



THE HOLY FAMILY

He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them; and his mother kept all these things in her heart. And Jesus advanced in wisdom and age and favor before God and man. - Lk 2:51-52

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1979 CCO

St. James R.C. Church December 26, 2021 The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Weekday Masses

Monday – Saturday: 8:00 am

Sunday Masses

Saturday: 5:00 pm (Youth)*

*live streamed & taped for viewing on our website and FB pages

Sunday: 8:00 am, 9:30 am (Family), 11:30am (Choir)

Holy Days of Obligation

Vigil: 7:30 pm

Day: 8:00am, 12 Noon

Special Needs Mass:

Second Saturday of the month at 1:00pm (Sept-May)

Nocturnal Adoration:

First Friday of the Month, 7:30-8:30pm

Reconciliation

Saturdays 4:00 – 4:45 pm or by appointment

Rev. Robert Kuznik, Pastor

frrobert@stjamessetauket.org (ext. 322)

Rev. Robert Scheckenback, Assoc. Pastor

frbob@stjamessetauket.org (ext. 320)

Dcn. Louis and Mrs. Eileen Anetrella

Rev. John Fitzgerald, in residence

Rev. Mike S. Ezeatu, in residence (ext. 326)

Business Manager: Todd Bradshaw(ext.312)

Dir. of Outreach: Kathy Vaeth (ext. 313)

Dir. of Faith Formation: Louise DiCarlo

(ext. 329) Admin. Asst. Joanmarie Zipman (ext. 328)

Finance Manager: Theresa Ellner (ext. 335)

Music Co-Director: Richard Foley (631) 806.1794

Music Co-Director: Miriam Salerno (516)

263.5173

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

(RCIA): Ueli Laeng (631)941.4141

Parish Receptionists:

Carol Modugno (M-Th)

Nnebundo Obi (Sat)

Parish Facilities Supervisor: Jeff Fallon

Please visit our parish website (www.stjamessetauket.org) for the latest parish information as well as weekly homilies and virtual weekly Masses. Visit the diocesan website (www.DRVC.org) for diocesan news and schedule of virtual Masses.

429 Route 25A, Setauket, New York 11733-3829

Parish Office: (631) 941.4141

Fax: (631) 751.6607

Faith Formation Office: (631) 751.7287

Email: parish@stjamessetauket.org

Website: www.stjamessetauket.org

Office Hours: M-F 9am-4pm (closed for lunch 12-12:30)

Sat. 9am-2pm

2021 Mission Statement

We, the Catholic community of the Three Village area, formed as the Body of Christ through the waters of Baptism, are a pilgrim community journeying toward the fullness of the Kingdom of God, guided by the Holy Spirit, nourished by the Eucharist and formed by the Gospel.

We strive to respond to Jesus' invitation: to be faithful and fruitful disciples; to be a Good Samaritan to (our) neighbor and enemy; stewards of and for God's creation and living witnesses of Faith, Hope and Charity ... so that in Jesus' name, we may be a welcoming community, respectful of life in all its diversities.



**MASS INTENTIONS
FOR THE WEEK OF
DECEMBER 26, 2021**

Sunday, December 26

8am Ezio Stefani
9:30am Christmas Mass Remembrance
11:30am Our parishioners living and deceased, Kevin Hewitt, Donna Marie Panzella, Jojo LaRosa, Patricia Matovich

Monday, December 27

8am Arlene Murtha

Tuesday, December 28

8am

Wednesday, December 29

8am

Thursday, December 30

8am

Friday, December 31

8am

7pm

Saturday, January 1

8am

Sunday, January 2

8am
9:30am
11:30am

*Thank you for giving of your time,
talent and treasure*

COLLECTION UPDATE

***Merry Christmas and Peace in the New Year!
Our collection update information will return
after the holidays.***

Please consider making your weekly donations on-line by enrolling at **faith.direct/ny997**.

Doing so enables our ministries to continue to meet the physical and spiritual needs of those in our parish family as well as the larger community who have been impacted by COVID19 and related job losses.

E-giving simplifies your giving and provides consistent support to the parish. **To provide additional assistance, please select the "offset fee option" when setting up your donation, which will help reduce our expenses.**

If you require assistance with the process, please call the parish office (Tuesday 9am-1pm or Friday 9:30-12pm) and make an appointment to set up your Faith Direct on-line giving account.

Enroll today at: www.faithdirect.net



MEMORIAL OPPORTUNITIES

The Parish of St. James is pleased to provide a number of ways in which our parishioners can memorialize their loved ones. In addition to the celebration of a Mass in their name, parishioners are invited to consider a memorial donation of the bread and wine or altar flowers for the week. The name(s) of your loved one(s) will appear in the bulletin for that week.

In the rear of our church (25A side), near the statue of the Holy Family, you will find a set of candles that offers a top row that can be lit for one year, and holds a plaque showing the name of the person for whom the candle is lit. The offering for a memorial candle is \$250. Please stop by the rectory office or call 631.941.4141 during normal business hours when one of our secretaries will be happy to provide you with additional information on all of these memorial opportunities.

Pope's Intention for Evangelization

Catechists. Let us pray for the catechists, summoned to announce the Word of God; may they be its witnesses, with courage and creativity and in the power of the Holy Spirit.



*Welcome to the
Parish of St. James*

No matter your present or past status in the Catholic Church; **No** matter your current family or marital situation; **No** matter your past or present affiliation; **No** matter your personal history, age, background, race or color, you are invited, welcomed and accepted at St. James RC Church.

If you are new to the area, we invite you to choose St. James as your parish family.

PARISH INFORMATION

Sacraments

Baptism: Two Sundays per month at 1:30 pm.
Please contact the office after the fourth month of pregnancy to make arrangements.

Holy Matrimony: Please contact the office at least nine months before your desired date.

Anointing of the Sick: By request

Pastoral Council: Mrs. Roni Groth, Mr. John Holownia, Mrs. Josephine Prokop, Mr. Fred Sawicki, Mr. Michael Vaeth, Mrs. Judi Wallace

Parish Finance Committee: Mr. Edward Gutleber, Chair; Mr. Todd Bradshaw (*Business Manager*) Mrs. Theresa Ellner (*Financial Manager*), Mr. Robert Freaso, (*Parish Trustee*), Mr. Thomas Powers (*Parish Trustee*), Mr. Matthew Berger, Mr. Christopher McGeever, Mrs. Judi Wallace

Prayer Opportunities

Nocturnal Adoration: First Fridays 7:30 — 8:30 pm

Recitation of the Scriptural Rosary: Monday to Saturday after the 8am Mass

Ministries:

Alpha: Mrs. Roni Groth, Mrs. Barbara Jaeckel
Bereavement Ministry: Ms. Catherine Horgan, Mr. Dennis Reardon (*please call 631.941.4141 x341*)
Camino Café Ministry: Mrs. Sallie Culloton, Mrs. Doreen Corrado
Choir: Mr. Richard Foley, Mrs. Miriam Salerno
Sat 5pm Teen, Sun 9:30am Youth, Sun. 11:30am Adult
Christ in the Marketplace: Mr. Jack Herr (*631.941.4141*)
CYO Board: Mr. Charles Arasi, Chair; Mrs. Samantha Bradshaw, Mr. John Case, Mr. Patrick (Pat) Tunstead
Eucharistic Ministry to Homebound Parishioners:
If you or anyone you know is homebound and would like to receive the Eucharist at home, please call 631.941.4141
Fertility Care Services: Helen McCarthy, R.Ph, PharmD, CFCPI (*htmccarthy@optonline.net or 631.455.4137*)
Knights of Columbus, Mother Teresa of Calcutta Council #12006:
Grand Knight, Mr. John Yantz
Laudato Si Environmental Ministry: Mr. Robert Becherer
Liturgy Committee: Ms. Louise DiCarlo
Liturgical Ministries: EMHC-Mrs. Kathy Brown, Mrs. Mary Berretta
Readers: Mrs. Peggie McHugh Eletto
Altar Servers: Mrs. Judi Wallace, Peter Morelli, MD
Ushers/Greeters: Mr. Robert Freaso
Men's Monthly Breakfast Gathering:
Ministry of Consolation: Mrs. Carol Simco
Nocturnal Adoration: Mr. Eric Waxman (631) 689.9759
Our Daily Bread: (631)941.4141 x 350 ODB@stjamessetauket.org
Parish Bulletin and Website: Editor, Ms. Catherine Horgan
Contact rectory office 631.941.4141
Parish Liturgical Environment Committee:
Contact rectory office 631.941.4141
Pre-Cana Ministry: Mr. and Mrs. Diane and James Santangelo
Contact rectory office 631.941.4141
RCIA: Mr. and Mrs. Lorraine and Ueli Laeng
Contact the rectory office 631.941.4141
Respect Life Committee of St. James: Mr. Eric Waxman
631.689.9759.
Rosary Altar Society of St. James: Mrs. Patricia Raptoulis at
631.473.3561
Spiritual Direction: Mr. Ueli Laeng *Please call the rectory office 631.941.4141*
St. James Rosary Makers: Mrs. Mary DiBenedetto 631.236.8899
St. James Vigil Ministry: Ms. Louise DiCarlo
Wedding Facilitators: Mrs. Maureen Denzler, Mrs. Chris Weisman
Women's Scripture Study: Mrs. Cathy Roberts SJA 631.689.2645



Parish Policy

Please be reminded that as a matter of policy, any and all events, conferences, meetings, plays, sporting events, fundraising efforts, etc. must have the expressed, written permission of the pastor (or his designee) before plans can be finalized. The parish is a legal entity with certain obligations that must be considered prior to approval of events. This includes the use of the name St. James in any way, shape or form, explicitly or implicitly. Contracts with outside vendors, speakers or service providers cannot be signed by anyone other than the pastor or his designee.



Join us in praying the Holy Rosary after the 8am Mass every 1st Saturday.

"I promise to assist at the hour of death, with the graces necessary for salvation, all who on the First Saturday of five consecutive months, confess their sins, receive Holy Communion, recite five decades of the Rosary, and keep me company for fifteen minutes while meditating on the mysteries of the Rosary, with the purpose of making reparation to my Immaculate Heart."

Sunday, December 26

READINGS AND OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK of December 26 The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Monday, December 27

St. John, Apostle and Evangelist

1 Jn 1:1-4/Jn 20:1a,2-8

Tuesday, December 28

The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

1 Jn 1:5-2:2/Mt 2:13-18

Wednesday, December 29

Fifth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord,

St. Thomas Becket, Bishop, Martyr

1 Jn 2:3-11/Lk 2:22-35

Thursday, December 30

Sixth Day within the Octave of the Lord

1 Jn 2:12-17/Lk 2:36-40

Friday, December 31

Seventh Day within the Octave of the Lord

St. Sylvester I, Pope

1 Jn 2:18-21/Jn 1:1-18

Saturday, January 1

Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God

Nm 6:22-27/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21

In compliance with Diocesan policy from the Office for the Protection of Children & Young People, (516) 678.5800, ext. 573: If you suspect any child abuse, first contact Child Protective Services at (800) 342.3720 and then contact the Diocesan Hotline at (516) 594.9063. If you believe **someone is in immediate danger**, call Suffolk County Police at 911.



Mother Teresa Council

"Be faithful in the small things....for it is in them that your strength lies"



~Mother Teresa~



Take twenty minutes out of your day to pray the rosary and you will see the difference it will make in your life.



O COME LET US ADORE HIM

The nearly 100 members of Mother Teresa Council of the Knights of Columbus wish you and your loved ones a very safe and blessed Christmas weekend. May the Baby Jesus always remain as an important part of your life.



As a practicing Catholic man, if you'd like to get involved with our Council as a proud Knight, call Fred @ 631.751.7375 about joining this fraternal service organization, whose guiding principles are charity, unity, fraternity, and patriotism. Or, you may join the organization as an online member by visiting www.kofc.org and elect to join into our Council at a later date.



Greetings from the St. James Rosary Altar Society

The Rosary Altar Society updates:

The Rosary Altar Society wishes everyone a very blessed and Merry Christmas and a healthy and Happy New Year!

Our officers are planning our Meetings and Events Calendar for the 2022 season. We welcome membership ideas and suggestions for the new season.

There will be **NO** meeting in January. Our next meeting is on Tuesday, February 1, 2022.

You will be updated as to upcoming Meetings and Events through December and January. Be sure to keep updated through this RAS bulletin announcements and emails.

The Rosary Altar Society is a Ministry of Church of St. James open to the ladies of our parish. We look forward to new members and assure you of friendship and a time to enjoy each other's company.

To become a Rosary Altar Society member, please call Pat Raptoulis @ 631-473-3561

"Let us live as the Blessed Virgin lived: loving God only, desiring God only, trying to please God only in all that we do". St John Vianney

A Note from the Laudato Si Ministry

POLYSTYRENEFOAM BAN UPDATE

Effective January 1 2022, no covered food service provider or store (retail or wholesale) will be allowed to sell, offer for sale, or distribute disposable food service containers that contain expanded polystyrene foam in New York State. In addition, no manufacturer or store will be allowed to sell, offer for sale, or distribute polystyrene loose fill packaging (commonly referred to as packing peanuts) in the State.

<https://www.dec.ny.gov/press.html>

<https://dec.ny.gov/regulations/123704.html>

This regulation should greatly reduce, if not completely eliminate, the use of expanded polystyrene in New York State.

The Laudato Si Environmental Ministry enthusiastically supports the action of the New York State Government in enacting this regulation.



"Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus."

I Thessalonians 5:16-18

Pray for Our Sick

Please pray for all members of the parish family, especially :

Elvira Aliota, Julia Balzarno-Maglio, Robert Banish, Mary Barretta, Ronald Blasius, Roberta Brown, Glenn Buro, Keith Buro, Michael Carpenter, Carol Cirillo, John Dahl, Brian Darmody, Camille DiCarlo, Baby Charlotte Dwyer, Mary Fredericks, Arleen Gargiulo, Lauren Giordano, Emma Giuliano, Tom Giuliano, Lettie Graham, Steven Gynp, Kevin Hammer, Caleb Hernandez, Nicole Juliano, Baby Kennedy, Geraldine Ketteridge, June Klein, Allan Krotz, Sr., George LaBriola, Jr., Marty Lindblad, Mary Maio, Kayla Marianetti, Rudy Mazurczak, Diane McDonald, John McGarvey, Tom McHugh, Gianna Morelli, Brian Newman, Dcn. Wayne Padula, Christine El Qadah, Gloria Ruppert, Rose Sangiamo, Debby Saunders, Linda Shannon, Brady Spennato, John Stone, William Sullivan, MaryAnn Trombetta, Anya Vulpis, Adelaide Marie Wardrope, Christine Wall, Robert Whitcomb

May they and their families, have health, strength and peace in you, O Lord. Amen.



Pray for Our Military Personnel

Please remember in prayer all of the men and women from our parish and country who serve so selflessly in our Armed Forces.

Keep them, their families, friends and loved ones in prayer as they serve our country at home and on foreign soil.

*U.S. Marine Corp. 1st Lieutenant Kyle Antonucci
U.S. Army, SPC Patrick Buckley
U.S. Army Lt. Colonel Erika Holownia
U.S. Army Major Gregory C. Holownia, USA
U.S. Navy SHSN Quintin Lawrence Hurley
U.S. Army, PFC Brandon Leap
U.S. Sergeant Spec. Joseph Mandel, USA
U.S. Air Force SrA Sean T. Murray
U.S. Air Force Capt. Nicole Nowling
U.S. Army, Lt. Daniel Roberts
USMC 1st Lt. Brendan Rose, USA
USMC Lance Corp. Aeon Soler
U.S. Army Major Eric D. Waxman, USA*



In light of the public health emergency surrounding the COVID 19 outbreak, let us continue to pray to St. Raphael the Archangel:

Because you are the "medicine of God" we humbly pray to you to calm our fears and anxieties, and to grant healing to those suffering from the Corona virus; offer your protection and strength to those in the medical professions offering care to those so afflicted.

May we trust in the Lord, who is our Shepherd, as we walk through this valley of "fear and death", in this time of darkness. May we be anointed in the Spirit's love and ask that you always direct us in the way of peace, health and salvation. Amen.

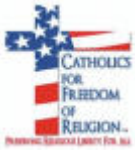
New Year's Schedule at St. James 2021

*Please note the following schedule of Masses
New Year's Eve and Day*

*New Year's Eve, Friday, December 31: 5pm in the church
7pm in the church "Gentle Eve" Mass ***

*New Year's Day, Saturday, January 1: 8am in the church
Please note there will be NO 5 pm Mass on January 1.*

*** indicates the Mass will be live-streamed on our webpage and Facebook page.*



Nativity Displays at State Capitals on the Rise

The American Nativity Scene organization, in its 9th year of partnership with the Thomas More Society, a religious-liberty law firm, are helping groups of private citizens across the nation to display Biblical manger scenes on government property again this Christmas. This year, 40 state capital sites are participating in a 25% increase from last Christmas and nearly double the number from 2018.

Since 2013, with funding from an angel donor, the group has shipped more than 400 Nativity scenes for display at state capitals, city hall buildings and public parks. The group provides two-foot-high figures depicting the baby Jesus, Mary, Joseph, and an angel. Local groups provide a manger and straw, then work with the staff at the government venues to obtain any needed permits.

"The ability to do this is a good response to what has happened in society the last couple of years," said Ed O'Malley, president of the American Nativity Scene in Illinois. "One of the benefits is the people and their enthusiasm with it and their excitement about the opportunity to do something to freely exercise our faith in the public square. That alone, I think, is important for our country and our world that we can do that. Not every place in the world can let you do that, but here, that's the First Amendment, the free exercise of religious speech."⁽¹⁾

Residents and visitors to New York City will once again be inspired by a life-size nativity scene in Central Park, on a piece of public property in front of the Plaza Hotel on 5th Ave. The Catholic League has erected this display for decades. Their president, Bill Donohue, explained that a public forum, a place that is open to all ideas, concerts, artistic exhibitions, etc., cannot stop them from erecting the creche.

On Christmas morning we thank God for the gift of His only Son to free us from our sins. As Americans, we thank God for a nation founded on inalienable rights from our Creator who inspired God-fearing founders to protect freedom of conscience for all faiths.

Wishing you a Blessed Christmas from Catholics for Freedom of Religion

Our Fifth Annual "Gentle Eve" Mass

*Friday, December 31, 2021
7pm in the church*

An old year doesn't exit quietly, nor does a new year make its entry in silence. Around the world, this holiday we call New Year's Eve, this day of making resolutions as a blank calendar unfolds before us, announces its presence with noisy celebrations that can include the banging of pots, lighting of fireworks, honking of horns, dancing, drinking, and watching the ball drop in Times Square.

For many of us, this particular celebration can be emotionally challenging, bittersweet and not surprisingly, completely exhausting, especially after all the demands of family and friends to enjoy a "perfect" Christmas.

Since 2017 we have offered a "Gentle Eve" celebration of the Mass, an alternative way in which to observe New Year's Eve without the noise and pressure that usually accompanies it. If you have joined us in the past, we hope you will do so again, and for those who have haven't yet experienced the quiet, candle lit beauty of a "Gentle Eve", we invite you to join us to celebrate and pray the Mass in thanksgiving for the year about to end, and offer one another hope for the year about to begin.

Due to the recent mask mandate, we regret there will be no reception after Mass this year.

Christmas 2021

Dear Parishioners of St. James Church,

“Community formed as the Body of Christ, through the waters of Baptism, journeying toward fullness of God’s Kingdom, guided by the Holy Spirit and nourished by the Eucharist and the Word of God.”



We are blessed by the gift of FAITH, which inspires us to do what we do as a parish. Our common faith brings us together to the celebration of the Eucharist each Sunday and many weekdays. In faith, we come to celebrate sacraments and pray for one another. St. James is a beautiful and vibrant community where time and talents come together helping us to praise and sing and to offer our gratitude for the many gifts and blessings God continues to bestow on our families. It is a community of compassion, concern and support for one another.

This has been another very challenging year because of Covid and the affects it has imprinted on our lives and our relationships. Therefore, it has also been a troubling year for the Church. Yet the strong faith and dedication of our parishioners has allowed St. James to be a vibrant family that makes important contributions to the local community. Our parish organizations are always working on many projects to put faith into action and the fruits are enormous!!! We are blessed and we are grateful!!! There is so much we can celebrate this Christmas— “Emmanuel, God is with us!”

Dear friends, may the feast of Christmas and its beautiful season shower you and your families with the gift of Peace. Rejoice that God came to live among us, for through Him we can see and walk again, for through Him we are cleansed and raised to new life and the Kingdom of God is being proclaimed. Yes! God is with us.

May you all have a Very Merry Christmas,

The Priests and Staff of our Parish



NEW YORK STATE MASK MANDATE

The Governor of New York State has included houses of worship in her recent directives.

Therefore, since the Church does not require parishioners to present proof of vaccination in order to worship God, we ask that all parishioners (two years of age and older) comply with the requirement to wear masks when participating in any activities on parish grounds. This State requirement is currently in effect through January 15, 2022.

We will continue to adapt accordingly as new information becomes available. Your patience and Christian charity towards one another during this difficult time is appreciated.

Diocese of Rockville Centre



We are so grateful to Investors Bank for its support of St. James Parish Outreach/ODB.

We received a grant of \$3,000 from them, and the proceeds helped us to purchase a new oven, replacing the old one in Smith Hall that has been in use by Our Daily Bread Soup Kitchen for over 35 years!

We are very proud of the fact that our soup kitchen and pantry has always been a community effort!

Tune in to “Religion and Rock” with Msgr. Jim Vlaun on Sunday mornings, 7:00am-8:00am on WBAB 102.3FM or 95.3FM on Long Island’s East End. Listen on Saturdays at 11:00pm on Sirius radio, Channel 159, the Catholic Channel and at 11pm on XM Satellite, Channel 117.

Next Sunday (January 2, 2022)

“Being Excited”



Christmas 2021

Diocese of Rockville Centre
Office of the Bishop

To the People of God of the Diocese of Rockville Centre:

On December 1, 2019, Our Holy Father Pope Francis issued *Admirabile Signum*, an Apostolic Letter On the Meaning and Importance of the Nativity Scene. It is a beautiful reflection that I draw on every Christmas season and one which I urge you to read and pray.¹

In it, the Holy Father reminds us that the simple act of arranging our Nativity set links us to the past, opens questions for the present, and orients the future. It is an act that has an existential impact.

Pope Francis says: “Setting up the Christmas creche in our homes helps us to relive the history of what took place in Bethlehem. Naturally, the Gospels remain our source for understanding and reflecting on the event. At the same time, its portrayal in the creche helps us to imagine the scene. It touches our hearts and makes us enter into salvation history as contemporaries of an event that is living and real in a broad gamut of historical and cultural contexts.”

The beautiful scene of parents and grandparents setting up creches together with children and grandchildren is a powerful multi-dimensional experience of catechesis – the teaching and passing on of our Catholic faith and our belief in the Incarnation of Jesus Christ to the next generation.

Parents and grandparents have that wisdom of teaching children and grandchildren how to assemble and situate the creche, but at the same time, they also have the catechetical and relational sensitivity to let children and grandchildren make choices about where the shepherds, the sheep, the three kings are to be placed.

Children are encouraged to place the Holy Family – Mary, Joseph and the Prince of Peace – with their own hands into the center of the creche. How often children then enjoy, sometimes on their own and sometimes with brothers and sisters and family members, moving and interacting with the figurines. How often their biblical imaginations and souls are set on fire with God’s love as they play with their family Nativity sets.

The Holy Father continues: “I would like now to reflect on the various elements of the nativity scene in order to appreciate their deeper meaning. First, there is the background of a starry sky wrapped in the darkness and silence of night. We represent this not only out of fidelity to the Gospel accounts, but also for its symbolic value. We can think of all those times in our lives when we have experienced the darkness of night. Yet even then, God does not abandon us, but is there to answer our crucial questions about the meaning of life. Who am I? Where do I come from? Why was I born at this time in history? Why do I love? Why do I suffer? Why will I die? It was to answer these questions that God became man. His closeness brings light where there is darkness and shows the way to those dwelling in the shadow of suffering (cf. Luke 1:79).”

We can drift through life dodging and repressing these critical existential questions of life. We can live blindly and superficially.

Our Catholic belief in the unity of the Nativity and the Crucifixion, the Creche and the Cross, Bethlehem and Golgotha keeps our lives centered and focused on the things that really count in our short time on earth – the Last Things (Death, Judgment, Heaven and Hell) and a belief in the Eternal Joy of Heaven, our true home.

The Holy Father continues to press the existential questions: “The presence of the poor and the lowly in the nativity scene remind us that God became man for the sake of those who feel most in need of his love and who ask him to draw near to them. Jesus, ‘gentle and humble in heart’ (Matthew 11:29), was born in poverty and led a simple life in order to teach us to recognize what is essential and to act accordingly. The nativity scene clearly teaches that we cannot let ourselves be fooled by wealth and fleeting promises of happiness. We see Herod’s palace in the background, closed and deaf to the tidings of joy.

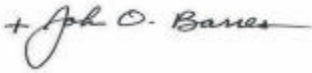
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¹ https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_letters/documents/papa-francesco-lettera-ap_20191201_admirabile_signum.html

By being born in a manger, God himself launches the only true revolution that can give hope and dignity to the disinherited and the outcast: the revolution of love, the revolution of tenderness. From the manger, Jesus proclaims, in a meek yet powerful way, the need for sharing with the poor as the path to a more human and fraternal world in which no one is excluded or marginalized." May our prayer, silent contemplation and creative family catechesis of the Nativity scene help us to be instruments of a Gospel revolution of humility, charity, mercy, tenderness, and solidarity with the sick, the poor and the suffering. May our commitment to "holiness and mission" bless our contemplative Synodal listening and our Eucharistic Revival and Evangelization.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you and your families!

Sincerely in Christ



The Finance Committee of St. James Parish is pleased to present the financial report for the fiscal years ended 8/31/21 and 8/31/20. As a Parish, we are blessed with the financial generosity of our parishioners. We thank you for your continued support.

**ST. JAMES PARISH FINANCIAL REPORT
FISCAL YEARS ENDED 8/31/21 and 8/31/20**

REVENUES:

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
Regular Collections	\$ 766,620	\$ 764,598
Fund Raising	79,912	109,840
Parish Programs	155,291	256,010
Bequests & Donations	46,830	25,000
Extraordinary Income	336,268	640,493
Other	210,365	200,170
Total Revenues	<u>1,595,286</u>	<u>1,996,111</u>

EXPENSES:

Salaries & Fringes	639,410	620,654
Parish Programs	181,191	340,510
Building Utilities & Maintenance	197,946	185,036
Capital Expenditures	543,929	590,342
Other	219,508	373,076
Total Expenses	<u>1,781,984</u>	<u>2,109,618</u>

NET (DEFICIT) SURPLUS \$ (186,698) \$ (113,507)

The deficits for fiscal years ended 8/31/20 and 8/31/21 are attributable to a number of factors. The most immediate is the impact of the pandemic. The parish took timely and significant action to lower operating expenses, but the reduction in revenue, primarily due to reduced in-person Mass attendance, could not be overcome. Fortunately, the PPP loans we secured did provide some assistance, as did generous parishioner contributions made through Faith Direct. Customary revenue such as that associated with weddings and funerals was much lower. While we did have some fundraising activity, we were not able to participate in some of our usual fundraising events. We did receive extraordinary income of \$640,493 last year and \$336,268 this year from the capital campaign. However, we also had capital expenditures of \$590,342 last year and \$543,929 this year which were primarily building construction payments. When revenues from remaining pledges are paid, this shortfall will be reimbursed. To date, total capital campaign pledges are \$1,473,503. Paid to date is \$1,061,133 and the balance due is \$412,370. Once again, we thank our parishioners for their support in these difficult times. The full financial report submitted to the diocese for the fiscal year ended August 31, 2021 is available for your review in the business office.



Retrouaille Weekend You Can Help Heal Your Marriage

Do you feel alone? Are you frustrated or angry with each other? Do you argue or have you just stopped talking to each other? Does talking about it only make it worse?

The Retrouaille Program is for married couples facing difficult challenges in their relationships. Primarily a practical program to improve communication, build stronger marriages and help couples reconnect.

Presenters are not trained marriages counselors, but rather couples sharing their personal stories of marital struggles and the tools they used to rediscover their love.

For confidential information about the Retrouaille program, or to register for the upcoming weekend that begins on Friday, January 21st, please visit our website www.helpourmarriage.org or call **1-800-470-2230** and you will be connected directly and confidentially to a couple from Long Island/Metro Retrouaille who can help.

Location: Immaculate Conception, Huntington, NY
440 West Neck Road
Huntington, NY 11743



St. James Parish has achieved its Catholic Ministries Appeal goal for 2021!

We could not have achieved it without your support.

As a result of achieving our goal, we will receive a rebate of approximately \$21,000 back to our parish funds that we can definitely use during these trying times.

Thank you again to all who made this possible!



CYO Girls Volleyball Try-outs

Tryouts for the 2022 CYO Girls Volleyball season will take place on Saturday, January 8th in the Parish Center from 9:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

5th grade: 9:30 - 10:15 am
6th grade: 10:30 - 11:15 am
7th grade: 11:30 am
8th grade: 12:30 - 1:15 p.m.

The volleyball season will run from February through mid-May.

For try-outs, please plan to arrive a few minutes earlier than the slated time to allow for registration. We ask that if possible, have your child wear a t-shirt with their last name on the back (we will have a roll of tape to label shirts, if needed) and bring a water bottle.

A limited number of spots are available on each team; players will be evaluated at the tryout and decisions regarding final team rosters will be made shortly afterwards.

Please note: **we are in desperate need of coaches!!** If we cannot secure parent volunteers to coach a team, there will not be a team. If interested in serving as a coach, please contact Kelly Brouthers at: kellybrouthers@gmail.com. Thank you.

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