Directory of Parish Ministries, Organizations & Programs for Stewardship Opportunities 2015-2016

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William Reinert (Joan) - Retired

LITURGY SCHEDULE

Saturday Evening
5:00p.m. Parish Center

Sunday
7:00 a.m. - Church (Cantor)
8:30 a.m. - Church (Traditional Choir)
10:00 a.m. - Parish Center (Contemporary Choir)
11:30 a.m. - Parish Center (Contemporary Choir)
5:00 p.m. - Church (Teen Ensemble)

Daily Mass
7:30 a.m. - Church (M-F)
8:30 a.m. - Church (SAT.)
12 noon weekday mass during Advent and Lent

Parish Office Hours
Monday-Friday 9:00am—8:00pm
Saturday  9:00am—1:00pm
Sunday     9:00am—1:00pm
www.stjamesah.org
Phone: 224-345-7200
Fax: 224-345-7220

St James School
Phone: 224-345-7145
Fax: 224-345-7140
stjamesschoolah.org
Welcome to the St. James Ministry Guide! There are many ways for you to serve at St. James Parish. I firmly believe that the best way for you to see firsthand the true vibrancy of this parish is to join us at one of our 6 Sunday liturgies. Every mass is unique and each one will leave you seeking Jesus Christ more. Our complete mass schedule can be found in this informative bulletin and on our website. St. James has over 60 ministries that are always looking for new faces to volunteer. No matter if you have an hour a week or a day a week, St. James has something for everyone.

This complete ministry guide is a great way to jump start your St. James ministry experience. With the numerous ministries, sacraments and activities covering all aspects of parish life, faith formation, spiritual life and human concerns, we have an opportunity for everyone, young and old, to share their time and talent in an environment that will also deepen their personal relationship with our Lord. Visit our website at www.stjamesah.org for contact information. Don’t be shy—let the mouse do the walking. Along with this interactive website, St. James can be found on social media! Follow me on Twitter @padrematt, and follow our St. James Facebook page @StJAMESParishAH. “Like” us on facebook. You can also stay connected to St. James on the road using your Smartphone or tablet with the St. James mobile app site.

The St. James mission statement sends us forth from the celebration of the Eucharist to walk in faith, live in hope and act in love. Embrace our mission! Attend one of our beautiful liturgies, join one of our ministries or take part in a parish event….bring the family, invite a friend – all are welcome!

Your Servant in Christ,

Fr. Matt Foley

Follow me on Twitter @padrematt
Catholic Formation

*Education for children, teens and adults to better form their faith and personal relationship with our Lord*

**Adult Faith Formation** - ministry provides opportunities to deepen one’s faith in the areas of theology, prayer, and spirituality.

**Baptism Preparation** - The purpose of this ministry is to inform and educate parents and Godparents on the baptismal sacrament. Sessions are once a month in the parish office on Monday night from 7:30pm to 8:30pm. Call 224-345-7200 ext: 8503. Couples are invited to help teach these classes!

**Bible Study** – Informal six to eight week studies covering different Biblical books and themes. Sessions include Biblical background, reflection, group sharing and prayer. Studies are offered at different times during the year and are open to all interested adults.

**Children’s Liturgy of the Word** – (CLOW) is offered during the 10AM Sunday Mass most Sundays with the exception of liturgical holy days. Children’s Liturgy introduces children to both the structure of liturgical worship and participation in worship so they grow in their understanding and love of God. At the beginning of Mass, children are called forward and dismissed with a catechist to participate in the Liturgy of the Word. The children return to Mass during the offertory/presentation of the gifts to celebrate the Liturgy of the Eucharist. No registration is required. Children ages Kindergarten through fourth grade are welcome to participate.

**CRHP (Christ Renews His Parish)**- is an enriching spiritual renewal process, which calls together members of our parish in order to experience personal conversion with their Christian community. The CRHP experience is an overnight “retreat” and a period of formation with a team of fellow parishioners in prayer, Scripture and sharing stories with others. In a casual and tranquil atmosphere, CRHP is a real instrument of Christian community building for ongoing parish renewal.

**Marriage Encounter** - The goals of “World Wide Marriage Encounter” are to provide full weekends for couples wanting to enrich their relationships. The group provides a link between St. James and the Marriage Encounter Experience.

**Men’s Fellowship Group** – is open to all men and meets every Saturday morning. Together we pray, study the Scripture readings for the week and discuss life experiences as they relate to God’s Word. The meetings provide a spiritual foundation for men to develop, strengthen and support their relationships with Jesus Christ, their wives, children, families and other men. Meetings are conducted in an environment where men can pray and share as they wish, or just come to listen and be encouraged with thought-provoking discussions.

**Open Doors** — is a ministry that invites and welcomes people into a full and active spiritual life by providing faith formation for individuals and families with special needs. We joyfully enter into faith formation through catechesis, adaptive programming, and mutual support. The goal of this program is to build upon the strengths of each child, help prepare them for the sacraments, and provide support to ensure all children have the opportunity for full and active participation in the parish RE program. This program is open to children in 1st through 8th grades. Registration is held each spring for the upcoming school year. The **Family Support Network** is for parents and/or caregivers needing support for any persons with special needs from birth to adult. We are providing support, prayer, discussion, and reflection time. This Buddy Program will pair age-appropriate buddies to those needing extra support and will allow for a fun and social atmosphere by offering activity-based programs.
Pre Cana Program - is for engaged couples, planning to be married in the Catholic Church, and is taught by married couples from St. James Parish. A daylong encounter is created, which will enable the couple to have an opportunity to discuss honestly one another’s strengths and weaknesses, including family living, communication, finances, Christian sexuality, the Sacrament of Matrimony, and their role in the Church and society.

Religious Education- The mission of the program is to ignite in our children a spark that will lead them to deepen their relationship with Jesus Christ. To do this, we offer children reflections of God’s love, share stories about the impact God has made in our lives, and help them echo God’s Word as they live out each day. Children study the basic beliefs of our Catholic faith using the Finding God curriculum by Loyola Press. This program is open to children in 1st through 8th grade. Registration is held each spring for the upcoming school year. Classes run September though May. "Education in the faith by the parents should begin in the child’s earliest years. This already happens when family members help one another to grow in faith by the witness of a Christian life in keeping with the Gospel. Family catechesis precedes, accompanies, and enriches other forms of instruction in the faith. Parents have the mission of teaching their children to pray and to discover their vocation as children of God. The parish is the Eucharistic community and the heart of the liturgical life of Christian families; it is a privileged place for the catechesis of children and parents.” Catechism of the Catholic Church #2226

S.P.R.E.D (Special Religious Ed for Developmentally Disabled) - The archdiocesan program SPRED has been active at St. James since 1968. We provide 15 weeks of religious education to students aged 22 and older. These young adults participate in weekly classes, special events and preparation for the sacraments if needed. Classes meet on Wednesday evenings. Some training is required. Adult volunteers are always needed!

St. James School – Saint James School provides an environment where faith, family, and educational excellence reinforce one another throughout the school day. Saint James School exists to provide students a way of life - one that weaves Catholic spiritual and moral development within academic studies, duties of service, and co-curricular achievement. We place the highest value on our Catholic faith and the way it touches every aspect of our lives. The students and families at Saint James School have inherited a great tradition and a great responsibility. They are challenged to preserve their faith and make it grow and to have the courage to live by the Catholic values they believe in. Faith. Excellence. Leadership. Service. You'll find them in all we do.

St James School Jr. High Bible Study – is a weekly study offered to all 6th, 7th and 8th grade students attending St. James School. We meet every Wednesday morning that school is in session from 7:50am to 8:35am (before school) in the school library. The area of Biblical study changes yearly. No registration is required. Students are welcome to attend any or all meetings.

Small Christian Communities – Groups of 10-12 people meet to share a more intimate experience of the church. Our goal is to deepen our personal awareness of the divine in our lives and strengthen faith in God through fellowship in small group conversation.

Sunday School – Parents promise at their child’s baptism to raise their child in the practice of the faith, to keep God’s commandments as Christ taught us by loving God and our neighbor. Sunday School is a Religious Education program for our youngest children. This ministry is a fun, Christ-centered, hour-long program that takes place during the 10AM Mass. Each week a different age
appropriate Bible story is introduced. Catechists use books, crafts, and music to enhance the weekly lesson. Any child who will be three or four years old or in kindergarten before September 1st may participate in this ministry. Registration is held each spring for the upcoming school year. Classes run September through May.

**Vacation Bible School (VBS)** – Is a week-long summer camp in June for children ages 4 through 5th grades. Music, crafts, Scripture, prayer, and play are all important components of this lively VBS experience. Kids love this program because it’s so fun! Registration is held each spring and space is limited.

**Young Adult Ministry (YAM)** – YAM-Connect, the young adult ministry at St. James, helps connect those in their 20s and 30s, single and married, with the Catholic Church and one another. We have a variety of social, service, and spiritual opportunities to meet other young adults here at St. James and other local parishes. Our goal is to learn more about our faith, grow closer to God, and give back to others in our community, while connecting with young adults who have similar values.

**St. James College Young Adult Ministry (SJYAM)** – Helps connect college age young adults with the Catholic Church and one another through a variety of social, service, and spiritual opportunities.

**Youth Ministry** - Youth Ministry at St. James Parish is alive and growing for those in 6th–12th grade. If you are in grades 6–8, St. James offers Junior High Youth Ministry events each month during the school year. These events provide spiritual, service, and social opportunities to grow in faith. IGNITE is St. James’ new High school youth ministry which offers gatherings once a month for spiritual, service and social opportunities for youth in grades 9-12. There are many activities offered throughout the year. Please check the bulletin or the website for more information.

**HUMAN CONCERNS**

*Parish Outreach for those less fortunate in our community and the world at large*

**Alzheimer Support Group** – Goals for the Alzheimer Support Group: 1) Provide a safe place for caregivers to share their difficulties 2) Offer a place to talk with other people who are going through the same experiences and learn techniques that have worked for them 3) Learn how to communicate more easily with people who have Alzheimer’s Disease 4) Learn about common behaviors and helpful interventions 5) Provide commonsense tips which should make it easier to care for a family member. The meetings are open to any family members or friends who are looking for information or those experiencing the challenges associated with Alzheimer’s Disease. Anyone who has family members exhibiting any signs of dementia, regardless of the cause is welcome to attend.

**DEAL** (Divorce, Education, Advocacy, Liturgy) is a faith based, structured, and compassionate ministry designed to support the needs of divorced and disenfranchised Catholics (including children of divorce). The group meets on a regular basis to support, educate and encourage members. Through prayerful good works, listening and sharing it is the mission of DEAL to enrich each members relationship with our Lord, bringing peace and healing.

**Elizabeth Ministry** - We are a ministry of women reaching out to other women who are in their childbearing years. We offer support to those who are pregnant, to those considering adoption, to those dealing with infertility and to those who have experienced a miscarriage or the loss of a baby. Just as Mary and Elizabeth visited when they found out they were expecting a child, an Elizabeth Minister of St. James would welcome the opportunity to visit with you, pray for you, and offer their caring support during your pregnancy or time of waiting.
Green Team - Pope Francis, in his beautiful encyclical "Laudato Si", calls the faithful to care for our common home. The Green Team, a brand new ministry, aims to provide opportunities to study the encyclical, learn about the relationship between Scripture, Catholic Social Teaching and our responsibility to be stewards of God's Creation, support individual and parish-wide efforts to live more sustainably and coordinate initiatives to care for the environment. St. James Green Team is a member of Interfaith Green Partners, a caring group of individuals from many local faith traditions which shares information and resources, working together to care for the earth. Parishioners of all ages are encouraged to join this ministry.

Grief Support – The group offers support through sharing, listening, and learning from each other’s story of grief and loss. Meetings run in 6 week sessions in a conference room at the Parish Office. Call 224-345-7200 ext: 8512.

Hot Meals Program - This program is available to individuals or families who are in need of warm meals due to recent surgery, illness or serious injury for a period of 2 to 4 weeks. For those in need, the food will be brought to your home as pre-arranged with the Hot Meals Coordinator. Volunteers are always welcome!

Loaves & Fishes - Loaves and Fishes is a ministry that serves our marginalized sisters and brothers who are guests at two shelters in the Uptown neighborhood of Chicago. The shelters assist 40 women and 60 men. St. James volunteers participate in the Loaves and Fishes ministry in three ways: Volunteers pick up bread and soup from local bakeries and restaurants on Friday evenings and Saturday afternoons and deliver food to the second group of volunteers who, in turn, deliver the food and prepared bag lunches to two homeless shelters in Uptown Chicago on Saturday evenings. The third group of volunteers is typically from various parish groups who prepare 100 bag lunches for the homeless clients on a weekend. Our ministry operates each Saturday beginning November 7th and runs through April 30th. To streamline the sign up process, we are using “Sign Up Genius” online. See the website for more information.

Mission Team – Mission trips for adults, young adults and teens will be planned on a consistent basis both internationally and within the US borders. The goal of these trips will be: service to others, which leads to personal transformation which leads to spiritual growth. Participants are from all age groups and backgrounds, and are open to leaving their comfort zones to encounter Jesus in other settings that will challenge them to new growth. Chaperones for teen trips will be needed for future trips.

PADS (Public Action to Deliver Shelter) - St. James has joined other area churches to open its doors to provide food and shelter to area homeless. "Guests" are hosted at St. James and are provided a hot dinner, clean bedding, breakfast and a sack lunch for the following day. Volunteers are needed to work four-hour shifts between 7 p.m. and 7 a.m. on Wednesday nights from October through April. Additional volunteers are needed to prepare food, set up and clean up the following morning. A training program for this ministry is provided each year. Call 224-345-7200 ext: 8513.

Peace & Justice Committee is rooted in the Gospels and inspired by the Holy Spirit. It is a guiding voice for peace and justice that educates the faithful on the Catholic social teachings, supporting and complementing parish ministries, and empowering people to transform lives and society, both locally and globally.
Respect Life - The mission of the Respect Life Ministry of St. James is to transform society into a Culture of Life where every human being is valued and protected from the moment of conception until natural death. We seek to convert hearts and minds on all life issues, including: abortion, post-abortion aftermath, chastity, capital punishment, artificial contraception, euthanasia, embryonic stem cell research and human cloning, and vaccines developed from the tissue of aborted babies.

St. Vincent De Paul - The St. James Conference of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul is an emergency source for short-term financial and material help for parishioners and others living within the parish boundaries. The Society also provides assistance to parishes in need in Chicago and internationally. For information on volunteering for or using this service, call the Parish Office at (224) 345-7200 x8517. Please leave a message and one of our volunteers will call you back. Be assured that all requests for assistance are handled with care and confidentiality.

Stepping Stones: A Domestic Violence Ministry - The Stepping Stones Ministry is dedicated to increasing parish awareness and understanding of the problem of domestic violence and to serving victims and survivors of emotional, financial, physical, or sexual abuse by a spouse or intimate partner. The Stepping Stones Support Team works directly with victims, providing them trained support through a referral hotline and informational materials. Importantly, the team will also provide prayer support to those impacted by domestic violence. All members of the Stepping Stones ministry are expected to participate in a domestic violence training program. Support Team members must complete a certified 40-hour training program on domestic violence.

Substance Abuse Team - The team is available to anyone in the St. James community who is in need. They are there to listen and be supportive. They are willing to share their own experiences of personal addiction. And lastly, they have resources and recommendations that they can share with you. Confidentiality and a supportive environment will always be maintained.

Wheels to Worship - This ministry coordinates rides to Mass in the Parish Center for those in need. Can you help by transporting someone to Mass, at your convenience? Need a ride to Mass? See the website for an application to be completed before rides are provided.

Spiritual Life

All aspects of the Liturgy from Eucharistic ministers to lectors to funeral servers

Adult Funeral Servers - This ministry of service to the St. James community is participation in a final act of love and respect for the deceased through involvement in their final Eucharistic liturgy before burial. Even though we as Adult Funeral Servers may not personally have known the deceased, we are representatives of our Adult Faith Community who wish to give honor to the deceased and comfort to the surviving family members by presence and participation in the liturgy. It is an honor to be of service in this capacity to the families of St. James.

Altar Servers - The main function of altar servers is to assist the priest (and God) at the altar. Altar servers do this in many different ways: holding the book, holding the acolyte candle, carrying the cross, as well as setting the altar before the blessing of the Eucharist. To serve at the altar is helping a priest, our parish, and above all God. Serving allows the students to play an active part in parish life. It is a way of giving back to the parish community. Altar servers assist at every weekly Mass and weddings. St. James is looking for students, 5th through 12th grade who would like to join the Altar Servers.
Bereavement Ministry - This ministry assists families of a deceased parishioner with planning the funeral Mass. Once the parish office is informed of a death, a bereavement minister is scheduled and the minister contacts the family. The bereavement ministers meet one on one with the family and plan the funeral liturgy. The Bereavement minister creates a funeral outline for all members of the liturgy team including the presider, deacons, musicians and staff. If you are searching for a ministry where you can share your talents of loving compassion, great listening skills, support and understanding with those who are grieving, please contact this wonderful ministry. You will have training and will be asked to attend an Archdiocese sponsored bereavement class in the future.

Care Ministry - St. James Care Ministers bring the Holy Eucharist and take time to visit and pray with parishioners who may be ill, unable to leave their homes, be physically challenged or are unable to attend Mass. Home, hospital, and nursing home visitation is offered. Volunteers for this ministry need to participate in a mandated training session that is offered annually. The parish office should be notified if someone would like to have a visitor or would like to receive the Eucharist from a Care Minister. Please be aware that our Ministers of Care are available to bring the Holy Eucharist to all those parishioners who are sick, injured or impaired in any way. It is important that you and your loved ones share in the community of the Eucharist as members of the St. James Family.

Christian Family Movement - (CFM) is a national network of parish/neighborhood small groups of Catholics and their families. Parents meet regularly in one another’s homes or at St. James. Christian values are reinforced and families are encouraged to reach out in action to others. CFM families join with other families in our Action Groups to put love into action. There are currently about 7-10 families that regularly participate in the St. James CFM group.

Environment & Art (E & A) - is the ministry responsible for the décor you see on Sundays and holy days. We coordinate the E & A for each liturgical season as well as at our parish’s sacramental celebrations, prayer gatherings and special occasions. We are responsible for our parish’s two worship spaces, each with its own design parameters and unique character—from the Church’s beautiful stained glass windows to the stark, gym atmosphere of the Parish Center. E & A helps plan, coordinate and implement the overall liturgical schemes. We work hard and at odd hours—long before anyone arrives and again after everyone leaves. We put it all together and we take it all apart. Members simply need to be willing to schlep, push, drag, carry and climb as well as to relax, reflect, pray and realize that we are about God’s work.

Eucharistic Adoration - We believe as Catholics that our Lord Jesus Christ is truly and physically present—body, blood, soul, and divinity—in the Most Blessed Sacrament of the Eucharist. With this in mind we graciously invite you to take time out of your busy day to join us in Eucharistic adoration every Thursday from 8AM-3PM in the church. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament immediately follows the 7:30 am Mass, rosary recitation at 8:15 a.m. and silent adoration from 9am—3pm. Newly added: 7pm Holy Hour with Deacon Matt Hahn: Includes Exposition of the blessed sacrament, Evening prayer, Rosary, and Benediction. All are invited to rest in His presence in the Blessed Sacrament.

Eucharistic Ministers - Being an Extraordinary Minister of the Holy Eucharist makes you part of the most intimate moment in the Liturgy by distributing the Eucharist to the Body of Christ, His Church. Eucharistic Ministers must regularly share in the Eucharist, be Confirmed, and committed to our faith (a teen enrolled in the Confirmation program may be an EM). Prospective ministers participate in a deanery training session plus attend a specific training for St. James. Periodically the Parish will hold training sessions throughout the year. Please watch the bulletin and website for information. Once trained, Eucharistic Ministers join a Mass team, which distributes the Eucharist every other week. St. James teens are encouraged to become Eucharistic Ministers. They may join a regular Mass team or become a part of our Teen Liturgies, which is celebrated at 5:00 p.m. every Sunday in the Church. Teens need to be enrolled in the confirmation program or already be confirmed in order to be trained for this rewarding ministry.
**Greeting Ministry** - As people enter our church and parish center during weekend liturgies and special holidays, the Greeting Ministers happily welcome them with open arms. The greeters make all feel welcome and also facilitate the distribution of liturgy materials. Greeting Ministers are assigned to specific mass times as fit their schedule and needs. The requirements to be a Greeting Minister are a friendly attitude and a great smile! Families, teens and adults can participate together. Being a Greeting Minister is a great way to get to know others in the parish, to feel a part of the St. James Community, and to participate more fully in the liturgy. It is personally fulfilling to be able to connect with people.

**Lectors** - Lectors are assigned to proclaim the first and second readings at all Sunday Masses as well as Holy Days. To become a lector, completion of training at a Vicariate session is required. This training is offered at various times during the year. The lector then meets with the St. James coordinator regarding the expectations and procedures at St. James. Workbooks with the readings and pertinent background and tips are also provided. A lector reads once a month, on average.

**Liturgy Preparation/Writers** - This ministry prepares the liturgical life of the parish as the liturgical year (Advent, Christmas, Lent, Triduum, Easter Season and Ordinary Time) unfolds. Grounded in sacred scripture and rich prayers of the Church, all efforts are made to draw our community more deeply into the Paschal Mystery. All areas of liturgy are represented and strive to provide prayerful liturgical experiences. We are called to be people of prayer. Liturgy writers are involved in the preparation of special seasonal and weekly Eucharistic liturgies. By reflecting upon the scriptures of the day, writers select appropriate prayers to be used during the liturgy, utilizing the Roman Missal and approved liturgical resources. All of liturgy is prayer. Our goal is to aid the assembly in sharing this prayer.

**Mass Coordinators** - Mass Coordinators at St. James serve at weekend Masses and special seasonal Masses by ensuring an organized and respectful celebration of the Mass—the center of our Catholic spiritual life. They are responsible for organizing and guiding parish volunteers who serve at the Mass including other Eucharistic ministers, lectors, servers and visiting priests to ensure each Mass is properly staffed. No formal meetings occur; we use e-mail to communicate weekly specifics for weekend and seasonal Masses.

**Ministry of Praise** – This is a spiritual ministry in which the members offer their prayers to God for special intentions to help others in their need. This ministry is especially for the homebound so that they can experience a closer connection to St. James parish. Their prayers will provide a wealth of spiritual treasures that can bring God’s blessings on themselves and on those special prayer requests. Each minister will receive a prayer book, a cross, and a certificate designating her/him as a Minister of Praise. Each minister will also receive a monthly letter containing inspirational messages and prayer requests.

**Music Ministry** - Our weekend Eucharistic celebrations are the summit and source of who we are as Catholics...it is the culmination of our past week, our sustenance and nourishment for the next. Through it, we are formed and rehearsed as to how to live each day of our lives. Wonderful musical prayer at these liturgies is an integral component, and thus we place high importance on developing a music ministry that is rich with quality, leadership, enthusiasm and participation. All are welcome!

**Prayer Shawl Ministry** - creates a wide variety of shawls for anyone in need of prayers or blessings. We pray as we knit or crochet and get together once a month to bless the fruits of our labors. All are welcome to join in this ministry. We meet on the third Sunday of every month at 2 p.m. in the Old School Basement.
The Rose for Life Ministry - places a single red rose near the altar of the church and the parish center at all weekend liturgies. The rose symbolizes the Church’s respect for life in all of its stages and the hope that one day soon abortion will be a thing of the past. Each weekend, the rose is donated by a family in the parish in honor of a special loved one. Volunteers pick up the roses at Sylvia’s Flowers on Saturdays and place them in the church and Parish Center. We coordinate with our volunteers by phone as needed. Only 30-40 minutes of your time on assigned Saturday mornings is needed.

Sacristans - Sacristans perform a simple but important task of ensuring that the linens, vestments and sacred vessels are clean, prepared and made available for Mass. Additionally, they ensure that the supply of wine and hosts are ready prior to the liturgy.

Sound System Ministry - The Sound System Ministry volunteers assist in the operation of sound equipment for liturgies as well as special events at St. James. Volunteers also assist in setting up and overseeing the use of sound equipment. While it is helpful to have some experience in the use of sound equipment and in music, anyone can be trained to help in this ministry.

Ushers - The St. James Usher Ministry seeks to help the community of worshipers at St. James to experience a comfortable place where they may seek unity with the perfect sacrifice our Lord Jesus made for us on the cross. Ushers serve at the celebration of the Mass so everyone may feel the hospitality of our community while we ensure the convenience, comfort, safety and well-being of the congregation. We seek able-bodied men and women, whether young or young at heart. We are also seeking a few family teams consisting of a parent and a young adult (middle school or high school age). Ushers are trained and initially work with an experienced usher. Scheduling is done with full consideration of everyone’s family, school and work schedules. We seek to maintain a routine schedule, but fill-in ushers are also needed.

Wedding Coordinators - The wedding coordinators assist the priest, deacons, couples to be married and their families by running the wedding rehearsals. Their function is to walk the bridal party through the mechanics of the wedding Mass (ceremony), and then to help the party assemble and process in on the wedding day. The commitment usually involves 1-2 nights per month as well as the wedding day. This is a very social ministry and it is wonderful to work with the couples and their families on this very special day and sacrament.

Parish Life

Every Parish is Social. St. James is no different. We have lots of ways for you to get involved and socialize at St. James.

Ambassador Welcome Ministry – This group officially welcomes newly registered parishioners into our parish with a home visit and welcome event. We invite newcomers to Our Lord's Table and to consider serving Him through the many ministries St. James offers. Join us - new ambassadors are always welcome!

Communication/Website Committee - The Communications Committee is a group of parishioners who established the website for the parish and seek to keep it current. Through it, they strive to: welcome new parishioners and assist them in getting acclimated to our parish; invite and encourage parishioners to get involved in our many ministries; inform parishioners of our latest happenings through current news and upcoming events; spread St. James’ good news through newspapers and social media; work with representatives of any St. James ministry to promote their efforts by giving them a presence on this website and social media. The committee meets monthly. If you are technically inclined, creative with graphics or have good writing skills, we could use your help.
Finance Committee - The Parish Finance Committee is a mandated body which has an advisory and consultative role on behalf of the pastor.

Funeral Luncheon Ministry - demonstrates the care of the parish community to those who have lost a loved one by providing a luncheon for family and friends in the Laramie Room after funerals held at St. James. This service is provided through the generosity of our parishioners who supply a variety of salads and desserts while the family is asked to cover the cost of sandwiches. We are always looking for additional parishioners who would like to be added to our list of food providers or servers. Requests for a luncheon should be made through the Parish Office: (224) 345-7200 or E-mail:parishoffice@stjamesah.org.

Garden Ministry -The green environments of St. James—the flower beds and landscaping around the church and rectory, the courtyard, perimeter of the parking lot, and around the building of the St. James Parish Center - are lovingly cared for by the volunteers of the Garden Ministry. A volunteer of the Garden Ministry is someone who appreciates the greenery and floral beauty of St. James parish grounds. A volunteer can contribute in several ways by planting, pruning, weeding and/or watering the garden areas of St. James. You may choose your own garden area to maintain on your own schedule or respond to occasional group requests for help.

Knights of Columbus -The Holy Rosary Council (#4483) of Arlington Heights serving the parishes of St. James, St. Edna’s, Our Lady of the Wayside, and St. Colette’s, is part of the largest Catholic Lay ministry in the world—the Knights of Columbus. Practicing Catholic men, 18 years of age and older, are invited to join in dedicating themselves to the ideas of charity, unity, fraternity and patriotism while serving the need of parish communities in various ministries and outreach efforts.

Manna Program - is a simple system of purchasing pre-paid merchant cards that are then used “same as cash.” Customers purchase the shopping gift card certificates at face value and St. James receives a rebate. The shopping gift cards are available for many popular merchants from all types of stores and services. A partial listing appears in the bulletin most weeks. Helping out as a volunteer with the Manna Program is an easy way to support St. James. A group of our volunteers meet during the week to process orders. Another group meets to reconcile orders and fill customer’s envelopes. Other volunteers gather in the church and parish center before and after Saturday and Sunday masses to distribute orders and sell the shopping gift card certificates.

Men's Club – This Ministry is open to all men of St. James, providing the opportunity for social, spiritual, and charitable activities with the goal of enhancing our St. James community.

Mom's Plus - Moms Plus at St. James provides an atmosphere based on faith, friendship and fun where we can just be ourselves, share our ups and downs, and connect with other moms in our parish who also are on the blessed (and sometimes hectic) journey of raising children. We meet twice a month on Fridays during the school year; babysitting is available. The evening meeting option will be held once a month on a Thursday—specific dates/locations are in the calendar link on the website. If you are a registered parishioner, you are welcome to join us anytime throughout the year!

Over 50 Social Club -The St. James Over 50 Social Club provides social outings, game days, cards, speakers, parties, current events/news and spirituality to any parishioner over the age of 50. We generally meet on certain Mondays at 1 p.m. in the O'Brien Room in the Parish office.

Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) – (PPC) is a diverse visionary and advisory body of servant leaders, guided by the Holy Spirit to assist and serve St. James parish, staff and Pastor in achieving our mission. PPC members are chosen by discernment and serve three year terms.
Retired Men’s Group - The St. James Retired Men’s group is parish-oriented in principle but ecumenical in spirit and practice. It is founded on four objectives: sociability, support, service and spirituality being the keystone. All retired men, directly or indirectly affiliated with St. James Parish are welcome. Meetings are held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month throughout the year.

Scouting

**Boy Scout** - Troop 166 is a Boy Scout organization chartered by the Northwest Suburban Council and sponsored by the St. James Women’s Club. Boy scouting is open to all boys who have completed 5th grade or who 11-17 years old are. Boy scouting is designed to develop character and provide values-based leadership training for youth in an environment of responsible fun and adventure. Troop 166 scouts participate in a number of outdoor and indoor activities. The boys meet every Monday night from 7 to 8 p.m.

**CUB** - The values of a Catholic community are extended perfectly through the Cub Scouts organization. The Cub Scout promise reminds a boy to do his best for God and his country and to help other people. It also requires the boy’s family to be involved in his achievements. Cub Scouts is open to boys from 1st through 5th grade, at which time they are eligible to become Boy Scouts. “Pack” meetings are usually held once per month during the school year and often involve special activities. “Dens” are small groupings of the “pack” organized by grade level.

**Girl Scout** - The values-based Girl Scout program has something to offer every girl, from kindergarten to eighth grade who agrees to the Girl Scout Promise. The Girl Scout Promise reminds a girl to do her best for God and her country and to help other people. The purpose of Girl Scouting is to inspire girls with the highest ideals of courage, confidence, and character. Whether in a Girl Scout troop, or as an individual member, each girl can look forward to making new friends, discovering more about herself and the world around her, learning new skills, and tackling contemporary issues under the guidance of dedicated and caring adult volunteers. It’s a place where girls belong!

SOC (Social Organizing Committee) - This committee’s purpose is to plan and carry out social events which provide entertainment and bring parishioners together. SOC (Social Organizing Committee) meets monthly for planning. New members are always welcome.

**Women's Club** - St. James Women’s Club offers women the opportunity to enrich their spiritual life, form lasting friendships and support and participate in a wide variety of parish activities. The organization is divided into 6 guilds (3 evening and 3 that meet during daytime hours). The guilds meet the second Thursday of the month from September through May. Each month a spiritual prayer provides a chance for reflection, discussion and sharing. Guilds are involved in a variety of “Catholic Action” projects that include preparing lunches for the homeless, donations of needed items to our PADS site, adopting needy families at Christmas time and organizing a school supplies collection each August. The Women’s Club is always ready to welcome new members of all ages!
Parish Events

**Jubilation Committee** - The annual Jubilation at James is a major parish-wide charity event benefiting the St. James faith community. Proceeds from this event support St. James charities, including tuition assistance for all the educational programs for children. Jubilation provides a great stewardship opportunity through volunteering on a committee, such as acquisitions, decorating, production, mailing, or hosting a gift-gathering party with friends. Many who have volunteered over the years have become life-long friends! Each year, the chosen theme is used to transform the Parish Center for the event. Guests arrive in formal attire and mingle with fellow parishioners during the silent auction, featuring items from a wide range of parishioners, friends of St. James and businesses. The evening Gala continues with a catered sit-down dinner, live auction, and entertainment.

**St. James Theatre Productions** - We are a ministry focused on fostering community. We pride ourselves on welcoming entire families in our ministry and invite everyone from age 7 to 70+ to auditions or help in some capacity. We offer a unique opportunity for children, teens, adults, and seniors to all work together toward a common goal. Year after year we have 3 generations of several families involved in some capacity. We are dedicated to providing quality community theatre and we bring a professional quality and expertise to our shows.

Since the 1970s, St. James Parish has entertained the northwest suburban community with some of the finest musical productions ever put together. For information on volunteering, performing, costume rental, dates, and more, call the Parish Office at (224) 345-7200, Extension 8514.

Sports/Recreation

**Men’s Basketball** - Men’s Basketball at St. James is a great way for men to socialize athletically in a fun sports environment. Male parishioners age 35 and older are invited to join in for pickup games played in the Parish Center on Thursday evenings at 9 p.m.

**Men’s Golf League** - For the past 55 years or more, the Men’s Golf League has been developing new friendships and building camaraderie among the St. James parish. From mid-April to mid-September, we play 9 holes every Tuesday, with tee times between 3:30 p.m. and 5 p.m. at the Buffalo Grove golf course. If you are available to golf weekly, great! Please join us on the course. If you can’t spare a few hours each week, please join us as a substitute golfer. We’re always looking for new golfers.

**Women’s Golf League** - This league started over 40 years ago and is as strong as ever. We are a group of 32 Catholic women who enjoy each other’s company, the outdoors, and the game of golf. From May through September, we tee off every Friday morning between 7:52 a.m. and 8:15 a.m. at Arlington Lakes Golf Club.

**CYO Basketball** – This league is for high school boys interested in getting together with friends or making new friends while playing basketball. Season and practices run from early November to mid February. For more information contact the Youth Ministry Program at St. James.
Sacraments Overview

As Catholics we are fortunate to receive and celebrate the gifts of the sacraments.

**Baptism** - At least one month in advance, call the Parish Office at (224) 345-7200 between the hours of 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. to schedule a baptismal date. The sacrament of baptism is celebrated on most Sundays in the Church. Adults preparing to receive the sacrament of Baptism must participate in the R.C.I.A program.

**First Communion** – The sacrament of First Holy Communion and First Reconciliation are received during 2nd grade. First Reconciliation is completed in the fall and First Holy Communion in the following spring.

**Reconciliation** - Saturday 3:30 - 4:30 pm in the Chapel - 820 N. Arlington Heights Road, or you may call for an appointment at 224-345-7200.

**Confirmation** is offered at St. James starting in 8th grade by being enrolled in Religious Education or Catholic School and is a two year process. The 9th grade Confirmation student has the opportunity to be enrolled in Confirmation classes that gather once a month from September-May, ending with the celebration of Confirmation in September, fall of their 10th grade year. There is also the opportunity for a retreat, service projects and a true encounter with Christ.

**Marriage** - At least six months before the wedding date, we warmly welcome you to contact the Parish Office. We will explain the process of preparing for Christian Marriage and assist you in selecting a date for your wedding liturgy.

**Anointing of the Sick** – This sacrament is for those who are ill, hospitalized or facing surgery. There are several ways to receive this sacrament. If you are having a surgery or a planned hospital stay, please feel free to attend ANY mass, during the week or on the weekends to receive this sacrament. Before the mass, inform the priest and you can be anointed immediately following the liturgy during the week or on the weekends. We also offer the sacrament twice yearly at parish liturgies.

**R.C.I.A. (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults)** - It is through the R.C.I.A. process that adults come into the Church. It’s open to individuals whom are merely inquiring about the Catholic Church, as well as those who have already decided to become Catholic. Some participants come from other Christian traditions. Several people each year have never been baptized, and a few are individuals who were Baptized Catholic, but never received religious education or any of the other sacraments. Each year the process begins the first of September, and culminates at the Easter Vigil, in the reception of the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist.
Consider Remembering Your Parish in Your Will. For further information, please call the Parish Office.

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**Parish Center: 820 N. Arlington Heights Rd.**