

St. James Major Catholic Church

Rev. Michael Labre, Pastor

Mr. Glenn Wiltz, Deacon

Ms. Evangeline Richard, CRE



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Mass Times

Saturday: 4:00 pm (Anticipated)
Sunday: 10:00 am
Monday – Friday: 8:30 am (in Chapel)

Holy Hour: First Friday following 8:30 am Mass.
Perpetual Help Novena: Tuesdays after Mass

Confessions

Saturday: 3:15 – 3:45 pm
And by request

Church Office Hours

Monday – Friday 8:00 am – 3:30 pm

New Parishioners: Welcome to the Parish! Please complete a registration form (found on the tables at the doors) and introduce yourself to the priest.

Baptisms: Please contact the Priest or Deacon to arrange for a seminar and time for the Baptism.

Weddings: Arrangements should be made at least six (6) months in advance of the date of the wedding. Please contact the priest before committing to any other arrangements.

Funerals: Please contact the church as soon as the need arises and before making any arrangements with the funeral parlor.

**The
Pastor's
Corner**



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT: THE CANDLE OF JOY

My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for He has looked with favor on the lowliness of His servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is His name. - LUKE 1:46-49 (NRSV)

Imagine Mary's fear when the angel Gabriel appeared to her. While giving birth to the Son of God was surely an intimidating prospect, Scripture tells us that there was something bigger than Mary's fear: her desire to carry out the will of God. After receiving the angel's news, her prayer wasn't that God would spare her from shame or pain, or even give her peace. Peace came when she said 'yes' to God's will! And more than peace, she was filled with JOY!

Today, so much of our joy in this season is dependent on the traditions we associate with it. We say Christmas is about family, or giving gifts; but who hasn't experienced a truly epic holiday fight, or been disappointed to see a loved one cast a gift aside that was chosen for them with care? Christmas may include these things, but true Christmas joy comes from celebrating that 2000 years ago a simple girl said 'yes' to bringing our Savior into the world. Christmas is about the fact that today, God is asking us to repeat that 'yes' when He asks us to spread His Good News. When God asks you to bear His Son to your neighbor, how often do you respond with a joyful 'yes'? How can you invite others to experience the true joy of this season?

Thank You, Lord, for blessing Mary with the courage to say "yes" to Your will. Lord, I pray today that You would make me courageous enough to say "yes" to You when You ask me to bear Your Son to those around me. Help me to seek You as my true source of joy this Christmas. In Your Son's precious name. Amen.

My dear friends, this week, begin your prayer times by echoing Mary's words to the angel: "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to Your Word." (Lk. 1:38 NRSV) Then watch for God to work in your life as you live in His will!



Get the Christmas Spirit!

**The Parish School of Religion
presents
The Nativity Story**

Sunday, Dec. 16, after Mass
Come to the gym to enjoy the performance by our parish children. Light refreshments will be served.

Christmas Baskets for the Needy

St. James is giving Christmas baskets of food for the needy of this area. Your donations of the following items will help families enjoy a great Christmas dinner: stuffing, canned sweet potatoes and vegetables, evaporated milk, rice, macaroni, cranberry, gravy, cornbread mix, cake mixes and frosting. Your donations can be placed in the church vestibule at Mass times or brought to the rectory during office hours (8-3:30, Monday-Friday) before December 18.

Gently Used Clothing Collection

The parish is collecting gently used clothing for needy people. Men's, women's and children's clothing can be brought to the church vestibule at Mass times. Distribution will be announced at a later time.

**Anointing of the Sick
December 22-23 After Mass**



Mass Intentions

Each Mass is offered for the intentions of all present and for the following:

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15

4:00 pm SJM Parishioners, living & deceased

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16

10:00 am Intentions of all our parishioners who are ill, and for all who have asked for prayer,

And for the repose of the souls of

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|--------------------------|-----------------|
| +Thelma & Leon Woll, Sr. | +Rita Major |
| +Riley & Jean Ryan | +Rochelle Age |
| +Charles Vanderpool, Sr. | +Gloria Vega |
| +Marcel Ducre, Sr. | +Suzanna Landry |
| +Eugene Lytell Johnson | +Sonya White |

MONDAY, DECEMBER 17

8:30 am Communion Service

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 18

8:30 am Int. St. Joseph Altar Group
+Joseph Chevis

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 19

8:30 am +Elyria McLaughlin

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 20

8:30 am +Poor Souls in Purgatory (PL)

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 21

8:30 am +Peter Bonnee, Jr.

Christmas & New Year's Mass Schedule

The Christmas and New Year's Masses will follow the weekend schedule: 4 pm and 10 am

Please pray for them: Valerie Smith, Mary Mitchell, Gloria Mitchell, Denise Thomas, Audrey Wilson, Gail Wright, Nadine Rochell, Gloria Harris, Gertrude Harris, William Mitchell, Maggie Haney, Dominic Carmouche, Loretta Parent, Walter Glapion, Yvonne Bechet, Gerald Mercadel, Sr., Susan Lauterbach, Thais Ardoin, Russell Jordan, Denise Rachal, Herbert Briant, Sr., Irene Ward, Marguerite Ragas, Irma Springer, Wilbert Clementin, Sr., Byron Williams, Jr., Kim Stovall, Michelle Irwin, Dennis LeBlanc, Betty Reynolds, Jill Courseault, Meredith LeBlanc, Gulshat Kazbekova, Cory B. Corfara and Clarence, Robert and Buster Mitchell.



Please pray for all of our parishioners, especially those who are homebound or in hospitals, nursing homes and hospice. Please notify the rectory of the change in status of you or your relatives on the prayer list.

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

- 17 Monday **LATE ADVENT WEEKDAY**
Genesis 49:2, 8-10; Ps 72; Matthew 1:1-17
- 18 Tuesday **LATE ADVENT WEEKDAY**
Jeremiah 23:5-8; Ps 72; Matthew 1:18-25
- 19 Wednesday **LATE ADVENT WEEKDAY**
Judges 13:2-7, 24-25a; Ps 71; Luke 1:5-25
- 20 Thursday **LATE ADVENT WEEKDAY**
Isaiah 7:10-14; Ps 24; Luke 1:26-38
- 21 Friday **LATE ADVENT WEEKDAY**
Song of Songs 2:8-14; Zephaniah 3:14-18a; Ps 33; Luke 1:39-45
- 22 Saturday **LATE ADVENT WEEKDAY**
1 Samuel 1:24-28; 1 Samuel 2; Luke 1:46-56
- 23 Sunday **FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**
Micah 5:1-4a; Ps80; Hebrews10:5-10; Luke 1:39-45



Lectors & Commentators

- Dec 15 Greer Adams, Michael Sinegar
- Dec 16 Denise Thomas, Madeline Curtis



Extraordinary Ministers of Communion

- Dec 15 Montrelle Sinegar, Kerry Winder
- Dec 16 Marlin Gusman, Tony Tabor



Please remember to pray for our men and women who are serving in the armed forces, especially:

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| SSgt Bryan Stovall, Jr., USMC | PO2 Melissa Flot, USN |
| PVT Robert Cook, USA | SGT Robert Lambert, USA |
| SSgt. Anthony Montz, USAF | Alvin Benjamin, USN |
| SSgt. Davin Hornsby, USAF | A1C Andrew Montz, USAF |

Sanctuary Light

The Sanctuary Light is burning this week in memory of Peter Bonnee, Jr.



Last weekend's collection, the **Retirement Fund for Religious Appeal**, amounted to \$704.00. Thank you for your generosity to our aged and infirm religious order priests, brothers and sisters.

Church Support



OFFERTORY COLLECTION (December 8)

Immaculate Conception \$ 1955.00

OFFERTORY COLLECTION (December 8-9)

First Collection \$ 1955.00

Thank you for your support!