

**From:** communications@stjamescatholic.org,

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**Subject:** Saint James, Pray for Us

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## Saint James, Pray for Us



Dear Friends in Christ,

Our patronal feast is a little over one week away, which means we have time for a novena to Saint James! The novena begins tomorrow and can be found [here](#). It will be prayed at the end of every Mass from July 16th through July 24th.

The novena prayer mentions three qualities of our patron. First, he had a "fervent and generous heart" -- fit for the Gospel, evangelizing, and martyrdom. Second, he was privileged to be with Jesus in two of His most important moments on earth: His Transfiguration on Mount Thabor and His agony in the garden. Third, James was willing to strive and do battle for the Kingdom of God. The name James is a derivative of Jacob, which means "he who supplants" -- a fighter! Indeed, we find in Saint James a sportive, zealous soul. So much so that our Lord nicknamed him and his brother John "Boanerges" -- *Sons of Thunder* (cf. Mk 3:17).

In light of these, let us offer the novena for these three intentions for the entire parish:

1. A conversion of heart, to make us more fervent and generous;
2. A greater intimacy with Christ, to come to know Him in each situation;
3. A willingness to enter into the battle for holiness, to strive for a deeper love of God and neighbor.

Updates...

**Sunday Mass.** The readings and prayers can be found [here](#). Please remember the [guidelines and requirements](#) of the Diocese of Arlington.

**Vegetable Garden.** Thank you to Zoey Maraist, who has organized the new vegetable garden behind the House of Ministries (pictures below). In the midst of all the building and urbanization in Falls Church, it's nice to have this little plot of natural growth. More volunteers are needed, so if you would like to help, please reach out to Zoey: [zoeydimauro@gmail.com](mailto:zoeydimauro@gmail.com)

**Saint James Feast.** Our patronal feast is Saturday, July 25th. We will have an ice cream social after the Saturday 5pm Mass, which will be the Mass of Saint James. Yes, it will still count for Sunday. Please note that *all* Masses on Sunday the 26th will be the Mass of Saint James, not the Mass of the 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time.

**RCIA.** If you or someone you know is interested in becoming Catholic, or just learning more about the Catholic Faith, RCIA classes begin in September. Please contact Father Vu for more information: [fathervu@stjamescatholic.org](mailto:fathervu@stjamescatholic.org)

**Rectory Ramblings.** In the midst of this pandemic, we are probably overdue in considering the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. What is it and who can receive it? And what is extreme unction, anyway? *Friday at 8pm.*

Through the intercession of our Lady and Saint James, may the Lord bless and keep you.

Sincerely in Christ,

Fr. Scalia





St. James Parish, 905 Park Avenue, Falls Church, VA 22046

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