



Saint James
CATHOLIC CHURCH

St. James Roman Catholic Church,
a diverse community rooted in vibrant
Eucharistic Liturgy, serves those in need
in partnership with others.



*Saint James Church is
staffed by the priests
and brothers of the
Missionary Servants of
the Most Holy Trinity*

SUNDAY MASS

9:30 a.m.
(Church &
On-line)

DAILY MASS

Monday - Friday
7:30 a.m.
(Rectory &
On-line)

OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Thursday
9:00 a.m.– 4:00 p.m.

LOCATION

2907 South Wabash
Chicago, IL 60616

CONTACT

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www.stjameswabash.org



4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT

“Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a
son, and you shall name him Jesus.” - Lk 1:31

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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DECEMBER 24, 2023

ON THE WAY....



May the grace and peace of the Holy Spirit be with us forever.

This year we celebrate the shortest Advent possible – only twenty-two days. Right after the Fourth Sunday of Advent Darren, Dan and crew will transform the Church for the celebration of Christmas Eve. There is an ancient tradition that celebrates Christmas Eve (it used to be Midnight Mass) since, according to St. Luke, Jesus was born during the night watch of the shepherds. This is not just a historical detail but has symbolic significance as well. Night in the ancient world (before electricity and argon street lamps and neon signs) was uncertain and dangerous. St. Paul, for example, instructed us to walk as “children of the light” since night can be the domain of dark forces that threaten human existence. Jesus being born at night demonstrated his dominion over powers which threaten us.

There is another aspect of night as well. Night is the time of silence and waiting. During sleep at night we replenish our strength to prepare for another day. Night is the time of dreams, and in the Bible, dreams can come as revelation from God. Jesus is portrayed in the gospels as spending the night in prayer as the best time to converse with God undistracted by the stuff of the world. The Psalmist says “Yours is the day, yours also is the night” (Psalm 74:16). So the night has both negative and positive aspects in the Bible. Night is looked upon as the time of possibility – but the outcome of a possibility that is ambiguous.

Probably the most popular Christmas Carol is “Silent Night, Holy Night.” Though originally written in German the song has been translated so every corner of the world sings it. In doing so we capture the possibility that is present in this child born at night. The Bible tells us the birth of Jesus took place at night it does not report the date. December 25th was chosen as the date for Christmas. The first official mention of December 25 as a holiday honoring Jesus’ birthday appears in an early Roman calendar from AD 336. Church officials wanted the date to coincide with existing pagan festivals to show the superiority of Christianity over their religion. Coming as it did during the shortest days in the northern hemisphere, the pagan festival celebrated the “unconquered sun god,” that the sun would return to brighten the world in the coming weeks. For the Church, Jesus enlightens our way through the darkness of error and sin and celebrating his birth during the darkest days of the year recognizes that fact.

All of which reminds us of how we are to celebrate Christmas. On this silent night, holy night our hearts must be quiet, recollected, and open to the possibility of existence whatever it may lead. Instead of our usual preoccupation with planning and controlling how things turn out, on Christmas night we are preparing ourselves to be surprised by the new thing God is doing. Who could have imagined that God would share in human life in all its messiness! Christmas invites us to trust in the divine wonder that will be our present as the night yields to a new day in God.

In the Most Holy Trinity,
Fr. John Edmunds, S.T

Sun 12/24	4th Sunday Of Advent Christmas Even	
	9:30 a.m.	Mass (Presentation Hall & On-line) https://zoom.us/j/622647147 Passcode: SJSUNDAY (57935957)
	† 6:30 p.m.	Louis Marano by Mena Marano Christmas Eve (Church On-line)
Mon 12/25	9:30 a.m.	Christmas Day (Chapel & On-line) † Louis Marano and Ralph Garafolo by Mena Marano
Tues 12/26	7:30 a.m.	Mass (Chapel & On-line)
Wed 12/27	7:30 a.m.	Mass (Chapel & On-line)
Thurs 12/28	7:30 a.m.	Mass (Chapel & On-line)
Fri 12/29	7:30 a.m.	Mass (Chapel & On-line) † Noel Cusack by Sister Bernadette Eaton, CSJ
Sun 12/31	The Holy Family	
	9:30 a.m.	Mass (Presentation Hall & On-line) https://zoom.us/j/622647147 Passcode: SJSUNDAY (57935957)
	† 11:00 a.m.	Dr. Doris Jean Turner by Amy Pelletiere New Year’s Eve Brunch (Church Basement)



Please plan on attending our New Year's Eve Brunch from Polo Café which will be held on Sunday 12/31/23 directly after Mass, downstairs in the church hall. This

brunch is being sponsored by Deacon Terry Collins, in remembrance of his mother who he honor's each year on the Solemnity of Mary.



**Food Pantry and Church
Offices will be closed
from December 22 to
January 2**



Saint of the week

Servant of God Michelle Christine Duppong worked as a FOCUS missionary and a lay parish minister in the early 2000's. Her life was a testament to her commitment to God and social justice work. She died at age 31 in 2015 but her legacy lives on today in those whose lives she touched.

Prayer

Jesus, I praise and thank you for the life of your servant Michelle Duppong. In her life and suffering, she joined you in your thirst for souls and embraced the cross offered to her. Following her example, I ask for the special grace of [personal intercession] and, if it brings you greater glory, that she be honored by your Church. Jesus, I ask this in your Holy Name.

Amen.

-With ecclesiastical approval of Bishop David D. Kagan, Diocese of Bismarck

(Prayer Source: <https://bismarckdiocese.com/prayer-of-intercession>)



**New years
Day Mass will
be held at
9:30 am
in the Chapel**

**Sunday Collection
December 3rd \$3617.00**

"The Lord loves a cheerful giver"



St. James has a google form for submitting prayer requests:

<https://forms.gle/ZgbVkgarRRgDmJR6A>



In Our Prayers



Our Home Bound:
 Judy Archer
 Margie Bass
 Paul Freeman
 Juanita James
 Barbara Southhall
 Dina Williams
Our Sick:
 Victoria Allen
 Yvonne Christmas
 Aayliah Cooper

Joe Cunningham
 Patsy Cunningham
 Marvelean Doss
 Claude Fisher
 Paul Kanzer
 Linda Griffin Kennard
 Nancy McCarthy
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