“Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them.”

Matthew 11:4–5

BE DISCIPLES OF CHRIST. MAKE DISCIPLES OF CHRIST.
Why I go to confession

Once a month I have a standing appointment with a brother priest to receive the sacrament of reconciliation and penance. It is never an easy appointment to keep and there are times I feel like blowing it off, saying to myself, “I’m good”.

It is difficult and humbling to admit all my faults and sins. However, I have realized through God’s grace I feel so much better after seeking forgiveness by confessing my sins and receiving absolution.

After confessing my sins, the hard work begins, now I must work to change. God’s grace and peace gives me strength to begin the healing process.

Fr. Matt

FORMING DISCIPLES

I have learned more about the love and mercy of God in these last 4 years than in all the years that led up to them. What would make me say that? My wife and I had 2 sons - Caleb (4) and Zachary (3). They are wild, beautiful, smart, and give this dad a run for his money. Now, this is not to say that you need to have kids in order to understand love and mercy. Absolutely not! But it has given me a new perspective on life. For instance, I recently walked in on Caleb hitting Zachary because he was upset that Zachary stole his toy. I knew that Zachary stole the toy and I saw Caleb hit Zachary but, still, I asked them what happened. Why? Simply because it’s important that they are honest with their father, who loves them. Caleb eventually ‘fessed up and Zachary apologized for stealing his toy and then I gave them both the biggest hug and told them that I love them.

It’s hard to describe the love that I feel for them. It’s all-encompassing and nothing could make me love them less. But my love is far from perfect. I’ve made mistakes and I’m bound to make more but this fatherly love is forever. This week, I find myself thinking about that love and wondering how much more does God the Father love me? Love us? We know His love is perfect. Nothing we do will make him love us less. Yet there are times when we need to ask him for forgiveness when we turn away from Him and turn towards sin. Always the loving father, he looks at us with mercy and says, “I love you.”

This is the gift of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Jesus gave authority to the Church to forgive sins (John 20:23). When we go to confession, we have the chance to look God in the face and receive His love and mercy. We are not met with judgement or punishment. We are welcomed home each and every time. This week you have 5 chances to be welcomed home through our multi-parish reconciliation services. The Father is calling you to shed sin and lean into Him completely. I can’t think of a better way to prepare for the birth of Jesus!

-Jonathan Blevins
Calling all Angels & Shepherds!

Join us for our Annual Christmas Eve Angels & Shepherds Masses Tuesday, December 24th at the 2 PM & 4 PM Masses in the Parish Center.

1st - 5th graders are invited to play a special role in either the 2 PM or 4 PM Christmas children’s masses as an angel or shepherd. We ask that parents provide simple costumes for their children. Girls/Angels – white dress or white fabric. Boys/Shepherds – bathrobes or dark color fabric. We provide the angel wings! Please have your child attend one rehearsal. Rehearsals held on 12/15 at 1 PM and 12/21 at 10 AM in the Parish Center. Please sign up here: https://forms.gle/G2LUojJ3oKE71Kjg7
STEWARDSHIP

Did you know? That if you are age 70 1/2 or older you can donate up to $100,000 per person, per year, from your IRA or other tax deferred account to St. James Parish and not have to pay income taxes on the money? It's called a Qualified Charitable Distribution or QCD. In fact, using a QCD is the only way you can guarantee getting all the tax benefits from your donation regardless of whether you itemize your deductions. Some parishioners have found it to be tax advantageous to bundle their plate donations and make a lump sum QCD donation at any time, even in advance for 2020. This donation can be all or part of your RMD (required minimum distribution). Please consult your tax advisor. Thank you for your generosity!

https://amzn.to/2OAAPEM
Shop with Amazon this holiday season using this link and SMILE! 5% of your purchases will be donated back to St. James!

"Give, and it will be given to you." Luke 6:38

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF ST. JAMES!

STEWARDSHIP

DO YOU 🖤 A CATHOLIC SCHOOL EDUCATION?

Tax season is quickly approaching. This year please consider the Tax Credit Scholarship Program that may provide you a tax credit and allow children without means to attend St. James School.

Please visit this link for further information on how you help St. James School’s Tuition Assistance program.

https://schools.archchicago.org/donating-to-a-tax-credit-scholarship

InVEST in KIDS
Christmas Greeters Needed!

We are expecting large crowds for the first Christmas in our beautiful new church. We want to make every person that enters feel the warmth and joy of our Saint James family! Would you and your family like to join our dynamic greeting squad for these very special masses? We need an army of smiles to make an impact! Men, Women and families are welcome! Please sign-up at www.signupgenius.com/go/8050c4ba4a62ca6fb6-christmas or contact the head of our Greeting Ministry, Chris Avell christine.avell@comcast.net to sign up.

Multi-Parish Reconciliation Services

We encourage you to attend one of the following reconciliation services before Christmas!

- **Monday**, Dec. 16, 7:30PM at Our Lady of the Wayside
- **Tuesday**, Dec. 17, 3PM at St Edna **AND** 7:30PM @ St Marys, Buffalo Grove
- **Wednesday**, Dec 18, 7:30PM at St James AH
- **Thursday**, Dec. 19, 7:30PM at St Collette, Rolling Meadows

JOIN IN THE CHORUS!!!

For our Christmas Eve Midnight Mass, we are calling ALL community members to join the choir to celebrate the birth of Jesus. You don’t have to be a St James Choir member to participate - all are welcome and invited to **JOIN IN THE CHORUS!** Please contact Tam Conseur, Director of Music and Liturgy, at tconseur@stjamesah.org for more information.
**St. Vincent de Paul** - is an emergency source for food and short-term financial help for those living within parish boundaries, please call 224-345-7200, ext. 8517.

**Wheels to Worship** – Those who need a ride to Mass or wish to be a volunteer driver, please contact Deb Amann at damann57@yahoo.com.

**Stepping Stones** - If you or someone you know may be in an abusive relationship, a path to safety exists. Get help. Call the NV Hotline at 800-799-SAFE, or locally, call WINGS 24-hour Hotline at 847-221-5680.

**SPRED (Special Religious Education)** - Faith development for young adults with special needs to help nurture the presence of God in themselves. SPRED is held every other Wednesday Oct. to May 7-8:30PM in the St. James School SPRED Room. Contact d.desmond@comcast.net for information.

**Alcoholics Anon.** 312-346-1475

**Alanon/Alateen** 847-358-0338

**Narcotics Anon.** 708-848-4884

**Families Anon.** 847-795-8320.

**St. Mary’s Services** - Offers free, confidential counseling to assist women with an unplanned pregnancy, post partum depression, grief and loss over a miscarriage, or post abortion. Call 847-870-8181 for an appointment or to volunteer.

**For Post-Abortion Counseling Help** – call Project Rachel at Catholic Charities: 312-337-1962
www.hopeafterabortion.com

**Office for Protection of Children and Youth**
www.archchicago.org or call 312-534-5254

**NAMI**—National Alliance on Mental Illness—847-899-0195

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**Christmas Masses**

**Christmas Eve Masses**

**Angels & Shepherds Masses**
- 2 PM Fr Matt Parish Center
- 4 PM Fr Ryan Parish Center

**Christmas Day Masses**
- 8 AM Fr Matt Church
- 10 AM Fr Ryan Church
- 10 AM Fr Matt Parish Center
- 12 PM Fr Ryan Church

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**LITURGICAL MINISTERS**

**Week of December 22**

**B TEAM**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Mass Times</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sat 5:00pm</td>
<td>Fr. Matt</td>
<td>John Todesco Barb Charland</td>
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<td>7:00am</td>
<td>Fr. Ryan</td>
<td>Robert Bruett Julie Bruett</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:30am</td>
<td>Fr. Matt</td>
<td>Rachel O’Connor Janet Lee</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:00am</td>
<td>Fr. Ryan</td>
<td>Sara Tipperreiter Amy Ziolekowsi</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:30am</td>
<td>Fr. Ryan</td>
<td>John McDonagh Nancy Forch</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun 5:00pm</td>
<td>Fr. Matt</td>
<td>Barb Mangi Maribeth Odell</td>
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Please pray for our sick...
Bob Teeghman, Jim Mackey, Martha Wrobel

In Loving Memory
Robert Bielecki survived by his wife Donna and his sister Nancy Saloum. Father to Louis & Diana (nee Cassata) Bielecki, Lisa & Paul Gasior, Maria Bielecki, Sheila Bielecki & Tony Bravo, Doug Bielecki & Gina.

Adele Thompson survived by husband Albert Thompson. Mother to Bruce Thompson and Beth (Michael) Prombo.

Baptisms
Jack Nolan Buddin, child of Marcus and Nicole (McLain) Buddin
Isabella Brown, child of Don and Josephine (Cassola) Brown
Emma Soto Lukasik, child of Michael Lukasik and Maria Soto-Rodriguez
Bryce David Morden, child of Sean and Kristin (Stefanik) Morden

Rose for Life
This week’s Rose for Life is donated by The Helminski family in loving memory of their son and brother, Jeffrey, on the 17th anniversary of his death.

Remembrances
Saturday Evening/Sunday, December 15, 2019
Mary Ann Foley, Bill Pietrolonardo, Patricia, DeLio, Connie Veach, Dorothy Zabinski

Monday, December 16
Kevin James Houlihan, Mary McGrath, Lloyd Benjamin, Lee Bayse, James Santo, Mary Bannon, Gretchen Cronin, John G. McLoraine, Marti Gielow, Helen Walz Healy

Tuesday, December 17
Catherine Sabay, Anne Gilmore, Stacia Hobday

Wednesday, December 18
Genevieve Waller, Vincent Villinski, Stanley and Loretta Olech

Thursday, December 19
Thomas Rothfus, Dana Mangi, Cornelius Vanderwiel Jr., Beth Klopp

Friday, December 20
Erin Meegan, Patrick Bushnell

Saturday, December 21
George F and Regina C Biebek

Saturday Evening/Sunday, December 22
Santo Perrotta, Robert Hallberg, JT Foley, Leonard Waller, John Glueckert Sr., Robert Prochko, U.C. Pereira
ST. JAMES PARISH STAFF

Rev. Matt Foley, Pastor
224-345-7222 frmatt@stjamesah.org

Rev. Ryan McMillin, Associate Pastor
224-345-7201 frryan@stjamesah.org

Rev. Bill Zavaski, Pastor Emeritus

James Bannon (Laura), Deacon 847-577-6328
Matthew Hahn (Zuly) Deacon 847-222-1944
Paul Schmidt (Paulette) Deacon 847-253-3656
Pierce Sheehan (Midge) Deacon 847-259-1743

Principal, Michael Kendrick
224-345-7145 mkendrick@stjameschoolah.org

Marketing Dir., Kathleen Kennedy
224-345-7149 kkennedy@stjameschoolah.org

School Spiritual Formation Dir., Patricia Farrell
224-345-6132 pfarrell@stjameschoolah.org

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224-345-7211 jblevins@stjamesah.org

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224-345-7204 tconseur@stjamesah.org

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Middle School Youth Ministry Coord., Matthew Lawson
224-345-7208 mlawson@stjamesah.org

Children's Formation Coord., Kevin Byrnes
224-345-7217 kbyrnes@stjamesah.org

Evangelization & Formation Team Administrator
Theresa Storto 224-345-7213 tstorto@stjamesah.org

FOCUS Parish Missionary, Matt Marcheschi
224-345-7210 mmarcheschi@stjamesah.org

FOCUS Parish Missionary, Sarra Stanley
224-345-7203 ssstanley@stjamesah.org

Controller, Barbara Krawczyk
224-345-7239 bkrawczyk@stjamesah.org

Operations Manager, Liz Czajkowski
224-345-7205 lczaikowski@stjamesah.org

Office Manager, Flo Trunk
224-345-7206 parishoffice@stjamesah.org

Development Dir., Julie Cohen
224-345-7212 jcohen@stjamesah.org

Campus Maintenance Engineer, Mike Tomasiewicz
224-345-7200 ext. 6128 mtomasiewicz@stjamesah.org

ST. JAMES PARISH AND SCHOOL STAFF

Weekend Masses - All Masses held in Church
Saturday 5:00pm Contemporary Group
Sunday 7:00am Traditional Cantor
Sunday 8:30am Traditional Choir
Sunday 10:00am Contemporary Choir
Sunday 11:30am Contemporary Choir
Sunday 5:00pm Contemporary Group

Parish Office Hours
Monday-Thursday 9:00am—8:00pm
Friday 9:00am—6:00pm
Saturday & Sunday 9:00am—1:00pm

Baptism - Please call the Parish Office with your preferred date at least one month in advance.
Marriage - At least six months prior to your wedding date please contact the Parish Office about setting a date.
Reconciliation - Saturdays 8-9 AM and Thursdays 7-8 PM or call for an appointment anytime at 224-345-7200.

ADORÉ - Join us Thursdays in the Church for Eucharistic Adoration, procession of the blessed sacrament, a witness talk, meditative praise and worship music, silent prayer, and confession.