

SAINT JAMES THE APOSTLE Roman Catholic Church



He was lost and has been found.

Luke 15:32



FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT | MARCH 30, 2025 www.saintjamesparish.org



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, April 5: 5:00PM - Fr. Dennehy

Sunday, April 6: 8:00AM - Fr. Santos 10:00AM - Fr. Paladino 12:00PM - Fr. Dennehy

DAILY MASS:

Mon-Fri:7:30AMSaturday:8:30AMU.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

Friends, in today's Gospel from Luke we encounter one of the greatest stories ever told. In this parable, <u>a young</u> <u>brother</u> <u>loses</u> his dignity, and <u>an older brother</u> <u>loses</u> <u>touch with the love</u> that his father has always had for him. Their father grieves because both are **lost**.

I like to refer to this parable as the *Parable of the Lost Sons* because in the story both brothers lose a lot.

I'm not sure if you remember, many years back the media mogul Ted Turner, founder of CNN and many other cable channels, described Christianity as a *"religion for losers."* And like wisdom out of a fool's mouth, he was dead right, and St. Luke would agree!

What Mr. Turner offered as an insult, St. Luke, in his Gospel and in the parable of the Prodigal Son, offers us as consolation.

You see; Yes, Christianity **is** indeed for *"losers."* And that's because at some point in our lives we experience loss.

All kinds of loss...

- Loss of money and security,
- loss of friendships and loss of confidence,
- loss of self-esteem and self-worth,
- the loss of life and the loss of Love.

Christianity **is** for those who have <u>lost</u> their way; it's for those who have <u>lost</u> hope. Christianity is for the one who has **lost** a job and for the one who has **lost** a friend. It's for the one who has **lost** his/her health, and it is for the one who has **lost** his/her wits; and the many other things we lose on the journey of life. So, Yes, Christianity is for the **losers** of this world.

And today's Gospel parable is meant to touch and fill the heart of every *loser* in a special way.

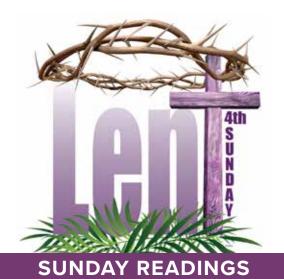
Whether you've lost a-*little* or you've lost everything, the invitation from today's Gospel – indeed, the invitation extended to us throughout Lent - is for everyone to FIND what God the Father so generously offers to each and every one of us - HIS MERCY AND LOVE.

Rev. David C. Santos, Pastor

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

Be at peace with your own soul, then heaven and earth will be at peace with you. *—Saint Jerome*





FIRST READING Joshua 5:9a, 10-12

On the day after the Passover, they ate of the produce of the land in the form of unleavened cakes and parched grain. On that same day after the Passover, on which they ate of the produce of the land, the manna ceased. No longer was there manna for the Israelites, who that year ate of the yield of the land of Canaan.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Psalm 34

Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

SECOND READING 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

So we are ambassadors for Christ, as if God were appealing through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who did not know sin, so that we might become the righteousness of God in him.

GOSPEL

Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

He said to his father in reply, 'Look, all these years I served you and not once did I disobey your orders; yet you never gave me even a young goat to feast on with my friends. But when your son returns who swallowed up your property with prostitutes, for him you slaughter the fattened calf.' He said to him, 'My son, you are here with me always; everything I have is yours. But now we must celebrate and rejoice, because your brother was dead and has come to life again; he was lost and has been found.'"

Full Mass readings can be accessed at usccb.org

"LIGHT ON LENT"

PRAYER

"Virtues are formed by prayer. Prayer preserves temperance. Prayer suppresses anger. Prayer prevents emotions of pride and envy. Prayer draws into the soul the Holy Spirit, and raises man to Heaven."

– St. Ephrem of Syria

Prayer is the breath of the spiritual life. Without it, your soul suffocates and dies. That's why Jesus and the great saints of the Church were so urgent in their calls for us to pray always and everywhere. St. Paul commanded us to "pray without ceasing." Jesus taught us to "pray always and not lose heart."

In fact, prayer is so important that St. Alphonsus Ligori says, "Whoever prays is certainly saved. He who does not is certainly damned." Let that sink in.

Prayer is so important because, whether or not we realize it, we are essentially beggars before God. Everything we need to be virtuous men has to be given to us. We will never be holy without grace, and there is no other way to obtain grace than through prayer.

Our Lent will be completely wasted if we aren't praying. Fasting and almsgiving will simply become sources of pride if we aren't approaching them prayerfully. No matter what else you are planning to do for Lent, prayer should be first on the list.

Author: Sam Guzman

https://https://aleteia.org/2014/03/02/preparing-for-a-good-lent

SAINT JAMES BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY

The "Healing Hearts" bereavement group will **not** be meeting for the month of March. We will reconvene on **Wednesday April 2, at 7:00 pm** in the rectory. We will be meeting every other Wednesday evening.

JUBILEE 2025

Saint Helen's Church in Westfield has been chosen as a designated pilgrimage site for the Jubilee Year in Union County. Pilgrims are welcome to come here to pray, reflect, and deepen their relationship with God, preparing their hearts to celebrate this extraordinary Holy Year of grace and spiritual renewal. Please scan the QR code to visit the website and stay up-to-date on celebrations throughout the year. All are welcome!



FAMILY FAITH FORMATION 2024-2025

Our next Family Faith session is on Sunday, April 27.

NEXT SESSIONS for <u>Confirmation preparation</u> groups:

Confirmation Year 1 Group – On <u>Tuesday, April 8</u> from 7PM to 8:30PM. This will be our last session of this school year, but don't forget to complete all your other requirements by May 31 and submit your essay by June 9.

Confirmation Year 2 Group – On <u>Tuesday, April 29</u> from 7PM to 8:30PM. This will be our last session of this school year. A reminder that we have our meeting about Confirmation for parents and candidates on June 10 and all your requirements must be completed by no later than May 31. Your Works of Mercy reflection and your letter to the pastor is due April 22. (Please check your emails for details.)

Family Stations of the Cross on Friday, April 11 at 6:30PM in the church

Any Family Faith families interested in leading (reading) one of the Stations at the Stations of the Cross on April 11, please use the QR code to sign up or contact Ana Serra-Prescott if you have any questions or need more information.

What better way to spend a Friday evening of Lent but together, as a family of faith, prayerfully walking alongside Jesus to experience and meditate on the ways He showed us how much He loves us on that first Good Friday.



Family Faith 2025-2026 Registration is now open.

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, and 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 8th graders – <u>One form per family</u>)

Early Registration and payment received on or before July 31 will have a \$50 discount.

Families currently registered in the Family Faith program received the information at the Family Faith session last Sunday and should have received an email with the link and QR code to register. If you did not receive my email, please let me know.

Confirmation candidates in Year 2 (this year 2024-2025), <u>do not</u> need to register for next year; this year's registration & fees include the preparation process until your Confirmation in the Fall 2025.

Confirmation candidates Year 1 – Need to register for their <u>second year</u> of preparation for Confirmation using the QR code above or the link you received in the email.



Steubenville Youth Conference 2025 July 11-13, 2025

We are organizing a trip to the **Steubenville Youth Conference** at Franciscan University in Steubenville, Ohio this summer for our teens currently in 8th to 12th grades. If you want to attend this Summer's Youth Conference, please use the QR code to register and reserve your spot.





To Our Parishioners, WE NEED YOUR HELP!!! We are <u>raising funds</u> to support our group of young teenagers who want to attend this summer's Steubenville Youth Conference. Please prayerfully consider supporting our teens. <u>No donation is too small.</u> All donations will go directly towards this trip. Please use the QR code to donate or contact Ana Serra-Prescott.

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





MARCH 14: Sign up for the Fish Fry and enjoy dinner after Stations.

Every Friday, we will collect diapers and wipes as part of a parish Lenten almsgving activity. Please drop off donations in the Narthex. The collection will support ABC Diaper Distribution in Summit.

The Adult Faith Formation Team Presents

LUNCH AND LECTIO Friday, April 4 at 11AM In the Narthex

Join us as we pray, meditate and reflect on Holy Scripture Lunch Provided

PLEASE USE THE QR TO SIGN UP

MAKE YOUR RESERVATION TODAY!



SUPPORT OUR SEMINARIANS

SIGN UP NOW!



Help us to provide Easter "Baskets" filled with personal items and treats for the men of our Diocese preparing for the Priesthood. Baskets will be assembled at our Parish Day of Service.

TWO OPTIONS TO PARTICIPATE:

Use the QR code to make a purchase directly from the Amazon Gift Registry



Donate a \$10 Dunkin Donuts Gift Card Drop off at Rectory by April 4

OR



SAINT JAMES THE APOSTLE Roman Catholic Church



"SHARING OUR HOPE"

FAMILY MORNING OF SERVICE

APRIL 12 9AM-12 NOON School Gym



ACTIVITIES: Make cards for veterans, active military, & seniors Wrap cutlery for the Hoboken Shelter Wrap Baptismal Blankets for newly baptized bables Make care packages for Seminarians Make table centerpieces for the Sisters of Christian Chanty Make car medallions for parishioners Play Freerice for the UN World Food Program

Confessions will be available at the church on the same day, from 10 am to 4 pm

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!



Drop off donations at the church

Items Needed: Pasta Boxes of Oatmeal Canned Tuna & Chicken Peanut Butter & Jelly Granola/Protein Bars Bars of Soap Diapers (size 5 & 6) and Wipes Shop Rite Gift Cards

Donations support Family Promise and the OLS Food Pantry



SATURDAY, MAY 10, 2025 Saint James Hatcher Hall

41 South Springfield Ave., Springfield NJ

Doors open after the 5:00[™] mass | Dinner at 6:00[™] | Casino Play at 7:00[™]

\$75.00 PER PERSON Buffet catered by Sofia's Restaurant in Springfield

DRESS IN YOUR BEST BLUE & GOLD ATTIRE Cash Bar • Play Money • 50/50 Cigar Tent • Cork Pull

> ALL PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT SAINT JAMES PARISH



erchdiocese of NEWARK

There is only <u>ONE</u> Anniversary Liturgy this year honoring couples in our Archdiocese celebrating their 5th, 25th, or 50th wedding anniversary

This liturgy will be celebrated by Cardinal Joseph Tobin on **Sunday, June 1st at 3 p.m.** at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark.

The presence of these couples and their families will be a beautiful witness to the strength and stability of Christian marriage in today's society.

Please use the QR code to register online or visit our website www.rcan.org/family-life.



Once we receive a registration form, the couple will be contacted by our office directly with important information regarding the liturgy and directions to the Cathedral Basilica. Couples please register by May 10th.





MSGR. Francis X. Coyle Council Columbiette #5560 Springfield, NJ

STUDENT GOOD CITIZEN AWARD

The award is being offered to a High School Senior Catholic Girl by the New Jersey State Council of Columbiettes.

To be eligible for the award, the student should demonstrate leadership, service, dependability and patriotism at home, school and the community.

The application deadline is **April 15th**.

Please see your high school guidance counselor for an application.

Springfield Knights of Columbus Scholarships Available for St. James Parishioners

Scholarship Types:

Going into Any Year of Catholic Elementary School:	\$1,500
Going into Any Year of Catholic High School or College:	\$1,000

To apply please visit: https://springfieldkofc.org/annual-scholarships

Application and backup documents due: May 15, 2025

*Awarding committee has total discretion to rearrange the awards based on the applications received.

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

	MARCHING
SATURDAY,	
5:00pm	Ronnie Fusco
	r/b Carmela Fusco
	Mary Lane
	r/b Dr. and Mrs. Nicholas Santoriello
SUNDAY, M	ARCH 30
Fourth Sunc	
8:00am	Nancy O'Rourke
	r/b Colleen O'Rourke-Heredia
	Angelina Apicella
	r/b Rob and Sue Hagenbush
10:00am	Robert Hudak
10.004111	r/b Elaine
	Dante D'Sole
	r/b Vicki Sarracino and
	Dominck Barone
12:00pm	Maria Soledade Santos
	r/b Hyman Family
	Rose and Orlando Cicalese
	r/b Family
MONDAY, M	IARCH 31
7:30am	Marge Palmer
	r/b Mary Ann and John Kitchell
TUESDAY, A	-
7:30am	Robert Lawrence
7.50am	r/b Tom and Judy Spera
WEDNESDA	
7:30am	Pauline Spera
	r/b Judy and Tom Spera
THURSDAY,	APRIL 3
7:30am	Antoinette Arolan
	r/b John and Bernice Petersen
FRIDAY, API	
7:30am	Rebecca Figueroa
7.50am	r/b Mezzo Family
CATURDAY	
SATURDAY,	
8:30am	James Sabol
	r/b Keffer Family
5:00pm	John and Amelia Montana
	r/b Janice Montana
	Mercedes Pardo
	r/b Monica Mendoza
SUNDAY, AF	PRIL 6
Fifth Sunday	y of Lent
8:00am	John Montana
	r/b Janice Montana
	Carmen Cruz Soriano
	r/b Randy, Rose, and Jules Landicho
10:00am	Paul Conway
	r/b Elaine
	Maria Soledade Santos
	r/b Angela Ragonese
12:00pm	Maria Soledade Santos
	r/b Valerie and Ray Cirrito
	Angelina and Carmelo Rivano
	r/b Marion Rivano



SANCTUARY LAMP:

Sr. Alice Cardillo r/b Cerreto Family

BREAD & WINE: Al VanHavere r/b Cerreto Family

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

A TIME TO BAPTIZE

Antonella Lynn Dominguez

A TIME TO HEAL

Pat Annelli, 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, M.D., Ronald D'Angelo, Diane Deitz, Jean DePasquale, Carmela DeSarno, Robert Devon, Jr., Marguerite Duchantier, Victoria Egner, Luca Favia, Alfredo Fernandes, Berta Franco, Steven Hensle, Laura Hughes, Ann Jacques, Eddie Jenna, Mary Keegan, 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





FINANCE COUNCIL CORNER



Did you know?...

You may be able to double the impact of your contribution to the **Annual Appeal** with a corporate matching gift. Ask your employer if they will match your donation to the Annual Appeal. You can also visit the Archdiocese of Newark 2025 Annual Appeal site for more information on how to match your gift.

Thank you to all who have made their **2025 Annual Appeal** gift so far. We're halfway to our goal! Will you help St. James reach our parish goal with a gift to the 2025 Annual Appeal today?

Remember... Pledges made by June 30th that exceed the stretch goal will be eligible for a rebate. And, if we meet or exceed our stretch goal in funds collected by June 30th the parish will be eligible for a 2% assessment rate reduction. This is a potential savings for our parish.

The generous will themselves be blessed, for they share their food with the poor. - Proverbs 22:9



As part of our effort to communicate *flocknote* 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	5
Weekend of Mar	ch 22	& 23
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Regular Collection: Online Giving: Total:

Þ	8,233.00
\$	4,430.00
\$	12,663.00

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.



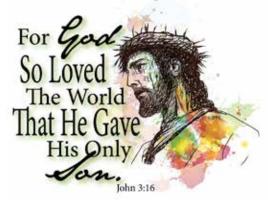
ONLINE GIVING

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.





ST. JAMES BOUTIQUE

Visit the online boutique for St. James the Apostle Parish apparel and more!



Scan the QR code to check out all of our merchandise!

OUR PARISH IS SERVED BY:

PASTOR

Rev. David C. Santos frsantos@saintjamesparish.org

PERMANENT DEACONS Dcn. Jerry Bongiovanni

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

BOOKKEEPER Mrs. Katie Hyman businessoffice@saintjamesparish.org

TRUSTEES Mrs. Janet Petino and Mr. John Pflug

PARISH MINISTRY EMAIL ADDRESSES:				
Parish Council: pastoralcouncil@saintjamesparish.org	Adult Faith: adultfaith@saintjamesparish.org			
Parish Life: parishlife@saintjamesparish.org	Bereavement Ministry:			
Lectors: lectorministry@saintjamesparish.org	bereavement@saintjamesparish.org			
Eucharistic Ministers: emministry@saintjamesparish.org	Helping the Hungry: helpingthehungry@saintjamesparish.org Wellness Ministry: wellnessministry@saintjamesparish.org			
Men's Ministry: MensMinistry@saintjamesparish.org				
Prayer Line: prayerlineministry@saintjamesparish.org				