SAINTHJAMES CATHOLIC CHURCH & SCHOOL

General Parish Information

Directory

Directory	
Church Office:	
School Office	
Early Learning Center:	
Convent:	
Email:general@stjamessav.com	
Website:	
Office Hours: Mon-Thurs.: 9am-5pm; Fri.: 9am-1:00pm	
2nd & 4th Sunday: 8:30am-12:30pm	
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Staff

Stall	
Very Rev. Daniel F. Firmin, Jo	CLPastor
	Parochial Vicar
Rev. Lewis King	Parochial Vicar
Rev. Mr. Lou Santore	Deacon
Sr. Stephanie Gabriel, IHM	Dir. of Evangelization
	Šchool Principal
	Director Early Learning Ctr
Mrs. Bonnie MacAulay	Administrative Assistant
Mr. Charles Ancheta	Music Director & Organist
	Director of Finance
Mrs. Susanna Powers	Receptionist
	Maintenance
Mr. Matt Keck	

St. James Catholic School For information or tours 355-3132 8412 Whitefield Avenue ~ Savannah, GA www.stjameschargers.com

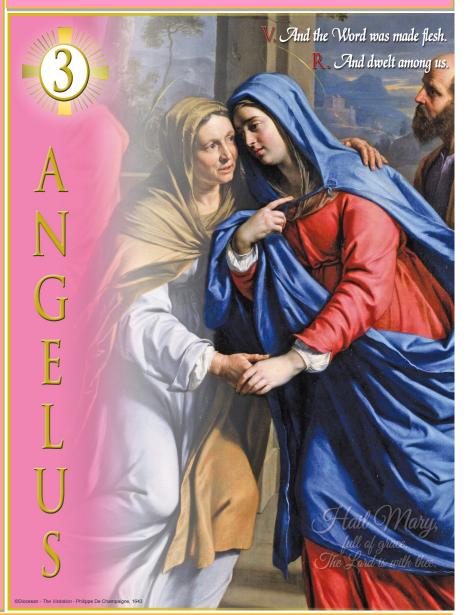
Mass Schedule

Sacraments Reconciliation: Weekdays Mon-Fri: 7:45 - 8:15am; Tues-5pm,

Saturday: 3:45--4:45pm, and by appointment Baptism:.....Please call the parish office to pre-register Anointing of the Sick:.....For anointing, or in case of an emergency, please call the parish office.

Marriage:.....Please contact a parish priest Lumen Christi Perpetual Adoration Chapel......24/7

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT December 17, 2023



St. James Church Parish Mission Statement

Saint James the Less Parish will conduct our lives in ways that illustrate our discipleship to Jesus Christ by evangelizing His Word, promoting a culture of life, embracing the richness of the Catholic Faith, use the Beatitudes to model our behaviors, and draw closer to Him through the Sacraments where we will receive courage, zeal, confidence, purpose, and the blessings of the Holy Trinity.

WELCOME, **VISITORS!** We extend a warm welcome to the individuals and families who are celebrating with us today. We invite you to register with our Parish Family. You can fill out a registration form online or at the kiosk located in the Narthex, and return it to the church office.

8412 Whitefield Avenue ~ Savannah, Georgia 31406 ~ 912.355.1523 ~ website: www.stjamessav.com



SJS Night at the Savannah Ghost Pirates!

Enmarket Arena Saturday, January 6, 2024 7 PM Game Time \$25/Ticket

Limited Seats Left!

Contact Megan at MeganON@sjcs-savannahga.org to reserve your seats today!



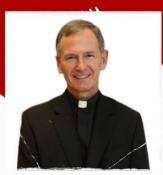
CATHOLIC MEN'S CONFERENCE

Esto Virl Bea Man!

Speakers: Deacon Larry Oney Fr. Brett Brannen



Deacon Larry Oney



Fr. Brett Brannen

MASS, TALKS, LUNCH, ADORATION AND MORE!



\$50/PERSON BEFORE JAN. 12, 2024

JANUARY 27, 2024 | 9 AM TO 4:30 PM ST. JAMES CHURCH ~ SAVANNAH, GA

REGISTER HERE: WWW.STJAMESSAV.COM/MENS-CONFERENCE/

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

SRD ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CRECHE

SHOWCASE OPEN AFTER MASSES ST. JAMES GYMNASIUM

DECEMBER

16-17

Display your family nativity scene for our 3rd annual Christmas Creche Exhibit

INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING? CONTACT MEGAN BY DECEMBER 10TH 912.355.3132 OR MEGANON@SJCS-SAVANNAHGA.ORG

PASTOR'S CORNER 3rd Sunday of Advent

GAUDETE SUNDAY!

"Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed the Lord is near." (Philippians 4:4-5)

The Entrance Antiphon for the 3rd Sunday of Advent is the above quote from St. Paul's letter to the Philippians! It also happens to be the verse from which our bishop chose his motto – "Rejoice in the Lord always." *Gaudete in Domino semper*.

Holy Mother Church bids us rejoice as the waiting, the anticipation of the birth of the Messiah, Jesus Christ Our Lord, draws ever nearer! My brothers and sisters, we have so many things for which to rejoice! When I begin to think of all the infinite ways the Lord has visited me this year, I am nearly paralyzed with awe, wonder, and joy! Joy is at the heart of the Christian life. Joy deeply resides in us Christians. The root of joy is hope and our Hope is Jesus Christ! He is Emmanuel, the Prince of Peace, the Light of the World! He is our Savior, our Redeemer! The celebration of His birth is near!

When people see us, do they see joy, do they see hope? Has anyone asked us why we have such hope and joy? If not, they should! We are a people of joy! Jesus is the reason for this joy. He is our life and our salvation. May our hearts and lives sing with the joy of the Lord!

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT REMINDER!

One more week! A reminder so that no one is caught off guard! December 24 is the 4th Sunday of Advent. December 25 is a Monday. So, what does that mean? To fulfill your Sunday obligation and receive communion for Christmas, you must come to mass at the Saturday evening Vigil Mass (5:00 PM) or Sunday morning at 7:30 AM, 9:00 AM, or 11:30 AM.

We will begin Christmas Masses at 5:00 PM on Sunday, December 24. We will have two Masses offered at that time – one in church and one in the gym. We will also have Masses at 8 p.m., again with one in church and one in the gym. There will be one Mass offered on Monday, Christmas Day, at 10:00 AM (one of the most beautiful masses of the year in my opinion!).

Begin planning - which 4th Sunday of Advent Mass and which Christmas Mass will you and your family attend?

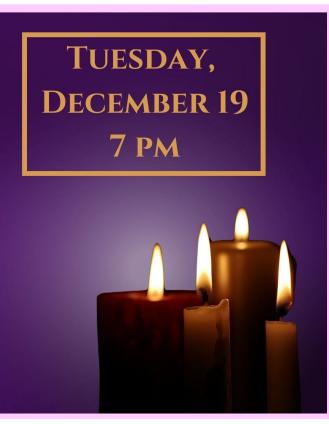
May the joy of Jesus reign in your hearts this week!

~ Fr. Daniel Firmin

Advent Penance Service

Come and encounter the Lord's abundant mercy! Be ready to welcome Him into your heart this Christmas!

Additional priests will be available to hear confessions.



Mass Schedule & Intentions **Please pray daily for our Priests, Seminarians & IHM Sisters

12/17 Third Sunday of Advent Is 61:1-2a, 10-11; Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54; 1 Thes 5:16-24; Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

7:30 am	For the People ~ Fr. Peter
* 9:00 am	+ Dorothy Waters ~ Fr. King

- *11:30 am + Zarela Cubas ~ Fr. Firmin
- **John Lyons, John R. Madden, Anthony Madanu, Esteban Mallar | Tuan Joseph Vuong | Sr. Rachael Elizabeth Wilson

12/18 Monday

7:00 am + Mitsue Miyagi Monterola ~ Fr. King

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8:30 am + Mary Caputo ~ Fr. Peter
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**Nicholas Mansell, John Markham, Allan McDonald, William McIntyre | Gilbert Ofori Mensah | Sr. Alexis Karen Reavill

12/19 Tuesday

Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a;	Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab	o, 16-17; Lk 1:5-25

7:00 am	+ John Ashley~ Fr. Firmin
8:30 am	+ Thomas Odom ~ Fr. Peter

**Timothy McKeown, Odel Medina, Pablo Migone, Richard Minch | Stephen Owusu Dwamena | Sr. Megan Elizabeth Capurso

12/20 Wednesday

7:00 am	+ Lawrence McElroy ~ Fr. Peter
8:30 am	+ Stephen Tootle ~ Fr. King
5:30 pm	Fr. Firmin

**Thomas Murphy, Thomas Nellis, Kim Son Nguyen, Martino Nguyen | Benjamin Aler, Christian Corulli | Sr. Elizabeth Anne Bartholomew

12/21 Thursday

Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21; Lk 1:39-45

8:30 am Only + Ed Field ~ Fr. Firmin

**Peter Hung Nguyen, Fred Nijem, Patrick O'Brien, Daniel O'Connell | Deacon Francisco Gamboa | Samantha Rintoul

12/22 Friday

- 1 Sm 1:24-28; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd; Lk 1:46-56
- 8:30 am Only + Dale Critz ~ Fr. Peter
- **Paul O'Connell, Kevin O'Keefe, Michael O'Keefe, Paulinus Okpala | Kevin Braski | Sr. Jennifer Maria O'Neill

12/23 Saturday

Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14; Lk 1:57-66

9:00 am	Fr. Firr	nin	
5 00		Б Г .	-

5:00 pm + Theresa DuFrain ~ Fr. Peter

**Keith O'Neill, Barnabas O'Reilly, Brian O'Shaughnessy, Patrick Otor | Ziemowit Janaszek | Sr. Rachael Elizabeth Wilson

12/24 Fourth Sunday of Advent

- 2 Sm 7:1-5,8b-12,14a,16;Ps 89:2-3, 4-5,27,29;Rom 16:25-27;Lk 1:26-38
- 7:30 am For the People \sim Fr. Firmin
- *9:00 am + Bob Horton ~ Fr. Peter
- *11:30 am + Carl & Marie Orvin ~ Fr. King
- **Peter Oyenugba, Ronald Pachence, Francis Patterson, Steven Pavignano, | Jared Miller | Sr. Alexis Karen Reavill

12/24 Christmas Eve

Is 62:1-5; Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25 *5:00 pm + Steven MacAulay *5:00 pm (overflow) + Stephen Tootle *8:00 pm For the People *8:00 pm (overflow) + Stephen Tootle 10:00 pm (IOH) + Ed & Kate Filson

A PRAYER FOR THE SICK

Father, your only son took upon himself the sufferings and weakness of all mankind; through His passion and cross He taught us how good can be brought out of suffering. Look upon our brothers and sisters who are ill. In the midst of illness and pain, may they be united with Christ, who heals both body and soul; may they know the consolation promised to those who suffer and be fully restored to health.

~ Through Christ our Lord. ~ Amen.

We pray for the sick of our Parish Community:

Fr. Daniel Firmin, Josie Lee, Paul Baldwin, David Shockley, Elizabeth Jacobi, Pauline Winjum, Brian DeRouen, Diane Roberson, Susan DuBois, Margie O'Keeffe, Robin Olson, Kelley Weston, Pamela De Guzman, John Tumino, and all those listed in the book of the sick.

In order for a name to be included on the prayer list, an immediate family member must notify the church office at 912-355-1523. Names will be listed here for 4 weeks and then entered into the Book of the Sick, unless the office is notified otherwise.

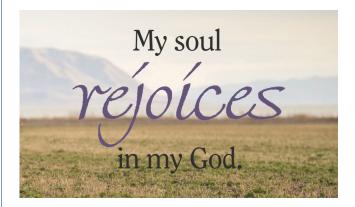
A PRAYER FOR THE DEAD

Father, source of forgiveness and salvation, through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary and all the saints, grant that our relatives, friends, and benefactors, who have passed from this world, may come to share your eternal happiness in the communion of saints.

 \sim Through Christ our Lord. \sim Amen.

We pray for the repose of the souls of:

Frank Boland, Ed Field, Peter Kaufman, Carol Angers, and all our deceased family and friends.



* The Nursery is available for children 4 and under. The Nursery is located in the Early Learning Center, Class Room #2.

St. James Weekly Calendar			
12/17 Third Sunday of Advent			
3rd Annual Chr	3rd Annual Christmas Creche Showcase after Masses in the gym.		
8:30-11:30	SJC Choir-Mercy Conference Rm		
10:15-11:15am PREP-SJS			
4:00-5:00pm	Holy Hour-Church		
Please join us for	the Rosary for Fr. Firmin and his continued healing		
daily after the	8:30am Mass in the Cry Room		
12/18 Monda	y		
7:45-8:15am	Confessions-Church		
9:00am	Rosary–Cry Room		
11:00-12:00pm	ELC-Mercy Meeting Room		
1:00-2:30pm	Contemplative Prayer Group-Mercy Conf. Rm		
1:15-2:15pm	SJS Practice-Church		
3:00-8:30pm	SJS BB Practice-PC/gym		
12/19 Tuesday			
7:45-8:15am	Confessions-Church		
9:00am	Rosary–Cry Room		
3:00-8:30pm	SJS BB Practice-PC/gym		
7:00pm	Advent Penance Service		
12/20 Wedne	sday		
6:20-7:30am	TMIY-PC/gym		
7:45-8:15am	Confessions-Church		
9:00am	Rosary-Cry Room		
9:30-11:00am	Adult Bible Study-Mercy Conf. Rm		
12:00pm	SJS/ELC Dismissal		
12:00pm	Lumen Christi Chapel Closes		
1:00pm	Church office closes for Christmas Holiday		
3:00-8:30pm	SJS BB Practice-PC/gym		
6:15pm	Baptism-Church-Fr. Firmin		
12/21 Thursda			
7:45-8:15am	Confessions-Church		
9:00am	Rosary-Cry Room		
7:00pm	Cursillo-Cry Rm		
12/22 Friday			
7:45-8:15am	Confessions-Church		
9:00am	Rosary-Cry Room		
12/23 Saturday			
8:30am	Rosary-Church		
10:00am	Baptism-Church-Fr. Firmin		
11:00am	Baptism-Church-Fr. Firmin		
3:45-4:45pm	Confessions-Church		
12/24 Fourth Sunday of Advent			
8:15-10:00pm	SJS Choir–Mercy Conference Rm		
12:30pm	Decorating Church for Christmas		

PARISH STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

Offertory for Sunday

December 10, 2023

\$47,060.36

YTD Offertory: July 1st through December 10th

2022 Actual	\$637,861.66
2023 Budget	\$657,090.64
2023 Actual	\$660,373.90

2nd Collection Religious Retirement \$9,023.00

ACA Progress Report as of December 1st, 2023

 Total Given:
 \$166,828.07

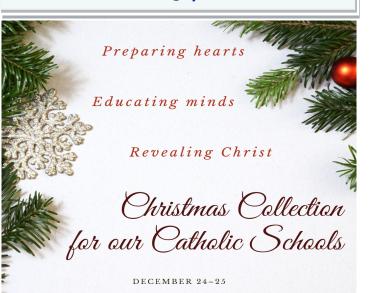
 ACA Parish Goal:
 \$121,734.00

 % Participation:
 24.45

Thank you for your generous gifts to the Stewardship of Treasure. The offertory is the primary means of support for the parish and provides programs, support, and services to our parishioners, school and community.



SIGN UP FOR ONLINE GIVING Visit our parish website at www.stjamessav.com and select the *Online Giving* link. If you have any questions please contact Mark Kolbush at 912-355-1523 or email: Mkolbush@stjamessav.com





CURSILLO WEEKEND ENCOUNTER

What is Cursillo? Cursillo is a movement of the Catholic Church that makes it possible for people to live what is fundamental to being a Catholic Christian. It helps people discover and fulfill their personal vocation, and promotes the creation of core groups of Christians who transform their environment through living the Gospel.

It is for you if you feel called to a deeper commitment to your faith and are looking for a way to sustain your Christian journey.

There will be a Cursillo weekend encounter in Collins, GA on Thurs, Jan 25 – Sun, Jan 28 for men and on Thurs, Feb 1 – Sun, Feb 4 for women.

For more information, contact Sally Arman <u>sallyarman@comcast.net</u> 912-598-2177 or Chuck Medlock <u>chuckmedlock@aol.com</u> 912-661-3962



ST. JAMES THE LESS CATHOLIC CHURCH 2023 CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

December 24th is the 4th Sunday of Advent.

The morning Masses will follow the regular schedule and

will not fulfill the Christmas Mass obligation.

191919 Likewise, attending an evening Mass on the 24th does not fulfill the

Sunday obligation, only the Christmas obligation.

Sunday, December 24 ~ Christmas Eve

5:00 PM and 8:00 PM

Overflow Masses will be held in the Parish Center for both Masses The nursery will be available during both Masses.

10:00 PM - Our Lady of Good Hope Chapel

Monday, December 25 ~ Christmas Day

10:00 AM

The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God (January 1)

is not a Holy Day of Obligation this year.

Masses on Sunday, December 31

will follow the regular schedule.

Mass on Monday, January 1 will be at 9:30 AM.

CHRISTMAS Announcements:

There will only be one weekday Mass at 8:30 a.m. starting Tuesday, December 26th. The 7:00 am Mass will resume on Tuesday, January 2nd, 2024.

For the Christmas Holidays, the Church office will close at 1:00pm, Thursday, December 21st and will reopen on Tuesday, January 2nd at 9:00 AM.

The St. James Flower Guild will be decorating the Church on Sunday, December 24, after the 11:30am Mass. Volunteers are welcomed.

Christmas Eve Masses the traffic will be ONE WAY. Enter from Whitefield Avenue and leave by Laberta Avenue. There will be Police Officers directing the traffic.

Christmas Eve the nursery is available for the 5:00 & 8:00 PM Masses.

Christmas Day there will only be one Mass time at 10:00 AM and the 2nd collection will be for Catholic Schools.

New Years Day, Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, January 1st, 2024 and there will be NO nursery available on New Years Day.



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St. James Church Food Pantry Ministry News

Our Food Pantry is every third Saturday of the month in the school cafeteria from 10:00 am - 11:30 am.

Our next food pantry distribution will be January 20th For more information, please call the Food Pantry line at 912-800-9006. If you would like to volunteer, please call the church office at 912-355-1523.

We CANNOT accept any items in glass containers

Oatmeal Canned chicken Tuna fish Jelly & Peanut butter Dry macaroni Spaghetti sauce

Breakfast bars Breakfast cereal Canned fruits Kleenex Toilet paper Low sodium soups & Veg

or that have expired. St. James Food Pantry in Urgent Need of Items to Restock the Shelves.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS ALWAYS NEEDED

Pancake mix
Shelf stable milk
Laundry detergent

Canned pork & beans Toothpaste & Toothbrushes

Shelf stable complete meals: Beef stew, or chunky soups (preferably cans with pull tops), healthy snacks including nuts, granola bars.

If you prefer to make a <u>monetary</u> donation, please make the check out to St. James Catholic Church and place in the memo line – SJC Food Pantry



Council of Catholic Women Support, empower and educate all catholic women in spirituality, leadership and service.



May God's blessings fload down like soft snowflakes

Attention Adorers...

Lumen Christi Chapel will close on Thursday, December 21t at 12 PM and will reopen at 9 AM on Tuesday, December 26th at 9:00 AM.

Third Sunday

Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way before you.

Matthew 11:10



Reasons to Rejoice

Saint Paul seems to be throwing out a handful of sayings that may sound overly optimistic, but are actually very practical. "Rejoice always"? If we pray constantly and thank God for all that happens to us, we have reason to rejoice. Even the things we don't like can be turned to good by God. God allows sin because it leads to forgiveness, an experience of God's love for us. And God allows even death, because God can bring us to eternal life.

When Paul tells us not to quench the Spirit he means we should be open to what the Holy Spirit moves us to do. "Prophetic utterances" refer to things that other people were inspired to proclaim. If we pray constantly (1 Thessalonians 5:17), the distractions of this world will not keep us from hearing the Spirit within us. We won't be so critical of others that we miss what the Spirit is telling us through them. How do we know if something really is from the Spirit? Saint Paul says, test everything. Retain what is good (1 Thessalonians 5:21). Use the scriptures, the teachings of the Church, and your conscience to decide whether the Spirit is moving you, or if advice you hear is worthwhile. Trust God to make us holy if we only allow it. Then we will be ready for the coming of the Lord, whether through the sacraments, the celebration of Christmas, or God's final coming in glory. I'd say that's a reason to rejoice. Tom Schmidt



Give the Gift of Catholic Education this Christmas

Say YES to GRACE Scholars • Qualify for a 100% tax credit

For the 2023-2024 school year, St. James Catholic School is blessed to be able to offer financial assistance to 90 students. What a wonderful gift to give these families. Once a family is accepted into the GRACE program, their GRACE scholarship is funded throughout their St. James career.

See what GRACE means to our families...

Tax Credit Maximums

Single/head of household – lesser of tax liability or \$1,000

Married filing jointly – lesser of tax liability or \$2,500. Names and SSN's are required for both taxpayers.

Married filing separately – lesser of tax liability or \$1,250

Owners of interests in pass-through entities ('S' corporations, LLCs and partnerships) – up to \$10,000 per owner. Indicate your tax filing status as individual (married/single/head of household).

'C' corporation and fiduciaries (estates and taxable trusts) – up to 75% of state estimated income tax liability

There is no minimum!

"I think of GRACE donors as our Guardian Angels! With multiple children and limited resources, we wanted what was best for them and sometimes it is hard to make that happen. Our angels came in with big wings and made such a difference in their lives. I cannot imagine being at another school or in any other situation. God bless those who generously give of their resources to make the dream of an amazing education possible for those who are in need. It is a lifelong gift!"

"Thank God for GRACE! It has been a true blessing for our family. It has given us a tremendous opportunity that we might not have had otherwise. A Catholic education was very important to us but seemed out of reach due to the cost. Thanks to GRACE, we have been able to put our children in a wonderful environment where our values are integral to the curriculum and reinforced daily. We love our school and are so grateful that those who donate to GRACE have helped make our presence there possible."

This is your moment! Say Yes to GRACE!

Registration for a GRACE Scholars 2022 Tax Credit is still open! GRACE is now accepting pre-registrations for 2024 tax credits. You can submit your pre-registration online at www.gracescholars.org.

Say Yes to helping deserving students enjoy the blessings of a Catholic education.Say Yes to making Catholic education more available, affordable and accessible.Say Yes to giving witness to religious freedom by making a donation to a cause you cherish.



ABUSE HOTLINE To report sexual abuse of a minor by a Diocese of Savannah employee or volunteer, call the abuse hotline at 888-357-5330 or the Office for Protection of Children & Young people at 912-201-4073. To read the policy on sexual abuse of minors, go to www.diosav.org/childyouthprotection.

NEW IN JANUARY!



BOOK LEISURE: THE BASIS OF CULTURE BY JOSEF PIEPER

Mondays ~ 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Mercy Conference Room

Cost: \$20 per person

Register online: www.stjamessav.com/ adult-faith-formation/

Paper registration available on the kiosks in the narthex or at the Parish Office.

Questions: Sr. Stephanie Gabriel at rStephanieGabriel@StJamesSav.com or 912-600-2153.

Parish Religious Education Program (PREP) Holiday Schedule

The St. James PREP program will be on break for Christmas and New Year's from Sunday, December 24 until Sunday, January 7. PREP classes will resume on Sunday, January 7, 2024, at 10:15 a.m. A General Parent Meeting is also scheduled that day; parents/ guardians of PREP students should plan to attend. We wish all of our PREP families a blessed and joy-filled Christmas and hopeful New Year!

livestream ministry Volunteers needed!

The Livestream Ministry streams the 9:00 AM Mass weekly for parishioners who are unable to attend in person, as well as Holy Days and other special events and services.

If you are interested in being a part of this ministry, please contact Stephen Hotard at hotardsf@gmail.com. A training will be coordinated with those who are interested.





Wednesday Adult faith Series **Returns: Jan. 3, 2024**

EUCHARISTIC HYMNS OF ST. THOMAS AQUINAS Leader: Fr. Lewis King

FOUR-PART SERIES ~ 6:30 P.M.TO 8 P.M. MERCY CONFERENCE ROOM

This series will offer us a chance to learn about, listen to, and reflect on the beautiful Eucharistic hymns, including "Pange Lingua," "Lauda Sion," "Sacriis Solemnis," and "Adoro te Devote" among others. No knowledge of Latin necessary! <u>Cost</u>: \$15 per person for materials

Questions? Sr. Stephanie Gabriel at SrStephanieGabriel@StJamesSav.com or 912-600-2153.



Register online: www.stjamessav.com/ adult-faith-formation/

Paper registration available at the kiosk in the narthex or in the Parish Office.

St. james adult faith formation



