



# 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 14, 2025**  
**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

## From the Bishop's Pen...

**"Are you the one who is to come or should we look for another?"**

In today's Gospel, Jesus must not have "looked" like the Messiah John had expected. He did not "look like" or "do" what John thought the Messiah would look like or do. John is now hearing reports of a very different kind of Messiah than he had pictured, and he is puzzled. The preaching of this Rabbi from Nazareth, whom John himself had baptized, seemed to go in a very different direction from the fiery one that John was looking for.

He sent his disciples to ask Jesus, "Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?" John's disciples reported back to him what Jesus said to them in reply, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them."

This Jesus, if He was the Messiah, had come to heal, not to judge. Is it any wonder why John the Baptist was confused? John had performed a baptism of repentance telling all, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand! Produce good fruit as evidence of your repentance." John expected the Christ to carry out the final judgment and to destroy all who had not produced good fruit. Instead of bringing the imminent judgment of God, Jesus brings the love, mercy, and healing of God, offered to all, righteous and sinners.

This may be a good weekend to examine our own image of Jesus. Who do we think He should look like? What do we think He should do? As we prepare for Jesus' coming, we must remind ourselves that He is The Perfect Gift from God to the world. Jesus forgives. Jesus heals. Jesus cleanses. Jesus brings back to life that which was dead. Jesus brings good news to those in desperation. The love of Christ always brings healing.

What Jesus does, makes one thing plain: between the mission of John the Baptist and that of Jesus something so decisive has happened, that it constitutes a parting of the waters between two periods, the Old Covenant, ending with John the Baptist, and the New Covenant, beginning with Christ. The focus of history has shifted: the coming of the Lord for which John preached repentance, is not in an imminent future, but that the kingdom of God is "here now," in our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Today is "Gaudete" Sunday, the Sunday of Rejoicing. Therefore, we light a rose candle on our Advent wreath. It signifies patient anticipation, because our Lord's coming with healing and salvation is near. Come Lord Jesus, come, and heal us, so that the least of us may become greater in the kingdom of heaven!

— 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. Stephen Wong  
[frstephen@stjosephlargo.org](mailto:frstephen@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 SCHEDULE

Daily Mass 8:30 am  
Saturday Vigil Mass - 5:00 pm  
Sunday Masses 8:00 am, 10:00 am, 12:00 pm  
Tuesday Evening Mass 7:00 pm

### ADORATION SCHEDULE

Tuesday  
Exposition / Adoration 6:00 pm  
Benediction 6:45 pm  
Every Friday  
Exposition / Adoration after morning Mass  
Benediction 10:00 am  
First Friday  
Exposition / Adoration after morning Mass  
Praise and Worship 6:00 pm  
Benediction 7:00 pm

**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 Clarke**

Director of Music  
drmclark@stjosephlargo.org

**Sr. Huong Pham**

Faith Formation  
religioused@stjosephlargo.org - ext 15

**Deacon Steven Nash**

OCIA Coordinator  
snash@stjosephlargo.org



**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!**

**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:**

Arleap Jeter, / Aida Massey  
sjgoodsamaritans@gmail.com

**Parish Council:**

Patricia Baker-Simon, President  
sjccparishcouncil@stjosephlargo.org

**Wedding Coordinator:**

Thelma Lucas tlucas844@gmail.com

**Youth Ministry:**

Beverly Dandridge fnptraveler6@gmail.com

**PARISH TITHING AND CONTRIBUTIONS**

We kindly request that you utilize your offertory envelopes and complete all necessary information. Please enclose your check or cash within the envelope and clearly indicate the enclosed amount on the exterior. This ensures accurate acknowledgment of your generous contributions, as funds and envelopes are processed separately. You are welcome to mail your completed envelopes or drop them off at the Church. Your tax-deductible offerings are processed based on the information provided on these envelopes. You may also make your contribution through our online giving portal ParishSOFT Giving. This platform offers a simple, secure, and convenient way to support the ministry and mission of our parish. To enroll, or make a contribution please visit:

<https://giving.parishsoft.com/App/Giving/FD-651>

*We thank all who contribute regularly and generously  
to the support of our Parish*

**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

**Our Parish Family's Weekly Offering**

\$ December 7, 2025

*Our average weekly parish expenses for  
November 2025 \$ N/A*

*Our offertory last week was N/A%  
of expenses  
ParishSoft Giving: November \$N/A*

*Last Week's Attendance: 753  
(N/A DUE TO EARLY  
SUBMISSION TO PRINTER)*

## MASSSES / OBSERVANCES

Sunday December 14, 2025



MASSSES:  
8:00 AM, 10:00 AM & 12:00 PM

Monday December 15, 2025  
Mass 8:30 am

Tuesday December 16, 2025  
Daily Mass: 8:30 am  
Exposition/Adoration: 6:00 pm  
Benediction: 6:45 pm  
Evening Mass 7:00 pm

Wednesday December 17, 2025  
Daily Mass: 8:30 am  
Penance Service: 7:00 pm  
(FOLLOWED BY INDIVIDUAL CONFESSIONS)

Thursday December 18, 2025  
Daily Mass: 8:30 am

Friday December 19, 2025  
Mass: 8:30 am  
Adoration:  
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING MASS  
Benediction: 10:00 am

Saturday December 20, 2025  
Mass - 8:30 am  
CONFESSION / RECONCILIATION  
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM  
VIGIL MASS: 5:00 PM

### PRAYER FOR ADVENT NEW GROWTH

Dear God,  
Bring new life! Your love creates and  
cultivates. Bring Your power into the  
places I think of as "deserts" and your  
grace to the prayers I fear may be  
"deserted." You can redeem and restore,  
bring a new song to my heart.  
Amen.

## CHURCH CALENDAR / ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK

Sunday December 14

- **Dr. Clarke** (CLR 2) 9:00 am
- **St Joseph Ladies Auxiliary No. 141 Knights of St John Intl** (CLR 2) 11:30 am
- **OCIA** - (CLR 1) 12:00 pm

Monday December 15

- **OCIA - Virtual 7:00 pm**

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Meeting ID: 899 4423 5053 Passcode: 092357

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+13017158592,,89944235053#,,, \*092357# US (Washington DC)

Tuesday December 16

- **Line Dancing** (RR)  
11:00 am
- **Dr Clarke Choir Rehearsal**(CLR2) 7:00 pm

Wednesday December 17

- **SVDP Packing** (WW)  
10:00 am
- **Advance Line Dancing** (RR)  
10:30 am
- **Dr Clarke Choir Rehearsal** (CLR2) 7:00 pm

Friday December 19

- **Arts & Environment** 10:30 am

Thursday December 18

- **Arts & Environment**  
10:30 am
- **Beginners Line Dancing Class** (RR) 12:30 pm
- **Denese Clay - Grow Your Own Musicians** (CLR1)  
4:00 pm
- **Dr. Clarke Cantor Rehearsal** (CLR2) 5:00 pm
- **Denese Clay - Cantor/ VOP Rehearsal** (CH) 6:00 pm
- **SJCAF - African and Friends Charismatic Prayer Group** (CLR1) 7:00 pm
- **KC - Officers Planning Meeting** (RR) 7:00 pm

Saturday December 20

- **Faith Formation - No Class Christmas Break**
- **Dr. Clarke - Grow Your Own Musicians** (CLR2)  
11:30 am
- **Youth Choir Rehearsal** (CH)  
12:00 pm
- **Denese Clay - Grow Your Own Musicians** (CLR1)  
1:00 pm
- **Dr. Clarke - Cantor Rehearsal for Vigil Mass** (CLR 2) 3:30 pm

### Daily Readings for the Week of December 14, 2025

Sunday: Is 35:1-6a, 10/Ps 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10 (see Is 35:4)/Jas 5:7-10/

Mt 11:2-11

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

Tuesday: Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19 and 23/Mt 21:28-32

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

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

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

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

Next Sunday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 (7c, 10b)/Rom 1:1-7/Mt 1:18-24



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

*Cathrine Abrams, Theresa Agorel, Gerry Anderson, Carla Amorim, Melody & Carl Atkinson, Shelia Bailey, Randy Belt, Agnes Bell, Veronica Blakeney, Betty Brown,*

*Maxine Brown, Allen Burroughs, Paula Butler, Tanesha Butler, Angela & Wick Cartwright, 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, Patricia Green, Catherine & Jennifer Gresham, Juanita Grillo, Kimberly Grimes, Cecelia Handy, Lawrence Hill, Sheila Hinton, Luis Howell, Mark Humphrey, Gennie Huntley-Lopez, Cathy Jackson, Gwen Jarman, Demetrius Jackson, Katie Jackson, Melvin James, Sebastien Jean-Marie, Wendell John, Donald Johnson, Latashia Johnson, Lyell Johnson, Roland Joyner, Duke Kelly, Fr. Mike King, Mark Sr/Mark Jr & Gabrielle Landry, Alton Ernest Lewis, Marionetta D Lofton-Sutton, 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, Cheryl Mills, Kathleen Mitchell, Nancy & William Mooney, Fr. Ray Moore, Loraine Moses, Madga Nelson, Nolan McWilliams, William Musee, Kameron Neal, Paul Newman, Ronald Nickens, Gail Norris, Cynthia Obedike, Earline Parks, James & Stephen Parks, Robin Parsell, LaTanya Pelt, Larry Peters, Barbara Reece-Jones, Danielle Rhodes, Irene Richmond, Miriam Ross, Teresa Ross, Clifton Rush, Sheryl Sanders, Johnnie Scott, Thomas W. Scott, William Scriber, Tyrone Sellers, Dorothy Seth, Dana Chapman-Sewell, Lucille Shaw, Eunice Sparkman, Madeline Stillwell, Gwen Sutton, Percy Swain, Lucille Swann, Candice Taylor, Kenneth Taylor, Richard Taylor, Eileen Thomas, Carolyn Thrash, Erma Torney, Frances Tyler, Eric Walker,*

**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 ROSE EGO ASI †  
10:00 AM THE ST JOSEPH COMMUNITY (SI)  
12:00 PM BERNADETTE CRAWFORD †

**MONDAY**

8:30 AM TONY & CHINEDU NDUM  
BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS

**Tuesday**

8:30 AM THORANCE JOSEPH †  
7:00 PM EZEMOBIS FAMILY

**WEDNESDAY**

8:30 AM TRAVEL MERCIES FOR  
NDUM FAMILY

**THURSDAY**

8:30 AM JAMONA HAYLING  
BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS

**FRIDAY**

8:30 AM ERASMUS FRANKLIN NUDUKA †

**SATURDAY**

5:00 PM SADIE MALVEAUX  
BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS

**LIVE THE LITURGY!**

**INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK**

“Go and tell what you have seen and heard,” Jesus says. When it comes to proving who he is, he always lets his actions do the talking. We have heard. We have seen. We must go and tell. Let’s let our actions do the talking. Who do we think Jesus is?

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

**1st Reading Question:**

The prophet Isaiah taught his community to “be strong, fear not!” because God has planned a remarkable future where both the people and the land will be restored. Is there a friend or co-worker who needs your encouragement this week?

**2nd Reading Question:**

James encourages his community to be patient and firm of heart in waiting for the coming of the Lord. What are you waiting for during this Advent season?

**Gospel Question:**

In prison, John the Baptist seemed uncertain about who Jesus is. Who do you talk to when you have questions about Jesus?

**PRACTICING CATHOLIC  
RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS  
By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorma**

What We See in the Desert.

I’ve always wanted to see a real desert. I know all about frigid, snowy winters and warm, wet summers. I grew up on rich soil that yields lush vegetation and bountiful harvests. But I’ve never experienced a desert, not in my own country or abroad, and I’m curious.

I know there must be something magical about the desert for it to feature so heavily in Scripture, for it to provide a backdrop to so many crucial moments of salvation history. The Israelites following the cloud, the temptation of Christ, the voice crying out: “Prepare the way for the Lord.”

Why do these moments have to happen in a desert? Why do they make so much less sense in a tropical rainforest or a verdant forest?

I think it’s because the desert doesn’t have anything to offer us, at first glance. No one longs for the physical sensation of a dry heat and a beating sun. But the vast emptiness and the almost mystical harshness — even if we don’t desire and delight in it, this is a setting that we understand, somehow, intrinsically. We know it deep within our soul. God is there.

We go to Mass. We go to Confession. We pray. We read Scripture. In doing all these things, again and again, we go out to the desert. Why? What are we expecting to see? If we expect to be entertained, we will be disappointed. If we expect reassurance, we will be disappointed. If we expect to feel pleasant and safe and sheltered, we will be disappointed.

The desert is there to challenge us. The desert is there to show us who we are, and who we can be. So go.

**CATHOLIC TRIVIA...**

**Question:**

According to tradition, what are the names of Mary’s parents?

**Answer:**

St. Anne and St. Joachim or St. Elizabeth and St. Zechariah

THIRD SUNDAY  
OF ADVENT

Our  
Savior  
will come

For Our Young Parishioners

**SHARING THE GOSPEL**

Jesus was the Messiah that the prophets said would come. The blind could see. The lame could walk. The deaf could hear. The dead were raised to life. Jesus performed many miracles to show that he was the Messiah. He was the one sent to save the world from sin. John expected Jesus to save himself. But Jesus knew that he had to die, be buried, and rise again to save you and me from our sins.

**PRAYER**

Lord, thank you for dying on the cross for me.

**SOMETHING TO DRAW**

Draw a crippled girl dropping her crutches and walking to Jesus.

**MISSION FOR THE WEEK**

I will find ways to make things easier for the blind, the lame, and the deaf.

**JUST A THOUGHT...**

SEEK THE  
LORD IN THE  
PLACES YOU  
FEAR TO GO

**ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE  
2025-2026**

**Wednesday December 17th**

Advent Penance Service 7:00 pm  
(followed by Individual Confessions)

**Wednesday December 24th**

Vigil of The Nativity of the Lord  
Christmas Eve Vigil Mass - 5:00 pm  
Caroling - 9:00 pm  
Christmas Eve Mass at Night - 10:00 pm

**Thursday December 25th**

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

**Sunday December 28th**

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

**Wednesday December 31st**

Vigil of The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God  
New Years Eve Mass - 5:00 pm

**Thursday January 1st, 2026**

The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God  
New Years Day Mass - 10:00 am

**Sunday January 4th**

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

**Sunday January 11th**

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

**A LITTLE HOLY HUMOR ...**

"What is St. Joan of Arc's favorite Christmas carol?"



"O, Holy Knight!"



St. Joan of Arc led the French to victory in 1429, a valiant soldier for Jesus. (Being French, she probably preferred French carols, though).

**CATHOLIC TRIVIA...**

You are correct if you guessed :  
St. Anne and St. Joachim





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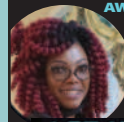
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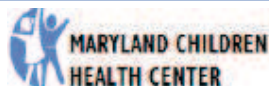
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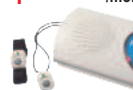
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