



"Leading people to heaven with Christian hospitality and fostering Eucharistic Discipleship."

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT | DECEMBER 14, 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 3:00PM - 4:00PM or by appointment

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@saintjamescc.com



www.saintjamescc.com



<https://www.facebook.com/saintjamesgpt>



[@saintjamescatholicchurch](https://www.youtube.com/saintjamescatholicchurch)



[@SaintJames_CC](https://twitter.com/SaintJames_CC)

TREASURE

December 6/7, 2025

First Collection:	\$9,262
ACH:	\$12,736
Online Giving:	\$855
Second Collection:	\$949
Youth Ministry	
Feast of the Immaculate Conception:	\$2,138

Thank you for your generosity.

SECOND COLLECTION

This weekend's second collection will be for Retired Religious.

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

ACH & ONLINE GIVING CONTRIBUTIONS

There are two options for ACH Giving - one draft to be made on the Monday following the first Sunday of the month, or two 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

OUR GIFT TO YOU!

Scan to Register
For Free



**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.

Saint James Fall Festival

- Update -

**We are grateful to all who
donated their time, talent
and/or treasure to make our
Saint James Fall Festival a
success. We are happy to
report a festival profit of
\$143,518.**



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, prophecies, 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.

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

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

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.

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



Geneva Bunch, Dale Harvey,
Maria Cuong Thi Nguyen,
Buddy Pickle,
Alex Rutkowsky,
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.

THIS WEEK'S MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, December 13

4:00PM ✚ Charley Hewes

Sunday, December 14

9:00AM ✚ James "Jimmy" Daigneault
11:00AM People of Saint James
5:30PM ✚ Joni Clark McDermott

Monday, December 15

7:00AM ✚ Gene Richard
8:30AM ✚ Bobbie Mizell

Tuesday, December 16

6:00PM ✚ Michael Holly Smith

Wednesday, December 17

6:00AM ✚ Maria Cuong Thi Nguyen
8:30AM ✚ Cathy Ann Oser

Thursday, December 18

7:00AM ✚ Mary Richard
12:00PM ✚ Kevin Chevalier

Friday, December 19

8:30AM ✚ Jeanette Boudreau

Saturday, December 20

4:00PM ✚ Vanessa Buras & Theresa Buras Knight

Deceased -✚ Healing -♥ Special Intention -✚

TWO WEEKS AT A GLANCE - EVENTS

December 15 - December 20

Monday, December 15

10:00AM Legion of Mary, Philomena House
6:00PM Study, Jewish Roots Of Christmas, Philomena House
6:30PM Al-Anon, Raphael Room

Tuesday, December 16

7:00PM OCIA Class, Raphael Room
7:00PM XLT with Confessions, Church

Wednesday, December 17

7:00PM SJCS Christmas Program, Parish Center Gym

Thursday, December 18

7:00PM SJCS Christmas Program, Parish Center Gym

December 22 - December 27

Monday, December 22

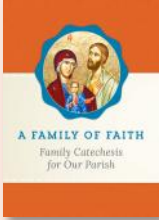
10:00AM Legion of Mary, Philomena House
6:30PM Al-Anon, Raphael Room

Tuesday, December 23

9:00AM H & F Card Game, Philomena House - **Cancelled**
7:00PM OCIA Class, Raphael Room
7:00PM XLT with Confessions, Church

FAITH FORMATION

A FAMILY OF FAITH GRADES K-5



Family Gathering December 14 | 12:00PM-1:30PM SJCS Cafeteria

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

Christmas Party Parish Center Gym

Wear your best Christmas PJs and come have some fun!
We'll have food, games and prizes!

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



Come to the Table SCHEDULE NOW

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 lindahebert@saintjamescc.com or 228-297-5126

If your child was not baptized at Saint James Catholic Church, please bring a copy of your child's baptismal certificate to the session.

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 Jewish Roots of Christmas

**December 15
6:00-7:30 PM
Philomena House**

**Please RSVP to Chris Molino:
evangelization@saintjamescc.com**



OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation of Adults) classes are offered for those interested, baptized and unbaptized, in learning about the Catholic Faith and/or those cradle Catholics who have never been confirmed.

Classes have begun - but it's not too late to join!

OCIA meets on Tuesdays at 7:00PM in the Raphael Room.

For information, contact Deacon Henderson 228-209-6960.

Gaudete Sunday

The Third Sunday of Advent is called Gaudete (Rejoice) Sunday. Advent is a penitential season of abstinence, sacrifice, and prayer in order to prepare our souls for the advent or coming of the Lord. On Gaudete Sunday we celebrate that our hopeful anticipation for the coming of Christ at Christmas is almost over. Rose is the liturgical color used to signify joy, therefore we light the rose Advent candle on the third Sunday of Advent and the priests wear rose vestments. Gaudete Sunday corresponds to Laetare Sunday during the season of Lent. The third candle on the Advent wreath – a pink or rose one – is often called the Shepherd's Candle and symbolizes Joy. It helps us remember to be joyful at the coming birth of Jesus.

Source: morningoffering.com





O ANTIPHONS

Christmas carols, Advent wreaths, Christmas trees, Midnight Mass, and ginger cookies - Whether they are family or Church customs, the many traditions associated with the Advent and Christmas seasons make these special times of the year for us.

One of these ancient traditions is the O Antiphons: seven responses, or antiphons, that are sung or recited to introduce the canticle of Mary (the Magnificat) at evening prayer from December 17 to December 23, the octave before Christmas. These antiphons are based on Isaiah's prophecies and refer to the different ancient titles given to the Messiah:

- O Sapientia (O Wisdom) See *Isaiah* 11:2-3; 28:29
- O Adonai (O Lord) See *Isaiah* 11:4-5; 33:22
- O Radix Jesse (O Root of Jesse) See *Isaiah* 1:1; 11:10
- O Clavis David (O Key of David) See *Isaiah* 9:6; 22:22
- O Oriens (O Rising Sun) See *Isaiah* 9:1
- O Rex Gentium (O King of the Nations) See *Isaiah* 9:5; 2:4
- O Emmanuel (God with us) See *Isaiah* 7:14

We can bring these responses into our own prayers, as simple reminders throughout the day of the one whose coming we are joyfully expecting, as introductions to our own prayers of praise of Jesus, or as words of thanksgiving for God's faithfulness throughout the ages and our lives. Regardless of how you incorporate these ancient words into your Advent prayer life, let them speak to you, and maybe they will become part of your family traditions.

Blessing the Christmas Manger

St. Francis of Assisi introduced the custom of displaying the Christmas manger, also the Nativity scene or creche. If you have a Christmas manger in your home, you may wish to bless it. Some families set up the Nativity Scene on Christmas Eve. Others set it up earlier in Advent but do not put the infant Jesus in the manger until Christmas Eve or Christmas Day.

Gather the family around the Christmas manger and make the sign of the cross.

Leader: *Our help is in the name of the Lord.*

All: *Who made heaven and earth.*

Reading *Luke 2:1-7*

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Blessing Prayer

A parent leads, or the family prays in unison.

God of every nation and people, from the very beginning of creation you have made manifest your love: when our need for a Savior was great you sent your Son to be born of the Virgin Mary. To our lives he brings joy and peace, justice, mercy, and love. Lord, bless all who look upon this manger; may it remind us of the humble birth of Jesus, and raise up our thoughts to him, who is God-with-us and Savior of all, and who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

Source: *A Prayer Book for Catholic Families*

Blessing the Christmas Tree

Leader: *Blessed be the name of the Lord.*

All: *Now and for ever.*

Reading *John 1:1-5*

In the beginning was the word, and the Word was with God, and the word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

Blessing Prayer

A parent leads, or the family prays in unison.

Lord our God, we praise you for the light of creation: the sun, the moon, and the stars of the night. We praise you for the light of Israel: the Law, the prophets, and the wisdom of the Scriptures. We praise you for Jesus Christ, your Son: he is Emmanuel, God-with-us, the Prince of Peace, who fills us with the wonder of your love. Lord God, let your blessing come upon us as we illumine this tree. May the light and cheer it gives be a sign of the joy that fills our hearts. May all who delight in this tree come to the knowledge and joy of salvation. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Holy Lord, we come with joy to celebrate the birth of your Son, who rescued us from the darkness of sin by making the cross a tree of life and light. May this tree, arrayed in splendor, remind us of the life-giving cross of Christ, that we may always rejoice in the new life that shines in our hearts. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Source: *A Prayer Book for Catholic Families*

Saint James Catholic Church Christmas Schedule

2025

2025 - 2026

Christmas Masses

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24

- 4:00PM (CHILDREN'S MASS)
- 4:00PM (OVERFLOW MASS IN
THE PARISH CENTER GYM)
- 6:00PM
- 12:00AM (MIDNIGHT MASS)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25

- 9:00AM
- 11:00AM
- 5:30PM

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph Masses

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 27

- 4:00PM

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28

- 9:00AM
- 11:00AM
- 5:30PM

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God Masses

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 31

- 6:00PM

THURSDAY, JANUARY 1

- 7:00AM
- 8:30AM
- 6:00PM

The Epiphany of the Lord Masses

SATURDAY, JANUARY 3

- 4:00PM

SUNDAY, JANUARY 4

- 9:00AM
- 11:00AM
- 5:30PM



MINISTRY NEWS

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 Adore 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

Congratulations to Doug Hill, Council 11541's Knight of the Year

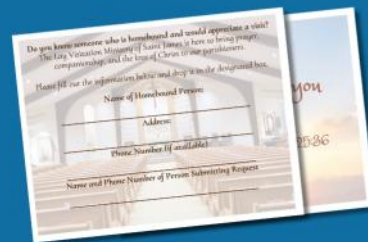


We are proud to have earned Double Star Council Award recognition from the Knights of Columbus"

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

Please note: 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



Baptism Preparation classes are held once a month. The next class will be January 3.

For more information and to register, please contact Mara Russo at FLC@saintjamescc.com 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 FLC@saintjamescc.com or by calling the parish office at 228-896-6059.

COMMUNITY NEWS

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

No Shame- No Blame- No Names

1-866-99BABY1

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4500 13th St, Gulfport, MS 39501

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



Safe Haven
Baby Boxes

THE TABITHA PROJECT
Tabitha Tip

**SHOW COMPASSION:
DISABILITY DOES NOT
ERASE ANY JOY, GIFTS
OR DIGNITY**



CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF BILOXI

CONTACT US:

Rachel Ryan, Coordinator
228-897-2289
rryan@biloxidiocese.org

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

Upcoming Advent Penance Services

During the Advent Season, everyone is encouraged to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. If you are unable to attend the Saint James Penance Service, here are the dates and times of our surrounding parishes.

- St. Joseph - December 15 @ 6:00PM
- St. John - December 16 @ 6:00PM
- St. Therese - December 18 @ 6:00PM
- St. Ann - December 19 @ 6:00PM
- St. Thomas - December 22 @ 6:00PM



"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.

ATTENTION BULLETIN ADVERTISERS

The billing date **deadline** for the 2025-2026 bulletin ads will coincide 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!

Memorial Physician Clinics



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

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<https://www.edwardjones.com/rhodes-wealth-management>

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