

# 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 17 2023 ~ The Third Sunday of Advent

From the Bishop's Pen...

"There is one among you whom you do not recognize."

Who is God? How do we recognize God among us? John the Evangelist tells us "God is love, and whoever remains in love remains in God and God in him." How can we know God if we don't believe in Him and His love for us? How can we believe in God and His love for us, if we do not know who we are? How can we know who we are if we don't know our relationship with God? If we do not know who we are, then we end up "Looking for love in all the wrong places."

That aptly describes the priests and Levites and other Jews who questioned John the Baptist as to who he was. Was he the Messiah? John told them, "I am not the Messiah." So, they asked him, "What are you then?" He said: "I am the voice of one crying out in the desert, 'Make straight the way of the Lord' as Isaiah the prophet said."

When the Pharisees continued to question John about who he was, he answered them, "I baptize with water; but there is one among you whom you do not recognize, the one who is coming after me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie." John the Baptist knew who he was. He believed in God's love for him. He knew God and knew his relationship with God. John's love for God allowed God's love to be the guiding light in his life.

Because John clearly knew who he was; he humbled himself before God. He saw where his salvation lay. He understood that he was a lamp, and his fear was that it might be blown out by the wind of pride. This allowed him to grow in God's love for him and his love for God.

That is the preparation we should be making this Advent, as we rejoice on this "Gaudete Sunday." "Gaudete" is Latin for "let us rejoice." So, let us rejoice that we are halfway to celebrating the birth of our Lord, who loves us so much, that He came among us as a man, as one of us, for our salvation. We must never forget who He is and how much He loves us. Jesus loves so much that we should always rejoice, knowing that He will come to us again.

- 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

#### <u>Pastor</u>

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 17, 2023 ~ PAGE 2

#### PARISH STAFF

#### Cherry Neal

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#### SUPPORT MINISTRIES

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Deacon Kyle Simon

#### **Bereavement Support:**

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#### Eucharistic Ministry:

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#### Food Pantry/ St. Vincent DePaul Society:

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

#### **Good Samaritans Ministry:**

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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

## 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 aifts 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 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 December 10, 2023

Our average weekly parish expenses for November 2023 - N/A

Our Offertory last week was N/A% of Expenses

Faith Direct: November 2023 - N/A

Last Week's Attendance Total: Sunday Masses - 677

#### **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 17, 2023 ~ The Third Sunday of Advent ~ PAGE 3

## St Joseph Catholic Church ~ Calendar for this Week

#### Masses / Observances and Church Activities



Monday December 18, 2023 Daily Mass - 8:30 am

Tuesday December 19, 2023
Daily Mass - 8:30 am
Exposition / Adoration - 6:00 pm
Benediction - 6:30 pm
Evening Mass - 7:00 pm

Wednesday December 20, 2023 Daily Mass - 8:30 am

Thursday December 21, 2023
St. Peter Canisius, Priest and
Doctor of the Church
Daily Mass - 8:30 AM

Friday December 22, 2023
Daily Mass - 8:30 am
Exposition / Adoration
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING MORNING Mass
Benediction - 9:30 am

Saturday December 23, 2023
St. John of Kanty, Priest

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

Next Sunday
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
AND
CHRISTMAS EVE

#### PRAYER FOR ADVENT WEEK THREE

Dear Lord, Give us boldness as we move through the motions of the holiday season, to reflect and remind those around us of Your deep and abiding love for them.

Allow them to encounter Your love, through us.

Amen.

#### THIS WEEK AT THE PARISH

Sunday December 17

- SJCC Gospel Choir (CLR 2) 9:00 am
- RCIA Class (CLR 1) 12:00 pm
- Knights Sunday (CH) 12:00 pm Mass
- Youth Ministry Meeting (CLR 2) 1:30 pm
- Sodality Bake Sale (RR) After all Masses

Monday December 18

RCIA Class
(Virtual) 7:00 pm
https://us02web.zoom.us/
j/81533487037?
pwd=YTRhbkg3Y1NCdlcvd

Wednesday December 20

2YwZERmcXhUUTo9

• Line Dancing (RR) 11:30 am

Thursday December 21

- 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 Council Meeting (RR) 7:00 pm

Friday December 22

- Perpetual Helpers (CH) 9:30 am
- Arts and Environment (WW) Time TBD

Saturday December 23

- Arts and Environment (WW, CH) 12:30
- Cantor Rehearsal for Vigil Mass (CLR2) 3:30 pm

#### Daily Readings for the Week

Week of December 17, 2023

**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

**Monday:** Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19/Mt 1:18-25

**Tuesday:** Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17/Lk 1:5-25

**Wednesday:** Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6/Lk 1:26-38

**Thursday:** Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/ Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21/Lk 1:39-45

**Friday:** 1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd/Lk 1:46-56

**Saturday:** Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14/Lk 1:57-66

**Next Sunday:** (FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT) 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29 (2a)/Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:26-38

# For Our Young Parishioners

SHARING THE GOSPEL

People noticed John the Baptist. He loved God, and he used words honestly. He really wanted to help people change and grow closer to God. He stood out as someone really different and special. People came from all around to hear him and learn about him. When people asked him questions, he pointed them to Jesus.

#### PRAYER

Jesus, help me to be different because I love you.

#### SOMETHING TO DRAW

Draw a picture of yourself being honest and kind with your family.

#### MISSION FOR THE WEEK

Ask a friend if he or she is ready to meet Jesus.

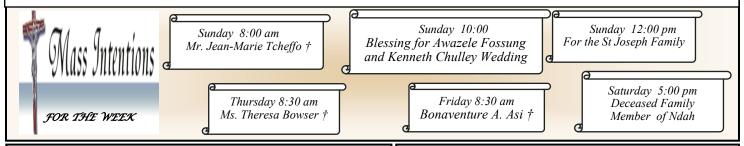
## Sunday December 17, 2023 ~ PAGE 4

#### 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, 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:

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



## LIVE THE LITURGY:

#### INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

God sends a John the Baptist into every person's life; someone who prepares His way, who calls out His truth.

Look for the John the Baptist in your life. Pray you can be this person for someone else.

#### **OUESTIONS OF THE WEEK - FOR YOUR REFLECTION**

#### FIRST READING

Isaiah rejoices over God's call in his life and the promise of restoration for all nations. As we continue in the season of Advent, what has brought some joy to you or your family?

#### SECOND READING

Paul encourages the Thessalonians to be people of prayer and joy, open to the work of the Holy Spirt in their lives. *Is there anything recently that has brought you joy?* 

#### GOSPEL READING

John presents the religious leaders of Jerusalem as puzzled and uncertain as to who John the Baptist was. *How do you approach friends or family in your life who are confused or questioning the faith?* 

#### CATHOLIC TRIVIA - DID YOU KNOW?

<u>Question:</u> What are the only materials acceptable for use as an altar cloth?

Answer:

- (a) Hemp or Flax (b) Cotton (c) Silk
- (d) Rayon

Answer on Page 5

## WHY DO WE DO THAT? CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED

#### THE SIGN OF PEACE

#### **Question:**

Why do Catholics give the sign of peace to one another at Mass?

#### Answer:

The sign of peace is a part of the Mass that takes place immediately after we offer the Lord's Prayer. Inspired by Jesus' words to his first followers, we stand together in a spirit of communion to pray as Jesus taught us: "Our Father who art in heaven..." In this prayer, we call for the coming of God's kingdom in all its fullness and ask that God provides for our needs — "Give us, this day, our daily bread" — to forgive our sins and to bring us to the joy of heaven.

It is almost natural, then, that the rite of peace would follow. As the celebrant prays that Christ's peace will fill our hearts, our communities, the Church, and the whole world, we extend to those around us a sign of peace (usually a hug or a handshake) as a symbol of the communion that we experience now and will experience forever in the fullness of the reign of God.

We are also reminded of Jesus' teachings that if we are at prayer and remember that a brother or sister is holding something against us, then we are to go and seek reconciliation with them before we continue our prayer (see Matthew 5:23). And so, the sign of peace also reminds us of the need to truly be in communion — united in love and peace — with God and one another before we approach the altar to receive the Eucharist.

Cont. on Page 5

## Sunday December 17, 2023 ~The Third Sunday of Advent ~ PAGE 5

## WHAT DO THE LITURGICAL COLORS OF ADVENT SIGNIFY?

Once Thanksgiving has come and gone, our culture moves on quickly to the celebration of the Christmas season. All around us, there will be an explosion of Christmas reds and greens, holly and evergreen, ornaments and wreaths. However, you might notice that your parish is colored a different way. Rather than reds and greens, the altar is draped in a deep violet, the priests wear violet vestments, and our wreaths have candles of that same violet and a lovely rose.

Why does the Church abstain from the colors of Christmas until the 24th? And why do these seemingly random shades of violet and rose take their place? It is because violet and rose are the liturgical colors of Advent. As a preparatory season, Advent does not yet share in the joy of Christmas. Rather, it anticipates it through penance and the practice of patient waiting.

Violet is the liturgical color that symbolizes penance, sacrifice, and prayer, and as such, it characterizes both Advent and Lent. Moreover, during Advent, we meditate particularly on the coming of our King at Christmas. In this way, the color violet—traditionally associated with royalty—takes on a dual meaning, representing both the penitential nature of the season and the kingship of the coming Christ.

The Third Sunday of Advent is called Gaudete ("Rejoice") Sunday. On this day, we celebrate that our wait is almost over and we witness the sudden introduction of a lovely shade of rose in our churches and our Advent wreath. As the liturgical color used to signify joy, rose is used in the third week of Advent in anticipation of the coming of the Messiah.

These colors of the Advent season are not arbitrary—rather, they are intentional reminders of how we should orient our hearts as we prepare for the coming Christ. While it is fine to join in the festivity around us, we must keep our hearts aligned with the Church during this season, joining in the hopeful and penitential anticipation of our coming Savior.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

#### WHY DO WE DO THAT? CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED

So, the next time you're at Mass and the time comes for the sign of peace, remember that this is a moment to celebrate the gift of Christ's peace that each of us has received from God and to pass that peace along to those around us. We need this moment to practice, because this is also the same peace of Christ that we are instructed to carry out into the world at the end of Mass when the priest or deacon says to us, "Go, in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life."

#### CATHOLIC TRIVIA - DID YOU KNOW?

You are correct if you answered (a) Hemp or Flax

Advent and Christmas



Worship Schedule

#### Wednesday December 20th

Advent Penance Service 7:00 pm (FOLLOWED BY INDIVIDUAL CONFESSIONS)

### Sunday December 24th

Fourth Sunday of Advent Masses 8:00 am, 10:00 am & 12:00 pm

> Christmas Eve Masses Vigil Mass - 5:00 pm Caroling - 9:00 pm Mass at Night - 10:00 pm

#### Monday December 25th

Christmas Day The Nativity of the Lord Mass - 10:00 am

## Saturday December 30th

Vigil Mass 5:00 pm

## Sunday December 31st

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

The Holy Family of Jesus Mary and Joseph Vigil Mass - 5:00 pm

## Monday January 1st, 2024

New Years Day Blessed Virgin Mary, Holy Mother of God Mass - 10:00 am

#### FAITHFUL FUNNIES

"What did the friary call the brother who was instructed to eat more fiber?



"A BRAN-ciscan."

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