

The Catholic Community of

# Saint Joseph

*"In the spirit of St. Joseph, we lovingly serve Jesus Christ and His people."*



# Christmas 2023

Parish Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday-Friday • Parish Office: 330-364-6661 • After Hours Emergency Line: 330-364-6662

613 N. Tuscarawas Avenue • Dover, Ohio 44622 • [www.stjosephdover.org](http://www.stjosephdover.org) • E-mail: [stjosephchurch@roadrunner.com](mailto:stjosephchurch@roadrunner.com)



**St. Joseph Church**  
**Dover, Ohio 44622**  
**The Nativity of Our Lord**  
**December 24 and 25, 2023**  
**24 y 25 de Diciembre del 2023**



**Mass Intentions**

**Tuesday, December 26**

**No Mass**

Readings: 696: Acts 6:8-10, 7:54-59/Ps 31/  
Mt 10:17-22

**Wednesday, December 27**

8:15 a.m. Kathy Thomas

**9:00 a.m. Rosary**

Readings: 697: 1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97/Jn 20:1a, 2-8

**Thursday, December 28**

8:15 a.m. Lucille Contini

**9:00 a.m. Eucharistic Adoration**

Readings: 698: 1 Jn 5-2:2/Ps 124/Mt 2:13-18

**Friday, December 29**

8:15 a.m. Special Intention

Readings: 202: 1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96/Lk 2:22-35

**Saturday, December 30**

**The Vigil for The Holy Family, Jesus, Mary, and Joseph**

4:00 p.m. Sandi Grasselli

**Sunday, December 31**

**The Holy Family, Jesus, Mary, and Joseph**

8:30 a.m. John DeTorio

11:00 a.m. Laura Stone

1:30 p.m. People of the Parish (Mass in Spanish)

Readings: 17: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Ps 128/Col 3:12-21/  
Lk 2:22-40

**Offertory for December 16 and 17, 2023**

Loose Cash and Checks	\$ 12,886.00
Adult Weekly Envelopes	\$ 8,862.00
Online Giving	\$ 1,015.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 22,763.00</b>

**Other Funds**

Poor Fund	\$ 555.00
Capital Improvement	\$ 194.00
St. Joseph School Subsidy	\$ 155.00
Our Lady of Guadalupe	\$ 236.00
Other Collections	\$ 138.00

Thank you for your generosity.

**When traveling, and you need to find information on the closest Catholic Church and the times for their Masses, please check out [www.masstimes.org](http://www.masstimes.org).**



**Ministry Schedule**

**Tuesday - No Mass**

**Wednesday, December 27 - 8:15 a.m. - Matt Ritzert**

**Thursday, December 28 - 8:15 a.m. - Jeannine Kennedy**

**Friday, December 29 - 8:15 a.m. - Jack Burnham**

**December 30, 2023**

**4:00 p.m.**

Lectors: Mary DeBois - 1st Lector

Sue Quillen - 2nd Lector

Eucharistic Ministers: Tim Avon, Jackie Hostetler,

Beth Cecil, Kateri Renicker, Steve DeBois,

Jessica DeBois

Ushers: Tim Avon, Roy Montan, Steve DeBois

Servers: Miya Olson, Kenton Renicker, Flynn Renicker

**December 31, 2023**

**8:30 a.m. Mass**

Lectors: Jeannine Kennedy - 1st Lector

Keith Knestaut - 2nd Lector

Eucharistic Ministers: John Kuczirka, Sharon Kuczirka,

Jan Michael LaBrake, Jack Burnham, Doug Telle,

Matt Ritzert, Laura Barkett

Ushers: Chris Chaney, Kelly Chaney, John Karl,

Max Burnham, Ronnie Saffell

Servers: Nadia Pope, Brady Pope, Easton Pope

**11:00 a.m. Mass**

Lectors: Mike Ernest - 1st Lector

Cathy Galbraith - 2nd Lector

Eucharistic Ministers: Dan Galbraith, Elizabeth Clemence,

Mark Clemence, Marcus Clemence, Beth Ernest,

Patti DeVault, Sue Worth

Ushers: Patti DeVault, Lindsay Williams,

Larry and Linda Clawson

Servers: Meghan Martinez, Nick Civiello, Izzy Murphy

If you know of a friend or family member who is in the hospital, for surgery or due to illness, or is currently homebound, please call the Parish Office and someone will visit them as soon as possible.



**Prayer Chain:** To place your request on the prayer chain, please call the Parish Office or Charlene Herzig at 330-343-1063. If no one is available, please leave a message.

**Please Note:** If you would like to present the gifts at the Offertory, please contact the Ushers before Mass.



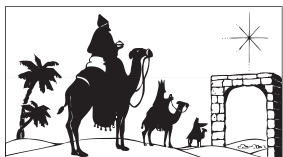
### Spiritual Notes

God speaks in all manner of ways – ways as varied as the works of creation and the deeds of deliverance. God's most powerful word is "Jesus," who pierces the darkness, illuminating the whole earth with His healing light. Some are unable to hear the message. Others cannot accept the one who speaks of peace and justice. The Word of God is born in those whose ears are open.

God needs our voices, too. How beautiful are those who carry glad tidings of salvation to the oppressed! How healing are the words spoken to those held in bondage! How comforting are the arms that enfold those in pain! How wise are the ones who envision a future full of hope! Through our lips, all the ends of the earth will see the saving power of God.

*For Reflection: Am I faithful to the words of Jesus? What words of joy can I announce today?*

The Parish Office will be closed on Friday, December 22, 2023 through Tuesday, December 26, 2023, for Christmas. If you have an emergency, please call the office and leave a message, someone will return your call as soon as possible. The voicemail is checked routinely when the office is closed.



### Celebration of the Epiphany - Tres Magos

On Sunday, January 7, 2024, the Church celebrates the Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord, otherwise known as the discovery of the child by the "Three Magi." Our Hispanic Parishioners celebrate this day as "Tres Magos." Their procession of kings, animals, and shepherds to the crib, to recall earlier practices of the Anglo/European Church, has since been abandoned. These practices live on as an integral part of the Liturgy of the Three Kings in the Hispanic culture. Mass will be celebrated at 1:30 p.m. with the procession beginning at 1:00 p.m. A dinner will follow in the Parish Hall. Everyone in the parish is invited to attend both Mass and dinner. We hope we will see you there!

### P.S.R. News

There will be no P.S.R. on Sunday, December 24th or Sunday, December 31st. Classes will resume at the normal time on Sunday, January 7th. The next Confirmation Session will be Sunday, January 21st, beginning at the 11:00 a.m. Mass.



### SAVE THE DATE!

Tuscany's Tenuta Torciano Winery  
is returning to Dover!

October 20, 2024 – 6:00 p.m.

Wine and dinner with food prepared by Colin Capozella. Please contact the Parish Office for your tickets!

### Mark Your Calendars!

#### Upcoming Events

January 1, 2024

The Parish Office is Closed

January 5, 2024

First Friday

Mass, 8:15 a.m. followed by Eucharistic Adoration  
Divine Mercy Chaplet – 3:00 p.m.

January 6, 2024

Knights of Columbus Baby Bottle Campaign begins

January 12, 2024

No School – Teacher In-service

January 15, 2024

The Parish Office is Closed

No School

January 17, 2024

St. Joseph Seniors – Ricardo's Restaurant

Noon

January 21, 2024

Confirmation Session

11:00 a.m.

January 28, 2024

Baby Bottle Campaigns Ends

February 2, 2024

First Friday

Mass, 8:15 a.m. followed by Eucharistic Adoration  
Divine Mercy Chaplet – 3:00 p.m.

February 11, 2024

Youth Ministry Pizza Fundraiser Pick-up

February 13, 2024

Palm Burning Prayer Service following Mass

Mardi Gras Dinner – 7:00 p.m.

Family Life Center

February 14, 2024

Ash Wednesday

Mass – 8:15 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.

February 16, 2024

Stations of the Cross

7:00 p.m. in English

8:00 p.m. in Spanish

February 19, 2024

Parish Office is Closed

No School

February 23, 2024

Stations of the Cross

7:00 p.m. in English

8:00 p.m. in Spanish

### St. Joseph Youth Ministry

#### Upcoming Dates!

January 7, 2024

Celebrate the New Year

Family Life Center

6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

January 21, 2024

Activity and location to be determined





## Tuscarawas County Catholic Schools



### The Neal Kwasnicka Tuition Assistance Catholic Foundation Endowment Fund

The Tuscarawas Central Catholic Elementary School, Tuition Assistance Fund named in honor of longtime custodian at Tuscarawas Central Catholic Elementary School, is being established by the St. Joseph Parishioners at his retirement with love and gratitude for his service to the community. If you would like to make a contribution to this new endowment fund that will provide tuition assistance to deserving students, who will attend TCCES, in the future, please make your checks payable to either TCCES or the Catholic Foundation. For more information, please call the St. Joseph Parish Office.

### Do you want to help our Catholic Schools financially?

The Diocese of Columbus Office of Catholic Schools recently launched the Emmaus Road Scholarship Fund, a scholarship granting organization of the Diocese of Columbus that was formed to capitalize on a new tax credit passed into law by the Ohio Legislature in late 2021. As dictated by Ohio law, the funds raised by the SGO are to be used *primarily* for academic scholarships for students to attend K-12 schools and *prioritized* for low-income families. However, ALL students in Our Catholic Schools have the potential to benefit from these scholarship funds. **How does it work?** Donors who make a gift to the Emmaus Road Scholarship Fund receive a dollar-for-dollar credit (not a deduction) on their Ohio income tax liability – up to \$750.00 per person, or \$1,500.00 if married filing jointly – effectively allowing them to make a choice about how their Ohio tax dollars are utilized. Donors can restrict their gift for the benefit of one or more schools of their choosing, or they may direct their dollars to the unrestricted fund which helps the greatest number of students in the diocese.

The Emmaus Road Scholarship Fund creates much-needed scholarship dollars for Our Catholic Schools while giving donors the power to put their tax dollars to work to support Catholic education. For additional information, visit the fund web site at [www.emmausroadscholarship.org](http://www.emmausroadscholarship.org) or contact OCS Associate Director of Advancement Theresa Vivona at [tvivona@columbuscatholic.org](mailto:tvivona@columbuscatholic.org).



**PING PONG  
BALL DROP**

**EVENT on Feb 12, 2024**  
Directly following the TCC Varsity basketball game

**Support  
TCC GOLF**  
ONLY \$5 per ball number!  
Scan QR Code to learn more!



Winning ball # takes home 50% of funds raised  
**Possible cash prize  
of up to...**

**\$750**

## St. Joseph Soup Kitchen

The intention for the Soup Kitchen is to serve God's children in need: the poor in spirit, as well as the needy. Teams, if you need assistance, please contact Andrea Settimio or the Parish Office.

December 27, 2023 – Team D (Andrea Settimio)

January 3, 2024 Team C (Knights of Columbus)

January 10, 2024 – Team E (Judy Burnham)

\*\*\* *please note schedule changes* \*\*\*

January 17, 2024 – Team F (Boy Scouts)

January 24, 2024 – Team B (Capozella Family)

**Please keep our guests and volunteers in your prayers!**

## Mini Food Pantry

Our mini food pantry box located at the Family Life Centers have been able to provide foods for many people in need. Our volunteers are restocking several times a week. The items most in need are:

Tuna	Jelly
Canned Pasta	Beef Stew
Toothbrushes	Shampoo

If you would like to contribute items, there is a tote in the Vestibule of the church. Or, you make monetary donations by placing an envelope in the collection basket marked "Mini pantry."

## Walking With Moms in Need (WWMIN)

A small core team of volunteers has been collaborating to complete the objectives of the WWMIN initiative as provided by the diocese of Columbus. Our team consists of volunteers from all four Catholic parishes in Tuscarawas County. Primary goals revolve around completing a local inventory of pregnancy help resources; development and utilization of the WWMIN website at [www.mintusc.com](http://www.mintusc.com); adding content to the website; and building a base of volunteers interested in helping us in this initiative. We ask you to please take a look at the resource inventory on the website. Let us know if anything needs to be corrected, added or removed. The next steps of this committee will be to increase awareness of the needs of mothers; the helpful resources within our community; and how every Catholic can work toward creating a culture of life for mothers in need by walking with them through the challenges of our modern world.

## Stand up and be counted!

**Are you a registered parishioner? Do we have your current phone number?** Registering in the parish is a declaration of your desire to be a part of the Catholic community and commitment to the life of our parish. If you want to register, there are forms in the Vestibule; simply fill one out and drop it in the collection basket or stop in the Parish Office during the week or on Sunday mornings after the Masses and request a form.





More and more parishioners have begun to eliminate their landlines, and use only cell phones. If you fall into this category, please contact the Parish Office with your correct information. You may fill out this slip and drop it in the collection basket or email any changes to [stjosephchurch@roadrunner.com](mailto:stjosephchurch@roadrunner.com). Thank you!!

**Family Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

### **Urgent Support Needed in the Holy Land**

As the war rages on, Pope Francis is reaching out to world leaders calling for a cease fire, entry of humanitarian aid into Gaza and the release of all hostages being held by Hamas. Due to longstanding presence, Catholic Relief Services has been responding to meet urgent comprehensive needs, while also monitoring possible extended needs across the region. To support their efforts, pray and consider learning more and donating to CRS at Catholic Relief Services [crs.org](http://crs.org). For more information, contact the Diocesan Office of Social Concerns at [socmailbox@columbuscatholic.org](mailto:socmailbox@columbuscatholic.org) or call 614-224-2540.

### **Save the Dates!**

The 2024 Catholic Women's Conference will be held on Saturday, February 17th at the Ohio Expo Center in Columbus. A week later on Saturday, February 24th, the Annual Catholic Men's Conference will be held at the same location. More information will be following.

### **Start the New Year Right!**

#### **Give the gift of time to each other next year.**

Experience a Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend where married couples can get away from jobs, kids, chores, and phones and focus only on each other. Make 2024 the best year of your marriage by applying today! The next weekend is February 9-11, 2024 in the Central Ohio area. For more information or to apply, visit our website at [WWMEcolumbus.org](http://WWMEcolumbus.org). Early registration is highly recommended.



### **Leave a Legacy of Love and Faith**

Your last will and testament can leave a legacy of your faith by helping to pass it on to others. When drafting your will, after taking care of your family, please consider naming St. Joseph Parish or the Diocese of Columbus as a recipient of your estate. For more information, contact the Catholic Foundation at 1-866-298-8893.



### **Other Information to Note:**

**Pray for the Priest, Deacon, or Seminarian of the Day:** Posted on the bulletin boards are calendars with the names of Priests, Deacons, and Seminarians. As you come into the church, you may want to look at the calendar and pray for the designated person of the day.

**Low-gluten Hosts:** If you are a person who needs to receive a **low-gluten host** because of wheat allergies or celiac disease, please call the Parish Office.

**Mass Intentions:** Please be reminded that any parishioner is welcome to request Masses be celebrated for deceased or living loved ones. To schedule a Mass Intention, please contact the Parish Office.

**Bulletin deadline:** The bulletin deadline is Monday at 12:00 p.m. Please include your contact information with phone number and email address. Bulletin notices may be in writing, faxed to 330-602-7488, dropped off, or emailed to [stjosephchurch@roadrunner.com](mailto:stjosephchurch@roadrunner.com).

**There is a Special Intentions Book in the Vestibule.** Please simply write the request for prayer intentions or for special needs and/or the sick in the parish in the book and give your fellow parishioners the privilege and the opportunity to ask for God's blessings on you and yours.

### **St. Joseph Cemetery**

If you are interested in purchasing lots, or if you have questions regarding rules and regulations, please call Russ in the Parish Office, and he will be happy to assist you.



**Online Giving.** If you manage your bills online, we're sure you'll like giving to your church online. It's safe and secure, and you decide exactly when your gift is made and where it goes. To get started, please visit [www.stjosephdoover.org](http://www.stjosephdoover.org). If you have any questions or need assistance, please call the Parish Office.

### **The Holy Father's Prayer Intentions**

**December 2023**

**For persons with disabilities**

**We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the center of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation.**

### **OUR ADVERTISER OF THE WEEK**



**DOVER K OF C  
COUNCIL #1973  
[www.kofcohoio.org](http://www.kofcohoio.org)**

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# Lectio Divina

## SCRIPTURE READING + MEDITATION + PRAYER + CONTEMPLATION

“What page, what passage of the inspired books of the Old and New Testaments is not the truest of guides for human life?” ~Saint Benedict, from the *Rule of Saint Benedict* (73:3)

***“Kiss the feet of the baby Jesus, who lies in the manger, and pray that the Holy Virgin will allow you to hold Him. Take Him between your arms, hold Him and see His lovable face, kiss it with reverence and rejoice with Him. You can do this because He has come to bring salvation to sinners and He has humbly conversed with them, finally giving Himself as food.”*** +SAINT BONAVENTURE

### **Monday, December 25 ~ Solemnity of Christmas The Birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, the Son of God**

**Holy Gospel: Luke 2:1-14** In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that the whole world should be enrolled. This was the first enrollment, when Quirinius was governor of Syria. So all went to be enrolled, each to his own town. And Joseph too went up from Galilee from the town of Nazareth to Judea, to the city of David that is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there, the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. Now there were shepherds in that region living in the fields and keeping the night watch over their flock. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were struck with great fear. The angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was a multitude of the heavenly host with the angel, praising God and saying: “Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”



**Meditation:** Following is an excerpt of a sermon from Pope St. Leo the Great: “Dearly beloved, today our Savior is born; let us rejoice. Sadness should have no place on the birthday of life. The fear of death has been swallowed up; life brings us joy with the promise of eternal happiness. No one is shut out from this joy; all share the same reason for rejoicing. Our Lord, victor over sin and death, finding no man free from sin, came to free us all. Let the saint rejoice as he sees the palm of victory at hand. Let the sinner be glad as he receives the offer of forgiveness. Let the pagan take courage as he is summoned to life. In the fullness of time, chosen in the unfathomable depths of God’s wisdom, the Son of God took for himself our common humanity in order to reconcile it with its creator. He came to overthrow the devil, the origin of death, in that very nature by which he had overthrown mankind. And so at the birth of our Lord the angels sing in joy: Glory to God in the highest, and they proclaim peace to men of good will as they see the heavenly Jerusalem being built from all the nations of the world. When the angels on high are so exultant at this marvelous work of God’s goodness, what joy should it not bring to the lowly hearts of men? Beloved, let us give thanks to God the Father, through his Son, in the Holy Spirit, because in his great love for us he took pity on us, and when we were dead in our sins he brought us to life with Christ, so that in him we might be a new creation. Let us throw off our old nature and all its ways and, as we have come to birth in Christ, let us renounce the works of the flesh. Christian, remember your dignity, and now that you share in God’s own nature, do not return by sin to your former base condition. Bear in mind who is your head and of whose body you are a member. Do not forget that you have been rescued from the power of darkness and brought into the light of God’s kingdom. Through the sacrament of baptism you have become a temple of the Holy Spirit. Do not drive away so great a guest by evil conduct and become again a slave to the devil, for your liberty was bought by the blood of Christ.”

**Prayer:** O God, who gladden us year by year as we wait in hope for our redemption grant that, just as we joyfully welcome your Only Begotten Son as our Redeemer, we may also merit to face him confidently



when he comes again as our Judge. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

**Contemplation:** On Christmas Day it remains only for us to find in the Gospel, as we find in all the words of the Holy Gospels, the answer as to what we should do in response to the gift that has been given to us, the song that has fallen on our ears from angelic voices. And the answer is there; the birth of this mystery - of love triumphant in the face of evil - is Christ as He came to life from the Virgin Mary in Bethlehem, and Christ, as we come to life in Him, through the Sacrament we share. Let us pray that our Christmas will be filled with the song of this life, and that our love will conquer all things contrary to Christ, so that we may follow the Son sent by God to redeem us, and do so with love and fidelity to the truths of Christ.

**On the Birth of Jesus, the Son of God:** Today is the great solemnity that shows the world that the Word Incarnate, the Savior of mankind, is finally born. God becoming truly man is an enormous event [...]. Something truly happens that goes beyond any evolutionary process: the fusion of man and God, the creature and the Creator. It is not the progression of another step in the evolutionary process, but the eruption of a personal action, founded on love, that from this point forward reveals to men new space and possibilities. (Joseph Ratzinger in *God and the World: A Conversation with Peter Seewald*, 2001, p. 197). Christmas says to us: alone we can't profoundly change the world to remedy it. Alone, we can make the world better or worse, but we can't save it. Christ came therefore, because left to ourselves; we couldn't escape the 'mortal disease' that has enveloped us from the first moment of conception in our mother's womb. This gives us hope, true hope, and true Christian optimism: I can't do it but He is there! This is the mystery of grace synthesized in the human figure of God incarnate. Christmas Eve and Christmas day are moments of contemplation. We consider, in many dimensions, the mystery of love that was incarnated for us. First of all, we contemplate the light and joy, without forgetting Jesus and Mary's sorrows and sufferings, and the many difficulties that had surrounded them: the cold, the uncomfortable place, the dangers..... It would be good to accompany these thoughts by reciting and meditating slowly on the Holy Rosary, preferably in front of a crib. "Blessed grotto of Bethlehem that testified to the wonders! Who, in this hour would not turn our hearts? Who would not prefer the opulent palace of the King?" (P. Guéranger, *L'Anno Liturgico*, Alba 1959 [orig. franc. 1841], I, p122).

## **Tuesday, December 26 ~ Second Day in the Octave of Christmas Saint Stephen, First Martyr**

**Holy Gospel: Matthew 10:17-22** Jesus said to his disciples: "Beware of men, for they will hand you over to courts and scourge you in their synagogues, and you will be led before governors and kings for my sake as a witness before them and the pagans. When they hand you over, do not worry about how you are to speak or what you are to say. You will be given at that moment what you are to say. For it will not be you who speak but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. Brother will hand over brother to death, and the father his child; children will rise up against parents and have them put to death. You will be hated by all because of my name, but whoever endures to the end will be saved."

**Meditation:** "You will be hated by all on account of my name," Jesus says in today's gospel. A strange fate indeed for those whose lives are built on truth, love and peace. And yet it is a fate only too sadly confirmed down these many centuries to this very day. Jesus had said that all those who wished to follow him would have to take up their cross and go after him. The servant is no greater than his master. "Whoever loves his own life will lose it; whoever hates his own life in this world will keep it for life eternal. Whoever wants to serve me must follow me, so that my servant will be with me where I am" (John 12:25-26). Stephen clearly is a perfect model of such a Christian disciple.

**Prayer:** Grant, Lord, we pray, that we may imitate what we worship, and so learn to love even our enemies, for we celebrate the heavenly birthday of a man who knew how to pray even for his persecutors. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

**Contemplation:** There are some today who say "religion divides." When we hear this, today's gospel should come to mind, because so many routinely turn their back on God and on his Son, Jesus Christ. By their actions, they are the ones who actually cause division - not those who live their lives in faith of God or his Son Jesus Christ - because by their actions and their lifestyles they freely choose to not follow the laws of God and the teachings of Christ; in doing so they separate themselves from the way, the truth, and the life of Christ. The beauty of this situation, though, is that God always welcomes back those who have sinned, those who have strayed. God sent his Son into this world to teach us right from wrong, to shepherd and guide us, and to lead us on the path to eternal life. With a contrite heart through the



Sacrament of Reconciliation, we can confess our sins, receive absolution, and get back in Christ's fold. What a great thing to do in the Christmas Season – and any time of the year, for that matter!

### **Wednesday, December 27 ~ Third Day in the Octave of Christmas Saint John, Apostle and Evangelist**

**Holy Gospel: John 20:1a, 2-8** On the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene ran and went to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and told them, "They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we do not know where they put him." So Peter and the other disciple went out and came to the tomb. They both ran, but the other disciple ran faster than Peter and arrived at the tomb first; he bent down and saw the burial cloths there, but did not go in. When Simon Peter arrived after him, he went into the tomb and saw the burial cloths there, and the cloth that had covered his head, not with the burial cloths but rolled up in a separate place. Then the other disciple also went in, the one who had arrived at the tomb first, and he saw and believed.

**Meditation:** The placement of today's Gospel seems to "rush" in the life of Jesus from his birth – which we celebrated just two days ago – to his resurrection, describing the scene where Peter and the "beloved disciple" rush to the tomb of Jesus after being told by Mary Magdalene that the body is no longer there. But this gospel points to the great love that John the Apostle and Evangelist – the beloved disciple – had for Jesus Christ as the Word Incarnate, the Messiah, the Son of God, the one whose birth we just celebrated. Although the "beloved disciple" got there first, he deferred to Peter who went in first and saw the burial cloths. One of them – the piece that was wrapped around the face – was rolled up in a separate place. When the "beloved disciple" went in, "he saw and he believed" – in other words, he understood the significance of the cloth and he knew that his Lord had risen. And the promise of salvation of all mankind began with the birth of Jesus. I suggest that you read John 1:1-18 today as well.

**Prayer:** O God, who through the blessed Apostle John have unlocked for us the secrets of your Word, grant, we pray, that we may grasp with proper understanding what he has so marvelously brought to our ears. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

**Contemplation:** John in his first epistle testifies: What we have seen, heard, and touched we proclaim as the word of life which existed "from the beginning" (1 John 1:1-4). John bears witness to what has existed from all eternity. This "word of life" is Jesus the word incarnate, whose birth we just celebrated, but also Jesus as the word announced by the prophets and Jesus the word now preached throughout the Christian church for all ages to come. One thing is certain, if Jesus had not risen from the dead and appeared to his disciples, we would never have heard of him. Nothing else could have changed sad and despairing men and women into people radiant with joy and courage. The reality of the resurrection is the central fact of the Christian faith. Through the gift of the Holy Spirit, the Lord gives us "eyes of faith" to know him and the power of his resurrection. The greatest joy we can have is to encounter the living Christ, sent by God into this world to save and redeem us, to teach us how to live our lives, to shepherd and guide us on the path that leads to eternal life. Get to know Christ personally as your Lord, Savior and Redeemer.

### **Thursday, December 28 ~ Fourth Day in the Octave of Christmas Feast of the Holy Innocents, Martyrs**

**Holy Gospel: Matthew 2:13-18** When the magi had departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I tell you. Herod is going to search for the child to destroy him." Joseph rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed for Egypt. He stayed there until the death of Herod, that what the Lord had said through the prophet might be fulfilled, Out of Egypt I called my son. When Herod realized that he had been deceived by the magi, he became furious. He ordered the massacre of all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had ascertained from the magi. Then was fulfilled what had been said through Jeremiah the prophet: "A voice was heard in Ramah, sobbing and loud lamentation; Rachel weeping for her children, and she would not be consoled, since they were no more."

**Meditation:** During this octave of Christmas the Church celebrates the memory of the small children of the neighborhood of Bethlehem put to death by Herod. Sacrificed by a wicked monarch, these innocent lives bear witness to Christ who was persecuted from the time of His birth by a world which would not receive Him. It is Christ Himself who is at stake in this mass-murder of the children; already the choice, for or against Him, is put clearly before men. But the persecutors are powerless, for Christ came to perform a work of salvation that nothing can prevent; when He fell into the hands of His enemies at the



time chosen by God it was to redeem the world by His own Blood. The joy of this Christmas Season is tempered today by a feeling of sadness. But the Church looks principally to the glory of the children, of these innocent victims, whom she shows us in heaven following the Lamb wherever He goes.

**Prayer:** O God, whom the Holy Innocents confessed and proclaimed on this day, not by speaking but by dying, grant, we pray, that the faith in you which we confess with our lips may also speak through our manner of life. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

**Contemplation:** Many ask why God did not prevent this slaughter. Human suffering is indeed a mystery. No explanation seems to satisfy our human craving to understand. These innocent children and their parents suffered for Christ. Suffering, persecution, and martyrdom are the lot of all who chose to follow Jesus Christ. There is no crown without the cross. It was through Jesus' suffering, humiliation, and death on a cross, that our salvation was won. His death won life – eternal life for us. And his blood which was shed for our sake obtained pardon and reconciliation with our heavenly Father.

**The Holy Innocents:** "Blessed are you, Bethlehem in the land of Judah! You suffered the inhumanity of King Herod in the murder of your babes and thereby have become worthy to offer to the Lord a pure host of infants. In full right do we celebrate the heavenly birthday of these children whom the world caused to be born unto an eternally blessed life rather than that from their mothers' womb, for they attained the grace of everlasting life before the enjoyment of the present. The precious death of any martyr deserves high praise because of his heroic confession; the death of these children is precious in the sight of God because of the beatitude they gained so quickly. For already at the beginning of their lives they pass on. The end of the present life is for them the beginning of glory. These then, whom Herod's cruelty tore as sucklings from their mothers' bosom, are justly hailed as 'infant martyr flowers;' they were the Church's first blossoms, matured by the frost of persecution during the cold winter of unbelief." —Saint Augustine

### **Friday, December 29 ~ Fifth Day in the Octave of Christmas** **Optional Memorial, Scripture: Saint Thomas Becket, Bishop and Martyr**

**Holy Gospel: Matthew 16:24-27** Then Jesus told His disciples, "If any man would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. For what will it profit a man, if he gains the whole world and forfeits his life? Or what shall a man give in return for his life? For the Son of man is to come with His angels in the glory of His Father, and then He will repay every man for what he has done.

**Meditation:** Let's get back to basics and ask ourselves this foundational question: What is the most important investment any of us can make with our life? Jesus poses some probing questions to challenge our assumptions about what is most profitable and worthwhile. In every decision of life we are making ourselves a certain kind of person. The kind of person we are, our character, determines to a large extent the kind of future we will face and live. It is possible that some can gain all the things they set their heart on, only to wake up suddenly and discover that they missed the most important things of all. Of what value are material things if they don't help you gain what truly lasts in eternity. Neither money nor possessions can buy heaven, mend a broken heart, or cheer a lonely person.

**Prayer:** O God, who gave the Martyr Saint Thomas Becket the courage to give up his life for the sake of justice, grant, through his intercession, that, renouncing our life for the sake of Christ in this world, we may find it in heaven. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

**Contemplation:** Jesus basically asks the question: What will a person give in exchange for his or her life? Never forget that everything we have is an out-right gift from God. We owe him everything – our gifts, abilities, talents – our very lives. It's possible to give God our money, but not ourselves, or to give him lip-service, but not our hearts. A true disciple gladly gives up all that he has in exchange for an unending life of joy and happiness with God. God gives without measure. The joy he offers no sadness or loss can diminish. The cross of Christ leads to victory and freedom from sin and death. What is the cross which Jesus Christ commands me to take up each day? When my will crosses with his will, then his will must be done. Christ is forever – remember that!

Scripture passages (NAB translation) courtesy of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops;  
prayers are from *The Roman Missal*, Catholic Book Publishing, 2011;  
information about saints, solemnities, feasts and memorials courtesy of the Catholic Culture web site.

frlumpe:2023



# St. Joseph Church

## Christmas Flower Memorials 2023

**Contributions were made for the Christmas Flowers in memory of individuals, families, or for special intentions.**

**Thank you to all who contributed.**

### *In Memory of...*

Deacon Ronald Fondriest by Jason and Judie Abrecht

Francis J. Alesiano, Michael and Gemma Contini, and Mary Hooper by Josephine Alesiano

Peter and Lena Tinnirello and Charles and Rose Alfonso by Dave and Rose Alfonso

William L. "Bill" Altier, Theresa Pauline Doriche and Orlando "Lefty" Doriche, Peter and Theresa Doriche, Sue and Dom Doriche, Joseph and Antoinette Iannelli, Carmen and Agostino, Olga Oddi, Jenny and Alice DeGirolamo, Mary Forsyth, Paul and Faye Altier, Paula Ickes, Duane Altier, and Edward and Connie Finley by Nancy and Billie-Jo Altier

The Argento and DeMonte Families by The Argento Family

Ida Altier, Leonard Altier, and Deceased Members of our Families by Marilyn and Richard Avon, Denise and Francis Picchettti, and Cindy and Dave Smith

Vickie Avon, Ray Shotwell and Mary Shotwell, and James and Jean Avon by Tim Avon

Deceased Members of the Ayers and Craddock Families by Norma Ayers

Deceased Members of the Miceli and Bambeck Families by Jack and Cathy Bambeck

For Family by The Brian Bauer Family

Martha and Patrick Bearducci, and The Bearducci Family by Tom Bearducci

Walt and Leona Bertsch, and Don Metzger by The John Bertsch Family

Wade "Bud" Blacka by Bonnie Blacka

Jim and Zetta Blickensderfer by The Alan Blickensderfer Family

Deceased Members of the Burnham and Kramer Families by Jack and Judy Burnham

Deceased Family Members of John and Sue Capozella by John and Sue Capozella

Deceased Members of the Bucag and Carpio Families by Victoria Carpio

Joe Cecil, Andrew Cecil, and Laura Stone by The Cecil Family

Joe and Andrew Cecil, and Laura Stone by Joyce Cecil

Tony Ginnetti, and Members of the Ginnetti and Conidi Families by Shawn and Patty Chambers

Eugene P. Tyler by Melinda Chandler

Ken Beamer, Alta Lebold, and Nick France by Mike and Katie Civiello and Children

Deceased Members of the Conidi Family by Joe Conidi

Louis and Caroline Rieger and Family, Anthony and Rochinne Contini and Family, Father Vince Hagarman and Family by Anna Rieger Contini

Jim and Shirley Contini, Dean Hooker, Jim Fabiano, Ben and Rose Tristano, Rocco and Constance Contini, Verle and Christine Smith, by Jim, Abby, Chloe, Cory and Angela Contini

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Nick and Lucille Contini, Nicky Contini, and Contini and Carmola Families by Marie Contini

James Contrucci by Jacque Contrucci

Frank and Rosalie Cugliari and Hazel Yockey and Dominic, Margareta, and Josephine Cugliari by Jim and Mary, and Meg Cugliari



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Eugene and Mary Swaldo and Deceased Children,  
and Dean and Esther Fickes and Vicky Fickes by Jack and Cheryl Fickes

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Matthew Bayliss by Patricia McCarty

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Audie, Marsha, and Patrick Murphy by Norma and Sue Murphy

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Jim Nixon by Cris Nixon and Don, Jim, and Ellen

Giovanni and Angelina Campo, Tony and Louise Luciani, John and Ann Patacca,  
John A. Patacca, Mary Reese, and Mary Lee Wallick by Rick and Tamara Patacca

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and Jack and Miriam Reed, by John and Mary Kay Reed

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Randal Wilkins, Gladys Clark, by Mary and Wayne Roberts

Members of The Don and Joan Robinson Family by Don and Joan Robinson

The Michael D. Rubino Family, The Vincent J. Contini Family and The Rocco J. Polce Family  
by Michael and Sandy Rubino Family

Eugene Rugh, and Members of the Fox and Rugh Families by The Rugh Family

Deceased Members of The Urdak Family, Beros Family, and Bumbulis Family  
by Larry and Patty Russell and Family

Al Saffell, Carmella Urfer, and The Berarducci Family by Jo Ann

Members of The Salvo, Ragone, and Murello Families by Deacon Joe and Mary Salvo

Jose Z. Samson, Catalina Samson, and Jose R. Samson by Aida Samson

Jesse, Joan, and Jolene Sandy by the Ronald Sandy Family

Jennifer Sloan Hennon by Larry and Jane Sloan and Jill

Coach Art Teynor, Idell Teynor, and Joe and Terry Doult by Cindy Teynor

Louis and Edith Tristano, Ben and Rose Tristano, Deceased Members of the  
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Larry "PaPa" VanAlstyne, Mom and Dad Bongini, Mom and Dad VanAlstyne,  
Eugene and Sandy Bongini by Carolyn, Lorie, Jeff, Janet, Maddie, and Brody

Dolores Weaver, Sandy Wagner and Members of The Weaver and Perko Families,  
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The James and Angela Weaver Family, The Victor and Emma Weaver Family and  
The William and Theresa Pontgratz Family by Judy Weaver Busick

Members of The Marinelli and West Families by Dorothy Marinelli and Linda West

Don and Christian Whittingham, Ruth and Russell Fox, and Deceased Members of the  
Henry Biedenbach Family by Regina Whittingham

John J. and Ann Patacca, and John A. Patacca by Diana Williams and Linda Patacca



**Iglesias San José  
Ministerios Hispanos  
La Natividad del Señor  
24 y 25 de Diciembre del 2023**



## Calendario Litúrgico:

## Navidad

## 25 de Diciembre - NO MISA en Español

**Domingo**                      **31 de Diciembre**                      **1:30 p.m.**

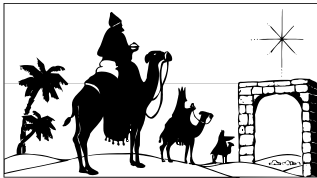
## Confesiones

**Antes de misa de español de 12:30 a 1:15 p.m.**

## Misas en Ingles

**Sábados** **4:00 p.m.**

**Domingos** 8:30 a.m. y 11:00 a.m.



## Tres Reyes Magos

**Misa domingo 7 de enero a las 1:30 p.m.**

Están todos invitados a la celebración de los Reyes magos  
habrá juguetes para los niños y comida después de la misa en  
el gimnasio de la escuela San José.

## Intenciones de Oración del Santo Padre

## Diciembre 2023

## Por las personas con discapacidad

**Oremos para que las personas con discapacidad estén en el centro de atención de la sociedad, y que las instituciones promuevan programas de inclusión que potencien su participación activa.**

**Sacramentos.** Si necesita sacramentos como: Penitencia, Comunión o Confirmación, por favor regístrese en la Iglesia al 330-364-6661.

**Capilla de la Virgen de Guadalupe.** Todos somos bienvenidos a venerar en la Capilla de la Virgen de Guadalupe. Podemos encender una vela que permanece prendida por tres días, con una donación de \$3.00. (2 velas por \$6.00, etc.). **Por favor usar sólo las velas de la Capilla.**

## Notas Espirituales

Dios habla de muchas formas: formas tan variadas como las obras de la creación o los actos de la redención. La palabra más poderosa de Dios es "Jesús," que penetra las tinieblas, iluminando el mundo entero con su luz sanadora. Algunos no son capaces de escuchar el mensaje. Otros no pueden aceptar al que habla de paz y justicia. La Palabra de Dios nace en aquellos que mantienen sus oídos abiertos.

Dios necesita también nuestras voces. Qué hermosos son los que traen buenas nuevas de salvación para los oprimidos. Cuán sanadoras son las palabras dirigidas a los que están cautivos. Qué reconfortantes son los brazos que estrechan a los que sufren. Cuán sabios los que avizoran un futuro lleno de esperanza. A través de nuestros labios los confines de la tierra conocerán el poder salvador de Dios.

*Reflexionemos: Soy fiel a la palabra de Jesús? Qué palabras de gozo puedo llevar a otros hoy?*



Por favor, recuerde en su oración, a todos los enfermos, al salir de casa, y la recuperación de nuestra parroquia. Además, orar por aquellos que sufren de condiciones físicas o mentales.





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