



# SAINT JAMES PARISH

## ARLINGTON HEIGHTS

o come,  
let us  
adore  
him!



### *In This Issue...*

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DEC. 28

2025



## Today's Readings

### First Reading

Honor parents with gratitude and care; such devotion brings blessing, forgiveness, and lasting favor from God.

*Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14*

### Second Reading

Clothe yourselves with love, humility, and forgiveness; let Christ's peace rule, worship thankfully, and live faithfully in family relationships.

*Colossians 3:12-21*

### Gospel

Mary and Joseph protect Jesus by fleeing to Egypt and later settling in Nazareth, fulfilling prophecy and showing God's guidance and protection over the Messiah's early life.

*Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23*

Dear Friends,

Greetings on this Feast of the Holy Family! As we continue our celebration of the Lord's birth, I extend, on behalf of the clergy and staff of St. James, our prayers for you and your families, and our god wishes for a blessed season.

St. Joseph, sometimes referred to as Joseph the Just, received attention in the Gospel reading from Matthew today:

*The angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child's life are dead." He rose, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel.*

- Matthew 2:13

Joseph is a magnificent example of a loving and protecting father and husband. He saved the life of Jesus by taking his family to Egypt and waiting there until God told him to return to Israel. He has rearranged his entire life to serve God by serving and protecting Mary and Jesus.

I have been very aware of the disrespectful way fathers and husbands are portrayed in advertising and television series in particular. They are often depicted as incompetent, or worse, clueless men when it comes to serving as fathers and husbands.

But we all know men who are selfless and self-sacrificing, responsible and protective, committed providers for their families. I am grateful to God for the presence of these men in our parish and community. In the best examples, they form a loving partnership with their wives in forming their children. When these fathers are absent from their family life, I hope that other dads provide a loving example.

God bless you and all your families.  
St. Joseph, pray for us.

Fr. Ed



# PARISH UPDATES



## Online Giving Update

St. James has migrated to an updated online giving platform:

ParishSOFT  
by Ministry Brands

FAITH DIRECT®  
by Ministry Brands

IS NOW =>

ParishSOFT  
by Ministry Brands

### Important things to know:

1. **Manage Your Account:** You should no longer use Faith Direct to make or change your donation preferences.

Please scan the QR code or visit the Parish Soft Website at: [giving.parishsoft.com/app/giving/FD-859](https://giving.parishsoft.com/app/giving/FD-859)



2. **This upgrade happened automatically and securely.** No action is required from you. Your gift schedules and payment details will carry over seamlessly.

3. **Weekly Giving:** If you had previously selected weekly giving within Faith Direct, your gifts will now be deducted each week instead of in one monthly batch. If you prefer to give monthly, you can make that update in Parish Soft.

4. **More Flexibility:** Adjust your giving schedule to any date that works for you, not just the 4th or 15th.

5. **More Ways to Give:** Now you can donate using PayPal, Venmo, Apple Pay, or Google Pay.

SAINT JAMES PARISH  
ARLINGTON HEIGHTS

For questions, please reach out to [JJacobson@StJamesAH.org](mailto:JJacobson@StJamesAH.org)

## HOLY DAY MASS SCHEDULE

Wednesday, December 31

5:00 p.m.

Thursday, January 1

8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m., 12:00 p.m.

THE SOLEMNITY OF

# Mary

## the Holy Mother of God

### HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION



SAINT JAMES PARISH  
ARLINGTON HEIGHTS

## MAKE MUSIC AT ST. JAMES

We are seeking singers for the  
*Verdi Requiem*

# Sing *With Us!*

Concert at 7 pm on Thursday March 12, 2026  
Rehearsals begin January 8, 2026.

sacred sounds  
*concert* series



SAINT JAMES PARISH  
ARLINGTON HEIGHTS



Contact Tamaron Conseur  
[tconseur@stjamesah.org](mailto:tconseur@stjamesah.org)

2026 Winter/Spring Session

# YOUTH CHOIR REGISTRATION

Open now for 2<sup>nd</sup> semester!

**SPOTS AVAILABLE FOR:**  
**CHILDREN'S CHOIR - GRADE 2-4**  
**CELESTIAL VOICES - GRADE 5-8**

Use the  
link for  
more  
information



[stjamesah.org/youth-choir-registration/](http://stjamesah.org/youth-choir-registration/)



## RECENT EVENTS



### SANTA RUN

The St. James Striders were proud to support the Arlington Heights Rotary Club Santa Run once again!

We were thrilled to have the largest team on the course for the second year in a row!

Thank you to our wonderful St. James community for showing up, cheering loud, and supporting our fellow parishioners who helped make this event such a success.



### Advent Concert

The Sacred Sounds Concert Series presented their annual free Advent Concert on December 6.

More than 200 audience members enjoyed this spirited musical celebration.

We were inspired by the message from Gerry's Cafe who presented their mission and brought delicious cookies as well!






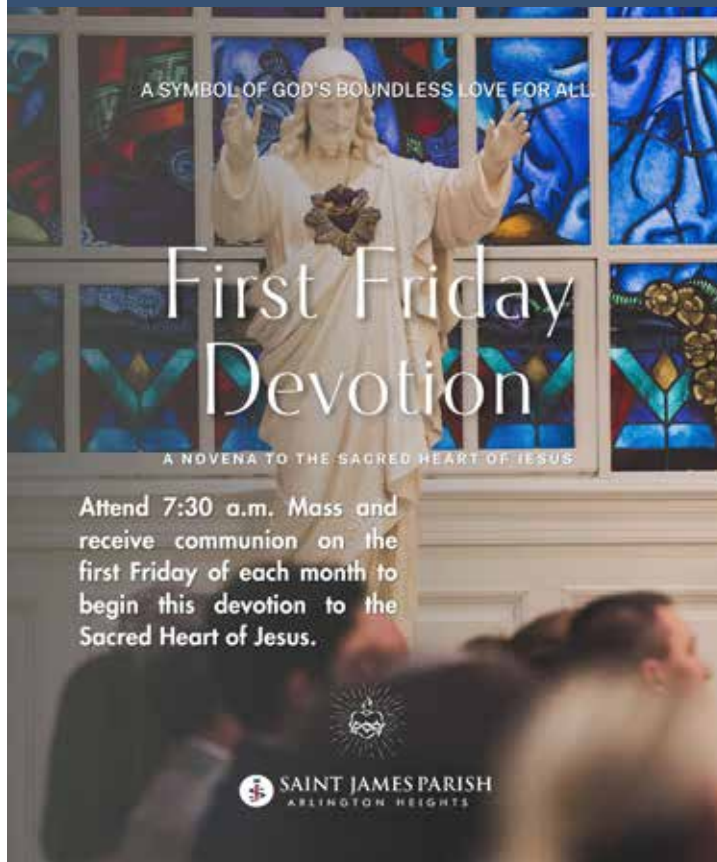
## PARISH NEWS

A SYMBOL OF GOD'S BOUNDLESS LOVE FOR ALL

# First Friday Devotion

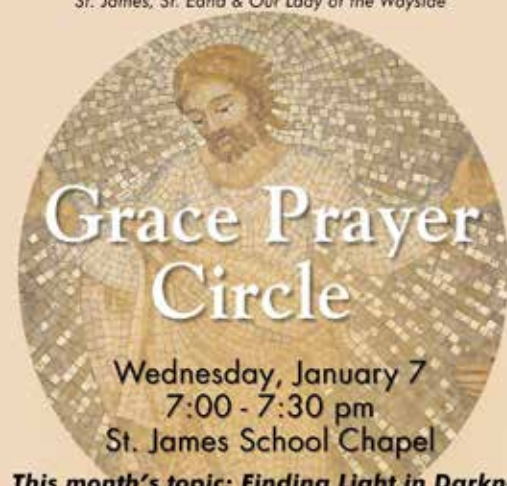
A NOVENA TO THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS

Attend 7:30 a.m. Mass and receive communion on the first Friday of each month to begin this devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.



SAINT JAMES PARISH  
ARLINGTON HEIGHTS

Meeting Mental Health  
With Grace  
A mental health ministry through  
St. James, St. Edna & Our Lady of the Wayside



# Grace Prayer Circle

Wednesday, January 7  
7:00 - 7:30 pm  
St. James School Chapel

***This month's topic: Finding Light in Darkness***

Join us for scripture, songs, reflection and prayer for those living with mental health concerns and their loved ones.

Submit prayer requests at:  
847-253-5390 or  
[mentalhealthministry@stjamesah.org](mailto:mentalhealthministry@stjamesah.org)

## TAKE ADVANTAGE OF HIGHER PAYOUT RATES!

Charitable gift annuity payout rates have increased – allowing you the opportunity to benefit more from your giving and to help ensure that God's good work continues. When you establish a charitable gift annuity with the archdiocese, not only will you receive fixed payments for life, but you can designate our parish as the remainder beneficiary.

You can schedule payments according to your financial needs, and enjoy immediate and future tax benefits, including a federal income tax deduction for a portion of your gift, if you itemize. Also, a portion of each annuity payment will be tax-free (through life expectancy). The funds remaining after your lifetime will support St. James Parish or School as designated by you.

For more information, please contact:  
Stewardship & Development Director, Julie Jacobson,  
at 224-345-7212 or [jjacobson@stjamesah.org](mailto:jjacobson@stjamesah.org)  
or visit [giving.archchicago.org/cga](http://giving.archchicago.org/cga)

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO



**SAVE THE DATES**

sacred sounds  
*concert* series

# Rhapsody: 20th Century Classics

February 9, 2026  
7 PM  
In the church



Tamaron  
Conseur



Leah Kang



Jay Shankar



SAINT JAMES PARISH  
ARLINGTON HEIGHTS

## *Celebrating Women Mass*

**Friday, January 9, 2026 @ 7 p.m.**  
**St. James Church**

Join us for our annual WOSJ Celebrating Women event, where we gather with other women in our community and give thanks to God. Fr. Michael will be celebrating Mass, followed by a reception in the Laramie Room (lower level of the church).

**This event is open to all adult women,  
guests are welcome!**

**WOSJ**  
Women of St. James



# Fostering Healthy, Holy Families

*St. James Stepping Stones lauds those making a difference*

Today, as we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family, let us remember those who work to end relational violence and foster healthy families.

WINGS In FY 2025, through housing, counseling, mentoring and hospital programs, they assisted 1,365 survivors and 544 children, provided 118,761 nights of shelter and offered 561 individuals community-based services. UI Health joined their hospital initiative and 671 medical personnel received training.

DVO (Domestic Violence Outreach) promotes the formation, training and support of DV ministries in communities of all faiths. Currently, DVO boasts 66 active parish ministries that raise awareness in their communities. Through Dating Matters (a relationships curriculum for junior high students), they work to prevent interpersonal violence. The program is offered in 16 Chicago Public Schools with 1260 youth now enrolled. Because of DVO and Dating Matters, they are learning to relate in healthy ways with others.

Fr. Charles Dahm, who spearheaded DVO, continues to cross the Archdiocese, bringing awareness to congregations and hope to victims. This year, he reached out to two new parishes, returned to four others and continued to approach pastors about educating their parishioners about DV. He is working to create a Metropolitan DV coalition with Christian, Jewish and Muslim faith communities.

*Jesus, Mary and Joseph, models of family love, helps us to live as you did, honoring and respecting one another. May we, in word and action, reflect God's infinite care for all His children and work to live in peace and harmony. Amen.*

*Stepping Stones raises awareness, promotes understanding and prevents relational violence by educating communities and providing referrals to victims and survivors of emotional, financial, physical and sexual abuse.*



Illinois Domestic Violence Helpline: 877-863-6338



## PARISH NEWS & EVENTS



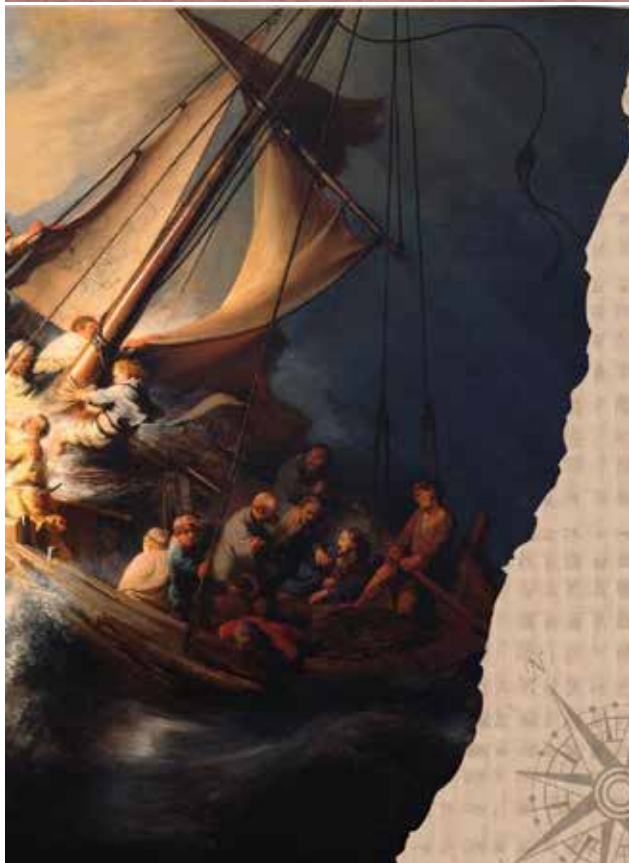
### JOIN US ON A **PATH TO SUNDAY**

SUNDAY GOSPEL  
REFLECTIONS TO CARRY  
YOU TO SUNDAY AND  
THROUGH THE WEEK

READ THE  
REFLECTIONS  
HERE



[STJAMESAH.ORG/PATH-TO-SUNDAY/](http://STJAMESAH.ORG/PATH-TO-SUNDAY/)



From Rough Waters to Steady Ground

## **MEN'S WELCOME RETREAT**

02.28.26 & 03.01.26

Forged through trials, strengthened by  
Christ: join a retreat where stories and  
encounters with Jesus ignite your spirit



[stjamesah.org/mens-welcome/](http://stjamesah.org/mens-welcome/)

# OUR PRAYERS & INTENTIONS

## Mass Intentions and Observances

### Saturday, December 27

5:00 Patrick & Kevin Houlihan  
Joyce Kochan  
Marcin Bukowski  
Joe DiGiovanni

### Sunday, December 28 The Holy Family

7:00 Mary Ellen Bannon  
8:30 John R. Nordin Sr.  
James Flynn  
Jeff Helminski (23rd Anniv.)  
10:00 for the people of the parish  
11:30 Mark Krause  
Nick Rahija  
George & Ana Rahija  
Dragotin & Ana Sopcic

### Monday, December 29

7:30 Candace Duggan  
John F. Kordek

### Tuesday, December 30

7:30 George Mulcahy  
The LaVeau Family\*

### Wednesday, December 31 St. Sylvester I

7:30 Kenneth Olechowski (1st Anniv.)  
Ed Cahill  
Edward & Louise Gehrke  
Richard & Catherine Lyons  
Edward A. Dillon  
Erin Adreani

5:00 pm

### Thursday, January 1 Mary, The Holy Mother of God (HDO)

8:00 am  
10:00 am  
12:00 pm

### Friday, January 2 Sts. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen

7:30 Fr. Edward Pelrine\*  
Fr. Paul Stein\*  
Fr. Michael Grzesik\*  
Angelo Anzalone  
Patrick Kett  
Ann McCabe

### Saturday, January 3 The Most Holy Name of Jesus

\* Indicates Living

## In Loving Memory

Josephine Perez  
Richard J. LaVeau

## Please pray for our sick

Norine Naselli  
Nicolas Leonardo  
Andy Kaplan  
Lucy Detlefsen  
Melinda C.  
Andrew Schnell  
Barbara Reed  
Barb Chidalek  
Bruce Swanson  
Lucille Krajnik

## Recent Baptisms

**Grace Bernadine Naughton**, child of  
Michael Naughton and Mary (Brennan) Naughton

## Celebrant Schedule January 3-4

5:00	Fr. Paul
7:00	Fr. Michael
8:30	Fr. Michael
10:00	Fr. Michael
11:30	Fr. Paul
5:00	Fr. Paul

## Readings for the week of December 29

Monday:	1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6/Lk 2:22-35
Tuesday:	1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10/Lk 2:36-40
Wednesday:	1 Jn 2:18-21/Ps 96:1-2, 11-12, 13/Jn 1:1-18
Thursday:	Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6 and 8/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21
Friday:	1 Jn 2:22-28/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/Jn 1:19-28
Saturday:	1 Jn 2:29-3:6/Ps 98:1, 3cd-4, 5-6/Jn 1:29-34
Next Sunday:	Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-13/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12





# PARISH INFORMATION

Thank you, St. James Community, for your contributions during November, 2025

Sunday Collections ➡	Budgeted	Actual	Variance
	\$197,768.00	\$195,784.96	(\$1,983.04)
		Envelopes: \$109,391.77	
		Online Giving: \$86,393.19	

## PARISH GROUPS AND APOSTOLATES

**Earth Shepherds** provides opportunities to learn about the relationship between Scripture, Catholic Social Teaching and our responsibility to be stewards of God's Creation.  
[sjearthshepherds@gmail.com](mailto:sjearthshepherds@gmail.com)

**Grief Support Group** is about helping with your grief. Are you struggling with a loss? Having a hard time coping? We meet twice per month. Please email the address below for more details.  
[griefsupport@stjamesah.org](mailto:griefsupport@stjamesah.org)

**Jr. Ambassadors** is a group for all children of St. James to practice their faith in service to others and as an example of our Catholic faith to everyone. Jr. Ambassadors act as representatives and promoters of our faith while learning about the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy and Catholic Social Teaching.  
[kcoughlin@stjamesah.org](mailto:kcoughlin@stjamesah.org)

**Loaves and Fishes** provides lunches for those experiencing homelessness in Chicago's Uptown neighborhood.  
[stjameslandf@gmail.com](mailto:stjameslandf@gmail.com)

**Men of St. James** provides opportunities for Christian fellowship through social, spiritual and service activities for men of the parish at least 21 years of age.  
[msj@stjamesah.org](mailto:msj@stjamesah.org)

**Mental Health Group** provides support, education and awareness to our parish communities on issues related to mental health. Strives to provide resources of support, education and hope.  
[tsherva@gmail.com](mailto:tsherva@gmail.com)

**Ministers of Care** bring the Holy Eucharist to parishioners who are unable to leave their homes or are in care homes. Ministry volunteers must complete a mandatory training session and follow Archdiocesan guidelines.  
[ministryofcare@stjamesah.org](mailto:ministryofcare@stjamesah.org)

**Moms Plus** provides support and fellowship to Catholic moms. This group is part of Women of St. James.  
[momsplus@stjamesah.org](mailto:momsplus@stjamesah.org)

**Mondays with Mary** small group of men who pray the Rosary every Monday morning in the Teen Room at 7:00 a.m., then attend Mass together. New members are welcome. A remote option is available for those unable to attend in person.  
[mike\\_smigiel@msn.com](mailto:mike_smigiel@msn.com)

**Over 50 Social Club** provides social outings, speakers, and parties to any parishioner over the age of 50.  
[stecstan@sbcglobal.net](mailto:stecstan@sbcglobal.net)

**PADS Outreach** provides safety, temporary shelter and services to the unhoused.  
[st.james.pads@gmail.com](mailto:st.james.pads@gmail.com)

**Parish Pastoral Council** serves as a representative body of the St. James parish community, guided by the Holy Spirit.  
[PPC@stjamesah.org](mailto:PPC@stjamesah.org)

**Peace & Justice** educates the faithful on the Catholic social teachings, supports and complements parish ministries and empowers people to transform lives and society, both locally and globally. Meets the last Tuesday of each month.

**Prayer Shawl Group** creates a wide variety of shawls for anyone in need of prayers or blessings. We pray as we knit or crochet, and meet on the 3rd Sunday of each month to bless the fruits of our labors.  
[prayershawlministry@stjamesah.org](mailto:prayershawlministry@stjamesah.org)

**Respect Life** strives to transform society into a Culture of Life where every human being is valued and protected from the moment of conception until natural death.  
[respectlife@stjamesah.org](mailto:respectlife@stjamesah.org)

**Stepping Stones** raises awareness, promotes understanding and prevents relational violence by educating communities and providing referrals to victims and survivors of emotional, financial, physical and sexual abuse. (IL Domestic Violence Helpline: 877-863-6338), [steppingstones@stjamesah.org](mailto:steppingstones@stjamesah.org)

**St. Vincent de Paul** provides emergency, short-term financial help for anyone living within the parish boundaries. For information on volunteering for or using this service, call the Parish Office followed by x8517. All requests kept confidential.

**The Table** meets the second Sunday of each month after the 10:00 am Mass in the Teen Room (LL of the church). For anyone who is curious about the Catholic faith. This is a time to ask questions and engage in conversation with others.

**Women of St. James** provides support to Catholic women who are committed to growing and sharing their faith through sisterhood and service.  
[wosjministryleads@gmail.com](mailto:wosjministryleads@gmail.com)

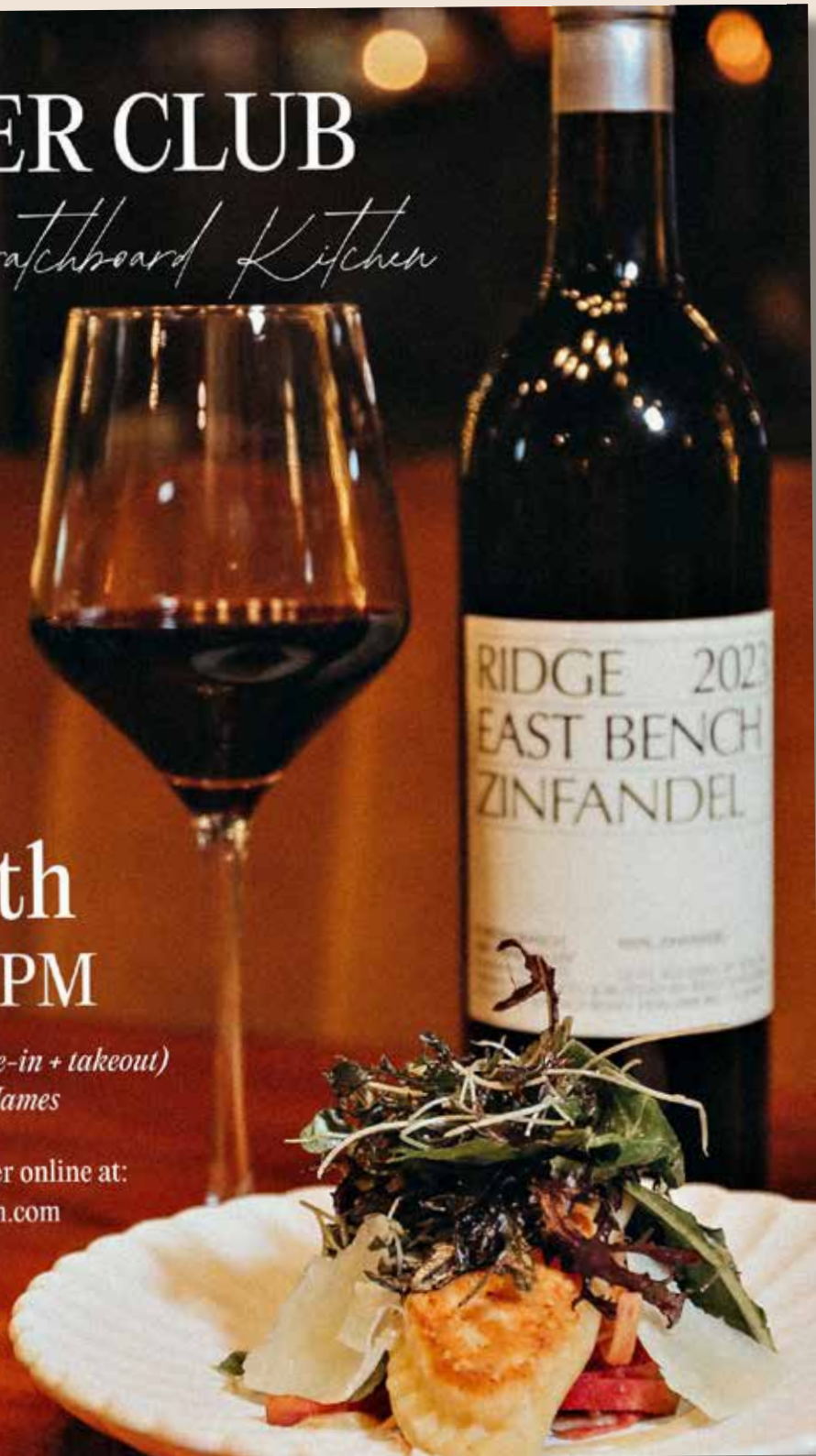
# SUPPER CLUB

@ Scratchboard Kitchen

JAN 7th  
4 PM - 9 PM

*10% of total sales (dine-in + takeout)  
will be donated to St. James*

Reserve a table or order online at:  
[scratchboardkitchenah.com](http://scratchboardkitchenah.com)





# Be disciples of Christ

820 N. Arlington Heights. Road  
Arlington Heights, IL 60004  
(224) 345-7200  
[www.stjamesah.org](http://www.stjamesah.org)



SAINT JAMES PARISH  
ARLINGTON HEIGHTS

# Make disciples of Christ

## MASS SCHEDULE

Daily Mass: Mon. - Sat. 7:30 a.m. | Mon. & Wed. 12:00 p.m.

Saturday 5:00 p.m. Praise & Worship Ensemble

Sunday 7:00 a.m. Cantor and Organ

Sunday 8:30 a.m. Traditional Choir & Organ

Sunday 10:00 a.m. Contemporary Choir

Sunday 11:30 a.m. Contemporary Choir

Sunday 5:00 p.m. Praise & Worship Ensemble

## PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

## ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Contact the Parish Office (224) 345-7200 as soon as possible when your loved one is dying or has just begun hospice. Please use extension 2 after hours. The Anointing of the Sick may be administered to those dying as well as those who are not dying but are dealing with serious illness, major surgery, or advanced age. (The Last Rites includes Anointing, as well as Confession and Communion.) A person may be anointed more than once if needed.

## PARISH STAFF AND PERSONNEL

Rev. Edward J. Pelrine, Pastor  
[frpelrine@stjamesah.org](mailto:frpelrine@stjamesah.org) • 224-345-7222

Rev. Paul Stein, Associate Pastor  
[frstein@stjamesah.org](mailto:frstein@stjamesah.org) • 224-345-7215

Rev. Michael Grzesik, Associate Pastor  
[frgrzesik@stjamesah.org](mailto:frgrzesik@stjamesah.org) • 224-345-7201

Rev. Bill Zavaski, Pastor Emeritus

James Bannon (Laura), Deacon  
[jbannon@archchicago.org](mailto:jbannon@archchicago.org) • 847-577-6328

Johnny Burnett (Susan), Deacon  
[jburnett@stjamesah.org](mailto:jburnett@stjamesah.org) • 847-707-3360

School Principal, Dr. Greg Scalia  
[principal@stjamesesschoolah.org](mailto:principal@stjamesesschoolah.org) • 224-345-7145

Director of Operations, John Maher  
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Finance Director, Judith Mulvihill  
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Assistant Finance Dir./VIRTUS Administrator, Katie Sowa  
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Music & Liturgy Director, Tamaron Conseur  
[tconseur@stjamesah.org](mailto:tconseur@stjamesah.org) • 224-345-7204

Stewardship & Development Director, Julie Jacobson  
[jjacobson@stjamesah.org](mailto:jjacobson@stjamesah.org) • 224-345-7212



## SACRAMENTS & DEVOTIONS

**BAPTISM** - Please contact the Parish Office with a preferred date one month in advance.

**MARRIAGE** - At least six months prior to your wedding, please contact the Parish Office to set a date.

**HOLY HOUR** - Thursday 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. in the church for procession of the blessed sacrament, evening prayer, and rosary

**FIRST FRIDAY** - Devotion to the Sacred Heart after the 7:30 a.m. Mass on the first Friday of each month

**CONFESSION** - Thursdays at 6:00 pm & Saturdays at 8:00 am

**THE ADORATION CHAPEL** - Open to the public, M-F from 6:30 a.m. - 8:30 p.m. and Sat & Sun 6:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.  
Or sign up for a time at [adorationpro.org/jamesil](http://adorationpro.org/jamesil)

Religious Education Coordinator, Bethany Larson  
[blarson@stjamesah.org](mailto:blarson@stjamesah.org) • 224-345-7152

High School Ministry Coordinator, Joshua Jones  
[jjones@stjamesah.org](mailto:jjones@stjamesah.org) • 224-345-7214

Middle School Ministry Coordinator, Dora Mendoza  
[dmendoza@stjamesah.org](mailto:dmendoza@stjamesah.org)

Director of Digital Evangelization, Aurelio Garcia  
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Campus Minister, Marisa Pollastrini  
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FOCUS Parish Missionary, Matt Marcheschi  
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Reception & Front Desk, Flo Trunk  
[fttrunk@stjamesah.org](mailto:fttrunk@stjamesah.org) • 224-345-7200

Open Doors Ministry Coordinator, Kathryn Coughlin  
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Campus Maintenance Engineer, Mike Tomasiewicz  
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Print & Digital Communications Specialist, Natalie Conseur  
[nconseur@stjamesah.org](mailto:nconseur@stjamesah.org) • 224-345-7217

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**What's  
important  
to you?  
Let's plan  
for your  
future together.**



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**2026  
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Calendar**

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Dr. Ernest Costello and his  
family are Parishioners of  
St. James Catholic Church

*i live  
by faith.*

2 Corinthians 5:7

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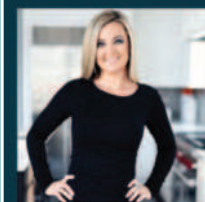


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