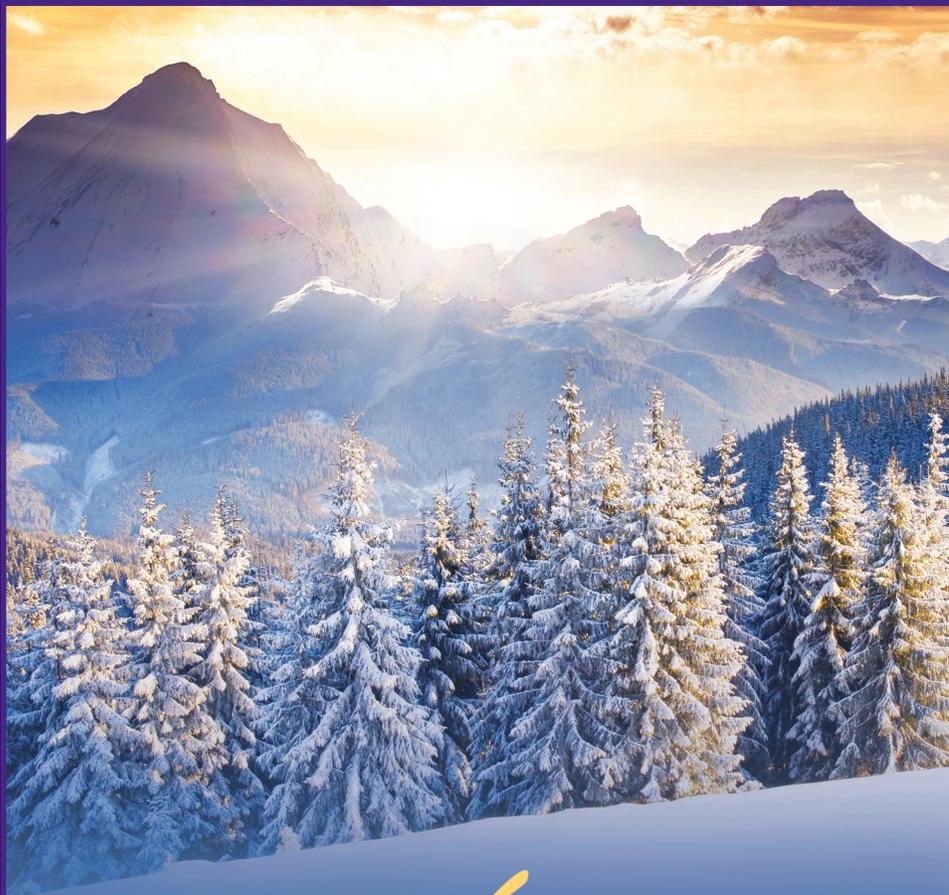


SAINT JAMES CATHOLIC CHURCH

*St. James Roman Catholic Church,
a diverse community rooted in vibrant Eucharistic Liturgy,
serves those in need in partnership with others.*



2nd Sunday **OF ADVENT**

It was of him that the prophet Isaiah had spoken when he said:
*A voice of one crying out in the desert,
Prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight his paths.*
—Mt 3:3



*Saint James Church is staffed by
the priests and brothers of the
Missionary Servants of the Most
Holy Trinity*

SUNDAY MASS

9:30 and 11:30 a.m. in the Parish Hall

DAILY MASS

Monday - Friday
7:30 a.m.

Tolton Chapel - Parish Rectory

RECONCILIATION

Confessions at St. James
on the first Friday of the month,
7:30-8:30pm, or by appointment

OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Thursday
8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Friday
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

By appointment only

Saturday & Sunday
Closed

ST. JAMES PARISH

2942 South Wabash
Chicago, IL 60616
312-842-1919 (office)

312-842-3612 (fax) www.stjameswabash.org

Scan this QR code with your smart
phone's barcode scanner app and it will
direct you to the parish webpage.



DECEMBER 4, 2016 • 2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT



The earliest mention of the season of Advent is from the late fifth century. The historical evi-

dence suggests that Advent developed because the Church had started to baptize not only at Easter but also during the Epiphany. Since there was a time of preparation before baptism at Easter (Lent) by analogy there should be a period of preparation before the baptisms to be held at Epiphany as well. Over time this preparation time became the four weeks of Advent we celebrate today, centered not on Epiphany but on Christmas.

Since Advent was modeled on Lent the season took on a penitential flavor. Fasting and prayer were important aspects of Advent for much of the Church's history. In the Orthodox Churches fasting is still a major component of the season. In the Western Church fasting was the custom on the Fridays of Advent and the Winter Rogation Days. Abstaining from meat was also an important aspect of the season. However, the joyous aspect of the birth of Christ tended to creep into the penitential element of Advent. In particular, Christmas Eve, a day of abstinence, became the occasion for celebration.

Among my Polish relatives Christmas Eve was Wirgilia, the vigil. A table filled with meatless dishes was prepared. There were up to twelve courses laid out for the family's consumption (for the twelve apostles?) The highlight of the meal was the passing of the "oplatek," or Christmas wafer. This was unleavened bread, the consistency of a communion wafer, with a Christmas scene embossed on it. The wafer would be passed among the members of the family with a prayer or good wish extended to all. In particular any resentments or grudges being against a member of the family would be forgiven at the passing of the "oplatek." In Italian culture Christmas Eve was the occasion for the Feast of the Seven Fishes. (The number seven taken perhaps from the seven sacraments.) This meal is celebrated with great joy and the wonderful variety of sea food makes it hard to find any sacrifice in this day of abstinence. Among Mexicans the journey of Joseph and Mary to Bethlehem are re-enacted during Las Posadas. When they reach their destination carols are sung, the children break open a star shaped piñata and people feast on tamales and drink atole.

In the Philippines, the Christmas Eve is the last day of the nine day novena called the Simbang Gabi. The meal is held after the Midnight Mass. That means that the day of abstinence is over and they serve wonderful pork and ham dishes.

What do these customs say to us today? They serve as a reminder that many of the ways we celebrate this season has a spiritual significance. We use evergreen trees and boughs to symbolize the ever renewed life we have in God. The Christmas lights should remind us that Christ is our light. And, yes, those wonder meals we share during this season are a foretaste of the heavenly banqueting table. Let us develop our own customs, our own practices which speak to us of Christ's coming in our midst.

Peace,

Fr. John Edmunds, S.T

Readings



FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 4, 2016

Readings for the Week of December 4, 2016

- Sunday: Is 11:1-10/Ps 72/Rom 15:4-9/Mt 3:1-12
- Monday: Is 35:1-10/Ps 85/Lk 5:17-26
- Tuesday: Is 40:1-11/Ps 96/Mt 18:12-14
- Wednesday: Is 40:25-31/Ps 103/Mt 11:28-30
- Thursday: Gn 3:9-15, 20/Ps 98/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12
Lk 1:26-38
- Friday: Is 48:17-19/Ps 1/Mt 11:16-19
- Saturday: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Ps 80/Mt 17:9a, 10-13
- Next Sunday: Is 35:1-6a, 10/Ps 146/Jas 5:7-10/Mt 11:2-11

Volunteer Christmas Day!

Feed The Homeless

Looking for volunteers to feed the homeless Christmas dinner. If you are interested in volunteering this Christmas season please contact Clare.

volunteer@stjameswabash.org



The Immaculate Conception is the patron of the United States. Her

feast day is December 8, and it is a holy day of obligation in the United States. In addition to the 7:30 a.m. Mass, St. James will also celebrate an evening mass at 6:30 p.m. on December 8. This provides a very particular occasion for us to pray for our country.

TREASURE

SUNDAY COLLECTION REPORT

JANUARY 1 - NOVEMBER 13

SUNDAY	2016	2015	CHANGE
ENVELOPES	\$81,043.06	\$75,423.50	\$5,619.56
LOOSE CHECKS	\$25,727.00	\$25,101.10	\$625.90
LOOSE CASH	\$9,534.47	\$8,271.38	\$1,263.09
ON-LINE	\$40,506.36	\$32,424.00	\$8,082.36
TOTAL SUNDAY	\$156,810.89	\$141,219.98	\$15,590.91
BUILDING			
MAINTENANCE	\$2,980.91	\$2,189.00	\$791.91
SAINT AGATHA	\$4,958.29	\$3,769.31	\$1,188.98
TOLTON			
CANONIZATION	\$1,794.41	\$676.80	\$1,117.61
TOTAL OTHER	\$9,733.61	\$6,635.11	\$3,098.50
TOTAL GIVING	\$166,544.50	\$147,855.09	\$18,689.41

Mass Stipends

A way of helping St. James is to send offerings to celebrate Holy Mass. These offerings are called "Mass Stipends" and are offerings to the parish for the priest to celebrate Holy Mass for a particular intention. The normal offering in our Archdiocese is \$10. We never have enough stipends for each daily Mass, so we are always grateful for more.



PLEASE PRAY FOR...



Victoria Allen
Ashley Alvarez
Eric Alvarez
Louise Bacon
Dorothy Barnes
Margie Bass
Barbara Bassett
James Bowman
Edwina Cook
Sandra Davis
Kathleen Foley
James Fonder
Paul & Jane
Freeman
Cathy Garcia
Mary Healy
Robert Helem
Elise James

Benjamin Jefferson
Mel Keys
Wayne Lambert
James & Linda
Kennard
Mary Madrigal
Nancy McCarthy
Latona Merchant
Joan Noble
Margaret Page
Cynthia Peacock
Francis Quigley
Darlene Racker
Daisy Keel
Barbara Radziwon
Sr. Barbara Rastatter
David Reynolds
James Reynolds

Sandra Reynolds
Philip Ricks
Norman Rouse
Mary Sanders
Christine Schatte
Geraldine Scudder
Barbara Southall
Catherine Spraggins
Bette Strickland
Bob Swiderski
Esther Toliver
Clayton & Sarah
Whitlow
Jennifer Warnick
Ayana Whitehead
Dina Williams
Audrey Winfrey
Ron Zivkovic

Mass Attendance

November 20th, 2016: 132 (9:30 a.m.)/51 (11:30 a.m.)
November 27th, 2016: 120 (9:30 a.m.)/33(11:30 a.m.)

LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

For Sunday

December 11, 2016

Lectors

9:30 a.m. Br. Chris Buck & Diana Makowski

11:30 a.m. Clarissa Aljentera & Marian Jones

Communion Ministers

9:30 a.m. Deacon Alfred Coleman, Bob Gaggiano,
Deborah Cooper, Leona Martin & Oreaan Perry

11:30 a.m. Mary Ellen Levine & Verda Abernathy

Greeters

9:30 a.m. TBA

11:30 a.m. TBA

Feast of Saint Francis Xavier, Missionary to Asia and the Pacific



Sun, Dec 4, 2016
Receptions after both 9:30 and
11:30 Masses
Enjoy food from India, the
Philippines,
Vietnam, and China!

Father John will conduct
a penance service and be
available for confessions on
Saturday, December 17, at
1:00 p.m.

Mark
your
calendar

We need your help!

We are in need of people to help distribute Christmas gifts on December 4th, 11th, and 18th. Please shoot Clare an email if you are interested!



You can also sign up to volunteer at the back of the church.

Please contact Clare at volunteer@stjameswabash.org if interested!

LOOKING AHEAD

Sun 12/04	2nd Sunday of Advent Second Collection Saint Agatha	
	8:30 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
	9:30 a.m.	Mass † <i>Josephine Judeeka - requested by Ron Ziokovic</i>
	9:40 a.m.	Children's Liturgy of the World
	10:40 a.m.	Sunday School
	11:30 a.m.	Mass
	12:30 p.m.	Ladies of Peter Claver
	1:30 p.m.	Chinese Bible Study
Mon 12/05	7:30 a.m.	Mass (Tolton Chapel — Rectory)
Tue 12/06	7:30 a.m.	Mass (Tolton Chapel — Rectory)
	9am - 11:30am	SNAP Assistance (Food Pantry) † <i>William Sutton - requested by Phillip Sutton</i>
Wed 12/07	7:30 a.m.	Mass (Tolton Chapel — Rectory)
	9:30 a.m.	Staff Meeting (Rectory)
Thur 12/08	7:30 a.m.	Mass (Tolton Chapel — Rectory)
Fri 12/09	7:30 a.m.	Mass (Tolton Chapel — Rectory)
Sat 12/10	8:00 a.m.	Second Saturday Produce Pantry (Hall Parking Lot)
Sun 12/11	3rd Sunday of Advent Second Collection Food & Toiletries for Food Pantry	
	8:30 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
	9:30 a.m.	Mass † <i>Kathleen Foley - requested by Ron Ziokovic</i>
	9:40 a.m.	Children's Liturgy of the World
	10:40 a.m.	Sunday School
	11:00 a.m.	Sharing Parish Food Donation Deliveries
	11:30 a.m.	Mass
	12:30 p.m.	Chinese Bible Study

The Giving Tree is up in back of the church. Take a name off the tree to share with those in our neighborhood. Gifts must be returned by Dec 18.

We always need volunteers for the delivery of the presents. Deliveries will be on Dec. 18. If you can help please contact Erin Makowski 312-842-1919 x 206

NEWS YOU CAN USE

Events This November



**All Saints Day
Mass @ IIT**

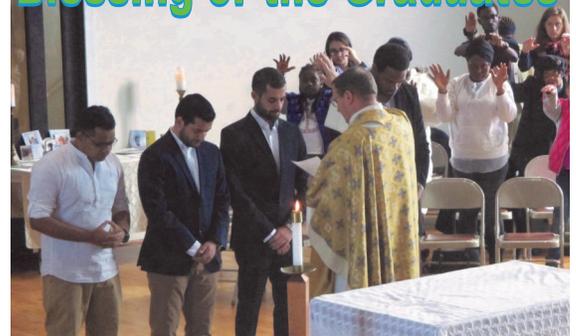
**Evening
Bible
Study**



Red Mass for Cardinal Cupich



Blessing of the Graduates



Dante's First Communion!

