehy

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 Sunday's readings invite us to ask a simple but searching question: *if God said to us, "**Ask something of me and I will give it to you,**" what would we request?*

Solomon's answer is remarkable. He does not ask for wealth, power, revenge, or even a long life. He asks for **wisdom**—an *understanding heart*—so that he might see rightly, judge rightly, and serve God's people well.

That is a beautiful prayer for every Christian life.

Wisdom is more than knowledge, cleverness, or good advice. **Wisdom is learning to see from God's perspective.** It is the grace to recognize what truly matters, to place our joys and struggles in the light of Christ, and to let the Lord order our desires.

In the Gospel, Jesus compares the kingdom of heaven to a treasure buried in a field and to a pearl of great price.

Once a person discovers that treasure, everything else is seen differently. The kingdom is worth everything because Christ is worth everything. When we have Him, the blessings of life can be received with gratitude, and the burdens of life can be carried with hope.

So perhaps our prayer this week can be Solomon's prayer: ***"Lord, give me an understanding heart."*** Give me wisdom in my family, in my work, in my decisions, in my worries, and in my relationships.

Help me to want what leads me closer to You. Help me to seek first the treasure of Your kingdom.

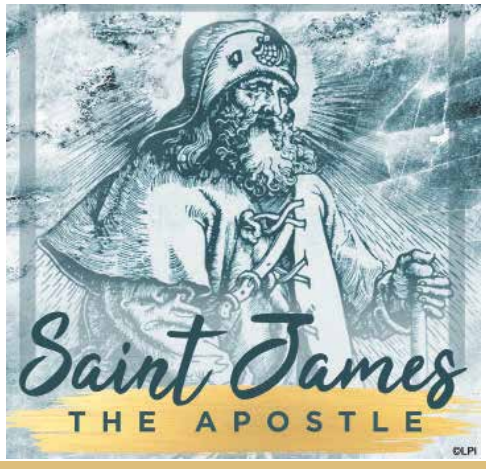
May we never be afraid to ask the Lord for the gift that puts every other gift in its proper place: the wisdom to choose Him above all things.

Rev. David C. Santos, Pastor

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

Whenever we encounter another person in love, we learn something new about God.

–Pope Francis, in Evangelii Gaudium (The Joy of the Gospel)



SUNDAY READINGS

FIRST READING
1 Kings 3:5, 7-12
"Because you have asked for this— not for a long life for yourself, nor for riches, nor for the life of your enemies, but for understanding so that you may know what is right— I do as you requested. I give you a heart so wise and understanding that there has never been anyone like you up to now, and after you there will come no one to equal you."

RESPONSORIAL PSALM
Psalm 119
Lord, I love your commands.

SECOND READING
Romans 8:28-30
We know that all things work for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, so that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. And those he predestined he also called; and those he called he also justified; and those he justified he also glorified.

GOSPEL
Matthew 13:44-52 *OR* Matthew 13:44-46
Jesus said to his disciples:
"The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure buried in a field, which a person finds and hides again, and out of joy goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant searching for fine pearls. When he finds a pearl of great price, he goes and sells all that he has and buys it."

Full Mass readings can be accessed at usccb.org

HOLY WHYS: DEACON HUGH REPLIES

Dear Deacon Hugh:

Does God really change people or is it something in our heads? Asking for a friend.

Anonymous

Dear Anonymous:

Bishop Fulton Sheen once wrote, "No one who ever meets Christ with a good will returns the same way as he came." So, the real question is how do you meet Christ **with a good will**? A simple way of meeting Him is in prayer. One prayer that may prove helpful is called an examination of conscience. It is a prayer where you reflect on the past day and identify those times you hit the mark (acted morally) and missed the mark (sinned). Recognizing these moments of success and falling short means you intend to meet Christ with a good intention. This makes room in your heart to improve and grow stronger in the spiritual life.

But how do you examine your conscience? Begin by reflecting on your actions, words, and thoughts from the day. Ask yourself whether you actively guarded yourself against temptation or spoke or thought consistent with Christian virtues and morals? Were you attuned to the Holy Spirit's promptings today? Where did you feel His inspiration? Could you see the path for pursuing His promptings faithfully? Ask God for the grace to follow His Will more purposefully tomorrow.

Then consider the following act of contrition.

O my God, I am heartily sorry for having offended Thee, and I detest all my sins because of Thy just punishments, but most of all because they offend Thee, my God, Who art all good and deserving of all my love. I firmly resolve with the help of Thy grace to sin no more and to avoid the near occasions of sin. Amen.

Follow this with a simple prayer such as an *Our Father* or *Hail Mary* telling the Lord you want to follow him more intentionally tomorrow, that is, you want to be His disciple. In time, when you look back, you will see a different person than the one you have become.

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

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

PLEASE DONATE TODAY!

BACK TO SCHOOL

SUPPLIES DRIVE

Together, we can help every child start the school year with confidence!

To benefit the children of *Mercy House.*

LET'S FILL THEIR YEAR WITH

HOPE, LEARNING & SUCCESS!

NEW SCHOOL YEAR, BRIGHTER FUTURES!

Your donation of school supplies will make a ***BIG*** difference in a child's life.

BACKPACKS
A strong start for a bright year ahead.

PENS
For ideas, notes and big dreams.

PENCILS
Writing the future, one step at a time.

GLUE STICKS
To stick with it through every challenge.

WATER BOTTLES
Stay hydrated, stay focused.

COLORED PENCILS
For creativity that shines.

PENS
For ideas, notes and big dreams.

FOLDERS
Stay organized. Stay on track. Achieve more.

COLLECTION DATES
WEEKEND OF JULY 25TH & AUGUST 1ST

Drop off new school supplies in the **NARTHEX.**
thank you!

THANK YOU FOR HELPING US MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

COMING SOON TO SAINT JAMES!

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

HELPING THE HUNGRY MINISTRY

"Peace begins when the hungry are fed." - Dorothy Day

THANK YOU SAINT JAMES PARISHIONERS!!

WHO HAVE WE SUPPORTED IN 2026?

- Our Lady of Sorrows Food Pantry *(South Orange)*
- Family Promise *(Union County)*
- Mercy House *(Newark)*
- Loaves & Fishes at St. Teresa's *(Summit)*

WHAT HAVE WE PROVIDED?

- 100's of bags food
- 100's of personal care items
- 100's of dollars in Shop Rite gift cards
- TONS & TONS of love and support

UPCOMING COLLECTION DATES

September 13 November 15
October 11 December 6

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

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

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.

FOR THE KIDS

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 25
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
MONDAY, JULY 27
7:30am **Joseph Giaccio**
r/b Family
TUESDAY, JULY 28
7:30am **Joseph Giaccio**
r/b Family
WEDNESDAY, JULY 29
Saints Martha, Mary, and Lazarus
7:30am **Luciano Marchese**
r/b Patricia David
THURSDAY, JULY 30
7:30am **A Special Organ Donor**
r/b Steve Wolcott
FRIDAY, JULY 31
Saint Ignatius
7:30am **Hanna Grasso**
r/b Joan Bratsch
SATURDAY, AUGUST 1
Saint Alphonsus Liguori
8:30am **Ceferino Gozo**
r/b Ave Gozo
5:00pm **Carlyn and Tom Ryan**
r/b Family
Joseph DaCosta
r/b Marie Bottino
SUNDAY, AUGUST 2
Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
8:00am **Millie Ricciardi**
r/b Family
Ceferino Gozo
r/b Ave Gozo
10:00am **Elizabeth Koch**
r/b Family
Filomena Circelli
r/b Carmela Fusco
12:00pm **Maria Sanchez**
r/b Alicia Garcia and Family
Steven Payson
r/b Nancy Caputo

SANCTUARY LAMP:
For the People of Saint James

BREAD & WINE:
Hanna Grasso
r/b Joan Bratsch

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

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 17 & 18

Regular Collection:	$ 6,265.00
Online Giving:	$ 4,517.00
Total:	$ 10,782.00

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 14th, 314 families have pledged over $2.9 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