



INSPIRED SPACE

FROM FRIENDS OF SACRED STRUCTURES

St. James Catholic Church To Observe Centennial



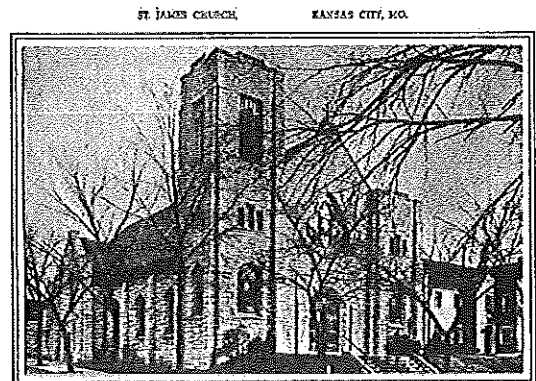
St. James Catholic Church enjoys celebrating, and members already have experience with a centennial observance. In 2006 the parish marked its 1906 formation, which began in a dance hall at 39th and Woodland. Twenty families made up the founding group, and the congregation grew rapidly.

Father John Keyes, founding pastor, led creatively as the parish evolved, building in its present location at 3901 Harrison. Limestone intended for a Winner Street bridge (never built because the state built the

Paseo Bridge instead) was secured by Fr. Keyes free of charge, with the agreement that the stone would be moved from the riverfront to the building site. That feat was accomplished with horsedrawn wagons moving the heavy loads up a challenging hill.

In 1912 the first Mass in the new building was celebrated on Christmas Eve. Plans for 2012 include various events in observance of its 100th year, culminating in a Christmas Eve service completing the 100 year cycle.

Various alterations and additions have improved the edifice, the most remarkable being in 1950 when the concrete slab, on which the building stood, was dug out under a significant portion of the nave, and a church hall was added below to serve the then 4,000 members. Some of the remarkable features of the building are the mosaic stations of the cross, terrazzo floors, stained glass and marble wainscoting from Italy. Over the entrance to the nave hang twenty-four flags representing the number of first generation families who are current members from that many countries (see picture above). St. James went from a suburban parish to an urban parish in the 1930's, then to an "inner city" parish in the 60's and 70's.



A recent Sunday bulletin lists its involvements in many social service and justice issues. Outreach includes food assistance and volunteers for St. James Kitchen, help at Holy Family Catholic Worker House, Bus Stop Ministry, Harvesters, Troost Alliance networking, Communities Creating Opportunity, and parishioners' involvement in environmental sustainability and assistance for

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Web site: www.fosskc.org

Board Members serve as members of the Communication, Executive, Technical Service, and Finance Committees.

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URBAN MINISTRY IS A CHALLENGE

The opportunity to work with a few urban churches in transitional neighborhoods has been quite revealing. Until I was able to observe at close range over a period of time these conditions, it had not occurred to me the tremendous challenge which all urban ministers face. As a way to share with others what I have frequently observed to be expected of a pastor serving a congregation in the inner city, I offer the following fictitious job description.

PASTOR NEEDED

Congregation located in transitional neighborhood is seeking pastor to rebuild the congregation and minister to the diverse needs of the community. Successful candidates will possess the following qualifications and experience:

- Deliver sermons that will inspire hundreds to fill empty pews.
- Appeal to aging loyal members as well as young persons with little to no prior church experience and contemporary worship interests.
- Experience occasional interruption of worship service by semi-intoxicated individuals who wander in from the street.
- Serve as director of Christian education.
- Conduct bible study series.
- Conduct weddings, funerals and baptisms.
- Counsel with mentally disturbed, unemployed, recovering substance abusers, homeless, marital problems, the elderly, the sick and the bereaved.
- Show and foster tolerance, compassion and respect for persons with severe disabling conditions.
- Visit homebound, hospitalized, prospective members and the lonely.
- Cope with declining contributions and increasing maintenance and operating costs.
- Assume leadership role in community services and community functions.
- Participate in District and Conference programs and functions.
- Must be willing to work with minimum compensation.
- Must have good health and great stamina to endure long hours, stressful conditions and numerous disappointments.
- Maintain at all times a cheerful attitude, good appearance and positive outlook

Qualified and interested applicants pray that God will recognize your outstanding credentials and guide you to this challenging appointment.

Elmer C. Denis, A layman

Membership Campaign Ongoing

Board members join Mary Sheppard, Campaign Chairman, in thanking those who responded to our membership drive which ended August 31st. While we met less than half of our goal, Sheppard commented, "It was a win/win since there was a plan that we attempted to execute, one that was probably more far reaching than

points of interest

in the past. Had the plan gone as we hoped, we'd have raised approximately \$11,000."

Requests for increased membership continue. All FOSS members will be invited to an event in 2012 which will celebrate our 20th anniversary year.

Foss Establishes Clearing House

Among the varied services offered by FOSS, board members have seen a need to assist in yet another way. We receive periodic requests to make others aware of available materials, equipment, etc. from area churches. Also, we often have inquiries about the availability of goods needed. Some are offered for sale, while others are donated when replacements have been made. In the past, we've helped connect those needing and those offering. We've even listed church buildings as they've become available.

Consequently, we'll list in our newsletter needs or offerings as we receive notices. Notify FOSSKC@SupportKC.org and we'll include the list in the next edition.

Offered for sale: Pipe organ, Kilgen, 3 manual, 33+ stops, 20+ ranks, two chambers of pipes, two rebuilt wind chests. Contact Deacon Ross Beaudoin, St. James Catholic Church, 3909 Harrison, Kansas City, MO 64110, 816-561-8512.

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people in need beyond the church's and national borders. The Administration Building, south of the church, once was a rectory housing five priests. A cloister and garden join the two buildings. South of the Administration Building, a large lot serves as a community garden for parishioners and neighbors. Improvements and maintenance of the physical plant continue to be challenging. Roof repair is ongoing, and the need for an elevator also is high on the list. Deacon Ross Beaudoin, Pastoral Administrator, praises assistance from FOSS over a number of years, especially noting Fred Truog, Elmer Denis and the Tech Services team for their valuable service and advice. St. James has offered its facilities for a FOSS event next year, combining FOSS's twentieth anniversary with the church building centennial.

Father Garry Richmeier, CPPS, now conducts the Sunday morning service for the membership of 175 families. Deacon Beaudoin says proudly that the structure of limestone, originally intended for a bridge, serves as a metaphor for the changes over 100 plus years and the inclusive nature of a vibrant parish which was nearly closed in 2002. The parish spans decades of change and continues to prove itself as it looks forward to a centennial year in a beautiful and enduring place.

Yes, I want to become a Friend of the Friends of Sacred Structures

All members receive a periodic newsletter, invitations to special events and discounts for workshops and events.

Congregational members also receive technical assistance, information and referrals.

- Friend – \$50
- Partner – \$100
- Congregation Partner – \$150
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- Sponsor – \$300
- Patron – \$500
- Sustaining – \$1,000

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An organization dedicated to the preservation of older and historic religious structures
for active community use. FOSS: Supporting Vital Neighborhood Needs

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E-MAIL ADDRESSES REQUESTED

In order to facilitate communication, FOSS would like to establish a comprehensive list of members' e-mail addresses. Please notify us at FOSSKC@SupportKC.org and we'll add you to the list.