

St Joseph Catholic Church

2020 St Joseph Drive, Largo Maryland, 20774 301-773-4838 Fax 301-773-6832 Website: www.stjoseph-largo.org

Sunday December 3, 2023 ~ The First Sunday of Advent

From the Bishop's Pen...

"Be watchful! You do not know when the Lord of the house is coming."

Today is the First Sunday of Advent. The word "Advent" means "coming." We light the 1st Advent candle today, preparing for the coming of Christ, the eternal light who will pierce the darkness of the world. Just as a light gets brighter, the closer it comes to us, the Light of the World is symbolically coming closer to us and getting brighter by each additional candle that we light during the four Sundays of Advent.

The Light of the World that we prepare for is the coming of Jesus. Yet, we should also be preparing for Jesus' Second Coming. Saint Cyril wrote: "At the first coming He was wrapped in swaddling clothes in a manger. At His second coming He will be clothed in light as in a garment. In the first coming, He endured the cross, despising the shame; in the second coming He will be in glory, escorted by an army of angels. We look then, beyond the first coming and await the second."

Jesus' first coming brought us salvation, and with salvation, He gives us abundant graces. We must accept His graces to guide us through this life, because the time of His Second Coming will be unexpected; therefore, we must use His graces to always be prepared. Advent then is a time of expectancy along with our waiting in hope. Advent is forward looking. It is different from Lent, which is a time of reflection and examination.

We know that we are preparing for Christ's coming, but what should we do to prepare? In today's world, we are busy with many things. However, what we need to be most busy doing is praying. When we pray, we are talking to and listening to God. There is no better way to prepare for Christ's coming in our lives, than through prayer. Then, as we prepare to remember Jesus' First Coming, we will not fear His Second Coming, but will look forward to it.

HAPPY ADVENT!

- Bishop Roy Campbell

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday thru Friday 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

The office is closed for business on:

ALL Weekends Federal Gov't Closings Holidays and Holy Days

Phone: (301)773-4838 Fax: (301) 773-6832

Website: www.stjoseph-largo.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/ StJosephLargo

Email: parishoffice@stjosephlargo.org

PASTORAL STAFF

Pastor

Most Rev. Roy E. Campbell, Jr. rcampbell@stjosephlargo.org

Parochial Vicar

Rev. Vincent Tinh Vu vincentvu@stjosephlargo.org

Deacons

Deacon Steven Nash snash@stjosephlargo.org

Deacon Kyle Simon ksimon@stjosephlargo.org

(Please make appointments for private meetings)

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday - 5:00 pm

Sunday - 8:00 am, 10:00 am, 12:00 pm

Daily Mass 8:30 am

Weekly on Tuesday Exposition / Adoration 6:00 pm Benediction 6:45 pm Evening Mass 7:00 pm

Weekly on Friday Exposition / Adoration after 8:30 am Mass Benediction 9:30 am

Sunday December 3, 2023 ~ PAGE 2

Parish Staff

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SUPPORT MINISTRIES

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Wedding Coordinator:

Thelma Lucas

sugarseven@aol.com *Youth Ministru*:

Beverly Dandridge

fnptraveler6@gmail.com

Welcome =

To The St Joseph Catholic Church Community

Our desire is that every member of our parish family encounters Jesus Christ in a very personal and life-changing way as they journey through life within our community. That now includes you and we welcome you to this very personal, communal journey of faith as part of our parish family. As you begin the next part of your faith journey with us, we encourage you to check in at the Welcome Table and complete the parish registration form. You may also get the form from a Hospitality minister. Stay connected with the St Joseph Community through our Website and Facebook God has given you gifts to share in helping the Church build the kingdom and accomplish her mission. Seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit to help you discern where you are meant to serve. When we fully reopen, please check out our Ministries and Organizations at the Welcome Table or our Website. Pray, discern, then take that leap of faith and get engaged in the life of the parish.

LET US KNOW YOU ARE HERE SO WE CAN PROPERLY WELCOME YOU!

PARISH TITHING AND CONTRIBUTIONS

Please use your offertory envelopes, and fill them out completely. Enclose your check or cash in your offertory envelope and write the amount on the envelope. As a reminder money/checks do not stay together with the envelopes so if there is no information or amount on the envelope you may not receive proper acknowledgement for your offering. If you choose to send in your Church envelopes by mail or drop them off at the Church, please do so. Your tax deductible offerings are based on the information on your envelopes. We have also set-up *Online Giving* through *Faith Direct*, which is an easy, simple, and secure way to continue supporting the ministry and mission of our parish. We had to make a number of decisions regarding our current Church staff because we are unable to collect our regular offertory. Please go to the link: https://www.stjoseph-largo.org/online-giving to sign-up for Faith Direct, make a contribution, and to view a video about enrollment and have your questions answered about online giving.

MASS SPECIAL INTENTIONS

Mass Intentions are made in the Church Office during regular business hours or may be given

to Hospitality Minister after the Sunday Masses. You will be contacted if the date requested is not available. Bookings for one name for several days in succession will not be accepted. An offering is \$10.00 CASH per date / per envelope. Mass intentions are acknowledged at the Sunday and daily Masses.

Mass intentions must be received in the office by Monday 9:00 am to be included in the bulletin for the next week.

Our Parish Family's Weekly Offering

\$ N/A November 26 2023

Our average weekly parish expenses for October 2023 - \$15,234.93

Our Offertory last week was N/A% of Expenses

Faith Direct: October 2023 - \$24,729.75

<u>Last Week's Attendance Total:</u> Sunday Masses - 744

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANNOUNCEMENTS for the **NEXT** bulletin are due in the Church Office on Monday by 12:00 noon. The bulletin is sent to the printer on Tuesday morning.

COMMUNION CALLS / HOME VISITS

The Eucharistic Ministry is available for communion calls and home visits If you or someone you know is homebound but would like to receive communion on a regular basis, contact the parish office (301-773-4838) to schedule a visit. Monday through Friday 10:00 am - 5:00 pm

Sunday December 3, 2023 ~ The First Sunday of Advent ~ PAGE 3

St Joseph Catholic Church ~ Calendar for this Week

Masses / Observances and Church Activities



Monday December 4, 2023
St. John Damascene, Priest
and Doctor of the Church

Daily Mass - 8:30 am

Tuesday December 5, 2023 Daily Mass - 8:30 am

Exposition / Adoration - 6:00 pm Benediction - 6:30 pm

Evening Mass - 7:00 pm

Wednesday December 6, 2023
St. Nicholas, Bishop

Daily Mass - 8:30 am

Thursday December 7, 2023
St. Ambrose, Bishop
AND DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

Daily Mass - 8:30 AM

Friday December 8, 2023
THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY
HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION

Daily Mass - 8:30 am

Exposition / Adoration IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING MORNING Mass Benediction - 9:30 am

> Noon - 12:00 pm Evening - 7:00 pm

St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin

Confession / Reconciliation 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Vigil Mass - 5:00 pm

THIS WEEK AT THE PARISH

Sunday December 3

- **Sodality** (CH) (Rosary 8:00 am after Mass)
- SJCC Gospel Choir (CLR 2) 9:00 am
- SJCAF African and Friends Choir Practice (CLR 2) 10:30 am
- RCIA Class (CLR 1) 12:00 pm
- SJYM POP UP Donut Sale (RR-B) After All Masses

Monday December 4

• RCIA Class
(Virtual) 7:00 pm
https://uso2web.zoom.us/
j/81533487037?
pwd=YTRhbkg3Y1NCdlcvd
2YwZERmcXhUUT09

Wednesday December 6

• Line Dancing (RR) 11:30 am

Thursday December 7

- Line Dancing (RR) 12:30 pm
- St Joseph Sodality -Pray the Rosary (Virtual) 5:00 pm Call in number (848) 220-3100 Conference ID: 06241954#
- Cantor Rehearsal (CH) 5:30 pm
- SJCAF-Charismatic Group (CLR 1) 7:00 pm
- KofC Officers Planning Meeting (RR) 7:00 pm
- **SVDP Meeting (**CLR 2) 7:00 pm

Saturday December 8

- Men's Ministry Meeting (CLR2) 7:30 am
- Religious Ed Classes (CH, RR, All Classrooms) 10:00 am
- Cantor Rehearsal for Vigil Mass (CLR2) 3:30 pm
- SJYM POP UP Donut Sale (RR-B) After All Masses

Daily Readings for the Week

Week of December 3, 2023

<u>Sunday:</u> Is 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 (4)/1 Cor 1:3-9/Mk 13:33-37

<u>Monday:</u> Is 2:1-5/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4b, 4cd-5, 6-7, 8-9/Mt 8:5-11

<u>Tuesday:</u> Is 11:1-10/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17/Lk 10:21-24

<u>Wednesday:</u> Is 25:6-10a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b -4, 5, 6/Mt 15:29-37

<u>Thursday:</u> Is 26:1-6/Ps 118:1 and 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a/Mt 7:21, 24-27

<u>Friday:</u> Gn 3:9-15, 20/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38

<u>Saturday:</u> <u>Is</u> 30:19-21, 23-26/Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/Mt 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6-8

<u>Next Sunday:</u> Is 40:1-5, 9-11/Ps 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14 (8)/2 Pt 3:8-14/ Mk 1:1-8

For Our Young Parishioners

Sharing the Gospel

When you are invited to a big party, you get prepared. You take a bath. You wear your finest outfit and shoes. You take a gift to the host. God has invited you to his heavenly party. Get prepared for it. You want to be ready. You are God's gift. Give your soul a bath in God's waters of forgiveness. Dress yourself in a white robe. Wear shoes that are guided by GPSSS - God's Personal Soul Saving System.

PRAYER

Lord, prepare me for heaven's party.

SOMETHING TO DRAW

Draw yourself preparing for a big party on earth or in heaven.

MISSION FOR THE WEEK

I pray to be ready when Jesus calls me into heaven.

Sunday December 3, 2023 ~ PAGE 4

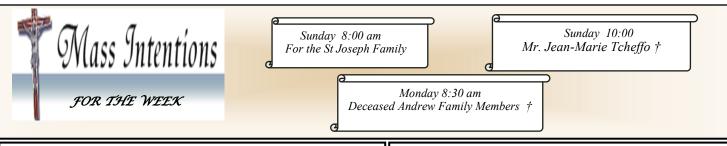
Please Pray for the Sick and Shut-in...

Gerry Anderson, Agnes Bell, Carla Amorim, Melody Atkinson, Randy Belt, Veronica Blakeney, Rachel Brewer, Eleanor Brooks, Roger Brooks, Maxine Brown, Virginia Brust, , Renee Burroughs, Paula Butler, Tanesha Butler, Angela & Wick Cartwright, Alberta Christian, Angela Clark, Connie Clark, Chuck Clay, Angella Coker, Herman Davis, James Doe, Gregory Eades, Verna Etheredge, Tammy Flarisee, Mary E. Fletcher, Larry & Evelyn Frelow, Gina Geron, James Gant, Regina Gary, Maureen Gramby, Agnes Grayson, Catherine & Jennifer Gresham, Juanita Grillo, Kimberly Grimes, Mable Helm, Eva Henson, Lawrence Hill, Sheila Hinton, Doris Hite, Luis Howell, Mark Humphrey, Cathy Jackson, Gwen Jarman, Demetrius Jackson, Katie Jackson, Melvin James, Lyell Johnson, Roland Joyner, Duke Kelly, Mark Sr/Mark Jr & Gabrielle Landry, Alton Ernest Lewis, Henrietta Long, Karee Lucas, Sadie Malveaux, Barbara Marshall, Maria Marshall, Marilyn Marshall, Leondre Massey, Anthony Mc Donald, Carlos Menefee, Kathleen Mitchell, Nancy Mooney, Jean Neal, Madga Nelson, Paul Newman, Ronald Nickens, Gail Norris, Cynthia Obedike, LaTanya Pelt, Larry Peters, Claudette Randall, Barbara Reece-Jones, Danielle Rhodes, Irene Richmond, Miriam Ross, Teresa Ross, Ronald G. Sanders, Sheryl Sanders, Marcia Savoy, Thomas W. Scott, Carolyn & William Scriber, Virginette Scott, Dana Chapman-Sewell, Lucille Shaw, Madeline Stillwell, Gwen Sutton, Lucille Swann, Candice Taylor, Kenneth Taylor, Carolyn Thrash, William "Billy" Tolbert, Erma Torney, Frances Tyler, Nicholas Walter, Cecilia Whittaker, Darryll Wilcots, Leon Williams, Paula Wynn Michael Younger

And the Recently Deceased:

Joseph Jennifer

ETERNAL REST GRANT TO THEM, O LORD, AND LET PERPETUAL LIGHT SHINE UPON THEM. MAY THEY REST IN PEACE. AMEN.



UVE THE LITURGY: INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

Advent is a time for waiting, for hoping, for praying. It is a time for reflecting on the special work to which God calls us all. **Stay alert. Show Him you are listening.**

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK - FOR YOUR REFLECTION

FIRST READING

In prayer, the prophet Isaiah grieves over our sins that separates us from God. What sorrow or distress have you experienced over the past week?

SECOND READING

Paul offers up a prayer of thanksgiving to God for the many gifts the believers have received because of their faith in Jesus. As we begin the season of Advent, for what are you thankful?

GOSPEL READING

Each Advent, the Gospel reading begins with Jesus instructing his disciples to watch carefully for the end times.

How often do you think about the Second Coming of Jesus and judgment day?

CATHOLIC TRIVIA - DID YOU KNOW?

<u>Question:</u> What is the title for the superior of a women's monastic religious community?

Answer: (a) She is called a Prioress (b) She is called an Abbess.(c) She is called Mother Superior d) She is called Reverend Mother

Answer on Page 5

WHY DO WE DO THAT? CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED

WINE DISTRIBUTION

Question:

Why haven't Catholic Churches gone the way of disposable cups for wine distribution?

<u>Answer:</u>

If a Catholic has ever attended a Protestant worship service and saw the communion service that was offered for that community, one of the things that might have stood out was the use of small, disposable cups for distributing the wine or grape juice. This is in stark contrast to the precious metal chalices used in Catholic churches during the Mass.

Although practices for Protestant Christians can vary (ranging from large shared chalices, to personal-use cups, to dipping the bread in the wine/grape juice), the norms governing Catholic practices are fairly direct: "Sacred vessels are to be made from precious metal. If they are made from metal that rusts or from a metal less precious than gold, then ordinarily they should be gilded on the inside. In the Dioceses of the United States of America, sacred vessels may also be made from other solid materials that, according to the common estimation in each region, are precious ... they are to have bowls of nonabsorbent material" (nos. 328-330). Rather than being a commentary on the beliefs or practices of those other communities, these rules are intended to highlight the reverence that Catholics have for the bread and wine consecrated at Mass, which become the Body and Blood of the Lord.

Sunday December 3, 2023 ~The First Sunday of Advent ~ PAGE 5

WHAT IS ADVENT?

Sunday, December 3, 2023 - Sunday, December 24, 2023

Beginning the Church's liturgical year, Advent (from, "ad-venire" in Latin or "to come to") is the season encompassing the four Sundays (and weekdays) leading up to the celebration of Christmas.

The Advent season is a time of preparation that directs our hearts and minds to Christ's second coming at the end of time and to the anniversary of Our Lord's birth on Christmas. From the earliest days of the Church, people have been fascinated by Jesus' promise to come back. But the scripture readings during Advent tell us not to waste our time with predictions. Advent is not about speculation. Our Advent readings call us to be alert and ready, not weighted down and distracted by the cares of this world (Lk 21:34-36). Like Lent, the liturgical color for Advent is purple since both are seasons that prepare us for great feast days. Advent also includes an element of penance in the sense of preparing, quieting, and disciplining our hearts for the full joy of Christmas.

As we prepare for Christmas, the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal* notes some differences to the Mass that should be observed during the season. For instance, the priest wears violet or purple during Advent, except for the Third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday) when rose may be worn (GIRM, no. 346). Aside from what the priest wears, other aesthetic changes in the Church can include a more modestly decorated altar.

The final days of Advent, from December 17 to December 24, we focus on our preparation for the celebrations of the Nativity of our Lord at Christmas. In particular, the "O" Antiphons are sung during this period and have been by the Church since at least the eighth century. They are a magnificent theology that uses ancient biblical imagery drawn from the messianic hopes of the Old Testament to proclaim the coming of Christ as the fulfillment not only of Old Testament hopes, but of present ones as well.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

"Immaculate Mary, your praises we sing!"

December 8th is one of our feasts celebrating Mary, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. From the beginnings of the Church, spiritual writers and theologians have acknowledged the innocence and holiness of Mary. St. Irenaeus called her the "new Eve." Both faced with the pure freedom to accept or reject God, Mary began with work of redemption with her yes to Christ! The Church began to celebrate the feast of Mary's conception in the early Middle Ages. In 1854, Pope Pius IX infallibly declared that Mary was free of original sin from the first moment of her conception.

On this feast day, we celebrate the Beauty and Goodness of Our Lady

CATHOLIC TRIVIA - DID YOU KNOW?

You are correct if you answered (b) She is called an Abbess

ST JOSEPH GOSPEL CHOIR CONCERT REFUNDS

Representatives from the St. Joseph Gospel Choir will be available at the church to accept <u>refund request</u> on the following days:

Monday November 27th - Wednesday November 29th Monday December 4th - Wednesday December 6th 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm Classroom 1

All supporters who would like a refund, must return their concert ticket (s), and complete a refund request form. Your patrons and ad donations will also be refunded. *Refund checks will be mailed directly from the church*. The copy of the refund request form will be your receipt as well as the refund check.

Thank you for your support
President of the SJGC Thelma Lucas



"The Saint Joseph's Youth Ministry will sponsor a "POP-UP" fundraiser. Krispy Kreme donuts will be available after each Mass on:

December 2nd -3rd and December 9th -10th

CASH OR CHECK ONLY

Stop by the Rosemont Room and get your goodies while they last!

ST. JOSEPH'S GOSPEL CHOIR

Please join us for a day of fun games, door prizes and shopping
Wind Creek Casino & Outlet, Bethlehem, PA
Saturday, December 16, 2023
Bus Departs: 7:00 am
from 2020 St. Josephs Drive, Largo, MD
Bus Returns: Approx 7:00 pm
Cost: \$75.00 non-refundable / Rebate: \$30.00 slot play
Tickets are limited! Masks must be worn on the bus!
For tickets contact:
Pat Johnson 240-856-1770
Jordan Gill 301-848-4142



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