

Saint James

James

CATHOLIC CHURCH



4TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

In their synagogue was a man with an unclean spirit; he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!" Jesus rebuked him and said, "Quiet! Come out of him!" - Mk 1:23-25

*The community of Saint James,
in the spirit of hope and joyful love,
unites to provide a Catholic model
of serving God by worshipping,
evangelizing, educating and
ministering to the needs of all.*

January 31st, 2021
Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Weekend Mass Schedule

Saturday

7:30 am (First Saturdays Only)
4:00 pm

Sunday

7:30 am (Without Music)
10:00 am
12:00 pm (Spanish)

Rev. Brian Geary, Pastor

Rev. William Schuessler - In Residence

Permanent Deacons: Deacon James Olson
Deacon Steven Johnson

Parish Secretary: Diane Johnson

Bookkeeper: Patti Brenz

Director of Religious Education: Barbara Graybiel

Religious Education Secretary: Maria Lopez

Music Director: Christopher Aune

Parish Office

(815) 547-6397

Parish Fax (815) 547-0607

Religious Education Office (815) 547-7633

Religious Education Fax (815) 544-2294

Catholic Charities—Belvidere Office (815) 544-5434

St. Vincent de Paul Help Line (815) 547-7429

Parish website

stjamesbelvidere.org

Sacrament of Penance

Saturday

2:30-3:30 p.m.

Thursday

5:30-6:15 p.m.

First Saturdays

8:00—9:00 a.m.

or by appointment

Sacrament of Baptism

Parents need to be registered members of the parish, should be faithful in attending Mass, and are required to attend a Baptismal Preparation Class. The classes are offered in Connolly Hall (Church Basement) at the following times:

~ **First Saturday of each month at 10:00 a.m. in English** (please, no children at the class).

~ **Fourth Saturday of each month at 4:00 p.m. in Spanish** (Please, no children at the class).

The Sacrament of Baptism is celebrated on the following days:

~ **Third Saturday of each month at 10:00 a.m. in English**

~ **Second Saturday of each month at 10:00 a.m. in Spanish**

Please call the Parish Office to register for the class and Baptism.

Sacrament of Marriage

Arrangements should be made at least four months in advance of the proposed date. Wedding dates cannot be scheduled over the phone. Couples must meet with the parish priest to set their date and are required to participate in a marriage preparation program.

The Rosary is prayed each morning, Monday through Saturday, at 7:00 am (before the daily Mass).

Mass Intentions

Saturday, January 30, 2021—Blessed Virgin Mary

4:00 pm The People of St. James

Sunday, January 31, 2021—Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:30 am Jim Balentyne, Special Intention for Victoriana Morales, Aelosio Mendoza, Omar Reveles, & Sarai Morales
10:00 am Claude, Lucille, & Eugene Knapp
12:00 pm Antonio Luevano Reyes, & Maria Dionicia Garcia—SP

Monday, February 1, 2021—Weekday

7:30 am Aide Valdez†

Tuesday, February 2, 2021—The Presentation of the Lord

7:30 am Dick Balentyne†, Special Intention for Alicia Malone, & Rev. Bernard Mullan†,

Wednesday, February 3, 2021—Saint Blaise, Bishop and Martyr; Saint Ansgar, Bishop

7:30 am Ken Kohley†

Thursday, February 4, 2021—Weekday

7:30 am Ken Weis†
6:30 pm Jaime Gonzalez†-SP

Friday, February 5, 2021—Saint Agatha, Virgin and Martyr

7:30 am Alonso Perez†

Saturday, February 6, 2021—Saint Paul Miki and Companions, Martyrs, First Saturday

7:30 am June† & Joe† Moriarity
4:00 pm The Living & Deceased Members of the Council of Catholic Women

Sunday, February 7, 2021—Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:30 am The People of St. James
10:00 am John & Gloria Bednar; and Special Intention for Irena Nierzwicki and Jadwiga Sadowski
12:00 pm Hortencia Velasquez and Alberto Hernandez—SP



During these trying times, please pray the following prayer to St. Rocco, Patron of Contagion, Epidemics, and Illnesses.

This prayer invokes the aide of St. Rocco, a Catholic Saint and Confessor who was born in 1348 in France. He traveled to Italy during an epidemic of a plague and prayerfully effected numerous and miraculous healings throughout many cities in Italy. August 16th is his feast day; he was a Third Order of St. Francis member whose intercession was invoked especially during the Black Death period.

Prayer to St. Rocco

O great St. Rocco, deliver us, we beseech thee from the scourges of God; through thy intercession, preserve our bodies from contagious diseases, and the contagion of sin. Obtain for us salubrious air, but above all, the purity of heart. Assist us to make good use of health, to bear suffering with patience, and after thy example, to live in the practice of penance and charity, that we may one day enjoy the happiness which thou has merited by virtues, of being with Christ, our Savior, in Heaven.

St. Rocco, pray for us. St. Rocco pray for us, St. Rocco pray for us.



Project Rachel: Post-Abortion Healing Ministry

(815) 387-3379 // ProjectRachelRockford@gmail.com // www.hopeafterabortion.com

All inquiries are confidential.

Peace starts here.

An Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus,

I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul.

Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart.

I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You.

Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

“Walk with each other. Do not be afraid to embrace God’s gift of life. Whatever storms or trials we face, we are not alone. He is with us. ‘Behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age.’ (Matthew 28:20).”

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USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities
Respect Life Reflection: Be Not Afraid (respectlife.org/be-not-afraid)



2020 Guide Book & Directory

Do we have your CURRENT family membership correct in our records? If not, now is the time to update your records for publication in the annual **Guide Book & Directory**.

Have you changed your phone number? Have you moved? Are you preparing to move soon? Are all of your children still at home and included in your parish membership record? Do you want your information published in the Guide Book?

Please call the parish office at 815-547-6397 with any updates to your records so we may have correct information for the upcoming revised **Guide Book & Directory**.

Thank You!



From the Pastor's Desk

Praised be Jesus Christ!

As January, 2021, comes to a close (where there has been a lot of attention directed at pro-life activities), please remember that we, as members of the Catholic Church, are called to be defenders of *all* human life. We must continue to pray for the conversion of those who believe that life does not begin at the moment of conception. The following facts taken from the United States Council of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) article, "Another Look at Abortion," are just a few ways we *do* know that the child in his or her mother's womb *is* a growing child of God's creation:

"Uniquely You"

"From your first moments of existence, you had all the DNA that would determine your sex, facial features, physique, and the color of your skin, hair and eyes. At 24 days, your heart began beating. By 8 weeks, all your organs were present, and your unique fingerprints were forming. Ultrasounds show that by 18 weeks, you could swim, somersault, suck your thumb, and even cover your ears if you heard loud music. If you'd been born just 23 weeks after conception, your chance of survival would be 50-80 percent; by 25 weeks, it's over 90 percent, and that's still *months* before full-term birth.¹

Now, if someone takes an innocent person's life after he or she is born, it's against the law; just minutes before birth, it's legal in most states and called abortion. The only real difference is a declaration by the United States Supreme Court in *Roe v. Wade* (1973).

The Church has consistently taught that every human life is precious and worthy of protection. Every intentional abortion is gravely wrong.⁴ In April 2018, Pope Francis wrote: "Our defense of the innocent unborn ... needs to be clear, firm and passionate, for at stake is the dignity of a human life, which is always sacred and demands love for each person, regardless of his or her stage of development."⁵

The Church does not approach difficult pregnancy with a false 'either/or' mentality, pitting mother against child. For example a baby conceived in rape is not an aggressor deserving death by abortion. She is innocent, like her mother. They both deserve compassionate care and support, not more violence. Abortion doesn't bring healing or peace, but both can be found in the courageous decision to give birth to the baby.

What Are We to Do?

Love them both! Support women who need help during *and after* difficult pregnancies through the work of your diocesan Respect Life office and local pregnancy care centers. Educate yourself and others about the struggles some experience after abortion, and find out where to refer those seeking help at www.hopeafterabortion.org and most importantly, pray daily for the end to abortion, that all mothers and children experience the loving support of the church community, and all that suffer after abortion find healing and peace."

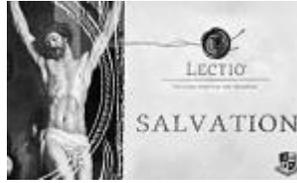
To read the entire article, please visit: usccb.org/committees/pro-life-activities/another-look-abortion.

God bless you,

Fr. Geary

¹"Fetal Development," Perinatology.com; <http://perinatology.com/Reference/Fetal%20development.htm>; J.L. Hopson, "Fetal Psychology," Psychology Today, Sept. 9, 1998 (last reviewed June 9, 2016); <https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/articles/199809/fetal-psychology>

⁵Pope Francis, Gaudete et Exsultate, (Libreria Editrice Vaticana), 101.



Christ's salvific work on the Cross was completely satisfactory, yet Scripture teaches us to work out our own salvation with fear and trembling. What exactly does salvation mean, and what does it *not* mean? Lent begins February 17th

and this is the perfect opportunity to make room for reflection on this, so great a salvation. Lectio Salvation is a remarkable 10-part video series in which Augustine Institute Scripture scholar and theologian, Michael Barber, provides a thorough, deeply Catholic, and deeply biblical, answer. This will be a digital Zoom group study held on Monday evenings February 22nd through March 29th. We will not meet during the Octave of Easter, but resume after that to complete the study. God willing ~ we will meet in person a couple times as well, for those desiring to do so. Please join us. Text 815-543-4738 with the word: "Salvation," your name and email address to register for links to join. Or, look for an opportunity to register to arrive in your email/text inbox this weekend as well.

**PLEASE REMEMBER
ST. JAMES CHURCH
IN YOUR WILL !**

"If God sends you many sufferings it is a sign that He has great plans for you, and certainly wants to make you a saint."

~ St. Ignatius of Loyola

Readings for the week of January 31, 2021

Sunday: Dt 18:15-20/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 7-9 [8]/1 Cor 7:32-35/
Mk 1:21-28
Monday: Heb 11:32-40/Ps 31:20, 21, 22, 23, 24 [25]/
Mk 5:1-20
Tuesday: Mal 3:1-4/Ps 24:7, 8, 9, 10 [8]/Heb 2:14-18/
Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22-32
Wednesday: Heb 12:4-7, 11-15/Ps 103:1-2, 13-14, 17-18a
[cf. 17]/Mk 6:1-6
Thursday: Heb 12:18-19, 21-24/Ps 48:2-3ab, 3cd-4, 9, 10-11
[cf. 10]/Mk 6:7-13
Friday: Heb 13:1-8/Ps 27:1, 3, 5, 8b-9abc [1a]/Mk 6:14-29
Saturday: Heb 13:15-17, 20-21/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 [1]/
Mk 6:30-34
Next Sunday: Jb 7:1-4, 6-7/Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 [cf. 3a]/
1 Cor 9:16-19, 22-23/Mk 1:29-39

Observances for the week of January 31, 2021

Sunday: 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time; Catholic Schools Week
Monday:
Tuesday: The Presentation of the Lord; World Day for Consecrated Life
Wednesday: St. Blaise, Bishop and Martyr; St. Ansgar, Bishop
Thursday:
Friday: St. Agatha, Virgin and Martyr
Saturday: St. Paul Miki and Companions, Martyrs
Next Sunday: 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time



WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER HAS GONE VIRTUAL !

“Brothers and sisters: I should like you to be free of anxieties.” There are many things to be anxious about in these days. Let us learn to calm the anxieties in our life by learning how to communicate better on a:

Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend

The next virtual experience is during Lent, February 18th thru March 31st, once per week for approximately two hours per session. Visit our website at: alifetimeoflove.org or call (888) 574-5653.

Para un fin de semana en español por favor llamen a Candelario y Emilia al 815-375-4250.

“The glorious St. Simeon also was very happy... to carry Him as did Our Lady... we do this when we endure with love the labours and pains He sends us, that is to say, when the love which we bear to the Law of God makes us find His yoke easy and pleasing, so that we love these pains and labours, and gather sweetness in the midst of bitterness.

This is nothing else but to carry Our Lord in our arms. Now if we carry Him in this way, He will, without doubt, Himself carry us.”

~ St. Francis de Sales (1567-1622) Doctor of the Church

Compassion Closet

**First Presbyterian Church
St. James Catholic Church**

The *Compassion Closet* is always in need of items for regular food boxes which are distributed year round.

The cost to fill one box is approximately \$25.00.
Items needed for the regular food boxes are:

- | | | |
|-------------------|----------------------|--|
| Saltine Crackers | Ramen Noodles | Jelly |
| Jell-O or Pudding | Chili with Beans | Macaroni & Cheese |
| Spaghetti Noodles | Hormel Dinners | Tuna |
| Pork & Beans | Creamy Peanut Butter | Canned Spaghetti with Meatballs/ Ravioli |
| Cookie/Crackers | Spaghetti Sauce | Fruit Cocktail |

- Microwave Popcorn
- Teriyaki Noodle Microwave Meal
- Soup
- Knorr Rice Side Meal
- Cans of Vegetables

Monetary donations are also appreciated—checks can be made payable to: **First Presbyterian Church**. Food donations can be dropped off at First Presbyterian Church, 221 N. Main St., Monday thru Thursday from 6:00 a.m. until noon.



Men’s Beatitude Series: Session 6 “Blessed Are the Merciful,” will be the topic of our Zoom men’s discussion early this Saturday morning, 2/6/2021. The merciful shall obtain mercy, and who does not need that? Grab your coffee and join us at

6:30 AM. Text the words “Men’s group,” your name and email address to 815-543-4738 and we will add you to the list of those receiving the links.

Money Matters

Weekend of January 24, 2021, Contributions:.....\$8,721.79

Thank You and God Bless You for your generous support of St. James Church!

ONLINE GIVING

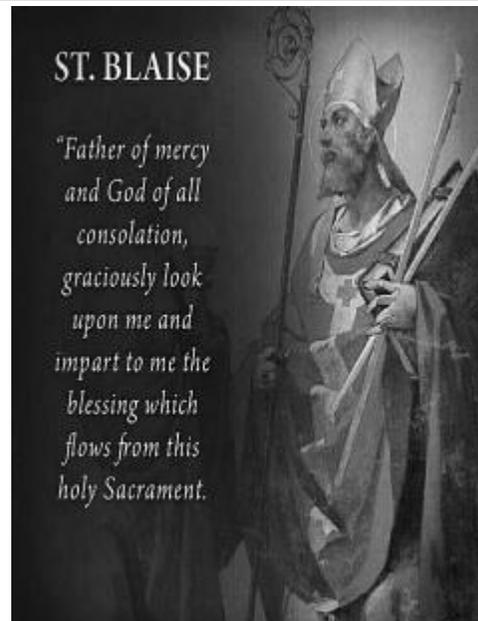
With so much uncertainty regarding the COVID-19 virus, and increasing recommendations to avoid crowds and take proper safety precautions, we wanted to remind you that Online Giving is available for you to make contributions to the church. This option makes use of current technology and security standards and allows you to easily setup recurring contributions. It also enables our church to take advantage of new tools to become more efficient.

Online Giving is intended to be a convenient tool for you to use, and we strongly support both Online Giving and Offering Envelopes for contributions to the parish. Online Giving is the electronic way to participate in weekly offertory. **Start giving online today!**

Visit our church website at www.stjamesbelvidere.org and click on the online giving link.

1. Create an account
2. Schedule your recurring gifts.

Online Giving is provided by *Our Sunday Visitor*, a Catholic not-for-profit organization serving parishes for more than 100 years.



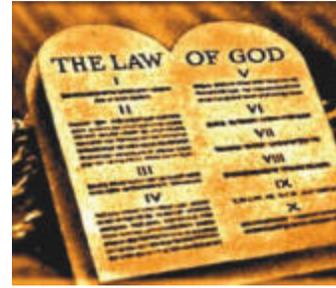


Mary's Messages

~ Walk With Mary ~

As we enter into a new year not knowing what the future holds, let us remember what Mary tells us. She has said to live each moment with Her without thinking about tomorrow, without even worrying about what you must do. She says, "I will guide you by the hand each moment." How reassuring to walk with Her as She leads us gently to Her Son. Keep Mary at your side and pray the Rosary every day.

Source: Marian Movement of Priests, Excerpts from March 15, 1975



God's Law - First Written In Stone, Then Within Our Hearts.

Thankfully, the Church teaches us to uphold the **Ten Commandments** given by God to Moses on Mount Sinai. Like guardrails on the narrow path to heaven, they provide clear guidance for what we ought to do and what we ought not to do.

In the New Covenant, the Lord raises the bar on right living by taking us into the roots of our actions, into our hearts, into our very being. We see this on full display in the Sermon on the Mount, and particularly in what we call the Beatitudes.

Join us this Tuesday at 6:30 PM in Connolly Hall as Fr. Geary leads us in discussion on these two pillars of Catholic morality. Social Distancing Practiced. Masks Required.

Questions about preparing for any of the sacraments of initiation for adults? Please call 815-543-4738.



PLEASE PRAY . . .

For the times we are afraid to welcome life:

May the Lord fill our hearts with confidence in His loving care and provide for every need.

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