

Under the Steeple

ST. JAMES PARISH

Please send us your current contact information if it has recently changed.

- Phone number
- Email address
- Mailing address



DEAR FRIENDS OF JESUS AND ST. JAMES

I've been reading a book destined for our time titled *Divine Renovation* authored by Fr. James Mallon. I am borrowing some of his thoughts. He is a

realist who identifies the reality of the times we live in. I agree with his message that we exist for a mission. That mission for us is clear in the last words of Matthew's Gospel, Chapter 28, verses 19-20.

Like Jesus we are baptized and sent to "seek and save" those who are perishing. Perhaps you have moments like me lamenting the tragedy of those who have lost their faith, and are no longer following the teachings of Jesus. For some it does not occur to "pick up the oars and row our lifeboats." Jesus is clear and

strong in His message. He does not force us; rather we are given free will with abundant grace available to us if we sincerely open our minds and hearts to what He places before us.

Our Diocese offers us many opportunities to realize who we are. They provide avenues to assist us in deepening our faith. We can join in prayer, move into adoration, small group faith sharing, read the Bible or other books that enrich our lives. Then we exercise our free will and enrich our Lenten journey.

It's not too late to deepen your commitment to Jesus this Lent. Come to Mass, join in the services of Holy Week, pick up your Bible, find a retreat, attend a Lenten program. If you'd like advice on where to start, give me a call and I can help you find exactly what fits for you.

Sister Geni

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TEACHING MASS

by Young Adult Outreach Group

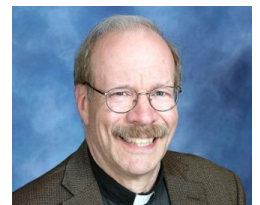
Have you been looking for that something special to do for Lent this year? Then consider coming to a Circle of Faith Teaching Mass at St. James on Sunday, March 18 at 6:30pm.

The obvious question is, "What is a Teaching Mass?" A Teaching Mass is a true celebration of the Holy Eucharist; the work of the Trinity made visible through the Body of Christ, the Church.

Have you ever wondered about the fundamental meaning of the Mass? What are the parts of the Liturgy? Why are

certain gestures used and what do they mean? This Mass will give you the opportunity to ask these and other questions

you may have. Then, we will move into the Liturgy, pondering, explaining, and praying as this movement of God's Transforming Spirit unfolds in our midst. Take advantage of this opportunity to better un-



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YOUTH MINISTRY ON THE MOVE

by Patty Bekkers

St. James Youth Ministry Group has been busy since Christmas with several activities. Here are some of the highlights.

A Diocesan Jubilee Mass was celebrated on January 14th for the Youth of the Diocese. We were proud to have two St. James families represented at the Mass.

A Middle School Lock In put on by the Diocese took place at the Kroc Center on February 2nd. We had 7 middle school students and a high school volunteer attend...all had a great time with the other 125 students who were there.

Coming up on Sunday, March 11th we are planning a Family Lenten Event at the Rola Rena Skating Rink in Green Bay. It includes a speaker and a service project that the entire parish can join in on. We want to fill care packages with personal hygiene items for the NEW Homeless Shelter. We've had a collection box in church for several weeks to drop off donations. There will also be praise

and worship music, snacks and of course roller skating.

What is becoming an annual event, is attending a live performance of the Passion Play at Xavier Fine Arts Theater in Appleton on Friday, March 23. Information about tickets and cost is available on the Circle of Faith website.

A few students are interested in the summer Shine Mission Trip. This is a week-long trip to the Houston, Texas area to assist with recovery efforts since Hurricane Harvey. Jessica Phillips, RE Coordinator from All Saints/St. Mary is the lead chaperone and contact person for this trip.

Then in spring, a Mini Make a Difference Day is planned to coincide with the annual spring cleaning of the parish grounds, church and parish center. Previous days were a great success with youth and adult parishioners working side by side. Watch the bulletin for a date and join us if you can.

We have been busy but to quote St. Francis of Assisi: "It is in giving of ourselves that we receive."



HOLY WEEK AND EASTER LITURGIES

March 29	Holy Thursday	7:00pm Mass at St. Joseph
March 30	Good Friday	1:00pm Service at St. Joseph 6:00pm Service at St. James
March 31	Holy Saturday	8:00pm Mass at St. James
April 1	Easter Sunday	8:00am Mass at St. James 10:00am Mass at St. Joseph



ACH AND THE FIVE "W'S"

Who, what, when, where, why

You hear these five words when an explanation is given for a specific topic. Here are some answers about the Automated Clearing House method for contributing Sacrificial Giving (church support) to the St. James Parish.

Who does ACH: We have a number of parishioners who choose to use the convenience of ACH

What is ACH: ACH is a network used for electronic payments and money transfers. Examples are direct deposit payroll, or auto pay of an electric bill, house payment, or car loan.

When is ACH transferred: St. James does ACH transfers on both the 1st and the 15th of each month. Participants can choose what is convenient for them.

Where: Direct contribution with ACH is available at St. James no matter where you bank. Your bank does not have to be the same one that the parish has.

Why ACH: There are several reasons people choose to use this method:

- It's simple to sign up for; easy to cancel. You determine the amount to transfer, and it's easy to adjust higher or lower as your circumstances change.
- It saves time – you have fewer checks to write.
- It helps you meet your commitment conveniently – even if you're on vacation or out of town.
- Your contribution is always on time and it saves you postage.
- You help your parish meet its weekly obligations with dependable income.

Please consider using ACH for your Sacrificial Giving. It is a benefit for all. If you have questions, or would like a sign up form contact the parish office or find a link on St. James homepage of our website, www.Circle-of-Faith.org.

A HAPPY ENDING

Not every movie leaves you feeling good at the end, when the characters live happily ever after. This story however, is one of those with a happy ending.

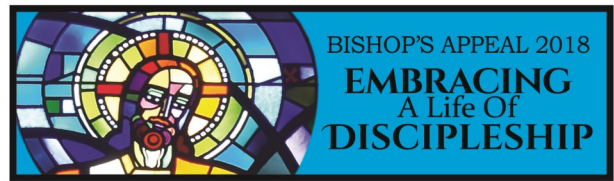
Amanda was in an abusive relationship that took a toll on her physically, emotionally and financially. This relationship left her battered, bruised, and in severe debt. Through God's grace, Amanda found help from several organizations, including the Green Bay Diocesan Office of Catholic Charities. Over time, and with guidance from a Financial Health Counselor, Amanda learned to manage her money, prepared a plan to pull herself out of debt, paid off her debts and became self-sufficient. "Going from \$20,000 in debt to no debt...it's amazing. It feels great," says Amanda.

Not only Amanda, but many others in northeastern Wisconsin approach Catholic Charities when life's challenges become overwhelming. Catholic Charities helps people create new beginnings. They have five offices in our diocese providing services in

- mental health
- debt management
- addiction, adoption and parenting support
- marriage and family conflict

The hard part for us to realize, is that we don't usually know when someone is helped by the services of Catholic Charities. This is where faith and trust come

by Jean Schleis



in. Catholic Charities is committed to bringing social services to people of all faiths and ethnicities. In 2017, the Bishop's Appeal distributed \$1,405,407 to the operating budget for Catholic Charities. On behalf of Amanda, and so many others who seek help from Catholic Charities, thank you for your support!

How much is needed this year? St. James' share of the Bishop's Appeal goal for 2018 is \$30,340.00 – a hefty amount. This is attainable though, when every parish member does their part. In our parish, unfortunately, only 184 out of our 514 families contributed last year, and we did not meet our goal. The average gift in the diocese for 2017 was \$189.00. Please look into your heart today, and prayerfully consider a donation to this yearly appeal. Every gift counts and every gift is important.

To make a contribution to the Bishop's Appeal, contact our parish office at 863-2585, mail the pledge card and return envelope you received in the mail to the Catholic Foundation, or visit the Bishop's Appeal website at www.catholicfoundationgb.org/give.

Thank you and may God bless you abundantly for your response to the Bishop's Appeal and for your support of St. James Parish.



MY VIEW ON VOLUNTEERING

by Mike Taddy

Volunteering is one form of stewardship. It is somewhat easy to be a good steward with our treasure especially when that treasure is a realized gift from God. Stewardship of time is another story. For those with families of school age and the commitment of jobs to provide for their families, spare time is in short supply, or so it seems. Being retired opens more possibilities for volunteering—but doesn't mean that retired people

have nothing to do.

Volunteering is a personal choice; how to give back and share the talents that God has given. As a member of our parish building committee and former parish council member and chair, I gained many insights about volunteering and the need for such. When my term on parish council ended, I was given a golden opportunity to volunteer more.

The S.O.S. (Save our Steeple)

project came at the right time to put my background with building trades and construction to good use. This started out somewhat routine, but then took on a more serious nature with necessary on the spot decisions. Having a very reliable contractor and the support of many people in the parish was a true gift from God. I would like to offer my thanks to the office, councils and parishioners for their support on this project.

ARTWORK AT ST. JAMES, PART I

The Catholic Church has long been known for its great art. Even the smallest Catholic Congregations have paintings, stained glass windows, statues, and ornate fixtures adorning their buildings. While some have criticized the Church for having such valuable pieces, suggesting that the money from the sale of art could be used for the less fortunate, the art of the Church belongs to all people, including the less fortunate, and the Church is a place where beauty is not reserved for the wealthy, but is available to all. Art can make the difficulties of life palatable and be a comfort in times of trouble. Whether it's a painting, a song, or a sculpture, art helps us through some of life's most difficult moments. One feels comfort in a time of pain while listening to a song, or sitting before a statue of the Blessed Mother Mary. In times of joy, one celebrates with music and dancing.

Considering the value of art, and the importance it plays in our lives, over the next few editions of Under the Steeple, we will look at art in St. James Church. We will attempt to examine its history and look for the meaning behind the pieces that

decorate the church.

The first piece we will examine is the building. St. James Church was constructed in a Neo-Romanesque style that uses many features that are unique to this type of architecture. Rounded windows, thick walls, heavy lintels, and vaulted ceilings characterize the Romanesque style. While St. James utilizes a more modern interpretation of some of these features, the overall style remains.

Looking at the front of the building, there is a pronounced symmetry. The main arched entrance is flanked by two lesser entrances with flat lintels. Above the main entrance, a substantial brick arch is finished with a keystone topped with a cross. Continuing up from the cross is a rose window depicting the patron saint of musicians. More information on the windows will be discussed in a future article. Above the window, the name of our patron, St. James is cast in a frieze. Continuing upward, four rounded vent windows appear in the base of the steeple, capped by the steeple itself with its round-topped louvered openings. The spire of the church rises from this, to a cross at the peak. When

by Dan Gray

looking at the front, the image of unity of style is apparent.

It is clear when looking at the church, that the architect understood the use of art and style in sacred space. The solid base of the building reminds us of our faith, the foundation on which we live, and the soaring steeple points us to the lofty goal of spending eternity with God. The building is a work of art that offers us a space to gather as a community to worship God together.



ST. JAMES CHOIR CDs

As Christmas came and went the parish office had a few inquiries about the Christmas music CD that St. James Choir produced. Would it be available or what happened to it?

Unfortunately there was an unforeseen computer problem, and the Christmas CD was not available. We were all disappointed. However, the music files were recently recovered and the Christmas CDs will be ready in November of 2018.

We still have the original 2017 St. James Choir CD's available in the parish office or in the choir area at Church. This CD has 24 familiar vocal and instrumental selections. We are suggesting a \$10 donation for them—the proceeds benefit many different charities and causes. Watch the bulletin and the Circle of Faith website in late fall for when the Christmas CDs will be ready.

11,000 HOURS

by Deb Lyons

Wow, that is a lot of time.....

These 11,000 hours are the **"time"** in the phrase "Time, Talent, Treasure" which is often spoken of when we hear about giving back to God and the Church. I think time is the hardest thing to give to the church. As I sit in this church office after being the office manager for seven years, I think of all the wonderful volunteers who have come through this door – the church's door. I was able to do my job more efficiently because of their help and this will likely be the same for the next person who takes over.

While thinking about this, I decided to put a number to the volunteer hours. I asked our employees and lead/chair volunteers to estimate the number of hours per year that parishioners volunteer with them.

The employees were instructed not to include their time, paid or as a volunteer. Volunteers were instructed to count all the hours that they and their committees give on behalf of the parish.

Here are the areas that volunteers give of their time, but by all means not all inclusive:

- Religious Education, Fun & Faith, RCIA
- Youth Ministry, Young Adult Outreach
- Finance, Pastoral, Board of Education Councils
- Worship, Sacristan, Liturgical Ministers, Music
- Office, Courier, Virtus class trainers
- Cleaning, Maintenance, Landscaping
- Social Concerns, Prayer Chain
- Stewardship, Bishop's Appeal Promotion
- Fundraisers, Reception Hosts
- CMAS and Men's Club, Funeral Dinners

TEACHING MASS

(Continued from page 1)

derstand why we gather each weekend to celebrate this Sacrament called the Mass.

The priest celebrant/teacher for that Mass will be Father Dave Beaudry. Fr. Dave has been a priest in the Green Bay Diocese for 35

years; presently at St. Thomas Church in Newton. He is an instructor and chaplain at Silver Lake College of the Holy Family in Manitowoc. He also gives talks and presentations at many local churches, and leads retreats and days of reflection. He has an avid interest in choral music, planting trees, and sharing his culinary skills.

▪ Technology and Security

I think the list could go on and on. And that is where the 11,000 hours come from.

Here are some comments from employees and lead volunteers:

"Our fundraising events are ministry which enables other St. James ministries to continue. Without the talent and dedication of many great volunteers, we could never offer Family Frolic".

"It is very humbling to work with all of the volunteers for the benefit of our young faith inspired kids at the highly successful Fun-n-Faith Program."

"St. James Religious Education program could not run without the many, many volunteers that we have teachers, aides, security; each volunteer has a special gift and gives their time and energy."

"Volunteers provide us with an amazing choir and musicians who provide prayerful music for Mass."

"Our Eucharistic Ministers show respect for the Body and Blood of Christ as they distribute to St. James family members and visitors. God bless them in this volunteer ministry."

As my days in this office end, I have been very fortunate to work with the staff, past employees, councils, linkage, volunteers and parishioners. You have all made this job very rewarding. Thank you! And now I plan to be one of "those" volunteers!



Please consider joining us for this 'timeless' encounter. Be aware that timelessness takes time. Do you know other Catholics or someone of a different faith background who wonders what the Mass is all about? Invite them; bring them with you: St. James Church, March 18, 6:30pm.

**ST. JAMES PARISH
COOPERSTOWN**



**UNDER THE
STEEPLE**

UPCOMING EVENTS

- ♦ March 18 KC Carry out Booyah Sale
- ♦ March 18 Coffee & Donuts after Mass
- ♦ March 18 Teaching Mass
- ♦ March 30-April 1 Easter Triduum
- ♦ April 8 First Communion
- ♦ April 14 & 15 CMAS Spring Bake Sale
- ♦ May 13 Mother's Day
- ♦ June 17 Father's Day
- ♦ July 16-20 Fun & Faith Week
- ♦ Sept/Oct Family Frolic, *watch the bulletin for exact date*

- ♦ Pastoral Leader: Sister Gerri Krautkramer
Phone: 920-676-0693
- ♦ Telephone: Office: 920-863-2585
Fax: 920-863-5445
Church Hall: 920-863-2383
- ♦ Mass Schedule:
Saturday, 7:30pm
Sunday, 8:00am
- ♦ Reconciliation: 2nd & 4th Saturdays, 6:30-7pm
- ♦ Weekday Liturgy: Tuesday, 8:15am
- ♦ Religious Education:
Grade K-5 Monday, 6-7:30pm
Grade 6-8 Wednesday, 6-7:15pm
Grade 9-12 Wednesday, 7:30-8:45pm
- ♦ Parish Office Hours: Monday - Thursday, 8-3

Website: www.Circle-of-Faith.org
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