



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 8, 2024 ~ The Second Sunday of Advent

From the Bishop's Pen...

"All flesh shall see the salvation of God."

Atheists do not believe that God exists, lest more that He is coming to us. I am willing to bet that if John the Baptist lived today and proclaimed his message, "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths," he would be met with, "What proof do you have that there is a God?" If those listening to John believed in God, he would probably be asked, "How do you know that He is coming?"

When we always need "proof" we do not truly have faith in God and His promises. That is why we so often hear the words, "prove it to me." Faith means that we believe in what we cannot prove. Nature, the universe, and the world around us prove that God exists, yet if we do not have faith, we do not have the eyes to see and believe what is all around us.

Today, humans have made such fantastic scientific and technological advances that we think that we can be the source of our own miracles and be able to create heaven on earth. However, technology cannot change the human heart. Sin, greed, lust, hatred, and violence, some of the things that separate heaven and earth, all have their roots precisely there, deep in the human heart, a heart full of self-centered pride.

As much as we pride ourselves in our human accomplishments, we cannot save ourselves. Who among us can add one second to the length of our lives? Who among us can bring someone who has died back to life? Who then can save us? Only Jesus can. Jesus is the source of our hope. His Incarnation is the undeniable guarantee that God, the only One capable of saving us from our sins, wants to save us from our sins. He has not given up on us.

Our faith and hope in Jesus, allows us to make straight His paths. Our faith and hope in Jesus give us the courage to change our lives, to be ready to greet Christ, as we remember His coming at Christmas, and to be prepared to greet Him when He comes again, when we hope and have faith that "we shall see the salvation of God."

– 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 / ADORATION SCHEDULE

Saturday - 5:00 pm

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

Daily Mass 8:30 am

Every Tuesday

Exposition / Adoration 6:00 pm

Benediction 6:45 pm

Evening Mass 7:00 pm

Every Friday

Exposition / Adoration

after 8:30 am Mass

Benediction 10:00 am

PARISH STAFF

Cherry Neal

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SUPPORT MINISTRIES

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Bereavement Support:

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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 / Arleen Jeter
sjgoodsamaritans@gmail.com

OCIA Coordinator:

Deacon Steven Nash snash@stjosephlargo.org

Parish Council

Patricia Baker-Simon, President
sjccparishcouncil@stjosephlargo.org

Wedding Coordinator:

Thelma Lucas tlucas844@gmail.com

Youth Ministry:

Beverly Dandridge fnptraveler6@gmail.com

Our Parish Family's Weekly Offering

\$ 17,561.00 December 1, 2024

Our average weekly parish expenses for
October 2024 \$22,086.29

Our offertory last week was 76.0%
of expenses

Faith Direct: October 2024 - \$25, 513.91

Last Week's Attendance Total: 752



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. 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 Parish 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.**

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Late submissions will go into the next bulletin.

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 on 301-773-4838 to schedule a visit. The office is open Monday through Friday 10:00 am - 6:00 pm

St Joseph Catholic Church ~ Calendar for this Week

MASSES / OBSERVANCES AND CHURCH ACTIVITIES

Sunday December 8, 2024
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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

Monday December 9, 2024
**THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

Mass - 8:30 am
Mass - 7:00 pm

Tuesday December 10, 2024
OUR LADY OF LORETO

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

Wednesday December 11, 2024

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

Thursday December 12, 2024

Our Lady of Guadalupe
Daily Mass - 8:30 am

Friday December 13, 2024

ST. LUCY, VIRGIN AND MARTYR

Daily Mass - 8:30 am
Exposition/Adoration
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING
MORNING MASS
Benediction 10:00 am

Saturday December 14, 2024

**ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS, PRIEST
AND DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH**

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

Next Sunday

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

PRAYER FOR THE SECOND
WEEK OF ADVENT
PRAYER OF PREPARATION

With abiding hope as we look
forward to Jesus' arrival —
Make straight the paths, Lord!
Fill us with holy excitement,
in Your name.
Amen.

THIS WEEK AT THE PARISH

Sunday December 8

- **Dr. Clarke** (CLR 2) 9:00 am
- **Children's Liturgy** 10:00 am (RR-A)
- **OCIA - Order of Christian Initiation of Adults** (CLR1) 12:00 pm

Monday December 9

- **OCIA - Order of Christian Initiation of Adults** (Virtual) 7:00 pm

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89944235053?pwd=bFYHqh48x0moVo76CexBSsZg2T31A6.1>
Meeting ID: 899 4423 5053 Passcode: 092357

Tuesday December 10

- **Dr Clarke** - (CLR2) 5:00

Wednesday December 11

- **Line Dancing** (RR) 10:00 am
- **Dr Clarke** - (CLR2) 5:00 pm
- **ADW - Remembrance Prayer Service** (CH/RR) 7:00 pm
- **Social Justice & Concerns Meeting** - (CLR1) 7:00 pm

Thursday December 12

- **Beginners Line Dancing Class** (RR) 12:30 pm
- **Dr. Clark** (CLR2) 5:00 pm
- **Cantor Rehearsal with Denese Clay** (CH) 5:30 pm
- **SJCAF - Charismatic Prayer Group** (CLR1) 7:00 pm
- **Deacon Practicum** (CH) 7:00 pm

Friday December 13

Funeral - Tecia Pierce (CH) 10:00

Saturday December 14

- **Faith Formation /Religious Ed** (All Classrooms) 10:00 am
- **Youth Choir Rehearsal** (CLR2) 12:00 pm
- **Dr. Clarke Grow Your Own Musicians** (CLR2) 12:00 pm
- **Dr. Clarke - Cantor Rehearsal for Vigil Mass** (CLR 2) 3:30 pm
- **SJCAF - (CH/RR) Youth Christmas Program & Christmas Tree Lighting** (CH) 7:00 pm

Daily Readings for the Week of December 8, 2024

Sunday: Bar 5:1-9/Ps 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6 (3)/Phil 1:4-6, 8-11/Lk 3:1-6

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

Tuesday: Is 40:1-11/Ps 96:1-2, 3 and 10ac, 11-12, 13/Mt 18:12-14

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

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

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: Zep 3:14-18a/Is 12:2-3, 4, 5-6 (6)/Phil 4:4-7/Lk 3:10-18

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

Cathrine Abrams, Gerry Anderson, Carla Amorim, Theresa Agorel, Melody & Carl Atkinson, Randy Belt, Agnes Bell, Veronica Blakeney, Maxine Brown, Renee Burroughs, Paula Butler, Tanesha Butler, Angela & Wick Cartwright, Alberta Christian, Angela Clark, Connie Clark, Chuck Clay, Angella Coker, Herman Davis, James Doe, James Dudley, Martin Ekeh, Verna Etheredge, Tammy Flarisee, Larry & Evelyn Frelow, Adrienne, Fraser-Darling, Rita Gant, Regina Gary, Gina Geron, Maureen Gramby, Agnes Grayson, Catherine & Jennifer Gresham, Juanita Grillo, Kimberly Grimes, Lawrence Hill, Sheila Hinton, Doris Hite, Luis Howell, Mark Humphrey, Cathy Jackson, Gwen Jarman, Demetrius Jackson, Katie Jackson, Melvin James, Wendell John, Donald Johnson, Latashia Johnson, Lyell Johnson, Roland Joyner, Duke Kelly, Fr. Mike King, Mark Sr/ Mark Jr & Gabrielle Landry, Alton Ernest Lewis, Henrietta Long, Gennie Huntley-Lopez, Edwina Love, Karee Lucas, Sadie Malveaux, Ebony Marble, Barbara Marshall, Marilyn Marshall, Leondre Massey, Anthony Mc Donald, Carlos Menefee, Solomon T. Miles, Jr. Thomasine M. Miles, Kathleen Mitchell, Nancy & William Mooney, Fr. Ray Moore, Loraine Moses, Madga Nelson, Nolan McWilliams, Kameron Neal, Paul Newman, Ronald Nickens, Gail Norris, Cynthia Obedike, Earline Parks, James & Stephen Parks, LaTanya Pelt, Larry Peters, Barbara Reece-Jones, Danielle Rhodes, Irene Richmond, Miriam Ross, Teresa Ross, Clifton Rush, Ronald G. Sanders, Sheryl Sanders, Marcia Savoy, Johnnie Scott, Thomas W. Scott, Carolyn & William Scriber, Tyrone Sellers, Dorothy Seth, Dana Chapman-Sewell, Lucille Shaw, Madeline Stillwell, Gwen Sutton, Lucille Swann, Candice Taylor, Kenneth Taylor, Carolyn Thrash, Erma Torney, Frances Tyler, Cecilia Whittaker, Darryll Wilcots, Leon Williams, Paula Wynn

And the Recently Deceased:

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



Mass Intentions

Sunday

8:00 AM MARVIN AND MARLIN
NWACHUKWU (BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS)
10:00 AM UCHENNA MEDIATRIX AGBIM
12:00 PM THE ST JOSEPH COMMUNITY

MONDAY

8:30 AM LORETTA YOUNG BRAXTON (SI)

Tuesday

8:30 AM MARY PROCTOR (SI)
7:00 PM THE ST JOSEPH COMMUNITY

Wednesday

8:30 AM MAXINE BROWN (SI)

THURSDAY

8:30 AM ROSE ASI †

FRIDAY

8:30 AM REGINA GARY (SI)

SATURDAY

5:00 PM SEBASTIEN JEAN-MARIE
(HEALING)

LIVE THE LITURGY:

INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

John the Baptist was appointed to prepare the way for the Lord. This Advent, follow his example and prepare the way for the Lord. Invite the Lord to make straight the roads in your life that wind, and to smooth all that is rough in your heart.

Questions of the Week - for Your Reflection

FIRST READING:

The prophet Baruch offers the Israelites in Babylonian exile a vision of hope in which their broken relationship with God will be fully restored. ***Is there a broken relationship you could help heal this Advent season?***

SECOND READING:

Paul prays with joy over the partnership he experiences with the believers in Phillipi. ***What relationships in your life bring you joy?***

GOSPEL:

Luke is careful to place the activities of John the Baptist in their proper historical and political context, showing how God acts in human history. ***Can you think of a time in your personal history when you felt God present?***

PRACTICING CATHOLIC RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

The Straight Path

Ten to fifteen years ago the Department of Transportation decided that it would be fun to give everyone in my zip code something to complain about and replaced most of our major intersections with roundabouts.

This wouldn't be so irksome, I suppose, if I understood how to navigate a roundabout. In theory I do, I've read all the rules and I've watched those cute little YouTube videos where they show you which car is supposed to go at what time. But theory and practice are rather different. And the bottom line is, I never approach a roundabout without taking a deep, anxious breath and tightening my grip on the steering wheel, not entirely sure what my next move should be.

I think of roundabouts every time I hear today's Gospel reading, where John the Baptist echoes Isaiah in beseeching us to make straight the paths of the Lord. See, I always think I've made a straight path between me and God. I go to Mass. I go to Confession. I say my prayers.

He can get to me if He wants, I tell myself.

But without realizing it, I put up roundabouts. I make rules. You go here, God, and then I go here. I'll do this, God, but first You do this. You stay in your lane, and I stay in mine. Eventually I find myself taking a different route altogether; the road that stretches between me and Him is too daunting. I start avoiding it.

CATHOLIC TRIVIA - DID YOU KNOW?

Question: Who does the first and second readings during Mass?

Answer: (a) The Priest (b) The Lector (c) The Cantor
(d) The Deacon

SEE ANSWER ON PAGE 5

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5



PARISH COUNCIL ELECTION

There are six nominees for the four openings on our Parish Council. Their information will be available in the foyer. You may vote by ballot in church, or electronically by Survey Monkey.

REMEMBER TO
VOTE NEXT
WEEK

WHY DO WE DO THAT? CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

Sometimes I think God wants the path to be straight not for Himself but for us. He can handle a roundabout. But He knows that when we must run to Him, we have to do it without thinking. In the dark. In fear, in anxiety.

**So, this Advent, beware the roundabouts.
Make straight the path.**



Remembrance Prayer Service – If you are mourning the loss of a loved one, plan to attend the Remembrance Prayer Service on Wednesday December 11th at 7:00 pm. See the flyer for more information.

Christmas Tree Lighting and Children/Youth Christmas Program - Friday December 24th 7:00 pm

CATHOLIC TRIVIA – DID YOU KNOW?

You are correct if you answered (b) The Lector

THREE WAYS TO CELEBRATE ADVENT OUTSIDE OF MASS:

CELEBRATE ADVENT IDEA 1:

If you need to wait
in a line, don't
immediately pull
out your phone.
Experience the
feeling of waiting
and offer up a
prayer for someone
you know in need!

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE Blessed Virgin Mary

"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!

A LITTLE HOLY HUMOR

"Did you hear about the shepherd who wanted a new job?"



"He fell asleep counting sheep."



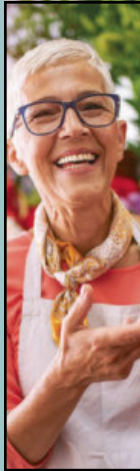
Shepherding was a lowly job in the biblical era, but shepherds were the first notified of Jesus' birth!

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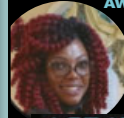
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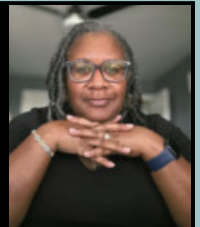
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