



# St Joseph Catholic Church

2020 St Joseph Drive, Largo Maryland, 20774  
301-773-4838 Fax 301-773-6832 Website: [www.stjoseph-largo.org](http://www.stjoseph-largo.org)

**Sunday December 15, 2024 ~ The Third Sunday of Advent**

**From the Bishop's Pen...**

*"The Lord will rejoice over you with gladness."*

Today is Gaudete Sunday. It means REJOICE, for the Lord is near. "God indeed is my savior; I am confident and unafraid. My strength and my courage is the LORD, and he has been my savior. With joy you will draw water at the fountain of salvation."

These are the words from Isaiah from the Responsorial Psalm of today's Mass. They are the words of one who waits for the Lord, confident in his strength and courage, because of his faith in the Lord. These words should describe us, as we wait in remembrance of our Lord's birth.

We should rejoice, because Jesus, the Son of God, without losing His divinity, became fully human. He came to live as one of us, to save us from our sins and to give us eternal life. Because of Jesus' birth, life, death and resurrection, we can rejoice. We wait in faith for the day when we will see the Lord face to face in our heavenly home.

However, John the Baptist tells us that it is not enough just to wait in faith. If we have true faith, then we must put that faith into action. Through Baptism, we have the strength of Jesus to put our faith into action. Jesus calls us to act as sons and daughters of our heavenly Father. God calls us to love Him with our entire mind, our entire strength, our entire soul, and to love our neighbor as God loves us.

These are the two great commandments of love that Jesus gave us. When we love each other, when we help each other, our love for each other shows God our love for Him. That is why we rejoice in exciting anticipation for the remembrance of Jesus' birth at Christmas. We wait rejoicing, because we know that the Son of God became one of us, sharing our human life, so that we could share in His divine life forever.

– 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](http://www.stjoseph-largo.org)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/StJosephLargo](http://www.facebook.com/StJosephLargo)

Email: [parishoffice@stjosephlargo.org](mailto:parishoffice@stjosephlargo.org)

## PASTORAL STAFF

### Pastor

**Most Rev. Roy E. Campbell, Jr.**  
[rcampbell@stjosephlargo.org](mailto:rcampbell@stjosephlargo.org)

### Parochial Vicar

**Rev. Vincent Tinh Vu**  
[vincentvu@stjosephlargo.org](mailto:vincentvu@stjosephlargo.org)

### Deacons

**Deacon Steven Nash**  
[snash@stjosephlargo.org](mailto:snash@stjosephlargo.org)

**Deacon Kyle Simon**  
[ksimon@stjosephlargo.org](mailto: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**

Parish Office Manager  
cneal@stjosephlargo.org - ext 24

**Karen Marshall**

Parish Secretary  
kmarshall@stjosephlargo.org - ext 10

**Loraine Hayling**

Financial Services  
lhayling@stjosephlargo.org - ext 14

**Stephen Joy**

Facilities Manager  
sjoy@stjosephlargo.org - ext 16

**Dr. Michael Clark**

Director of Music  
drmclark@stjosephlargo.org

**Religious Education**

religious@stjosephlargo.org - ext 15

**SUPPORT MINISTRIES**

**Audiovisual Support:**

Chuck Clay chuck.clay@comcast.net

**Altar Servers:**

Deacon Kyle Simon ksm@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 / 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**

\$ 22,363.00 December 8, 2024

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

Our offertory last week was 101.0 %  
of expenses

Faith Direct: October 2024 - \$25, 513.91

Last Week's Attendance Total: 672



**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 15, 2024  
**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

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

Monday December 16, 2024

Mass - 8:30 am

Tuesday December 17, 2024

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

Wednesday December 18, 2024

Daily Mass - 8:30 am  
Penance Service 7:00 pm

Thursday December 19, 2024

Daily Mass - 8:30 am

Friday December 20, 2024

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

Saturday December 21, 2024  
**ST. PETER CANISIUS, PRIEST  
AND DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH**

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

Next Sunday  
**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

PRAYER FOR THE  
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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 15

- **Dr. Clarke** (CLR 2) 9:00 am
- **Knights Sunday** (CH) 12:00pm
- **OCIA - Order of Christian Initiation of Adults** (CLR1) 12:00 pm
- **SJYM** (CLR1) 1:30 pm

Monday December 16

- **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 17

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

Wednesday December 18

- **Line Dancing** (RR)  
10:00 am
- **Dr Clarke** - (CLR2) 5:00 pm

Thursday December 19

- **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 Practuum** (CH) 7:00 pm
- **KoC** - (RR) 7:00 pm

Saturday December 21

- **Men's Ministry Meeting** (CLR1) 7:30 am
- **Faith Formation /Religious Ed** (**WINTER BREAK - CLASSES WILL RESUME JANUARY 4, 2025**)
- **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

**Daily Readings for the Week of December 15, 2024**

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

**Monday:** Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a/Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9/Mt 21:23-27

**Tuesday:** Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17/Mt 1:1-17

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

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

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

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

**Next Sunday:** Mi 5:1-4a/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 (4)/Heb 10:5-10/Lk 1:39-45



**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, 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:**

*Ronald G. Sanders*

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 YVONNE ARMSTRONG (SI)  
10:00 AM TONY & CHINSU NDUM  
(BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS)  
12:00 PM THE ST JOSEPH COMMUNITY

**MONDAY**

8:30 AM MARTHA JOSEPH †

**Tuesday**

8:30 AM ERASMUS FRANK NDUKA †  
7:00 PM THE ST JOSEPH COMMUNITY

**Wednesday**

8:30 AM MAUREEN GRAMBY (SI)

**THURSDAY**

8:30 AM JAMONA HAYLING  
(BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS)

**FRIDAY**

8:30 AM SADIE MALVEAUX (SI)

**SATURDAY**

5:00 PM ALBERTA CHRISTIAN

**LIVE THE LITURGY:**

**INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK**

Give. Love. Act with justice. This, says John, is how to live out your repentance. As Christmas approaches, be “baptized” by these words of God’s greatest prophet. Let them fill you with new life as you await the coming of Christ.

**Questions of the Week - for Your Reflection**

**FIRST READING:**

The prophet Zephaniah speaks of a future joyful time of God’s forgiveness and return to his people, Israel. **What excites you most as you think about the future?**

**SECOND READING:**

Paul encourages the Christians in Philippi to be a community that rejoices and finds peace with God. **What could you celebrate this Advent season with family or friends?**

**GOSPEL:**

John the Baptist encouraged the crowds, tax collectors, and soldiers to live ethically in very practical ways. **How could this apply to your life this week?**

**WHY DO WE DO THAT?**

**CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED**

**Christmas**

**Question:**

With Christmas fast approaching, can you give me some practical tips to prepare myself and my family that will help us stay grounded in what this holiday is really about? With all the commercialism, it’s easy to stray.

**Answer:**

Happy times and events bring fond memories and a renewed sense of love and kinship with others. The anticipation is half the joy of the event itself. The coming of the Lord is that kind of event that people have been looking forward to for generations with fervent hope and desire. It gave them strength and courage as they waited for the coming of the Lord.

We know that Christmas is rushed. Sales begin in August and carols blare long before the season begins. Everyone laments the commercial aspects of the season, but as Advent begins, do something to help you be more mindful of the Lord’s coming. Use an Advent wreath, or enthrone the Bible prominently, or read the readings from the Bible assigned to each day. Postpone the tree and decorations until closer to Christmas. Establish new family rituals, customs and prayers that help remind everyone that we are preparing to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Fasting, daily Mass, a special celebration of reconciliation, reaching out to those alienated from family or society, and visiting the homebound manifest the love of the Christ Child and the Holy Family. Resist the temptation to rush the season. In his own time and in his own way, God will come. Our task is simply to be watchful and ready.

**CATHOLIC TRIVIA - DID YOU KNOW?**

Question: What do we call an ornamental canopy above an altar inside a church?

Answer: (a) A Baldacchino or Baldachin (b) An Altar Canopy  
(c) A Ceremonial Canopy

SEE ANSWER ON PAGE 5



### PARISH COUNCIL ELECTION



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

### THREE WAYS TO CELEBRATE ADVENT OUTSIDE OF MASS:

#### CELEBRATE ADVENT IDEA 2:

Set up a nativity scene in your home but don't set it up all at once. Put a different piece out every day or every week until the whole thing is finished by Christmas!

### PROJECT WARMTH 2024

A heartfelt thank you for helping make this year's Project Warmth a great success! Because of your generosity, the Good Samaritans Ministry was able to provide over 200 coats to children at local elementary schools. A special thank you to the Knights of Columbus and the Kiwanis Club of Greater Landover who joined us in spreading warmth and the love of Christ!



### Advent and Christmas Schedule

Wednesday December 18th

Advent Penance Service

7:00 pm

(followed by Individual Confessions)

Tuesday December 24th

Christmas Eve Masses

Vigil Mass - 5:00 pm

Caroling - 9:00 pm

Mass at Night - 10:00 pm

Wednesday December 25th

Christmas Day

The Nativity of the Lord

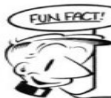
Mass - 10:00 am

### A LITTLE HOLY HUMOR

"How does a sheep say Merry Christmas?"



"Fleece Navidad!"



There are many ways to say "Merry Christmas," but each one is a wonderful blessing of the good news of Jesus come to earth as our savior.

### CATHOLIC TRIVIA – DID YOU KNOW?

You are correct if you answered:

(a) A Baldacchino or Baldachin - A baldacchino is a canopy of state typically placed over an altar or throne. It is a structure that brings visual significance to the altar in a church. The original meaning of 'baldachin' is a silk cloth from Baghdad.

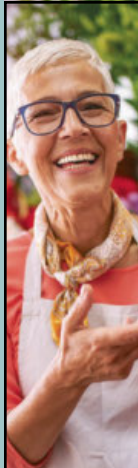


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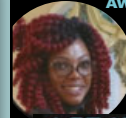
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### SEPTEMBER IS LIFE INSURANCE AWARENESS MONTH



Life Insurance is the last thing  
people want to talk about,  
yet it's the first thing they  
ask for, after someone has a  
debilitating health issue or  
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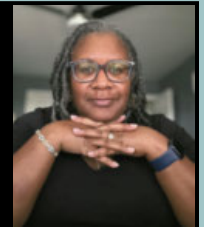
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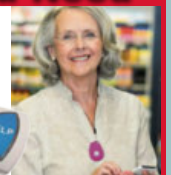


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