

Dear Padre

February 1, 2026

I am struggling with our new pastor. He has been in our parish for less than six months, and nothing seems to please him. Everything has to change, and the parishioners have no input. I thought the days of "pray, pay, and obey" were over.

The Code of Canon Law identifies the pastor as the shepherd of the parish. His duties require him to teach, sanctify, and govern the people entrusted to his care. However, canon law also envisions that the pastor will engage in pastoral care "with the assistance of lay members of Christ's faithful" (CCL 519).

The intention of the law is to encourage the building up of a community using the "knowledge, prudence, and integrity" of every member (CCL 228, §2). Many issues, feelings, and even theologies make up the personalities of a parish. The one constant that needs to be present is the presumption of goodwill. (See Catechism of the Catholic Church, 2478). If that is missing, then conflict, hard feelings, and many misunderstandings will result.

Without taking sides, I suggest that everyone take a deep breath. Then each of you—the pastor included—ask yourself, "Have I attempted to interpret this person or situation favorably? Have I made any rash judgments?" If honest and prayerful reflection reveals less-than-good intentions, now is the time for an attitude change and to acknowledge that a new start is needed. ●

Fr. Thomas M. Santa, CSSR / DearPadre.org

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St. James Catholic Church
201 N. Missouri Street
Potosi, MO 63664

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

February 1, 2026



(Photo courtesy of Jeremy Boyer)

**Mass Schedule
February 2026**

Mon: 8:00 AM (St. Joachim)

Tues: 8:15 AM (St. James)

Wed: 8:15 AM (St. Joachim)

Thurs: 8:00 AM (St. James)

Fri: 8:00 AM (St. Joachim)

**Sat: 8:00 AM (1st Sat. of the
Month @ St. James)**

Saturday: 4:00 PM
(1st & 3rd weekend @ St. James; 2nd &
4th weekend @ St. Joachim)

Sunday: 8:00 AM (St. James)
10:00 AM (St. Joachim)

**MASS
INTENTIONS FOR
THE WEEK**

Monday, Feb 2
@ St. Joachim

Tuesday, Feb 3rd:
Joan Knott

**Wednesday, Feb
4th:**
@ St. Joachim

**Thursday, Feb
5th:**
**Bess
Lalumondiere**

Friday, Feb 6th:
@ St. Joachim

**Saturday, Feb
7th:**
**8am: Raymond J.
Degonia**
**4pm: Anthony
Killion**

Sunday, Feb 8th:
**Ben & Ellen
Decluee**

Confessions:

Saturday: 3:15-3:45pm
Prior to Sat. evening Mass or by
appointment



E-MAIL:
stjameschurch@centurylink.net

WEBSITE:
www.stjames-potosi.org

FACEBOOK: St. James Catholic Church

PHONE NUMBER: 573-438-4686

PSR: Phone: 573-366-5235
stjamespsr@gmail.com

St. James Parish Family

201 N. Missouri Street
Potosi, MO 63664

Feb 7-8th

Lector:

Saturday 4pm: Paul Villmer
Sunday 8am: Jamie Thompson

Eucharistic Ministers:

Saturday 4pm	Sunday 8am
C: Vikki Neier	Glenda Farrow
L: Judy East	Don Thompson
R: Laura Allen	Jamie Thompson

Servers

Saturday 4pm: Lane Battreal & Madison Battreal
Sunday 8am: Ava West

Music:

Sat: 4:00pm. Chala Short
Sun: 8:00am Rebecca Richards
Sun: 10:00am Anita Govero or The Little Way Band

Heavenly Dusters

Diane Mull 1/30-2/6
Jeanne DeGonia 2/13-2/20
Faye Jarvis 2/27-3/6

Altar Linens

Faye Jarvis 2/2-2/9
Glenda Farrow 2/16-2/23
Connie Scott 3/2-3/9

Money Counters

Mary Ann & Donna 2/3
Becky & Rhonda 2/10
Jeanne & Rhonda 2/17
Pat & Tina 2/24

**** I need a volunteer team for 3/31 ****

Staff
Rev. Anthony Dattilo-
Pastor
AnthonyDattilo@archstl.org
Phone: 573-436-0580 (St. Joachim Rectory)

Rev. Vince Nyman-
Associate Pastor
Phone: 314-614-0718

Angie Mitchell
Office Manager (part-time)

Vicki Thurmond
Parish Secretary (part-time)
stjameschurch@centurylink.net

Judy East: Custodian

Tommy Roy: On Call Maintenance

St. James PSR
Dr. Melissa Cordia
Co-Coordinator
Laura Allen
Co-Coordinator
Jamie Thompson
Co-Coordinator
stjamespsr@gmail.com

Weekly Collection 01/25/26 (NO MASS)

Envelopes:	0.00
Loose:	0.00
Online Giving	40.00
Maintenance:	0.00
St. Vincent de Paul:	0.00
Votives:	0.00
St. Louis Review	0.00
First Offering	0.00

Total Giving: \$40.00
of Contributors: 2
Thank you for your generosity!



4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” MATTHEW 5:3

The phrase “poor in spirit” can be confusing. Think of it in this sense – poor in spirit means depending on God’s providence and not depending on our own self-reliance. Being detached from earthly things (power, money, and comfort) and being attached to heavenly things (charity, sacrifice, and mercy). Denying ourselves from satisfying our desires and helping others obtain their basic needs.

This Week On Formed

The Presentation

The Presentation is already foreshadowing the Cross. The offering Mary makes at the Presentation in the Temple becomes manifested and reaches its fulfillment at Calvary.

The Martyrs | Littlest Saints

When a young Christian girl is arrested and imprisoned in ancient Rome, she hears stories of martyrs like St. Catherine of Alexandria and St. Lawrence the Deacon—will she find the strength to make the ultimate sacrifice for her faith?

Martyrs and Monastics

Dr. Ben Akers sits down with Dr. Elizabeth Klein, Professor of Theology at the Augustine Institute Graduate School, to discuss her Short Course: Martyrs and Monastics. Who are the early Church martyrs? What fueled their witness to the faith? How did monasticism develop? These questions and more are addressed in this show.

***Go to <http://signup.formed.org>**
***Enter our parish’s zipcode 63664**
***Enter your name and your email address.**
***Enjoy!**

MONDAY
February 2
The Presentation of the Lord
Mal 3:1-4
Heb 2:14-18
Lk 2:22-40
or 2:22-32

TUESDAY
February 3
Weekday
2 Sm 18:9-10, 14b, 24-25a, 30-19:3
Mk 5:21-43

WEDNESDAY
February 4
Weekday
2 Sm 24:2, 9-17
Mk 6:1-6

THURSDAY
February 5
St. Agatha, Virgin and Martyr
1 Kgs 2:1-4, 10-12
Mk 6:7-13

FRIDAY
February 6
St. Paul Miki and Companions, Martyrs
Sir 47:2-11
Mk 6:14-29

SATURDAY
February 7
Weekday
1 Kgs 3:4-13
Mk 6:30-34

SUNDAY
February 8
Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Is 58:7-10, 1 Cor 2:1-5, Mt 5:13-16

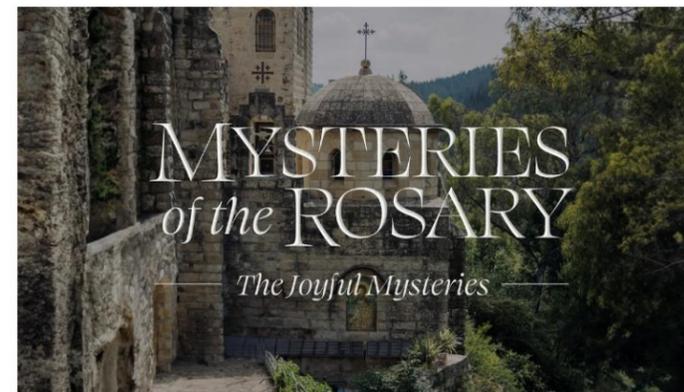
Good News!

February 1, 2026
Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)
Zephaniah 2:3; 3:12-13 / 1 Corinthians 1:26-31 / Matthew 5:1-12a
MIGUEL DULICK

This season of the Church we call “Ordinary Time” is full of Jesus’ teaching about how to live our Christian lives. Today’s readings are especially rich. When Jesus takes his place as the New Moses to deliver his Sermon on the Mount, he begins, fittingly, with a new version of the commandments, but instead of “Thou shalt not,” they are blessings! And they are paradoxical; always a sign of the divine touch. The “poor in spirit” get the kingdom of heaven; mourners are blessed, for they shall be comforted.

Now, who is supposed to do the comforting? *We* are. If the beatitudes are new commandments, we disciples are to obey them, even rejoicing in the blessing of persecution. What kind of people sign up for this? Saint Paul describes to the Christians in Corinth what kind of people God chooses: the foolish, the weak, the lowly and despised, the nothings of this world, to shame and confuse those who seem to run things. The wisdom of God seems like nonsense in a world where power reigns supreme. That sweet soul Zephaniah, author of today’s first reading, saw the shift coming, from “don’ts” to “dos,” from bossy to beatitude: “Seek the Lord, all you humble of the land” (Zephaniah 2:3). You will be “a people humble and lowly” who will pasture your flocks (and do the work God intends you to do) with “none to disturb” you (Zephaniah 3:12, 13). Sign me up for that! ●

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formed™
Forming Catholics for Life.

The Presentation

The Presentation is already foreshadowing the Cross. The offering Mary makes at the Presentation in the Temple becomes manifested and reaches its fulfillment at Calvary.

Our parish has a free Formed subscription for you! Simply scan the QR code or visit formed.org/signup to create your account and select our parish to get free access to this content and much more!



New Online Giving Portal

<https://giving.servantkeeper.com/StJamesCatholic/member/login>

Dear Parishioners,

We have exciting news! We are always looking for ways to use your contribution dollars wisely. The Archdiocese of St. Louis has given us the opportunity to take advantage of a new online giving portal at no additional cost. Currently, we utilize Our Sunday Visitor as our online giving portal which costs the parish monthly user fees. The new portal is directly connected to our current contribution software program, Servant Keeper. This change will not only benefit the parish by saving money but will also give you access to up to date giving information.

We will be implementing the change effective February 1, 2026 to give everyone plenty of time to make the switch to online giving should you choose to do so. Those who are current online givers will receive a separate letter giving specific details on how to make the switch. If you've never given online and are interested in setting up an account, please look forward to seeing instructions in upcoming church bulletins and Facebook posts. This is an easy-to-use portal with very simple instructions on how to set up and manage your online giving. We believe this is a positive change for both the parish and you, our valued parishioners.

If you have any questions or concerns, please call or email the parish office. Our phone number is 573-438-4686 and email is stjameschurch@centurylink.net. We will be happy to answer any questions and to guide you through this process.

Sincerely,
Vicki Thurmond
Parish Secretary

Rev. Anthony Dattilo
Pastor

Angie Mitchell
Business Manager

Benefits of Servant Keeper Online Giving:

- Secure and convenient online giving options.
- Accessible from desktop, tablet, or mobile devices.
- Recurring giving options to simplify your donations

NEW ONLINE GIVING PORTAL STEPS

01



Scan QR Code

Our QR Code will take you directly to our custom giving page

02



Sign up/Sign in

If you haven't yet created a donor login, this is your chance! Login if you already have.

03



Donate!

You can now process a donation, and set up your recurring donation!

Pope Leo XIV, General Audience: January 28, 2026

Dear brothers and sisters,

In our catechesis on the Dogmatic Constitution Dei Verbum, today we considered the relationship between Scripture and Tradition. In the passage we just heard from John's Gospel, Jesus says he will send the Holy Spirit to guide the Apostles to remember, apply and proclaim everything he taught. Sacred Scripture, the inspired word of God, and Sacred Tradition, the living memory of the Church, are intimately bound together and form the one Deposit of Faith. This deposit which contains the entirety of our faith — doctrine, worship, morality, etc. — is not static but dynamic for it develops and is more profoundly understood by the Church over the centuries, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Entrusted to the Church, who preserves and interprets it in Jesus' name, this deposit helps us to navigate the complexities of life to reach our eternal home in heaven. May we become living and faithful witness to God's word in Scripture and Tradition.

<https://www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiv/en/audiences/2026/documents/20260128-udienza-generale.html>

THE COUNCIL'S CORNER

Our next meeting is Feb 10th @ 5:30pm. Our next Fifth Sunday brunch is March 29th after 10am Mass. Mark your calendar now! See the bulletin article about the Catholic Men's Conference on Feb 7. We encourage our men to attend. If interested, let Eric know. Don't let cost be an obstacle. We will be covering the cost for at least 10 men.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, FEEL FREE TO CONTACT ERIC AUBUCHON @ 314-605-6268

St. James PSR NEWS

PSR is back in full swing. We are looking forward to spring!

From Dr. Melissa Cordia

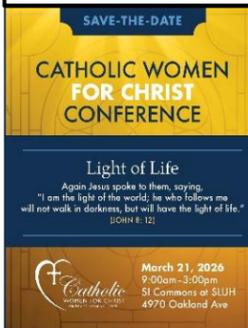
Ladies Sodality

Our next meeting is on February 3rd from 5:30pm-6:30pm in the Parish Hall. We have elected new officers. Our new President is Bobbie Heifner, Vice-President is Kim Coleman, Secretary is Laura Allen, and Treasurer is Diane McGirl. **We will be hosting Indoor Dining Fish Fries on February 27th and March 27th, serving beginning at 4pm until sell out. Please mark your calendars.** The chili/soup cook off has been cancelled to allow us to host these fish fries.

Interested in Becoming Catholic? (OCIA: Order of Christian Initiation of Adults)

If you or anyone you know is interested in becoming Catholic, in being fully received, or in receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation, contact the parish office, or call coordinator, Joyce Politte 636-328-1343. All are welcome.

ATTENTION: Lent is fast approaching. We will be collecting your palms from last year for our ashes for Ash Wednesday. Please drop them off in the back of church or at the parish office.
Thank you!



Catholic Women for Christ is back for 2026! Join us on Saturday, March 21, 2026, at Si Commons at St. Louis University High School with ladies from around the Archdiocese of St. Louis for a day of spiritual talks, prayer, and community. We will explore the theme "Light of Life" and discuss how we see the Light, walk in the Light, and become the Light.
To register and for more information, visit www.catholicwomenforchrist.org

Parish Calendar

Feb 2: Men's Faith Sharing Group 6:30pm

Feb 3: Ladies Sodality Meeting 5:30pm

Feb 3: Blessing of the Candles at 8:15am Mass

Feb 7: First Saturday Mass 8am w/Adoration & Benediction

Feb 10: Eucharistic Adoration 9-4:45pm
Parish Council Meeting 5:30pm
Knights of Columbus Meeting 6:30pm

Feb 11: Parish Office will have a delayed opening 11-3 (Vicki has bible study @ St. Joachim)

Feb 13: Bible Study begins 9am (parish office)
Clarity House Retreat 6pm

Feb 16: Rural Clinic here
Men's Faith Sharing Group 6:30pm
Parish Office Closed for Holiday
St. Vincent de Paul Meeting 6pm

Feb 18: Ash Wednesday 7pm Mass
Parish Office will have a delayed opening 11-3 (Vicki has bible study @ St. Joachim)

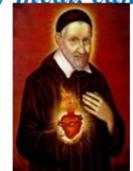
Feb 20: Fish Fry 11-1 Drive Thru Only

Society of St. Vincent de Paul

St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry served 127 families (356 individuals). Thanks again to our packers and those who braved the cold weather on Distribution day!

*"God demands first the heart. . . then the work."
St. Vincent de Paul*

**St. Vincent de Paul collection:
Canned meat, canned chili w/meat,
spaghettios w/ meat, canned stew, tuna**



Catholic Men for Christ 2026 is fast approaching! Join us on Saturday, February 7th 2026 at Si Commons at St. Louis University High School with men from around the Archdiocese of St. Louis as we **explore the theme: "Light of Light": See the Light; Walk in the Light; Be the Light.** The conference will be an opportunity for spiritual talks, prayer, the sacraments, and community.

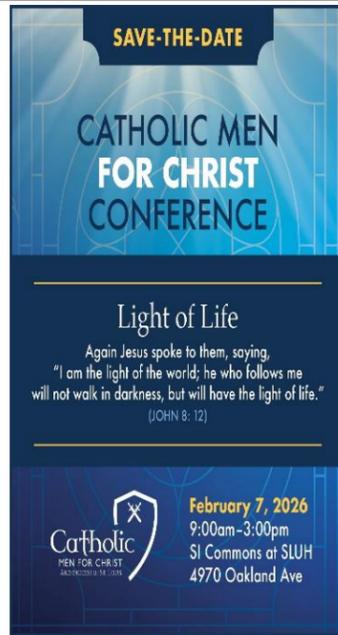
Keynote Speaker: Dr. Ben Akers

Dr. Ben Akers is a highly sought after international Catholic speaker in discipleship, spirituality, and Scripture. He is an Associate Professor of Theology at the Augustine Institute and the Chief Mission Officer of the FORMED.org platform, which is a streaming platform providing trustworthy and inspiring Catholic video, audio, and eBook content from more than 60 other partners. Previously, Dr. Akers served as the director of the Denver Catholic Biblical and Catechetical Schools and was an adjunct for the St. John Vianney Theological Seminary. He studied theology in the heart of the Catholic Church in Rome, Italy. He and his wife are blessed with three daughters and two sons and reside in St. Louis.

Keynote Speaker: Paul George

Paul has the past 30 years serving in various capacities, including president of a non-profit, speaker, mentor, consultant, and author. He has spoken over 2 million people worldwide, helping people know, understand, and live in the true and authentic freedom they were created to live in. He is the author of *Rethink Happiness* and his most recent best-selling book for men, *Holy Grit*, was released in 2023. Paul has written two devotionals for men as well. Paul holds a master's degree in Theological Studies from the University of Dallas. It's his role as a husband and father that he cherishes the most. Paul and his wife Gretchen have been married for twenty-eight years; they are the proud parents of five – Marie (and her husband Matt, grandson Jude), Jacob, Sarah, Clare, and Addie. He is a former college athlete and an avid lover of the outdoors.

**Contact Eric Aubuchon or the parish office if you are interested in attending this life-changing conference as soon as possible



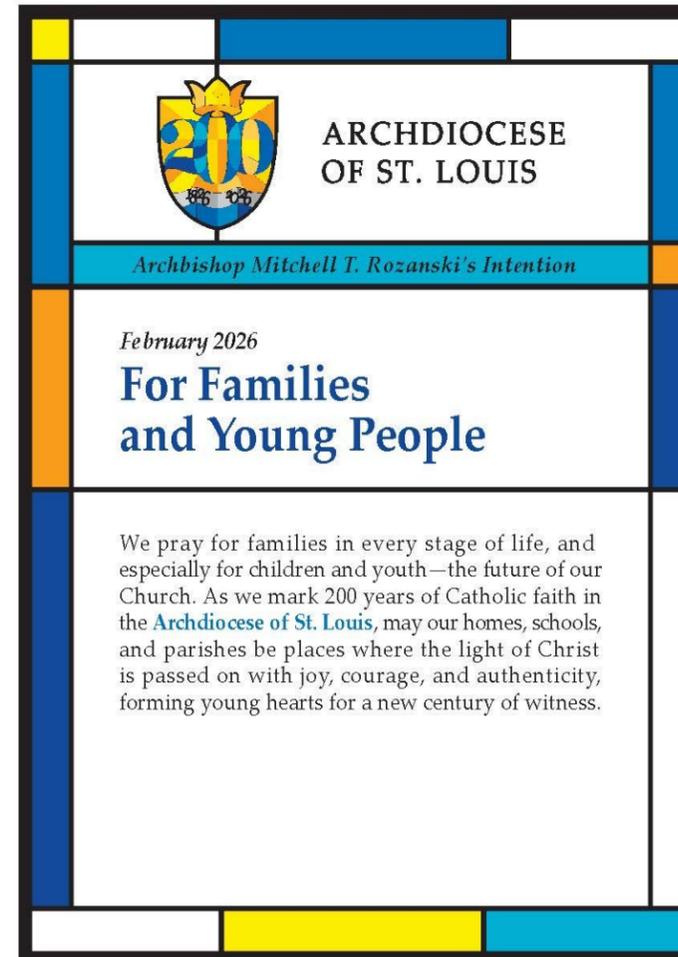
Lenten Bible Study

We will be offering a study this Lent at St. Joachim for those interested. We will be studying **Scripture and Apologetics**. **I do have enough interest to have a Friday morning session here at St. James at 9am. We will begin on Feb 13th at St. James.** This study will help you understand and defend our Catholic faith with our Non-Catholic brothers and sisters. We will cover some of the major points of division surrounding our Catholic beliefs and help you explain and back that up with scripture.

There is a study guide. The cost is \$5 to offset the cost of paper & ink. You will need to provide your own binder or folder. This is not a video based study so be prepared for homework and reading.

Sessions should last about an hour. We will have two classes again this time at St. Joachim, Monday evening at 6pm in the Incarnate Word Center and Wednesday morning after the 8:15am Mass in the Incarnate Word Center. St. James will have a Friday morning, 9am session available as well.

The Monday class will begin on February 9. The Wednesday class will begin on February 11. The Friday session will begin on Feb. 13. There will be 6 sessions but because of the Rural Clinic schedule and my annual White House Retreat, our schedule will not be weekly. We will have a few times where we get a week or two between classes. I apologize for that but it's simply unavoidable. If you would like to join us, please let Vicki know by text (573-854-1257) or email (vickithurmond@gmail.com) or in person.



For the battle belongs to the Lord.

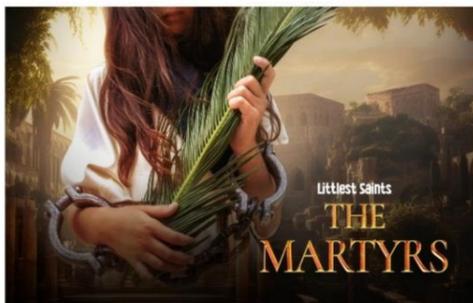
~ 1 Samuel 17:47

Steubenville STL Mid-America 2026

Our group registration will be February 5th of 2026.

- Who can attend?** Incoming Freshman through graduating Senior
- When?** July 17th - 19th
- Where?** Missouri State University, Springfield, MO
- Cost?** We will stay off campus at a nearby hotel, so the conference cost is \$185. There is a \$50 non-refundable deposit due February 26th

If you are a youth participant that would like to attend, please contact the parish office or email stjoachimyouthministrv2023@gmail.com.



The Martyrs | Littlest Saints

When a young Christian girl is arrested and imprisoned in ancient Rome, she hears stories of martyrs like St. Catherine of Alexandria and St. Lawrence the Deacon—will she find the strength to make the ultimate sacrifice for her faith?

Our parish has a free Formed subscription for you! Simply scan the QR code or visit formed.org/signup to create your account and select our parish to get free access to this content and much more!



An offering from the AUGUSTINE INSTITUTE