



The Transfiguration of Jesus

*Jesus took Peter, James, and John
and led them up a
high mountain apart
by themselves.*

*And he was transfigured before
them, and his clothes became
dazzling white.*

*Then Elijah appeared to them
along with Moses.*

*Then a cloud came, casting a
shadow over them;
then from the cloud came a voice,
"This is my beloved Son.
Listen to Him."*

Mark 9:2, 4,7

The Mural For Our New Church

By Danny Baker

Director of Liturgy and Music



Have you ever bought someone a gift and you've just been chompin' at the bit to give it to them, but then started to second guess yourself and wonder if they will like your gift as much as you do? OR, have you ever re-decorated your house and invited friends over for first time praying that they will like it?

That is kind of what it has been

like for me and Fr. Mike as we've been anticipating the reveal of our mural. More than two years in the making SFS Architecture, Bishop Johnston and his staff, me and Fr. Mike and others here at St. James have been meeting, praying and discerning our new mural. THE TRANSFIGURATION. After we narrowed down our idea of what image we wanted we interviewed many different companies and artists. Right away we taken with Geoffrey and Ruth Stricklin of New Jerusalem Studios from Phoenix, Arizona. Ruth's detail to beauty and her mastery of art paired with the spirituality and knowledge of her husband Geoffrey, we knew they would be perfect for our project.

For those who attended Mass at St. James on March 16 or 17, you will have seen my presentation at Mass. And many of you came back at 2:00 PM for a presentation by Geoffrey and Ruth themselves. Sacred Art has such a deep, rich tradition in the Catholic Church.

As with all things in the Church, we look to scripture and official Church documents for guidance. The Catechism of the Catholic

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2019 Appeals

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

Our Pledge Goal

**1,375
Returned
100%**

Our Participation

**558
Returned
41%**

100%
90%
80%
70%
60%
50%
40%
30%
20%
10%



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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.



Welcome New Parishioners

Tanner & Kalie Barnhill
Ryan & Christine Clark
Shannon Hessemeyer
Justin & Kelli Kelly
Mike & Michelle Leone
Saz & Mary Madison
Billy & Catie Montgomery
Tony & Katie Pasqualucci
Aaron & Gina Richards
David Santia
Shannon Selby
Michelle Spidell
Laura Swails
Ronald Vaccaro
Richard & Trish Willett

The Mural For Our New Church (con't)

church says, "Sacred art is true and beautiful when its form corresponds to its particular vocation: evoking and glorifying, in faith and adoration, the transcendent mystery of God—the surpassing invisible beauty of truth and love visible in Christ, who "reflects the glory of God and bears the very stamp of his nature," in whom "the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily." This spiritual beauty of God is reflected in the most holy Virgin Mother of God, the angels, and saints. Genuine sacred art draws man to adoration, to prayer, and to the love of God, Creator and Savior, the Holy One and Sanctifier."



Mural artist Ruth Strickland applying gold leaf to the mural.

BUILT OF LIVING STONES is another important document we must refer to. This guides us in building a church and the art and environment of the church. It tells us that "Reflecting the awareness of the Communion of Saints, the practice of incorporating symbols of the Trinity and images of Christ, the

Blessed Mother, the angels, and the saints into the design of a church creates a source of devotion and prayer for a parish community and should be part of the design of the church. Images can be found in stained glass windows, on wall frescos and **MURALS**, and as statues and icons. Often these images depict scenes from the bible or from the lives of the saints and can be a source of instruction and catechesis as well as devotion. Since the Eucharist unites the Body of Christ, including those who are not physically present, the use of images in the church reminds us that we are joined to all who have gone before us, as well as to those who now surround us." Like most pieces of sacred art, our mural is not a "one in a million" but a **ONE OF A KIND!**

When you enter the new worship space your gaze will immediately be drawn to the mural. The mural is 33 feet high and approximately 13 feet wide. Jesus is the largest figure in the mural and is in the middle surrounded by beams of heavenly light. To the

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Preparation for adding St. John, St. Peter and St. James to the mural.

left of Jesus is the prophet Elijah and on the right is the prophet Moses holding the ten commandments. We know from scripture that Peter, John and James went up the mountain with Jesus. John is at the top of the mountain, Peter on the left and James, our Patron Saint, is at the bottom. And we can't forget the presence of God and Holy Spirit. We see at the very top of the mural a hand and dove, representing God the Father and Holy Spirit.

Off in the distance behind the mountain you can see buildings. On the right we see the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela in Spain. Here is the official shrine to St. James the Greater including his relics. To the left of the mountain we see images of St. James on Water Street, our current building and then the new church. Here Ruth ties in our past, present and future, not only here on earth but our heavenly home!

God's beauty and majesty is always found in nature. In this mural we see lots of trees, plants, and even fish down in water at the bottom which are all native species to Missouri. Speaking of water, we know that water is a sign of life! The water flows from Jesus, the source of all life, down the mountain to the water below. In the bottom corners of the mural there are sea shells. A sea shell is most commonly used as the symbol for St. James the Greater as he was a fisherman. You will see this symbol again throughout the new church so be on the lookout.

Once the mural is completed and installed, there will be a detailed guide book published about the mural, giving the viewer a deeper understanding of the mural, its symbols, the story of The Transfiguration, and its importance to not only our parish community but our faith and to the Liturgy.

Meet Ruth Stricklin, Mural Artist and Designer



Danny Baker, Geoff and Ruth Stricklin, and Fr. Mike at the March 17 mural presentation.

Ruth Stricklin and her husband Geoff, a graduate of the Liturgical Institute, Mundelein, IL, are the owners of the New Jerusalem Studio in Phoenix AZ. They bring their passion and years of training and experience in art and design, parish ministry, teaching, and formal education in liturgy to the mission of evangelizing through beauty.

Because the Stricklins understand sacred art as a gateway to a sacramental encounter with Christ, their work is not primarily about selling a product, but rather, helping people to experience Christ's loving and transforming presence in the Mass.

They formed New Jerusalem Studios in 2014 in response to a growing commitment to authentic liturgical renewal in the catholic community, especially seen in the desire of many parishes to bring a traditional sense of beauty back into their sacred spaces.

Q & A With Jim Newell

Q. What is your job description regarding our building project?

A. I see my role as acting as the intermediary between St. James and our contractor (A.L. Huber), our Architects (SFS) and the outside contractors that will remain after Huber leaves,

I try to stay a head of change orders that can drive costs up. When someone requests a change to the original design those changes may be lovely to have but at what costs? I try to catch those things before they get too far down the road. Once hours are invested with design and bidding then we have added costs before we have even decided that this is what we want. I try to meet with Fr. Mike and others to ensure we are in agreement that the suggested changes are necessary.

Q. What is the most common question you are asked by the parishioners about our new church?

A. Before we broke ground on April 15th the question was “Are we ever going to get started?” or something to that effect. Once the dirt was turned then the question has been ‘How soon is it going to get done?’ Or ‘When do we open the doors?’ That is totally understandable. I totally “get it”, people have had this dream for so long and so it is hard to wait for it to become a tangible reality.

Q. You mentioned contractors that will remain after Huber leaves. Can you explain that?

A. I mean things like landscaping and other jobs that will not require a presence of the general contractor onsite. Someone needs to oversee that these are finished properly according to our contract. Once we open the doors there will still be some jobs that will crop up which we did not foresee. When you have ceilings 40 foot high and other unique structural elements our contract with Huber includes that they will work with us to remedy those issues. All of this falls to me to coordinate.

Q. As we transition to the new worship space how will that process unfold?

A. There are many formalities that must be observed when switching churches. Most of those fall within the purview of our Liturgy Director Danny Baker. I can only give you an overview of what will be involved in that.

We must allow our parishioners a chance to say good-bye to a building that has been the center of their faith for many years. We know that for many this will be a very emotional time. Part of the formal dedication of the new church is the decommissioning of the old. That portion is built into the liturgical rites during that day. We hope to help make the leave-taking a poignant and respectful time.

As far as the Dedication Day we will be sending out a lot of different messages in various formats as we get closer to the day. No doubt the New Church News will be a source for much of that information. Of course, Bishop James Johnston will be at the dedication, and have an integral part in the liturgy. He has been very involved in the project. Our church will be the first new church built in the Kansas City-St Joseph Diocese since he was installed as our Bishop.

Before we open the doors, Fr. Mike has stressed that all the construction should be complete including the parish offices on the lower level. During the weather delays a lot of work has been done on the lower level and now that we have the roof on and the building is very close to be “buttoned up”, the interior construction can begin in earnest. Two of the biggest projects will be the installation of the pews - which is a massive job especially considering the slanted or “raked” floor. The other major item is the installation of the mural. This is not something you just hang on a wall. It must be carefully installed in the manner it needs to be. The baptismal font will also take time to install. The list of interior elements is actually pretty long but the end result will be something that inspires everyone to give praise and thanks to our God.