

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 22, 2024 ~ The Fourth Sunday of Advent

From the Bishop's Pen...

"And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?"

The Word of God became man, human like us, for one reason, to free us from sin and to give us a share in God's eternal life. Five days ago, began the Octave before Christmas, the last eight days of Advent. It started with the genealogy of Christ, in St. Matthew's Gospel, stretching from Abraham to our Lord. This genealogy of forty-two generations shows that Jesus truly is human, with ancestors full of human weaknesses.

It also reminds us that God gave prophets to His people to help them prepare for Christ's coming, much as He has given us Advent to prepare ourselves to remember Christ's coming at Christmas and to prepare for His coming again. We prepare by living in obedience to God's will, and as disciples, carrying His message to others.

That preparation and discipleship comes to fruition in Mary, who was prepared, through her obedience to God, to receive Her Lord and King in her heart and in her womb, becoming His first disciple. Through faith, Mary immediately said yes to the Angel Gabriel. She then took Christ to her cousin Elizabeth, who was pregnant with John the Baptist. It was what was inside of Mary that counted, her love of God and others, that allowed her to carry God to others.

Like it was for Mary, it is what is inside of us that matters. Our Catholic faith calls us to be like Mary, not to be concerned only about ourselves, not to be concerned only about saving ourselves and getting ourselves into heaven. Our Catholic faith calls us to bring the care, love, compassion, concern, and presence of the Christ within us, to those around us. God calls us to reveal His kingdom here on earth, as it is in heaven.

As Mary prepared for that first Christmas, she took our Lord to her cousin. Elizabeth greeted Mary crying out: "Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled." This Christmas, I pray that our friends, our cousins, our brothers, and our sisters in Christ, who have received our loving care and friendship, will likewise bless us.

- 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 <u>snash@stjosephlargo.org</u>

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

SUNDAY DECEMBER 22, 2024 ~ PAGE 2

Parish Staff

Cherry Neal

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Director of Music

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Religious Education

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SUPPORT MINISTRIES

Audiovisual Support: Chuck Clay chuck.clay@comcast.net

Altar Servers: Deacon Kyle Simon ksmon@stjosephlargo.org

Bereavement Support:

Contact Parish Office

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 siccparishcouncil@stjosephlargo.org

Wedding Coordinator:

Thelma Lucas tlucas844@gmail.com

Youth Ministry:

Beverly Dandridge fnptraveler6@gmail.com

Our Parish Family's Weekly Offering

\$ N/A December 15, 2024

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

Our offertory last week was N/A % of expenses

Faith Direct: October 2024 - \$25, 513.91

Last Week's Attendance Total: N/A

Offertory not available due to EARLY BULLETIN SUBMISSION



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 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 Parish Office Mass Special Intentions 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

Sunday December 22, 2024 ~ The Fourth Sunday in Advent ~ PAGE 3

St Joseph Catholic Church ~ Calendar for this Week

MASSES / OBSERVANCES AND CHURCH ACTIVITIES

Sunday December 22, 2024
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
Masses:

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

Monday December 23, 2024 St. John of Kanty, Priest Mass - 8:30 am





Thursday December 26, 2024 St. Stephen, First Martyr Daily Mass - 8:30 am

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

Friday December 27, 2024
St. John, Apostle and Evangelist

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

Benediction 10:00 am

<u>Saturday December 28, 2024</u>

THE HOLY INNOCENTS, MARTYRS

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

Next Sunday
THE HOLY FAMILY

THIS WEEK AT THE PARISH

Sunday December 22

- **Dr. Clarke** (CLR 2) 9:00 am
- OCIA Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (CLR1) 12:00 pm
- Arts and Environment (RR)

Monday December 23

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

 $\frac{\text{https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89944235053?pwd=bFYHqh48x0moVo76CexBSsZg2T31A6.1}}{\text{Meeting ID: }899\,\underline{4423\,5053}} \; \text{Passcode: }092357$

Tuesday December 24

• **Dr Clarke** - (CLR2) 3:00

Friday December 27

• Funeral - Ronald Sanders (CH)

<u>Saturday December 28</u>

- 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 22, 2024

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

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

<u>Tuesday:</u> Morning: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29/Lk 1:67-79

Wednesdau:

Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29 (2a)/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 (Lk 2:11)/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/Heb 1:1-6/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 (3c)/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

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

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

Saturday: 1 Jn 1:5-2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8/Mt 2:13-18

Next Sunday: 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28/Ps 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10 (see 5a)/1 Jn 3:

1-2, 21-24/Lk 2:41-52

SUNDAY DECEMBER 22, 2024 ~ PAGE 4

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, Cliffton 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: Rose Mary Simon

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



<u>Sunday</u>

8:00 AM THE ST JOSEPH COMMUNITY
10:00 AM JIDENNA JEMIE
(BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS)
12:00 PM JEAN-MARIE TCHEFFO †

MONDAY

8:30 AM CHARLES & BENEDICTA OKPAH (WEDDING ANNIVERSARY)

<u>Tuesday</u>

8:30 AM THE NDUM FAMILY (SI) 10:00 PM LAWRENCE & TERESA NWANKWO

Wednesday

10:00 AM THE ST JOSEPH COMMUNITY

THURSDAY

8:30 Bonaventure A. Asi †
Friday

8:30 AM BENEDICTA OKAPH (BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS) SATURDAY

5:00 PM LORAINE HAYLING (BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS)

LIVE THE LITURGY:

Inspiration for the Week

"Blessed are you who believed," Elizabeth tells Mary. Do we believe? When we hear the voice of God whispering in our heart, do we listen — or do we ignore, out of fear and uncertainty? This last week of Advent, follow Mary's example, and believe.

Questions of the Week - for Your Reflection

FIRST READING:

Micah prophesied a "ruler" would come through the line of David ("Bethlehem-Ephrathah") and bring peace to the divided kingdom of Judah and Israel. How might you be able to promote peace this week among your family or co-workers?

SECOND READING:

The author of Hebrews reminds us that Christ makes us holy so that above all else, we do God's will. As the season of Advent draws to a close, what could be one practical way to do God's will this week?

GOSPEL:

Elizabeth calls Mary "blessed" because she believed and trusted in the Lord. Are there people in your life who model such trust and faith in God?

CATHOLIC TRIVIA - DID YOU KNOW?

Ouestion: What are the names of the two Sacraments of Healing?

Answer: (a) Baptism and Reconciliation/Confession

- (b) Reconciliation/Confession and Communion
- (c) The Anointing of the Sick and Reconciliation/Confession.

SEE ANSWER ON PAGE 5

WHY DO WE DO THAT? CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED

Christmas Gifts

Ouestion:

Why do we give gifts at Christmas?

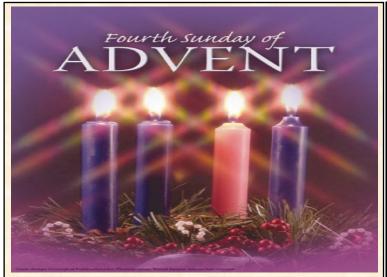
Answer:

Great events in and of themselves are not tangible. They occur in life but leave no mark behind, nothing that someone could come across and know that something significant occurred. So we mark the event with monuments, holidays, gold watches or plaques, making a meaningful event tangible and memorable.

Gifts at Christmas do the same thing. They mark the occasion of the birth of Jesus, communicating a bit of the joy of the day by allowing us to be both giver and receiver. Gift-giving sets aside the day as special and different. The special foods, customs, decorations, and gifts all help focus our attention on the importance and meaning of the day and at the same time allow us to share personally in its joy and happiness.

In giving gifts, though, we can share in the meaning of Christmas in a significant way. We imitate God in sharing with others. We give a bit of ourselves to others in the gifts we give, just as God gives us the gift of his Son. No wonder we often say that the best gifts are those that come from the heart. Given in love, these presents are wrapped in the best covering of all.

SUNDAY DECEMBER 22, 2024 ~ THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT ~ PAGE 5





CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

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

Sunday December 29th

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph Masses - 8:00 am, 10:00 am & 12:00 pm

Tuesday December 31st

New Years Eve Vigil Mass - 5:00 pm

Wednesday January 1st, 2025

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

Sunday January 5th

The Epíphany of the Lord Masses - 8:00 am, 10:00 am & 12:00 pm

Sunday January 12th

Baptism of the Lord Masses - 8:00 am, 10:00 am & 12:00 pm

THREE WAYS TO CELEBRATE ADVENT OUTSIDE OF MASS: CELEBRATE ADVENT IDEA 3: Bake cookies to secretly drop off to your neighbors. Include a Christmas card with an Advent prayer or an invitation to

Prayer for Advent Joy

Christmas Mass at your parish!

Dear Jesus,
The news of your coming was met with boundless joy
— fill us anew with the wonder of your presence.
You are Emmanuel, God with us.

Amen.

"What type of key do you need for the Nativity play?"



"A don-key!"



LITTLE HOLY HUMOR

The Bible doesn't have any recording of Mary riding a donkey, but it's become a beloved part of the way we imagine the Holy Family traveling to Bethlehem.

@LP!

CATHOLIC TRIVIA – DID YOU KNOW?

You are correct if you answered:

(c) The Anointing of the Sick and Reconciliation/ Confession.



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