

THE SAINT JAMES EXPERIENCE



April 12, 2026 | Sunday of Divine Mercy

** Parish founded in 1822 * Designated Cathedral in 1853 * Elevated to Minor Papal Basilica in 1982*



The CATHEDRAL BASILICA of SAINT JAMES

MASS TIMES

Monday - Friday: 12:00 Noon
Weekday Solemnity: 11:00 AM
Saturday : Closed
Sunday : 11:00 AM

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Friday: 11:00 AM
(Temporarily paused due to construction)

CONFESSION

Friday: Immediately after the Noon Mass

WATCH THE LIVE MASS ON TV

Monday - Friday: 12:00 Noon
Verizon FiOS: channel 48 | Spectrum: channel 97
Optimum: channel 30

LIVE-STREAMED ON THE INTERNET

<https://netny.tv>

OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday: 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM
(Closed on Holidays & For Special Events)



FROM THE RECTOR AT SAINT JAMES CATHEDRAL BASILICA

To the faithful parishioners of St. James Cathedral,

Mystagogia, or mystagogy, is a term rooted in ancient Greek, translated as “leading through the mysteries” or “initiating into the mysteries”. Within the Catholic tradition, particularly the Church’s Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA), it represents the final stage of initiation of the newly baptized, taking place after the Easter Vigil. While it has a distinct structural phase lasting throughout the Fifty Days of the Easter season, the term also encompasses a profound spiritual concept: the lifelong process of unfolding, deepening, and living out the sacred mysteries of faith.

The term stems from *mystagogos*, a person who initiates others into mysteries. Historically, this was used in pagan cults to introduce new members to sacred rituals. The early Christian church adopted the term, giving it a theological meaning. The Greek Fathers of the Church, such as St. Cyril of Jerusalem, used it to mean both the “performance of a sacred action” (the sacraments) and the “oral or written explanation” of the mysteries of the liturgy and scriptures. It is the period where “neophytes”—the newly baptized—begin “savoring the mysteries” of the Christian life, moving from the initial intellectual conversion into a deeper experience of the sacramental life of the church.

In the contemporary Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA), mystagogia represents the fourth stage, beginning with the newly baptized (neophytes) at Easter and ending at Pentecost. It is important to note that this is not a return to the pre-baptismal stage of the catechumenate (formal, doctrinal education). Instead, it is a period of reflection on the lived experience of initiation.

During this time, the new Christians are brought to the table to eat and drink the full presence of Christ in a way they have not yet encountered. It is a time for them to ask questions like “Wow, I didn’t know this!” about the faith and to reflect on their new life as Catholics. The focus is on integrating the neophytes into the full life of the parish community, encouraging them to move from being passive observers to active participants in the liturgy and its social mission.

One defining aspect of mystagogia is the shift from just learning about God to experiencing God’s presence. It is a “loving interrogation” of the sacraments and the scriptures, which invites participants to ask, “What in my life does this liturgical moment remind me of?”. It acts as a “sonar” that plumbs the depths of the mysteries to see how profound they are. This process involves looking at:

1. **Liturgical symbols** (water, oil, light, bread, wine).
2. **Scripture stories** that connect to these symbols.
3. **Nature and culture**—how these symbols exist outside the church.

By doing this, the newly baptized learn to see with the heart and recognize the presence of Christ walking with them in their daily lives.

While mystagogia is often specifically associated with new Christians, the church recognizes that this period of reflection is actually for the entire congregation. Pope Benedict XVI emphasized this by stating, “The mature fruit of mystagogia is an awareness that one’s life is being progressively transformed by the holy mysteries being celebrated”. Therefore, mystagogia is not a phase that “ends” at Pentecost; it is a permanent aspect of the Catholic way of life, an “existential stance” of continually entering deeper into the mystery of Christ’s death and resurrection. The Sunday assembly is invited to renew their own baptismal promises at the Easter Vigil, which acts as a starting point to continue their own mystagogical journey.

Mystagogia is more than a stage in a OCIA program; it is the essential, ongoing “unfolding” of the mysteries of faith that takes place through liturgy, scripture, and personal reflection. By guiding the newly initiated (and, in fact, all believers) into a deeper appreciation of the sacraments, mystagogia transforms a Catholic life from a series of routine obligations into an intentional, intimate encounter with God’s loving presence. It is an enduring journey of being “led into” the mystery of Christ, a process that continues for the rest of a believer’s life.

~Fr. Joseph R. Gibino



Cathedral Basilica of St. James PARISH STAFF

Bishop

Most Reverend Robert J. Brennan, D. D.

Rector

Very Rev. Joseph R. Gibino, STM, Ph.D.

Pastoral Administrator

Deacon Ronald Rizzuto

Business Manager

Alfie Santos

Secretary

Mrs. Isabel Navarro

Secretary & Book Keeper

Mrs. Rosa Paulsen-Williams

Music Director

Nick Martellacci

Creative Director & Sacristan

Mrs. Beeyean Santos

VOCATION OFFICE

HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT ABOUT BECOMING A
PRIEST OR A RELIGIOUS SISTER OR BROTHER?



If you think that God may be calling you to be a priest, religious sister, or brother, please call or email me. I would love to hear from you! Fr. Chris Bethge



For more information please call the Vocation Office
Ph: 718-827-2454 Email: vocations@diobrook.org



FB: Vocations Brooklyn Diocese



Instagram: brooklynpriests

Email: vocations@diobrook.org
www.brooklynpriests.org

DIOCESE OF BROOKLYN

SERVING BROOKLYN AND QUEENS

VOCATION OFFICE



"For I know well the plans I have
in mind for you, plans for your
welfare and not for woe, plans to
give you a future full of hope."

Jeremiah 29:11

7200 Douglaston Parkway
Douglaston, NY 11362

Vocation Office: 718-827-2454

Rev. Christopher J. Bethge
Vocation Director

READINGS OF THE WEEK

APR 12 - APR 19

SUNDAY

April 12

Sunday of Divine Mercy

Acts 2:42-47
1 Peter 1:3-9
John 20:19-31

MONDAY

April 13

Second Week of Easter

Acts 4:23-31
John 3:1-8

TUESDAY

April 14

Second Week of Easter

Acts 4:32-37
John 3:7b-15

WEDNESDAY

April 15

Second Week of Easter

Acts 5:17-26
John 3:16-21

THURSDAY

April 16

Second Week of Easter

Acts 5:27-33
John 3:31-36

FRIDAY

April 17

Second Week of Easter

Acts 5:34-42
John 6:1-15

SATURDAY

April 18

Second Week of Easter

Acts 6:1-7
John 6:16-21

SUNDAY

April 19

Third Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:14, 22-33
1 Peter 1:17-21
Luke 24:13-35

TODAY'S RESPONSORIAL PSALM: 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24



Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, his love is ev__er - last - ing.

2nd Sunday of Easter - A - Gloria

Open: 602 - Christ the Lord is risen today
Offertory: 579 - O sons and daughters vv 5, 6, 7
Communion: 925 - Take the bread, children
Recession: 582 - I know that my redeemer lives
Erbarm Dich Mein by JS Bach

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER
SUNDAY OF DIVINE MERCY
APRIL 12, 2026

Uplift your Priest week starts April 12th

Through the gift of the Holy Spirit, we are sent to share the peace of Christ. Is God inviting you to live the gift and mystery of being sent as priest, sister or brother to proclaim the truth of Jesus Christ? Contact the Vocation Office, Fr. Christopher J. Bethge, at (718) 827-2454 or email, vocations@diobrook.org



Roman Catholic Diocese of Brooklyn

Pro Vita Mass

Sponsored by the Long Island Chapter Knights of Columbus

Join the Knights of Columbus of Kings and Queens Counties as we celebrate the gift of life and pray for a respect for life at all stages.

PRESENTING

THE FATHER MICHAEL J. MCGIVNEY MEDAL FOR LIFE
 VERY REVEREND PATRICK J. KEATING, ESQ.

THE BISHOP THOMAS VOSE DAILY PRO VITA AWARDS
 DEACON JAMES J. GIORGIO (KINGS COUNTY)
 SIR KNIGHT BORIS MUSICH (QUEENS COUNTY)

Sunday, April 26, 2026, 11:00am Mass
St. Joseph Co-Cathedral, Brooklyn



S.K. Fr. Michael L. Gelfant, PGK, New York State Chaplain
 S.K. Paul Eggert, Chairman, Long Island Chapter
 S.K. Louis Pepe, PGK, FDD, PFN, NYS Religious Activities Director
 For More Information: 718.634.6357

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Liturgy, Music, Art, and Architecture
 Commissions Diocese of Brooklyn

DIOCESAN LITURGICAL MINISTERS TRAINING WORKSHOPS 2026

MAY 30

ST. EDMUND PREP HS

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion,
 Lectors, and Ministers of Hospitality, and
 Altar Server Moderators
 9 AM - 3:30 PM

Scan QR Code
 for registration or go to:
<https://bqfaith.org/>



FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT :
 7200 Douglaston Parkway, Douglaston, NY 11362
 Tel: 718-281-9612 · E-mail: liturgy@diobrook.org

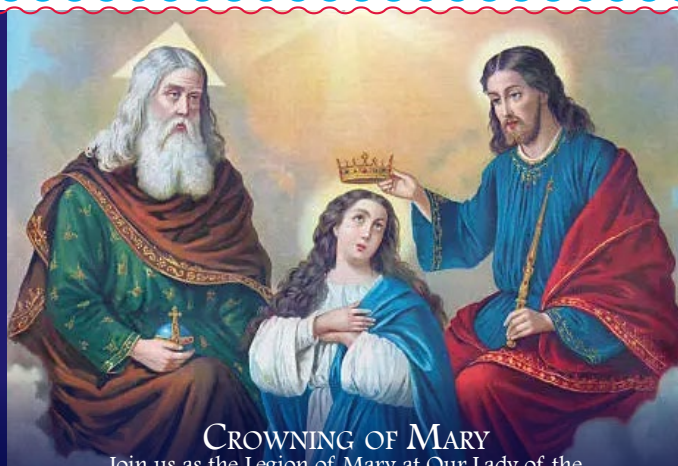
COFFEE HOUR RESUMED

Sunday of April 12, 2026

Good news!

Coffee Hour is back today.

Thank you for your continued support. We look forward to spending this joyful time of fellowship with you!



CROWNING OF MARY

Join us as the Legion of Mary at Our Lady of the Presentation Roman Catholic Church celebrates its 54th annual Crowning of Mary during the 9 am English Mass. Light refreshments will be served.

May 3, 2026: 9:00am - 12:00pm

Our Lady of the Presentation Roman Catholic Church
 11677 Saint Marks Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11233

MASS INTENTIONS

SUNDAY 4/12/2026	Norberto Brandy Cruz
MONDAY 4/13/2026	Albert Munday
TUESDAY 4/14/2026	Guiseppe and Maria D'Amato
WEDNESDAY 4/15/2026	Carmen and Carlos Rivera
THURSDAY 4/16/2026	Maria Figueroa
FRIDAY 4/17/2026	Rita Corozzo

LECTORS

4/12/2026	Lindia White Elina Cruz
4/19/2026	Lela Medoo Candida Perez

COFFEE HOURS

Coffee Hour Potluck style
Bring a dish & share a smile

SUPPORT

ST. JAMES CATHEDRAL BASILICA
ONLINE

Thank you for your
 support and generosity!



SCAN THE
QR CODE



ONLINE GIVING

PROJECT ANDREW

THE SHRINE CHURCH OF ST. BERNADETTE
8201 13TH AVENUE, DYKER HEIGHTS



SPECIAL GUEST
BISHOP JAMES MASSA



Fr. Chris Bethge
Vocation Director

SUNDAY, APRIL | 19th | 2026

11:15 am Mass | 12:15 pm Lunch and Conversation

An opportunity for young men to learn more about the priesthood.

vocationsediobrook.org

[brooklynpriests](https://www.instagram.com/brooklynpriests)

718-827-2454

[Vocations Brooklyn Diocese](https://www.facebook.com/VocationsBrooklynDiocese)

www.brooklynpriests.org

Visitation of NOTRE DAME DU CAP

Close out the month of
Mary with a morning
Marian devotion,
candlelight procession,
and mass.

*Bring your bible and
your rosary.*

Bring a flower to place
at the feet of our
Blessed Mother...



Saturday, May 30, 2026 | 10:00 AM

St. Therese Of Lisieux Church
4410 Avenue D, Brooklyn, NY 11203



What graces are available and how do we receive them?

In her Diary, St. Faustina records a special promise given to her by Jesus. He told her to communicate it to the whole world:

My daughter, tell the whole world about My inconceivable mercy. I desire that the Feast of Mercy be a refuge and shelter for all souls, and especially for poor sinners. I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon those souls who approach the fount of My mercy (699).

In three places in her Diary, St. Faustina records our Lord's promises of specific, extraordinary graces:

I want to grant a complete pardon to the souls that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion on the Feast of My mercy (1109).

Whoever approaches the Fountain of Life on this day will be granted complete forgiveness of sins and punishment (300).

The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion will obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment (699).

To receive these graces, the only condition is to receive **Holy Communion** worthily on **Divine Mercy Sunday** (or the Vigil celebration) by making a good **Confession** beforehand and being in the state of grace and trusting in His Divine Mercy.

By these conditions, our Lord is emphasizing the value of confession and Holy Communion as miracles of mercy. The Eucharist is Jesus, Himself, the Living God, longing to pour Himself as Mercy into our hearts.

In addition, our Lord says through St. Faustina that we are to perform acts of mercy:

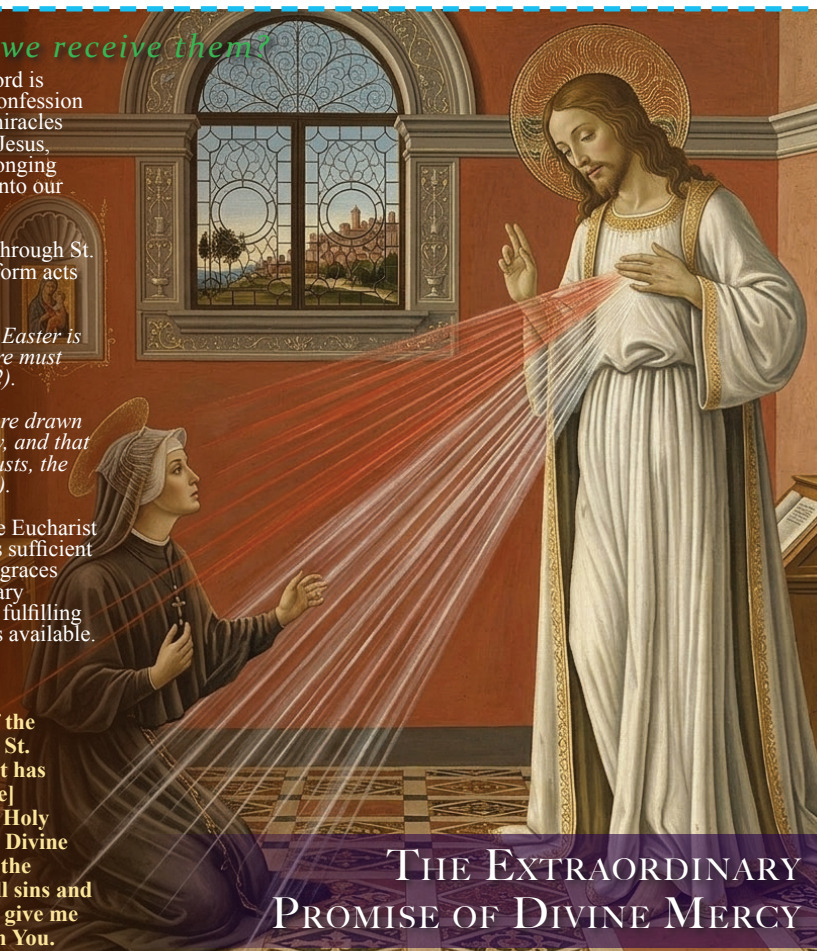
"Yes, the first Sunday after Easter is the Feast of Mercy, but there must also be acts of mercy" (742).

"The graces of My mercy are drawn by means of one vessel only, and that is trust. The more a soul trusts, the more it will receive" (1578).

The worthy reception of the Eucharist on Divine Mercy Sunday is sufficient to obtain the extraordinary graces promised by Jesus. A plenary indulgence^[1], obtained by fulfilling the usual conditions, also is available.

Reciting this prayer:

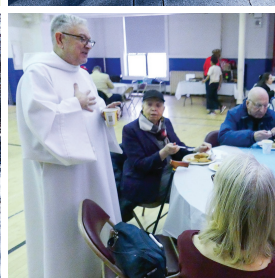
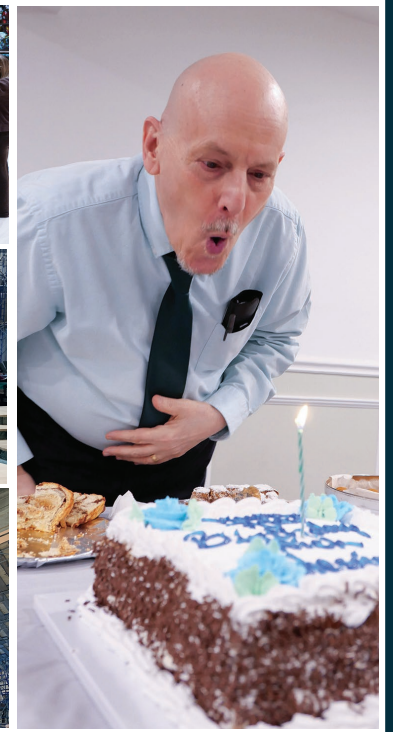
Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, You promised St. Faustina that the soul that has been to Confession [I have] and the soul that receives Holy Communion with trust in Divine Mercy [I am] will receive the complete forgiveness of all sins and punishment. Lord, please give me this grace. Jesus, I trust in You.



**THE EXTRAORDINARY
PROMISE OF DIVINE MERCY**

Holy Week Highlights 2026

THE CATHEDRAL BASILICA OF ST. JAMES



Holy Week Highlights 2026

THE CATHEDRAL BASILICA OF ST. JAMES



For inquiries or questions, please contact the rectory: 718-852-4002 or email the Secretary: secretary@brooklyncathedral.net