

## WHAT DO CATHOLICS CELEBRATE IN DECEMBER?

The month of December is dedicated to the Immaculate Conception. The first 24 days of December fall during the liturgical season known as of Advent and are represented by the liturgical color purple a symbol of penance, mortification and the sorrow of a contrite heart. The remaining days of December mark the beginning of the Christmas season. The liturgical color changes to white or gold a symbol of joy, purity and innocence. The Immaculate Conception "From all eternity God chose with infinite wisdom the woman who would be the Mother of His divine Son. To prepare for the Word Incarnate a spotless and holy tabernacle, God created Mary in grace and endowed her from the moment of her conception with all the perfections suited to her exalted dignity. St. Thomas teaches that through her intimacy with Christ, the principle of grace, she possessed beyond all creatures a fullness of divine life." This feast invites us to meditate on the virtue of purity. "Mary alone 'our tainted nature's solitary boast' never saw her soul's purity darkened with the dust of any stain, nor did she see in any part of her triumphal course toward heaven any sin or trace of worldliness. By a unique and singular privilege from God she was preserved from original sin from the first moment of her Immaculate Conception; by another privilege derived from the first, the Lord did not permit her ever to be stained even with those unavoidable failings of human weakness." We also celebrate Christmas, during the month of December. On the feast of Christmas, Christ is born to us in the intimacy of the family represented by Mary and the shepherds; at the Epiphany, He manifests to the entire world His glory and His kingship, which are represented by the adoration of the Magi, the baptism in the Jordan, and the marriage feast of Cana. During this month of December, let's pray for our families and communities to celebrate with joy and expectation the birthday of Jesus Christ in our midst. May his presence brings peace, love and life to our hearts and unites with the same purpose.

## ONGOING EVENTS

### STUDY THE BIBLE

Sunday morning after 10:30 Mass until 1:00 pm Probe the Scripture Readings of the day. Question; share insights; consider applications for living in today's world. Everyone is welcome to attend and participate!

### EARN MONEY FOR OUR PARISH

**Food Lion gift cards** in various amounts are available every Sunday after Mass and in the church office during the week.

The cards can be used when you do your regular shopping or given as gifts. They are as easy to use as a debit card- just swipe and go and St. Joseph gets money!

**Go to Smile.amazon.com** and designate St. Joseph as your charity and shop through Amazon as usual!

**If you shop at Kroger** – register your rewards card online at [www.kroger.com/communityrewards](http://www.kroger.com/communityrewards) and enter St. Joseph #82116 and the number on your card. The church gets money back based on how much you spend.

There is no cost to you for any of these programs! Kroger rewards need to be renewed after a year. You should receive an email with instructions. See Steve Ogilbee for more information about gift cards or call the church office about Amazon.

### HELP THE COMMUNITY

**Community Storehouse** is still in need of Chef Boyardee microwave meals for the children's backpack program.

**The Women's Guild** meets every second Tuesday of the month at 7:00 PM in the Social Hall. Contact Stephanie Bailey for details: (276) 732-6441.

### EVENTS / HANDOUTS / FUNDRAISER POLICY

If you would like to post or donate, flyers, pamphlets, books, magazines, or other materials, please bring them to the church office.

**DO NOT put items on the bulletin board or tables.** Items needs to be approved and posted by office staff.

Activities held on church property must be preapproved by the appropriate committee and Father Carlos. Please come to the church office during the week for an activities form.

### SACRAMENTS / SACRAMENTOS:

**Baptism:** Call parish office to register for preparation classes. Expectant parents are encouraged to attend.

**Bautismo:** Llenar el formulario, después padres y padrinos asistir a dos pláticas de preparación. Ver a Eduardo Guerrero Miércoles y Viernes de 6:30 a 8:30 pm en la oficina de la iglesia.

**Reconciliation:** Tuesday/Wednesday at 12:30 pm and Wednesday 6:00-7:00 PM or by appointment.

**Confesión:** Martes/Miércoles a la 12:30 pm y Miércoles de 6:00 a 7:00 pm o llamar a la oficina para hacer una cita.

**Marriage:** Call or email for an appointment at least 6 months prior to wedding.

**Matrimonio:** Llamar y hacer cita por lo menos 6 meses antes de las fecha de la boda, o ver a Eduardo Guerrero.

**Ministry with the Elderly:** Homebound parishioners who would like to receive communion at their home, contact the parish office.

**Ministerio con los ancianos:** Feligreses que no pueden salir y quisieran recibir la comunión en sus casa, llamar a la oficina.

**Religious Education and Youth Ministry:** Call Sandra Ruiz at (276) 638-4779 Tuesday –Friday 9:00 am-4:00 pm

**Religion Education: Adults (RCIA).** More information contact Stephanie Bailey at [ssiddle13@gmail.com](mailto:ssiddle13@gmail.com) or call church office at 276-638-4779



## ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH

Parish Mission Statement: To foster and deepen faith in the Holy Trinity through the celebration of the Eucharist and the Word of God & to be active disciples of our Savior, Jesus Christ, in our community and throughout the world.

Declaración de la misión parroquial: Queremos fomentar y profundizar la fe en la Santísima Trinidad a través de la celebración de la Eucaristía y la Palabra de Dios y ser discípulos activos de nuestro Salvador, Jesucristo, en nuestra comunidad y en todo el mundo.

## DECEMBER 19, 2021 ~ FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT~



But you, Bethlehem-Ephrathah least among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel. MICAH 5:1

### PARISH OFFICES: (CLUSTER)

#### St. Joseph, Martinsville

Phone/ Telefono: (276) 638-4779 Fax: (276) 638-2218.

#### Office Hours / Horario de Oficina:

Tuesday-Friday 9:00 am-4:00 pm.

#### St. Francis of Assisi, Rocky Mount

15 Glennwood Dr. Rocky Mount, VA. Phone: (540) 483-9591.

#### Parish Pastoral Council Members:

Suzanne Steele –Chair; Irma Harrison - 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair; Christy Hall -2<sup>nd</sup> vice Chair; Iris Lopez- Secretary, Jorge Lopez, Sebastian Lopez, Jesus Sanchez, Maria Ruiz, Thea Gutierrez, (Eduardo Guerrero staff).

#### Finance Council Members:

Steve Ogilbee - Chair, Ethan Dobbins - Secretary, Ben Bailey, Sandra Ruiz, Cora Harris, (Pat Prillaman staff).

2481 SPRUCE ST. MARTINSVILLE, VIRGINIA 24112

(276) 638-4779. FAX (276) 638-2218

[www.stjoechurch.net](http://www.stjoechurch.net)

E-mail: [office@stjoe24112.comcastbiz.net](mailto:office@stjoe24112.comcastbiz.net)

OFFICE HOURS: TUESDAY- FRIDAY 9:00AM - 4:00PM

## ST. Joseph's Mass Schedule

Sunday 10:30 am English

Sunday 12:30 pm Spanish

Tuesday 12:00 pm

Wednesday 12:00 pm

Friday 5:00 pm Christmas Eve Mass

Saturday 11:30 am Christmas Day Mass

## Confessions/Adoration

Tuesday/Wednesday 12:30pm-1:30pm

Wednesday 6:00 pm-7:00 pm

*We are lifting the mask requirement to enter church for those who are fully-vaccinated starting on May 28<sup>th</sup>. We ask that people who are not fully-vaccinated continue to wear masks, all those over the age of 5. Thank you.*

**Pastor: Carlos H. Lerma:**

[Caliche4123@yahoo.com](mailto:Caliche4123@yahoo.com)

**Secretary/Dir. Religious Ed.: Sandra Ruiz:**

[office@stjoe24112.comcastbiz.net](mailto:office@stjoe24112.comcastbiz.net)

**Bookkeeper: Pat Prillaman:**

[bookkeeper@stjoe24112.comcastbiz.net](mailto:bookkeeper@stjoe24112.comcastbiz.net)

**Hispanic Coordinator: Eduardo Guerrero:**

[guerredu@hotmail.com](mailto:guerredu@hotmail.com)

**RCIA Director: Stephanie Bailey**

[Ssddle13@gmail.com](mailto:Ssddle13@gmail.com)

**Minister of Music (English): Al Broholm**

[sfoamusicministry@gmail.com](mailto:sfoamusicministry@gmail.com)

**Minister of Music (Spanish) Isabel Edwards**

[Edwardsmaria05@gmail.com](mailto:Edwardsmaria05@gmail.com)

## FATHER CARLOS' REFLECTION

### FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Our Gospel reading recalls Mary's actions after the announcement of Jesus' birth by the angel Gabriel. Mary goes to visit Elizabeth, her cousin, who is also with child. Elizabeth greets Mary with full recognition of the roles that they and their unborn children will play in God's plan for salvation. Both women recall and echo God's history of showing favor upon the people of Israel.

In Luke's Gospel the Holy Spirit helps reveal Jesus' identity as God to those who believe. Elizabeth is filled with the Holy Spirit and sings Mary's praise because she bears the Lord. We sing these words of praise to Mary in the Hail Mary. Even John the Baptist, the unborn child in Elizabeth's womb, is said to recognize the presence of the Lord and leaps for joy.

It is appropriate in this season of Advent that we consider the role of Mary in God's plan of salvation. Elizabeth describes Mary as the first disciple, as the one who believed that God's word to her would be fulfilled. Mary's faith enabled her to recognize the work of God in her people's history and in her own life. Her openness to God allowed God to work through her so that salvation might come to everyone. Because of this, Mary is a model and symbol of the Church. May we be like Mary, open and cooperative in God's plan for salvation.

Our Blessed Mother Mary is a model and example of faith and obedience to us; we can learn from her how to be a disciple and cooperate in God's plan.

How often do you pray or ask our Virgin Mary how to listen God's voice in your heart; how to participate and be part of his plan of salvation? How can the example of Elizabeth and our Blessed Mother inspire you to recognize the Baby Jesus in your life?

As we prepare to celebrate the Lord's Nativity soon, let us pray that the Holy Spirit and our Blessed Mother guide us to meet and see the Baby Jesus born in our midst. O God, who through the child-bearing of the holy Virgin graciously revealed the radiance of your glory to the world, grant, we pray, that we venerate with integrity of faith the mystery of so wondrous an Incarnation and always celebrate it with due reverence. Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

#### 12/19 4th Sunday of Advent

Readings: 869

Processional 121 [Luke 1: Magnificat](#)

Kyrie [168](#)

Psalm R&A [14](#)

Gospel R&A [15](#)

Offertory 302 [Lo, How A Rose E're Blooming](#)

Comm 487 [Hail Mary, Gentle Woman](#)

Recessional 286 [Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates](#)

#### Liturgical Minister Schedule for Dec 26.

Lectors: Irma Harrison-1, Dan Van Vostrand-2, - Barbara

Helmick- Int,

Minister: Jim Grandinetti

### Daily Mass Readings

#### Readings for the week of December 19:

**Sunday:** [Mi 5:1-4a](#), [Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19.](#), [Heb 10:5-10](#), [Lk 1:39-45](#)

**Monday:** [Is 7:10-14, 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6](#), [Lk 1:26-38](#),

**Tuesday:** [Sg 2:8-14, 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21](#), [Lk 1:39-45](#)

**Wednesday:** [1 Sm 1:24-28](#), [1 Samuel 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd](#), [Lk 1:46-56](#)

**Thursday:** [Mal 3:1-4, 23-24, 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14](#), [Lk 1:57-66](#)

**Friday:** [2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16, 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29](#), [Lk 1:67-79](#)

**Saturday:** [Is 52:7-10, Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6.](#), [Heb 1:1-6, Jn 1:1-18](#)

Or visit daily readings at [www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org)

### MASS Intentions

**Sunday, Dec. 19: Joseph & Ruth Stillwell+**

**Tue, Dec. 21: Lory Tucker+**

**Wed, Dec. 22: Lory Tucker+**

+ Indicated the Mass Intention is for the repose of the soul of the person(s) listed.

### Prayer Requests

Carolyn Eanes, Mike Kelly, Lewis Drane, Teresa Biggs, Ricky East, Mark Szulecki, Theresa McGarry, Jim Tobin, Ed Cozzete, David Simmons, Margaret Cunningham, Tim Hollingsworth, Lena Martin, Ruth Weaver, Doo Lie Toppled, Lauren Teresa, Mike Harris, Ann White, Bridget Johnson, Betty Gillispie, Anna Towarnicki, Marie-Bernice Downey, and Tia Jessup

**(To add or remove prayer requests, please call the church office. Para quitar o poner una peticion, por favor llamar a la oficina de la iglesia)**

*Unless otherwise requested, names will remain on the prayer list for 4 weeks. If you would like to add a name to the prayer network phone chain, please call Betty Gillispie or Ann Gunter.*

**Sick, homebound, hospitalized? / ¿Enfermo, Confinado en casa u hospitalizado?**

If you, or someone you know, would like to receive Communion or anointing of the sick, please call the office. Outside of office hours, please call Barbara Kurtz (276) 647-1906

*Si usted o alguien que usted conoce quisiera recibir el Sacramento de la Communion* tendremos a Rosa Aguirre, Maribel Ortega, Anselmo Diaz, y Miguel Ruiz que seran los encargados de este ministerio por favor llamar a la oficina para agendar la visita al (276) 638-4779.

#### MASS INTENTIONS

If you would like a Mass offered for a loved one, please call the church office or fill out a Mass intention envelope completely and place it in the offertory basket. **Make checks payable to St. Joseph Catholic Church.** Specific dates may not be available. Please include a contact number to arrange an alternate date if necessary.

Si usted quiere ofrecer una misa a un ser querido por favor lléne el sobre correspondiente para la intención y deposítelo en la canasta de la colecta. Haga el cheque a nombre St. Joseph Catholic Church. Quizas algunas fechas no esten disponibles incluya su número de teléfono para ofrecerle opciones.

Dear Parishioners,  
Merry Christmas! I sincerely hope that the remembrance of Christ's birth brings you much peace and hope. As we celebrate Christmas, I would like to thank you for your presence and prayers with our parish family of Saint Joseph and Saint Francis of Assisi Catholic Church.

Just as the shepherds were led to a humble stable in Bethlehem to worship the infant Jesus, so have we been led to be together at this time and in this place to sing with the angels: Glory to God in the highest and peace to all people on earth! I hope that God's presence will be made known to you not only today but every day.

Know that I pray for you, your loved ones and your intentions. Thank you for lifting me up in prayer as well. May you have the grace to find happiness and joy this Christmas and throughout the New Year... and may we meet each day in our prayers!

In joyful hope,

**Rev. Carlos Lerma.**

**Pastor**

Estimados feligreses,

¡Feliz Navidad! Espero sinceramente que el recuerdo del nacimiento de Cristo les traiga mucha paz y esperanza. Mientras celebramos la Navidad, me gustaría agradecerles por su presencia y oraciones con nuestra familia parroquial de San José y la Iglesia Católica San Francisco.

Así como los pastores fueron conducidos a un humilde establo en Belén para adorar al niño Jesús, así también nosotros fuimos conducidos a estar juntos en este tiempo y en este lugar para cantar con los ángeles: Gloria a Dios en las alturas y paz a todos los hombres. ¡en la tierra! Espero que la presencia de Dios se les dé a conocer no solo hoy, sino todos los días. Sepan que oro por ustedes, sus seres queridos y sus intenciones.

Gracias por levantarme en oración también. ¡Que tengas la gracia de encontrar la felicidad y la alegría en esta Navidad y durante todo el Año Nuevo ... y que nos encontremos cada día en nuestras oraciones!

Con gozosa esperanza,

**Rev. Carlos Lerma.**

**Pastor**

#### Grocery Card Income 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter:

Food Lion: \$367.00, Kroger: \$ 152.65, Amazon Smile \$ 16.52

Second collection for Dec. 26, 2021 will be for **Building Maintenance.**

La Segunda colecta para el 26 de Diciembre de 2021 será para el mantenimiento de este edificio.

The first collection is for payment of St. Joseph's daily expenses which include office supplies, salaries, sacramental materials, etc. **If absent, please make up your contribution.**

La primera colecta se utiliza para para el pago de los gastos diarios de San José. **Si estuvo ausente por favor, haga su donación.**

*Thank you for your generous support of our parish*

**Reminder!** Grocery shopping can earn money for our parish!

Register your Kroger card and/or purchase a Food Lion gift card! See the back cover for details.



The Parish office will close Thursday, December 23<sup>th</sup> and re-open on Tuesday, December 28<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

## Happy Holidays

### ST. JOSEPH'S SCHEDULE 2021

#### Advent Talks

December 19 at 1:30pm (Spanish) 4:00pm (English)

#### Christmas Dinner Potluck

Sunday, December 19 at 6:00 pm

#### Christmas Eve Mass

Friday, December 24 - Mass at 5:00pm (English) St. Joseph

Friday, December 24- Mass at 11 pm (English) St. Francis of Assisi (Rocky Mount)

#### Christmas Day Mass

Saturday, December 25 - Mass at 11:30am (Bilingual) St. Joseph

Saturday, December 25 - Mass at 9 am, Christmas (Bilingual) St. Francis of Assisi (Rocky Mount)

Francis of Assisi (Rocky Mount)

#### New Year Solemnity of Mary Mother of God Mass

Friday, December 31 -Mass 7pm (Bilingual) St. Francis of Assisi Rocky Mount.

Saturday, January 1, 2022- Mass at 10:00am (Bilingual) St. Joseph.

We are still in desperate need of 3 collection counters. One counter is needed to count every 3rd Sunday of the month and 2 counters are needed to count every 4th Sunday of the month. It takes approximately 3 hours of your time to count the money and take it to the bank. Please see Pat Prillaman after Mass or call the office if you wish to be a part of this vital ministry.

**Grace network food Partner** assignment Oct-Dec 2021, we have committed to helping Grace Network with stocking their food pantry for those in need. Our item for this quarter is canned beans or peas 15oz.

<b>Collections: 12/08/2021</b>	<b>\$ 180.00</b>	<b>Immaculate Conception</b>
<b>Collections: 12/11/2021</b>	<b>959.00</b>	<b>Our Lady of Guadalupe</b>
<b>Collections: 12/12/2021</b>	<b>2,721.82</b>	<b>Sunday Collection</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 3,860.82</b>	



ST. JOSEPH COUNCIL # 6538

#### BABY BOTTLE CAMPAIGN

The Baby Bottle Boomerang (BBB) to support the Pregnancy Care Center of Martinsville/Henry Co. is going on now! Please pick up a family baby bottle and collect your loose change to help the unborn babies and new mothers in our area. From November 14, 2021 through January 16, 2022.

#### KOVAR FUNDRAISER

Don't forget to bring all your empty cans in bags to the church drop off. This is a Knights of Columbus fundraiser for KOVAR who help people with intellectual disabilities in the State of Virginia. There will be a location behind the dumpster. CANS ONLY PLEASE! Thank you.