

Dear Padre,

Why should I bother to be more religious? I'm a good person. Isn't that enough to get me into heaven?

When asked for advice about how people should decide on a vocation, St. Ignatius Loyola, the founder of the Jesuits, said they should do an imagination exercise. "Imagine that you are on your deathbed," he said. "From that point of view what would you wish you had done in your life?" That is still good advice.

Here's another exercise: Imagine you have a grandmother who is completely generous and caring toward you. Throughout your childhood, she was always there for you. But as a teen you belittled her and, in effect, told her that all she had offered is worthless to you. In a saner moment, won't you feel terrible about how you treated her?

Our life with God is much the same. God has given us absolutely everything, from our existence to every breath we take. God has also given us a way to know him through his Son, Jesus (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 73). And one way we know Jesus is through the Church and the celebration of the sacraments (CCC 1085). To refuse these gifts, to say, "I am already a good person. I don't need these gifts from God" is a bit presumptuous, don't you think?

To be "religious" is not just an outward show of piety. It's the way we have been given to learn God's language: the language of forgiveness, of faith, hope, and love. ●

Bishop Bruce Lewandowski, CSSr / DearPadre.org

Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to DearPadre.org to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
March 20 <i>St. Joseph</i> 2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16 Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22 / Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a	March 21 <i>Lenten Weekday</i> Ez 47:1-9, 12 Jn 5:1-16	March 22 <i>Lenten Weekday</i> Is 49:8-15 Jn 5:17-30	March 23 <i>Lenten Weekday</i> Ex 32:7-14 Jn 5:31-47	March 24 <i>Lenten Weekday</i> Wis 2:1a, 12-22 Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30	March 25 <i>Annunciation of the Lord</i> Is 7:10-14; 8:10 Heb 10:4-10 Lk 1:26-38	March 26 <i>Fifth Sunday of Lent</i> Ez 37:12-14 Rom 8:8-11 Jn 11:1-45 or Jn 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45



A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

We complain about things that are wrong in society, in the Church, in the world, without first questioning ourselves....Every fruitful, positive change must begin from ourselves. If we are blind, we cannot claim to be guides and teachers for others: indeed, a blind person cannot lead another blind person....

ANGELUS, FEBRUARY 27, 2022



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Our Parish COMMUNITY

March 19, 2023

Fourth Sunday of Lent (A)

1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a / Ephesians 5:8-14 / John 9:1-41 or John 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38



Coming of Age, Coming of Faith

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

It is said we never become a believer before age thirty-five. I don't think there is anything magical about that age. Some in their seventies still have not yet come to be people of faith, and there are those who, at a very young age, seem to have entrusted their lives to God. What the age of thirty-five does say, however, is that most people need to have lived a while and experienced a few ups and downs to recognize there is a power in their lives greater than themselves.

This week's Gospel story of the man born blind encapsulates a lifelong journey of coming to see who Jesus is, compressed into a few days. When asked who cured him of blindness, the man first says the man Jesus did it. Brought to testify before the Pharisees, he says that Jesus must be a prophet. Confronted by the

Pharisees a second time, he testifies that Jesus must be of God. Finally, when he sees Jesus again, he calls him Lord, a name for God. The story is a parable of sorts about how we come to have faith, to see with new and different eyes.

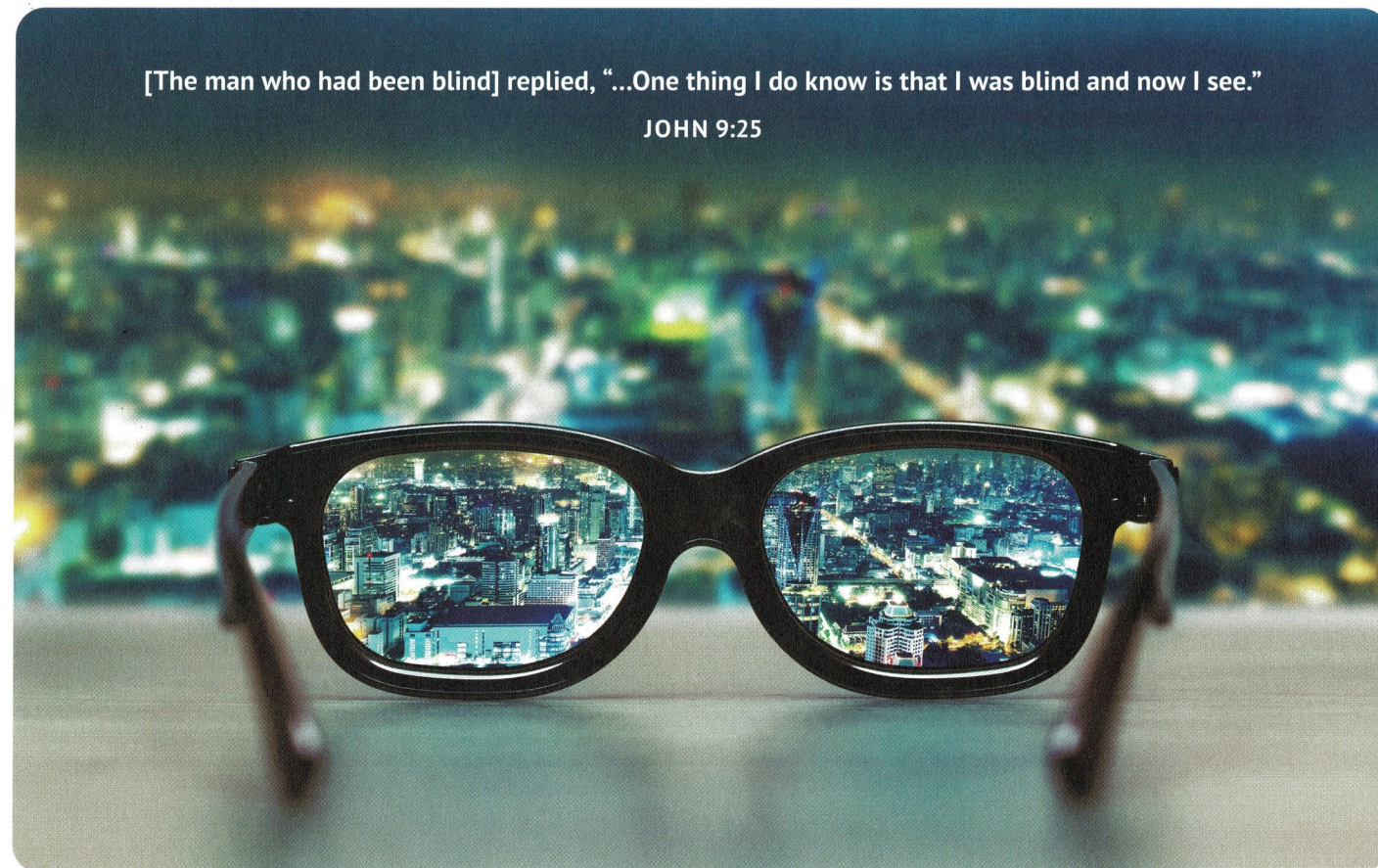
Faith involves trusting, sometimes trusting an unseen Power who feels absent at times; about surrendering control over our lives to God, as we come to see in an entirely new way. It can take a lifetime to begin seeing in such a way. ●

Reflect

**Where am I on the journey of faith?
How open are my eyes?**

[The man who had been blind] replied, "...One thing I do know is that I was blind and now I see."

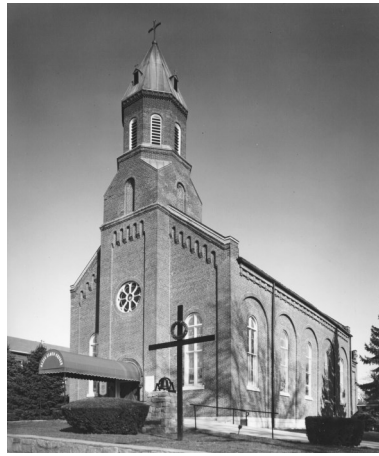
JOHN 9:25





St. James Parish Family

201 N. Missouri Street
Potosi, MO 63664



Weekly Mass Schedule

Mon	No Mass
Tues	8:00 AM
Wed	8:00 AM
Thurs	8:00 AM 6:00 PM
Fri	8:00 AM
Sat	8:00 AM 4:30 PM
Sun	8:00 AM 10:00 AM

**HOLY DAY SCHEDULE:*
Please check the Bulletin for Mass times.

E-MAIL:
stjameschurch@centurylink.net
WEBSITE:
www.stjamespotosi.org
FACEBOOK: St. James Catholic Church @stjamespotosi

Office Hours:
8:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Tuesday thru Thursday
Phone: 573-438-4686

Parish Hall or Parish School of Religion
Phone: 573-436-0144

Confessions:

Saturday: 3:30 - 4:10 PM
Thursday: 5:00 - 5:30 PM

Staff

Rev. Rodger Fleming—Pastor
rodgerfleming@archstl.org

Susan Broombaugh—Admin Asst
stjameschurch@centurylink.net

Maintenance:

Julie Wright: Coordinator of Religious Ed. (573) 436-0144/727-808-9273
stjamespsr@gmail.com

Laura Allen— Assistant Coordinator, Religious Ed.
573-436-0144/573-366-5235



MASS INTENTIONS FOR WEEK OF: March 20, 2023

MON	8:00 AM	No Mass
TUE	8:00 AM	Allie Hollinsworth
WED	8:00 AM	Alvina Coleman
THU	8:00 AM	Stanley Roy
THU	6:00 PM	Pat Pratt
FRI	8:00 AM	Bess Lalumondiere
SAT	8:00 AM	MaryAnn DeGonia
SAT	4:30 PM	Charles & Ellen Pratt
SUN	8:00 AM	Parish Family
SUN	10:00 AM	Janet Coleman



Week of: March 12, 2023

Envelope.....\$	2384.00	Main & Repairs.....\$	55.00
Loose.....\$	857.00	On-Line donations.....\$	65.90
SVDP.....\$	327.41	Catholic Relief svcs.....\$	10.00
Votive Lights.....\$	37.50	Easter Flowers.....\$	65.00
Light House.....\$			

Special Ministers Week of: March 25 & 26, 2023

Lectors:

Sat: 4:30 pm Laura Allen
Sun: 8:00 am Jeanne DeGonia
10:00 am Danny Mueller



Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion: Saturday 4:30 pm Sunday 8:00 am Sunday 10:00 am

C: Vikki Neier Don Thompson Jamie Warden
L: Judy East Jamie Thompson Dave Woodland
R: Annette Portell Sharon Forrester Charlie Schloemer

Servers:

Sat. 4:30 p.m. Volunteers
Sun. 8:00 a.m. Ava & Garryn West
Sun. 10:00 a.m. Cole & Joshua Kearns

Music:

Sat. 4:30 p.m. Chala Short
Sun. 8:00 a.m. Rebecca Richards
Sun. 10:00 a.m. Anita Govero or The Little Way Band

THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR AMAZING VOLUNTEERS.

SVDP food donations: breakfast foods, cereal, breakfast bars, etc

Heavenly Duster: 3/24: Judy East
Altar Linens: 3/20: Faye Jarvis

Mass Offerings -

Masses can be said for the living also; birthdays, anniversaries, etc. Come by the office or write the name & any preferred date on paper, put in envelope with \$10 for each Mass & drop in drop box or put in the collection basket at Mass. If the chosen date is available, I will schedule for that date, if not I will schedule next available.

Have you encountered God in your own life? Won't you share your "God Encounter"? Your encounter may be exactly what someone else **NEEDS** to hear. Send your stories to: stjameschurch@centurylink.net. If you want to remain unnamed, we can do that. Let's just start sharing our stories.

Word of Life

"To celebrate the Gospel of life means to celebrate the God of life, the God who gives life... In every child which is born and in every person who lives or dies we see the image of God's glory. We celebrate this glory in every human being, a sign of the living God, an icon of Jesus Christ" (The Gospel of Life 84)

May all who suffer from the wounds of abortion be filled with the hope that does not disappoint, and be healed by Christ;
We pray to the Lord:

Two weekends only! Visit this Lenten Relic Display

You are invited to attend a special Lenten experience at the National Shrine of **Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal in Perryville, Missouri**. Relics including: fragments from the True Cross and the Last Supper Table, Saint Paul of the Cross, and particles from Gethsemane, Via Dolorosa, and Calvary.

The relics will be on display **March 25 following 12:10 p.m. Mass to 4:00 p.m., March 26 following 11:00 a.m. Mass to 4:00 p.m., April 1 following 12:10 p.m. Mass to 4:00 p.m., and April 2 from 2-5 p.m.**

Join us for a presentation by Michael O' Neill, "The Miracle Hunter," on April 2 from 1:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m. Call the Association of the Miraculous Medal at 1-800-264-6279 or go to www.amm.org for more information.

Upcoming Events

Mar 20: Rural Parish Clinic Here at St. James
Mar 24: KC Fish Fry, 11:00 -1:00, drive-thru
Ladies Sodality bake sale, 11:00-1:00, drive-thru
Mar 29: Picnic/dinner mtg, Parish Hall, 6:00 pm. **All are INVITED**
Mar 31: Youth Night, 6-8 pm, parish hall.

Apr 04: Lenten Penance Service, 7:00 pm

Respect Life; All Life

Help build a Culture of Life in Missouri this spring by your prayer, service, and public witness! Here are four ways you can do so now through April.
Archdiocesan Pro-Life Mass & Rosary, 3rd Saturdays, 8:00 a.m., Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis.

Archdiocesan Diaper Drive March 18 - 26: March 18 - March 26, the Permanent Deacons, ArchStL, in conjunction with the Respect Life Apostolate, will be collecting diapers for infants, toddlers, and adults as part of our annual archdiocesan-wide, pro-life service project to assist families in need.

Midwest March for Life, Wednesday, April 26, Jefferson City

March on the Arch, Saturday, April 29

*****FORMED*****

Formed this week!

Death, Where is Your Sting? Sarah Kirchner's Story: Despite our attempts to cheat it, we all must face death eventually. Listen as Chris shares the powerful story of Sarah Kirchner and her courageous battle against pediatric bone cancer. Who can bring us victory in the face of such significant trials?

Embraced in Mercy: The Rite explained; Forgiven: Whether you go to Confession regularly or a decade ago, this session guides you step-by-step through the deeper meaning of every aspect of the Rite—what it is, why we do it and how it impacts your life. **St. James Penance service is April 4th, 7:00 pm.**

Also: Biblical Foundations/Forgiven: the Sacrament of reconciliation is founded on the powerful revelation of god's love & mercy for his people throughout Scripture. God's delegation of his authority to the priest in Confession is a continuation of the way God uses both angels and men in Scripture as his mediators.

To sign up for "Formed",
Go to: <https://signup.formed.org/>
Enter our parish's zip code
Enter your name and your email address. That's it, you're in.

Dynamic Catholic Alive!

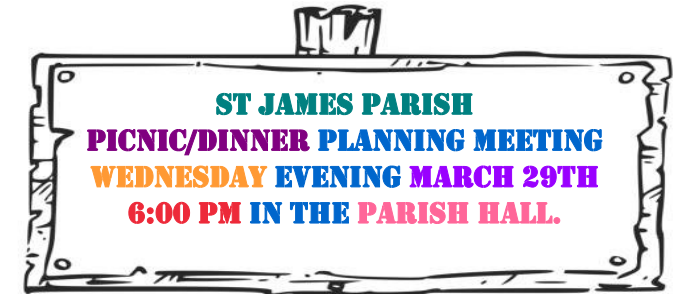
Spiritual Sight

There are simply times in life where we are in the dark and do not see as the Lord sees. Lent is a time of going into the desert, a time that can be dry and desolate in our spiritual lives. In the midst of this darkness, however, the Lord can work wonders and purify our relationship with Him and family members and friends. Just as the blind man could not see but obeyed the Lord, we too must continue to heed the voice of the Lord so that we may truly see with the eyes of faith. As the Pharisees shows us, it is often when we think we know it all or see everything already that the opposite is true. Jesus came that we may see. We pray that Jesus might open the eyes of our hearts and minds to see Him.

Bake Sale Our next Ladies Sodality Bake Sale will be March 24th!

Our next Knights of Columbus Fish Fry Lunch will be March 24th 11:00 am to 1:00 pm drive thru only.

Paying Missouri Taxes? Support Catholic Schools Instead
MOScholars provides scholarships to income-eligible students or those on Individualized Education Programs (IEP). Scholarships are funded by 100% state tax credits given to donors who fund the program. Provide a Catholic Education to Local Students in Need.



EVERYONE IS INVITED TO ATTEND. PLEASE COME AND SHARE YOUR IDEAS

LET'S MAKE THIS OUR BEST EVER PICNIC/DINNER. SMILE & LET'S ALL HAVE FUN!

Youth Night #2!!!

St. James Parish Hall
Friday, March 31st
6:00—8:00 p.m.

Kids ages 6 & up are encouraged.
Lenten Service Project
Fun and Games

Dinner will included in our evening of FUN!!!!
Remember how much fun we had last time? Come on out and bring a friend again!



Youth Ministry

St. James youth is asking for your help. They are making "Blessing Bags" to donate to the Local Community Partnership. All donations can be dropped off at the Church Office, (Tues - Thurs) by **MARCH 31st**. Suggested items, **Small travel sized Items:** Deodorant, mouthwash, toothbrush, toothpaste, shampoo, conditioner, soap, lotion, socks, wipes, Q-tips, tissues, individual bags of peanuts, crackers, snack bars, peppermints, etc.
We want to thank you in advance for your Generosity.



St. James PSR NEWS
Family Catechesis Helping Build Faithful Families!
Next Class will be **APRIL 23RD** Unit 7 is due.

May 14th; May Crowning/Mother's Day, All are to attend Mass

Join our Facebook page for all the latest and greatest information.

