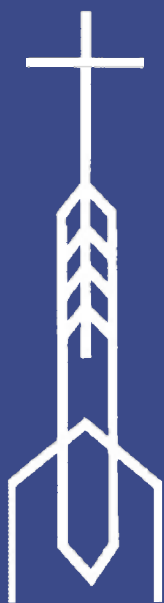


# Saint James Catholic Community

*The Baptism of the Lord*  
*January 12, 2025*

**CLOSER**

God • Church • Community  
Together We Can Do Great Things



## **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.**, ..... 816-349-2844  
Senior Priest in Residence
- Deacon Chuck Koesterer**  
chuck@stjames-liberty.org
- Katie Klassen, Business Manager**  
Katie@stjames-liberty.org .....x220
- Danny Baker, Dir of Liturgy and Music Ministry**  
danny@stjames-liberty.org.....x207
- Stephanie Ladenthin, Dir Religious Education**  
DRE@stjames-liberty.org .....x208
- Sandy Gagnon, Dir of Christian Initiation Ministry**  
sandy.gagnon@stjames-liberty.org ..... x206
- Jennifer Smith, School Principal**  
jennifer.smith@stjames-school.org .....x213
- Kirsten Maggi, Office Coordinator**  
kirsten.maggi@stjames-liberty.org .....x204
- Judy Keisling, Bulletin Editor/Website**  
bulletin@stjames-liberty.org .....x205
- Jeanne Greenwald, Scheduling Coordinator**  
stjamesoffice@stjames-liberty.org .....x200
- Ernie Collins, Director Children's Choir**  
ernie.collins@stjames-liberty.org ..... N/A
- Front Desk** .....x202

### **Pastoral Council:**

- Joan Peluso, Chair**  
jbvpeluso@gmail.com 816-695-7438
- Kevin Casel, Vice-Chair**  
kcasel@msn.com 816-550-8932
- Sherri Porterfield, Secretary**  
choirdiva.porterfield@gmail.com 816-863- 5557
- Eddie Baker**  
jbaker105@kc.rr.com 816-694-3083
- Phil Baumert, Vice-Chair**  
philb@vandergren.com 816-215-5225
- Chris Fullinwider**  
kcphillygirl@gmail.com 816-786-7150
- Corrine Sebranek**  
1corrinek@gmail.com N/A
- Betsy Lewey**  
allshandling@gmail.com 816-679-9910
- Yvette Lopez**  
yvettelopez@remax.net 816-777-4694
- Jeff Ridder**  
Jpridder88@hotmail.com 816-379-1723

## 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 everyone, especially the marginalized, with joy and hospitality.

**Holy Mountain Singers!**  
**At All Masses This Weekend**  
**Special Concert at 2:00pm**  
**This Sunday in the Church**



St James is happy to once again be hosting Joe Mattingly and the Holy Mountain Singers, a Catholic-based independent contemporary choir and band. They will be singing at all weekend Masses.

They will also perform in concert Sunday afternoon at 2:00pm in the church.

There will be a free will offering and their CDs will be available for purchase after the concert.

Their music features original Catholic music and traditional favorites.

In their own words, their mission is to spread the gospel of Christ in a manner musically and spiritually uplifting.

All are invited and encouraged to come and enjoy their Concert at 2:00pm this Sunday in the church.

### You won't want to miss this!

The Knights of Columbus will be selling pulled pork sandwiches outside the church after the 5pm Mass this Saturday, January 11.

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. If the abuse involves a priest, deacon, employee or volunteer of the Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph, report the suspected abuse to the Diocesan Ombudsman, Joe Crayon, at 816.812.2500 or [crayon@ombudsmankcsj.org](mailto:crayon@ombudsmankcsj.org).

The Diocese has a sincere commitment to providing care and healing resources to victims of sexual abuse and their families. Please contact the Victim Advocate at 816.392.0011 or [victimadvocate@diocesekcsj.org](mailto:victimadvocate@diocesekcsj.org) for more information.

## From the Pastor's Pen

Infant baptisms are so special to parents, grandparents, and other family members and friends. Nearly all Catholics parents, whether active in the practice of the faith or not, recognize the importance of the sacrament. In the gospel of John (3,15) we read the words of Jesus: "Amen, amen, I say to you, no one can enter the Kingdom of God without being born of water and the spirit." You may ask: "What about those who lived before Jesus or those who have no opportunity to hear the word of God?" We will leave that discussion for another time

As we celebrate the feast of the Baptism of Jesus today, the crucial question might be: "Why did Jesus, sinless and the very Son of God, request baptism? Even John questioned: "I need to be baptized and you come to me?" (Mt. 3,14) Several reasons are given. First, by baptizing Jesus, John was declaring that Jesus was the one the people of Israel were awaiting. Second, when Jesus entered the water he identified with the people, declaring himself to be one of them. Third, it showed that Jesus approved of John's act of baptizing. Fourth, his baptism was the occasion of testimony of the Heavenly Father that Jesus truly was the Son of God.

So we come back to the question of infant baptism. Babies can't decide to be baptized. Parents must make and accept responsibility for the decision. I'm not sure that all parents understand the full implication of their decision. It's not a matter of going through the motions, of doing something you're supposed to do. What really matters is that the infant is re-made in the image of Christ, and that the infant is initiated into the Christian community. It doesn't make much sense to go through the ritual without sincerely pledging to raise the child with the knowledge and values of the faith. Such knowledge is best shared by example, by striving to live the life of discipleship. If the child is initiated into the life of the Church, then the parents must value and live the fullness of life in the Christian community.

Much more needs to be said about adult baptism, but that, too, will have to wait until another time.

Know that my prayers are with you each day.

Fr. Michael

## Mass Intentions

### Week of January 13 - January 19

<b>Monday</b> 8:15am	Marla Bowers
<b>Tuesday</b> 8:15am	Christine Kuestersteffen †Agnes Crainer
<b>Wednesday</b> 8:15am	†Sylvester Ginther Joseph Mahoney
<b>Thursday</b> 8:15am	Theresa Swisher †Robert Moyer
<b>Friday</b> 8:15am	Brett Weiner
<b>Saturday</b> 5:00pm	†JoAnn Ollier
<b>Sunday</b> 8:00am	†Joan Horn †Jack Schwartz Parishioners of St. James
<b>10:30am</b> <b>5:00pm</b>	†Joan Hennessey Don Evans



*From Death  
to New Life*

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

Robin & Jim Sandt, their family and friends on the recent death of Robin's brother-in-law Mike Stefancik, Jr.

***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:**

**stjamesoffice@stjames-liberty.org**

or call the Parish Office, ext. 202.

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

**12Noon to: bulletin@stjames-liberty.org**



## Jubilee 2025 ~ Pilgrims of Hope



The theme for the 2025 Jubilee Year is "Pilgrims of Hope".

The year that began on December 24, 2024 and ends on December 23, 2025 is a period of economic, cultural, environmental, and communal reset; forgiveness of sins,

reconciliation between adversaries, conversion and receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and solidarity, hope, and justice.

The Jubilee year logo pictured above shows four stylized figures to indicate all of humanity from the four corners of the earth. They are each embracing another, indicating the solidarity and brotherhood that must unite peoples.

The logo has multiple meanings, including:

### Solidarity

The four stylized figures in the logo embrace each other, representing the brotherhood and solidarity that should unite all people.

### Faith and hope

The figure in the front of the logo holds onto a cross, which is a symbol of faith and hope. The cross is shaped like a sail, which is another sign of hope.

### Pilgrimage

The choppy waves under the figures symbolize that life's pilgrimage is not always calm.

### Anchor

The lower part of the cross is elongated and turned into an anchor, which is a metaphor for hope. Anchors bring confidence and security in life.

### Communal journey

The image itself shows how the pilgrim's journey is communal, with the signs of a growing dynamism that moves more and more toward the Cross.

## Someone is Watching and Wondering



Perhaps when reading my words over the past month or so, you have picked up on my feelings of discouragement in searching for new direction and goals for this period of my life. I sensed a darkness surrounding me and yet I also felt blessed and loved by God. I believe God will

show me whatever I need to know, while also realizing that I must be patient and not sink into hopelessness and despair. (Patience and trust do not come naturally for me; I think I must be active and achieving all the time.)

I spent part of Advent on a seven day retreat with Thomas Merton. The readings and reflections seemed to be directed at my inner most feelings and provided time for discernment. Following that week long retreat, I returned to reading his words in *New Seeds of Contemplation*. Once again it seemed that Thomas Merton was answering so many of my questions: "In order to become myself I must cease to be what I always thought I wanted to be, and in order to find myself, I must go out of myself, and in order to live I must die [to that old self]." At the same time I was reading Merton's words, Pope Francis announced the 2025 Jubilee, "Pilgrims of Hope," and stated: "We must fan the flame of hope that has been given us, and help everyone to gain new strength and certainty by looking to the future with an open spirit, and trusting heart and farsighted vision." I feel Pope Francis is saying, "Sandra, wake up and get with the program. You are part of God's human family, never forgotten, never alone. Not through division, but in unity you must fulfill your role as a member of Christ's body, living and working within creation toward the common good." (Notice the use of Sandra, the name which my mother used when she wanted to get my attention.) There doesn't seem to be anything in these messages leading me to private piety, spiritual pride, or a path that doesn't involved others who are also searching for meaning, direction, and hope. Thomas Merton wrote: "I must look for my identity, somehow, not only in God, but in other men. I will never be able to find myself if I isolate myself from the rest of [humankind] as if I were a different kind of being." There is such beauty in diversity and individuality, however, this beauty is only apparent through embracing and celebrating the diversity and individuality of one another. Hope is not found in division and hate. Hope is found in love and celebrating our bonds as God's children.

*Happy Jubilee Year of Hope - 2025.  
Your Sister in Christ, Sandy Gagnon*

**Saturday Morning Faith Formation  
New Program  
"Metanoia: A Journey With Christ  
Into Conversion"**



METANOIA - and believe in the Gospel. In the Gospel of Mark, the first words of Jesus are an invitation to metanoia, to repent, to change, to be converted.

This series is beautifully filmed on location in the Holy Land, highlighting sacred places such as the Sea of Galilee, the River Jordan, the desert of Temptations, and many of the holy sites in Jerusalem.

Each of the 10 episodes explores areas of our life where conversion is so often necessary. Metanoia will examine topics such as who is Jesus, what must we do to inherit eternal life, and many other significant matters of faith.

With preaching from Fr. Dave as well as personal testimonies from men and women, young and old, religious and lay, their stories will inspire you to seek to encounter Jesus and the new life he is constantly inviting us to. Province of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus.

**This Saturday Morning Faith Formation led by Deacon Chuck meets in person at 10:00am in the lower level Conference Room.  
No registration and no fees.  
Just show up on Saturday morning.**



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.



**New Pledge Cards Available**

Tithing Pledge cards for 2025 are available in the book rack located in the hallway just off the Gathering Space.

Please return as soon as possible.

You may drop them in the collection baskets or the Parish Office during regular business hours, or mail to St. James, 309 S. Stewart Rd., Liberty MO 64068.

<b>St. James Parishioner</b>		<b>2025 Tithing Pledge</b>	
Name _____			Envelope Num. _____
Address _____			
I/we will give a gift of \$ _____ (Please indicate option below)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Weekly	<input type="checkbox"/> Monthly	<input type="checkbox"/> Quarterly	<input type="checkbox"/> Annually
			<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
I/we wish to use Automatic bank withdrawals.*		Signature (required for draw) _____	
*Bank Draw is made 1 <sup>st</sup> Wed of each month (see reverse side)			(voided check needs to be attached)
Best way to reach you:			
Email _____	Phone: Primary _____	Secondary _____	

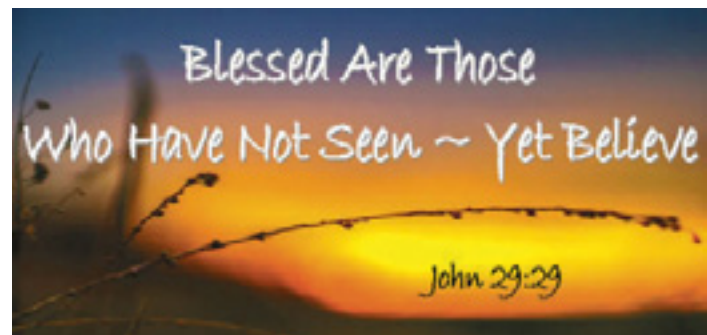


Some people make New Year's resolutions. If you could use some help making some changes for the future, consider counseling.

If you are looking for ways to handle depression, consider counseling. Fr. Garry Richmeier is a Licensed Professional Marriage and Family Therapist, providing marriage, individual, and family counseling, as well as Spiritual Direction.

He has offices in Liberty and in midtown Kansas City, and accepts donations in lieu of set fees.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, contact Fr. Garry at 816-415-2998 (no text) or [garrycpps@gmail.com](mailto:garrycpps@gmail.com)





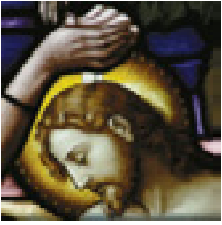
### Our Lady of Guadalupe Celebration



December 12, 2024



## The Solemnity of the Baptism of Our Lord January 12



This feast brings to an end the season of Christmas. At first glance, the Baptism of the Lord might seem an odd feast. Since the Catholic Church teaches that the Sacrament of Baptism is necessary for the remission of sins, particularly Original Sin, why was Christ baptized? After all, He was born without Original Sin, and He lived His entire life without sinning. Therefore, He had no need of the sacrament, as we do.

In submitting Himself humbly to the baptism of St. John the Baptist, however, Christ provided the example for the rest of us. If even He should be baptized, though He had no need of it, how much more should the rest of us be thankful for this sacrament, which frees us from the darkness of sin and incorporates us into the Church, the life of Christ on earth! His Baptism, therefore, was necessary - not for Him, but for us.

Many of the incidents which accompanied Christ's baptism are symbolical of what happened at our Baptism. At Christ's baptism the Holy Spirit descended upon Him; at our Baptism the Trinity took its abode in our soul. At His baptism Christ was proclaimed the "Beloved Son" of the Father; at our Baptism we become the adopted sons of God. At Christ's baptism the heavens were opened; at our Baptism heaven was opened to us. At His baptism Jesus prayed; after our Baptism we must pray to avoid actual sin.

### Why We Dip Our Fingers Into the Holy Water Font and Make the Sign of the Cross



When we dip our fingers into the holy water font at the entrance to the church and make the sign of the cross we are touching our forehead (our mind), our shoulders and our heart. It is a way of recalling our baptism.

It brings us back to what has brought us there in the first place. It is a reminder of who we are, and to whom we belong.



### Gently Used Mower Needed

Keep St. James in mind if you have a large ZTR riding mower you no longer need.

Our two 61" Grasshopper mowers are over 25 years old, and they no longer make replacement parts for either. Both are currently running but we are looking for backup.

If you have a large mower, in good condition, and you are looking to donate it somewhere, then we want to hear from you.

Contact Dan Bacon (816-589-7958)

or David Jones (816-868-5718).

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



## St. James Saints Basketball Schedule

Date	Time	Home	Away	Gym	St. James Team
Sat 1/11	1:40 PM	STJL St. James-JP	STJO St. John LaLande-AK	St. James GYM	7th Grade Boys B
Sat 1/11	2:50 PM	STP St. Peter-CC	STJL St. James-CR	St. James GYM	5th Grade Boys
Sat 1/25	9:00 AM	STJL St. James-VA	STJO St. John LaLande-LMA	St. James GYM	6th Grade Girls A
Sat 1/25	10:10 AM	STJL St. James-VA	STM St. Thomas More-JR	St. James GYM	6th Grade Girls A
Sat 1/25	11:20 AM	STJL St. James-JP	VIS Visitation-JR	St. James GYM	7th Grade Boys B
Sat 2/15	9:00 AM	STJL St. James-DS	PRES Presentation-JH	St. James GYM	5th Grade Girls
Sat 2/15	5:10 PM	STJL St. James-JS	PRES Presentation-TB	St. James GYM	8th Grade Boys B



## Parish Religious Education

### PreK-5th / Middle School / Camino

As we are now in winter, and weather can be a factor for classes, please be sure to sign up for Remind messaging to receive communication on classes. If you signed up last year, you still need to sign up again this year as the codes are different.

**PreK-5th:** text @stjamesrep to the number 81010

**Middle School:** text @stjamesre6 to the number 81010

**Camino:** text @caminodesa to the number 81010

### First Sacraments

There will be a parent meeting for First Communion preparation on Sunday, January 12th.

Two options are available: 9:15am or 6:00pm. Both will be held in the Social Hall

### Next classes

PreK-5th - January 12th: 9:10-10:20am in the school

Middle School - January 12th: 6-7:15pm in the Parish Hall

Camino - January 12: 6-7:30pm in the School Cafeteria

Confirmation - January 17/18 in the Social Hall

Please note this is the required retreat

## Confirmation ~ Community Service Day

On November 16, the Confirmation Class, along with their sponsors, participated in a community service day. Teens and their sponsors were divided into groups and did various projects around the Northland area.

We visited 3 nursing homes, raked leaves and did some basic yardwork for senior citizens around Liberty, worked at St. Mary's Home for Mothers and its thrift store, Mission Thrift, and assisted Feed Northland Kids (a food pantry).

Teens also donated items and a group created Family Meal Kits for Harvesters. Over 100 Meal Kits were delivered to Harvesters!

Thank you to everyone who helped make this service day possible, and thank you to our teens for showing Christ's love for others through service!



### Sacrament of Confirmation Dates

Due to the large number of students who will be confirmed this year, confirmation at St. James will held on the following dates.

**February 26th  
and  
March 21st**



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

Andrew Benoit	Warren Noeller	Brett Weiner
Jasper Bianco	Adam Otte	Lisa Behrens
John Krim	Anne Zeigler	Erica Duethman
Lindsey Lewis	Ryder Clark	Julie Houghton
Lindsay Mehaffy	Judy Farley	Savina Liberto
James Murphy	Adam Graves	Alexander Loving
Rogelio Quiroz	Jeremy Grisham	Edward Lowinger
Susan Shannon	Jennifer Heckel	Sabrina Madison
Bryan Swingler	Samuel	Olivia O'Dell
Mary Weiss	Hernandez	Clarke O'Dowd
Timothy Yoder	Benjamin Herr	Kathy Randolph
Juliana Alcalá	Stephanie	Molly Rothove
Sarah Baker	Ladenthin	Molly Sheeley
Amber Chase	Carter Lind	Ethan Smith
Leo Christello	Benjamin Link	Maya
Cooper Findlay	Marilyn Massman	Tebbenkamp
Madelyn Gray	Debra Palmer	Owen Tomlinson
Shannon Hankins	Aria Smith	Bo Bedard
Lauren Jones	Madison Stennett	Thayart Coday
Erin Knapp	Noah Teixeira	Martha Duffin
Taylor Koch	Alexis Wendel	Emily East
Concetta McCombs	Anne Winter	Kim Flanagan
Nikolas Mead	John Barry	Madelaine Hoffa
Philip Pernice	Alexandra Bayless	Morgan
Cheyenne Smith	Alyssa Farley	Jorgensen
Gina Zeier	Alfred Ford	Elle Kollasch
Belma Crespo	Craig Henry	Evelyn Mitchell
Marianne Fehleg	Michael Mahony	Lauren Neff
Alexis Hatfield	Gloria Nguyen	Ruben Orozco
Jacob Lauck	Tarah Palmer	Amanda Sprung
Rose Mary Martino	Rosalia Russell	Brian
Juan Medina	Immanuel Sprung	Tebbenkamp
Evan Nelson	Fred Thompson	

**St. James School News**

**ST. JAMES SCHOOL  
OPEN HOUSE**

Saturday, January 25th after 5pm Mass (6-7pm)  
Take a tour, meet staff, parents and students  
Learn about MO Scholars opportunities

**FAITH-FILLED FAMILY COMMUNITY**

- 2025-26 Enrollment Opens Soon! - 3 years old thru 8th grade.
- Small class sizes
- Enrichment classes PK-8th grades
- Weekly Mass, school retreats and Adoration
- Family groups, big/little buddies and Super Saints

**RSVP NOW**

Contact Us :  
[info@stjames-school.org](mailto:info@stjames-school.org)

**Support Pregnant Moms and Reduce your Taxes by 70%**

**CATHOLIC CHARITIES**  
KANSAS CITY ST. JOSEPH  
TO SERVE & TO LIFT

**Support Pregnant Moms Who Choose Life**

Donations to Catholic Charities are eligible for a **70% tax CREDIT!**

**For details contact:**  
Deanna Ricke  
(816) 398-6894  
DRicke@ccharities.com

QR code: donate by scanning here or go to <https://catholiccharities-kcsj.org/donate>

Did you know that the *Mom's Empowerment* program at Catholic Charities of Kansas City – St. Joseph's supports pregnant mothers through the baby's first birthday?

For every dollar you (or your business donates), the state will reduce your Missouri income tax by 70 cents!

For more details contact Deanna Ricke at [DRicke@ccharities.org](mailto:DRicke@ccharities.org) or 816.398.6894.

**School Mission Statement**

The St. James Catholic School Community, a ministry of the parish, empowers students to achieve their full academic and Christian potential, become prayerful, lifelong learners and good stewards of God's gifts.

## We Pray to our Lord Jesus for healing

- |   |  |   |  |   |   |
|---|--|---|--|---|---|
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|---|--|---|--|---|---|

### You Are Invited To Eucharistic Adoration



Jesus invites you to meet with Him in the Chapel every Tuesday and/or Thursday from 9am- 9pm.

Please come for a few moments or for an hour or anytime that works best for you.

**Please notify us to remove your name from our prayer lists when it is time.**

In respect of HIPAA we will add names to the prayer list only by request of the person or immediate family.



## Join Us In Prayer Rosary For Healing Thursdays at 6:30pm



Did you know that there are many in our parish who are struggling with serious health issues? Some are on our prayer chain. And then, there are others we don't know about - they prefer to keep their health issues private.

We invite all to become "prayer warriors" and join us every Thursday at 6:30pm in the church as we pray the rosary for all those who are in need of healing prayer.

**The prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well. James 5:15**

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