



ST. JAMES CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

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Making A Difference For You

Thanksgiving Prayer

Father in Heaven, Creator of all
and source of all goodness and love,
please look kindly upon us and receive our
heartfelt gratitude
in this time of giving thanks.

Thank you for all the graces and blessings
You have bestowed upon us,
spiritual and temporal:
our faith and religious heritage,
our food and shelter,
our health,
the love we have for one another,
our family and friends.

Dear Father, in Your infinite generosity,
please grant us continued graces
and blessings.

This we ask in the Name of Jesus,
Your Son Our Lord. Amen

Advent Giving Tree



In the book of Acts,
Chapter 20, Verse 35,
Jesus said *"It is more
blessed to give than
receive."*

Our annual Advent
Giving tree offers our
parishioners the opportunity to put
into practice what Jesus preached by
purchasing a Christmas gift for some-
one less fortunate during this holiday
season.

Three trees (adult, children, and gift
cards) are set up in the Narthex. To
participate, simply take one or more
tags from the tree(s) of your choice.

If you select a tag from the adult or
children's tree, purchase the gift,
wrap it, tape the tag to the wrapping

and return it no later than 1:00 pm
on Sunday, December 7.

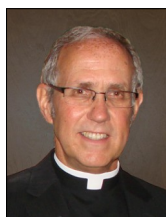
If you select a tag from the gift card
tree, you can take advantage of "one
stop shopping." Simply select a card
and take it to an Advent Tree repre-
sentative where you can purchase the
card and you're done.

After all gifts have been received by
the Sunday deadline, Linda Gross
and her team of volunteers spend the
afternoon sorting the gifts to ensure
that a gift has been received for every
request

It is important that all tags have been
taken from the trees and all gifts are
turned in by the Sunday, December 7,
1:00 pm deadline. If not, volunteers

(continued on page 2)

From Your Pastor



Greetings to you,

As we come to the
end of November, we
have the opportunity
to celebrate Thanks-
giving. I feel Thanks-
giving is an opportu-

nity for all of us to pause and reflect
on the tremendous generosity of
God in so many ways!

And immediately following Thanks-
giving we move into the Advent /
Christmas season where we have
the opportunity to reflect on the fig-
ures of Mary, Joseph and what the
meaning of the Incarnation, "God
becoming one of us" really means.

The beautiful tradition of the Advent
Giving Tree, helps us keep focused
on what is most important – to re-
member God's generosity in our own
lives and to share that generosity
with those most in need!

You'll notice all the activities and
prayer opportunities that we offer
during this Holy Season. May these
opportunities help us focus on what
is important – "How are we prepar-
ing the coming of Jesus in our own
lives!"

As we move forward at St. James we
want to make sure we focus on what
is important and continue to build
God's Kingdom among us.

Thanks so much to all who are so
very generous in so many ways. As
we celebrate this sacred time of the
year may you continue to remember
St. James in your "giving."

Fr. Timothy and I are both very grate-
ful to serve here and we have great
plans for the future – to build our
relationship with God, as well as to
build in the future to meet our needs
in an ever-growing community!!

May God's blessings be with you and
your family!

Peace,

Father Mike Roach

Looking Ahead

Sunday, November 30

First Day of Advent

Every Monday in December - 5 pm

Reflections in Faith in the church

Monday, December 8

Feast of the Immaculate Conception

Tuesday, December 9

Reconciliation Service in the church

Friday, December 12

Our Lady of Guadalupe Feast Day

Sunday, December 14

Glory Be Tea

Monday, December 15

Lessons and Carols

Electronic Newsletter: In 2015 we would like to go totally electronic in sending our newsletter out via our "email blast." This will be an effective way to save costs. We want everyone to receive the newsletter and realize some of our dedicated parishioners do not have access to email, so we want to be certain you receive your newsletter via regular mail. Please let us know if you would like a newsletter mailed to you rather than via email."



Our Lady of Guadalupe Feast Day

December 12 is the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe that celebrates the five apparitions of Our Lady and the miracles that took place over a four day period in 1531 near Mexico City

In December of that year, on the hill of Tepeyac near Mexico City, a man named Juan Diego saw an apparition of a young girl. Speaking to him in his native language the girl asked that a church be built at that site in her honor. From her words, he recognized the girl as the Virgin Mary. Diego told his story to the Spanish Archbishop of Mexico City, who instructed him to return to the hill and ask the "lady" for a miraculous sign to prove her identity. The first sign was the Virgin healing Juan's uncle. Then, the Virgin told Juan Diego to gather flowers from the top of the hill. Although December was very late in the growing season for flowers to bloom, Juan Diego found Castilian roses, not native to Mexico, on the normally barren hilltop. The Virgin arranged these in his peasant cloak or tilma. When Juan Diego opened his cloak before Bishop Zumárraga on December 12, the flowers fell to the floor, and on the fabric was the image of the Virgin of Guadalupe.



It is interesting to note that Our Lady of Guadalupe is unlike any other apparition of Our Lady. It is the only apparition where Our Lady has left a miraculous image of herself unmade by human hands.

A church was built at Our Lady's request on the Hill of Tepeyac to mark the apparition site, and today it is one of the most famous Catholic pilgrimage sites in the world. In this cathedral on display is the original tilma of Juan Diego that still displays the miraculous Our Lady of Guadalupe image. She is known as the patroness of the Americas, unborn children, and the New Evangelization.

Today, the feast day of Our Lady of Guadalupe is celebrated not only in Mexico, but also by those of Hispanic origin throughout the United States.

At St. James, the December 12 celebration will begin at 6 pm with a Mass, a Aztec dance (*Los Matchines*) performed in traditional costumes, representations of the apparitions, followed by fellowship in the Social Hall. All parishioners are invited to attend this celebration in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

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Christmas and New Year Mass Schedules

CHRISTMAS

Wednesday, December 24

4:00 pm in the church and gym

7:00 pm in the church

11:00 pm in the church (Carols begin at 10:30 pm)

Thursday, December 25

9:00 am in the church

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

Wednesday, December 31

5:00 pm in the church

Thursday, January 1

9:00 am in the church



Advent Giving Tree (continued from page 1)

spend the next day shopping at local stores for the requested gifts, using funds donated for this purpose.

The Advent Giving Tree has been a St. James tradition for over 30 years. In 2001, there were 519 gift requests. Last year, just over 1,300 gifts were requested – thanks to the generosity of our parishioners, all requests were filled.

This year gifts are being collected for St. James Place in Kansas City, Love INC, Hillcrest Ministries, Liberty Women's Clinic, Cedars of Liberty, Ashton Court, Kansas City Indian Center and our own Parish.

It's not too late to volunteer to help. Send an email with your contact information to: advent_tree@mail.com.



Please Return All Gifts by 1:00 pm on Sunday, December 7

The Corporal Works of Mercy



The Works of Mercy, by the Master of Alkmaar made for the Church of Saint Lawrence in Alkmaar, Netherlands. The wooden panels show the works of mercy in this order: feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, bury the dead, shelter the homeless, comfort the sick, and visit the imprisoned. Circa 1504.

The phrase "Corporal Works of Mercy" is familiar to most of us and we know that there are seven. Some of us can even name all of them. But, do you know why they are called "corporal" and their origin? The word "corporal" means "of or belonging to the body," and so the corporal works of mercy refer to acts of mercy that relate to the physical, to bodily needs. In Matthew 25:34-40, in the The Judgment of Nations, six specific Works of Mercy are enumerated "For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me. . . Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me." The last work of mercy, burying the dead, comes from the Old Testament Book of Tobit.

As Catholics, we are encouraged to practice these works of mercy in our everyday lives but in today's busy world we sometimes wonder how we can do just one more thing. The answer lies in the Gospel of Matthew, Chapter 22, Verse 39 that says "Love your neighbor as yourself." So in essence, the Corporal Works of Mercy are simply these kind acts by which we help our neighbors with their material and physical needs. Let's look at some examples of how easy it is to do.

Feed The Hungry by participating in food drives held throughout the year that benefit the In As Much Food Pantry. **Clothe The Naked** by going through your closets and drawers, find good condition clothes and shoes that you no longer want and donate them to agencies such as the Salvation Army. **Shelter the Homeless** by helping an elderly neighbor with small home repairs. **Visit The Sick** by sending get well or thinking of you cards to those who are sick or homebound. **Visit The Imprisoned** by praying for inmates and their families. **Give Drink To the Thirsty** by practicing water conservation in your home. **Bury The Dead** by sending Mass cards and sympathy cards to families of those who have died.

Last month here at St. James we began the Corporal Works of Mercy Project with feeding the hungry, the focal point of which was a food drive for In As Much Food Pantry. This month we bury the dead by writing the names of our deceased loved ones in the Parish Book of the Dead. In December, we'll clothe the naked by selecting a clothing request from the Advent Giving Tree. In January we'll shelter the homeless by collecting candles for Operating Uplift. February, March, and April will focus on visiting the sick, giving drink to the thirsty, and visiting the imprisoned.

Looking for and acting upon helping others, even in simple ways fulfills the Corporal Works of Mercy and fits hand in hand with loving your neighbor as yourself.

Where Your Treasure Is, There Your Heart Is Also *Matthew 6:21*

Thank you to all the regular contributors who provide for our day to day expenses. Your generosity allows His ministry to our parish family and community!

We hope everyone will continue to support our New Church Fund. The completed parking lot is proof we are "moving forward" as a community to reach our New Church goal.

Your continued support to this fund has made this possible.

New Church Fund as of October 31, 2014

Total monies received	\$ 1,876,630.43
Total spent on old loan	\$ 183,330.00
Total spent on parking lot	\$ 826,572.22
Other Master Plan expenses	\$ 138,734.35
Remaining Balance	\$ 727,993.86

End of Year giving: All gifts made on or before December 31st are tax deductible for this tax year. Any tithe / donations given after December 31st will be credited to 2015. If you are an employee or participating retiree of a company or corporation with a matching gifts program, your gift may be matched. Thank you for remembering St. James Parish.

St. James Catholic Community
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Liberty, MO 64068

Advent

Advent is a period of preparation, extending over four Sundays, before Christmas. The word *Advent* comes from the Latin *advenio*, "to come to," and refers to the coming of Christ.

This refers, first of all, to our celebration of Christ's birth at Christmas; but second, to the coming of Christ in our lives through grace and the Sacrament of Holy Communion; and finally, to His Second Coming at the end of time. During this season we are asked to prepare ourselves worthily to celebrate the anniversary of the Lord's coming into the world as the incarnate God of love.

During Advent we recall the history of God's people and reflect on how the prophecies and promises of the Old Testament were fulfilled. This gives us a background for the present. Today we can reflect on the past track record of God and so begin to understand what it means to us now for the sake of what is to come, in our own future and that of our world.

The Blessing of the Advent Wreath

The blessing of an Advent Wreath takes place on the First Sunday of Advent or on the evening before the First Sunday of Advent. When the blessing of the Advent Wreath is celebrated in the home, it is appropriate that it be blessed by a parent or another member of the family.

All make the sign of the cross as the leader says:

Our help is in the name of the Lord.

All: Who made heaven and earth.

Read one of the following Scriptures,

Isaiah 9:1-2,5-6 or Isaiah 63:16-17,19 or Isaiah 64:2-7

With hands joined, the leader says:

Lord our God,

we praise you for your Son, Jesus Christ:

he is Emmanuel, the hope of the peoples,

he is the wisdom that teaches and guides us,

he is the Savior of every nation.

Lord God,

let your blessing come upon us

as we light the candles of this wreath.

May the wreath and its light

be a sign of Christ's promise to bring us salvation.

May he come quickly and not delay.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The blessing may conclude with a verse from

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel":

O come, desire of nations, bind in one the hearts of humankind;

bid ev'ry sad division cease and be thyself our Prince of peace.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

