

THE SAINT JAMES EXPERIENCE



April 26, 2026 | Fourth Sunday of Easter

** 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,

For the past few weeks, a discussion of the benefits of peace over war has caused an international sensation. The question of war and peace as a political or moral issue has also become part of the debate. Should we pray for peace? Do we blindly support all wars? These are questions that have plagued civilization for 6000 years! Within Catholic theology and spirituality, prayer for peace is not merely a passive wish for the end to a conflict. Rather, it is a dynamic, transformative act that engages the believer in a profound spiritual battle, aiming for an inner transformation that extends outward to heal a broken world. The Catholic understanding of prayer for peace is deeply rooted in scripture, anchored by a desire for Shalom (the Hebrew concept of complete well-being and justice), and fundamentally focused on personal conversion.

The basic spiritual premise of Catholic prayer for peace is that peace must first be established within the human heart before it can exist in society. As highlighted in Catholic tradition, prayer begins by turning inward to meet God, the “Author of Peace”. In this quiet space, the faithful confront their own tendencies for anger, resentment, and violence, seeking God’s forgiveness and grace in order to achieve inner peace.

This understanding suggests that inner turmoil points the way toward peace, as the disciple of Jesus learns to rely on divine Providence rather than fear or anxiety. St. Augustine famously taught that peace is the “tranquility of order,” suggesting that when a person orders his/her life towards God through prayer, inner peace follows, allowing the Lord to lead to growth. Prayer for peace is viewed as a source of comfort and motivation to maintain a calm heart despite the unavoidable sufferings of life.

One of the most profound examples of the Catholic approach to peace is the “Peace Prayer of Saint Francis of Assisi”. It illustrates the understanding that prayer for peace is not solely a request for God to intervene, but a plea to be changed. The opening line, “Lord, make me an instrument of your peace,” implies that the believer is an active agent—a “peacemaker”—in the world.

The prayer emphasizes the intentional actions of sowing love, pardon, faith, and hope in response to hatred, injury, doubt, and darkness. It seeks a shift in perspective: seeking to console rather than be consoled, and to understand rather than be understood. This highlights a self-giving, rather than self-seeking, approach to peace-making, aligning with Jesus’ teaching that “blessed are the peacemakers”.

While prayer often brings calm, the Catholic tradition also understands it as a “battle” that requires effort and persistence. Prayer for peace against external violence is a “battle” against evil itself, which is seen as a menace that weighs down the modern world.

Pope John Paul II advocated for a “no to war,” proclaiming that “war is never inevitable, it is always a defeat for humankind”. The Church, therefore, often uses prayer, including the Rosary, fasting, and liturgical celebrations, to confront global violence. This perspective does not abandon the “Just War” theory (as outlined by St. Augustine and St. Thomas Aquinas) but places an absolute imperative on seeking alternatives to violence, and recognizes that the ultimate goal is not just the absence of war, but the establishment of justice.

The Catholic Church, as seen in the encyclical *Pacem in Terris* of Pope John XXIII, teaches that peace is built on four fundamental pillars: truth, justice, love, and freedom. Prayers for peace, therefore, are not meant to be escapist, but rather petitions for the strengthening of these virtues within humanity.

- * **Truth:** Building peace requires an honest recognition of God and the human person, acknowledging that peace cannot exist on a foundation of lies or ideological distortion.
- * **Justice:** Pope Paul VI famously stated, “If you want peace, work for justice”. Prayer for peace is therefore a catalyst for action, encouraging the faithful to combat poverty, inequity, and injustice, which are the root causes of conflict.
- * **Love:** Love of neighbor, including the enemy, is central to breaking the cycle of violence.
- * **Freedom:** Peace requires respect for the fundamental rights and dignity of every person.

The Catholic understanding of prayer for peace includes a profound reliance on the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, particularly under the title “Queen of Peace”. In times of war, such as during the 20th-century conflicts or contemporary crises in Ukraine, Catholics are encouraged to turn to Mary, as she is viewed as a powerful intercessor who can help “conquer the menace of evil”. Saints like St. Francis of Assisi and St. Padre Pio are also sought for their patronage in leading hearts toward peace and healing. The Catholic understanding of prayer for peace is an all-encompassing, life-altering commitment. It is the recognition that, because humanity is broken by sin, true and lasting peace is a gift of God, yet a gift that must be requested with a sincere, converted heart. By praying for peace, the Catholic acts as a “prophet of justice,” cultivating inner serenity to become a “disarming” presence in a world of war, ultimately working to “beat their swords into plowshares”

~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 26 - MAY 3

SUNDAY

April 26

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:14a, 36-41

1 Peter 2:20b-25

John 10:1-10

MONDAY

April 27

Fourth Week of Easter

Acts 11:1-18

John 10:11-18

TUESDAY

April 28

Fourth Week of Easter

Acts 11:19-26

John 10:22-30

WEDNESDAY

April 29

Saint Catherine of Siena

Acts 12:24-13:5a

John 12:44-50

THURSDAY

April 30

Fourth Week of Easter

Acts 13:13-25

John 13:16-20

FRIDAY

May 1

Fourth Week of Easter

Acts 13:26-33

John 14:1-6

SATURDAY

May 2

Saint Athanasius

Acts 13:44-52

John 14:7-14

SUNDAY

May 3

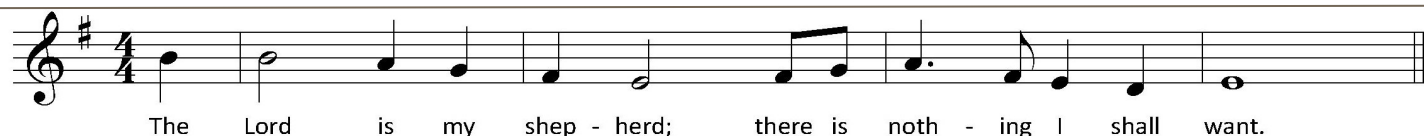
Fifth Sunday of Easter

Acts 6:1-7

1 Peter 2:4-9

John 14:1-12

TODAY'S RESPONSORIAL PSALM: 23: 1-3a, 3b4, 5, 6



4th Sunday of Easter A - Gloria

Open: 849 - All people that on earth do dwell

Offertory: 766 - The King of Love my shepherd is

Communion: 910 - Take and eat

Recession: 595 - Sing with all the saints in glory

Postlude: Postlude in D - Healey Willan 1880-1968

Erbarm Dich Mein by JS Bach

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

APRIL 26, 2026

World Day of Prayer for Vocations

On this Good Shepherd Sunday, we celebrate the World Day of Prayer for Vocations. Pray for an increase in vocations to the priesthood, diaconate, and consecrated life, especially for our diocese, that God will raise up good shepherds in our midst. If you think God is calling you to serve the Church as a priest or in the consecrated life, contact the Vocation Office, Fr. Christopher J. Bethge, at (718) 827-2454 or email: vocations@diobrook.org



Man Upstairs for May 1

'Tis the Month of Our Mother

As the younger brother of a former May Queen, I know in my bones that May is the month of Mary. The only thing that ever came close to the number of flash bulbs going off in my South Philadelphia Italian Catholic church when the May Queen crowned the statue of the Blessed Mother that had been set in place at the end of the annual May Procession was the number of flash bulbs going off when Pope Paul VI was carried into what turned out to be his final public audience back in 1978. (The Abbot General's office obtained a ticket for me. No one knew at the time that would be his last appearance. And, no, my being present at the event was coincidental, not causative in regard to the late pope's passing!) Interesting fact - the Audience Hall was later named after Paul VII!

To mark the month of May this year, I'll be asking our Sunday cantor(s) to sing a setting of the Ave Maria as the Communion meditation each week. Yes, you'll be hearing the Schubert setting. In addition, you'll hear settings written before (Arcadelt and Bach/Gounod) and after (Franck and Vavilov) Herr Schubert came along.

I hope you enjoy the various musical versions of Gabriel's Annunciation greeting.

NICK MARTELLACCI
MUSIC DIRECTOR

MASS INTENTIONS

SUNDAY 4/26/2026	People of St. James Parish
MONDAY 4/27/2026	Joseph R. Lyons
TUESDAY 4/28/2026	Shouriah Karnati
WEDNESDAY 4/29/2026	Anne Karnati
THURSDAY 4/30/2026	Joseph R. Lyons
FRIDAY 5/01/2026	Matthew Kinnane Sr.

LECTORS	COFFEE HOURS
4/26/2026 Beatrice DiCostanzo Mireyda Reyes	Coffee Hour Potluck style Bring a dish & share a smile
5/03/2026 Diane Wilson Elina Cruz	Coffee Hour Potluck style Bring a dish & share a smile

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

SPECIAL THANK YOU

With sincere appreciation, St. James thanks all who so generously supported our Easter flower collection, enhancing the beauty and warmth of our cherished Cathedral. Your generosity is a beautiful expression of the faith, unity, and love that define our parish community.

Special thanks to:

MS. ELENA ANDERSON	LINDIA WHITE
JACQUES BIEN-AIME	VALERIE LATIMER
JOSEPH & KAREN COROZZO	IMELDA KARNATI
BEATRICE DiCOSTANZO	ALFIE & BEEYEAN SANTOS
CAMILLE FERDINAND	GARTH & ROSA WILLIAMS
ALICE FLATEAU	HALCYONE BULLEN-THOMAS
FAMILY ISOM	ISABEL NAVARRO
ALTHEA FORD JOBO	MARY PRADT
ANNA KING	DOROTHY OLESAK

NO COFFEE HOUR

Mother's Day, May 10, 2026

Please note that there will be no Coffee Hour on **Mother's Day, May 10, 2026**. We encourage everyone to spend this special day honoring and being present with their mothers, grandmothers, and families. On this day, the Church invites us to reflect with gratitude on the gift of motherhood. Let us keep all mothers, living and deceased, in our prayers, asking the Lord to bless them abundantly for the love they have given so generously.

SUPPORT ST. JAMES CATHEDRAL BASILICA ONLINE

Thank you for your
support and generosity!



SCAN THE QR CODE



ONLINE GIVING



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

St. Gregory's

Street Festival & BBQ

St John's Place
Bet Brooklyn and New York Avenues
Brooklyn NY 11213
Sat - June 13, 2026
10:00 am - 6:00pm
****VENDORS WELCOME****
(Application and Restrictions Apply)
For more information call
Lorna Gilkes - 718-954-6926
or
Email
Stgregbbqfest@gmail.com

Vendor Registration QR Code



Transportation Info:
B43 & B44 to St John's Pl.
B45 to Brooklyn Ave.
#3 Train to Kingston Ave.
Walk 2 Blocks to St. John's Pl. and 1 Block to Brooklyn Ave




Jeremiah Project

2025 - 2026 Retreats

October 31st - November 2nd

January 16th - 18th

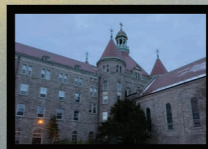
February 13th - 15th

May 1st - 3rd

July 24th - 26th (Huntington)

"And to young people, I say: Do Not Be Afraid! Accept the invitation of the Church and of Christ the Lord!"

-Pope Leo XIV



Open to Young Men High School - College
RSVP VOCATION OFFICE: cdost@diobrook.org

SAINT JOSEPH'S SEMINARY AND COLLEGE
201 SEMINARY AVENUE, YONKERS, NY

718-827-2454 | cdost@diobrook.org | Arrive Friday at 5 p.m. Depart Sunday at 1 p.m.

SOCIETY OF SAINT MARY OF THE SNOW

410 GRAHAM AVENUE BROOKLYN, NY 11211

Community Market



**Handmade crafts,
vintage finds &
delicious foods!**

Part Craft Fair, Part Old-School Flea Market
Sunday, June 14, 2026
11:00 AM - 5:00 PM



SCAN FOR MORE INFO!

YOUR DAILY CAMINO

26th APRIL- SUNDAY

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it in abundance."

~John 10: 10

27th APRIL- MONDAY

Negligence in prayer withers the inner man. Nothing can be a substitute for it, not even Christian work. Many are so preoccupied with work that they allow little time for prayer. Hence, they cannot cast out demons. Prayer enables us first inwardly to overcome the enemy and then outwardly to deal with him."

~Watchman Nee

28th APRIL- TUESDAY

"Enrich your soul in the great goodness of God: The Father is your table, the Son is your food, and the Holy Spirit waits on you and then makes His dwelling in you."

~Saint Catherine of Sienna

29th APRIL- WEDNESDAY

"These are fountains of salvation that they who thirst may be satisfied with the living words they contain. In these alone is proclaimed the doctrine of godliness. Let no man add to these, neither let him take out from these."

~Saint Athanasius

30th APRIL- THURSDAY

"Take advantage of little sufferings even more than of great ones. God considers not so much what we suffer as how we suffer. . . Turn everything to profit as the grocer does in his shop."

~Saint Louis De Montfort

1st MAY- FRIDAY

"Love and sacrifice are closely linked, like the sun and the light. We cannot love without suffering and we cannot suffer without love."

~Saint Gianna Molla

2nd MAY- SATURDAY

"Not only do I think being nice and kind is easy but being kind, in my opinion, is important."

~Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson



WEEKLY PRAYER (SAINTS OBVIOUS AND UNFAMILIAR)

PRAYER OF SAINT ZITA

O God, who didst grant to Saint George strength and constancy in the various torments which he sustained for our holy faith; we beseech Thee to preserve, through his intercession, our faith from wavering and doubt, so that we may serve Thee with a sincere heart faithfully unto death. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER TO SAINT JOSEPH THE WORKER

Joseph, by the work of your hands and the sweat of your brow, you supported Jesus and Mary, and had the Son of God as your fellow worker. Teach me to work as you did, with patience and perseverance, for God and for those whom God has given me to support. Teach me to see in my fellow workers the Christ who desires to be in them, that I may always be charitable and forbearing towards all. Amen.

PRAYER TO SAINT PIUS V

O God, who raised up Pope Saint Pius V to defend the faith and reform Your Church, grant that through his intercession, we may remain steadfast in our love for You and Your Holy Church. Help us to uphold the truths of our faith with courage and zeal, and to always seek Your glory. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SAINT CATHERINE OF SIENNA PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

Holy Spirit, come into my heart; draw it to Thee by Thy power, O my God, and grant me charity with filial fear. Preserve me, O beautiful love, from every evil thought; warm me, inflame me with Thy dear love, and every pain will seem light to me. My Father, my sweet Lord, help me in all my actions. Amen.

PRAYER OF ST. ATHANASIUS

Almighty ever-living God, who raised up the Bishop Saint Athanasius as an outstanding champion of your Son's divinity, mercifully grant, that, rejoicing in his teaching and his protection, we may never cease to grow in knowledge and love of you. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.





THE STORY OF SAINT CATHERINE OF SIENA

(Feast Day April 29th)

The value Saint Catherine of Siena makes central in her short life and which sounds clearly and consistently through her experience is complete surrender to Christ. What is most impressive about her is that she learns to view her surrender to her Lord as a goal to be reached through time.

She was the 23rd child of Jacopo and Lapa Benincasa and grew up as an intelligent, cheerful, and intensely religious person. Catherine disappointed her mother by cutting off her hair as a protest against being overly encouraged to improve her appearance in order to attract a husband. Her father ordered her to be left in peace, and she was given a room of her own for prayer and meditation.

Saint Catherine of Siena entered the Dominican Third Order at 18 and spent the next three years in seclusion, prayer, and austerity. Gradually, a group of followers gathered around her—men and women, priests and religious. An active public apostolate grew out of her contemplative life. Her letters, mostly for spiritual instruction and encouragement of her followers, began to take more and more note of public affairs.

Opposition and slander resulted from her mixing fearlessly with the world and speaking with the candor and authority of one completely committed to Christ. She was cleared of all charges at the Dominican General Chapter of 1374.

Her public influence reached great heights because of her evident holiness, her membership in the Dominican Third Order, and the deep impression she made on the pope. She worked tirelessly for the crusade against the Turks and for peace between Florence and the pope.

In 1378, the Great Schism began, splitting the allegiance of Christendom between two, then three, popes and putting even saints on opposing sides. Saint Catherine of Siena spent the last two years of her life in Rome, in prayer and pleading on behalf of the cause of Pope Urban VI and the unity of the Church. She offered herself as a victim for the Church in its agony. She died surrounded by her “children” and was canonized in 1461.

Saint Catherine of Siena ranks high among the mystics and spiritual writers of the Church. In 1939, she and Francis of Assisi were declared co-patrons of Italy. Pope Paul VI named her and Teresa of Avila doctors of the Church in 1970. Her spiritual testament is found in *The Dialogue*.

~Courtesy of franciscanmedia.org

INSPIRATION OF THE WEEK

Every Christian is a vine
awaiting the loving attention
of our gardener to prune and
perfect us, to remove
the parts of
ourselves that are dead
so that the fruitful parts
burst forth with life.
Trust the wisdom
of the gardener.
He alone can make us bloom.

BLESSING FOR SPRING

Dear Lord.

As this new season begins,
bring new life to our hearts as
well. Prune what has grown
despondent.
brush back that which darkens
and clouds. As the flowers bud
and bloom. bless us with new
wonder, new
hope, new promise, new joy.

Amen.

PRAYER OF FRUITFULNESS

God in Heaven,

Your grace surrounds us
every day as we seek
to live and move
and grow in You.
Prune the spaces in
our lives that distract us
from You! Plant Your word
more deeply within us!

Amen.