

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 10, 2023 ~ The Second Sunday of Advent

From the Bishop's Pen...

"Make straight the paths of the Lord."

The shortest distance between two points is a straight line. The prophet Isaiah writes: "Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you: he will prepare your way. A voice of one crying out in the desert: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.'"

Our Lord wants to travel a straight path to our hearts. For that to happen, we must prepare by making straight the path we must travel to our Lord, the same path that He is to travel to our hearts. Whenever we sin, we put a "crook" in our path to our Lord.

Most of the important tasks and projects we attempt in life have a definitive timeline. We know how much time we have to accomplish our tasks. Sometimes we can procrastinate, or veer "off-course," and wait until we are near the deadline to accomplish our tasks. In preparing for the Lord's coming, we also have a definitive timeline to spend in this life to "prepare" for eternal life. The difference is that we do not know when our earthly deadline will come. We always need to travel a straight path to the Lord!

In today's Gospel, John the Baptist proclaims a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. Repentance of wrongs we have committed is the way we correct the "crooks" and straighten our path to the Lord.

We are truly blessed that the Lord sought us out at His first coming and that He willingly came to us on that first Christmas. He gave Himself to us so that if we keep our focus on Him, the graces of His Sacraments will help us "make straight His path" in our lives. Then at His second coming, our Lord will have the straight path He desires to our souls, the path that we will travel to eternal life with Him.

– 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

PARISH STAFF

Cherry Neal

Parish Office Manager
cneal@stjosephlargo.org - ext 24

Karen Marshall

Parish Secretary
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Loraine Hayling

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Stephen Joy

Facilities Manager
sjoy@stjosephlargo.org - ext 16
Religious Education
religioused@stjosephlargo.org - ext 15

SUPPORT MINISTRIES

Audiovisual Support:

Chuck Clay
chuck.clay@comcast.net

Altar Servers:

Deacon Kyle Simon
ksimon@stjosephlargo.org

Bereavement Support:

Etoile Hawkins
etoile1706@aol.com

Eucharistic Ministry:

Bernard Brodus
bbroadus53@gmail.com

Food Pantry/

St. Vincent DePaul Society:

Rhonda Burriss or Pam White
301-773-0102 ext 13

Good Samaritans Ministry:

Kelly Hamilton
kellyhamilton2@gmail.com 202-345-5446
Arleen Jeter
apj24@msn.com 301-518-8139

RCIA Coordinator:

Deacon Steven Nash
snash@stjosephlargo.org

Wedding Coordinator:

Thelma Lucas
sugarseven@aol.com

Youth Ministry:

Beverly Dandridge
fnptraveler6@gmail.com



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 acknowledgment 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

\$ 27,066.60 December 3, 2023

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

Our Offertory last week was 177.0%
of Expenses

Faith Direct: October 2023 - \$24,729.75

Last Week's Attendance Total:
Sunday Masses - 681

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

St Joseph Catholic Church ~ Calendar for this Week

MASSES / OBSERVANCES AND CHURCH ACTIVITIES

Sunday December 10, 2023



Masses
8:00 am, 10:00 am
12:00 pm

SECOND WEEK OF
ADVENT

Monday December 11, 2023

ST. DAMASUS I, POPE
Daily Mass - 8:30 am

Tuesday December 12, 2023

OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

Daily Mass - 8:30 am
Exposition / Adoration - 6:00 pm
Benediction - 6:30 pm
Evening Mass - 7:00 pm

Wednesday December 13, 2023

ST. LUCY, VIRGIN AND MARTYR
Daily Mass - 8:30 am

Thursday December 14, 2023

**ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS, PRIEST AND
DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH**
Daily Mass - 8:30 am

Friday December 15, 2023

Daily Mass - 8:30 am
Exposition / Adoration
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING MORNING MASS
Benediction - 9:30 am

Saturday December 16, 2023

Confession / Reconciliation
3:00 pm - 4:00 pm
Vigil Mass - 5:00 pm

Next Sunday

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Prayer for Advent 2nd Week

*Dear Lord, Open our eyes to the people
You have specifically placed in our path
so that we can speak healing
and comfort to them.
Help us to prepare for the coming
of Your kingdom, together.
Amen.*

THIS WEEK AT THE PARISH

Sunday December 10

- **SJCC Gospel Choir**
(CLR 2) 9:00 am
- **St Joseph Ladies
Auxiliary No. 141
Knights of St John Intl**
(CLR 2) 11:15 am
- **RCIA Class** (CLR 1)
12:00 pm
- **Youth Ministry
Meeting** (CLR 2) 1:30 pm
- **Fr Boxie**
(CH, RR, CLR1) 3:30 pm
- **SJYM - POP UP Donut
Sale** (RR-B)
AFTER ALL MASSES

Monday December 11

- **GSM - Project Warmth**
(RR) 6:00 pm
- **RCIA Class**
(Virtual) 7:00 pm
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81533487037?pwd=YTRhbkkg3Y1NCdlcvd2YwZERmcXhUUT09>

Tuesday December 12

- **African and Friends
Choir Rehearsal**
(CLR 2) 7:00 pm

Wednesday December 13

- **Line Dancing** (RR)
11:30 am

Thursday December 14

- **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

**THIS WEEK AT THE PARISH
CONTINUED ON PAGE 5**

Daily Readings for the Week

Week of December 10, 2023

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

Monday: Is 35:1-10/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14/Lk 5:17-26

Tuesday: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/Jdt 13:18bcde, 19/Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47

Wednesday: Is 40:25-31/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8 and 10/Mt 11:28-30

Thursday: Is 41:13-20/Ps 145:1 and 9, 10-11, 12-13ab/Mt 11:11-15

Friday: Is 48:17-19/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6/Mt 11:16-19

Saturday: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Ps 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16, 18-19/Mt 17:9a, 10-13

Next Sunday: Is 61:1-2a, 10-11/Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54 (Is 61:10b)/1 Thes 5:16-24/Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

For Our Young Parishioners

SHARING THE GOSPEL

Imagine John the Baptist is preaching today. He is preaching not only to you, but to people watching television at home. You and your family are down by the river having a picnic. John says, "Tell God that you are sorry for your bad behavior." John warns, "Stop sinning. Follow God's commandments." You say: "Count me as a child of God. Wash me with the waters of God's baptism."

PRAYER

Lord, I repent of my sins. Bathe me with your waters of forgiveness.

SOMETHING TO DRAW

Draw John the Baptist baptizing you and your family in the Jordan River.

MISSION FOR THE WEEK

Every day I will tell God that I am sorry for my sins.

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, Marilyn Marshall, Leondre Massey, Anthony Mc Donald, Carlos Menefee, Kathleen Mitchell, Nancy Mooney, 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:

Jean Neal

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



Sunday 8:00 am
For the St Joseph Family

Sunday 10:00
Hermand Temkeng
Tefonack SI

Sunday 12:00 pm
Leonilo Bautista †

Tuesday 8:30 am
For the Parents of
Awazele and Kenneth

Friday 8:30 am
Tony & Chinedu Ndu
(Birthday Blessings)

Saturday 5:00 pm
Wanda Johnson †

LIVE THE LITURGY:

INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

Christ is making a journey into each of our hearts this Advent.
Clear away whatever blocks his way.
Make straight the path. Invite him in.

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK - FOR YOUR REFLECTION

FIRST READING

The prophet Isaiah offers comfort and hope to the Israelites who were captive in Babylon in proclaiming that the glory of the Lord is returning to Israel. *Do you have family or friends who could use words of encouragement from you?*

SECOND READING

Peter speaks of being at peace while we wait for the promise of new heavens and a new earth when Christ returns. *What gives you peace of mind these days?*

GOSPEL READING

Fulfilling the prophecies of Isaiah, John the Baptist proclaimed the arrival of Jesus, "one mightier than I...(who) will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." *Where do you sense the Holy Spirit present in your life?*

CATHOLIC TRIVIA – DID YOU KNOW?

Question: Which two sacraments are traditionally administered by bishops instead of priests?

Answer: (a) Baptism (b) Matrimony (c) Eucharist
(d) Confirmation and Holy Orders

ANSWER ON PAGE 5

WHY DO WE DO THAT?

CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED

CAN CATHOLICS GAMBLE?

Question:

The Bible says that Jesus condemned gambling, but I notice that so many parishes have them at festivals and other events. What's correct?

Answer:

Although Jesus speaks of our relationship with material wealth and the very human struggle with greed, the gospels do not include any specific instructions related to gambling. At the same time, the Church is very sensitive to the needs of those who might struggle with an addiction to gambling, and pastoral care should always be offered to those who struggle with this reality in their life.

While it is true that many parishes or school communities include gambling or games of chance in festivals and fund-raisers (e.g. bingo, roulette, ring tossing, dunking booths, etc.), there is nothing inherently wrong with these sorts of events, given they are played fairly and within the limits of reason are not morally objectionable. As the Catechism of the Catholic Church reminds us: "Games of chance (card games, etc.) or wagers are not in themselves contrary to justice. They become morally unacceptable when they deprive someone of what is necessary to provide for his needs and those of others" (no. 2413).

As in all things, moderation and a sense of healthy limits should be applied to gambling and games of chance. For those who find themselves living with addiction to gambling, help is available in various 12-step and addiction recovery programs.

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

A VOICE OF ONE CRYING OUT IN THE DESERT:

"PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD,
MAKE STRAIGHT HIS PATHS.
EVERY VALLEY SHALL BE FILLED
AND EVERY MOUNTAIN AND HILL SHALL BE MADE LOW."

— LUKE 3:4-5

Excerpt from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1979 CCB. GLR



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

December 9th -10th
CASH OR CHECK ONLY

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

ST. JOSEPH 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



The Our Lady of Grace Sodality is sponsoring a bake sale on December 17th after each Mass. Join them in the Rosemont Room to purchase your "Holiday Goodies."

CHECK OR CASH ACCEPTED

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
Cynthia Mills at 202 329 5996

THIS WEEK AT THE PARISH CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

Saturday December 16

- **Men's Ministry Meeting** (CLR2) 7:30 am
- **Religious Ed Classes** (CH, RR, All Classrooms) 10:00 am
- **SVDP - Food Distribution** (WW)
APPOINTMENT REQUIRED
- **NBCC Congress - Continuing the Momentum** (RR/CH) 2:30 pm **RSVP REQUIRED**
- **Altar Server Training** (CLR 3 and CH) 3:00 pm
- **Cantor Rehearsal for Vigil Mass** (CL2) 3:30pm
- **SJCAF Christmas Tree Lighting & Religious Ed Christmas Program** (Outside & Church) 7:00pm

FAITHFUL FUNNIES

"Why was St. George tired?"



"He worked the **knight** shift."

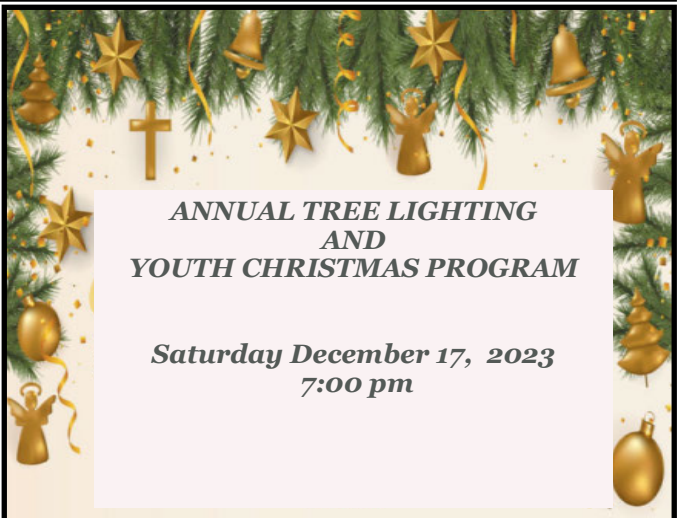


St. George is the patron saint of England, he was a soldier and officer in the Roman army who was martyred for his faith in Jesus.

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CATHOLIC TRIVIA – DID YOU KNOW?

You are correct if you answered (d) Confirmation and Holy Orders



ANNUAL TREE LIGHTING AND YOUTH CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

**Saturday December 17, 2023
7:00 pm**

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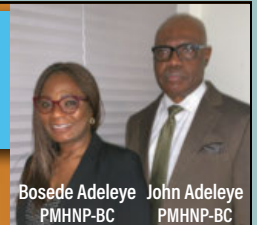
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