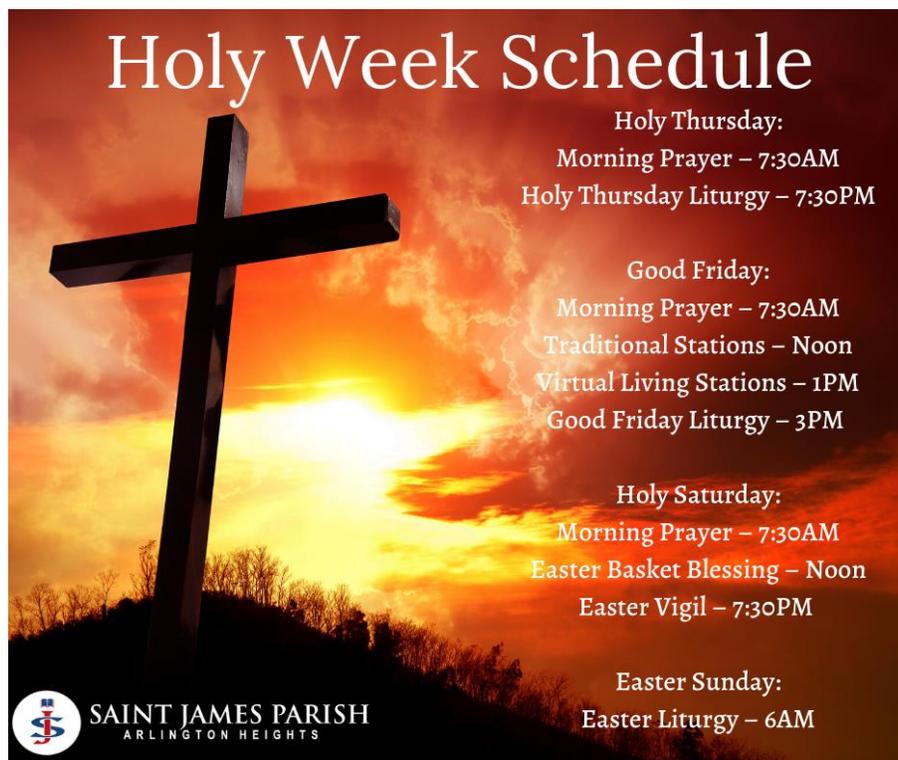


Good Day St. James Community!

We have made it through another week of our shelter in place orders and good news is happening all around us. Sharing the wonderful acts of love and connectedness keeps our spirits up and our mental state strong. Thankfully the weather encourages us to get outdoors; Take a bike ride, walk the dog, fire up the grill, garden, wash the car, or just sit and soak up the scents of spring. Here is good news to share this Holy Week:

⇒ Holy Week celebrations will be held virtually at www.stjamesah.org. You and your families are invited to join us as we approach Christ's resurrection this Easter Sunday. Music and liturgy teams have worked hard to revise our Triduum traditions to fit within the directives by the Archdiocese. We look forward to praying with you this week!



Holy Week Schedule

Holy Thursday:
Morning Prayer – 7:30AM
Holy Thursday Liturgy – 7:30PM

Good Friday:
Morning Prayer – 7:30AM
Traditional Stations – Noon
Virtual Living Stations – 1PM
Good Friday Liturgy – 3PM

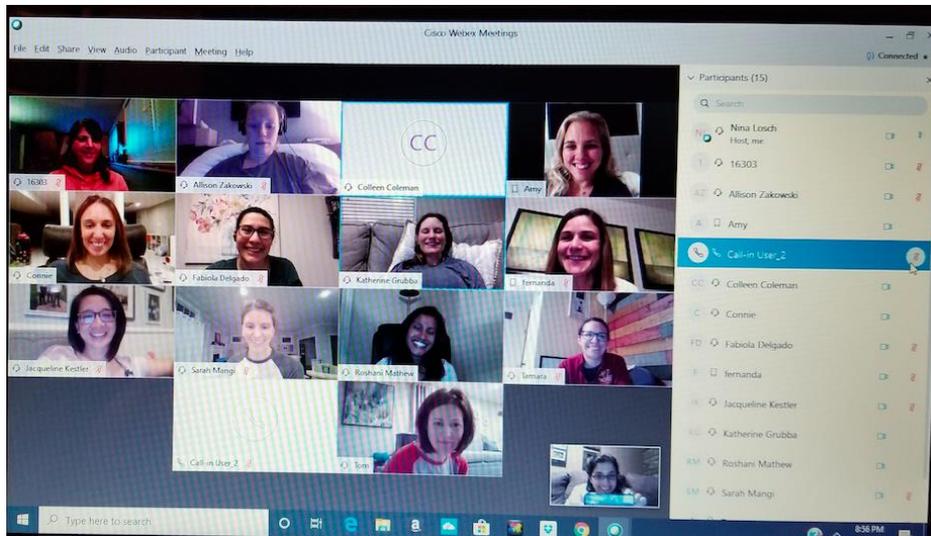
Holy Saturday:
Morning Prayer – 7:30AM
Easter Basket Blessing – Noon
Easter Vigil – 7:30PM

Easter Sunday:
Easter Liturgy – 6AM

 **SAINT JAMES PARISH**
ARLINGTON HEIGHTS

All services will be prerecorded and posted to the website at the times listed above.

⇒ Our Women of St. James Ministry (WOSJ) continues to grow during this time of isolation. These amazing ladies are **310** members strong (wow!) and invite more ladies to join them in sisterhood, service and prayer. Registration is free [here](#). Many virtual meetings are held weekly that focus on prayer and positivity, and nearly 250 WOSJ members continue their Bible study, Amazed and Afraid, through videos, faith resources, and phone calls. Their Facebook Community is incredibly active with prayer intentions, support and encouragement. The re-planning of their Baby Bunco shower and Aid for Women events are currently in process.



- Lynne & Bill Luehrs continued their Marriage Encounter dialogue last Saturday night offering prayers, special intentions and sharing in some good laughs. The group will meet over Zoom again in two weeks to play the Newlywed Game.



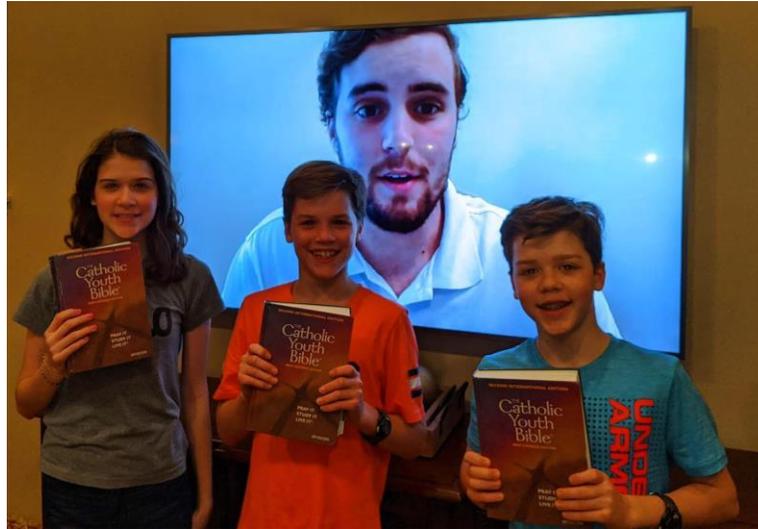
- Our team of lectors have been in email conversations that focus on personal insights. Their dialogue includes feelings of faith and family, mindful of those less fortunate and remembering compassion during this difficult time. Together they share Fr. Med Laz's daily *Treats for the Soul* emails that are thought provoking, prayerful and insightful. Have a read here: [A Piece of Palm and a Passion Story](#). **God is good!**

- PADS continues their mission of serving roughly 100 homeless clients on Mondays and Wednesdays by way of meals and overnight hotel shelter. Our incredible gratitude goes out to the volunteers, the local restaurants generously assisting with meal preparation, and area hotels who have taken in our guests.



- Fr. Ryan and I continue to anoint the sick and bury the dead. We ask for your prayers for parish families who are burying their loved ones and are in great need of healing. We hope to offer funeral and memorial masses in the near future.
- Join St. James School for their eLearning morning announcements and enjoy an update from our school children. [SJS April 7 Morning Announcements](#). #cutenessoverload!
- Our Religious Education team can help your family connect to our liturgies during Holy Week. There are [resources](#) to help strengthen faith in the home, and [this video](#) will help make the liturgies personal.
- LifeTEEN is running full steam ahead with their digital Sunday program. A Confirmation virtual retreat is in the works with more information to come.

- EDGE's video lesson this week is [here](#). Join Matthew Lawson in his discussion this week on Abraham and Jesus.



- Earth Shepherds have (much) good news! Bonnie Cimo, ministry leader, tells us, *“During this time of isolation, many of us find peace and refreshment in nature. Look forward to monthly hikes with Steve Halm, former St. James student and knowledgeable volunteer at Deer Grove Forest Preserve. Hikes are usually scheduled from May to October. Watch our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/sjearthshepherds) and the bulletin for news. Also, see what's sprouting at the St. James Butterfly Garden near the bike rack in the Parish Center parking lot. Native prairie plants such as milkweed are growing there and provide year round benefits to birds, butterflies and more. The dry stalks of this garden will give way to vibrant blooms in the months to come. Keep your distance from one another, but check out the signs of life, and visit all season to see caterpillars, butterflies etc...!”*

Other upcoming events:

- Film showing the environmental consequences of fast fashion's manufacturing and disposal.
- A "Clothing Swap"
- Dining for Women partnership featuring a potluck dinner with plant-based foods
- Butterfly Garden cleanup event and annual blessing
- Participation in the July 4th parade's Interfaith Green Partners' float (Email to the address below if you are interested in marching!)
- Mark your calendars: St. Francis Fest September 19 - Outdoor mass, dinner, hikes and more at Deer Grove Forest Preserve Camp Reinberg

The Earth Shepherds are always looking for new members...all ages welcome. Email sjeathshepherds@gmail.com for more information!

- Listen to a little musical inspiration by Tam Conseur as he sings "[Run to the Father](#)". Choirs are staying connected through Zoom calls and many email chats that offer prayers, love and inspiration. The 10 am choir met yesterday, and all agree they cannot wait to get back to rehearsals and singing at mass with their fellow parishioners.



- Fr. Ryan's new Bible study series "[Passioning](#)" started this past Monday. All are welcome to join his live stream Mondays and Tuesdays @ 7:30 pm through April 30th at [our website](#).
- You may be receiving a phone call from a St. James staff member. We're just checking in to be sure you are okay. We have parishioners who live alone and may be feeling isolated. Please remember that St. James is doing everything we can to connect with parishioners during this time of social distancing. Connect with us on social media to stay in touch.
- Alpha continues its virtual program with its 50 parishioners, and the Men of St. James (MOSJ) Bible Study small groups continue virtually with over 60 participants. MOSJ small groups meet at the following times and you are welcome to join. If you have ever been interested or curious about a group Bible study now is a wonderful opportunity! Email the group leader directly for additional information:
 - Tuesday mornings 6:00 AM (Jim Bertucci)
Email jimbortucci1830@gmail.com

- Thursday evenings 7:30 PM (Matt Marcheschi)
Email mmarcheschi@stjamesah.org
- Friday mornings 6:30 AM (Dave Hogaboom)
Email davehogaboom@gmail.com
- Saturday mornings (2nd & 4th Saturdays) 9:15 AM (Paul Schmidt)
Email pschmidt@holycrossparish.net

Thank you for your inspiration and support of St. James during this time of transition and uncertainty. Keep our frontline health care and essential workers in your hearts and minds. Pray for the families who have lost loved ones to COVID-19. And please remember to thank God for your own health and safety.

May you enter the Triduum with God as your center, and may the Lord bless with you with much Easter joy this Sunday.



Your Servant in Christ,

Matt Foley

Fr. Matt