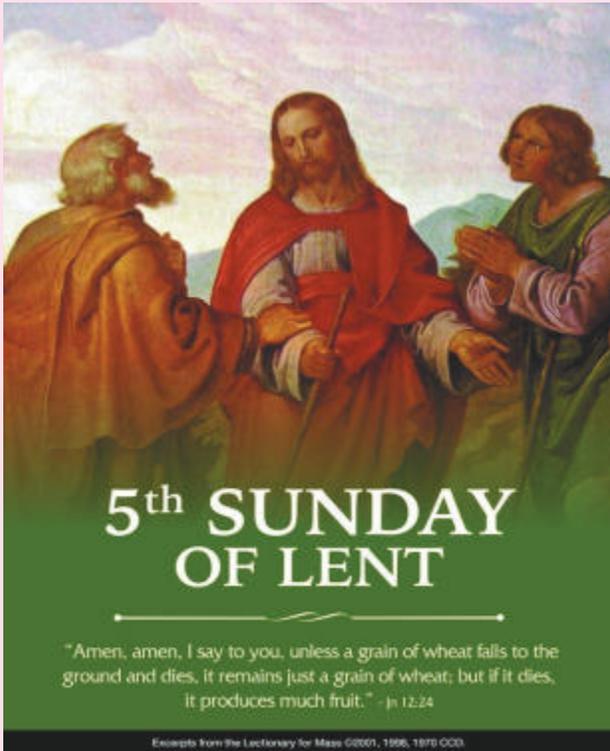


Saint James

CATHOLIC CHURCH



*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.*

**March 21, 2021
5th Sunday of Lent**

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, March 20, 2021—Lenten Weekday—

First Saturday

4:00 pm Lorraine Doran; Marty Marcuccilli

Sunday, March 21, 2021—Fifth Sunday of Lent

7:30 am Rob Salley

10:00 am Joan Dobson; Special Intention for

Joe Spataro

12:00 pm The People of St. James—SP

Monday, March 22, 2021—Lenten Weekday

7:30 am Patricia Askin Gravunder†

Tuesday, March 23, 2021—Saint Turibius of Mogrovejo, Bishop

7:30 am Special Intention for Alan & Kim Bednar; Bob Lacke†

Wednesday, March 24, 2021—Lenten Weekday

7:30 am Marvin Wilson†(Anniversary)

Thursday, March 25, 2021—The Annunciation of the Lord

7:30 am Gail Johnson†

6:30 pm Special Intention for the Members of the C.C. Mullane Family; Francisca Ruiz—SP

Friday, March 26, 2021—Lenten Weekday

7:30 am Special Intention for Bryant Smotherman

Saturday, March 27, 2021—Lenten Weekday

4:00 pm The People of St. James

Sunday, March 28, 2021—PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

7:30 am Special Intention for Skip and Mary Peterson

10:00 am Ivan Schrader; Rev. Bernard Mullane

12:00 pm Edgar Jimenez; Ana Maria Garcia and Ignacio Avitia—SP



LENTEN REGULATIONS

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days for fast and abstinence. Fridays of Lent are also days of abstinence.

FASTING is to be observed by all, 18 years of age and older, who have not yet celebrated their 59th birthday. On a fast day, one full meal is allowed. Two other meals, sufficient to maintain strength, may be taken according to each one's needs, but together they should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals is not permitted, but liquids, including milk and juices, are allowed.

ABSTINENCE is observed by all, 14 years of age and older. On days of abstinence, no meat is allowed. Note that when health or ability to work would be seriously affected, the law does not oblige. When in doubt concerning fast and abstinence, the parish priest should be consulted. (CCL, Nos. 1251-1252)

Fasting, almsgiving, and prayer are the three traditional disciplines of Lent. The faithful and catechumens should undertake these practices seriously in a spirit of penance and of preparation for baptism or of renewal of baptism at Easter.



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.



ALMSGIVING DURING LENT

In reference to sacrificing and “Almsgiving,” Lent is a good time to bring to mind the seven *Corporal Works of Mercy*. During Lent, look for items here on the Works of Mercy and sacrificing to help enable us to be the stewards God intended.

Suggestions from the USCCB:

SHELTER THE HOMELESS

“There are many circumstances that could lead to someone becoming a person without a home. Christ encourages us to go out and meet those without homes, affirming their worth and helping them seek a resolution to challenges they face.

- * See if your parish or diocese is involved with a local homeless shelter and volunteer some time.
- * Donate time or money to organizations that build homes for those who need shelter.
- * Many homeless shelters need warm blankets for their beds. If you can knit or sew that would be an extra loving gift.
- * There are millions of children and families who are on the move, fleeing from war, illness, hunger, and impossible living conditions, and searching for peace and safety. Engage parish groups of children, youth, young adults, and families in doing some research on the causes and challenges that these families face to survive. Contact Catholic Social Services, or diocesan offices of peace and justice for help with your research. Seek ways to provide shelter for the homeless locally, regionally, nationally or internationally.”

~USCCB.org/beliefs-and-teachings/how-we-teach/new-evangelization/jubilee-of-mercy/the-corporal-works-of-mercy

“We must fast with our whole heart, that is to say, willing, wholeheartedly, universally and entirely.”

~ St. Francis de Sales



From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Parishioners of St. James:

Praised be Jesus Christ!

Wednesday, March 24th, is the annual *Be Reconciled* day where between 8:00 am—6:00 pm a priest will be available to hear your confession at St. James Church. This day is geared especially to those who have been away from the Sacrament of Penance for one year or more.

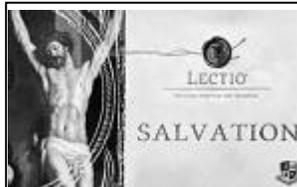
Knowing that a priest will be available all day next Wednesday, hopefully will inspire people to be forgiven of their sins by just coming to the church at a convenient time that day. Jesus waits for you. He wants to share His infinite mercy with you. Jesus died so that your sins could be forgiven in the Sacrament of mercy and reconciliation. Please give your sins to Jesus so that He may heal you. We all need healing.

If you don't know how to go to Confession or what to say, we will have written guides and materials available so that you can make a good Confession. We will follow all safety protocols so that you can feel comfortable. Please wear a face covering.

The Season of Lent reminds us of our own mortality. Our life on earth is short. Eternity is forever. Be reconciled to God while there is still time. The Lord wants to show you His unfathomable mercy.

God bless you,

Fr. Geary



Are you looking for a study loaded with Scripture? This is what you find in a Lectio study. **Lectio Salvation** Study meets this Monday, March 27th, at 6:30 PM on Zoom. The series addresses many common misconceptions about salvation as a means of arriving at a greater understanding of why we profess that it was for us men, and our salvation, that Christ came down from heaven. If you'd like to attend any or all of the sessions, please, join us. Text 815-543-4738 with the word: "Salvation," your name and email address to register for links to join.

Fulfilling Our Promise Campaign As of March 15, 2021	
Amount We Still Owe.....	\$ 1,299,443.20
Interest We Have Paid.....	\$ 952,776.10
Principal We Have Paid.....	\$ 3,158,415.29
Total Interest + Principal We Have Paid...	\$ 4,111,191.39

PLEASE REMEMBER
ST. JAMES CHURCH IN YOUR WILL !

"If you are humble nothing will touch you, neither praise nor disgrace, because you know what you are."
~ Saint Mother Teresa

Readings for the week of March 21, 2021

- Sunday: Jer 31:31-34/Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 14-15 [12a]/Heb 5: 7-9/Jn 12:20-33 or Ez 37:12-14/Rom 8:8-11/Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8 [7]/Jn 11:1-45 or 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45
- Monday: Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 or 13:41c-62/Ps 2 3:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 [4ab]/Jn 8:1-11
- Tuesday: Nm 21:4-9/Ps 102:2-3, 16-18, 19-21 [2]/Jn 8:21-30
- Wednesday: Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95/Dn 3:52, 53, 54, 55, 56 [52b]/Jn 8:31-42
- Thursday: Is 7:10-14; 8:10/Ps 40:7-8, 8-9, 10, 11 [8a, 9a]/Heb 10:4-10/Lk 1:26-38
- Friday: Jer 20:10-13/Ps 18:2-3a, 3bc-4, 5-6, 7 [cf. 7]/ Jn 10:31-42
- Saturday: Ez 37:21-28/Jer 31:10, 11-12abcd, 13 [cf. 10d]/ Jn 11:45-56
- Next Sunday: Mk 11:1-10 or Jn 12:12-16/Is 50:4-7/Ps 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24 [2a]/Phil 2:6-11/Mk 14: 1—15:47 or 15:1-39

Observances for the week of March 21, 2021

- Sunday: 5th Sunday of Lent
- Tuesday: St. Turibius of Mogrovejo, Bishop
- Wednesday: The Annunciation of the Lord
- Thursday: The Annunciation of the Lord
- Friday: Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord;
- Saturday: Holy Week begins
- Next Sunday: Holy Week begins

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Stations of the Cross

Stations of the Cross will be held in St. James Church each Friday during Lent through Friday, March 26, 2021.

Stations in English at 5:30 pm
Stations in Spanish at 7:00 pm

PLEASE PRAY . . .

That all who suffer from the wounds of abortion will be filled with the hope that does not disappoint.

Money Matters

Weekend of March 14, 2021, Contributions:.....\$11,362.00

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



The Knights of Columbus Is Sponsoring
Carryout, Drive-Up Only,

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OPEN TO THE PUBLIC !!!

Fridays, March 12th thru March 26th
4:00—7:00 p.m.

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**Thank you for Supporting the Knights of Columbus
and St. James Church!**



Our Men's Study Group will meet in person in Connolly Hall on Saturday, March 27th, at 6:30 AM. We are using *True Reformers* on Formed—a look at the great Saints whom God has used to reform the Church. This session will be on *St. Charles Borromeo, the Good Shepherd*. God is raising up new saints now, too, in this time of great need in our Church to restore a moral voice to our society, and to cling fast to and proclaim Truth. Are you one of them? Please join us. Social Distancing practiced. Bring your own coffee is desired.

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.



Featured on FORMED Now, live each weekday at noon at FORMED.org, but posted for viewing on your own time as well. This 4-part series on St. Joseph is filled with lots of gems. Session 1, 2, & 3 have been posted with #4 to follow. Use the Search function to find it along with the Litany of St. Joseph.

Also available on FORMED for Lent:

St. Alphonsus Liguori's Stations of the Cross
Surrender Novena
Brother Francis "Lent"
Brother Francis "Stations of the Cross"

Nearly 5,000 other options available. Catholic movies, audios, video studies, documentaries, audio dramas, e-books and more, over 4,000 titles on FORMED, for free, for all ages, with many Spanish titles, too. Go to formed.org/signup, enter our zip: 61008, click on the parish name and complete the registration. View on any browser, Roku device, Apple TV, or download the app onto your phone or tablet.

Our Role in Society

We were created for the next world, but for the time being, we live and act in the present world. While we are here, we have an obligation to continue the work that Jesus began, to make present His Kingdom on earth as it is in heaven. This Tuesday we will discuss the call to holiness, that when lived in true charity sanctifies all that we do and all those that we encounter in this world. Please join Fr. Geary as we meet in Connolly Hall at 6:30 pm this Tuesday. Social Distancing Practiced. Masks Required. Questions about preparing for any of the sacraments of initiation for adults? Call the church office at 815-547-6397



Help after Abortion: Have you lost a child to abortion? Are you experiencing feelings of shame, guilt, regret, and sadness? Contact the Project Rachel Post-Abortion Healing Ministry for confidential referrals to trained clergy,

professional counselors, retreats and/or information on steps to healing: (815) 387-3379 or ProjectRachelRockford@gmail.com. Visit www.hopeafterabortion.org. Peace starts here.

Project Rachel Upcoming 2021 Retreat Dates

- ◆ **July 23-25—Spanish—Diocese of Peoria, Peoria, IL**
Contact: Colleen Harmon—309-264-1489
rvrpeoria@gmail.com
- ◆ **Sept. 24-26—English—Diocese of Peoria, Peoria, IL**
Contact: Colleen Harmon—309-264-1489
rvrpeoria@gmail.com
- ◆ **Nov. 12-14—English—Diocese of Madison, Baraboo, WI**
Contact: Mary Mead—608-221-9593
meadmt@sbcglobal.net

“To celebrate the Gospel of life means to celebrate the God of life, the God who gives life . . . In every child which is born and in every person who lives or dies we see the image of God's glory. We celebrate this glory in every human being, a sign of the living God, an icon of Jesus Christ.”

~ (The Gospel of Life 86)



Fraternal Benefit Night—Virtual Webinar
by Award-Winning Author, Tom Hegna

March 23, 2021
6:30 p.m.

PAY CHECKS AND PLAY CHECKS

You are invited to join our webinar where Tom will share his mathematically and scientifically proven approach that will enable you to create a secure retirement, no matter how long you live.

Attendance Limited—Must Pre-Register

Pre-register to ensure your spot! Contact Ken Basel with your name, email, phone and parish name at: kenneth.basel@kofc.org or

Respect Life

Due to ongoing restrictions because of COVID-19, in lieu of the “Baby Bottle” campaign held during Lent each year, this year the Respect Life group welcomes monetary donations in a slightly different way. When donating, please put your donations in a sealed envelope marked “Respect Life” which can either be placed in the Sunday collection baskets during Mass or dropped off at the parish office during office hours. Checks may be made payable to “St. James Church” with “Respect Life” noted in the check’s memo section.
Thank You!

DIVINE MERCY PRINT



If you would like a free 10” x 18” canvas Divine Mercy Vilnius print, please call the parish office at 815-547-6397, and we will take your name and telephone number and notify you when the prints are available.

Thank You!



Have you ever heard the term, “To Jesus through Mary” and wondered what it means? Do you want to learn how to evangelize to others?

The Legion of Mary teaches you how to get closer to Jesus by going through His Mother. Our Lady invites each of us to come to her so she can lead us closer to her Son and bring Him to others.

Come to a Legion of Mary meeting to learn more. Both men and women are invited. We have two groups that normally meet in Connolly Hall weekly at St. James Church, and we are looking for new members!

For Monday morning meetings at 8:30 a.m. contact: Dee Sternhagen at 815-312-8703 or Wednesday evening meetings at 6:30 p.m. Contact: Joyce Wilson at 815-547-6683.

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