



SAINT JAMES PARISH

ARLINGTON HEIGHTS



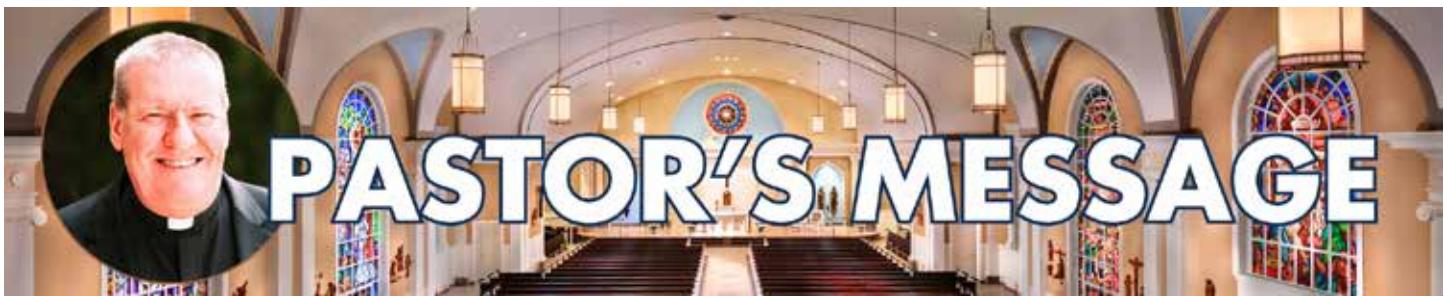
**o come,
let us
adore
him!**

DEC. 28

2025

In This Issue...

- *Holy Day this week* pg. 3
- *Events in the New Year* pg. 7
- *Men's Retreat* pg. 9



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

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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



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.

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For questions, please reach out to 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

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ARLINGTON HEIGHTS



Contact Tamaron Conseur
tconseur@stjamesah.org

2026 Winter/Spring Session

YOUTH CHOIR REGISTRATION

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more
information



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

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
or visit 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



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.

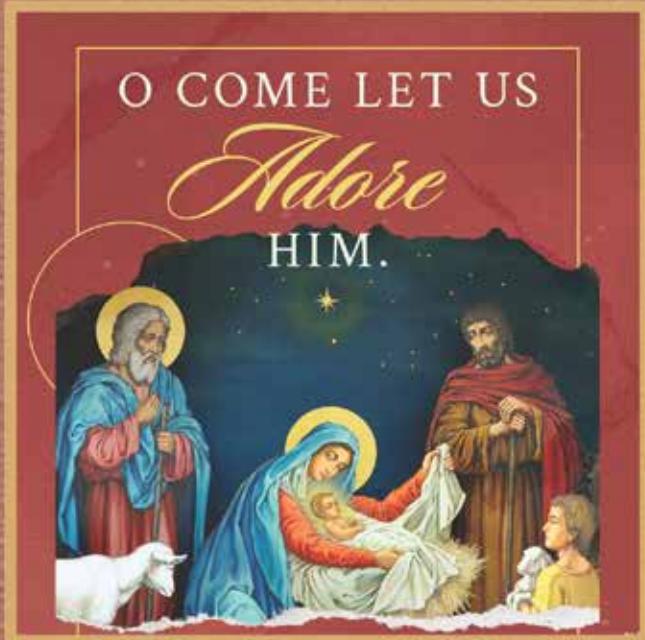
Fr. Charles Dahm, who spearheaded DVO, continues to cross the Archdiocese, bringing awareness to congregations and hope to victims. This year, he reached out to two new parishes, returned to four others and continued to approach pastors about educating their parishioners about DV. He is working to create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



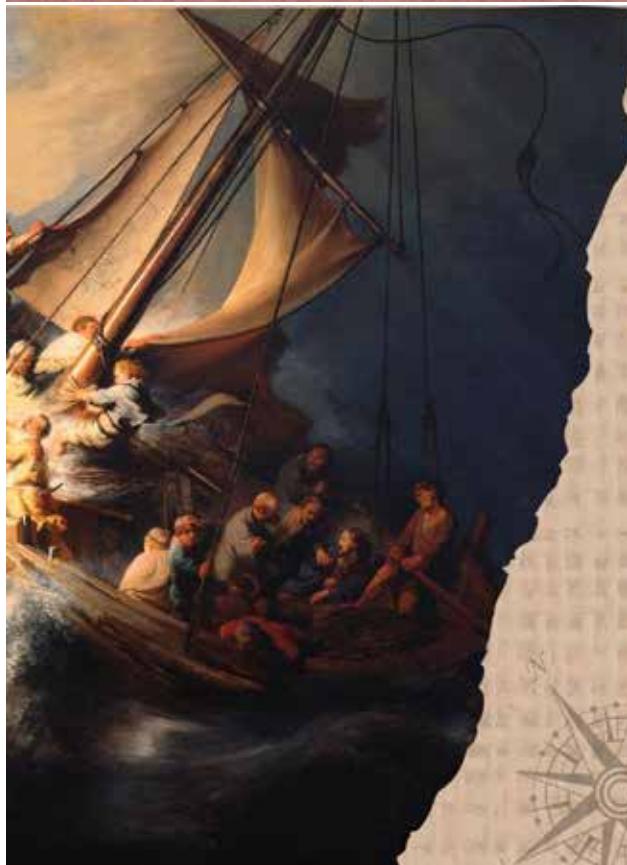
JOIN US ON A PATH TO SUNDAY

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

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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 Gehrk
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 Dettefesen
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

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

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

Loaves and Fishes provides lunches for those experiencing homelessness in Chicago's Uptown neighborhood.

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

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

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

Moms Plus provides support and fellowship to Catholic moms. This group is part of Women of St. James. 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

Over 50 Social Club provides social outings, speakers, and parties to any parishioner over the age of 50. stecstan@sbcglobal.net

PADS Outreach provides safety, temporary shelter and services to the unhoused. 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

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

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

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

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

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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 • 224-345-7222

Rev. Paul Stein, Associate Pastor
frstein@stjamesah.org • 224-345-7215

Rev. Michael Grzesik, Associate Pastor
frgrzesik@stjamesah.org • 224-345-7201

Rev. Bill Zavaski, Pastor Emeritus

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

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

School Principal, Dr. Greg Scalia
principal@stjameschoolah.org • 224-345-7145

Director of Operations, John Maher
jmaher@stjamesah.org • 224-345-7207

Finance Director, Judith Mulvihill
jmulvihill@stjamesah.org • 224-345-7203

Assistant Finance Dir./VIRTUS Administrator, Katie Sowa
ksowa@stjamesah.org • 224-345-7239

Music & Liturgy Director, Tamaron Conseur
tconseur@stjamesah.org • 224-345-7204

Stewardship & Development Director, Julie Jacobson
jjacobson@stjamesah.org • 224-345-7212

Welcome!

So glad you are here with us.

Stop by our table at the
10 a.m. Mass every Sunday.



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

Religious Education Coordinator, Bethany Larson
blarson@stjamesah.org • 224-345-7152

High School Ministry Coordinator, Joshua Jones
jjones@stjamesah.org • 224-345-7214

Middle School Ministry Coordinator, Dora Mendoza
dmendoza@stjamesah.org

Director of Digital Evangelization, Aurelio Garcia
agarcia@stjamesah.org • 224-345-7218

Administrative Assistant, Carly White
cwhite@stjamesah.org • 224-345-7213

Campus Minister, Marisa Pollastrini
mpollastrini@stjamesah.org • 224-345-7223

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

Reception & Front Desk, Flo Trunk
fftrunk@stjamesah.org • 224-345-7200

Open Doors Ministry Coordinator, Kathryn Coughlin
kcoughlin@stjamesah.org

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

Print & Digital Communications Specialist, Natalie Conseur
nconseur@stjamesah.org • 224-345-7217

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family are Parishioners of
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i live
by faith.

2 Corinthians 5:7

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"If only I had had a spiritual director from the beginning, then I would not have wasted so many of God's graces."

-St. Faustina



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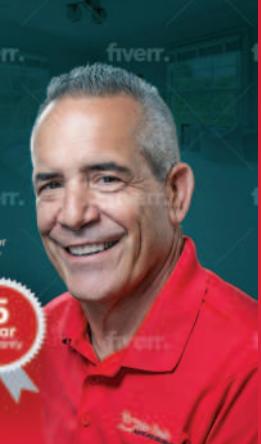
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