EST. 1855

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.

4th Sunday OF ADVENT

Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus." - Lk 1:30-31

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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

SUNDAY MASS
9:30 a.m.
(Church w/Sign Up & On-line)

DAILY MASS
Monday - Friday
7:30 a.m.
(Church w/Sign Up & On-line)

OFFICE HOURS
Monday - Sunday
Closed until further notice

LOCATION
2907 South Wabash
Chicago, IL 60616

CONTACT
312-842-1919 (office)
312-842-3612 (fax)
www.stjameswabash.org

DECEMBER 20, 2020

ON THE WAY……

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

During Advent the opening song at St. James has been, “Come, come, Emmanuel.” This is a contemporary updating of the traditional chant for Advent, " O Come, O Come Emmanuel." The verses of both renditions are taken from the Church's "O" antiphons. These antiphons, which go back at least until the eighth century, introduce the Magnificat, or canticle of Mary, at evening prayer from the Liturgy of the Hours, and serve as the Alleluia verse for the masses from December 17th through December 23rd. Each of them begins with a traditional title for Christ. They are:"O Wisdom,""O sacred Lord," "O Flower of Jesse's Stem," "O Key of David," "O Radiant Dawn," "O King of all the nations," and finally, "O Emmanuel" which means "God with us." Each of these traditional titles for the Messiah connects the coming of Christ with the prophetic writings of the Old Testament. The ancient biblical imagery drawn from the messianic hopes of the Old Testament proclaims the coming Christ as the fulfillment not only of Old Testament hopes, but present ones as well. Their repeated use of the imperative "Come!" embodies the longing of all for the Divine Messiah.

Singing these songs based on the “O” antiphons does anchor us firmly in the longing and anticipation of Advent. The hymns, with their pleading for Christ's coming, serve as a welcome antidote to the onslaught of bad commercial Christmas music that we have to endure every November and December. It also connects us to the evening prayer of the whole Church in the last week of Advent. The fact that the “O” antiphons are used to introduce the Magnificat at Evening Prayer connects the coming of Christ to Mary’s strong words of hope in God’s work for his people against the unjust structures of the world.

Some scholars speculate that the first letters of the titles, from last to first, for a Latin acrostic which translates “Tomorrow I will be there.” If one starts with the last title and takes the first letter of each one - **E**mmanuel, **R**ex, **O**riens, **C**lavis, **R**adix, **A**donai, **S**apientia - the Latin words *ero cras* are formed, meaning, "Tomorrow, I will come". Therefore, the Lord Jesus, whose coming we have prepared for in Advent and whom we have addressed in these seven Messianic titles, now speaks to us, Tomorrow, I will come. So the O Antiphons not only bring intensity to our Advent preparation, but bring it to a joyful conclusion.

Although the antiphons and dates shown above have been fairly universally recognized throughout western Christendom, an alternative English medieval practice added the antiphon **O Virgo virginum** (O Virgin of virgins), with the following text for Christmas eve:

O Virgin of virgins, how shall this be?
For neither before thee was any like thee, nor shall there be after.
Daughters of Jerusalem, why marvel ye at me?
The thing which ye behold is a divine mystery.

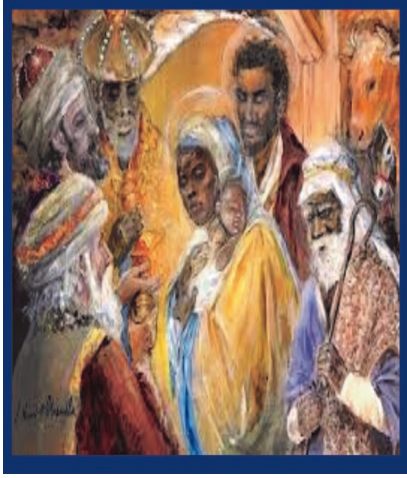
In this time when so much is out of whack, we join our voices with the Church throughout the world and throughout the ages: “Come, Lord Jesus.”

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

THIS WEEK AT ST. JAMES

Sun 12/20	**4th Sunday Of Advent**	
	9:30 a.m. †	Mass (On-line & Church w/Sign Up) https://zoom.us/j/622647147 Passcode: SJSUNDAY (57935957) ***For The People of St. James***
Mon 12/21	7:30 a.m.	Mass (On-line & Rectory w/ Sign Up) Meeting ID: 844 260 686 Passcode: SJDAILY
Tues 12/22	7:30 a.m. 6:30 p.m.	Mass (On-line & Rectory w/ Sign Up) Meeting ID: 844 260 686 Passcode: SJDAILY Advent Prayer Service (On-line)
Wed 12/23	7:30 a.m. †	Mass (On-line & Rectory w/ Sign Up) Meeting ID: 844 260 686 Passcode: SJDAILY ***Jeremiah Ryan - requested by Bob Gaggiano***
Thur 12/24	6:30 p.m. †	Christmas Eve Mass (On-line & Church w/ Sign Up) **https://zoom.us/j/622647147** Passcode: SJSUNDAY (57935957) ***Lorraine Ryan - requested by Bob Gaggiano***
Fri 12/25	9:30 a.m. †	Christmas Day Mass (On-line & Rectory w/ Sign Up) Meeting ID: 844 260 686 Passcode: SJDAILY ***Peter and Anna Marano and Ralph Garofalo - requested by Mena Marano***
Sun 12/27	**The Holy Family**	
	9:30 a.m. †	Mass (On-line & Church w/Sign Up) **https://zoom.us/j/622647147** Passcode: SJSUNDAY (57935957) ***For The People of St. James***

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE



CHRISTMAS EVE
6:30 PM

CHRISTMAS DAY
9:30 AM

Your generosity through the pandemic has been incredibly appreciated and I invite you to share what you are able this Christmas to ensure that our vital parish ministries and operations can continue. Please consider giving online at https://www.givecentral.org/location/41/654 where you can make a weekly and/or Christmas offertory contribution to our St. James family. Ministry work and planning, maintenance and cleaning of our entire campus, our social outreach support – all are only possible with your continued generosity.

Many people in our parish and community depend upon your Christmas offertory contribution, and during this current challenge it is needed more so than ever. We ask you to prayerfully consider giving at the level you provided last year or even increasing it in thanksgiving for blessings received. A blessed Advent and Merry Christmas to all in our St. James family and your loved ones near and far!

St. James has a tradition of Gift giving and we usually have a tree in the vestibule with names and suggested gifts . Due to the Pandemic we are looking at another way to accomplish this goal.

The Parish council would like to continue our Gift Giving tree and we are in need of donations to make those wishes come true.

We are asking those who can contribute to send a donation to the Rectory .The funds collected would be used to purchase gifts on-line and delivered to recipients.

Please mark the envelope Giving Tree or use this link to donate:

https://www.givecentral.org/location/41/event/28963

Have Mercy on Mercy - South Side Transformation Plan

Mercy Hospital and other "safety net" hospitals on the South Side of Chicago struggle financially due to a high percentage of uninsured/under-insured patients and inadequate reimbursement from Medicaid. Beginning in September 2019, 4 South Side hospitals - Mercy, St. Bernard, Advocate Trinity, and South Shore - entered discussions to merge and create a new health care system, with support from the State of Illinois.

Outpatient clinics in each neighborhood would provide patients with a Primary Care Physician (PCP) within walking distance of home. Well-equipped community health centers would perform more technical procedures such as x-rays and ultrasounds.

The hospitals would share resources, and an anonymous donor pledged the capital required to build a new South Side hospital. The smaller hospitals would manage simple emergency visits such as acute asthma and limb fractures, while referring more complex situations to Mercy and the planned new facility.

The plan was designed to provide comprehensive health care for 100% of the people who live on the South Side of Chicago. But due to last-minute political machinations, it was not to be. To be continued . . .

Your prayers and action in support of Mercy Hospital are much appreciated. Together, we can help make quality health care bloom in our South Side Health Desert!

Dr. John Picken, MD
St. James "Save Mercy Hospital" Committee
(sjsavemercy@gmail.com)

Advent Wreath Prayer Services

Tuesdays during Advent

Begins 12/1

6:30PM

Zoom

Join us on Zoom at 6:30PM on Tuesday nights so that we can prayer our Advent Wreath prayers as a community. A different family will host the prayer service each week.

***MORE ON BACK

Coming to Church

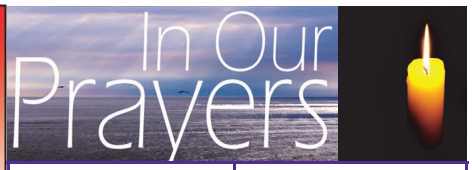
Advance sign up for all masses and events is required.

You can access all sign-ups for masses and events, including Eucharistic Adoration through Sign Up Genuis or on the Sign Up Genius tab on our website. If you do not have access to the internet you may call Amy at 872-703-4337.

Participants must follow ALL safety guidelines.

St. James has a google form for submitting prayer requests:

https://forms.gle/ZgbVkgarRRgDmJR6A



Our Home Bound:	Our Sick:
Judy Archer	Victoria Allen
Margie Bass	Aayliah Cooper
Altee Clark	Patsy Cunningham
Paul Freeman	Marvelean Doss
Juanita James	Nancy McCarthy
James Kennard	Barbara Radizwon
Barbara Southhall	Sandra Reynolds
Dina Williams	Donald Rogers
	Kimberly Starr