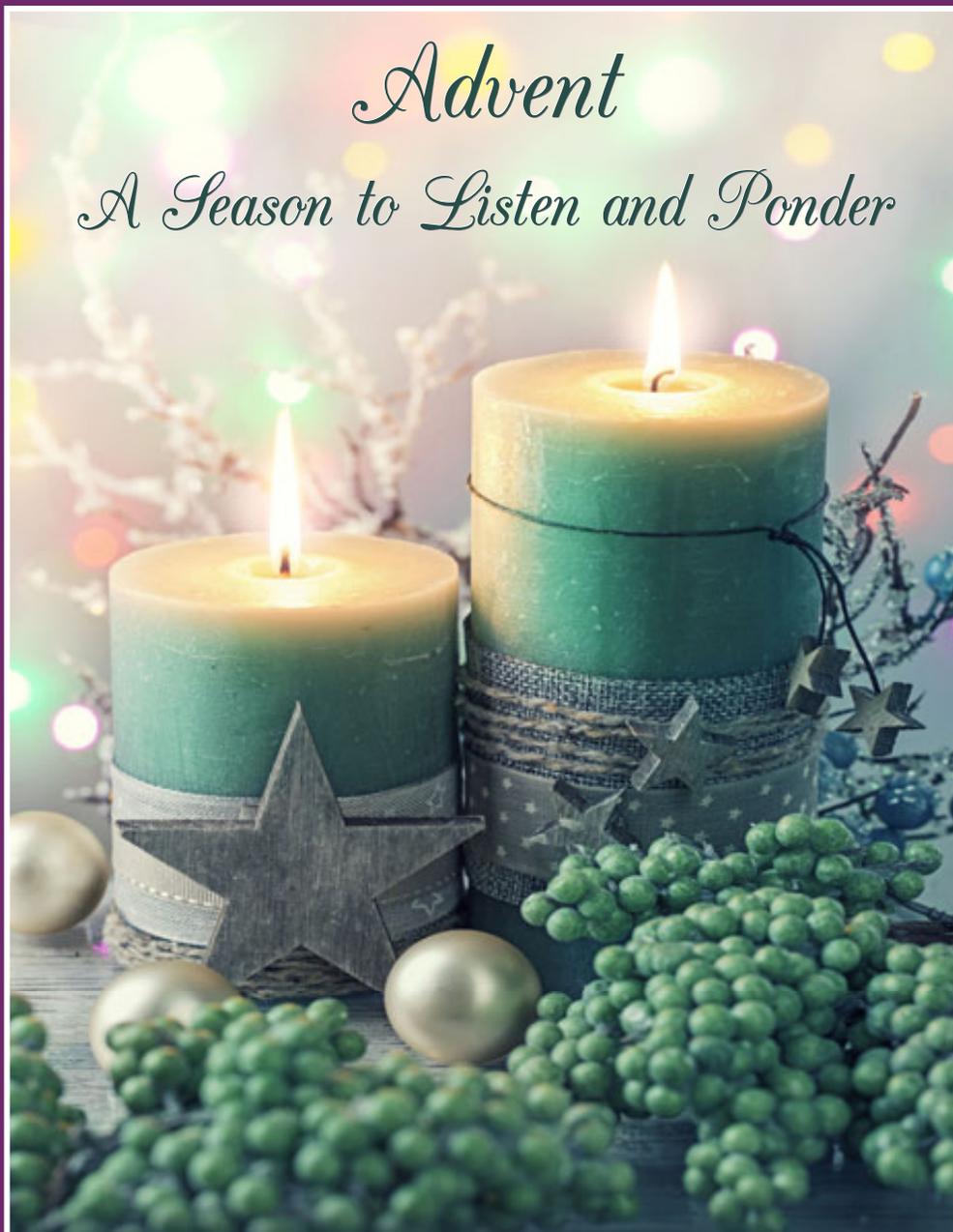
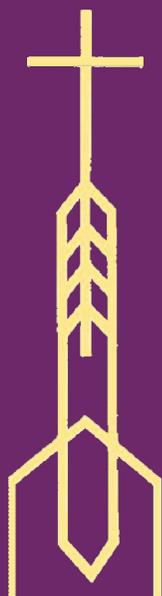


# Saint James Catholic Community

*Second Sunday of Advent  
December 4, 2022*

**CLOSER**

God • Church • Community  
Together We Can Do Great Things



*Advent*

*A Season to Listen and Ponder*

## **St. James Catholic Church**

309 S Stewart Road, Liberty MO 64068

Office (816) 781-4343

Office Hours: Mon-Fri 9:00am-12:00noon

School (816) 781-4428

On the web @ [www.stjames-liberty.org](http://www.stjames-liberty.org)

<https://www.facebook.com/#!/groups/stjamesliberty/>

## **Mass Schedule:**

**Weekdays:** Monday - Friday, 8:15am

**Saturday,** 5:00pm

**Sunday,** 8:00am, 10:30am, 5:00pm

## **Sacrament of Reconciliation:**

Saturday 4pm and Anytime by request

## Our Pastoral Team

**Rev. Mike Roach, Pastor** .....x201  
 frmike@stjames-liberty.org

**Rev. Michael Volkmer, C.P.P.S.**, ..... 816-883-2550  
 Senior Priest in Residence

**Deacon Chuck Koesterer**  
 chuck@stjames-liberty.org

**Katie Klassen, Business Manager** .....x220  
 Katie@stjames-liberty.org

**Danny Baker, Dir of Liturgy and Music Ministry**  
 danny@stjames-liberty.org..... x207

**Religious Education K-12**..... x208  
 ernie.collins@stjames-liberty.org

**Sandy Gagnon, Dir of Christian Initiation Ministry**  
 sandy.gagnon@stjames-liberty.org .....x206

**Jennifer Smith, School Principal** .....x213  
 jennifer.smith@stjames-school.org

**Kirsten Maggi, Office Assistant** ..... x204  
 kirsten.maggi@stjames-liberty.org

**Judy Keisling, Bulletin Editor/Website** ..... x205  
 bulletin@stjames-liberty.org

**Cecilia Richardson, Pastoral Associate**  
 cecilia@stjames-liberty.org ..... x203

**Ernie Collins, Dir of Children's Music Ministry**  
 ernie.collins@stjames-liberty.org..... x208

**Front Desk** .....x202

### Pastoral Council:

**Dan Bacon, Chair**  
 bacon.dan324@gmail.com 589-7958

**Louis Angles**  
 langles57@gmail.com 377-2884

**Eddy Baker**  
 jrbaker105@gmail.com 694-3083

**Phil Baumert, Vice-Chair**  
 philb@vandergren.com 215-5225

**Kevin Casel**  
 kcasel@msn.com 550-8932

**Libby Hernandez**  
 libbyannehernandez@gmail.com 877-6181

**Betsy Lewey**  
 allshandling@gmail.com 679-9910

**Yvette Lopez**  
 yvettelopez@remax.net 777-4694

**Sherri Porterfield**  
 choirdiva.porterfield@gmail.com 863- 5557

**Patrick Schaub, Secretary**  
 patrickcschaub@gmail.com 876-6771

## Mission Statement

We, the community of St. James, are a prayerful and Eucharistic people who treasure our Catholic traditions. We strive to grow in our faith by being good stewards of the gifts God has given us; sharing God's truth with all. As the Body of Christ, we are called to love and serve every-one, especially the marginalized, with joy and hospitality.

## Feast of the Immaculate Conception Thursday, December 8



### Holy Day of Obligation

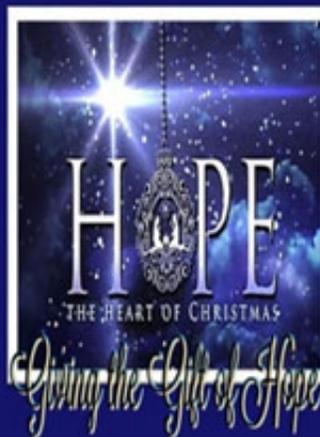
#### Mass Times

**6:30am**

**8:15am**

**7:00pm\***

\* The 7:00pm Mass will be live-streamed



We have a wonderful assortment of gift cards for your convenience for Christmas shopping. Don't be caught off guard...Please check our website for an order form, showing what we have in stock and what you will want to order ahead of time to have your gifts by Christmas.

**Deadline For Special Christmas Orders - Friday, Dec. 16**

Don't forget to get your special orders in for Hope Gift Cards by Friday, December 16th in order to have them in time for the holidays. HOPE gift cards can be used for local and major retailers!

The special orders can be picked up in the parish office by noon on Friday, December 23rd.

Information about Hope Gift Cards can be found on our website. They are available for purchase in the Parish Hall after the 8:00am and 10:30am Masses every Sunday and in our Parish Office Monday – Friday from 9:00am until 12:00noon.

### Thanks For Supporting This Fundraiser

The Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph is committed to combatting sexual abuse in the Church. If you are a victim of sexual abuse, or if you observe or suspect sexual abuse:

1. Call the Missouri Child Abuse Hotline at 1.800.392.3738 (if the victim is currently under the age of 18), and
2. Contact your local law enforcement agency or call 911, and
3. After reporting to these civil and law enforcement authorities, report suspected sexual abuse of a minor or vulnerable adult to the Diocesan Ombudsman, Joe Crayon, at 816.812.2500 or [crayon@ombudsmankcsj.org](mailto:crayon@ombudsmankcsj.org), if the abuse involves a priest, deacon, employee or volunteer of the Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph.

The Diocese has a sincere commitment to providing care and healing resources to victims of sexual abuse and their families. Please contact Whitney True-Francis, Victim Assistance Coordinator, at 816.392.0011 or [true.francis@diocesekcsj.org](mailto:true.francis@diocesekcsj.org) for more information.

## From the Pastor's Pen

In the gospel reading this weekend, the Advent call comes through loud and clear: "Make ready the way of the Lord." In the early days of the Church, Christianity was sometimes called "The Way." In this sense, the way of Jesus is like a path with a destination: the fullness of the Kingdom of God. "The way" begins in the waters of baptism but it doesn't end there. "The way" is a life-long journey. John the Baptist proclaimed to his listeners "prepare the way." John gives us the same message. Advent is a time of preparation. What are we preparing for? Obviously, the celebration of the birth of Jesus. But even more, preparation for the end of our journey, being in the presence of God.

John was kind of a weird teacher, especially in his appearance, dressed in camel's hair, and his food, locusts. Yet his words are profound. The way to prepare the way of the Lord is "metanoia," a Greek word for repentance or change of heart. The challenge includes recognition of unloving ways, true sorrow, a heartfelt change in lifestyle, embracing the values of a disciple, a sincere and genuine embrace of the "way of the Lord." Given human weakness, metanoia is a life-long task. Advent is the time to begin or re-affirm the task.

For the average Christian disciple, these days before Christmas are probably filled with more worldly concerns: travel plans, decorations, shopping, entertainments. These are not bad activities, but for the disciple of Jesus time for spiritual renewal should also have a place in "making ready the way of the Lord." How might I deepen my faith? Where do I waste time? Is my life of prayer where I want it to be? What work needs to be done in my relationship with my spouse, my children, my friends, my neighbors, my fellow parishioners? Do I need to mend a torn relationship?

The Advent Candle is a wonderful symbol of the passage of time and the days of our life. Each week when another candle is lighted it reminds us of passing "to make ready the way of the Lord." Let's use these days well so that greater peace of heart accompanies our celebration.

My prayers are with you each day.

Fr. Michael

## Mass Intentions

### Week of December 5 - December 11

<b>Monday</b> 8:15am	†Val Rush †Robert Fera
<b>Tuesday</b> 8:15am	<i>St. Nicholas</i> All Veterans
<b>Wednesday</b> 8:15am	<i>St. Ambrose</i> †John Nauser
<b>Thursday</b> 6:30am 8:15am	<i>Immaculate Conception</i> Our Parishioners †Chris Rupp †Lorraine and Martin Greenwald
7:00pm	Deceased Members of Our Parish
<b>Friday</b> 8:15am	†Danielle Bergeron and Her Parents †John Mancuso
<b>Saturday</b> 5:00pm	†Kermit Davis †Katherine and Bill Erdman David and Pat Timm
<b>Sunday</b> 8:00am 10:30am	Pat and Elva Mahony ††Harry Woltkamp and Alex Bruening
5:00pm	†Fr. Vincent Cappodano †Fr. Emil Kapaun



### **Our prayer support is with ...**

Deacon Juan Rodriguez, his family and friends on the recent death of his mother Lucia Vallejo.

**May the healing hand of our Lord Jesus be felt by all who are coping with grief and missing loved ones.**

## Contact Info

### **Sacrament of Reconciliation:**

Sat 4pm until finished; any time requested.

### **Sacrament of Baptism:**

Baptismal Preparation Classes: Once a month  
Contact Kirsten Maggi in the parish office, ext. 204 or  
kirsten.maggi@stjames-liberty.org

**Religious Education:** For Preschool through adult spiritual development, please notify office of needs.

**New Parishioners:** Please register at the parish office.

***We Welcome You!***

**St. James School:** PS-8th grade offered.

Call the School Office, to inquire, 781-4428

**Sacrament of Marriage:** 9 months advance notice

**Anointing of the Sick:** Please call the parish office.

**To Schedule an event in our Parish Facility:**

**email [cecilia@stjames-liberty.org](mailto:cecilia@stjames-liberty.org)**

or call the Parish Office, ext. 202.

**All Bulletin articles must be submitted by Monday**

**12Noon to: [bulletin@stjames-liberty.org](mailto:bulletin@stjames-liberty.org)**

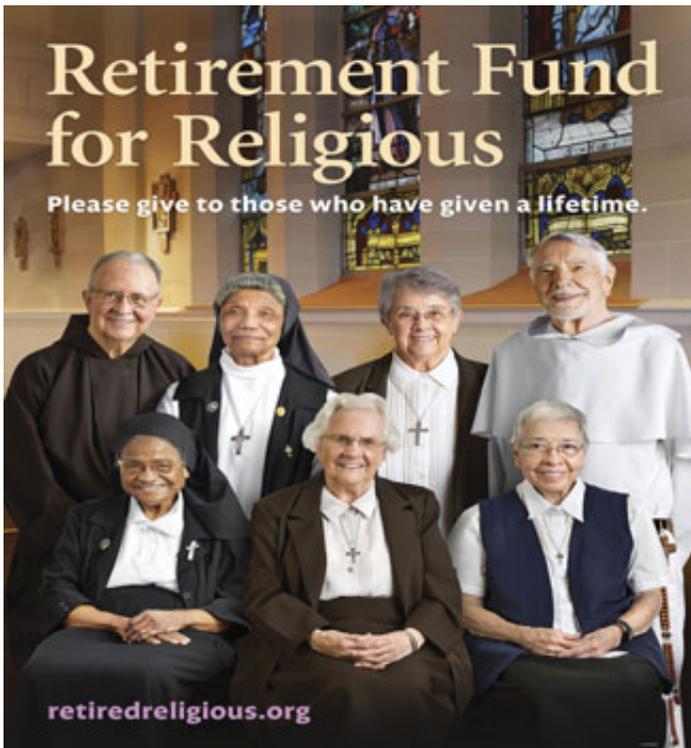


**Tuesday  
December 13  
7:00pm**

An important way to prepare for the celebration of the Nativity of Our Lord, is to attend an Advent Penance Service as we gather together to celebrate the communal form of the Sacrament of God's mercy and focus on the spiritual meaning of Advent.

The service includes prayer, scripture readings, a homily and an examination of conscience, followed by the opportunity for individual confessions.

### Special Collection Next Weekend



This coming weekend Dec 10th and 11th we will have a very important special collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious.

This is a wonderful way for us to help financially support those who spent their life spiritually supporting us. So many of the current senior religious provided for us with little pay, as teachers, parish staff, pastors and more. Now we can assist them.

You may use the envelope in your giving set, or just drop your assistance in the special collection basket. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

### Someone is Watching and Wondering



"Lord make me an instrument of your peace."

What a perfect petition for today, the Second Sunday of Advent, with its theme of **Peace**. Although I pray for peace in our world, an end to all bigotry, hatred and violence, I am convinced

that I cannot work for peace if I do not feel peace within. For me the beginning of feeling peaceful and working for peace is letting go of past hurts, misunderstandings, and psychological pain. I find myself constantly seeking God's forgiveness, and I try to forgive others, yet I know there are things I hold on to, stew over, and dwell on in a negative way. I don't believe forgiveness results in forgetting, but remembering can either lead to resentment or can present an opportunity for personal growth and inner peace. Consider a family with two children, born within 18 months of one another. Sarah was the first born and always thought it her responsibility to care for brother James. James, however, thought his sister was bossy, and never allowed him to make decisions. Over time, the siblings argued over even the smallest thing, with their disagreements becoming more heated into adulthood. Eventually they could not tolerate the others presence. With a family of his own, however, James soon wearied of the dispute and attempted reconciliation. Conversely, Sarah resisted his overtures. In his heart James forgave his sister, and remembered the schism with sadness. Sarah's memories, however drove her need for vengeance and continued to fester. Over time, James found peace in his heart in spite of the sadness and loss of the relationship with his sister. He was able to form new relationships based in love and forgiveness. His sister's relationships however, seemed superficial and fleeting. Sarah continued to lack the inner peace found when love overcomes pain, letting go leads to forgiveness and reconciliation, humility replaces egocentric pride, and embracing God's grace and mercy releases the binding of one's heart which demands and fosters a get-even mentality.

When my heart is hardened by past pain, I feel sadness and am filled with anxiety. When I let go of past hurts, humbly offer forgiveness, and place myself into God's loving embrace, however, I feel the peace of Advent, an inner peace which leads me to work for peace with a sincere heart. May your heart, like James' find true **Peace**.

Your Sister in Christ Jesus, *Sandy Gagnon*

## St. James Advent Giving Tree Last Weekend To Donate



This is the last weekend to donate to this year's Advent Giving Tree.

You can still leave your donation in the designated box by the Gathering Space Christmas tree, or you can drop it

off at the Parish office.

Because of your generosity, St. James will be able to continue to support nine agencies that assist families and individuals who need help, particularly during the Christmas season. Thank you for your amazing support of this ministry. The Advent Giving Tree Committee

The Advent Giving Tree Committee

## Honor Your Loved Ones With Flowers



The sanctuary will be decorated this Christmas Season with flowers in honor or memory of our families and friends.

To add your loved ones, drop the Christmas Flower Offering envelope with your name, the names of the people to remember or honor, and your donation in the collection or bring your envelope to the parish office weekdays between 9:00am - 12:00noon.



Visit the **St. James Website This Advent**  
[www.stjames-liberty.org](http://www.stjames-liberty.org)

Advent is a time to help us prepare for Christmas, when we celebrate the fulfillment of our longing for the Savior with the birth of Jesus.

On the website, click on the Advent-Christmas blue menu on the Home Page to access Advent Resources and Activities, as well as blessings, stories and legends to help you understand the season more fully.

## HELP CLOTHE THOSE IN NEED BY SHARING NEW AND GENTLY USED WINTER COATS and WARM CLOTHES FOR ADULTS AND CHILDREN



The Knights of Columbus are sponsoring a Winter Coat Drive again this year.

Many coats are needed as well as socks, gloves, scarves and other warm clothing.

**The Coat drive has been extended through Christmas Day so that more can be helped.**

The Narthex is not available for leaving warm clothing, so monetary donations are requested instead. Please scan the QR Code below to make your donation.



Donations may also be made on the St. James website.

Your monetary donation will be sent to St. James Midtown to purchase coats and warm clothing for those in need.

**Thanks For All Donations**

### Early Bulletin Deadlines

**For December 18, 25 and January 1**

In order to meet our Bulletin printer's early deadlines for the above dated bulletins:

Articles & Info For:	Must Be Submitted by End of Day:
<b>December 18 Bulletin</b>	<b>Tues., December 6</b>
<b>December 25 Bulletin</b>	<b>Mon., December 12</b>
<b>January 1 Bulletin</b>	<b>Mon., December 19</b>

*Thank You*

## WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS FOR 2023?

Make the commitment to grow closer to God by learning about the incredible gift of the Catholic Church founded by Jesus Christ over 2,000 years ago. Join hundreds of thousands of Catholics around the world and listen to The Catechism of the Catholic Church podcast starting January 1st with Fr. Mike Schmitz.

Next to the Bible, the Catechism is the second most important book for Catholics. Rooted in Scripture, the Catechism reveals, discusses and explains the fundamental teachings of the Catholic Church. Each daily episode, beginning January 1, 2023 is about 15-20 minutes long, making it easy to listen to while driving to work, going on your daily walk, or drinking your morning coffee. The podcast is completely free and available on all major podcast apps and YouTube.

This podcast will help you to understand what it means to be Catholic and allow those truths to shape our daily lives! For more information and to get the reading plan, scan the QR code on your phone or go to the website listed below



Understand Your Catholic Faith with  
The Catechism in a Year Podcast  
with Fr. Mike Schmitz!

Starting January 1, 2023

By listening to this podcast, Catholics will:

- Read the entire Catechism of the Catholic Church in 365 days
- Understand the essentials of the Catholic Faith and why they matter
- Transform their relationship with the Church that Christ founded

Get the FREE Reading Plan!

Scan this QR code with your phone to learn more and get your free reading plan!  
[www.acemedia.com/ty](http://www.acemedia.com/ty)



## Glory Be Tea Cookie Brigade When & Where To Bring Your Cookies



Many thanks to all of you who have volunteered to bake cookies for the Glory Be Tea.

Please bring your cookies to the Room of Our Lady in the Resource Center (Enter double doors, turn left to Fr. Mike's old office) during one of the following times.

Friday, Dec.9, between 9am and 2pm.

Saturday, Dec.10, between 9:00am and 5:00pm

Questions? Contact Jeanne Verssue at 816-294-0236 or email her at [bverssue@gmail.com](mailto:bverssue@gmail.com).

## Novena to the Christ Child and The Holy Family



The beautiful reflections and prayers of this Novena focus on the birth of Jesus and His family in the early years of His life.

The Novena will be held weekly from 7:00 - 8:00pm on the following dates and locations.

**Monday, December 5 in the Chapel**

**Tuesday, December 13 in the Chapel**

**Tuesday, December 20 in the Gathering Space**

**Tuesday, December 27 in the Gathering Space**

**Tuesday, January 3 in the Gathering Space**

**Everyone is Invited and Welcome  
to Participate in This Novena**

**Attending this Novena is a wonderful way  
to prepare our hearts  
for the coming of the Christ Child.**

## St. Mary's Food Kitchen Volunteers Needed For December 31



Although we generally serve at St. Mary's Food Kitchen on the fourth Sunday of each month, this month we have been asked to serve on Saturday, December 31.

Please consider signing up to help serve. Your service and support are needed and will be much appreciated.

Scan the QR Code below  
to go to the sign up page:



Or sign up at:

<http://bit.ly/3VcJoG6>

## CELEBRATION OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

Monday, December 12

Rosary at 5:30pm, followed by Celebration and Mass at 6:00pm

**Come enjoy Faith, Fellowship, and Food**

Celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patroness of the Americas, on Monday, December 12 beginning with the Rosary at 5:30, followed by the traditional singing of Las Mañanitas, Mass, followed by a free reception in the Social Hall.

This beautiful celebration starts with singing "Las Mañanitas" while young dancers offer flowers to our Lady of Guadalupe - a traditional dance with *The Matachines*. We will celebrate the Holy Mass and then have a reenactment of the apparitions of our Lady of Guadalupe to St. Juan Diego.

Following the Mass, there will be procession to the Parish Hall where the celebration ends with a free reception with Mexican food, and more.

This event invites all of us to meditate on the great love of God who gave us our loving Mother who always loves, guides and intercedes for us.

*We look forward to seeing you, your family and friends.*



### CELEBRACION DE LA VIRGEN DE GUADALUPE



*Esta hermosa celebración será el lunes 12 de diciembre. Comenzaremos con el Rosario a las 5:30 pm, seguido de la ofrenda de flores a la Virgen, la Danza de los Matachines. Continuaremos con la Santa Misa, la representación de las apariciones de la Virgen, y finalizaremos con una recepción en el Salón Parroquial. Esperamos verte, no faltes.*

#### Video - The Amazing and Miraculous Image of Our Lady of Guadalupe



If you have a QR scanning app on your smart phone, scan the code below to watch the YouTube Video "The Amazing and Miraculous Image of Our Lady of Guadalupe".

You can also watch the video by copying the following URL into your computer browser.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ds7nD\\_QNeKA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ds7nD_QNeKA)

The video is also available on the Our Lady of Guadalupe page on the St. James website.

## Christmas Mass Schedule

### CHRISTMAS EVE

3:00pm

5:00pm

10:00pm

### CHRISTMAS DAY

9:00am



# Parish Religious Education

Feeding • Building • Living



## Elementary K- 5

**Dec. 4:** Where: Parish School.  
Time: 9:10-10:20am. Enter / Exit through Narthex doors.

## Middle School

**Dec. 4:** Middle School RE will begin move its formation sessions to our parish middle school beginning on December 4 for the remainder of the year (2023). The time will remain the same, 6:00-7:30pm on the 1st and 3rd Sundays.

The classrooms will provide better instruction, visibility, and privacy for your student. The middle school section is located to the East of the school lobby on the main level of the school. Entrance and exit will be through the school main doors and NOT through the Narthex anymore.

Grade 6 will be in the St. Stephen's classroom, Grade 7 in St. Theresa's classroom and Grade 8 in St. Elizabeth Ann Seton's classroom. Please continue to drop off and pick up at the school doors for safety issues.

## Confirmation Preparation

**Dec. 4:** From 6:00 - 7:30pm in the Parish Hall (lower level of church building). Dismissal: top level of the church.

## “Camino de Santiago” Post Confirmation Group

**Dec. 4:** Regular Session 6:00-7:30pm in the School Café. Topic: Advent. Enter and exit from the GYM doors on the front side of the building.

### Preparing For the December 13 Advent Penance Service

Scan the QR Code to watch the series **Forgiven** on FORMED.

This series explores the grace and healing offered in confession and shows how this sacrament of mercy reveals the depth and bounty of God's love.



## First Reconciliation

I am deeply grateful to you as parents for your assistance in preparing your child(ren) to receive the reception of their first sacrament – Reconciliation.

Many thanks to Fr. Mike, Fr. Michael and Fr. John who participated as confessors for this sacrament during our services on November 5 and 19, 2022.

Please continue to pray for these students and their families as they begin their faith journey here at St. James.

Blessings, Ernie Collins, DRE

## First Reconciliation Retreats with Fr. Michael



## St. James is going to Steubenville July 7-9, 2023!

If you would like your teen to experience an amazing, faith-filled weekend with 5,000 other teens, please scan the QR Code and fill out the form.

Highlights of the weekend include great music, adoration, confession, and Fr. Mike Schmitz!

Steubenville is open to 2023-2024 High Schoolers, and seniors from the class of 2023.

If you have any questions, you can reach out to Amanda Lewey at [amandaclewey@gmail.com](mailto:amandaclewey@gmail.com).



**Birthdays this week: Today we celebrate all that you with God's help, have accomplished.**

Sarah Catignani	Brian Haynes	Cade Gardner
Michael DePalma	Katie Kohrs	Wayne Halter
Julie DiGiovanni	Angela Reed	Henry Jekel
Layla Florido	Christina Spencer	Melissa Panis
Jeanne Jackson	Sharon Willis	Kathy Pittala
Ainsley Lanter	Connor Cooney	Sarah Simon
Adam Pittman	David Curasi	Noah Theleman
Kristen Redford	Mark Hill	Marissa Vernickas
Carolyn Roach	Angela Holtkamp	Michael Volkmer
Benjamin Saverino	Amber Johnson	Jamie Adams
James Schmidt	Robert Kosorog	Luther Baker
Kevin Schneider	Douglas Lewey	Lisa Barbosa
Emily Seiter	Thomas Lindley	Vicki Cali
Samuel Shumate	Margaret Reyes	Xavier Florez
Laney Timmerberg	Joanna Venneman	Jeanette Gaudin
Luca Venditti	Payton Whiston	Jeremiah Halter
Grayson Carullo	Todd Brown	Jon Korte
Michael Jensen	Lillian Carullo	Mary Mackland
Carol Noble	James Ehlers	Emily McCoy
Chad Phillips	Maribelle Jones	Colleen Richards
Grant Schuster	Kimberlie Lackey	Teri Rivera
Terrance Shannon	Elizabeth Lewey	Grace Roberts
Patrick Steinkamp	Stephanie Medley	Henry Russell-Reinhardt
Sarah Weiler	Janet Schoenrock	Sam Schembri
Jill Bolling	Andrew Brown	Dennis Valentine
Bailey Eddy	Shane Busch	
Glynn Gallagher	Michael Damot	
Benjamin Garvey	Anna Filardo	

**Help Us Pray for ALL the Children of St. James Parish**



**Prayer in honor of Saint Nicholas:**

We thank you for good Saint Nicholas who was known for his love and care for children. Through his intercession we ask you to help us always to take care of children, to protect and guide them, and to keep them safe. Help us to be open to all that children can teach us about pure joy and unconditional love. May we in turn help our children to grow into the beautiful persons that you created them to be. Keep us mindful of the needs of others and to reach out with love and generosity as Saint Nicholas did. We rejoice in your servant Nicholas and pray that we too may follow you with singleness of heart and mind.  
Amen.



Your gift helps support more than 30 ministries along with administrative support for both parishes and the Diocese.

To donate on-line, scan this QR Code.



**Visit Our Website for current information about what's happening at St. James**  
[www.stjames-liberty.org](http://www.stjames-liberty.org)

**St. James School**  
 Call: 816-781-4428  
 Webpage: [www.sjsliberty.com](http://www.sjsliberty.com)  
 Facebook: St. James Catholic School

## We Pray to our Lord Jesus for healing

- |   |   |  |   |   |   |
|---|---|--|---|---|---|
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-Jennifer Bishop

## The St. James Financial Report

Operating Income and Expense  
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2022  
and  
2022-23 Budget  
Operating Income and Expense  
For the Fiscal Year  
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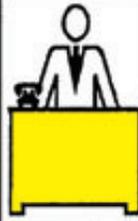
  
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