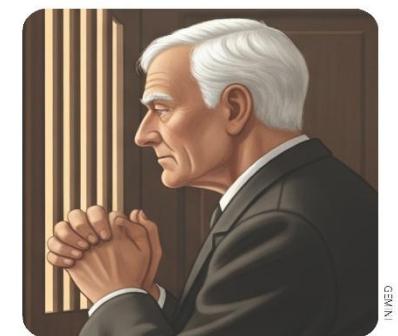


## Dear Padre,

*I went to confession, and then, months later, my priest was removed for alcoholism and theft. Is my confession still worthy?*

Your confession is not dependent on the worthiness or the unworthiness of the priest. Your confession is made to Jesus; the priest is a witness who pronounces the words of absolution that Jesus intended in the sacrament. "From the moment that a sacrament is celebrated in accordance with the intention of the Church, the power of Christ and his Spirit acts in and through it, independently of the personal holiness of the minister" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1128).

The question of the efficacy of the sacrament and the unworthiness of the minister who performs the sacrament in the name of the Church is not new. During the time of persecution, in the early centuries of the Church, some people, including priests and bishops, avoided martyrdom by offering the required oblation to Caesar. Later, they repented and returned to the Christian community, a community that included the surviving family and friends of the men and women who were martyred. The question was asked, and with some animated energy, "How could these ministers who sinned to save their own lives now represent the Church?" The answer, arrived at with patience and discernment, is that the minister is only the representative of the sacrament, not the source of the sacrament. Jesus is faithful, even when his ministers have been unfaithful. ●



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

### A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV



*I think it is important for all of us to learn how to listen more, to enter into dialogue. First and foremost, with the Lord: always listen to the word of God. Then also listen to others, to know how to build bridges, to know how to listen without judging, not closing the doors [and] thinking that we have all the truth and no one else can tell us anything.*

HOMILY, ROME, MAY 11, 2025



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CHRIS ROLWES

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ROLWESPLUMBING@GMAIL.COM

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LICENSED • BONDED • INSURED

*Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.*

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

**Fourth Sunday of Advent**

**December 21, 2025**



(Photo courtesy of Jeremy Boyer)

**Mass Schedule  
December 2025**

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  
(1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend @ St. James; 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> weekend @ St. Joachim)

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

**MASS  
INTENTIONS  
FOR THE  
WEEK**  
Monday, Dec.  
22nd  
@ St. Joachim

Tuesday, Dec.  
23rd:  
Dale T. Pratt

Wednesday, Dec.  
24th:  
Jack & Mary  
Lou/Garry West

Thursday, Dec.  
25th:  
Buckshot East

Friday, Dec.  
26th:  
@ St. Joachim

Saturday, Dec.  
27th  
@ St. Joachim

Sunday, Dec.  
28th:  
Philip Politte

**E-MAIL:**  
[stjameschurch@centurylink.net](mailto:stjameschurch@centurylink.net)

**WEBSITE:**  
[www.stjames-potosi.org](http://www.stjames-potosi.org)

**FACEBOOK:** St. James Catholic Church

**PHONE NUMBER:** 573-438-4686

**PSR:** Phone: 573-366-5235  
[stjamespsr@gmail.com](mailto:stjamespsr@gmail.com)



**Confessions:**

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

# St. James Parish Family

201 N. Missouri Street  
Potosi, MO 63664



**Staff**  
**Rev. Anthony Dattilo-**  
Pastor  
[AnthonyDattilo@archstl.org](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:stjamespsr@gmail.com)

## December 28th

### Lector:

Sunday 8am: Jeanne Degonia

### Eucharistic Ministers:

Saturday 4pm Sunday 8am

C: Glenda Farrow  
L: Jim Politte  
R: Donna Kennon

### Servers

Saturday 4pm:  
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 12/19-12/26  
Jeanne Degonia 1/2-1/9  
Faye Jarvis 1/16-1/23

### Altar Linens

Glenda Farrow 12/22-12/29  
Glenda Farrow 1/5-1/12  
Connie Scott 1/19-1/26

### Money Counters

Jeanne & Rhonda 12/23  
Pat & Tina 12/30  
Mary Ann & Donna 1/6

(FYI: The office is open on Mondays if you would like to count on Mondays.)

## Weekly Collection 12/14/2025

<u>Envelopes:</u>	\$4474.00
<u>Loose:</u>	146.00
<u>Online Giving</u>	15.00
<u>Maintenance:</u>	0.00
<u>St. Vincent de Paul:</u>	706.00
<u>Votive:</u>	32.00
<u>Stained Glass Window</u>	100.00
<u>Christmas Flowers</u>	0.00
<u>Immaculate Conception</u>	350.00

**Total Giving: \$5823.00**

# of Contributors: 23

*Thank you for your generosity!*



### 4th Sunday of Advent

*"When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took his wife into his home." MATTHEW 1:24*

Putting our complete trust in the Lord without expecting anything in return. Striving to put God first in all things and follow Him wherever He may lead us. Joseph was a model of these pillars of our faith. As we prepare for the birth of our Lord, pray for the strength and courage to be a model of discipleship, just as Joseph was.

## \*\*\*FORMED\*\*\*

### The Story of Christmas | Benjamin Cello Christmas Special

In this special hour-long television event, Benjamin Cello and his friends travel to Pennywhistle Park for a spectacular shadow puppet retelling of "The Story of Christmas" by Brother Joseph and "The Shadow of His Wings" puppet theater.

### Christmas | Sacred Art

Join Dr. Ben Akers and Taylor Kemp as they look at the painting Adoration of the Shepherds by Gerard van Honthorst to celebrate the Nativity of our Lord. This famous painting reveals the Christ Child as the light that has come into the world and also depicts the Blessed Mother, St. Joseph, and the shepherds to be models of adoration to our humble Lord who came as a helpless baby.

### What Catholics Believe About Christmas: Traditions, Santa Claus & the 12 Days

Join Dr. Michael Barber as he answers some of the Internet's most popular questions about Christmas. What are the 12 days of Christmas? Was Santa Claus a real person? What is Advent?

\*Go to <http://signup.formed.org>

\*Enter our parish's zipcode 63664

\*Enter your name and your email address.

\*Enjoy!

**MONDAY**  
December 22  
Advent Weekday  
1 Sm 1:24-28  
Lk 1:46-56

**TUESDAY**  
December 23  
Advent Weekday  
Mal 3:1-4, 23-24  
Lk 1:57-66

**WEDNESDAY**  
December 24  
Advent Weekday  
2 Sm 7:1-5,  
8:12-14a, 16  
Lk 1:67-79

**THURSDAY**  
December 25  
The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)  
Is 52:7-10  
Heb 1:1-6  
Jn 1:1-18  
or 1:1-5, 9-14

**FRIDAY**  
December 26  
St. Stephen, the First Martyr  
Acts 6:8-10;  
7:54-59  
Mt 10:17-22

**SATURDAY**  
December 27  
St. John, Apostle and Evangelist  
1 Jn 1:1-4  
Jn 20:1a, 2-8

**SUNDAY**  
December 28  
The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph  
Sir 3:2-6, 12-14  
Col 3:12-21  
or 3:12-17  
Mt 2:13-15,  
19-23

# Good News!

December 21, 2025

Fourth Sunday of Advent (A)

Isaiah 7:10-14 / Romans 1:1-7 / Matthew 1:18-24

MIGUEL DULICK

**It is the fourth Sunday of Advent.** When Christmas is this close, one takes that final leap. Isaiah is centuries from Christmas, but he cannot wait! He sees the "sign" as clear as day: "the young woman, pregnant and about to bear a son" (Isaiah 7:14). And how about that Son! None other than "Emmanuel" himself—God-With-Us! Paul, too, is bursting at the seams! Inspired by what he calls "the obedience of faith" (Romans 5), he is excited to see the gospel thriving even among the Gentiles. For him, the "Spirit of holiness" is a gift offered to all—Christmas every day, you might say.

Speaking of "obedience of faith," Joseph is the perfect example. The word "obey" comes from the same root as "to hear," and Joseph has almost supernatural ears! Matthew, the former tax collector, tells "how the birth of Jesus Christ came about" in today's gospel reading like a bookkeeper—the Holy Spirit in Column A, Joseph in Column B, with Mary in the middle. But when an angel whispers to Joseph at night, his dream comes true: "he took his wife into his home." Everything is set for Emmanuel!

So, the Bible is brimming with Christmas, that is, "God-With-Us," from end to end. And when a virgin can conceive, are any of us exempt from "birthing" Jesus in our midst? Even when a "happy holiday" seems impossible in the midst of war or violence or poverty, when our ears hear only silence, let's sing Christmas carols every day!

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**formed**  
Forming Catholics for Life.

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Our parish has a free Formed subscription for you! Simply scan the QR code or visit [formed.org/signup](http://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

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

During this Advent Season, the Catechumens and Candidates are eagerly awaiting the coming of Jesus in Baptism and the Sacraments of Eucharist and Confirmation. Please pray for Catechumens: Keith Blankman, Joey Thebeau, Judy Vance, Caitlyn Gibson, Anthony, Lilly Pashia and family, Jerry Randall, Chris McCoy and Inquirer, Jerry Goza.

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.

## Christmas Flowers

### In Memory Of

Laymon & Allie Hollinsworth  
Shorty & Ruth Jarvis



### Leo Hollinsworth

Juanita Smith

Billy E. Cain

Roy & Marie Boyer

John & Lucy Politte

### In Honor Of

John B. Degonia Family

## What Do You Want for Christmas?

“What do you want for Christmas?” This is a question we ask each other often before Christmas. Yet how many of us actually take a few minutes to kneel before the infant Jesus and ask Him what He wants from us this Christmas. When we kneel before the manager and ask Jesus what He wants, it is very possible that we will hear Him whisper that He wants us to share a little more of our time with Him. Maybe each of us could make a New Year’s resolution to spend more time with God.

- Go to Mass more frequently.
- Find some time for prayer in the morning.
- End our day with spiritual reading.
- Say the rosary while we drive to work.
- Participate in Eucharistic Adoration
- Stop into church occasionally for a quiet visit. The gift of time with God could be the very best gift we could give this year, not only to Jesus but also to ourselves. It might be just what our own hearts are truly longing for.

## December 21st

“O Blessed Mother, at the angel’s word you went in haste to the aid of your cousin Elizabeth. Although pregnant yourself, you placed her needs before your own. By your example of radical solidarity, teach us to reverence and protect those in need, without conditions or expectations... Obtain for us the grace to bring Christ to any expectant mother who is alone and afraid.”

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities  
Prayer for Radical Solidarity  
([www.respectlife.org/prayer-for-radical-solidarity](http://www.respectlife.org/prayer-for-radical-solidarity))

## Bulletin Advertising

We are now accepting advertisers for the back of our bulletin. The cost is \$180 per year. This will help offset the cost of paper & ink for the bulletin. Please call or email the office for more details. If you are interested, all we need is a business card to get you added onto the back.

## Pope Leo XIV, General Audience 12/17/2025

Dear brothers and sisters, in our catechesis on the Jubilee theme of “Jesus Christ our Hope,” today we reflect on the Resurrection as the firm foundation of our hope in our daily lives. In our fast-paced society, we can often feel overwhelmed by pressures and expectations for greater efficiency and optimal results. When we feel this way, let’s us remember the words that we just heard from the Gospel of Saint Matthew: “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” (Mt 6:21). Our heart’s treasure is not the goods of this world, neither prosperity, nor success, nor admirable achievements! Indeed, Saint Augustine described our hearts as restless. That restlessness is not arbitrary and disordered; it is oriented towards heaven, whose doors are open to us thanks to the incarnation, passion, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. If we enter into the dynamism of his love and grace, he will be victorious in us — not just at the hour of our death, but also today, right now, and every day hereafter.

## ATTENTION LECTORS!

Lector Workbooks are in the back of church for the lectors. They are labeled with your name. If someone is missing one, please let the office know.

## Parish Calendar

**Dec 22:** Men's Faith Sharing Group 6:30pm

**Dec 23:** Decorating for Christmas after 8:15am Mass

**Dec 24:** Christmas Eve Mass 4pm

**Dec 25:** Christmas Day Mass 10am

**Dec 31:** Holy Day Mass 4pm

**Jan 1:** Holy Day Mass 8am

**Jan 6:** Ladies Sodality meeting 5:30pm

**Jan 7:** PSR classes resume

**Jan 9:** Clarity House at 6pm

## Ladies Sodality

We would like to welcome new members to join our Ladies Sodality. Our next meeting is on January 6th from 5:30pm-6:30pm in the Parish Hall. Please consider joining us!

## Attention!!

Sign up sheets are posted in the vestibule of church for the Holy Day, Mary, Mother of God and also for our Christmas Masses. If you would like to volunteer for any of the lector, servers, Eucharistic Ministers, Ushers and Giftbearers, please sign up on the sheets or you can also email or call the office. We are still in need of volunteers for 10am Mass and the Holy Day. Thanks so much!!

## New Office Hours!

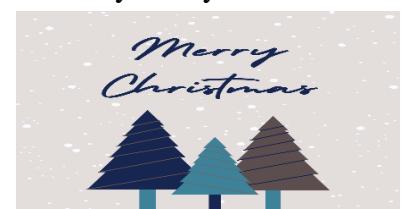
We are now open 9-3 Monday-Thursday. Vicki is in the office on those days and Angie is available on Tuesdays. We are still having issues with the voicemail system and apologize for any inconvenience this may be causing. We are working to get that fixed hopefully soon. You can email us at [stjameschurch@centurylink.net](mailto:stjameschurch@centurylink.net) if needed.

## THE COUNCIL'S CORNER

We want to wish all our parishioners a very Merry Christmas!

Our next meeting is  
January 13 @ 5:30pm.

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



## St. James PSR NEWS

Poco A Poco. We at St. James Parish School of Religion wish everyone a Merry Christmas, Peace on Earth and Good will to men!

*From Dr. Melissa Cordia  
and the PSR Catechists*



## Society of St. Vincent de Paul

We want to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy, Holy New Year! We also want to thank everyone who donates and supports our ministry throughout the year. Without your generosity, so many in need in our city & county would go without. You truly make a difference in people's lives.

*If God is the center of your life,  
no words are necessary.  
Your mere presence will touch hearts.  
St. Vincent de Paul*



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

## Christmas Eve:

4pm Mass at St. James  
4pm Mass at St. Joachim  
10pm Mass at St. Joachim

## Christmas Day:

8am Mass at St. Joachim  
10am Mass at St. James



J.M.J.

On behalf of Fr. Nyman, our staff and myself, Fr. Tony Dattilo, I would like to wish the Parishioners of St. James and St. Joachim Parishes a very blessed and Merry Christmas and a Happy and Holy New Year 2026. I will remember you and your families as I celebrate with you the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass on Christmas Eve, at Night, and on Christmas Day. I pray that God will bring you and your families closer to our Lord Jesus Christ and our Blessed Mother and St. Joseph as we celebrate the great mystery of the Incarnation. As St. John in His Gospel reminds us: "The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us." This means that the Eternal Word, the Son of God, the Second of the Person of the Blessed Trinity took on our weak and frail human nature and offered us the gift of salvation. Let us look at wonder at the manger scene and meditate on this great mystery. Let us give praise and thanks to the Father for sending us His only begotten Son to be our Savior. May the grace of God dwell in us and fill us with joy and wonder at this profound mystery of faith. When we come to the Altar let us renew our faith in our "God among us," in the mystery of the Holy Eucharist. We receive God, The Son, body, blood, soul, and divinity in the Most Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. At every Holy Mass it is like being in Bethlehem in the Presence of our God made Flesh.



May God bless you all!  
Yours in Jesus and Mary,

Fr. Anthony Dattilo  
Pastor

### Fourth Sunday of Advent Emmanuel

On this last Sunday before Christmas, we see that Jesus' birth is the fulfillment of the promise of Emmanuel, meaning "God is with us." (Mt 1:23) The gospel refers to the first reading from Isaiah. There we see the king of Judah, Ahaz, is under attack by the kings of Aram and Israel. He wants to ask the Assyrians for help, instead of relying on God. That's why he says, "I will not tempt the Lord." (Is 7:12) He is afraid to admit his lack of faith. So the weakness of Ahaz gives us the wonderful prophecy of the birth of Jesus. Ahaz of course did not understand the full meaning of that prophecy. For him, the prophecy meant the destruction of Judah.

In the gospel, Joseph also does not understand how Mary was pregnant. But unlike Ahaz, Joseph did have faith in God and the message of the angel. He took Mary as his wife and helped her through her pregnancy and afterwards in raising Jesus. His faith in God kept Jesus from being murdered by Herod after the Magi's visit.

So now we have to choose who we rely on: Do I act like Ahaz, relying on the worldly powers, or like Joseph who trusted the Lord? I would like to say that I trust in the Lord only. But if I look at my actions and priorities, I might be more like Ahaz than I want to admit.

How much time do I spend watching television (especially now that it's in HD) compared to time in prayer? How much time do I spend reading the scriptures compared to the newspaper or magazines? How much do I spend on Christmas decorations or gifts for my family, compared to what I give to the Church? If I really believe that "God is with us," which is what Christmas is all about, how much of God can people see in my actions?

Maybe if we kept in mind that promise that God IS with us, in the Baptism we received and the sacraments of the Church, and the love of our spouse or parents—we could see how close God really is and let others see in our actions, that Jesus is Emmanuel.

Tom Schmidt

# Our Parish COMMUNITY

December 21, 2025

Fourth Sunday of Advent (A)

Isaiah 7:10-14 / Romans 1:1-7 / Matthew 1:18-24



## Close Enough!

MIGUEL DULICK

**I**t is the fourth Sunday of Advent. When Christmas is this close, one takes that final leap. Isaiah is centuries from Christmas, but he cannot wait! He sees the "sign" as clear as day: "the young woman, pregnant and about to bear a son" (Isaiah 7:14). And how about that Son! None other than "Emmanuel" himself—God-With-Us! Paul, too, is bursting at the seams! Inspired by what he calls "the obedience of faith" (Romans 5), he is excited to see the gospel thriving even among the Gentiles. For him, the "Spirit of holiness" is a gift offered to all—Christmas every day, you might say.

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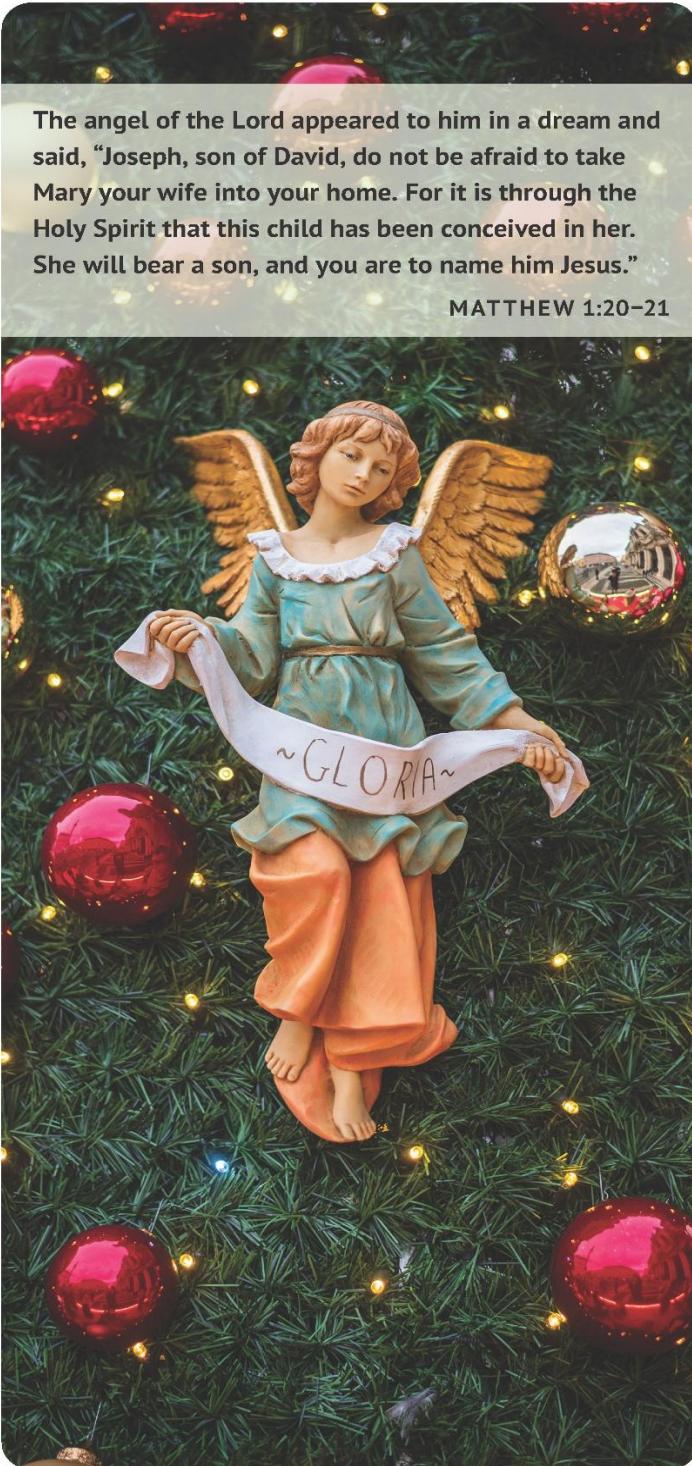
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SCAN TO  
LEARN ABOUT  
AUTHOR  
MIGUEL  
DULICK

### Reflect

*How am I at listening? Can I find new insights in old stories that I think I know so well?*



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