Good Day St. James!

How blessed we are with this day and another chance to thank God for our blessings. Last weekend we celebrated Divine Mercy Sunday and I thank everyone who joined us online to worship the Lord’s divinity. I sincerely appreciate your continued presence at mass and am hopeful that St. James is providing you the creative prayer opportunities you need during this time.

I want to gently remind you that attending Sunday mass is an obligation that we, as Catholics, understand and accept. Even though we are physically constrained to our homes, we have the blessing of technology that allows mass to meet us right where we are. Thanks be to God.

Of important note: Starting today masses will be livestreamed through the St. James website, Facebook Live, YouTube Live and Twitch. If you miss the livestream, masses will be available for one week on the St. James home page www.stjamesah.org and click on ‘recent masses’. Remember that daily masses are at 9:03 AM Monday through Saturday. And, for added variety to your weekend mass we will now offer a 5:00 PM Saturday Traditional Mass and a Sunday 10:00 AM Contemporary Mass. We are delighted to worship with you in both styles of mass so take your pick...or attend both!

We continue to stay positive and strong for our community, and I hope you are taking advantage of our communications on social media and in our Sunday eBulletin. There always seems to be so much good news at St. James, and we are hoping to share it with as many parishioners as we can virtually reach.

- Adore will be livestreamed at 7:00 pm tomorrow, Thursday, April 23rd. Meditative music is provided by our Music Ministry Director, Tam Conseur. This is a wonderful opportunity to witness the Blessed Sacrament and allow the Lord’s healing hands to profoundly touch our souls.
This past Monday friends of St. James parishioner and school parent, Staff Sgt. Eric Gutzmer, held a drive-by parade to honor his return from Afghanistan, where he had been stationed with 400 members of the Illinois Army National Guard 1st Battalion, 178th Infantry Regiment for the past nine months. The story and video can be watched here. “It is a wonderful day!” says his wife, Abbie Gutzmer. Our community is so proud of Sgt. Gutzmer for persevering during this time, and we are truly overjoyed for his safe return and reunion with his family.
• I am in constant awe watching God work through the Women of St. James. There is room for all of our St. James women in WOSJ, just sign up here. Through it all these hard-working women and their families stay focused, creative, prayerful, and vigilant. Last Friday a Worship Walk was scheduled at 3 pm for families to enjoy some fresh air in their own neighborhoods and set aside prayer time during their journey. A little spring snow shower did not stop these prayer warriors!

Additionally, there have been over 70 beautiful Mother’s Day cards of encouragement collected from WOSJ families that will be given to Faith Community Homes on Mother’s Day. I am grateful to all of our women for the service outreach they provide inside and outside of St. James walls. They truly exemplify our be disciples and make disciples mission statement!

• Our newly formed St. James Living Legacy Society seeks you. This special group of parishioners have a planned gift or bequest to St. James School or Parish stated
in their Will. We are so grateful for future intentions and will honor these parishioners publicly in our eBulletin on May 3rd. The May 3rd date was chosen for it being the feast day of St. James the Lesser (fun facts below), for whom our beloved parish is named. Please contact Julie Cohen, Development Director, at jcohen@stjamesah.org or 224-345-7212 by April 28 if you would like to be included in our St. James Living Legacy Society recognition this year.

JOIN THE ST. JAMES PARISH Living Legacy Society!

AND...STAY TUNED FOR A PLANNED GIVING EDUCATIONAL EVENT THIS SUMMER!

Contact Julie Cohen for more information
jcohen@stjamesah.org | 224-345-7212
This past Wednesday St. James and wonderful local businesses provided 100 packaged breakfasts, lunches, and dinners for PADS guests. Thank you Mt. Prospect McDonald’s, downtown Arlington Jimmy John’s, and parishioner owned Phat Phat Chinese in Schaumburg. Fr. Corey, Brother Michael, Brother John, Brother Peter, Jeanne Coughlin, Nancy Moroney and Fry. Ryan, and their crew once again safely delivered these meals. Please continue to support the restaurants who are helping our homeless get through this rough patch. The parish response in support of our redirection efforts for PADS has been truly overwhelming and wonderful. Thank you for your generosity and your prayers for this dedicated ministry.
One of the things that we should be doing during, above all, is pray. The staff, Fr. Ryan, and I are committed to praying daily for your intentions. Please visit our Facebook page to post your prayer request. Prayer is powerful and we can hold each other up during this pandemic and long after.

At 20:20 (8:20 pm) each evening you will hear our St. James church bells chime. This began last Saturday evening after learning that students would not be returning to school campuses for the remainder of the academic year. We want our graduating class from St. James School, and from all schools, to hear the bells each evening and know St.
James is praying for them and all of their accomplishments. Our spirit is with all 2020 graduates during these final few weeks of distance learning. Click here and listen to our church bells ring!

SAINT JAMES SCHOOL

ST. JAMES Q&A TIME!
We received this question via social media and believe it was worthy of printing in the event you can help.

Q: Many of us are receiving stimulus checks as a result of the COVID crisis. I received mine already, and I understand the checks will be sent through the summer. I would like to donate my check amount to a worthy cause at St. James. Please let me know where funds are needed most.
Sincerely, Anonymous

A: Thank you, Anonymous, for this wonderful question! We have two recommendations for areas of great need that will support our St. James values. The first is the St. Vincent DePaul Society and the second is our elementary school and religious education Tuition Assistance Program.

The St. Vincent DePaul Society assists people and families in times of crisis; paying bills, providing food and shelter, clothing, and the necessary essentials to live. Right now, as you know, there are millions of people in crisis due to job loss. Your donation would be very appreciated at St. Vincent DePaul. They do wonderful work and help
get people back on their feet. For more information visit: https://stvincentdepaulchicago.org/

❤️ The Tuition Assistance Program at St. James serves families who cannot afford tuition payments of our elementary school or religious education programs. We have over 44 children on the list to receive financial aid this coming year and we expect the numbers will increase as unemployment consumes more people.

Donations can be made electronically at https://membership.faithdirect.net/IL859
Or checks mailed/dropped off in the drop box at the St. James Parish Office @ 820 N. Arlington Heights Road / AH 60004
Please MEMO: St. Vincent DePaul Society or Tuition Assistance with your donation.

We are incredibly grateful for your generosity!

- Our Religious Education, adult faith formation, LifeTeen and EDGE youth ministry programs encourage you to join our virtual events. You can find invitations to many prayer opportunities, Fr. Ryan’s Passioning, and other worship services in the Sunday’s eBulletin. Our Facebook page advertises weekly invitations as well. Come and creatively pray with us! Virtual prayer is for everyone and helps keep us connected.
The first series of the Virtual Lifeteen Night has come to an end. We had some incredible speakers and amazing musicians these last few Sundays. We won’t end there! The new series for teens begins this week, but first, a St. James Teen Virtual Scavenger Hunt!

For more information about getting your teens involved in our virtual activities, please don’t hesitate to contact Christina Hudson, (chudson@stjamesah.org) for more information!

• Would you like the opportunity to spread some good news to The Little Sisters?

GOOD NEWS FROM THE OVER 50’S CLUB!
Gerry Stec is accepting donations to the Little Sisters of the Poor, an elderly care home in Palatine. Here is the list of urgently needed items. If you would like to provide any of these items to the Little Sisters, please contact Gerry at 847-398-2097. She is delighted to accept your donations and deliver them to the Little Sisters. Thank you so very much for your generosity.

God Bless you all!
• Good news has come to our Laramie Room, church window, and Parish Center stage!

Additional Laramie Room sound panels have been installed to assist with sound absorption. You will notice this blessed enhancement at your next senior luncheon or ministry meeting.

Six years ago, a ball broke the bottom corner piece of one of our church windows. Last week that window was finally repaired back to its original glory.

The stage in the Parish Center underwent a deep clean last week. Everything was removed from backstage (no small task) and floor was cleaned and waxed. Prop and electrical rooms (the two side rooms used for storage and stage entrances/exits) were also deep cleaned. Safe to say the stage has never looked this empty! We are thrilled that the stage has been sanitized, and is safe and ready for a timely return.
And while on the topic of theater, I am grateful to our Theater Producers, Tom & Sue Hussey, Don & Sue Nowakowski, Jack Saflarski, and Alison McLaughlin, and their entire team for making the difficult decision to cancel the summer musical. The good news is that *Bye Bye Birdie* is now scheduled for next summer, 2021. We look forward to the 51st year of creating stage memories through this ministry, and more magnificent community theater that St. James started (by Fr. Bill) in 1970 with this same title show! You may follow St. James Theater for updates for Zoom gatherings and a potential summer/fall social outing at their [Facebook page](https://www.facebook.com) or at [www.stjamestheatre.org](http://www.stjamestheatre.org).

*Mask-maker, Mask-maker make me a mask!* (Another theater reference...*Fiddler on the Roof*, performed at St. James in 1992 and 2009.) There are many, many parishioners continuing to create masks for our nursing homes, hospital employees,
clinicians and neighbors. There are so many sewers I cannot list them all by name. But know that I am so grateful for each and every one of their generous contributions that support the safety, health, and well-being of our brothers and sisters.

- Our Garden Ministry continues using their talents to make our church grounds beautiful. This statue and flowers were prayerfully arranged and planted last week. You can see it just to the left of the canopy entrance. My gratitude, again, to the work of our garden ministers.
• Don’t our wonderful Earth Shepherds always have good news to proclaim? From ministry leader, Bonnie Cimo:

_The St. James Earth Shepherds Ministry met on Zoom this week. We prayed for all who are experiencing illness, for medical staff, and for those who work in fields and grocery stores to bless us with sustenance for our bodies. We prayed that the people of the world will work together to care for our common home just as they have to shelter one another from COVID-19._

_Diane Adam recently met a very active member of the Archdiocese creation care team, Andy Panelli. We are planning to host a presentation by Andy about our Catholic response to Climate Change and what we can do about it. In the meantime, parishioners can spread the US Conference of Catholic Bishops’ strong support of a bipartisan bill called HR 763, the Energy Innovation Act by clicking [here](https://www.usccb.org/catholic-action/liturgical-cycles-and-seasons/energy-innovation-act)._

Our Earth Shepherds always encourage you to join them anytime at their [Facebook page](https://www.facebook.com/sjearthshepherds). Inquiries and questions about their year-long events can be sent to: sjearthshepherds@gmail.com. _Pictured below are several outings held this past year. The Earth Shepherds look forward to scheduling more events soon and hope you can join them!_
• The St. James School daily morning announcements now include cameo appearances of our mascot. Featured in this video are not only the school children, but also the Bulldog helping Principal Kendrick and I stick with our spiritual fitness. The children find this amusing, and hopefully you will too. The ham in me continues these videos to encourage laughter (at me...really, it’s okay) and a “let’s move it” attitude. Let the race begin!

• Couldn’t pass up the opportunity to share this 45 second commercial clip from Campbell’s. Our very active parishioner, Mary Lynn Massa, and her daughter and grandson, are shown in the window in the beginning of this commercial and seen another time about half-way through. Don’t we all want a house with a crowded table! And we will again, in time. Watch the heartwarming video here.
• “He has a heart to serve,” Laurabeth Lamberta says of her son, Michael Lamberta, "and to show God's life." Read the April 20 Daily Herald article [here](#) about former Arlington Heights resident and St. Viator graduate working in the ER of a very COVID-19 hard hit New York City hospital. He treats a “tsunami of patients” weekly and says, "We're all working on being more compassionate and committing to patients on a different level." We all pray for Michael’s safety, and physical and mental health. We are grateful for his vocation.

In closing, I cannot understate how much the staff misses you, parishioners. We are relieved that you are safe and thankful we can persevere online through this time together. We are praying for you. Remember to leave your anxieties, dreams, fears and wishes at the foot of the cross. Jesus will provide. Our God is good, and it is a comfort knowing we are here for each other.
I came upon this graphic over the weekend and found it very appropriate of how I know we all feel. It displays groups in our society who are supporting us through this time. United we do stand. United we will still have good news to create and to share. Thank you for being a wonderful and united St. James Parish.
May God Bless you and your families.

Your Servant in Christ,

Fr. Matt