

Saint James Parish Newsletter

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

JANUARY 2021

Family Life

Like many of us, I was anxious to turn the calendar to 2021. 2020 has led us on a long, sometime painful journey. We have all been forced to adjust our day to day habits and reevaluate our priorities. One of the common things that I hear from people is they really miss church. Now, I don't think that they necessarily mean the physical building, but what 'doing church' means to us. Reflect on what does St. James mean to you? What is God's plan for the St. James community?

As I reflect back on the blessings of 2020, I have grown to appreciate time. I've learned to slow down and live in the present. I can't control tomorrow and the past is gone. One of my friends has used her "shelter in place time" to put her closets and rooms in order. She says that she feels so much more relaxed now that things are in order. God wants us to have order in our lives. God gives us the rhythms of the seasons. The Church gives us the rhythms of the Liturgical Calendar. Within the Liturgical Calendar are two cycle of readings. The Catholic Lectionary includes a two-year cycle of readings (appropriately called Cycle I -the odd numbered years and Cycle II-the even numbered years). The Sunday readings follow a three-year cycle, designated as A, B and C. The liturgical year started on the first Sunday of Advent, so we are currently in Year B. Most of our Sunday gospel readings will come from Mark. You can read the daily readings by subscribing to USCCB.org/daily-bible-reading. You will have read most of the entire bible in three years.

New Year 2021 is the perfect time to set some faith filled resolutions. Instead of dusting off the treadmill, dust off the bible and your rosary and commit to making 2021 a year of spiritual improvement. As an individual:

Commit to going to confession more often

Go to daily Mass once a week

Spend an hour in Adoration

Start a prayer journal and keep track of all of the people you are praying for

Pray the rosary daily. Relevant Radio prays the rosary live every evening at 7 PM

As a couple:

Read the daily Mass readings together

Bless each other as you leave for your day

Pray together at night

Form or join a small faith sharing group

As a parent

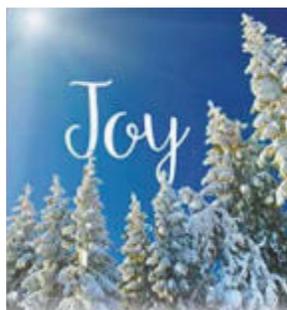
Keep Sunday for God - attend Mass together. The sacraments keep us connected to God.

Feature religious art in your home. This serves as a physical reminder of the elements of our faith

Pray the rosary as a family

Renee Hitt

Adult Formation/Parish Life Coordinator



Baptisms

Please join us in welcoming all of our newly baptized who joined our Christian Community through the waters of baptism in November. 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 hitr@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.



Wyler Jax Gardner
Parents: Joshua & Natasha Gardner
November 8, 2020



Julia Rose Jennings
Parents: Gregory & Stephanie Jennings
November 8, 2020



Bryson Gregory Michalski
Parents: Daniel & Courtney Michalski
November 8, 2020



Brynlee Clayton Underdahl
Parents: Derek & Dayken Underdahl
November 8, 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

Parish Monthly Mailings

Our parish mailings are assembled by four teams of volunteers who help for a few hours, one morning, every four months, usually during the third or fourth week of the month.

Team A helps in **January, May and September** and needs 1 person to help with collating the inserts on **Tuesday morning**.

Team A helps in **January, May and September** and needs 1 person to help with stuffing & sealing the envelopes on **Wednesday morning**.

Team B helps in **February, June and October** and needs 2 people to help with collating the inserts on **Tuesday morning**.

Team B helps in **February, June and October** and needs 1 person to help with stuffing & sealing the envelopes on **Wednesday morning**.

Team C helps in **March, July and November** and needs 4 people to help with collating the inserts on **Tuesday morning**.

Team D helps in **April, August and December** and needs 1 person to help with collating the inserts on **Tuesday morning**.

Team D helps in **April, August and December** and needs 2 people to help with stuffing & sealing envelopes on **Wednesday morning**.

No experience needed, will train. It is a great opportunity to get to know fellow parishioners.

If you would like more information or are interested in helping with this, contact Kay Willkomm, Ministries Associate, at 262-363-7615 x 128 or email: willkommk@stjmuk.org.

St. Theresa Fish Fry

St. Theresa's next Drive-Thru Fish Fry is on Friday, January 8th 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. Call the parish office at 262-594-5200 with any questions.



SAGES



SAGES (Senior Adults Gathering for Education and Socialization) will not be meeting in January, or until further notice, because our meeting room at the Mukwonago Village Hall is not open for public gatherings at this time.

Religious Education Events

Thank you to EVERYONE who helped to make this weekend's service mission so successful!

We're Making Seasons Bright!! 

The entire parish family at St. James and St. Theresa's joined together to help our Formation students collect food, hygiene items, and gifts for those in need. Our collaboration resulted in:

60 Boxes of Joy which will be sent to impoverished children in 3rd world countries

50+ hygiene packets which will be shared with the Mukwonago Food Pantry

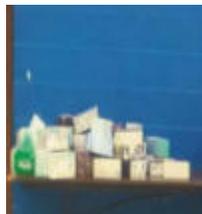
Barrels and bags of food which will be shared with the St. James St. Vincent de Paul, and the Eagle food pantries



THIS is stewardship in action. When we all come together, we truly can make a difference in the world!!

Because of our work, many people will have hope and joy this holiday season, and beyond. This is what Christ asks of us.

May God Bless each of you ~
Susan, Pam, Nancy & Dawn
St. James & St. Theresa
Faith Formation



St. James Parish Annual Finance Report

July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020

Income	Actual 2018-19	Actual 2019-20	Budget 2020-21
Liturgy	10,499	8,063	9,400
Weekly Envelopes/Offertory	702,617	650,972	675,000
Festival: Net gain/loss	11,527	13,494	0
Raffle: Net gain/loss	20,012	19,257	0
Other Parish Revenues	61,839	69,260	119,553
Special Collections for Others	7,689	5,779	0
Adult Formation/Parish Life	796	5,323	1,200
Human Concerns	0	4,543	0
Faith Formation, K-11	27,514	32,863	34,800
Youth Activities	8,133	80	3,800
B&G Donations	23,687	29,129	30,000
TOTALS	874,313	838,763	873,753

Expenses	Actual 2018-19	Actual 2019-20	Budget 2020-21
Liturgy	34,293	27,250	25,860
Parish Administration	131,575	106,463	99,000
Personnel: Salaries/Benefits	493,339	505,844	536,243
Special Collection disbursements	7,689	5,779	0
Catholic School Support	21,638	23,904	23,800
Adult Formation/Parish Life	6,579	3,833	5,650
Human Concerns	235	2,270	3,400
Faith Formation, K-11	19,724	23,899	23,200
Youth Activities	6,463	2,095	6,850
Building and Grounds	138,677	131,761	149,750
TOTALS	860,212	833,098	873,753
Net Surplus (Deficit)	5,665	14,101	0

OUR CHALLENGES

St. James saw a 9.9% decrease in collections in 2019-20, primarily due to no Masses from March to May, or ones with very limited attendance in June. Sadly, Covid-19 caused the cancellation of the annual parish festival and car raffle, its main fund raisers. An ongoing collection to offset fundraising losses will be ongoing through June 2021.

OUR BLESSINGS

Despite these challenges, we are able to reach out to many, thanks in large part to the efforts of our Technology Ministry and other volunteers who help us bring Jesus to people in new ways. Almost immediately when the statewide shutdown was mandated in March, we started to broadcast and live stream our Masses through both YouTube and the St. James Facebook page. Parish leadership implemented sanitizing procedures, social distancing, mask wearing, and changes to receiving Communion. We began providing overflow seating in the Activity Center and radio broadcasts to hear Mass while remaining in one's vehicle in our parking lots. We also initiated a telephone outreach effort for every registered parish household, offering hope and encouragement.

Our parish has been blessed with many generous, committed disciples of Christ. FY 2019-20 ended with a net surplus of \$14,101, mainly due to a 3.15% decrease in expenses, totaling \$27,114. With these resources, we were able to provide faith formation opportunities and experiences to almost 300 youth in 2019-20. A group of dedicated catechists work with our staff to bring virtual faith formation opportunities to our youth for the 2020-21 school year. We hired a part-time Youth Activities Coordinator, shared as part of a collaboration with St. Theresa Parish. We offered bible studies and faith sharing opportunities to all our parishioners. Three members went through the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, and were either baptized or received into the Catholic faith from another denomination. A collaborative GriefShare ministry was started with parishioners from both parishes.

We celebrated 156 Sunday and 104 weekday Masses, as well as 96 Communion services at two local nursing facilities. We found safe, creative ways to celebrate the sacraments of Baptism, First Communion, and Confirmation. 8 couples were united in Holy Matrimony and 25 funerals helped to comfort grieving families and friends. Despite Covid-19, 41 individuals received the Anointing of the Sick. We were fortunate enough to receive \$98,984 from the Payroll Protection Program that was enacted to help non-profits and small businesses stay afloat during the current coronavirus-induced economic crunch. Father Loyola and the parish leadership have continued to meet and oversee day-to-day parish operations in new and safe ways, thanks to their willingness to use the technologies of Zoom, web cams, smart phones and tablets.

We are looking forward to celebrating the parish's 125th anniversary with you on February 28, 2021! Thank you for all your support and patience during these very trying times. May God bless all of you and keep you safe from harm.