



Since you, Lord GOD, are truly God
and your words are truth
and you have made
this generous promise to your servant,
do, then, bless the house
of your servant,
that it may be in your presence forever—
since you, Lord GOD,
have promised, and by your blessing
the house of your servant
shall be blessed forever

2 Samuel 28-29

DREAMS BECOMING REALITY

As we drive into the parking lot it is impossible not to gaze at the new edifice being constructed. We have come a long way since the whole idea of a new church was first mentioned.

Many people have dreamt about having a new church that is large enough to welcome all of the new people arriving in our community every month. Those dreams changed from ephemeral wisps; agitated neural pathways into concrete, steel and wood which will be formed into a beautiful church. It is not everyday that such a transformation happens. We hope everyone is relishing these days. Hopefully, a smile appears on your face when you pull into the parking lot.

Before too long the building will be totally under roof, which is a fantastic step. However, that means that much of the progress will now be hidden behind walls. This necessarily means that the curious person cannot rely on their eyes but must use other means to find out what is going on.

The upcoming editions of the New Church News can fill part of that vacuum of information. Our plan is to continue to show pictures of the construction progress. In addition to that we will be highlighting the major interior elements. We will dedicate articles to the pews, the mural, the baptistery, the music/sound system, the ambo and altar and more.

We know that reading about it is not the same as seeing it first hand. We all must be patient and wait for the big reveal.

2019 Appeals

CLOSER
God • Church • Community
Together We Can Do Great Things

Our Pledge Goal

**1,375
Returned
100%**

Our Participation

**530
Returned
39%**



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CONTACT US

Have QUESTIONS about our new church building ?

Does your ministry want to publish a HELP WANTED ad ?

Please send an email to:
NewChurchNews@StJames-Liberty.org

There is also a form on the website for questions.

CLOSER
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Together We Will Do Great Things

Welcome New Parishioners

Tanner & Kalie Barnhill
Thomas & Nancy Brown
Matt & Keva David
Veronica Dayhuff
Frank & Carol Ferrara
Jeff Harpenau
Justin & Kelli Kelly
Basil & Christy Lister
James & Yamir McCroskie
Billy & Catie Montgomery
Keven & Kathy Onka
Diane Neubecker
Michael & Kimberly Schott
Michelle Spidell
Lindsey Talley
Glenna Todd
Delicia Vaz
John & AnneMarie Vivona
Elizabeth Walsh

Progress

Continuing Our Virtual Tour



Oct. 30
Laying the Rebar



Nov. 14
Setting the Steel



Nov. 20
The Steel Skeleton



Dec. 1 - View From Across I-35

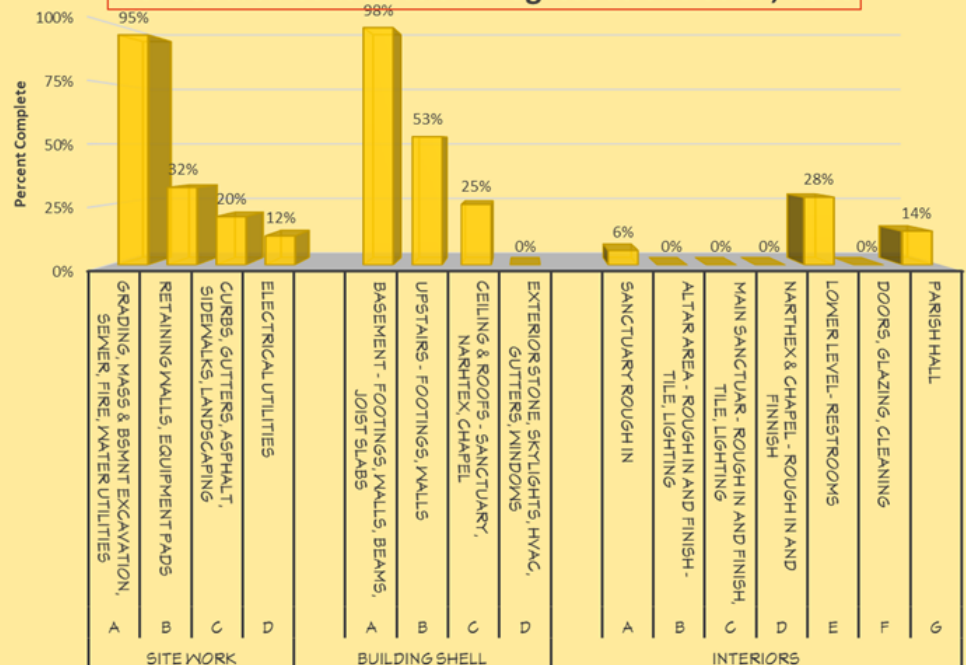


Dec. 1
Aerial View



Dec. 17
Beams Are Wrapped

New Church Construction Progress as of Dec 27, 2018





Stewardship of Talent

THIS MONTH WE FOCUS ON OUR YOUTH MINISTRY

By Denise Whelan –Director of Youth Ministry



My name is Denise. I have been the Director of Youth Ministry at St. James for a full two years.

In college, I jumped around schools. I also took a semester

off and lived at a mission in Guatemala. While in Guatemala I decided, theatre tech was my calling. When I came back, I went to Mizzou. While at Mizzou, I volunteered for the Lifeteen program at the Newman Center. It was great! I loved it but did not think it was my career path. After college, I moved back to Guatemala for two and a half months. While I was there, I was hired as an electrician for Stages St. Louis. I started two days after I came home. Two weeks into the job, I was electrocuted. I was up on a ladder focusing a strip light.

Earlier in the day, the carpenters were working in that area and that is the only reason I am alive. The ladder I normally use in that area I stand on the top rim. You know the top where it says do not stand, yeah there. However, since the carpenters were there earlier, the taller ladder was there so I was three rims down. I believe that is the only reason I did not fall and break my neck on the keyboard that was below me. Well this triggered me to decide to go on a different career path. I ended up in Palmyra, MO as the Director of Youth Ministry and Coordinator of Religious Education.

After being in Palmyra for almost 3 years, I started really wanting to move to Kansas City. However, there were no youth ministry positions open. I started praying about it more and more. Finally, months later, in Adoration one day it was really weighing on me. I told God, I do not know if this is Your will or mine, so if it is Yours have there be a job open. I got online and looked after Adoration and the day St. James Director of Youth Ministry job was posted that day. A few months later, I moved to KC and here at St James.

We have some amazing programs for youth of all ages :



Faith Sharing is our Middle School program. Faith Sharing is a unique mixture of youth group and religious education for grades 6th-8th. We meet in the gym on Wednesdays at 6:30pm. We play games and have fellowship before the students go to their classrooms. In their class-

rooms, the students learn about the Gospel for the next week and many other aspects of the Catholic faith. We have AMAZING volunteers who help lead these youth every week. If you are interested in helping shape these young people's lives, please contact me! We are always looking for more people. Many people think: "Oh, no I am not good with Middle Schoolers," or "I do not know enough." None of that is true! You learn with the youth. The youth are just thrilled you are there to spend time with them! We have fantastic youth. All Middle Schoolers are invited! They do not need to be part of St James or even Catholic to come!

Camp Savio! This year St. James will be attending Camp Savio, June 10-15, 2019. All current 5th graders through current 8th graders are invited! Last summer, I had the opportunity to attend Camp Savio as a chaperone. After spending a week there, I decided this was something St. James needs to be attending! I had a blast and I know your youth will too! We will need chaperones in order to make this happen. If you are interested in chaperoning, please email me ASAP. Additionally, I know a full week is hard for many people, therefore if you can only do part of the time, let me know. We may be able to split the time between a few different chaperones. Camp is held in Atchison, Kansas (about 45 minutes from Liberty). Commitment forms are due January 27.

LIT (Living In Truth) is our High School Youth Group. We meet on the first, third, and fifth Sunday of every month

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Man Behind the Scenes

Officially, Jim Newell is the operations manager for our parish. Unofficially he is the parish's liaison to our architects (SFS) and our general contractor (A.L. Huber).



Starting well over six years ago during the early stages of identifying our needs and desires, Jim has been in the midst of many of the decision and processes that have gone into being where we are today. We sat down with Jim and asked him some questions about the new church. Specifically we covered where we started, where we are today, and what we still need to do before it will be ready for occupancy. Those questions and his answers will appear in succeeding editions of the New Church News. We hope you will find it interesting.

Stewardship of Talent - (Cont'd)

(except Holiday weekends) at 7pm in the Social Hall. This is a safe place for teens to come spend time with their friends, make new friends, and talk about issues going on in their lives in a safe place. We often play games, eat food, and discuss the hard issues the youth want to discuss. All High Schoolers are invited! They do not need to be part of St James or even Catholic to come! We also do other events like: Steubenville, retreats, dances, and more to come!

"Steubenville STL Mid-America is a high-energy youth conference where thousands of teens are invited to encounter Jesus Christ through dynamic speakers, engaging



music, the Sacraments, small group discussions, and fellowship with other teens. Our conference is an outreach of Franciscan University in partnership with the St. Louis Archdiocesan Office of Youth Ministry. Two conferences are held

every year in July and take place on the campus of Missouri State University in Springfield, MO. For more information or to watch previous Steubenville talks please visit, <https://steubystl365.com/>. The Theme this year is Belong - 1 John 3:1 "See what love the Father has bestowed on us, that we may be called children of God." Last year we brought 30 St. James parishioners with us! We all had an amazing time! This year we are hoping to bring at least

35 teens! All current 8th grade through current seniors are welcome! Commitment forms are due February 3. We are attending week one this year, July 12-14.



Confirmation Prep is open to any non-Confirmed high school students. We start classes in September on the second and fourth Sundays of each month leading up to Confirmation. The Confirmation

Candidates attend class led by AMAZING volunteer teachers! The teachers and I want this to be youth's classes, so that they can get the most out of it. We want them to build a real connection with the Holy Spirit in order for them to make the choice of saying yes to Confirmation themselves. Confirmation is a personal Pentecost. The beginning of their adult faith. The apostles hid after Jesus's death until Pentecost. Pentecost was the beginning of their evangelization and living Jesus's teaching. We do not want Confirmation to be just another check mark. Confirmation is the beginning for these teens. We want to make this the best experience possible and allow the teens to discuss the topics they want and need to discuss to make this truly their choice. We are always looking for more people to help guide these teens through this amazing experience. Additionally, upperclassman, who have already been Confirmed, are encouraged to help teach classes, as well.

We are extremely blessed to have these programs at St. James. None of them would be possible without our AMAZING volunteers. Please prayerfully consider getting involved in one of these fantastic ministries!