

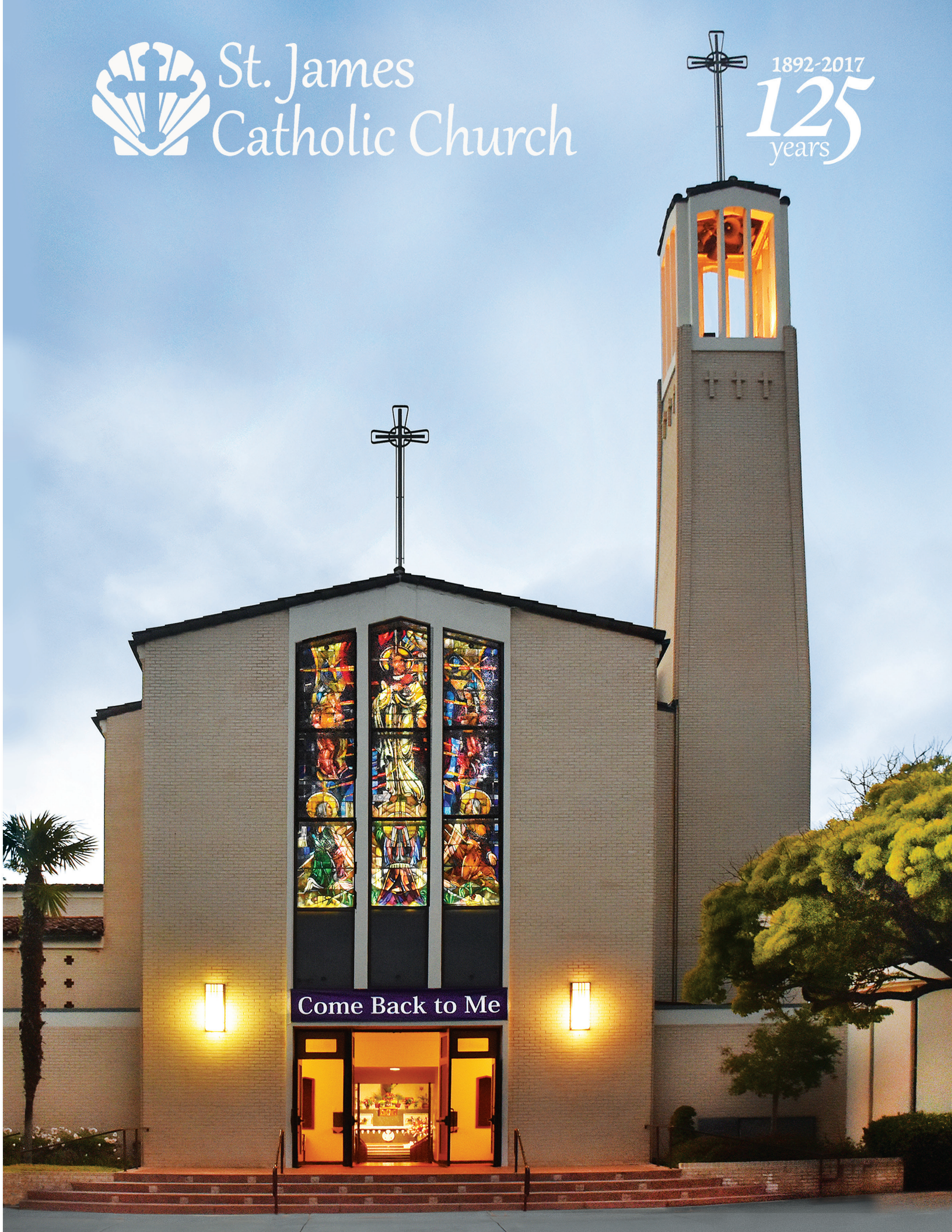


# St. James Catholic Church



1892-2017

125  
years



Come Back to Me



## Welcome!

Maybe you grew up Catholic.

Maybe you think of yourself as Catholic.

Maybe you haven't been to church in a while.

Or, you are worried that you won't be welcomed here.

And maybe it feels awkward and scary to take that first step.

Question. Doubts. Yearning, but not sure for what.

We get it. We've been there. Now we are here.

Maybe God is calling you, too.

Just as you are.

Welcome home.

If you are here for the first time, we want to welcome you to beautiful Redondo Beach and to St. James Catholic Church.

We thank God for you being part of the body of Christ and joining us for our journey in faith. We are honored by your presence and are not complete without you. Whether you are visiting us for the first time or visiting us occasionally, we truly want you to feel welcome here, and make Saint James Catholic Church your home away from home.

As a member of our family, we want you to know that we are constantly striving to improve the stewardship of the gifts that God has entrusted to us in service to others. We welcome your participation in our decision process on how best to meet the changing needs of our growing family. Feel free to seek out any member of our pastoral council or team members to provide us information on how best to serve you.

We hope you will join us as we strive to deepen our faith and reach out to those that have drifted away, are hurting and looking for meaning in their lives.

Or, perhaps you know someone that they feel that life is pretty good right now. Things are moving along nicely in their lives and they are comfortable. No financial, medial, marital, work or family issues. Fantastic! What a great time to offer thanks to God for His mercy, love and blessings in their lives.

We know that life has a way of changing dramatically with a single phone call. During those times, our faith is severely shaken and tested. Know that as a member of the Body of Christ, we are here to help you and help you through these times.

We are blessed with hundreds of volunteers working in ministry. Their dedication and love of God and his children is inspiring to all that witness their unselfish efforts. As a growing family, we are always welcoming new members to our ministries and look to create new ones for those emerging needs in our family.



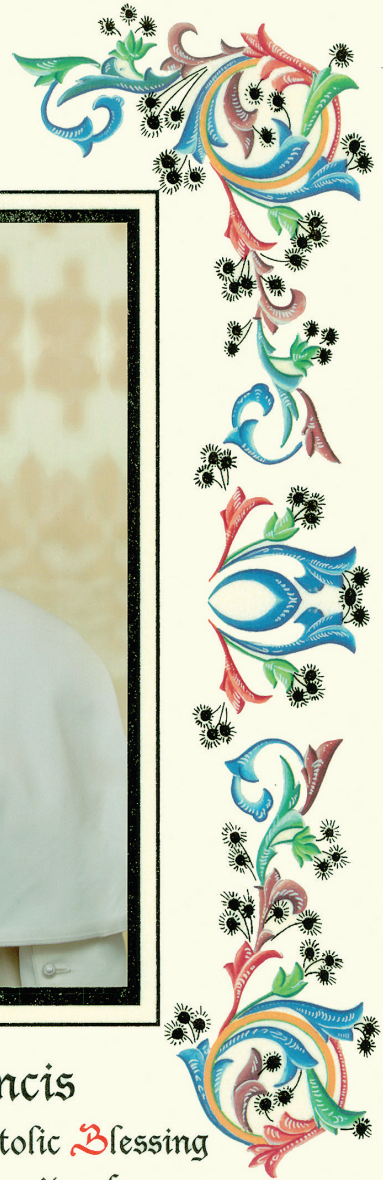
Jesus calls the apostles and us:  
*'Come follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.'*

Please consider lending your time, talents and treasure to help us change lives. You will grow into that holy, healthy, vibrant person that God created you to be.

May God continue to bless you all the days of your life.  
Welcome home.

*Msgr. Mike*





**H**is **H**oliness **F**rancis  
cordially imparts the requested **A**postolic **B**lessing  
to the Pastor and to the Community of  
**S**t. **J**ames **C**hurch in **R**edondo **B**each  
on the occasion of the **125<sup>th</sup>** **A**nniversary of its **F**oundation  
invoking through the intercession of the Virgin Mary  
and abundance of Divine graces  
July 25, 1892/2017

*Ex Audibus Vaticanis, die 12.4.2017*

+ *Lesław Krajewski*  
*Archiepiscopus Eleemosynarius Apostolicus*



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Archdiocese of Los Angeles

Office of  
The Archbishop

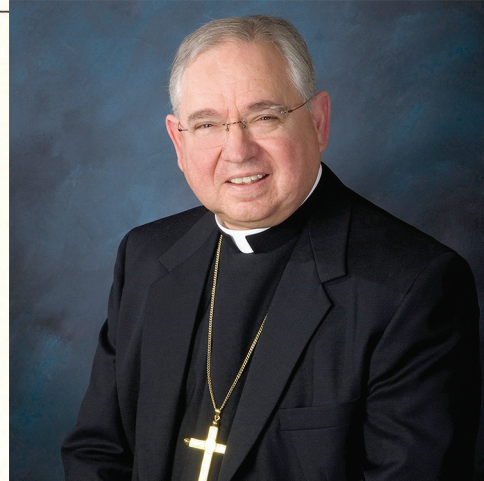
3424  
Wilshire  
Boulevard

Los Angeles  
California  
90010-2241

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July 29, 2017

Reverend Monsignor Michael Meyers  
Pastor  
St. James Catholic Church  
124 N. Pacific Coast Highway  
Redondo Beach, CA 90277



Dear Monsignor Meyers,

My heartfelt congratulations and best wishes to all the parishioners of St. James on the parish's 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary! I am very happy to hear that you are celebrating this very momentous occasion.

St. James Parish has been home for hundreds of people throughout the years, and that it brings wonderful memories to all of them. It has been a real community of faith where many brothers and sisters had the opportunity to receive the Sacraments and God's abundant graces, as well as to continually nourish their faith and grow spiritually.

Be assured of my prayers for you and all the parishioners as you celebrate this special anniversary.

May Jesus, through the intercession of Mary, grant you peace and joy,

+ José H. Gomez

Most Reverend José H. Gomez  
Archbishop of Los Angeles





## St James Catholic Church

Office: 124 N Pacific Coast Highway  
Church: 415 Vincent Street  
Redondo Beach, CA 90277  
310-372-5228 Fax:310-379-5552  
MsgrMMeyers@SaintJames.church

May 14, 2017

Dear Parishioners,

The celebration of our 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary gives us an opportunity to look back beyond our own experience of being part of St. James to appreciate the legacy of faith that has brought us to this point. Founded in 1892, St. James ministered to the workers at the Redondo seaport, the lumber mills and the tourists of the Hotel Redondo. Our church seated only 80. From those beginnings in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, through the 20<sup>th</sup> century and the explosive growth of the 1950's and now into the 21<sup>st</sup> century, St. James has been a beacon of hope and faith to all.

I am excited and humbled to be the 16<sup>th</sup> Pastor of St. James Church and as I celebrate my own 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ordination, I am so thankful to be able to minister in this great parish. Father Jim Kavanagh was a kind and loving leader of this community before me and we are so grateful for his continued presence in our midst. Fathers Francis Aguilar and Ikechukwu Ikeocha have been wonderful to work with during the last 4 years and, as always, Deacon Bob and Patty Miller have been a tremendous gift to us all. I also want to acknowledge the parish Team who so lovingly and faithfully provide for the smooth running of our ministries and activities.

We pray for our community at St. James that, with our many dedicated ministries, we can grow into an even more vibrant presence of God's Word and love. May we be a beacon of light to all in the South Bay, touching the hearts of all who come here, and like us, find a church that is 'welcoming' and like 'family' that we can all call 'home'.

Blessings to you all,

Monsignor Michael Meyers



# The Legacy of St. James for the Church in the South Bay

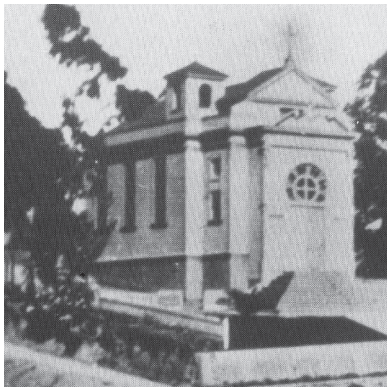
In 1887 a deep-water trench was discovered in the ocean at Redondo which led to its quick development as a seaport. With the arrival of the Model T not coming until 1908, Redondo Beach's creation and lifeline was the railroad, which came to Los Angeles in 1885.



In 1888, the Santa Fe Railway opened its branch into Redondo from Los Angeles thru Leimert Park, Inglewood and Alondra Park. In 1890, the Redondo Railway opened its line from Los Angeles down Vermont to Redondo Beach Blvd & Ripley to Redondo Beach.



By then, a pier had been built, the railroad line extended to the pier, ships were arriving daily, a huge timber and import industry was thriving, and the Hotel Redondo, with 225 rooms had been opened, bringing in tourists. Suddenly, Redondo had 683 residents and in 1892, was incorporated as a city. Bishop Mora responded that same



year by creating St. James Church after receiving a small grant of land from the Dominguez family. The Dominguez Memorial Chapel (the original name of St. James) was dedicated by Bishop Mora on July 25th, 1892.

The parish community consisted of 75 registered parishioners spanning approximately 100 square

miles. The 3 nearest parishes at the time were St. Monica, Santa Monica, St. Vincent, Los Angeles and Sts. Peter & Paul, Wilmington.

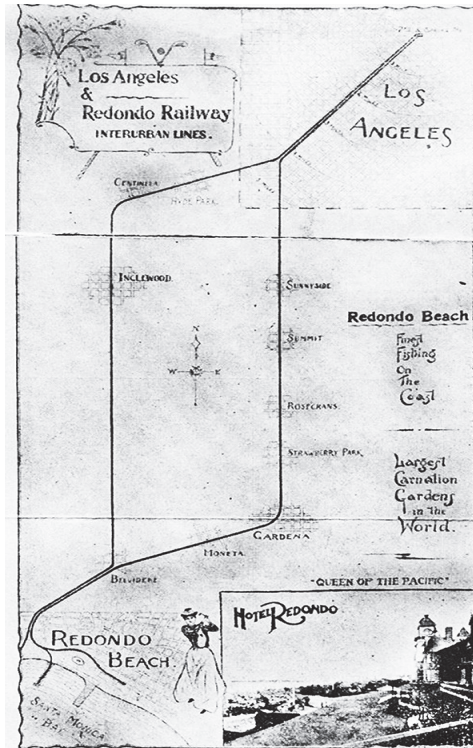


There was little from Redondo Beach to these parishes except open land—Los Angeles ended at Jefferson Boulevard.

In 1901 the electric railway began service from Los Angeles to Gardena duplicating the rail line down Hoover/Vermont to Gardena. On this line developed the Los Angeles parishes of Nativity, St. Michael, Ascension and St. Anthony

in Gardena. In 1902, electric railway service began by duplicating the original Santa Fe line along Martin Luther King Blvd., down Crenshaw, then Prairie to Gardena and Redondo.

Along this line, eventually came the parishes of St Cecilia and Transfiguration on ML King Blvd.; St. John the Evangelist on Crenshaw; St. John Chrysostom on Prairie; St. Joseph-Hawthorne, St. Catherine Laboure-Torrance and Our Lady of Guadalupe- Hermosa Beach.



In 1903 an electric railway was opened from Santa Monica to Redondo through Ocean Park, Venice, Playa del Rey, Manhattan Beach and Hermosa. From this line developed: St. Clement-Santa Monica, St. Mark-Venice, St. Anastasia, Visitation, St. Anthony-El Segundo and American Martyrs-Manhattan Beach.

Finally, in 1905 an electric rail line came down Broadway/Figueroa to connect at the Gardena Station. This train helped create Holy Cross, St. Columbkille and Mother of Sorrows.

In all, 21 parishes came into existence because of the need to connect Redondo Beach to Los Angeles by rail. The July 5th, 1909 Redondo Beach newspaper reported that the trains abandoned all schedules and ran trains as fast as they could all day, bringing over 10,000 people to enjoy the beach in Redondo.





While in the South Bay it would take 18 years for the next parish to develop (St. Anthony, Gardena in 1910), the Baptismal Records of St. James and other records tell of the mission roots of St. James and the mission outreach from St. James to these fledgling communities. The electric rail cars not only provided opportunities for new communities to develop, it also connected St. James to them until they could become established.

Sometime after 1902 when the electric cars came here through Inglewood, the priests of St. James were also placed in charge of the community of St. Augustine in Palms (Culver City) and Fr. Ferrer, Fr. O'Callahan and Fr. Conneally would take the Red Car there for Masses until it was established as a parish in 1918. In addition we were celebrating baptisms for families from Hermosa Beach, Manhattan Beach, El Segundo, Gardena, Lawndale, Hawthorne, Torrance and Lomita. All of them were connected to St. James by rail and they came here on Sunday.

Independent from the connection of St. James by rail it was closely connected to the development of Nativity, Torrance-1924, & St. Lawrence Martyr-1955.



On November 29, 1914, our 2nd church, a stately brick church which sat 400 people was dedicated to St. James by Bishop Thomas James Conaty with Msgr. Nicholas Conneally as the pastor. St. James the Greater, known for pilgrimages to his shrine in Compostela, Spain

with the scallop sea shell as a symbol for "the quest, the journey to God" was chosen as the patron saint of the parish. We similarly parallel the symbolism of "the quest, the journey to God", with the nearby sea as our background.

A 1920 Easter Letter to St. James parishioners listed the Easter schedule of Masses which included 3 Masses at St. James, 1 Mass at El Segundo and 1 Mass at Torrance. When these 2 became parishes in 1924 & 1925, Our Lady of Guadalupe was begun as a Mission Church of St. James in 1927 until it became its own parish in 1957.

Unfortunately, by 1920 most of the ships had moved to San Pedro Harbor, then the Hotel Redondo closed in 1925 and the railroads left in 1926. However, Redondo is more than that and the community and St. James Church has continued to thrive.

Today, St. James is a community of faith with over 10,000 parishioners! What a wonderful hidden legacy St. James and Redondo Beach have provided for the Church of Los Angeles and the South Bay.



Interior of the 1914 church. Below, the statue of Mary from this church is on display in the Parish Office. The companion statue of Jesus is shown in the center of the altar in the photo above.

### Parishes Established from Railway Lines to Redondo Beach



- St. Clement**, Santa Monica-1904
- Holy Cross**-1906
- St. Michael**-1908
- St. John the Evangelist**-1909
- St. Cecilia**-1910
- Nativity**-1920
- St. Joseph**, Hawthorne -1920
- St. Columbkille**-1921
- Ascension**-1923
- Mother of Sorrows**-1923
- St. John Chrysostom**-1923
- St. Mark**, Venice-1923
- Transfiguration**-1923
- Nativity**, Torrance-1924
- St. Anthony**, El Segundo-1925
- St. Raphael**-1925
- Our Lady of Guadalupe**,  
Hermosa Beach-1927
- American Martyrs**,  
Manhattan Beach-1931
- Visitation**-1943
- St. Catherine Labouré**,  
Torrance -1947
- St. Anastasia**-1953



## St. James School Prepares to Celebrate 100 years

**St. James School**, opened on September 10, 1918, will be celebrating its 100th Anniversary next year. The school, built on the site of our original 1892 church, was founded by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet who have continued to provide excellent education for our children for the last 99 years.

In 1924, Fr. Deenihan added a second story to the school and had the convent built for the Sisters of Carondelet. In the early 1950's, the red brick classroom building was constructed and the convent was enlarged.



At left is the original St. James School on the south east corner of Vincent St. and Pacific Coast Highway.

Below is the convent, now our Parish Office.



Msgr. James O’Gorman (1956-1977) who undertook the building of our current church in 1960, added four additional classrooms to the school in 1959. In 1961, the parish had a Blue Chip Stamp drive to buy the sisters their first car. In 1963 Father O’Gorman then oversaw the construction of an eight classroom school in Torrance for grades 1 to 5, built as an annex to the Redondo Beach school.

By 1989, the school enrollment had decreased and it became possible to combine the two schools onto one site. A new teacher’s lounge, 3 junior high classrooms and new school office were built and the move from Redondo was completed in time for the 1990 school year. The Torrance Annex became the location of one school, grades kindergarten through eight.

In 1996, the school site was completed with the construction of the O’Gorman Center which serves the needs of both the parish and the school.

We are so thankful for the dedication and service the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet have given to St. James for the past 99 years and especially for Sr. Mary Margaret Kreuper, CSJ who has served as Principal of the school for the past 28 years and provided such an outstanding education for our children.

In Redondo Beach, at the original school, the 4 classrooms built in 1959 were remodeled to serve the growing Religious Education Program, under the direction of Diana Holly since 1997, and is now called the Parish Center. It is also used for many meetings and conferences. The convent was renovated in 1998 to become the Parish Office, shown below.



## St. James Preschool Celebrates 25 years

When St. James School relocated to Torrance in 1990, an opportunity for a new ministry for our youngest children developed. Father Tim Nichols and Jeanine Hamada, Director, started the Preschool in 1992 by refurbishing the red-brick school rooms for 40 preschoolers. In 2011, Wendy Bell who was one of the original teachers in 1992, followed Jeanine Hamada as Director of the Preschool.

The program has continued to grow over the years and now has 132 students, four classrooms, operating both morning and afternoon each weekday. What is Wendy’s secret? Engaging parents through open houses, parenting workshops, Family Nights and monthly coffee with the Director. And most importantly, “Keep an open mind, keep your door open, and love the children every day.”

Below, the preschool children are free to exercise their curiosity about God’s creatures in a safe and loving environment. Chickens, rabbits, butterflies and other attractions abound.







**Msgr. Michael Meyers**  
Pastor

## Pastoral Clergy

Led by our pastor, Msgr. Michael Meyers, we have been blessed to see God's hands working in our community. As we are led to spiritual maturity through the reverent and holy sacrifice of the Mass, the center of our Catholic faith, we have also been encouraged to a deeper prayer life, to become good stewards of our time, talent and treasure, and to read spiritual books provided to us by Msgr. Mike.

He has been teaching us by his example and helping us learn to pray and create a quiet place for us to hear God's soft voice and discern His will for us in our lives.

Throughout the years, God has called members of our community to dive deeper into the faith. Deacon Bob and Patty Miller have responded to this call while at St. James and have been multiplying this blessing to our community. Mark and Louise Ramirez have also responded to God's call and will soon be blessing us as a new Deacon couple in a few years.



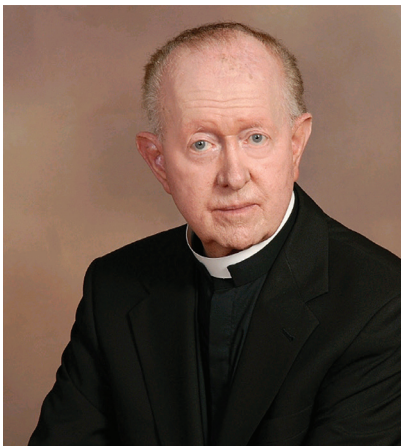
**Fr. Ikechukwu Ikeocha**  
Associate Pastor



**Fr. Simeon Song**  
Associate Pastor

Fr IK has blessed us with his passionate preaching and gentle guidance to move us from complacency into a deeper appreciation of what it means to be a Christian in everyday life.

Fr. Simeon brings his passion for missionary work, love of outdoor activities, and desire to bring souls of Christ to our community. His work will bear fruit as he works in RCIA and ministry here.



**Fr. James Kavanagh**  
Pastor Emeritus



**Deacon Bob and Patty Miller**  
Deacon Couple

Fr. Kavanagh had expanded the kitchen in the hall during the renovation in 2008. The result is that St. James is becoming the heart of the homeless community with the ever expanding Feed the Needy program and outreach to the poor.

We are blessed by his continued presence here at St. James while in his retirement.



