



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 21, 2025 ~ FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

From the Bishop's Pen...

"Jesus will be born of Mary, the betrothed of Joseph, a son of David."

Let's think back some 2,000 years ago, about marriage and fidelity. Joseph was going to seek a divorce from his betrothed, Mary. In their time, to be betrothed was to be married; however, a wife had not yet come to live in her husband's house. Joseph found Mary to "be with child" and the child was not his. However, unlike the couples on the once popular TV show, *Divorce Court*, Joseph wanted to end his marriage quietly, not in the "public's eye."

Joseph may have thought that Mary had been "seduced" by another man. In any case the Jewish law was clear, in the "public's eye," a woman guilty of infidelity must be "stoned to death." Joseph did not want Mary harmed. He wanted to divorce her on his own, which a man could do, since he tried to live by Jewish law. However, God Himself intervened, sending His angel in a dream, to tell Joseph to take Mary into his house. It was necessary for Joseph to take Mary into his home to fulfill Isaiah's prophesy, "... a shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse, and from his roots a bud shall blossom."

Jesse was King David's father and God promised David that his kingdom would last forever. "And when your time comes and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your heir after you, sprung from your loins, and I will make his kingdom firm." Joseph was a descendant of David and by taking Mary into his home and raising Jesus as his own son made Jesus a descendant of David. What God promised David in the Old Testament, was fulfilled in Jesus in the home of Joseph.

Joseph had free will and decided to say YES to God. There is no doctrine about his immaculate conception or sinlessness. Yet, he responded with generosity. He responded with faith. He responded out of love. He listened to this message from God in a dream. He rose above his fear. He rose above his confusion. He did not know how the story was going to end other than to know that this child was going to save his people from their sins. The words, "HE DID AS THE ANGEL OF THE LORD COMMANDED," should be inspirational to all of us. They are simple words, yet behind them stand a man who should inspire us to respond generously to every prompting of the Holy Spirit in us, to do as the Lord commands.

Isn't it marvelous that God sent His Son as Savior to us, not simply to live among us but to become one of us in our very nature? That astounding miracle happens every time we celebrate Mass, and we receive Jesus in our own humanity, when we receive the Eucharist. God becomes one with our body and blood, joined with His Body and Blood. Because of the Incarnation, God becomes one with us. Every Mass is another Christmas.

In every Mass, Jesus gives Himself to us out of love. Out of love, Joseph was called to give himself to Jesus and Mary, the mother of God. Out of love, we are called to give ourselves to Jesus and to each other. This is the true spirit of Christmas! The spirit of giving of ourselves, out of love! It is a spirit we should live every day of our lives!

– 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. Stephen Wong
frstephen@stjosephlargo.org

Deacons

Deacon Steven Nash
snash@stjosephlargo.org

Deacon Kyle Simon
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

Lorraine Hayling

Financial Services
lhayling@stjosephlargo.org - ext 14

Stephen Joy

Facilities Manager
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Dr. Michael Clarke

Director of Music
drmclark@stjosephlargo.org

Sr. Huong Pham

Faith Formation
religiousued@stjosephlargo.org - ext 15

Deacon Steven Nash

OCIA Coordinator

snash@stjosephlargo.org

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 Burris or Pam White
301-773-0102 ext 13

Good Samaritans Ministry:

Arleen 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

Our Parish Family's Weekly Offering

\$ December 14, 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: N/A
(N/A - DUE TO EARLY
SUBMISSION TO PRINTER)

**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

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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT ~ PAGE 3

MASSES / OBSERVANCES

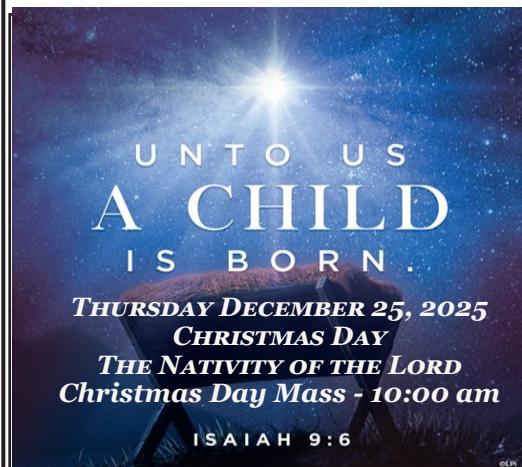


Sunday December 21, 2025
MASSES:
8:00 AM, 10:00 AM & 12:00 PM

Monday December 22, 2025
Mass 8:30 am

Tuesday December 23, 2025
ST. JOHN OF KANTY, PRIEST
Daily Mass: 8:30 am
Exposition/Adoration: 6:00 pm
Benediction: 6:45 pm
Evening Mass 7:00 pm

Wednesday December 24, 2025
CHRISTMAS EVE
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



Friday December 26, 2025
ST. STEPHEN, FIRST MARTYR
Mass: 8:30 am
Adoration: IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING MASS
Benediction: 10:00 am

Saturday December 27, 2025
ST. JOHN, APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST
CONFESsion / RECONCILIATION
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM
VIGIL MASS: 5:00 PM

CHURCH CALENDAR / ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK

Sunday December 21

- **Dr. Clarke** (CLR 2) 9:00 am
- **OCIA** - (CLR 1) 12:00 pm
- **Knights Sunday** (CH) 12:00 Mass

Monday December 22

- **OCIA - Virtual 7:00 pm**
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89944235053?pwd=bFYHqh48x0moVo76CexBSsZg2T31A6.1>
Meeting ID: 899 4423 5053 Passcode: 092357
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+13017158592,,89944235053#,,,*092357# US (Washington DC)

Tuesday December 23

- **Arts and Environment** (WW / CH) Time - TBA
- **Dr Clarke Choir Rehearsal**(CLR2) 7:00 pm

Thursday December 25

- **Christmas Day**

Friday December 26

- **No Activities**

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

Saturday December 27

- **Dr. Clarke - Cantor Rehearsal for Vigil Mass** (CLR 2) 3:30 pm

Daily Readings for the Week of December 21, 2025

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

Monday: 1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd/Lk 1:46-56

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

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

Thursday:

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/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 (3c)/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

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

Mt 10:17-22

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

Please Pray for the Sick and Shut-in... Cathrine Abrams, Theresa Agore, 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, Keree 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, Cliff顿 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 TONY & AFUAH OWUSU-ANSAH (SI)
10:00 AM BERTHA H WILSON †
12:00 PM THE ST JOSEPH COMMUNITY (SI)

MONDAY

8:30 AM TRAVEL MERCIES FOR

NDUM FAMILY

TUESDAY

8:30 AM BONAVENTURE A. ASI †

7:00 PM FELICITE' GOGO †

WEDNESDAY

5:00 PM CAROL HAYLING

BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS

THURSDAY

8:30 AM DGK JEAN-MARIE TCHEFFO †

FRIDAY

8:30 AM CHRISTINA LUZAITIS (SI)

SATURDAY

5:00 PM LATRICE NDUM

BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS

LIVE THE LITURGY:

INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

Sometimes we want God's instructions to be clear and precise – like the angel in Joseph's dream. But Joseph's understanding was only as strong as his devotion to God's will. If we give our lives to God as Joseph did, we will know what he asks of us.

**WHY DO WE DO THAT?
CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED**

Tithing vs. Stewardship

Question:

What is the difference between tithing and stewardship?

Answer:

Both tithing and stewardship are part of a spiritual way of life that calls us to use all of our resources for the service of the Gospel. Everything we are and everything we have comes from God. Offering back to God what He has given us is part of how we worship and give thanks to God.

Tithing is the practice of giving back 10 percent of what we earn. It comes from the Old English word for "ten." The first Scriptural example of tithing came from Abraham who gave a tenth of his possessions to the priest Melchizedek. He did so as an act of thanksgiving to God.

Stewardship as a way of life calls us to use well all that we have and all that we are, placing all things in service of others and God. Stewardship helps us see the good we can accomplish by making God and our spiritual life the most important values in our life. Whatever we accumulate in this life stays here. We can't take it with us! Both tithing and stewardship help us remember that nothing is mine or even ours ... all belongs to God.

Questions of the Week - for Your Reflection

1st Reading Question:

Seven hundred years before the birth of Jesus, Isaiah prophesies to King Ahaz that a virgin would bear a son and name him, Emmanuel ("God is with us").

When have you felt close to God this Advent season?

2nd Reading Question:

Paul instructs the Roman Christians that they are "called to be holy."

What do you see as some of the steps toward growing in holiness?

Gospel Question:

We hear how Joseph struggled initially with the news of Mary's pregnancy.

How do you discern making difficult decisions?

CATHOLIC TRIVIA...

Question:

Which saint's nickname is "Santa Claus"?

Answer:

Part 1 - This is an easy one...

Part 2 - What is this saint's feast day?

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

The Lord
has not
forgotten us

©LPI

For Our Young Parishioners

SHARING THE GOSPEL

An angel told Joseph to marry Mary because her baby was through the Holy Spirit of God. They would name the baby Jesus because he would save his people from their sins. God called you by name, too. Before you were born, he could tell you how many hairs would be on your head. He knew how long your feet would be. He knew all the good things you would do for his people.

PRAYER

I am proud that I am your child, Father God.

SOMETHING TO DRAW

Draw an angel telling Joseph not to be afraid and to marry Mary.

MISSION FOR THE WEEK

I will thank my parents for having me and taking good care of me.

JUST A THOUGHT...

Advent is drawing quickly to a close, and Christmas is coming soon. The change is upon us. Do we rise to accept it, or do we fall on our faces in fear?

MERRY CHRISTMAS



CHRISTMAS BLESSING

*On this blessed Christmas day,
may the joy and goodness of the sweet
baby Jesus fill our home and our hearts.
Jesus, bless every member
of our family, near and far.
May peace prevail, goodness reign,
and love triumph.
Amen.*

A LITTLE HOLY HUMOR ...

"What do bear families sing during Christmas?"



©THE FAITHFUL FUNNIES

"Have yourself a Beary Little Christmas."



All of creation joins in praise for the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. May the joy of the season fill your home!

CATHOLIC TRIVIA...

You are correct if you guessed :
St. Nicholas and his Feast Day is December 6th



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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 passes away

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Mary Ogunanya MD, FAAP
Maryland Children Health Center

OFFICE LOCATIONS:

12150 Annapolis Road, Suite 208
Glendale, Maryland 20769
Phone: (301) 218-0398
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