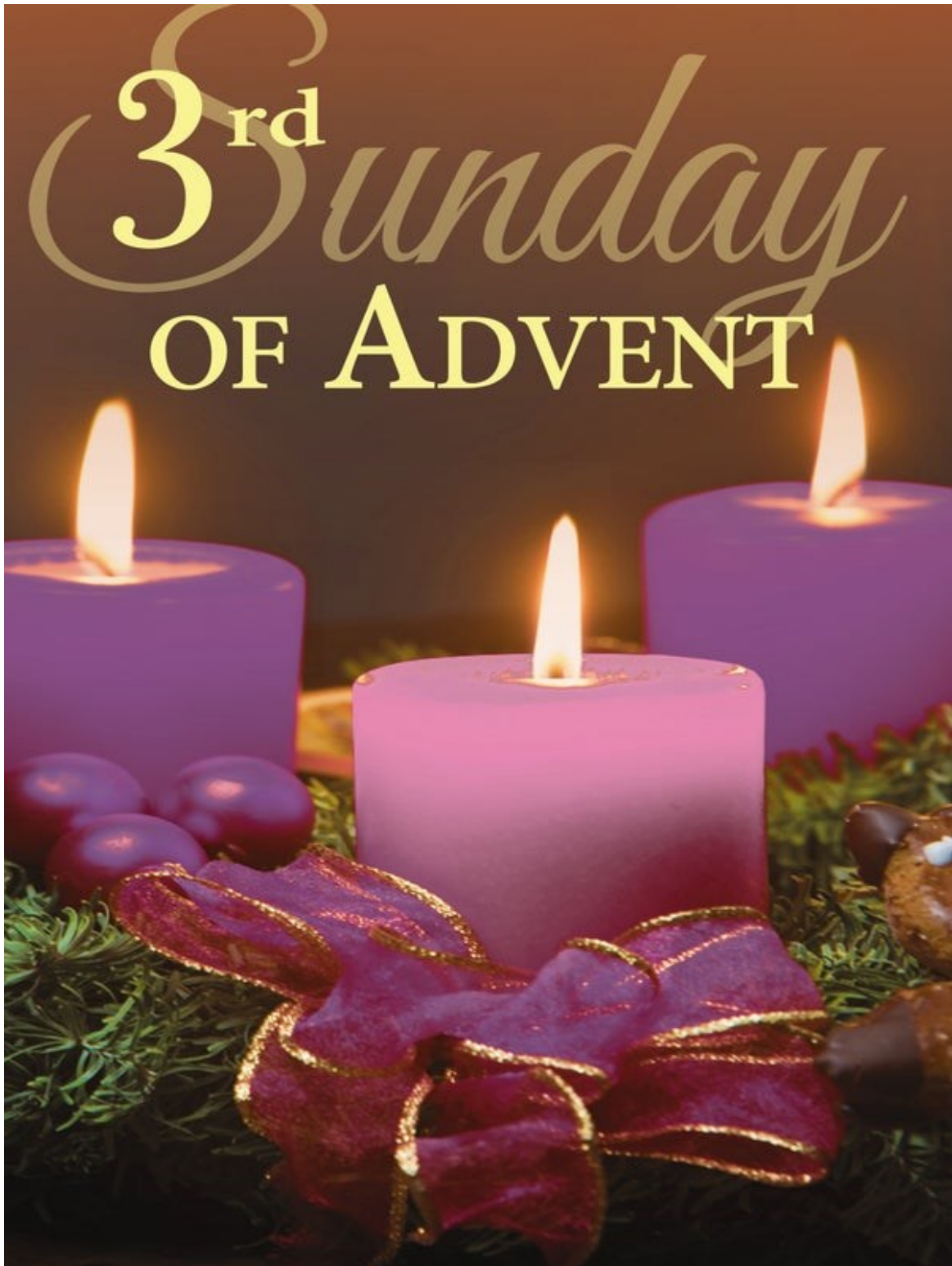




St. James the Apostle

Catholic Church | McDonough, Georgia



December 15, 2024 | Third Sunday of Advent
1000 Decatur Rd McDonough GA | 770-957-5441

Parish Office Hours

Monday—Thursday 9:00—4:00
parishoffice@stjamesapostle.com
<http://www.stjamesapostle.com>

Mass Schedule

Weekdays

Monday—Friday 8:30 am
Wednesday: 6:30 pm

Weekends

Saturday: 4:00 pm
Sunday: 8:30 am | 11:00 am | 5:00 pm

Confession Schedule

Wednesday 7:00—8:00 pm

Saturday 9:00—10:00 am

Or by appointment

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Wednesday 7:00—8:00 pm

First Fridays 9:00 am—8:00 pm

Mass Intentions | Week of December 15

Monday	8:30am Julie Gonzalez by Donna Waggoner
Tuesday	8:30am Claude Gaw by Donna Waggoner
Wednesday	8:30am Theresa Sanders+ by Emelia Gavel 6:30pm Francis, Malie & Rose Val Philippeaux+ by Faimi Moscova
Thursday	8:30am Francis, Malie & Rose Val Philippeaux+ by Faimi Moscova
Friday	8:30am Jean E. Marchant+ by Wally Marchant
Saturday	4:00pm John & Louise Glover+ by Don & Jeannie Allen
Sunday	8:30am The Higginbotham & Perkins Family+ by Drs. Frank Williams & Eve Higginbotham Williams 11:00am Rafael Diaz+ by Maria Solomone 5:00pm Our Parishioners



*The Parish Penance Service will be Tuesday,
December 17, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.*



**Come and pray the Rosary with your
parish community beginning at 8:00 a.m.
on Tuesdays through the end of the year.**

Calendar of Events

Monday

8:30 am | Mass
9:00—11:00 am | Divine
Mercy Prayer Group | Quad
10:00—12:00 | New
Beginnings | Parish Hall
7:00—8:00 pm | New
Beginnings | Double

Tuesday

8:30 am | Mass
7:00—9:00 pm | Penance
Service
7:00—9:00 | Boy Scouts |
Parish Hall & Pavilion

Wednesday

8:30 am | Mass
5:00—5:45 pm | Holy Inno-
cences Children's Choir
6—8:00 pm | High School
Pizza & Prayer | Room 212
6:30—8:00 pm | Mass, Ad-
oration, & Confessions |
Church
7:00—8:30 pm | Prayer
Group | Room 214
7:00—8:30 pm | Young
Adults | Parish Hall
7—8:00 | St. Vincent de
Paul Monthly Meeting
7:15—8:30 pm | St. James
Men's Fellowship | Room
210

Thursday

8:30 am | Mass
4:00—5:00 pm | St. Zita
Ministry | Church
4:00—6:00 pm | New Be-
ginnings | Parish Hall
6:00—7:00 pm | Sacred
Beat Band Rehearsal

Weekly Reflection

On a bright Spring morning, a passerby once saw St. Francis of Assisi hoeing a row of beans and asked him, “What would you be doing right now if you knew this was the last day of your earthly life?” The Saint responded, “I’d keep hoeing this row of beans.” Preparing for this world to end — whether by our death or by Jesus’ glorious coming — invites us to live not in the past or the present, but deeply in the present moment.

This same point is on display in the simple advice given by the wild and eccentric John the Baptist. He speaks of the one who is to come who will baptize “with the Holy Spirit and fire” (Luke 3:16). Despite the bizarre awesomeness of this announcement, he tells his listeners to engage in the present moment with simple acts of justice and love as their preparation for Jesus’ coming, sharing their clothes and food, eliminating greedy and underhanded practices, being content with their wages. It’s so undramatic. But how many actually did it? We don’t know. How many of us will commit ourselves to these types of humble and demanding practices in our lives? That’s what we should be doing now in our present moment, not worrying about the future.

Advent challenge: Name one way you are doing the bare minimum towards others in your daily life. Or name something you are doing because you are not content with your financial situation. Pray: “Jesus, if it is your will, help me to stop doing these things this week. Help me prepare for your coming.” Then make the appropriate changes.

— Father John Muir
©LPI

Readings & Observances Week of December 15

Monday:

Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a/Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9/
Mt 21:23-27

Tuesday:

Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17/Mt 1:1-17

Wednesday:

Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19/Mt 1:18-25

Thursday:

Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17/
Lk 1:5-25

Friday:

Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6/Lk 1:26-38

Saturday:

St. Peter Canisius, Priest and Doctor of the Church
Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21/
Lk 1:39-45

Sunday:

4th Sunday of Advent

Mi 5:1-4a/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 (4)/Heb 10:5-10/
Lk 1:39-45



Friday

8:30 am | Mass
9:30—11:30 am | Little
Flower Bible Study | Quad
9:30 am—12:00 pm | New
Beginnings | Parish Hall

Saturday

9:00—10:00 am | Confes-
sions | Church
10:00 am—12:00 pm |
Girl Scouts | Double Room
4:00 pm | Mass
5:00—8:00 pm | Young at
Heart | Parish Hall

Sunday

8:30 am | Mass
9:45 | Religious Ed
11:00 am | Mass
12:00 pm | EDGE
3:30—4:30 pm | Sacred
Beat Rehearsal
5:00 pm | Mass
6:00—8:00 pm | Youth
Ministry | Room 212

Coming Month

December 21—Young at
Heart
December 23-January 3—
Parish Offices Closed
December 29—Family Ro-
sary
January 3—First Friday Ad-
oration
January 18—VIRTUS Train-
ing
January 18—Young at
Heart
February 1—Chili Cook Off

Advent & Christmas Schedule

Tuesday, December 17

7:00 pm | Penance Service

Tuesday, December 24—Christmas Eve Mass

4:00 pm—Children's Choir

7:00 pm

11:00 pm—Christmas Carols begin at 10:30 pm

Wednesday, December 25—Christmas Day Mass

10:00 am

Wednesday, January 1—Mary, Mother of God

8:30 am, 7:00 pm

New Beginnings

Tomorrow morning, December 16th at 10:00 in the Parish Hall, New Beginnings will be packing food for our Food For Families program. We will pack three sacks of groceries for forty-five families that are food insecure for the long Christmas break. Please consider volunteering! This coming Friday, December 20th at 10:00 in the Parish Hall, we will again need your help to pack and deliver our annual Christmas Boxes to families in need in Henry County. Please consider donating Christmas gifts to the children and teens in these families. If interested in donating gifts, please contact Melissa Rieke at mrieke04@gmail.com or call 678-480-1375 and she will let you know about specific ages and sizes.

Our monthly meeting is tomorrow night at 7:00 pm in Rooms 212-213. All are welcome to attend.

Parish Endowment Fund

"How shall I make a return to the Lord for all the good He has done for me?" – Psalm 116:12 During Advent as we are "making a way for the Lord," we reflect on our blessings. Please consider including the parish endowment fund as a full or partial beneficiary for your IRA account. Simply contact your IRA custodian for a change of beneficiary form. For more information, contact Juliet Greco at the Catholic Foundation at 404.497.9440 or jgreco@cfnga.org.



Sign up for **FLOCKNOTE** to receive updates on all happenings here at St. James the Apostle!

Text **SJACC** to 84576 to sign up for FLOCKNOTE.

Grief Share

All adults are welcome Tuesdays 6:30 – 8:30 PM or Thursdays 9:30 -11:30 am in Room 210. The cost is \$20 for workbook. To register, go to griefshare.org/findagroup and search for St James Catholic Church. Any questions, contact Joe Blankenship 770-914-2341

CURSILLO

Cursillo is a three-day, grace filled spiritual encounter with Jesus Christ held at the Monastery of the Holy Spirit in Conyers, GA. It's an opportunity to grow closer to God. For information contact Julie Gonzalez: 678-628-3322 or Claude Gaw 505-946-7012

Ultreya Meetings

These meetings are for all those who have made or are interested in making a Cursillo, and they are held on the 2nd Saturday of each month, from 9-10 am, in rooms 212-213.

Holy Innocents Children's Choir

The St. James "Holy Innocents Children's Choir" has resumed. Rehearsals are 5-5:40 pm in the Music Room. Children 1st grade through 7th grade are welcome. Please contact Music Director, Diane Scarbrough for more information: (770) 957-5441, X104 or dscarbrough@stjamesapostle.com

SAVE THE DATE

CCW is hosting a Chili Cookoff / Dinner on Saturday Feb 1 after the 4pm Mass. This is a competition between the Parish Ministries AND this year we will allow a total of 4 Parishioners to also enter the competition. The Prizes are People's Choice \$100 and Judges Best \$100. If you would like to enter your excellent chili recipe to win \$100 please contact Polly Crozier at pollyfaye@gmail.com.

Divine Mercy Prayer Group

The Divine Mercy Group has weekly meetings in the cry room immediately following the 8:30 am Mass on Mondays. All are welcome to attend!



RCIA / OCIA

Whether you have been Catholic your entire life or are new to the faith, you are invited to find out more about the Catholic faith through the **Rite (Order) of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)**.

Classes will resume on January 7th with an Explanatory Mass.

FOR MORE INFORMATION contact Deacon Charles Iner at ciner@stjamesapostle.com

Religious Education

As a reminder, Sunday December 15th is when the middle school program will be preparing shoe boxes for our annual Shoe Box Christmas Project. We are asking each child to bring small gift items that will fit inside of a shoe box. Gift ideas include small toys, school supplies, notecards, hygienic items such as toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, wrapped snacks, candy, socks, playing cards, small games, T-shirts, ball caps, hair accessories, watches, sunglasses, etc. The boxes will be put together and wrapped by the middle school youth and then given to our ministries who have chosen to participate this year such as the New Beginnings homeless ministry, food pantry and St. Vincent de Paul Society here at St. James.



Now Enrolling for the 2024-2025 School Year!!

Our Preschool classes are for children ages 1-5 years old. Registration forms and information are available on our website:

www.stjamesapostlechurch.com/preschool

For more information, please call (770) 957-5441 Ext.

121 or email the Director at
vspieth@stjamesapostle.com



Come Join the Knights of Columbus Holy Trinity Council 7601

We welcome all to join us on the 1st Monday of the month at 6:00 pm to say the rosary inside St. James Church and/or at 6:30 pm in the Parish Hall to meet and greet existing members and welcome new members! It's a great way to socialize, network, and get a better understanding of what the Knights have to offer.

Couples Celebrating 50th and 60th Anniversary in 2025

The Archdiocese of Atlanta would like to honor couples married in 1975 and 1965 with an invitation to a Wedding Anniversary Mass on Saturday, February 8, 2025 at noon at Saint Brigid Catholic Church. A reception will follow for the anniversary couples and their families. Please go to <http://tiny.cc/anniversarymass> to RSVP and for additional information.

Young Adult Group

If you are a young adult between the ages of 18-30, we would like to invite you to be part of our Young Adults ministry. We will not meet for formation in December, but will get together for dinner on Wednesday, the 11th. For more information, feel free to email Bill Renje at wrenje@att.net.

St. Martha Altar Guild

is seeking parishioners to help launder small linens (Purificators) that are used during communion to clean and purify chalices. These linens are not the large altar linens that adorn the altar. This commitment will not require much of your time. Please contact Don DeWeese at 770-957-5441 (DDeweese@stjamesapostle.com) if you are interested in participating in this ministry.

Prayer Chain

Contact Anna Cheverino 770-320-8393.



Now Hiring!

Immediate opening for a 2-Year Old Aide
for the 2024-2025 School Year!

Teaching experience preferred, but not required.
Serious inquiries only!

Please visit our website to submit an application:

[https://stjamesapostlechurch.com/preschool/
forms/](https://stjamesapostlechurch.com/preschool/forms/)

St. James Preschool—1000 GA Hwy 155 N—McDonough,
GA

St. Zita Sanctuary Ministry

Our mission is to properly maintain and clean and polished sanctuary within St. James The Apostle. We meet in the church every other Thursday from 4-5 p.m. We have teams of 3 -4 volunteers and sign ups are done on our website. If interested, please sign up on our website or contact Diane Scarbrough at (770) 957-5441, x104 or dscarbrough@stjamesapostle.com



Holy Family Counseling Center provides counseling for individuals, couples and families from a Catholic perspective. For information and appointments, contact 678

-993-8494 or holyfamilycounselingcenter.com

Clergy & Staff

Pastor	Rev. Liam A. Coyne	ext. 105	
Deacon	Rev. Mr. Charles Iner	ext. 201	ciner@stjamesapostle.com
Msgr. Terry W. Young,	Retired in Residence		
Business Manager	Tim Mitchell	ext. 102	tmitchell@stjamesapostle.com
Music Director	Diane Scarbrough	ext. 104	dscarbrough@stjamesapostle.com
Pastoral Associate	Sandy Major	ext. 101	sandymajor@stjamesapostle.com
Pastoral Associate	Channy O'Meara	ext. 101	comeara@stjamesapostle.com
Parish Secretary	Amy Gordineer	ext. 100	agordineer@stjamesapostle.com
Bulletin Editor	Allison Wyatt		awyatt@stjamesapostle.com
Accountant	Tasha Quinn	ext. 120	tloucks@stjamesapostle.com
Maintenance Coord.	Jim Zakutansky	ext. 202	jameszak@stjamesapostle.com
Liturgical Assistant	Don DeWeese		ddeweese@stjamesapostle.com
<i>Religious Education</i>			
Director	Eric Bridwell	ext. 108	ebidwell@stjamesapostle.com
Assistant	Tracy Howard	ext. 109	thoward@stjamesapostle.com
Preschool Director	Vickie Spieth	ext. 121	vspieth@stjamesapostle.com
Youth Minister	Michelle Fallon	ext. 110	mfallon@stjamesapostle.com

Adult Ed / RCIA	Dcn. Charles Iner 770-957-5441 x201	ciner@stjamesapostle.com
Boy Scouts	Ray Lightner 678-231-2490	ray.lightner@gmail.com
Council of Catholic Women	Polly Crozier 678-697-7690	pollyfaye@gmail.com
Cub Scouts	Brooke Greene 770-851-6696	greene783@gmail.com
Cursillo	Julie Gonzalez 678-628-3322	
Daisies Girl Scouts	Jennifer Tadrzak 404-969-8661	
Divine Mercy Group	Kathy Cowin 678-601-4517	
First Friday Devotion	Mary Byram 678-228-3391	
Girl Scouts	Susan McCurdy - 770-957-1863 Ingrid Zabala - 678-583-0616	
Knights of Columbus	Shawn J. Doucette 678-580-9431	
Lectors/EMHC Scheduling	Michelle Harada 404-680-3710	
Little Flower Women's Bible Study	Diane Scarbrough 770-318-2577	dscarbrough@stjamesapostle.com
Ministry to the Sick	Dcn. Charles Iner 770-957-5441x201	
Music Ministry	Diane Scarbrough 770-318-2577	dscarbrough@stjamesapostle.com
New Beginnings	Joel Walker 470-771-2039	nbasjtacc@gmail.com
Prayer Group	Anna Cheverino 770-320-8393	
St. James Men's Fellowship	Mike Martin—404-557-0083 Tommy Patterson—678-549-7382	
St. Vincent de Paul	Linda Berkowitz 404-987-2843	lindaberkowitz@bellsouth.net
Ultreya	Tom & Pam Jablonski 404-451-8118	
Welcome Ministry	Leticia Richards 770-507-7377	skrldr1@gmail.com
Young Adults	Bill Renje 813-416-2356	
Young at Heart	JoAnn Senger 678-756-2951	
St. Zita Sanctuary Ministry	Diane Scarbrough 770-318-2577	dscarbrough@stjamesapostle.com

Sacramental Preparation & Information

INFANT BAPTISM Parents must be members of St. James for at least 3 months or have the pastor's permission, and must complete the Belonging online course through Ascension Press as preparation. Both parents and Godparents are required to take the on-line course. For any questions, please refer to our St. James the Apostle website at stjamesapostleatholicchurch.com. Baptisms are normally celebrated on the **first Saturday** of the month at 10:30am.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION Children in the second grade, and active in the Faith Formation program for two consecutive years, are eligible to enroll in the sacramental preparation program. Special preparation sessions are held throughout the year before the reception of these sacraments. Contact the Faith Formation office 770-957-5441 ext.108.

CONFIRMATION Youth in the 10th grade or older, and active in the teen program of the parish for at least two consecutive years, will be eligible to register for Confirmation. Contact the Youth Ministry office at 770-957-5441 ext. 110 for more information. For Adult Confirmation preparation, contact Deacon Charles Iner at ciner@stjamesapostle.com or 770-957-5441 ext. 201.

MARRIAGE Couples considering marriage must contact the parish office **at least six months before** the projected date and must attend a pre-marriage program.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK Celebrated the second Saturday of the month following the 4:00 pm Vigil Mass, or contact the Parish Office to make arrangements. **If this is an emergency situation after hours, please call the Parish Office and press "1" for a sacramental emergency.**

HOLY COMMUNION FOR THE SICK If you or a loved one is in the hospital or in an assisted living situation, either temporarily or long term, please call the Parish Office Monday-Thursday to arrange a visit. This must be arranged prior to any weekend Mass.

MASS INTENTIONS Please contact the Parish Office. **Suggested donation is \$15.**

Weekly Collection

December 1 Offertory	\$17,294
YTD	\$363,185
YTD Under Budget	\$389,224
Percent Online Giving	24 %

Archbishop's Appeal 2024 Goal:	\$74,900
Archbishop's Appeal Received:	\$74,330
Donors:	274

Renovations: Phase III	
Goal:	\$240,000
Received:	\$205,149
Sound System Expenditures:	\$68,000
Chapel Expansion to Date:	\$55,000

Building Fund December 1	\$3,012
Building Fund YTD Actual	\$37,404

Pending Building Fund Projects:
Replace Ceiling Tiles
Parish Hall Lighting
Repair Roof

Sick List

In order to keep current the published names of those for whom prayers have been requested, we will remove the names at the end of each two-month period. Please call the parish office at the end of each two-month period if you wish to have the name reposted.

Please Pray For...

Peggy Woffard | Katie Cawley | Mary Wagner | Jim O'Connor | Patti Eckels | Micah Carroll | Chris Belback | Mike & Caroline Lanasa | Hector Jordan Sr. | Nela Jordan | Terry Scardasis | Susan Fuller | Claire Bassenberg | Tom Jablonski | Roger Hallam | Christian Kleb | Jeffery Sweetser | Maureen Richardson

If you or a loved one is in the hospital, hospice, homebound or in an assisted living situation, please call our Sick Ministry at 770-957-5441 x118 to notify us.

NEW YEAR, NEW YOU!

PATH (Post Abortion Treatment & Healing) offers help and healing to women and men wounded by abortion. We are hosting our next Rachel's Vineyard Retreat February 21-23, 2025. There you will find compassionate, confidential support to begin your healing journey. For more information or to register, please visit our website at healingafterabortion.org

ARCHDIOCESE ABUSE REPORTING

We are Here to Listen and Take Action

Archdiocesan 24 hour Abuse Reporting Hotline

1-888-437-0764

Abuse hotline for bishops only:

<https://reportbishopabuse.org> or call (800) 276-1562.