

# Under the Steeple

## ST. JAMES PARISH



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## THE SPIRIT OF THE LENTEN SEASON

Lent is a forty-day period of the liturgical calendar of the Church. It begins on Ash Wednesday, when we remember our humble beginnings and repent of our sins through the imposition of ashes on our foreheads, and ends on Holy Thursday, the beginning of the Easter Triduum.

The Latin term for Lent is "Quadragesima" which means forty days. Forty is a significant number in the history of our salvation. For instance, the rain of forty days and forty nights during the time of Noah in Genesis 7:4; Moses stayed on Mount Sinai for forty days and forty nights in Exodus 24:18; Jesus fasted for forty days and forty nights in Matthew 4:2, and many other significant events in the Bible are related to forty.

Lent is a penitential season. It is a time of purification and conversion filled with

prayer, fasting and almsgiving as we await the great day of Easter. Lent is a special time for us to celebrate the triumph of Christ over death and sin, the fulfillment of our redemption from sin.



How can we observe this Holy Season effectively? The Church teaches us three interconnected ways in order to make this season spiritually fruitful for us. These are almsgiving, prayer and fasting. Almsgiving reminds us that sharing should be the mark of our daily lives as Christians. Prayer helps us to strengthen our relationship with God who speaks to us and desires to draw us to himself. Through fasting we help rid ourselves of selfishness and self-centeredness by relying solely on God.

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## YOU'RE INVITED

***It's going to be a great night at the Third Annual Dinner and Dance!***

Invite your family and friends to this fun filled evening on February 25. Here is what the evening holds:

- ♥ 5:00-5:40 Registration
- ♥ 6:00 Family Style Chicken and Swedish Meatball Dinner
- ♥ 7:00 Live Auction with Bill Jartz
- ♥ 8:00-11:00 Mark Jirikovec Band
- ♥ Free beer and soda during music

During the dinner there will be a cupcake raffle with a chance to win a diamond necklace and earrings. Other raffles throughout the night include 2 cross bows, gun raffle, wine raffle, dessert raffle, 50/50,

*Dinner & Dance*  
**Saturday, February 25**  
**At Gatherings 43, Denmark**

gift card lottery tree and over 65 bucket raffles. There will be a silent auction along with the live auction and many other chances to win great prizes.

Tickets are \$20.00 each and are only sold in advance. Purchase them at the parish office, after weekend Masses, at DeGrand's Family Restaurant or on our website.

Can't make it for dinner? You can still come after dinner for just \$10 admission, payable at the door.



## Ordination Anniversary

**Fr. Santiago M. Turiano, Jr.**  
**March 8, 2003 - March 8, 2023**

As a special gift to Father Santy on the 20th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood, we invite you to participate in a gift giving effort to help people in the Philippines. Collectively, we are sending a monetary donation for school supplies with Father when he leaves for his trip at the end of February. Join others in congratulating Father with a voluntary gift of any dollar amount by February 20. Checks should be made payable to St. James Church.

*Drop in the collection basket or mail to the parish office.*

## SPECIAL PROJECTS MOVE FORWARD

by Jean Schleis

There has been much debate lately among parishioners at St. James on capital needs for the church. Starting back in 2020, as part of Parish Mission Planning, a list of projects that needed attention was formulated resulting in a parish survey that ranked their importance. Now these projects are about to take shape.

Since then, the deteriorating condition of the southwest church entrance has come to the forefront. Those who use this entrance know that the outside steps are crumbling under the carpet, and that they are difficult to use because the rise of each step is too steep. When you enter the door at the bottom of the steps to access the furnace room or parish hall, there is water leaking from above, and the walls and ceiling have cracks with old painted

plaster peeling off. It is quite unsightly.

A second and two-fold building accessibility problem has come to the forefront. Some parishioners would like to see a restroom constructed in the east entrance of church, while others would like to have an elevator to provide easier access between the church proper and the parish hall. These problems are not only evident at weekend Masses, but also at funerals, weddings, and at Faith Formation classes where even crutches pose a difficult situation.

After the Annual Meeting last November, a committee of knowledgeable people and representatives of parish leadership formed to delve into these projects more thoroughly. They were asked to come up with firm proposals. After meeting in January 2023, this committee recommended that we proceed with needed repairs to the SW entry, and that we move forward with construction of a lift (a type of elevator.)

The idea of a restroom in the east entrance of church was abandoned for two main reasons. 1.) A restroom built according to today's building codes would take up a large footprint of space in the back entrance; space which is tight already. 2.) A lift, on the other hand, would allow people to access the parish hall as well as the lower-level restrooms, solving two accessibility problems. Some members of the committee had already visited St.

Mary's Church in Glenmore and St. Joseph's Church in Kellnersville to inspect their "elevators." Actually, both of their applications are "lifts" and that is what St. James would be installing. We will be getting estimates from two different companies before proceeding.

As for the SW entrance, the committee felt that the cost of completely re-designing the space was prohibitive. This entry is not a main access for most people. If we can correct the water seepage, re-do the steps up to current building codes, and generally give a facelift to this area that would be a huge improvement. The committee will be checking with contractors to firm up some estimates for this plan.

Finally, the committee talked about how to fund these projects. Through the one-by-One campaign, there will eventually be over \$100,000 coming back to St. James for this project. Additionally, an anonymous parishioner has generously already contributed \$100,000 for the SW entrance. It is anticipated that even combined, these sums will not be enough to cover all the work, so we will be asking for additional contributions to avoid taking out a bank loan.



Southwest Entrance

### IN NEED OF SKILLED CARPENTERS

In looking ahead to the installation of a lift in the east entrance of church, we are already aware that the biggest expense of this project will be construction of a 2x4 outer shell with drywall around it. The parish would be able to save a considerable amount of the cost if this work was performed by our own people who are skilled in construction.



If you have these skills, we'd like to talk with you. Please call Pat Hickey at 920-418-2500.

## PHOTO DIRECTORY NEWS



Thank you to all the parishioners who participated in our parish photo directory. We had a very good turnout and that makes a more complete directory. We also want to thank the many volunteers who managed appointments, gathered information, took group photos and designed the pages.

- ◆ If you haven't picked up your photo from Harmann's yet, they are available in the back of church.

- ◆ Everyone who had a photo taken by Harmann's or submitted a photo will receive a free directory.
- ◆ Each directory will have St. James information and photos on one side, and with a simple flip of the book you will see St. Joseph's pages.
- ◆ We are hoping to have the books in hand by June, but there are many variables making it difficult to give an exact date.
- ◆ To purchase a copy, contact the parish office; each additional book will cost \$15.00.

## THE HOLY SEASON OF LENT *continued from page 1*



Why do we observe this spiritual discipline? Pope Benedict XVI said, "Lent teaches us how to live the life of Christ in an ever more radical way." He related justice to these three Lenten traditions. Fasting is correcting our relationship with ourselves. Almsgiving is righting our relationship with our neighbors, especially the poor. Prayer is aligning

our relationship with God.

In the Gospel according to Matthew, Jesus said, "take care not to perform righteous deeds in order that people may see them; otherwise, you will have no recompense from your heavenly Father." Mt. 6:1. This is a good reminder to all of us. Let us do these acts as our sincere offering to God who sees our sinfulness yet still calls us to be close to Him.

Lent also requires silence. The silence that permeates the soul and makes us better Christians, free

from sins through the Father's love manifested in Jesus's passion, death and resurrection. During this holy season let us practice these spiritual traditions. Let us reach out to our brothers and sisters who are in need of help. Let us open ourselves to God. Let us improve our communication with God through prayer. Finally, let us take a break from self-satisfaction and the noise around us. In silence let us marvel how God works in us.

In Christ,

## TEAM WORK MAKES THE DREAM WORK

by Jacob Heiser

I have been coming to St. James since before I can remember. I was baptized, received my first communion and was confirmed here, and before that, my family called the church home for over 150 years. St. James is as much a part of my life as my own family and it has been a constant source of guidance and stability. I am very grateful for what the church has provided me with through the years, and I thought I would share what giving back to the parish means to me.

My first experience volunteering at church came when I was in grade school and I signed up to be an altar server. I thoroughly enjoyed this experience as a young person because it gave me a chance to be a part of the mass, even at a young age. It was the first time I remember feeling truly connected to the worship service. It was also a great way to learn and understand the different parts of the mass.

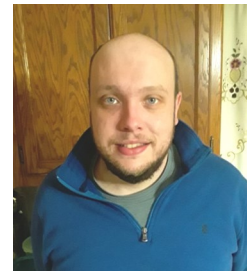
In my teen years, I continued to volunteer at church in different ways, mainly as a part of the newly organized "One Degree Youth Ministry". Here, I helped organize events for my fellow teens as well as other service and volunteer opportunities throughout the community. My experience with One Degree further helped me understand the church and my relationship to it. It reinforced the lesson that our mission as Catholics does not begin

nor end at the church doors. We are supposed to take the teachings beyond our time at church and truly "walk the walk" in any way possible.

After returning to St. James after college, I first resisted jumping back into volunteering at church. Fortunately, after time, I once

again discovered how much my church needed me, as well as how much I needed it. I once again began taking an active role in the church. I joined the Knights of Columbus, started ushering and lecturing and overall became more involved in church activities. Through helping out, I have rediscovered what it means to be a Catholic. It is not just about coming to mass, taking communion and praying, it is about giving all you have to offer to better the church, as well as the community.

With the many volunteers our parish is lucky enough to have, we are able to thrive and spread the word of God. This would not be possible without all those who selflessly give their time and talents for the betterment of our church. If you are interested in taking a bigger role in the church, please reach out to one of our many amazing volunteers and see how you can help!



## YOUTH MINISTRY UPDATE

by Patty Bekkers



In December our Youth Ministry rang bells for the Salvation Army and spread some Christmas cheer in the village of Denmark by caroling.

Currently they are starting to fundraise for the high school (July 8-16) and middle school (June 24-27) Mission Trips. This will again include the very-popular Mother's Day Flower sale.

Keep these students and chaperones in your prayers and watch for updates in the bulletin and on the parish's website.

If you would like to join our Youth Ministry, or have questions, please reach out to Patty Bekkers, St. James Youth Minister, at 920-660-8064.



## CATHEDRATICUM CONFUSION

by Jean Schleis

It seems that every year at the Annual Parish Meeting, someone is curious about the Cathedratium expense. Cathedratium is an odd word, and with its five syllables difficult for most to pronounce. (kath' e drat' it kum)

The term Cathedratium comes from the Latin word "cathedra." It is a tax that all churches are assessed to support the administrative function of the curia—the office of the Bishop as leader of the diocese. Moreover, and perhaps more importantly, these funds are used to underwrite several other diocesan-wide expenditures.

Here is how the Cathedratium differs from other appeals in our Diocese:

The Bishop's Appeal is a yearly request to fund the services and ministries of the diocese. This appeal constitutes their annual budget, which is shared amongst all the diocesan offices, providing multiple services and ministries that each parish alone cannot provide. All parishioners are asked to personally support this effort.

The one-by-One Campaign is a diocesan effort to expand diocesan ministries well into the future. A capital appeal like this only happens once every 5 to 10 years. This campaign had four major components which are different from the Bishop's Appeal:

- a. Strengthening parishes—this is the 50% of funds raised that is coming back to St. James.
- b. Growing vocations—includes upgrades to facilities for Campus Ministry and Camp Tekakwitha, and an endowment for priestly vocations.

- c. Enhancing Catholic Schools—facility upgrades, tuition assistance endowment, digital evangelization, and an emerging technology fund.
- d. Broadening Social Justice and Living Justice ministries—endowments for homeless services and expanded services of Catholic Charities.

Lastly, the Cathedratium is invoiced directly to each parish and is paid with general parish funds. St. James' 2022 Cathedratium assessment was \$14,552.00.



As part of my research for this article, I talked to the executive director of the Catholic Foundation and learned that the Bishop is given a tiny portion of the Cathedratium assessment. Here is how most of the funds are allocated:

1. Securing international priests – The Cathedratium pays the immigration costs to bring these men to our diocese. Re-settling in the U.S.—everything from social adjustment to getting a driver's license, to work Visas is covered by the Cathedratium.
2. Safe Environment Adherence: All the efforts for Protecting God's Children are managed with Cathedratium funding: Background checks, Virtus, Compliance Audits, etc.
3. Support for the universal church—specifically the Wisconsin

Conference of Catholic Bishops and the United States Council of Catholic Bishops. Each of these organizations collects "dues" which are non-negotiable. (Comparable to scouting dues, Knights of Columbus dues, etc.)

4. Support for unassigned priests—those diocesan priests who for health or other hardship circumstances are unable to work in a parish or elsewhere in the diocese.

5. Operations of the Chancery Office which oversees Canon Law Compliance and governmental laws; also, the Marriage Tribunal governing annulments.

Finally, you may be wondering how each parish amount is calculated.

It is a complicated formula, based on several different factors including the number of paying units in the parish, the Effective Buying Index for the zip code of most parishioners, and then deducting credits for Catholic High School and Grade School support, and credit for the additional costs associated with having a Pastoral Leader serving the parish and not a priest. These same criteria are used in calculating the Bishop's Appeal goals.

We all share in the work of Jesus to spread the Good News. A sincere thank you to everyone who financially supports St. James, and through our parish, is supporting the work of both the diocese and the world-wide church.

Now, do you remember how to pronounce that word?

## REAL LIFE LESSON LEARNED AT ST. JOHN'S HOMELESS SHELTER

by Traci Hickey



Remember this tree from the Advent season? It was the 'Giving Tree,' and we collected items that were needed at St. John's Ministries' homeless shelter in Green Bay. Our parish was incredibly generous in donating items for this most worthy cause.

I had the privilege of delivering the donations to the shelter. It is located at the old St. John's Catholic School on St. John Street. While there, two volunteers came out and helped me unload. They were overwhelmed with the generosity of our country parish. After we finished, I was offered a tour; and though I did hesitate for a second, I decided to accept the invitation.

Touring the shelter, which was previously a Catholic school, was a real life lesson, to say the least. The old classrooms are now sleeping quarters for their "guests". The rooms are packed with metal bunk beds, and a plastic tote for each guests belongings. Some beds are made with belongings in order while others are not. Down the hall in what was previously a school gymnasium, is where they eat and can socialize. I learned that there is no cooking done in the kitchen. ALL meals are donated by various church and community groups. The guests are given supper and breakfast.

Guests are not allowed to come into the building until 5pm and have to be out by 8am. Their daytime hours can be spent at the Micah Center (for the men) and Wellspring (for the women). Both of these places offer help in finding a job and securing housing. A case worker or social worker is assigned to each person if they so desire. Sadly, not all do. But the goal of St. John's Ministries is to get them back on their own feet. They are referred to as guests and treated as such, with dignity and respect. That was very striking

and very evident in everything they explained.

As we were wrapping up the discussion (about 2:30pm), an individual knocked on their door, seeking help. Since it was not yet 5pm he could not come in; but instead was given a blanket. That day was December 21st and it was brutally cold and windy. The man sat on a bench, shivering under a blanket as I drove away in my nice warm vehicle.

I sobbed all the way home. It's an image never to be forgotten.



In communicating with one of their volunteers I learned that there are ways for children to participate in this caring ministry. So that is what all Faith Formation classes did on Wednesday evening, January 25th. All students, from grades one through ten, spent an evening coming together in service to others,

during their normally scheduled class times. The youngest grades colored pictures, place-mats, or colored words of encouragement. The middle grades made foam crafts, greeting cards, put together rosaries from kits, and painted on canvases. Ninth and tenth grade (and some seventh graders with Father) made pancakes and blueberry muffins from scratch. It was a beautiful evening.

More pictures of the students service to St. John's Ministry are available on St. James Facebook page.



### JULY EVENTS FOR YOUR CALENDAR

- July 17-21 Fun & Faith is returning again this year. The theme, "Hero Hotline - Called to Serve" features heroic Bible stories, music, games, and snacks, learning that true heroes are called to Follow Jesus. Open to youth ages 4 ½ to 11 or entering 5th grade.
- July 23 And then following on the next Sunday, we will celebrate St. James Feast Day with Bishop Frank Dewane. Mark your calendar NOW so you plan your summer and can attend these events.



### LOOKING AHEAD EVEN FURTHER

St. James Parish will celebrate its 175<sup>th</sup> year anniversary in 2025. We hope to form a committee in the near future to plan events with a huge celebration culminating on St. James Feast Day in 2025. Consider volunteering!



## UNDER THE STEEPLE

### UPCOMING EVENTS

- ◆ February 19 Old Palms due for burning
- ◆ February 22 Ash Wednesday, Mass, 7:30pm
- ◆ February 25 3rd Annual Dinner & Dance Fundraiser
- ◆ March 17 St. Patrick's Day
- ◆ March 19 Grief Group
- ◆ April 1 Pilgrimage to Shrine
- ◆ April 1 1st Communion Bread Party/Retreat
- ◆ April 2-9 Holy Week
- ◆ April 9 Easter Sunday
- ◆ April 16 First Communion, 1:00pm Mass

  
**St. James**  
Cooperstown  
[www.stjamescooperstown.org](http://www.stjamescooperstown.org)

## ST. JAMES PARISH COOPERSTOWN

- ◆ Administrator: Reverend Santiago Turiano, Jr.
- ◆ Phone: 920-604-4090  
Email: [santy\\_padi@yahoo.com](mailto:santy_padi@yahoo.com)
- ◆ Deacon: Dan Gray: 920-246-4155
- ◆ Telephones: Office: 920-863-2585  
Fax: 920-863-5445  
Church Hall: 920-863-2383
- ◆ Mass Schedule:  
Saturday, 7:30pm  
Sunday, 8:00am; Live streamed on Facebook
- ◆ Reconciliation: ½ hour before weekend Masses
- ◆ Weekday Mass: Tuesday, 8:00am
- ◆ Faith Formation: Wednesday evenings  
Grades 1-6: 6-7:15pm Grades 7-10: 7:30-8:45pm
- ◆ Parish Office Hours:  
Monday - Thursday, 8:00am-1:00pm