

### FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT | DECEMBER 21, 2025

#### **Pastoral Staff**

#### Pastor:

Father Ryan McCoy pastor@saintjamescc.com

Spiritual Emergency Phone......228-563-0866

**Priest In Residence:** 

**Father James Smith** 

**Pastoral Associate:** 

**Deacon Richard Henderson** 

deacon@saintjamescc.com

#### Deacon:

**Rick Conason** 

rconason@aol.com

**Parish Secretary:** 

Beth Black.....Ext. 301

office@saintjamescc.com

**Finance Manager:** 

Shannon Holliday.....Ext. 304

finance@saintjamescc.com

**Director of Religious Education:** 

Linda Hebert.....Ext. 302

lindahebert@saintjamescc.com

**Family Life Coordinator:** 

Mara Russo.....Ext. 303

FLC@saintjamescc.com

**Youth Minister:** 

**Bridgett Bermond** 

youthminister@saintjamescc.com

#### **Catholic Education**

#### St. James Catholic School

603 West Avenue

Gulfport, MS 39507

228-896-6631

www.stjamesgulfport.com

#### St. Patrick Catholic High School

18300 St. Patrick Road

Biloxi, MS 39533

228-702-0500

www.stpatrickhighschool.net



### Welcome to Saint James Catholic Church

Whether you're just visiting for a brief time, looking for a new parish home, returning to the practice of your Catholic faith or interested in finding out more about the Catholic Church, we are happy you're here!

If you are new to the parish, please go to our website and click on the new parishioner link to register.

Registration forms can also be found in the back of the church.

# **COMMUNION FAST REMINDER**

A complete fast from all food and drink (to include gum) for one hour before the reception of the Holy Eucharist is a required discipline for all Catholics.

The fast does not include water and medicine.



#### **MASS SCHEDULE**

Saturday: 4:00pm Vigil Mass

Sunday: 9:00AM, 11:00AM and 5:30PM

**Monday:** 7:00AM and 8:30AM

**Tuesday:** 6:00pm, 7:00pm XLT

Wednesday: 8:30AM

Thursday: 7:00AM and 12:00PM (Noon)

Friday: 8:30AM

PERPETUAL ADORATION OF THE

**BLESSED SACRAMENT** 

In the Convent Chapel

#### RECONCILIATION

Saturday 3:00рм - 4:00рм or by

annointment

#### **CHURCH OFFICE HOURS**

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday

9:00AM - 4:00PM

Wednesday 9:00AM - 2:30PM

Office: 228-896-6059

Fax: 228-896-5498

#### STAY CONNECTED

Keep up with our parish happenings and stay updated on news and announcements:



Text SJCC to 57838



office@saintiamescc.com



www.saintjamescc.com



https://www.facebook.com/saintjamesgpt



@saintjamescatholicchurch



@SaintJames\_CC

#### **TREASURE**

#### December 13/14, 2025

First Collection: \$10,127
ACH: \$ —

Online Giving: \$1,230 Second Collection: \$998

**Retired Religious** 

Thank you for your generosity.

#### **SECOND COLLECTION**

This weekend's second collection will be for the Altar Society.

Next weekend's second collection will be for Tuition Assistance.

#### **ACH & ONLINE GIVING CONTRIBUTIONS**

There are two options for ACH Giving - <u>one</u> draft to be made on the Monday following the first Sunday of the month, or <u>two</u> drafts to be made on the Monday following the first and third Sunday of the month. Please contact the Parish Office for more details.



Venmo donations may be made at @St\_James\_GPT.

#### **LIFE AT SAINT JAMES**

# **FORMED**





The Catholic Extension
2026 Calendars are here and can
be found on the tables in the
back of the church.

Please take one per family.

The Jesse Tree helps us connect the custom of decorating Christmas trees to the events leading to Jesus' birth. Jesse was the father of King David, and the Jesse Tree gets its name from Isaiah 11:1: "There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots."

We adorn a Jesse Tree with illustrated ornaments that represent the people, prophesies, and events leading up to the birth of Jesus. The ornaments of the Jesse Tree tell the story of God in the Old Testament, connecting the Advent season with the faithfulness of God across four thousand years of history.

Our Jesse Tree is located in the sanctuary near the ambo; and details of the various ornaments and their meaning can be found on our website.

#### **General Instructions for Our Christmas Masses**

During Mass, we assume different postures and are also invited to make a variety of gestures. These postures and gestures are not merely ceremonial. They have profound meaning and, when done with understanding, can enhance our participation in the Mass.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church states that "Belief in the true Incarnation of the Son of God is the distinctive sign of Christian faith" (CCC 463). As a way of highlighting this unique, powerful mystery, we bow during the phrase in the *Nicene Creed* that expresses it ("and by the power of the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.").

Older Catholics might recall that, prior to the Second Vatican Council, everyone genuflected during this part of the *Creed* on all Sundays and solemnities. After the Council, the Church relaxed this practice, and now we genuflect during this part on just two solemnities of the year: the Annunciation on March 25 and the Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) on December 25. We use the more solemn gesture of genuflecting on these days because the Annunciation celebrates the moment of Christ's Incarnation, while Christmas, of course, celebrates the birth of Jesus, God Incarnate.

Some people are unable to genuflect or even bow due to age or health, and that is completely understandable. These people can simply bow their heads instead. But for all who are able, the gesture of bowing deeply is a beautiful expression of our reverence and gratitude for Christ, who loved us so much that He assumed our humanity, to redeem us and to unite us to Himself in a new way forever.

Source: Adapted from Catholic Times



WE HAVE A CHRISTMAS GIFT FOR YOU!

Copies of "The Forgotten Way" can be found at the entrances of the church.

Please take one per family.

#### Saint James Catholic Church Christmas Mass Schedule

#### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24

- . 4:00PM (CHILDREN'S MASS)
- . 4:00PM (OVERFLOW MASS IN
  - THE PARISH CENTER GYM)
- 6-00DM

#### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25

- 12:00AM (MIDNIGHT MASS)
- . 9:00AM
- 11:00AM
- 5:30PM



#### **REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS**

Fo add or remove a name from the prayer list, please contact the Parish Office.

Names will appear on the prayer list for six weeks, but are renewable.

Katherine Adams Joe Culpepper Ellis Hill Dalton McGuire Andrea Holderness Jeanviere Angeron Fr. Joseph Dang Karen McCov Mimi Davis Shannon Holliday George Barlow Ignatius Micele Valerie Dean Erik Hosler Max Millet Terry Barnes Helen Bartelsmeyer Linda Diaz Mamie Humphrey Beverly Moore Cynthia Dominguez Margie Joffrion Diana Berman Jennifer Morgan John Boothsby Elinor Donivan Fr. Jey Jordan John Mozingo, Jr. Brenda Dubuisson William Jordan Asher Bonura Mary Mozingo Jerry Boudreaux Anna Dugas Holly Kersten Fr. George Murphy Susan Dunne Analyse Khalifeh Joan Boudreaux Rebecca Napier W.C. Fore Carli Khalifeh Lois Ann Necaise Susan Bourgeois Debra Boyd Duane Friedrich Jan Khalifeh **Butch Oustalet** Msgr. Dominic Fulham Sheena Khalifeh Alan Picard **Hope Broadus** Ada Grace Glass Sophia Khalifeh Melissa Robbins Teresa Buckman Ashley Hage Aaron Kiehl Leo Romano Sarah Buras Valerie Buras Loretta Hahn Bishop Louis Kihneman Ron Roland Denise Hancock Doug Kirk Jim Roos Caroline Carlisle Martha Chapin Jeff Harper Roger Labit Barbara Russo Jeff Lawson **Bernard Chevalier** Betsy Harris Leo Seicshnaydre Dannie Chevalier Keleal Hassin James Lay Kathy Shankweiler **Edward Collins** Jim Haupt Danny Lechner Ralph Shankweiler **Rose Mary Collins** Melissa Healey Josie Lindsey Jaclyn Simpson lessi Hebert Clark Lizana, Jr. Josh Sniffen Paul Corley Gayle Rivet Martinez Julia Sterling Debbie Cothern Sgt. Eric J. Heitkamp Jean Crawford Tom Hicks Tanya McClellan Jennifer Stolarski

Darryl Stolica
Katherine Styczenski
Laurie Sumrall
Katie Todaro
Fr. Doan Tran
Fr. Joseph Trinh
Fr. Joseph Uko
Bob Usey
Jim Ussery
Donna Valestro
Brittany Varney
Ferdie Walker
Kim Casano-Ware
Damon Wesfaul
Theresa Whiteside

The Saint James community wishes to extend our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of:



Dale Harvey, Buddy Pickle, Elaine Thibodeaux and Patti White

May they and all the souls of the faithful departed now share in Eternal Glory and may their loved ones receive God's consolation and peace.

### A Prayer for our Military and First Responders

Lord, please hold our military and first responders in your loving hands. Protect them as they protect us. Bless them and their families for the selfless acts they perform. Amen.

If you or anyone in your family is ill, at home or in the hospital and would like us to visit, please contact the parish office at 228-896-6059. If in the hospital, be sure to notate which hospital and provide a room number.

#### THIS WEEK'S MASS INTENTIONS

#### Saturday, December 20

Sunday, December 21

Monday, December 22

Tuesday, December 23

Wednesday, December 24

8:30AM Communion Service

4:00AM (Church) ⊕Marguerite & Herbert Holder

Thursday, December 25

Friday, December 26

Saturday, December 27

Deceased - ⊕ Healing -♥ Special Intention - 🐎

### **TWO WEEKS AT A GLANCE - EVENTS**

#### <u>December 22 - December 27</u>

Monday, December 22

10:00AM Legion of Mary, Philomena House

6:30PM Al-Anon, Raphael Room

Tuesday, December 23

9:00AM H & F Card Game, Philomena House - Cancelled

7:00PM XLT with Confessions, Church

#### **December 29 - January 3**

Monday, December 29

10:00AM Legion of Mary, Philomena House

6:30PM Al-Anon, Raphael Room

Tuesday, December 30

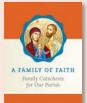
7:00PM XLT with Confessions, Church

Saturday, January 3

9:00PM Apologetics Reading Group, Raphael Room



#### A FAMILY OF FAITH GRADES K-5



Catechetical Session
January 7 | 5:45PM-7:15PM
Raphael Room

Parents - If you were unable to attend the Catechetical Session, please make arrangements to stop by the Parish Office and pick up this month's materials.

For more information, please contact Linda Hebert at lindahebert@saintjamescc.com



### SAINT J YOUTH GROUP GRADES 6-12

Sunday 6:30-8:00PM

No youth during the Christmas holiday.

We will return with our

Spring Kick Off on January 4.

For more information, please contact Bridgett Bermond at youthminister@saintjamescc.com



A Sacramental Overview with Linda Hebert, Director of Religious Education

Parents of all children who are being prepared to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Eucharist are required to attend a one-on-one, 30-minute conversation with Linda.

To schedule your session, please contact Linda at lindahebertesaintjamescc.com or 228-297-5126



# UPCOMING RETREAT SCHEDULE FOR HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH

- SEARCH Retreat January 9-11, 2026 FULL\*
- SEARCH Retreat February 6-8, 2026 FULL\*
  - Saint J Retreat February 27-29, 2026

An overnight retreat is a confirmation requirement.

\*Both SEARCH retreats are full, but you can register for the wait list.



The Parish Office will be closed Tuesday - Friday, December 23 - 26, in observance of Christmas. The office will close at noon on Wednesday, December 31, and remain closed on Thursday and Friday, January 1 & 2, in celebration of the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God.



Father Ryan, Father James,
Deacon Henderson, Deacon Conason
and the Office Staff hope you
enjoy the holiday with family and
friends while celebrating the birth of
Our Lord Jesus Christ.

#### PERPETUAL EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

"Time spent in prayer is never wasted, however urgent the duties that press upon us from every side."

#### ADORERS NEEDED!

Sunday 3:00PM - 4:00PM;

Monday 10:00AM - 11:00AM;

Wednesday 12:00AM - 1:00AM, 1:00AM - 2:00AM;

and Saturday 1:00PM - 2:00PM

Second or Third Adorers are always needed in each hour

for a substitute system.

If you can help or substitute with any hours, please call Ralph at 228-539-2434 or contact the Parish Office.

# We Adere Him

Saint James Perpetual Adoration Chapel offers enhanced adorer scheduling, substitute requests and more with this user-friendly program!

You can sign in or create your account using this easy QR onboarding code.

Just use your cell phone's camera app to scan the QR Code, then tap the yellow box that appears and follow the prompts!

### Bereavement

The Bereavement Committee is looking for new members. If you are interested in helping to meet the needs of a family at the time of a bereavement (primarily with providing food items immediately after the funeral services), please contact:

Mary Anne Oberlies at 228-596-5334.



Saint James Council # 11541



Our next meeting will be Wednesday, January 7, 7:00PM in the Raphael Room

Want to learn more about the Knights of Columbus? Email us at saintjameskoc11541@gmail.com

# **VISITATION MINISTRY**

The Lay Visitation Ministry will soon begin their visits to the homebound. If you know of someone who would like a visit, please fill out a card found in the back of the church and drop it in the box. A representative will contact you to schedule the visit.





#### **HELP OUR ST. VINCENT DEPAUL CONFERENCE**



We challenge each family to bring at least one non-perishable item to Mass every week, and to place it in the "Food Drop Box" located in the back of the church. When you are shopping and select your item for the poor, thank God for the ability to adequately provide for your own family;

and pray for those less fortunate.

Open: Tuesdays 9:00AM - 11:45AM, Food & Financial Assistance

Thursdays 10:00AM - 11:30AM, Food Assistance ONLY

#### **SANCTUARY FLOWERS**

During Advent, flowers are not to be used to decorate the sanctuary. However, flowers may still be placed in front of our Blessed Mother and St. Joseph altars. Please contact Linda Hartfield (228-697-3420) to order flowers. Donations must be scheduled at least two weeks in advance.

# Christmas Flowers



We are now accepting donations for our Christmas flowers.

Envelopes can be found on the tables at the church entrances.

#### **MARRIAGE**

<u>Please note:</u> The Diocese of Biloxi requires that engaged couples should begin the Marriage Preparation process no fewer than six months prior to the anticipated wedding date. Wedding dates CANNOT BE SCHEDULED until the engaged couple contacts and meets with the Family Life Coordinator.

To begin the process, please contact Mara Russo at FLC@saintjamescc.com or 228-896-6059.

# Married Couples Retreat

Sponsored by St James in Gulfport

# ATTENTION MARRIED COUPLES:

Would you like to spend quality time enriching your marriage?

Then join us on our parish sponsored married couples retreat at the beautiful St. Joseph Abbey Retreat Center in Covington, La

Brought to you by Faith and Marriage. The Faith & Marriage Apostolate of the Willwoods Community is dedicated to promoting the Sacramentality of marriage and providing for married couples opportunities for growth, enrichment, and support.

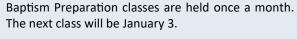


Join us for our January 10-11,2026 Retreat!

Reserve your room at faithandmarriage.org/retreats



#### **BAPTISM**





For more information and to register, please contact Mara Russo at <u>FLC@saintjamescc.com</u> or 228-896-6059.

# Clearing the Confusion: Common Misconceptions About Annulments

Many Catholics have questions regarding annulments. Here's the truth:

Myth: Only marriages that took place in the Catholic Church need an annulment before remarriage.

➡Truth: The Church recognizes all marriages, Catholic or not, as valid unless proven otherwise. This means that anyone who was previously married is not free to enter a new marriage in the Church until a declaration of nullity has been obtained. In some cases, the process is straightforward and mostly administrative, but it is still necessary before a new marriage can be celebrated.

Have questions or need support? Please contact Mara Russo at <u>FLCesaintjamescc.com</u> or by calling the parish office at 228-896-6059.

#### **COMMUNITY NEWS**

Surrendering Your Newborn at a Safe Haven Baby Box delivers...

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Gulfport Fire Department
15239 Dedeaux Rd, Gulfport, MS 39503

Long Beach Central Fire Station 645 Klondyke Rd., Long Beach, MS 39560

Waveland Central Fire Station 427 US-90, Waveland, MS 39576





DESCRIBE WHAT'S

HAPPENING:

IF SOMEONE CANNOT

SEE WELL, QUIETLY

EXPLAIN KEY PARTS

OF THE MASS OR

EVENTS SO THEY MAY

FEEL INCLUDED

The Pray for a Priest Calendar (December 2025) is available on our website.

# <u>Advent</u>

### Reconciliation

The final Advent
Reconciliation Service will
be held at St. Thomas at
6:00PM on Monday,
December 22.

We also have Confessions at XLT on Tuesday nights at 7:00PM.

# ATTENTION BULLETIN ADVERTISERS

The billing date **deadline** for the 2025-2026 bulletin ads coincided with the start of the Church's 2026 liturgical calendar on the first Sunday of Advent, **November 30, 2025**. Please take the time now to consider advertising another year with us.

Contact Derek at comms@saintjamescc.com or call the Parish Office 228-896-6059

We appreciate your support!



#### "A PLACE FOR HOPE AND HEALING"

The Mercy Cross Center is committed to making a positive impact in the lives of those who are without a home, supporting those in need, and ultimately decreasing the number of individuals in our local community who are without housing. The Mercy Cross Center and its partners offer a range of essential services to support individuals experiencing the need for a day shelter.

Please visit https://biloxidiocese.org/cc-homeless to see how you can help.

#### **SCHOOL NEWS**



ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL











Antoine Rizk, MD - Paul Mullen, MD - Jay Libys, MD

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Olivia Hightower, M.D. Saint James Parishioner

Allison P. Wall, M.D. St. Alphonsus Parishioner

Stephanie Fussell, M.D. Holly Ford, Administrator Saint James Parishioner

228-575-1234 Pray for Cancer Patients

Offices in Gulfport, Biloxi, Bay St. Louis, and Wiggins



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Chapel Amen.





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2781 C.T. Switzer Sr. Drive, Ste 306 Biloxi, MS 39531 (228) 822-6368

**Gulfport Location:** 

John F. Pappas, M.D., F.A.C.O.G.

Joanna M. Trus, M.D., F.A.C.O.G.

Jonathan Jones, M.D., F.A.C.O.G.

Amanda Sterling, WHNP

Erica Simmons Yang, WHNP

**Biloxi Location:** 

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