

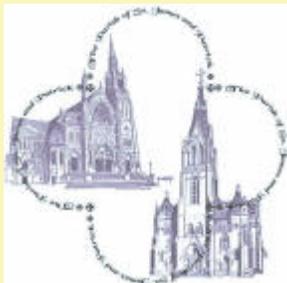
Saints James & Patrick Parish

TO REMAIN IN CHRIST AND REVEAL CHRIST TO OTHERS

Saint James Church

742 E. Clay • Decatur, Illinois 62521

Masses.... Sat 4:00 pm, Sun. 8:30 am
Office Hours M & Tu 800 am - 3:00 pm
Office.....(217) 428-7733
Fax.....(217) 429-8206



Saint Patrick Church

407 E. Eldorado • Decatur, Illinois 62523

Masses.. Sat. 5:30 pm, Sun. 10:15 am
Office HoursM-F 9:00 am - 4:00 pm
Office.....(217) 429-5363
Fax(217) 429-8206
School(217) 423-4351

Parish Staff

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Fr. Chris Comerford

Pastor Emeritus

Fr. John C Burnette

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Anita Olson

Office Assistant

Robin Canary

Parish Communications

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Ministry Scheduler

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Maintenance

Pete Brosamer

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Kate Tiemann

School Staff

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Parish Email:

office@ssjpparish.com

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Scott Hahn's Reflection on the Readings

Today's Gospel turns on an irony—it is a blind man, Bartimaeus, who becomes the first person outside of the Apostles to recognize Jesus as the Messiah. And his healing is the last miracle Jesus performs before entering the holy city of Jerusalem for His last week on earth.

The scene on the road to Jerusalem evokes the joyful procession prophesied by Jeremiah in today's First Reading. In Jesus this prophecy is fulfilled. God, through the Messiah, is delivering His people from exile, bringing them back from the ends of the earth, with the blind and lame in their midst.

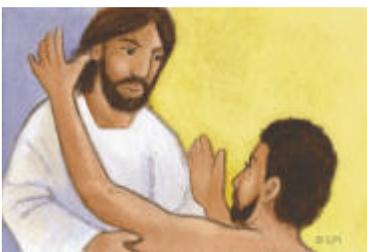
Jesus, as Bartimaeus proclaims, is the long-awaited Son promised to David (see [2 Samuel 7:12–16](#); [Isaiah 11:9](#); [Jeremiah 23:5](#)). Upon His triumphal arrival in Jerusalem, all will see that the everlasting kingdom of David has come (see [Mark 11:9–10](#)).

As we hear in today's Epistle, the Son of David was expected to be the Son of God (see [Psalm 2:7](#)). He was to be a priest-king like Melchizedek (see [Psalm 110:4](#)), who offered bread and wine to God Most High at the dawn of salvation history (see [Genesis 14:18–20](#)).

Bartimaeus is a symbol of his people, the captive Zion of whom we sing in today's Psalm. His God has done great things for him. All his life has been sown in tears and weeping. Now, he reaps a new life. Bartimaeus, too, should be a sign for us. How often Christ passes us by—in the person of the poor, in the distressing guise of a troublesome family member or burdensome associate (see [Matthew 25:31–46](#))—and yet we don't see Him.

Christ still calls to us through His Church, as Jesus sent His Apostles to call Bartimaeus. Yet how often are we found to be listening instead to the voices of the crowd, not hearing the words of His Church.

Today He asks us what He asks Bartimaeus: "What do you want me to do for you?" Rejoicing, let us ask the same thing of Him—what can we do for all that He has done for us?



FR. CHRIS' COLUMN

GOOD STEWARDS OF GOD'S GIFTS

You will be receiving a mailing asking you to reflect on how God is calling you to use your time, talent, and treasure. Since the pandemic, a large number of our parishioners have backed off from being involved in our parish ministries. This means we need you to consider one of these roles. Please consider signing up to be involved or to become active again. God promises us that when we give of what we have for his glory, it will be returned to us many times over.

I also ask you to reflect on your financial contribution to our parish. If you haven't increased your giving in a few years, at least consider raising it a few dollars a week. One of the things I use to compare is if I will be spending more to go out to eat after mass than my contribution is. Maybe it's time to give a little more back. Our collections are still below two years ago before the pandemic. Please prayerfully consider the material that is sent to you.

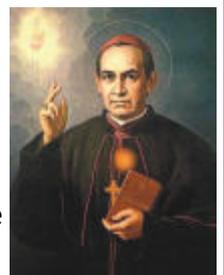
CATHOLIC FUNERALS

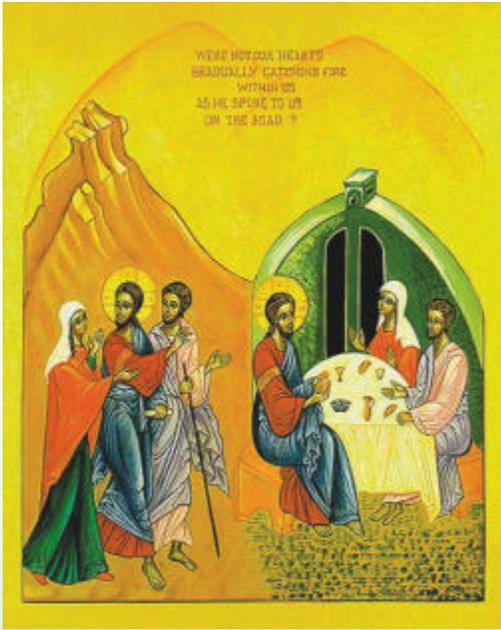
November is usually the month we especially remember those who have died. I thought it would be a good time to reflect on Catholic teaching about the funeral process including our teachings on Cremation. Please consider coming to this on Sunday, November 6 at 3:00pm at St. Patrick Church.

Featured Saint

St. Anthony Mary Claret (Oct. 24)

Known as the "spiritual father of Cuba", St. Anthony Mary Claret was a missionary, religious founder, social reformer, writer, refugee, and archbishop. He was born in 1807 in Spain and was ordained at the age of 28. He spent 10 years giving popular retreats emphasizing the importance of the Eucharist and devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. At age 42, he founded the Claretians and was later named head of the much-neglected archdiocese of Santiago in Cuba. He reformed the archdiocese through his preaching and hearing of confessions. Eventually he was recalled to Spain to be the chaplain for the queen. He was always interested in the Catholic press, so he founded the Religious Publishing House in Spain. Finally, he was a staunch defender of the doctrine of infallibility at Vatican I. He died in 1870 and was canonized





MASS INTENTIONS

Tabernacle Candle
In Memory Of

St. James:
St. Patrick:

Monday, October 25

8:00 am at St. James
Shirley Ruth Vogel

Tuesday, October 26

8:00 am at St. Patrick
Rayne Holthaus

Wednesday, October 27

8:00 am at St. James
Hugh Conerty Jr.

Thursday, October 28

No Mass

Friday, October 29

11:15 am at St. Patrick
Jim Gollings

Saturday, October 30

4:00 pm at St. James
Bob Bauer

5:30 pm at St. Patrick
All Parishioners

Sunday, October 31

8:30 am at St. James
Bear Logue

10:15 am at St. Patrick
Joyce Courtois

BAPTISM

Before an infant may be baptized, the parents are required to attend a Baptism Class. Please contact the Parish Office. Baptisms generally take place on a Sunday, the day of the Resurrection.

MATRIMONY

Arrangements must be made six months in advance with the Pastor.

PENANCE (Reconciliation) Anytime by appointment or:

at St. James:
Monday 7:30 - 7:45am
Wednesday 7:30 - 7:45am
Saturday 3:15 - 3:40pm

at St. Patrick:
Friday 10:30 - 11:00am
Saturday 10:00am - 11:00am

Ill or Hospital Bound?

Please call the office so Father can anoint you if you have not been anointed recently. When you go to the hospital please register as a parishioner of Ss. James and Patrick. If you have not been visited by a priest within two days, please call the office.

"St Patrick School admits students of any race, color, sex or national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate based on race, color, sex, or national and ethnic origin in the administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarships and loan programs, and athletic and school administered programs"

Diocesan Child Abuse Reporting and Investigation: (217) 321-1155.

Welcome New Parishioners: Please register at the office during the week.

Rest in peace: May parishioners, family, and friends who have died be embraced with God's love forever.

We welcome **Waylon Matthew** - son of Matthew & Natalie Tunnicliffe - who was born again by water and the Spirit in Baptism.



Daily Marriage Tip:

Don't feel especially loving today (or some days)? Try doing a loving action like giving your spouse a hug or writing a love note.

Emotions often follow an action. Remember that love is a verb, not just a feeling.

www.foryourmarriage.org

Gift of Treasure *Thank you for your generosity!*

Fiscal 2021-2022	Week	Year to Date	FY20-21
October 9/10 (15)	\$12,866	\$235,896	\$207,127
Needed	\$18,500	\$277,500	
Over (Under)	(\$ 5,634)	(\$ 41,604)	

Building \$140 Fr Mangan \$140 World Missions \$185 Misc \$45

Have you considered giving online? *Thank you for all those who give online or send in their donation.*

Check out the possibility at: www.ssjpparish.com

Long may you live, but please remember our parish in your will.

Parish School News

www.decaturstpatrick.org

And on Facebook through the school website

EPIC youth group - The city-wide youth group will hold meetings at Holy Family Parish Center at the following times:

Junior High - Nov 7, Nov 21, Dec 12

High School - Oct 24, Nov 14, Dec 5, Dec 19

For more information, please contact Deena at 217 855-9845 or Ivy at 217 412-5188.

Decatur's Beautiful Gothic Catholic Churches - Through slides of pictures of the building of St. Patrick & St. James' churches, a walking tour of each building, and 'tour guide' information of specifics in the churches, including the sanctuary, windows, sacristy, and sacramentals, learn more about St. Patrick & St. James churches, the truths of our faith that they represent, and the faith and devotion of those who built them. St. James Church is Sunday, October 24 at 3pm. Because there were issues with the sound at St. Patrick, we will be reviewing some slides from there as well as doing slides of St. James. Each event with slides and tour will last about 1 1/2 hours.

Today is World Mission Sunday - We celebrate this day by remembering our baptismal call – to bring the Gospel to all! The collection today for the Society for the Propagation of the Faith supports the work and witness of the Mission Church, as it supports priests, religious, and lay leaders who offer the Lord's mercy and concrete help to the most vulnerable communities in the Pope's missions. Thank you for your generosity.

Tradition and Teaching on Catholic Funerals - Join Fr. Chris on Sunday, November 7 at 3pm in St. Patrick Church to learn about our Catholic teaching and belief on funerals, the wake, burying the dead, cremation, and the journey of grief that follows a loss.

Good Samaritan Inn Empty Bowl - The Good Samaritan Inn is hosting its annual Empty Bowl event on November 10 from 4:30-7pm. Enjoy a great meal for just \$5 and treat yourself to a handmade artisan bowl or some Good Samaritan gear. You can dine-in or take dinner home for the whole family. Pre-order today! Visit www.goodsamaritaninn.org to place orders, donate, and learn more. All proceeds change lives through the Good Samaritan Inn's nourishment, gardening, and education programming.

Thanksgiving/Christmas Baskets at SSJP will be given out on a smaller scale again this year. If you would like to help; food, gift cards, or monetary donations will be greatly appreciated. If you know someone who is struggling and could use a basket, please let us know.

Christmas Gifts/Toys will be donated through the Salvation Army again this year. Please take a tag with the knowledge that the toys listed are JUST suggestions - you do not have to purchase that particular item. We will also be supporting a couple adult special need homes and will have tags on the trees. For more information contact Robin @ 217 428-7733.

3 Steps to Donate via QR Code

1. Open the camera app on your phone
2. Hover the camera over the QR code below
3. A notification pop-up will appear on your phone. Click the link to be taken to our online donation page.



Operation Enduring Support - Support our deployed military with care packages. You can make a monetary donation to Operation Enduring Support, or you can purchase items such as nonperishable snacks, toiletries, game books, and more. You can drop items in the baskets provided in church or bring them to the parish office before November 7.

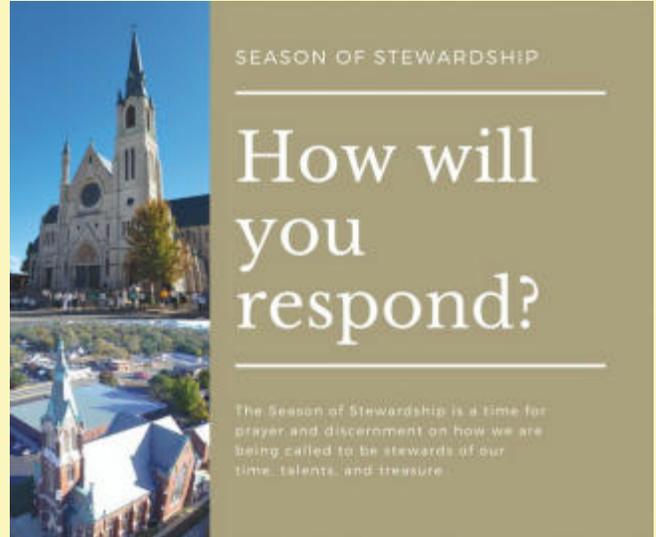
Mission Mass - This year's Mission Mass is scheduled for Wednesday, October 27 at 11am at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Springfield.

Illinois Right to Life Action cordially invites you to the 48th annual banquet which will be held on Friday, November 12 at 6pm at The Carlisle in Lombard. Rep. Avery Bourne will serve as master of ceremonies and former Illinois Supreme Court Chief Justice Robert Thomas will be our keynote speaker. For more information and to purchase tickets, go to <https://illinoisrighttolifeaction.org/actionbanquet/> or call (312)-422-9300. For questions, please contact Sarah Brown at sarah@IllinoisRightToLife.org.

Diocesan Season of Stewardship

We are excited to announce the kick-off to the annual Season of Stewardship! Stewardship is the grateful response of a Christian disciple who recognizes and receives God's gifts and shares these gifts in love of God and neighbor. Stewardship is a conversion of the heart, it is a way of life, and it requires us to reflect and pray on God's call to us. It is not easy! And, it is not a program or a fundraiser - it is who we are called to be!

The time to respond to God calling on you is here! This week you will have the opportunity to respond to how God is calling you! This Season of Stewardship calls us to pray, discern, change, and grow. We hope you will respond this week and send the Parish Offices your commitment.



Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time – 24 October 2021

Jeremiah 31:7-9. Psalm 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6. Hebrews 5:1-6. Mark 10:46-52.

Enlightened Sight. The blind man will not be silenced today. Insistently he calls on Jesus by name. He asks for pity; he asks for sight. Jesus makes it happen. Instead of returning home to a renewed life, he throws off his cloak and jumps into action and follows. Even when sightless, he saw with eyes of faith. Because of this encounter with Jesus, his insight is richer.

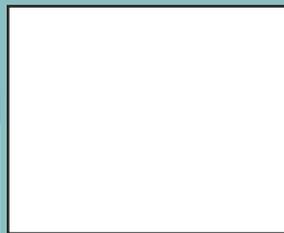
- What do I need to beg of Jesus? For myself? For someone else?
- How can I keep listening for Jesus already active in my life? In the lives of others?
- What 'cloak' that holds me back will I throw off to follow Jesus?

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