

SAINT JAMES THE APOSTLE  
CATHOLIC CHURCH



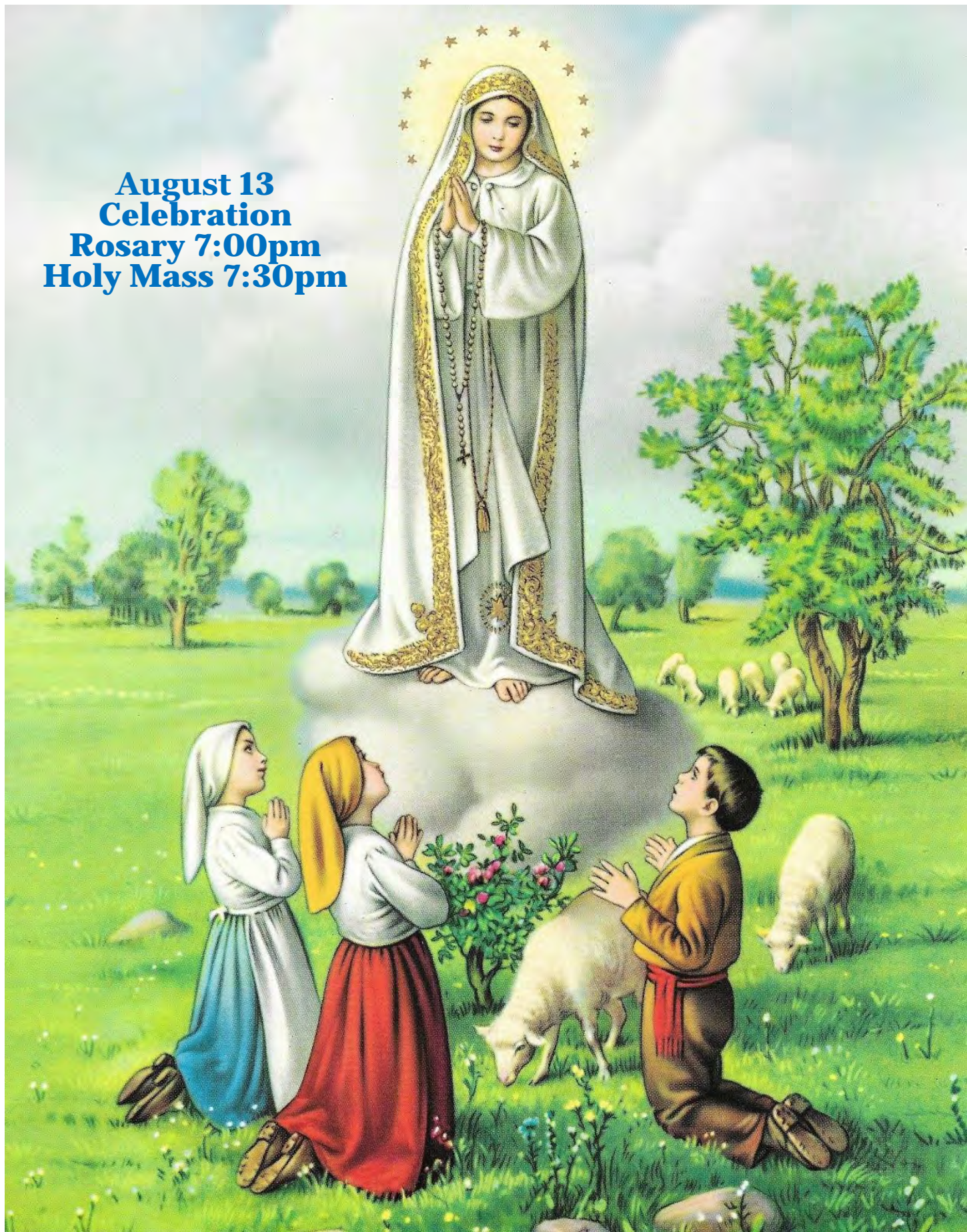
# FESTIVAL

August 16 & 17, 2025  
Raffle Drawing Will Be On  
Sunday, Aug 17 @ 7:00 PM

Grand Prize - \$10,000  
Second Prize - \$3,000  
Third Prize - \$2,000

**Yearbook**  
August 2025 through  
December 2025

**August 13  
Celebration  
Rosary 7:00pm  
Holy Mass 7:30pm**



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## Team Competition

# FESTIVAL



August 2 - Volleyball

Can win up to 20 pts

If team opts out - 10 pts

August 16 - Cornhole, Trivia  
& Plinko

6 member team must compete in every event except Volleyball  
Substitutions only in case of injury or sickness

August 2025







**MY DEAREST PARISHIONERS OF ST. JAMES,**

A very Good Monday morning to you! I am excited to share the good news with you this morning that as of the last count yesterday, Sunday night, we made \$117,515 from our Raffle tickets. This is an amazing achievement, and I am approaching each one of you with a heart full of love and gratitude. It was possible only with your cooperation and collaboration. You have once again shown the true spirit of love and commitment to your parish and proved that you belong to your parish with a great sense of ownership. You have once again proved right the Maxim: **LITTLE DROPS OF WATER MAKE AN OCEAN.**

These are the names of the winners:

- Christian Pedrigal won the First Prize
- Ms. Wendy Gutierrez won the Second Prize
- Maryanne Lapasiora won the Third Prize

Once again, thank you for your love for your Parish. May God bless you a hundredfold!

Assuring you of my love and prayers,

Humbly your Pastor,  
Fr. Antony Vazhappilly



Grand Prize - Christian Pedrigal



Second Prize - Wendy Gutierrez



Third Prize - Maryanne Lapasiora

## **Festival 2025 Prize Winners**

# New officers - Knights of Columbus

Grand Knight: Jappy Francisco  
Deputy Grand Knight: Rob Brindle  
Chancellor: Rommel Prejula  
Financial Secretary: Junne Juan  
Recorder: Noel Limcolioc  
Treasurer: Edward Caron  
Advocate: Romy Magtoto  
Warden: Elito Lelina  
Inside Guard: James Tancinco  
Outside Guard: Vinoo Edappily  
Chaplain: Fr. Antony Vazhappilly





**12 noon, Saturday, Oct. 11.** Meet at the St. James Parking lot and will pray for the repentance and conversion of our great nation, asking God to save America through the rosary of His Most Holy Mother. **RSVP** by emailing Judi Domingo at [jayd8560@gmail.com](mailto:jayd8560@gmail.com) or by calling/texting at 510-767-9548. Please consider volunteering to help us make this Rosary Rally a success!

*December 2025*







In the true spirit of Thanksgiving and Christmas, St. James Catholic Church Knights of Columbus, Council 14541, joined hands with Pastor Jerome Brown and the congregation of Brown Temple of Union City to bring hope, joy, and tangible support to families in need within our community.

As part of this seasonal outreach, members of Council 14541 prepared and delivered food packages to local families, ensuring that no household would be without nourishment during this sacred time of year. Beyond the gift of food, Council members and volunteers lifted hearts and spirits by singing Christmas carols, sharing the joy of Christ's birth and the message of God's enduring love.

This collaborative effort reflects the Gospel call to serve others with compassion, humility, and generosity. Through fellowship, song, and service, St. James Council 14541 and Brown Temple demonstrated that faith is most powerfully expressed through action—especially in caring for those most in need.

St. James Catholic Church extends its heartfelt gratitude to Pastor Jerome Brown, the Brown Temple congregation, and all volunteers who made this outreach possible. May this act of service inspire us all to continue living out our faith through charity, unity, and love throughout the Christmas season and beyond.

Bro. Jim Navarro



# CCD Christmas Party

CCD Christmas Party





# Simbang Gabi Begins

# Simbang Gabi Begins



## Advent



# Divine Mercy Pajama Party



## August 2025

I would like to present Ury Gonzales as the parishioner of the month of August 2025. He is one of our valuable parishioners who “leads by examples.” He has been a member of the Finance

Committee for many years and eventually took up the role of being the Head of Finance Committee two years ago. His contributions as its president are commendable. He always comes up with the best recommendations and suggestions. Another responsibility that he has been doing with true commitment and dedication is to take care of the Sunday collections after 10 clock Mass.

I am most appreciative of his longtime commitment to taking care of the First Communion Candidates. He loves the children and comes down to their level to teach them important prayers and instill in them love of God. This is an important job which requires a lot of time and patience, and he has no complaints. I know he loves doing this because he knows that children must be taught values when they are young. This is the best stage when children are open to learning about God and the Church.

**When did you and your family join the parish and what makes this parish special?** “Nancy and I joined St James Parrish in early 2007. We were attending St Joachim in Hayward. We wanted to have Sofia baptized. When we met with St. Joachim we didn’t like the process. We went to check out St. James and were greeted warmly at the door. Father Paul helped us. Sofia was baptized in June of 2007 by Deacon Ernie. We have been blessed to have both of our daughters, Sofia and Natalie, baptized at St. James. In addition, they had their sacraments of Reconciliation, Holy Communion and Confirmation here. Those were the moments in our lives we will never forget, and we shared them with the St. James Community. We pray that both girls get married at St. James.

St. James is a home to our family. The community has been a part of our lives every step of the way. They have literally seen the girls go from babies to young women. People are loving and kind and have a warm place in our hearts. We are blessed to call St. James our parish. This is what makes St. James very special and an amazing parish!”

**Would you recommend St. James to others?** “I would 100% recommend St. James to everyone I know. I feel with definite certainty that anyone who comes here would feel welcome and accepted. They would find a home for their mind, body, and soul. It would be a place where you would be greeted with a smile and feel at ease. It wouldn’t be long before people would know your names and soon you will find a place where you can build lasting relationships.”

I have told you repeatedly that what makes a parish special is its members. You have heard me say that a parish is as good as each member’s contributions to the parish. It is members like Ury who are totally committed to the parish and consider their parish their responsibility who will make any parish an amazing parish. Unfortunately, like in all cases, only a small percentage of the parishioners who consider their parish is their responsibility and will be generously contribute to its well running. This mentality should go for the Catholic churches to survive the test of financial crisis that churches are facing everywhere.

On another note, I must say that those who are truly involved with their parishes and take active part in different activities of the parish are truly blessed by God. And they are happier folks than others who attend the Mass and leave with no time for meeting and greeting people in the church. It is everyone’s responsibility to make their parish a welcome place and make people feel that they have a place to belong. As Ury testified earlier, it is a place where you make lasting friendships. And again, if you really love your parish, then you should invite new members to your parish. I am sure, if you visited a new restaurant and you liked the food there, you are sure to speak about it to your families and friends. That is how the restaurant will become known and famous. In the same way you should promote your parish by speaking about it to others. Soon we are going to have our Annual Festivals this weekend, and this is a best opportunity to invite your families, coworkers and friends. Like in all businesses, marketing your parish is very important.

I would like to close by thanking Ury and his family from the depth of my heart. His wife, Nancy, and the two daughters are very involved in the parish. The girls are actively involved with the children’s choir. May God continue to bless you and guide you along the right path. May your prayer that your daughters should receive that Sacrament of marriage in St. James may become a prayer answered in God’s time!

Fr. Antony



## September 2025

My dear Parishioners of St. James,

In as much as I would like to bring out “the Parishioner of the Month” at the beginning of every month, it has become more and more of a challenge to keep to my intention. Thank you for your understanding. I am rushing to present to you Ellen Zaragoza as the parishioner of the month of September 2025 before the month is over. I would like to describe Ellen as “Short in stature but very big in ideas.” She is very creative and comes up with new ideas that will baffle you. Her best artistic



demonstrations were the central pieces she made for the crab-feed in February this year. Talking about her talents, Vic Remolar says, “Ellen’s creativity and attention to details always bring the Crab-feed to life every year. The central pieces she designed every year are more than just decorations- they set the perfect tone for the event. She is truly gifted for turning simple things into something special.” More than anything else I would like to honor her as the parishioner of the month for her commitment and dedication as a CCD teacher for more than four years.

This is how she responded to my question: What do you like the most about teaching CCD children? Knowing that I am being given the opportunity to be part of shaping the children’s spiritual growth is very rewarding! I teach but I learn from them as well. Being around the children keeps me young at heart!

Speaking about her faith journey at St. James, she makes this candid remark: “I used to be a non- practicing Catholic for decades. I had been struggling with my faith like a lost sheep until one day in 2012 when God blessed me with my miracle! It was at St James that my conversion took place. I have stayed as a parishioner since then. I can feel God’s presence as He surrounds me with a community of people who I know will be there to keep me strong no matter what trials and tribulations I go through! My faith is now more solid than before. By allowing God to navigate my life, I know that He will do what’s best for me! God sends people from unexpected places into our lives to be His audible voice to give us directions. I felt God’s calling, and He led me to serve in different ministries. I am so glad I said YES to His invitation.

I started as a Lector and then joined the music ministry. I volunteered as a CCD teacher in September 2021 ... a challenging but very rewarding experience. It has made my Saturdays happy adventures which I look forward to. I am so blessed to be given the opportunity to help evangelize our future generation. I just recently became a member of Legion of Mary, believing that my closeness to Mary will help me to share Mary’s love with the children’s faith formation.

God has given me the gift of creativity. I am amazed at how God inspires me to materialize my ideas into works of art when helping with Crab-feed table centerpieces, stage backdrops or making my CCD

classes more interactive for the kids. Being a humbled servant to these ministries is like going to my own personal spiritual pilgrimage, it takes me to places that only one’s heart gets to visit!

She says, “Saint James may not be perfect - but I will choose to stay here to experience and offer what I can to help it grow! The endless opportunities we are offered here to be able to serve God, the various possibilities to reach out to others, and the strong friendships and relationships that exist among the parishioners are the best treasures we can expect from God whose children we are. For these reasons, choose to keep Saint James in my heart!”

I smiled when Ellen said, “St. James may not be perfect.” I remembered what the famous Evangelist, Billy Graham said, “If you find a perfect church, please join it; and it will not be perfect again.” There is no perfect church in the world. The only qualification to be a member of a Catholic church is that you are a sinner. The church is a community of sinners struggling to reach perfection keeping to what Jesus said, “Be perfect like my Heavenly Father is perfect.” If you can make St. James your spiritual house where you can grow spiritually and come closer to God, you are in the right place. Thank you, Ellen Zaragoza for finding St. James your spiritual abode and may you continue to grow in your faith daily. I would like you to share your rich experiences at St. James with your friends, neighbors, and relatives and invite them to have similar experiences. I am sure there may be some in your family or in your extended families who have lost their faith in Jesus and the Church. Talk to them about your experiences and they may think of going back to Church; you never know. Allow Jesus to use you to bring the good news to those lost children. Have you ever brought any new members to St. James? Make this your purpose!

On behalf of St. James, please accept my love and gratitude and let us work together to make St. James a powerhouse of blessings to everyone who comes here.

Fr. Antony

# October 2025

Allow me to present to you, Ian, the Parishioner of the month of October 2025. A man of few words, his contributions to the parish in different capacities cannot go unnoticed and unrecognized. He has always remained an active member of the Knights of Columbus, and I was present when he was elected as the Oakland Chapter President on June 18, 2020. I was happily surprised when he won the election against a strong candidate. As I said, a man of few words, he is more seen than heard. He was actively involved in a Ministry called, "Singles for Christ," under the umbrella of Couples for Christ, a worldwide Catholic Organization which originated in the Philippines. For many years "Singles for Christ" were very involved in our parish taking a leading role in the Youth Ministry of the parish. Ian's leadership played a great role in the running of it.



## Parishioner of the Month



With much love and appreciation, I must recognize his role in the children's choir as well as at 8.30 Mass where he accompanies the singing with the base guitar. He works hand in hand with Quyn-Vee, the Music Director. I appreciate his commitment because seldom he is absent from 8.30 and 10.00 Masses. I am also grateful to him for his willingness to serve as the night watch whenever Mother Teresa Center is rented for different functions. He has done this for several years with total dedication and love.

I normally ask the ones I choose as the parishioners of the month a few questions.

**1. When did you join St. James? Describe circumstances of your coming here.** I joined St James in 2017. This is what happened. I was given the responsibility as the District Deputy the Knights of Columbus and I had to choose between two Councils of St. Annes, Union City or St. James, Fremont. I happily chose St. James for the simple reason that I found St. James a welcoming community and I felt at home with the Knights and the parishioners. I must make a special mention of Bro. Marcial Vasco who was very personal and kept encouraging me to make the transfer to St. James Council. The more time I spent at St James, the more I felt that I was surrounded by a warm community of committed people who made me feel at home. And the more I served here, the more I felt St. James like my home away from home. It was an experience of home coming.

**2. How was your faith journey? How did the community help you?** Before I joined St. James, I was a mediocre Catholic and was not seriously committed to serve in any ministries. I would not normally miss my Sunday attendance of Mass and that was all. But after coming to St James, I came to truly understand what it meant to be part of a church. The feeling of being surrounded by a community made a huge impact on my spiritual life and I grew in my faith. It awakened in me a new zeal and zest for the practice of my Catholic Religion. As part of St. James, it really enkindled in me the fire of passion I never experienced before for the Church. There was a paradigm shift in my attitude as there emerged a new change in my view from "when I can serve" to asking "how can I serve." This change in my outlook opened

opportunities that I would never anticipate, such as teaching the CCD children and playing guitar for two choirs. I feel that as much as I serve the church, it has given me so much more in return.

**3. How did your involvement in the youth ministry help the young people?** I brought to the youth ministry a unique mixture of skills and experiences which helped me to initiate a different perspective. Having been a member and leader of CFC-Youth in Illinois, I knew what it was like to be a member in a religious youth group and what has and hasn't really worked. In conjunction with the leadership position I held in the youth group, my leadership experience and skills from my time in Junior Reserve Officer Training Corp in high school, Alpha Phi Omega (a service fraternity) further enhanced and equipped me to serve the youth. My experience with the young people in the college as well as my ongoing experiences with the Knights of Columbus provided me with opportunities to deepen my leadership qualities. My religious studies at college gave me experience relevant to supporting youth development in both faith-based and leadership contexts. Though we are still at the beginning stage with youth ministry, I feel that we are going in the right direction, and we can build a stronger youth ministry at St. James.

**4. As a Faith formation teacher what were your experiences?** As a faith Formation teacher, I try to bring a different style of Socratic method in teaching and try to engage my students in various discussions and make them active participants in their learning experience, something they can take beyond my class and continue to do on their own. With my experience in religious training, I get my students involved in enriching discussions and they become increasingly curious to know more about their faith and religion. As I found that desire to learn more about our religion when I was young, I hope to pass on that inspiration to my students. I will be honest, it is a bit difficult because young people aren't like they used to be in the past, but I believe it is a good change of pace for them not to just absorb and regurgitate information but be part of the conversation. I understand I only have a short time with them, but I hope to be a spark and a good segway into the Confirmation class, and I am confident that I can better mold my class.

**5. How do you see your parish as a spiritual family?** The St James community has changed my definition of what it means to be part of a church. The welcoming spirit and sincere inclusion to this family is something that makes St. James significantly different. The camaraderie that I feel here at St James makes me feel like being home with my family back in Illinois. The prayers and well wishes I got when I was recovering from injury and surgery were truly uplifting. My mom and my cousins back home always asked me why I didn't just move back to Illinois. But when my mom came to visit me before my surgery and attended Mass on Holy Thursday, she understood through her interactions with the parishioners that I was in good hands and that she had nothing to fear. She knew for sure why I had not moved back to Chicago. She could feel the true love and care her son received here at St. James. Being part of the St James community is something that would be hard to replicate or may be impossible to duplicate. Indeed, St. James an amazing community!

Three cheers to Ronald Christian Ytem (Ian)! May you continue to be an inspiration to the young and the young once.

➤ Father Antony ➤

# November 2025

Kate Dolorito is a young woman who goes around quietly doing a lot of things especially for the young people. She is known for her generosity and kindness in helping others. She is always available when it comes to helping others. I was particularly impressed when I saw her helping Venus Malvas and her family during the vigil service for their young son who had died in an accident. She was actively involved



## Parishioner of the Month



with the ministry for “Singles for Christ”. I am particularly grateful to her for taking care of the running of the CCD classes on almost every Saturday. She gets the classrooms ready on Friday evening making sure that everything is in the right place. She is one of the biggest helpers of Sue Parish at MTC and very often she takes care of the premises as Night Security when the center is rented out to people. She is very generous with her time and talents, and she does not hesitate to help where help is needed. I am happy she is there to help Pam Navarro in the gift shop.

This is what Barbara Scapelitte has to say about her, “Kate is a parishioner who many people think of first whenever help is needed both personally and for countless projects around the church. She always assists with enthusiasm and energy. Kate considers St. James parishioners members of both her “spiritual family” and her extended family.” Let us now see what Kate has to answer to the following questions:

**1. When did you join the St. James Parish? Can you describe the circumstances that brought you here?**

I joined St. James Parish in 2007. My family recently moved closer to the Decoto Road area, and we were looking for a church nearby. A friend who lives near the area recommended St. James. That friend even showed us where St. James was. When we visited, St. James was closed. The following Sunday, my family and I attended Mass at St. James. We had a wonderful time. Because of that, we decided to make St. James our home parish.

**2. What are your best experiences in the parish?** I have many great experiences in the parish. From altar serving each Mass to being a cashier in the gift shop, each experience is great in its own way. The best experience I had in the parish was the retreats. Back in 2016, Kirk and I planned the Confirmation retreat for that year's class. It was held in the Dominican Sisters of Mission San Jose. The blessings and graces everyone received that day were amazing. It gave me the extra boost to finish my college studies strongly.

**3. How has the parish helped you in your faith journey?** St. James helped me in my faith journey so much. One way St. James helped me is when the entire community prayed for me as I was studying for my bachelor's degree at UCLA. I was away from home and felt homesick. Receiving messages from my elders in St. James that they were praying for me kept me strong. I remembered them by attending Mass at UCLA Newman Center. That way, I still felt connected with them. I never lost my way thanks to that connection with St. James.

**4. How would you rate your working with the CCD children?** From the scale of 1 to 10, I will rate my work with CCD children by giving it a 10. Being with children keeps me young! Their laughter and energy are contagious! At the same time, I am always learning new things with them. They are teaching me about the new trends while I teach and share with them about my faith. Working with CCD children is an amazing experience!

**5. From your observations, what make St. James an amazing parish?** St. James is an amazing parish because of the people. Each parishioner takes care of each other. Each person supports one another. You can strongly feel love and the sense of community. I do not think I will be able to finish my degree at UCLA if I did not have the support of St. James. The prayers and check-ins kept me grounded and focused on my studies and faith. St. James makes you feel welcome.

**6. Would you recommend St. James to others and why?** I recommended and continue to recommend St. James to others because you can feel the sense of family and community in this parish. Each parishioner in St. James makes sure everyone is taken care of. Everyone checks in with each other at every event. Everyone has a home in St. James as our parish is always open for everyone.

I can never write enough about the importance of feeling a great sense of belonging to your parish. It is this feeling that makes you committed and take responsibility in the running of the parish. I can see clearly that Kate has great love for the parish because she considers St. James her responsibility and takes the ownership. Thank you, Kate, for all that you do for us. May you continue to share your spirit of love and commitment with the young and old. The future of our parish lies in the hands of people like you. I am truly proud that you have found a strong spiritual home in St. James!

☞ Father Antony ➔

## December 2025

Herminia Legaspi is always there to lead the Holy Rosary after the Holy Mass every day. If faithfulness is much more pleasing to God than being successful, in her we have the best example. This is what Mother Teresa of Calcutta would always say, "You are not called to be successful, but you are called to be faithful." Being faithful to small things is truly pleasing to God as proved by St. Teresa of Child Jesus. She is a saint of little things. I would like to honor Herminia by making her the parishioner of the month of December 2025. I have always admired her commitment and dedication to St. James. Whenever she can do something to help her parish she would never hesitate and her "Yes" comes with a bright smile. She gives whenever she can with a great sense of love and gratitude and not with a grudge. She is also there to lead the Rosaries on Fridays and



Wednesdays during the Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. She diligently takes care of the Holy water fonts in the church making sure that the water in the big container at the back of the church is blessed and fonts are kept clean. It is a small thing, but she does it with such love and attention. Doing everything with right attitude and love will make your work meritorious and praiseworthy in front of God. "Love what you do and do what you love" is the best policy. This is what I love in Herminia. Again, to quote Mother Teresa, "You are not called to do great things, but small things with great love." How wonderful our life will be if we were to practice this every day!

What are the circumstances that brought you to St. James?

*Summer 2013 was the time I heard Fr. Antony speak at a Memorial Service. His message was so captivating that I told myself I needed to attend Mass at St. James. His homilies always taught me something. He made me search for my soul deeper. He always says to be humble and honest enough to dig deeper. One day he approached me after Mass and invited me and my husband to join the Holy Lady pilgrimage in January 2014. A pilgrimage to the Holy Land was never on my horizon but we accepted the invitation and boy, it was life changing. We were so thankful to Fr. Antony and Fr. Biju. We made so many friends with the other pilgrims, people we never met before. During the pilgrimage, the daily Masses were fulfilling. It was so hard to believe to have Mass at the church of the Nativity in Bethlehem in the manger where Jesus was born. And, we had Holy Mass at the church of Holy Sepulcher where Jesus was crucified and buried. Having Mass at the shrine that was enclosed the tomb was so emotional and no one could keep from crying. Places that I had read in the Bible came to life during that pilgrimage. How can one not love Jesus more after a pilgrimage in the Holy Land? This was our own fifth gospel. We experienced places where Jesus lived out His ministry. Upon returning home, the desire to spend more time with Jesus was immense. Daily Mass and Eucharistic Adoration became more important to me. If you love someone you want to be with them as often as possible. That's what Mass means to me, to be with Jesus.*

What according to you makes St. James very special?

*There are three positive qualities that I find at St. James that feed my spiritual needs. I love that the daily Mass is at 8.30 am. Since I work in the evening,*

*8.30 is not too early for me to wake up and attend Mass. Eucharistic Adoration is conducted on Wednesdays and Fridays after the Mass and I always look forward to them. Thirdly, St. James online giving make it easy to remember Sunday offerings before going to the Sunday Mass.*

What gospel verse you love most and why?

*The gospel verse I love the most is Luke 17:11-19 where Jesus healed ten lepers and only one came back to Jesus to thank Him. It highlights themes of faith, gratitude, and spiritual wholeness. It motivates me to have an attitude of gratitude and to focus on Jesus with my actions and to always show gratitude. Little things I do for St. James I do for Jesus Before the pandemic I gifted St. James with 400 kneelers for Easter. It is really a joy to see my fellow parishioners use cushion pads. I believe by kneeling we show the Lord more reverence. Once a week I take care of the Holy water in the fonts.*

Will you recommend St. James to others?

*What makes St. James so unique and amazing is because the parish is run by volunteers. Father always talks about having a sense of pride in being a parishioner at St. James. The parish belongs to us. We must in turn do what we can to make St. James the best place of worship. I would love to recommend St. James to others wholeheartedly. Come with an attitude of open mind, open heart and you will find the doors open to you.*

Thank you, Herminia, for all that you do here with which love and dedication. May God bless and your family a hundredfold! Please continue to be a beacon of light and inspiration to St. James parishioners. Father Antony