

Saint James Parish Newsletter

830 East Veterans Way ✘ Mukwonago, WI 53149 ✘ 262-363-7615 ✘ www.stjamesmukwonago.org

DECEMBER 2020

Liturgy Schedule

Second Sunday of Advent, Weekend of December 5/6

Love Lights Ceremony, Saturday, December 5th

After the 4:30 PM Mass, 5:30 PM in St. James Commons

**Stations of the Nativity, Fridays of Advent, Noon, St. James,
December 4th, 11th & 18th**

Immaculate Conception

Monday, December 7th, 6:00 PM, St. James

Third Sunday of Advent, Weekend of December 12/13

Fourth Sunday of Advent, Weekend of December 21/22

Christmas Eve, Thursday, December 24

4:00 PM Mass St. James

4:00 PM Mass St. Theresa

10:00 PM Evening Mass St. James

No Choir Concert due to Covid restrictions

Christmas Day, Friday, December 25

7:00 AM Mass St. James (No Music)

8:00 AM Mass St. Theresa

9:00 AM Mass St. James

10:00 AM Mass St. Theresa

11:00 AM Mass St. James

Holy Family, Weekend of December 26/27

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

Thursday, December 31

4:30 PM Mass St. Theresa

Baptisms

Please join us in welcoming all of our newly baptized who joined our Christian Community through the waters of baptism in October. Planning to have a baby baptized this year? Baptism Preparation Class is required if you are having your first child baptized or if you have not attended a baptism class in the past 5 years. Contact Renee Hitt at hittr@stjmuk.org to register for the online baptism class and contact Rene Ranic in the Parish Office to sign up for a baptism Sunday, 262-363-7615.



Skyler Marie Blattner
Parents: Nicholas & Hayley Blattner
October 11, 2020



Finley Keating Nordby
Parents: Matthew & Rachel Nordby
October 11, 2020



Declan Donald Nelson
Parents: Joseph & Whitney Nelson
October 11, 2020



Kassidy Grace Saler
Parents: Kurt & Kari Saler
October 11, 2020

So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.
Galatians 3:26-27

RCIA

On October 24, we welcomed Aaron Knox into the order of the Catechumenate. This is the first rite celebrated within the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults, or RCIA. RCIA is really a series of rites preparing a person for full initiation into the Catholic Faith. This first rite, The Rite of Acceptance, is like a doorway, that ushers the person from the initial phase of “seeking” a relationship with Christ to “accepting the relationship with Christ and accepting the invitation to journey with Christ. It celebrates God’s presence in the candidate’s life and God’s grace which is working in the candidate’s life. This Rite has three main elements: the cross, the community and the Word. During the rite, Father and the catechists placed the Sign of the Cross over Aaron and over all of his senses. This form of blessing signifies Christ’s love and gives Aaron strength. As he is crossed, Father says:

Receive the sign of the cross on your ears, that you may hear the voice of the Lord.

Receive the sign of the cross on your eyes, that you may see the glory of God.

Receive the sign of the cross on your lips that you may respond to the word of God.

Receive the sign of the cross on your heart that Christ may dwell there by faith.

Receive the sign of the cross on your shoulders, that you may bear the gentle yoke of Christ.

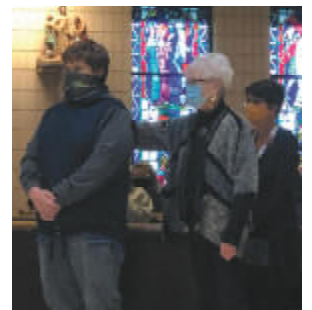
Receive the sign of the cross on your hands, that Christ may be known in the work which you do.

Receive the sign of the cross on your feet, that you may walk in the way of Christ.

We celebrate this rite in the beginning of Mass within the presence of the community because it is not just the responsibility of the catechists and sponsors to help form the candidate, but of the whole community.

Each week, Aaron will be dismissed after the homily with one of our Catechists to reflect upon the readings and how the teachings in the readings apply to everyday life.

The next phase in the RCIA is called the Period of the Catechumenate. During this period, Aaron will experience Jesus. Catechumens will learn more about the Gospel and the teachings of the Church and what it means to live and pray as a Christian.



Parish News

Did you know our church will be celebrating its 125th Anniversary? A special Mass to honor our remarkable history will be on February 28, 2021 with the Most Reverend James T. Schuerman presiding.

As a parish family, we would like to get as many of our parishioners involved in helping to celebrate this wonderful anniversary. If you are interested in being part of the planning committee or if you have photos or stories to share, please contact Krista Galbraith, Chair Elect of Pastoral Council at 920-988-8335 or kgalbraith@ksmfg.com. Thank You

Celebrating 125 Years

Directory Advertising Opportunity

In anticipation of the parish's 125th anniversary celebration, we are in the process of updating our Parish Ministries Directory. This book will contain everything pertinent to our church: its various ministries, organizations, committees, and events, plus a complete directory of all members. This book is being provided to each family at no cost to our church, thanks to subsidies by local businesses that advertise in it. Recent surveys by Guide Book Publishing show that 92.1% of families would rather patronize a Directory advertiser over a non-advertiser. If you own or manage a business and would like more information about advertising in our book, please call the parish office at 262-363-7615.

Update Membership Information

We are in the process of preparing a 2021 Parish Ministries Directory, in anticipation of celebrating the St. James 125th anniversary. It's time for us to update our database with any changes, additions, or deletions that may have occurred in YOUR family over the past 6-12 months. Your family names, address, and phone number will be listed unless you let us know that you don't want your record published. To update your information or to opt out of the publication, please call the parish office at 262-363-7615, or notify us through the parish website, www.stjamesmukwonago.org. *Thank you for your help!*

Calendar Raffle

Back by popular demand is our fourth annual CALENDAR RAFFLE. You could win \$50 every Tuesday or \$250 on the first Friday of every month. Your one \$20 purchase will enter you in all 65 drawings. Even if you win, your ticket will be returned to the barrel and could be picked again and again. Winners will be posted each week in the bulletin and on the website. **Sale ends DEC. 31st**. These make great fun gifts for Christmas for the whole family - there is no age limit for winners. Sell these to friends, neighbors, and relatives. It's a fun (and important) way to help support our parish. Calendar raffles are available in the Narthex, Commons, and the parish office. Just return the stub portion and your payment to the parish office.



Fish Fry

St. Theresa's Fish Fry has returned! Join us on Friday, December 11th and every second Friday for Drive-Thru only from 4:30-7:00 PM. Our menu includes baked fish, fried fish, or shrimp (\$10), and chicken nuggets



(\$6) with a choice of baked potato, French fries, or potato pancakes. Our special homemade coleslaw and rye bread are served on the side. Chocolate brownies are available for dessert (\$1). Just drive up to the main school door to place your order and purchase your dinner. Follow the drive around the back of the school to the side door, and your food will be delivered to your car. We are following all health guidelines in the kitchen so you can safely enjoy your dinner in the comfort of your own home. Welcome back to our faithful customers, and happy to serve many new friends! Questions? Call the parish office at 262-594-5200.



If you shop on Amazon, there is a way that you can help St. James. It is called Amazon Smile. You simply log on to smile.amazon.com and sign in with your Amazon login and password. Choose **St. James Congregation** as your charity and Amazon will donate .5% of your purchases to the church. Everything is the same as when you shop at Amazon, except that a donation is made to **St. James Congregation** for your purchases and it doesn't cost you anything. Please consider checking this out.

Offset Donation Update

In late August, you should have received a special letter from Father Loyola and the parish leadership. It explained how the Covid-19 pandemic has been impacting the parish budget, particularly in our inability to conduct fundraising events as usual. The Finance Council has determined that this lack of fundraisers, combined with a loss of rental income, is leaving the parish with an estimated deficit of \$88,000. We asked for extra donations throughout this fiscal year to help with this shortfall.

As of October 22nd, \$28,980 has been received. What an awesome start – thank you so very much for your faithful support! You will find an extra line item on your monthly statement coupon, titled “deficit offset”. It will be there every month through the end of June 2021, which is the end of the parish's fiscal year. Each individual contribution may look meager and how could it possibly help, but when they are all combined and gathered together in Jesus's name, there is amazing abundance. May God bless you all and keep you safe and healthy. Thank you, as always, for your generous support of our parish ministries.



Council of Catholic Women



It is hard to believe that our new Liturgical Year and Season of Advent will soon be upon us. Though we have for the past several years come together in our Advent by Candlelight event to begin our preparation for Christ's coming, this year as we well know is very different. It is with great sorrow that we must

announce there will be no such night this year. Perhaps we can possibly look forward to gathering in February or Spring for a Lenten or Easter Season Preparation event. Let us keep that in our prayers to our Lord.

Thank you to all who have joined us for the rosaries, chaplets etc. during the past couple months on Wednesdays or Fridays. December will be a bit different. We will gather at **Noon each Friday** to pray the **STATIONS OF THE NATIVITY**. **The dates are December 4th, 11th, 18th, followed by praying the rosary.** Hope you will be able to join us.

Just to let you know, some of our past fund raising efforts have financially helped out our parish's needs in various ways. We have helped our wonderful bell choir purchase some equipment needs as well as presented our parish First Communicants with little gifts and made donations to the environment and offset donation funds. Thank you for your support of our past fund-raising efforts. We look forward to getting back to the baking those "delicious cinnamon rolls" and desserts for fish fries when we are once again able to return to the Activity Center.

We wish to also express our deep appreciation to those who helped with the service project of Boxes of Joy which will be sent to needy children in foreign countries. Your filled boxes and postage to send them out is gratefully appreciated and will put wonderful smiles on many children's faces. We doubled our number of filled boxes from last year. **WAY TO GO!**

HAVE A MOST BLESSED ADVENT AND A MOST JOYOUS CHRISTMAS SEASON!

Family Promise

Family Promise to Implement New Program in Response to COVID

As you know, Family Promise has been sheltering families in 13 churches within Waukesha Co. Our new, temporary program will use apartments. The objective of this model is to keep families, staff and volunteers healthy during the pandemic.

Even though this is a change in programming, our mission remains to help families with minor children to regain and retain their independence. The Apartment Shelter Program will shelter one family in an apartment for up to ninety days. Like the congregation rotational model, each family will actively participate in case management. They will work with our case manager to set goals and objectives, that once completed will allow them to quickly achieve permanent housing. It is possible that a family could put themselves in position to assume the lease and remain in the apartment. The fewer times a family moves provides more stability and consistency.

Modeled after a program piloted by Family Promise of Greater Indianapolis, we will implement it slowly, starting with our first family in early November. As we become more comfortable with the program, we will gradually increase the number of families we serve. It is our hope to be able to eventually shelter four or five families. This will be a learning process. There will be challenges and no doubt some mistakes ahead of us.

The Apartment Shelter Program is not meant to replace the rotational model. It is a temporary solution to a very challenging problem.

We beg your continued support as we move forward.

Blessings,

Linda Klinger & Mike Jaehn

SCRIP

Be Safe and Buy Scrip!!

While we can't sell directly to you after Mass at this time, you can still support St. James by purchasing SCRIP cards in a safe, convenient way. This will save you from having to go in and out of stores to get gift cards. How can we do that? We will have forms available in the Narthex and Commons next to a SCRIP ORDER BOX. Complete your order, place it in an envelope marked "SCRIP", and drop it either in the box or at the parish office drop-off slot. Once a week on Mondays, the orders will be gathered and processed. Please include your payment with your order. Covid-19 precautions are not allowing us to do in-person money transactions at this time. When your order is ready you'll be notified, and can pick up either after Mass or at the parish office. While the order form shows the most popular cards we have, we can also order ANYTHING that is available on www.glscrip.com. Copies of the entire list are available; it is also on the parish website along with the order form. Need something in stock in a hurry? Email Mary Sue Gallagher at mgallagher12@wi.rr.com or call/text her at 414-403-2859, and we'll see what we can do to help you out.



We thank you for your continued support of the St James SCRIP program, which supports our Faith Formation initiatives. Additionally, our St. Vincent de Paul Society will be assisting the needy in this area with gift cards this year, instead of collecting items for their usual Thanksgiving and Christmas packages. When you buy SCRIP, you pay the face value of the card like you would normally do in a store, and when we order through Great Lakes SCRIP, we're able to purchase those cards at a discount, which is how we make a profit. Remember that SCRIP is giving that costs you nothing!

Family Life

Advent is a season of waiting!

This is something that we have been forced to get used to this year. And like the rest of the year, Advent and Christmas is probably going to look a lot different this year than it has in the past! Unlike the secular world, which starts promoting Christmas the day after Halloween, we as Catholics should learn to cherish the season of Advent, using this time to prepare ourselves and our families for a faithful celebration of Christmas. We can use those four weeks to wait, watch and yearn for Emmanuel, God with us. We can use this “new normal” that we are all experiencing to reset our habits and celebrate the season of Advent on its own, without melding it into Christmas. We can take the forced down time to slow down and savor Advent.

At the beginning of this season, our readings focus on the end of all time, our natural death and the eventual judgement we all will face. I’ve had people mention that this seems so morbid for a season in which we are anticipating the birth of Christ. While it may seem that way, it is so necessary for us examine our lives and our actions in the past year. Our actions and choices are what we will be judged upon our death and how humanity will be judged at the end of time. Mother Theresa said: “The good you do today will often be forgotten, do it anyway!”.

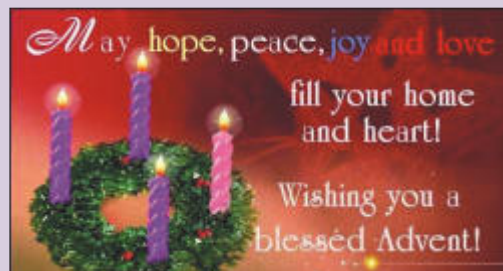
How can you use this time to prepare? Take some cues from the Liturgical Calendar. Use Advent violet to help the set the tone of your advent decorations. The Church chooses purple as a color to represent penitence. Even the colors mixed to create violet have significance. Blue, the color of Heaven and our hope for eternal life and red, the color of martyrs and sacrifice help remind us of our role as Christians. A few bare branches, images of John the Baptist or Mary might be a good focal point for you. Use an Advent wreath on your table and light the candles at dinnertime. Read the upcoming Sunday readings each night and reflect on the meaning.

Pope Francis shared these thoughts in 2017: “Being attentive and watchful are prerequisites so as not to continue to err from the Lord’s ways, lost in sins and in our unfaithfulness; being attentive and being watchful are the conditions that allow God to permeate our existence, in order to restore meaning and value to it with his presence full of goodness and tenderness.” (Pope Francis, *Angelus* Message, December 3, 2017).

If you knew you were going to meet Jesus tomorrow, how would you act today?

Renée Hitt

Adult Formation/Parish Life Coordinator



St. Vincent de Paul Society

The Giving Trees Are Coming...sort of



The Giving Trees of St. Vincent de Paul have provided gifts for needy families in the Mukwonago area for years. However, as we all know, things are different now.



To protect the families we serve, as well as parishioners, we will not be collecting gifts this year.

Instead, we are asking for donations of gift cards from **Amazon, Kohl's, Target and Walmart only**. They'll be distributed to needy parents to use for gifts for their children. Gift cards are appreciated in any denomination of \$25 or less. You can go the store and purchase your own gift cards, but we are encouraging you to buy them from St. James SCRIP instead. Just complete an order form and drop it off with your payment at the parish.

There will be no gift tags to attach. Simply place the cards, or a check made out to SVdP with “Giving Tree” written in the memo, into one of the Poor Boxes (located on the SVdP Pantry door and in the Narthex). Or place an envelope with “Giving Tree” written on it into a donation basket after Mass.

*It is important that the cards are turned in **NO LATER than December 6th** to give parents time to shop.* As always, your St. Vincent de Paul is blessed to have such a supportive and generous parish.

Adult & Family

Eucharistic Divine Mercy Holy Hour

For the United States of America

December 13, 2020, 2:30 PM at St. James Parish

Our Lady of Guadalupe’s apparition to Juan Diego brought a message of Love to replace the violence happening at that time. How fitting that Our Lady’s message of Love can be applied to replace the turmoil and violence we are experiencing now as well. Our Lady of Fatima appeared to three children with a message to pray the Rosary and do sacrifice for Peace and to stop the war. Very fitting at this time of civil conflict and unrest.

We will have a Eucharistic Divine Mercy Holy Hour – Rosary, Chaplet, prayers and songs, Adoration and Benediction for our nation, the United States of America, founded under God, the world and a cure for COVID 19.

All are invited, come and join us in prayer at this crucial time. Masks and social distancing required. Questions: Call Maggie Albert – 262-363-0903



Faith Formation Kick-Off 2020

Faith Formation is underway and we're as busy as we've ever been. This year our classes are 100% virtual so this summer was spent working on setting up virtual programming and choosing curriculum that accompanies that type of platform. Additionally, we celebrated the Sacraments of 1st Communion and Confirmation in July and August. To say the summer went by in the blink of an eye is certainly an understatement!



This year the Confirmands of St. James and St. Theresa are joining ranks and participating in our new mission program called "Confirmands in Action". This program sends the Confirmands out into our communities and parishes to offer service to those in need, or to offer ministry support to the parishes. This past Sunday they headed out to Eagle, East Troy, and Mukwonago to do yard work and clean-up, and prep gardens at the homes of 6 elderly parishioners. One of the groups carried 40 clay pots up and down 2 flights stairs for an elderly gentleman in Eagle!! They worked their tails off and the parishioners were terrifically grateful for their help.

Each "Confirmand in Action" session will highlight one of the gifts of the Holy Spirit so the students are not only learning about the love of and joy in helping others, but they are also learning about how the Holy Spirit moves us to action through hands on experience. We're currently working on expanding this program to our 5th-10th grade students. Their program will be called "Youth in Action" and will follow the same premise.



On Sunday, September 25th, the Confirmands spent the day on retreat with Spiritus Ministries out at Paradise Springs in Eagle. This high energy day was filled with music, prayer, activities, and God!



On Saturday, October 10th our some of our 9th & 10th grade students spent the day at Timber-lee ziplining and nature hiking. They had a wonderful day with our Dawn, our Youth Activity Coordinator.



My Formation Team and I are so pleased with these students, their energy, and their positive representation of St. James and St. Theresa in our communities! They truly are the salt of the earth!

This is a very trying time and every one of our Formation families and catechists/Aides have been patient and understanding through it all. I appreciate each of them. Please, keep each of them in your prayers. If anyone would like to help chaperone for any of the upcoming events feel free to contact the Formation Office. We'd love to have you join us in this communion of service and ministry!!

Blessings~Susan Bashynski, OFS Director of Faith Formation

Elizabeth Ministry

Did you know our Elizabeth Ministry recognizes our littlest members of our St. James Parish Family on their baptismal anniversary? Sacred Steps is a beautiful set of cards mailed to families to help celebrate their child's baptismal anniversary. These mailings are sent for the first 3 years after children are baptized. The program provides a way to nurture families in church by providing education and spiritual materials including an anniversary card that is colored by other children in our parish. In our mailing, families are given a coupon to bring to the parish office for a special gift to help them celebrate their baptismal anniversary. We love reaching out to St. James families to celebrate their faith and baptism!! A special thank you to all who volunteered to color cards for our Sacred Steps program.



Knights of Columbus



Men of the Parish

The Knights of Columbus have resumed having meetings and are getting many parish activities and fund raisers going again. We are looking for male parishioners to join our group to take an active role in helping St. James and our community. To serve one's family, country and church is at the core of what it means to be a Knight.

All men are welcome, and as an incentive to join, your first year will be free if you join online before Dec 30th at, <https://www.kofc.org/secure/en/join/join-the-knights.html> then please contact:

Deputy Grand Knight James Wagnitz at 262-278-9850 or jlwagnitz@yahoo.com or

Chancellor Pat Hitt at 262- 470-3940 or patthitt57@gmail.com

We will have our usual booth set up at Midnight Magic, so please come and visit us on December 5th for a free Klements Brat or Hot Dog and get to know the KOC of St. James.

For up to date calendar, visit www.stjamesmukwonago.org/Monthly-Calendar