

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 24, 2023 ~ The Fourth Sunday of Advent

From the Bishop's Pen...

"Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son."

"Keep the commandment without stain or reproach until the appearance of our Lord Jesus Christ that the blessed and only ruler will make manifest at the proper time, the King of kings and Lord of lords." St. Paul wrote these words to Timothy, but they also reflect the Blessed Virgin Mary's fiat in response to the Angel Gabriel.

She, who was conceived without the stain of sin, obeyed God's command to become the mother of His Son when "Mary said, Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." God told king David of the manifestation of His Son at the proper time through the prophet Nathan, "I will raise up your heir after you, sprung from your loins, and I will make his kingdom firm. I will be a father to him, and he shall be a son to me. Your house and your kingdom shall endure forever before me; your throne shall stand firm forever."

It is God who comes to us; it is God who has decided to build a temple built of living stones; it is God who has decided to abide within us. God wanted to abide in human flesh. God wanted to abide not only among us but more than that, within us. He went about building a temple of living stones. From Mary's flesh God the Son took on human flesh and then died in it to give us a share in His divine life.

God's Son could take on human flesh because Mary's faith was so strong, that it allowed her the freedom to say YES to God without hesitation. Mary, full of grace, wanted whatever God wanted. She would later say to her cousin Elizabeth, "My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my savior."

Isn't that the type of faith and obedience that we should have? Mary's faith and obedience are our examples of belief in God's saving power. Are we preparing this last day of Advent for our Lord's coming to each of us? Will we be able to proclaim to each other, what Mary proclaimed to Elizabeth, "My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my savior."?

If we can, then we should constantly pray "Come Lord Jesus."

- 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 24, 2023 ~ PAGE 2

PARISH STAFF

Cherry Neal

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SUPPORT MINISTRIES

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Altar Servers:

Deacon Kyle Simon

Bereavement Support:

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Food Pantry/ St. Vincent DePaul Society:

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

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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

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 17, 2023

Our average weekly parish expenses for November 2023 - \$15,504.99

Our Offertory last week was N/A % of Expenses

Faith Direct: November 2023 - \$23,614.44

Last Week's Attendance Total: Sunday Masses - N/A

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 24, 2023 ~ The Fourth Sunday of Advent ~ PAGE 3

St Joseph Catholic Church ~ Calendar for this Week

Masses / Observances and Church Activities

Sunday December 24, 2023

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
Masses 8:00 am, 10:00 am, 12:00 pm

CHRISTMAS EVE

Vigil Mass - 5:00 pm Caroling - 9:00 pm Mass at Night - 10:00 pm



Tuesday December 26, 2023 St. Stephen, First Martyr

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

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

Wednesday December 27, 2023
St. John, Apostle and Evangelist
Daily Mass - 8:30 am

Thursday December 28, 2023
THE HOLY INNOCENTS, MARTYRS
Daily Mass - 8:30 AM

Friday December 29, 2023
ST. THOMAS BECKET,

BISHOP AND MARTYR
Daily Mass - 8:30 am
Exposition / Adoration
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING MORNING Mass
Benediction - 9:30 am

Saturday December 30, 2023 Confession / Reconciliation 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm Vigil Mass - 5:00 pm

THIS WEEK AT THE PARISH

Sunday December 24

- SJCC Gospel Choir (CLR 2) 9:00 am
- SJCAF African and Friends Choir Practice (CL2) 10:30 am
- Arts and Environment (CH/Welcome Area /WW) 1:30 pm

Wednesday December 27

• Line Dancing (RR) 11:30 am

Thursday December 28

- 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

Saturday December 30 Cantor Rehearsal for Vigil Mass (CLR2) 3:30 pm

Daily Readings for the Week

Week of December 24, 2023

<u>Sunday:</u> 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29/Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:26-38

Monday: Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25 Night: Is 9:1-6/Ps 96: 1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14 Dawn: Is 62:11-12/Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20 Day: Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

<u>Tuesday:</u> Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17/Mt 10:17-22

Wednesday: 1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12/Jn 20:1a, 2-8

Thursday: 1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4 -5, 7cd-8/Mt 2:13-18

Friday: 1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6/Lk 2:22-35

<u>Saturday:</u> 1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10/Lk 2:36-40

<u>Next Sunday:</u> Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 or Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 or Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

For Our Young Parishioners

SHARING THE GOSPEL

Think of the people you trust. These are people you can count on, no matter what happens. Both Mary and Elizabeth were amazed to learn that they were pregnant. God had surprised each of them with a special miracle, a baby. God trusted them both to take care of their babies. Mary and Elizabeth trusted God to help them. You also can trust God. Pray God, help me to trust you like Mary and Elizabeth did.

PRAYER

God, help me to trust you like Mary and Elizabeth did.

SOMETHING TO DRAW

Draw a picture of three people you trust.

MISSION FOR THE WEEK

Name three reasons you can always trust God.

SEE PAGE 5 FOR OUR YOUNG PARISHIONERS-CHRISTMAS EVE

Sunday December 24, 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's plans are not always what we imagined.
Sometimes they make us hesitate.
Be like Mary. Say "Yes, Lord" — and God
will show you that His imagination is better than yours.

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK - FOR YOUR REFLECTION

FIRST READING

We hear how God established his covenantal promise with King David to raise up a son after him and ensure that David's house and kingdom will stand firm forever. What promises have you kept with family or friends?

SECOND READING

Paul concludes his letter to the Romans with a hymn of praise to God. As Advent draws to a close, for what can you praise God?

GOSPEL READING

Today's Gospel reading is the annunciation to Mary of the upcoming birth of Jesus. Mary's unconditional acceptance offers us a model to follow. *How open are you to God's work in your life?*

CATHOLIC TRIVIA - DID YOU KNOW?

Question: What is the name of the popular Christmas song about a boy playing his drum for Jesus?

Answer: (a) Silent Night (b) Away in a Manger

(c) Mary's Boy Child (d) The Little Drummer Boy

Answer on Page 5

WHY DO WE DO THAT? CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED

LIGHTING CANDLES IN CHURCH

Ouestion:

Why do Catholics light candles in church?

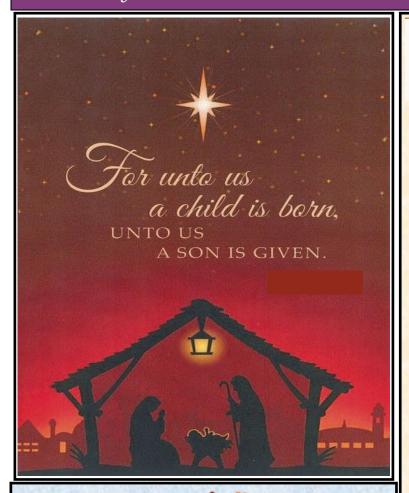
Answer:

Candles have been part of the Church's worship from the earliest times. In the days before electricity, candles and oil lamps were the ways that people lighted buildings. Even to-day, we often still depend on candles during power outages, relying on their flickering flames to bring light into the dark.

Like our ancestors, we also light candles on special occasions. Think about a festive family meal or a romantic dinner for two — there will often be candles on the table, special objects for a special event. We light candles on birthday cakes and carry them in processions. We also place candles at makeshift memorials that appear when there has been an accident or act of violence. In these moments, their light casts aside a different kind of darkness — the darkness of grief, fear, and death.

The custom of the early Christians lighting candles and lamps at the tombs of the martyrs gave way to the practice of having candles at Mass, honoring the sacredness of the celebration. As Christians decorated their worship spaces with statues and icons, they would burn candles in front of sacred images and the relics of the saints, basically "shining a light" on what they held to be sacred. When pilgrims would visit these shrines, they would often bring candles to light before the image or relic. These candles came to be a symbol of the person, and their prayer and the burning these candles came to be understood as an extension and continuation of the prayer that was offered. What began as a practical way to provide light has come to be a symbol of the hopes, desires, loves, losses, fears, and faith of everyday Christians offering their prayers to God and his saints.

Sunday December 24, 2023 ~ The Fourth Sunday of Advent ~ PAGE 5



For Our Young Parishioners

CHRISTMAS EVE

SHARING THE GOSPEL

Mary and Joseph put all their trust in God. Once they found out what God wanted, they did it. God wanted Mary to have a special baby, and she said "yes" to God. God wanted Joseph to be a good husband and father, and Joseph said "yes" to God. When that special baby from God was finally born, Joseph named him Jesus. One day God would ask Jesus to save the world from sin on the cross, and Jesus would say "yes" to God.

PRAYER

God, help me to trust you and say "yes" to you.

SOMETHING TO DRAW

Draw a picture of Mary, Joseph, and baby Jesus.

MISSION FOR THE WEEK

Saying "yes" to God takes practice. When your parents ask you to vacuum or set the table or take the garbage out, say "yes" to them.

CATHOLIC TRIVIA - DID YOU KNOW?

You are correct if you answered (d) The Little Drummer Boy

Christmas Worship Schedule



Sunday December 24th

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

Tuesday December 26th

Masses - 8:30 am & 7:00 pm Adoration 6:00 pm / Benediction 6:45 pm

Saturday December 30th

Vigil Mass 5:00 pm

Sunday December 31st

New Years Eve 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

GOOD SAMARITAN MINISTRY PROJECT WARMTH 2023

A heartfelt thank you for making this year's
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