



# SAINT JAMES CATHOLIC CHURCH

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



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



## THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

All things came to be through him,  
and without him nothing came to be.  
What came to be through him was life,  
and this life was the light of the human race.  
- Jn 1:3-4

### SUNDAY MASS

9:30 and 11:30 a.m.  
Presentation 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

### LOCATION

2942 South Wabash  
Chicago, IL 60616

### CONTACT

312-842-1919 (office)  
312-842-3612 (fax)  
[www.stjameswabash.org](http://www.stjameswabash.org)



Please pick up a copy of 'The  
Word Among Us' a prayer  
and meditation for  
Advent 2017

DECEMBER 24, 2017 FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT & CHRISTMAS EVE

## ON THE WAY....



May the grace and peace of the Holy Spirit be with us forever.

“Christmas Day, the birthday of our Blessed Savior! Never was there such a word! The mystery of the Incarnation gave us this word. Poets have dreamed, writers have written, artists have had their raptures, great have been the flights and marvelous the triumphs of the intellectual strivings of the race, but no fantasy of poetry, no classic of writer, no rapture of artist, has ever been comparable to the thoughts that the word, Christmas, inspires.” Father Thomas A. Judge, C.M.

These rather florid words come from the pen of the founder of my religious congregation, the Missionary Servants of the Most Holy Trinity. Nothing inspired Father Judge to rhetorical heights more than reflecting on the Incarnation. That God would share humanity with us in Jesus seemed to make everything we touch golden. It makes every child precious for they bear a family resemblance to Jesus. It makes all human endeavor worthwhile as a manifestation of the presence of God. It makes all life sacred since humanity has been swept up into the divine realm. Because of the Incarnation what it means to live in the world must be looked at from a divine perspective.

My own thoughts about Christmas tend to be fascinated by the ordinariness of it all. The story is full of exotic elements like angel choirs and starry messengers and “we three kings of Orient are.” But it is the ordinary event of a woman giving birth – something we all have in common – that makes Christmas miraculous. That tells us that God is found in the ordinary, in the mundane details of human life. Once we have the eyes to see, God will be found in everyday existence.

There is a subtext to the Christmas story that should not be neglected in the joy of the season. Unfortunately all too often we find parallels to the story of Joseph and Mary: a young couple, trying to find adequate housing due to shifting government policy. Or how about the shepherds -- just working class stiffs on the night shift trying to make an extra buck. Even the poor, maligned inn keeper was coping with an influx of visitors that overwhelmed his capacity to respond. The social realities of first century Palestine were not designed to make it easy for the “little guy.”

All of which says something about Christmas 2017. We rejoice that God has broken into our world and gifted us with the blessed assurance that life is worth living, that just being who we are gives us access to the sublime grace of God. The coming of Jesus has created a highway to heaven. On the other hand, Christmas also brings us up against the truth that too many people don't feel all that blessed. Circumstances conspire to make them doubt their value and worth as brothers and sisters of Jesus. Thus, the season of Christmas also provokes in us a desire to make sure that all God's children feel the love of God flowing from the manger in Bethlehem. This Christmas our joy at the Savior's birth calls us to work toward a more just and peaceful world. Merry Christmas!

In the Most Holy Trinity,  
Fr. John Edmunds, S.T

## Tree Trimming Party



## Congratulations to Cynthia on Winning the Cookie Contest



## TREASURE, TIME, & TALENT

This year we will not automatically mail out tax giving statements. If you want a statement on your giving for your tax returns please e-mail Cathy Moore between January 15th thru April 15th 2018 at [cmoore@stjameswabash.org](mailto:cmoore@stjameswabash.org).

Please call Cathy if you have any questions.  
312-842-1919  
x211



## SUNDAY COLLECTION REPORT

JANUARY 1— DECEMBER 10

SUNDAY	2017	2016	CHANGE
ENVELOPES	\$80,306.41	\$85,411.81	(\$5,105.40)
LOOSE CHECKS	\$25,679.00	\$26,332.00	(\$653.00)
LOOSE CASH	\$13,197.32	\$10,087.27	\$3,110.05
ON-LINE	\$54,036.00	\$44,961.36	\$9,074.64
<b>TOTAL SUNDAY</b>	<b>\$173,218.73</b>	<b>\$166,792.44</b>	<b>\$6,426.29</b>
BUILDING MAINTENANCE	\$2,870.00	\$3,202.91	(\$332.91)
SHARING DONATIONS	\$5,178.56	\$5,272.23	(\$93.67)
TOLTON CANONIZATION	\$1,304.69	\$1,794.41	(\$489.72)
<b>TOTAL OTHER</b>	<b>\$9,353.25</b>	<b>\$10,269.55</b>	<b>(\$916.30)</b>
<b>TOTAL GIVING</b>	<b>\$182,517.98</b>	<b>\$177,061.99</b>	<b>\$5,509.99</b>



**Our Home Bound:**  
Judy Archer  
Margie Bass  
Barbara Bassett  
Altee Clark  
Edwina Cook  
Margaret Frazier  
Paul & Jane Freeman  
Juanita James

**James Kennard**  
Sr. Barbara Rastatter  
Norman Rouse  
Geraldine Scudder  
Barbara Southhall  
Bette Strickland  
Dina Williams  
**Our Sick:**  
Sandra Davis

**Margaret Deese**  
Joan Noble  
Barbara Radizwon  
Sandra Reynolds  
Philip Ricks  
Kimberly Starr  
Sarah & Clanton Whitlow

### Mass Attendance

December 3, 2017: 128(9:30 a.m.)/59(11:30 a.m.)  
December 10, 2017: 115(9:30 a.m.)/43(11:30 a.m.)

## NEXT WEEK AT ST. JAMES....

Sun 12/24	Fourth Sunday of Advent & Christmas Eve	
	8:30 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
	9:30 a.m.	Mass
	9:40 a.m.	Children's Liturgy of the World
	11:00 a.m.	Mass
	6:30 p.m.	Christmas Eve Mass
	†	<i>Agnes Mary Griffard - requested by Virginia Picken</i>
Mon 12/25	10:00 a.m.	Christmas Day Mass (Presentation Hall)
Tue 12/26	7:30 a.m.	Mass (Tolton Chapel — Rectory)
Wed 12/27	7:30 a.m.	Mass (Tolton Chapel — Rectory)
Thur 12/28	7:30 a.m.	Mass (Tolton Chapel — Rectory)
Fri 12/29	7:30 a.m.	Mass (Tolton Chapel — Rectory)
Sun 12/31	New Year's Eve	
	8:30 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
	9:30 a.m.	Mass
	9:40 a.m.	Children's Liturgy of the World
	11:00 a.m.	Mass

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR!



Christmas Day Mass is at 10:00 am!

New Year's Day Mass is at 10:00 am!

Today is the last day to sign up for the New Year's Day Brunch! Please sign up at the back of the church or on-line.





# Readings



FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 24, 2017

Sunday:	2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29 [2a]/Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:26-38	Wednesday:	1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12 [12] Jn 20:1a, 2-8
Monday: Vigil:	Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29 [2a] Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25	Thursday:	1 Jn 1:5--2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8 [7] Mt 2:13-18
Midnight/Day:	Is 9:1-6/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13 [Lk 2:11] Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14	Friday:	1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6 [11a] Lk 2:22-35
Tuesday:	Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17 [6]/Mt 10:17-22	Saturday:	1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10 [11a] Lk 2:36-40