



1848-2023

THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF

# SAINT JOSEPH

## MASS TIMES

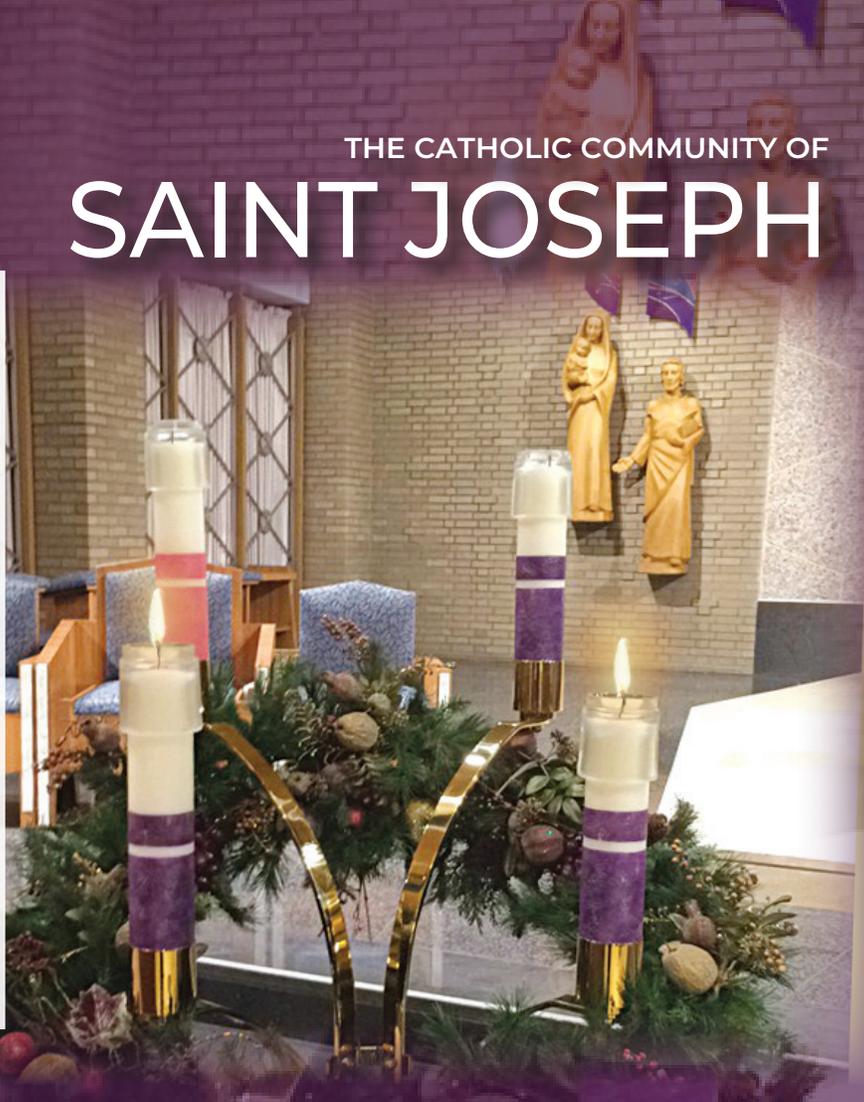
Saturday 4:00 p.m.  
Sunday 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.  
Spanish Sunday 1:30 p.m.  
Holy Days Check inside of bulletin  
Weekdays Tuesday 6:00 p.m.  
Wednesday, Thursday & Friday 8:15 a.m.

## CONFESSIONS

Saturday 3:00-3:45 p.m.  
Sunday 12:30-1:15 p.m.  
or anytime by appointment

## PARISH STAFF

Rev. James Hatfield, *Pastor*  
Ms. Brenda Stilgenbauer, *Pastoral Associate*  
Ms. Cindy Teynor, *Director of Religious Education*  
Mr. Jeremiah Jones, *Director of Music*  
Mrs. Jodi Lindberg, *Bookkeeper*  
Ms. Diane Lemmermann,  
*Coordinator of Family Life Center*  
Mr. Russ Clay, *Church and Cemetery Maintenance*



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

Parish Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday-Friday

- ◆ **FINANCE COMMITTEE MEMBERS** Mr. Brian Bauer, Mr. Chris Chaney, Mr. Mark Clemence, Mr. Jack Dooling, Mr. Jan-Michael LaBrake, Mrs. Brenda Pope, Mr. Frank Rose
- ◆ **MARRIAGES** Arrangements should be made through the Parish Office at least eight months before any other planning.
- ◆ **BAPTISMS / BAUTISMOS** Baptisms are celebrated on Sunday at 12:30 p.m. (outside of Mass). Parents must attend the Baptismal Preparation Program. This is at 7:00 p.m. on the third Tuesday of each month in the Family Life Center. Godparents are also welcome to attend. Please preregister by calling the Parish Office.  
*Bautismo en español se celebran una vez al mes después de la Misa el Domingo. Los padres y padrinos deben recibir charlas de preparación en el Centro Familiar. Deben inscribirse llamando a las Oficinas de la Parroquia.*
- ◆ **NEW PARISHIONERS** Please register in person at the Parish Office or complete a registration form (available in church). Please return to Parish Office or put in collection.
- ◆ **BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS** Please have bulletin announcements to the Parish Office by 3:00 p.m. on Monday, or email [stjosephchurch@roadrunner.com](mailto:stjosephchurch@roadrunner.com).

### Parish Office:

330-364-6661

### After Hours Emergency Line:

330-364-6662

### Fax:

330-602-7488

### Youth Ministry:

330-364-6661

### Hispanic Ministry:

330-364-6661

### Tuscarawas Central Catholic Elementary School:

330-343-9134

### Tuscarawas Central Catholic High School:

330-343-3302

**St. Joseph Church**  
**Dover, Ohio 44622**  
**The Second Sunday of Advent**  
**December 6 and 7, 2025**  
**6 y 7 de Diciembre del 2025**



**Mass Intentions**

**Monday, December 8**

**8:15 a.m.** Ruth and Jack Beckman

**6:00 p.m.** The People of the Parish

Readings: 689: Gn 3:9-15, 20/Ps 98/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/  
Lk 1:26-38

**Tuesday, December 9**

**5:00 p.m.** Eucharistic Adoration

**6:00 p.m.** Intentions of Tony and Anna Contini

Readings: 182: Is 40:1-11/Ps 96/Mt 18:12-14

**Wednesday, December 10**

**8:15 a.m.** Kate and Wilmer Kaderly

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

Readings: 183: Is 40:25-31/Ps 103/Mt 11:28-30

**Thursday, December 11**

**8:15 a.m.** Sandy Rubino

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

Readings: 184: Is 41:13-20/Ps 145/Mt 11:11-15

**Friday, December 12**

**6:00 a.m.** Jose Ixcoy Gomes (Mass in Spanish)

**8:15 a.m.** Paul Kramer

Readings: 690A Zec 2:14-17/Ps Jdt 13/Lk 1:26-38

**Saturday, December 13**

**The Vigil for the Third Sunday of Advent**

**4:00 p.m.** Mary KIELTYKA

**Sunday, December 14**

**The Third Sunday of Advent**

**8:30 a.m.** Sarah Nightengale

**11:00 a.m.** The People of the Parish

**1:30 p.m.** Alina Andres Andres (Mass in Spanish)

Readings: 7: Is 35:1-6a, 10/Ps 146/Jas 5:7-10/Mt 11:2-11

**Offertory for November 29 and 30, 2025**

Loose Cash and Checks	\$ 5,639.00
Adult Weekly Envelopes	\$ 4,092.00
Online Giving	\$ 625.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 10,356.00</b>
<b>Other Funds</b>	
Poor Fund	\$ 5.00
Capital Improvement	\$ 105.00
St. Joseph School Support	\$ 100.00
Christmas Flowers	\$ 420.00
Thanksgiving	\$ 1,363.00
Other Collections	\$ 170.00

Thank you for your generosity.

Your contributions make the mission of St. Joseph Parish possible and keep our parish financially sound.

**Ministry Schedule**

**Monday, December 8 - 8:15 a.m.** - TCCES Students

**Monday, December 8 - 6:00 p.m.** - Jeannine Kennedy  
Sonia Ixcoy

**Tuesday, December 9 - 6:00 p.m.** - Frederick Frank

**Wednesday, December 10 - 8:15 a.m.** - Matt Ritzert

**Thursday, December 11 - 8:15 a.m.** - Jeannine Kennedy

**Friday, December 12 - 8:15 a.m.** - Jack Burnham

**December 13, 2025**

**4:00 p.m.**

**Lectors:** Lyle Tope - 1st Lector

Sue Quillen - 2nd Lector

**Eucharistic Ministers:** Tim Avon, Beth Cecil,  
Susan Murphy, Giovanni Ionno, Michelle Tope,  
Jacki Hostetler, Volunteer Needed

**Ushers:** Tim Avon, Steve DeBois, Vince Sandy

**Servers:** Chase Hostetler, Cecilia Hostetler,  
Flynn Renicker

**December 14, 2025**

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

**Lectors:** Ella Incarnato - 1st Lector

Tony Incarnato - 2nd Lector

**Eucharistic Ministers:** Doug Telle, Andrea Settimio,  
Lou Settimio, John Kuczirka, Jeannine Kennedy,  
Jack Burnham, Matt Ritzert

**Ushers:** Chris Chaney, Kelly Chaney, John Karl,  
Max Burnham, Ronnie Saffell

**Servers:** Marleny Ajanel, Joselyn Ajanel, Fabiola Ajanel

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

**Lectors:** Anne Bruno - 1st Lector

Cathie Peters - 2nd Lector

**Eucharistic Ministers:** Marcus Clemence,  
Mark Clemence, Elizabeth Allison, Mary Elco,  
Beth Ernest, Mike Ernest, Volunteer Needed

**Ushers:** Patti DeVault, Lindsay Williams,  
Larry and Linda Clawson

**Servers:** Adamari Huinac, Eddy Quinilla,  
Elijah Velasco Ixcoy

**Ministry Schedules**

**Due to the holidays and families traveling,**

**we did not do a Ministry Schedule for**

**December 24, 25, and 31, 2022 and January 1, 2023**

Please call or email Brenda at the Parish Office  
if you would like to serve. Thank you!

### Spiritual Notes

The Early Church viewed Jesus as the fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy: A shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse. By the time of Isaiah, the house of David was reduced to a remnant, frequently led by kings disobedient to God's laws. Isaiah looks to the future, that day when God will restore and renew His people. Though Israel may be a stump, there is still hope for the future. Harmony will be restored to creation as the wolf shall be a guest of the lamb. Paul prays that the Romans will think in harmony, being truly concerned for one another. He writes that in the Scriptures, we have a source of hope; God's word was written for our instruction. Several verses after our reading, he makes reference to the text from Isaiah: The root of Jesse will come to rule the Gentiles. Jesus came, Paul tells us, to confirm the promises to the patriarchs. These promises are about God's blessing, not just for the chosen people, but for all people. In today's Gospel, John the Baptist is presented as a prophet. Living in the desert, dressed in camel's hair, and eating locusts and wild honey, he is reminiscent of ancient Israel's great prophets like Elijah. His message calls us to prepare the way of the Lord. As the forerunner to the Messiah, his words call us to repentance. He challenges us to produce good fruit as evidence of our repentance. The time is at hand, for the ax lies at the root of the trees to destroy those that do not bear good fruit. To respond properly to his message, we must acknowledge our sins and open ourselves up to God's gift of mercy.

*For Reflection: Is there somewhere in my life where harmony needs to be restored? What good fruit do I produce?*

### Employment Opportunity

St. Joseph Church is looking for a person to join our Parish Staff. This is a part-time, hourly position, with approximately 15 to 20 hours per week. The ability to serve others; excellent reading skills and communication skills and flexible to adapt to changing needs are a must. Individuals interested in position, may apply in person, or by sending a résumé to [stjosephchurch@roadrunner.com](mailto:stjosephchurch@roadrunner.com). Passing a background screening and completion of the VIRTUS "Protecting God's Children" course are mandatory.

**Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary:** Monday, December 8th at 6:00 p.m.

**Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe:** Friday, December 12th. The celebrations will begin with Eucharistic Adoration on Thursday, December 11, beginning at 7:00 p.m. until 5:00 a.m. on Saturday morning, with Las Mañanitas from 5:00 to 6:00 a.m. Mass will be celebrated at 6:00 a.m. in Spanish and in English at 8:15 a.m.

### Disciple Maker Index (DMI) Survey

St. Joseph is on a journey to know, love and serve Christ better and thrive! WE WANT TO HEAR FROM OUR PARISHIONERS!

**Complete the Disciple Maker Index (DMI) Survey today.** The Survey assesses our unique strengths and opportunities. Share your perspective now to help strengthen St. Joseph and better prepare us for the future!



For the Disciple Maker Index (DMI) Survey link, please visit <https://portal.catholicleaders.org/dmi/survey/cx7ak7>. There are links on the parish website and Facebook page.

### "Mark Your Calendars!"

December 7, 2025

**Lessons and Carols**

Music begins at 5:30 p.m.

December 9, 2025

**L.C.B.A. Christmas Meeting**

Family Life Center

12:00 p.m. (Noon)

December 16, 2025

**Posadas begin**

December 17, 2025

**TCCES Nativity Play**

St. Joseph Church - 6:00 p.m.

December 20, 2025

**Breakfast with Santa**

Knights Hall - 9:00 a.m.

December 24, 2025

Masses - 5:00 p.m., 7:30 p.m. and 11:30 p.m.

Music begins 30 minutes before Mass

December 25, 2025

Mass - 9:00 a.m.

Music begins 30 minutes before Mass

December 26, 2025

Parish Office is Closed

December 27, 2025

Parish Caroling

5:30 p.m.

January 1, 2026

Mass - 9:00 a.m.

The Parish Office is closed

January 4, 2026

Tres Reyes Magos

Mass - 1:30 p.m.

### St. Joseph Meal

The intention for our community meal 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 10, 2025 - Team H (Cindy Jones)

December 17, 2025 - Team I (Isabellas)

December 24, 2025 - Team J (Ashley Grimm)

**\*\* note schedule change\*\***

December 31, 2025 - Team L (Chrissy Hensel)

January 7, 2026 - Team K (Hannah Jacobs)

January 14, 2026 - Team M (Andrea Settimio)

**Captains, please remember to pick up your key before 4:00 p.m. in the Parish Office**

Please keep our guests and volunteers in your prayers!



Christmas Flower Donation Envelopes are in your envelope packets for December. The cost is \$20.00 for three names. They must be returned by December 15, 2025.

**PLEASE PRINT.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### Mini Food Pantry

Our Mini Food Pantry box, located at the Family Life Center, has been able to provide food for many people in need.

The items most in need are:

Canned Vegetables	Canned Fruit
Hearty Soup/Stew	Peanut Butter
Canned Pasta	Jelly (No glass, please)
Rice	Black Beans

**PLEASE, NO GLASS**

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

We cannot accept food items that have expired.

### Tuscarawas County Catholic Seniors (50+)

Seniors from Holy Trinity, Immaculate Conception, Sacred Heart and St. Joseph are invited to attend the December 17th meeting at Sacred Heart. Entertainment will be Christmas music performed in the church by Marita Tornabene, Judy Burnham, Beth House and Jeremiah Jones. Doors open at 11:15 a.m. Guests are asked to be seated in the church no later than 11:45 a.m. The program will begin at Noon. Christmas Dinner will follow the performance. The meal will include beef, ham, potato, vegetable, salad, beverage and assorted desserts. The cost is \$15.00. You do not need to be a member to attend your first meeting. Come and enjoy conversations with fellow Catholics. Call Linda Rupe at 330-343-4934 to make a reservation.

There will not be a meeting in January or February. The next meeting will be March 25, 2026.



**THE  
CATHOLIC  
FOUNDATION**

*"Therefore, every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire." Matthew 3:10*

Do you bear good fruit for Christ? Or do you spend your time, talent and treasure constantly acquiring more toys, clutter and junk. Our time, our talent and our treasure are gifts that God has given us. What we do with them is our gift back to God. What gifts are you planning to give to the Lord during this upcoming Christmas season?

Learn how you can show your faith by supporting your parish and contact The Catholic Foundation. Visit [www.catholic-foundation.org/development](http://www.catholic-foundation.org/development) for more information.

# Lectio Divina

SCRIPTURE READING + MEDITATION + PRAYER + CONTEMPLATION

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“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)

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*The month of December is dedicated to the Immaculate Conception*

***“If you believe what you like in the gospels, and reject what you don't like, it is not the gospel you believe, but yourself. Order your soul; reduce your wants; live in charity; associate in Christian community; obey the laws; trust in Providence.”***

**+SAINT AUGUSTINE**

**Monday, December 8 ~ Second Week in the Season of Advent  
Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary  
Patronal Feast Day of the United States of America  
~ A Holy Day of Obligation ~**

**Holy Gospel: Luke 1:26-38** The angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary. And coming to her, he said, “Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you.” But she was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. Then the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his Kingdom there will be no end.” But Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I have no relations with a man?” And the angel said to her in reply, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. And behold, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren; for nothing will be impossible for God.” Mary said, “Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her.

**Meditation:** Do you want to live a grace-filled life? I think we all do. The angel Gabriel salutes Mary as “full of grace.” To become the mother of the Savior, Mary was enriched by God with gifts to enable her to assume this awesome role. There is a venerable tradition among many Christians, dating back to the early church, for honoring Mary as the spotless virgin who bore the Son of God in her womb. A number of early Church fathers link Mary's obedience to this singular grace of God. One of them Saint Irenaeus, wrote: “Being obedient she became the cause of salvation for herself and for the whole human race. The knot of Eve's disobedience was united by Mary's obedience: what the virgin Eve bound through her disbelief, Mary loosened by her faith.”

**Prayer:** O God, who by the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin prepared a worthy dwelling for your Son, grant, we pray, that, as you preserved her from every stain by virtue of the Death of your Son, which you foresaw, so, through her intercession, we, too, may be cleansed and admitted to your presence. 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:** When Adam and Eve disobeyed God, they immediately experienced the consequences of their action – separation from the God who loved them. God in his mercy promised them a Redeemer who would pay the price for their sin and the sin of the world. We see the marvelous unfolding of God's plan of redemption in the events leading up to the Incarnation, the birth of the Messiah. Mary's prompt response of “yes” to the divine message is a model of faith for all believers. Mary believed God's promises even when they seemed impossible. She was full of grace because she trusted that what God said was true and would be fulfilled. She was willing and eager to do God's will, even if it seemed difficult or costly. God gives us grace and he expects us to respond with the same willingness, obedience, and heart-felt trust as

Mary did. When God commands he also gives the grace, strength, and means to respond. We can either yield to his grace or resist and go our own way. Do you believe in God's promises and do you yield to his grace?

## **Tuesday, December 9 ~ Second Week in the Season of Advent**

### **Optional Memorial: Saint Juan Diego**

**Holy Gospel: Matthew 18:12-14** Jesus said to his disciples: "What is your opinion? If a man has a hundred sheep and one of them goes astray, will he not leave the ninety-nine in the hills and go in search of the stray? And if he finds it, amen, I say to you, he rejoices more over it than over the ninety-nine that did not stray. In just the same way, it is not the will of your heavenly Father that one of these little ones be lost."

**Meditation:** This parable gives us a glimpse of the heart of a true shepherd, and the joy of a community reunited with its lost members. Shepherds not only had to watch over their sheep by day and by night; they also had to protect them from wolves and lions who preyed upon them, and from dangerous terrain and storms. Shepherds often had large flocks, sometimes numbering in the hundreds or thousands. It was common to inspect and count the sheep at the end of the day. You can imagine the surprise and grief of the shepherd who discovers that one of his sheep is missing! Does he wait until the next day to go looking for it? Or does he ask a neighboring shepherd if he might have seen the stray sheep? No, he goes immediately in search of this lost sheep. Delay for even one night could mean disaster leading to death. Sheep by nature are very social creatures. An isolated sheep can quickly become bewildered, disoriented, and even neurotic. Easy prey for wolves and lions!

**Prayer:** O God, who by means of Saint Juan Diego showed the love of the most holy Virgin Mary for your people, grant, through his intercession, that, by following the counsels our Mother gave at Guadalupe, we may be ever constant in fulfilling your will. 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.

**A prayer to our Guardian Angel:** Dear Guardian Angel, protect me in all the temptations and trials of this life. but most especially at the hour of my death, and do not leave me until thou hast conducted me into the presence of my creator in the mansions of everlasting happiness. Amen.

**Contemplation:** What was new in Jesus' teaching was the insistence that sinners must be sought out time and time again. How easy it can be to forget and be distracted with other matters while the lost become prey for devouring wolves of the soul. The Apostle Peter reminds us that the "devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour" (ref. 1 Peter 5:8). God does not rejoice in the loss of anyone, but desires that we be saved and restored to friendship with him. That is why the whole community of heaven rejoices when one sinner is found and restored to fellowship with God. God is on a rescue mission today to save us from the destructive forces of sin and evil. Jesus, the Good Shepherd, watches over every step we take. Do you listen to his voice and heed his wise counsel? Do you follow the path he has set for you - a path that leads to life rather than death? Getting back on the right path always begins with the Sacrament of Reconciliation - don't let anything hold you back from making a good confession!

## **Wednesday, December 10 ~ Second Week in the Season of Advent**

### **Optional Memorial: Our Lady of Loreto**

**Holy Gospel: Matthew 11:28-30** Jesus said to the crowds: "Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for yourselves. For my yoke is easy, and my burden light."

**Meditation:** The Jewish people used the image of a yoke to express submission to God. They spoke of the yoke of the law, the yoke of the commandments, the yoke of the kingdom, the yoke of God. Jesus says his yoke is "easy." The Greek word for "easy" can also mean "well-fitting." Yokes were tailor-made to fit the oxen well. We are commanded to put on the "sweet yoke of Jesus" and to live the "heavenly way of life and happiness." Oxen were yoked two by two. Jesus invites us to be yoked with him, to unite our lives with him, our wills with his will, our heart with his heart. Jesus also says his "burden is light." There's a familiar story of a man who once met a boy carrying a smaller crippled lad on his back. "That's a heavy load you are carrying there," exclaimed the man. "He ain't heavy; he's my brother!" responded the boy. No burden is too heavy when it's given in love and carried in love. When we yoke our lives with Jesus, he also carries our burdens with us and gives us his strength to follow in his way of love. Do you know the joy of resting in Jesus' presence and walking daily with him along the path he has for you?

**Prayer:** Almighty God, who command us to prepare the way for Christ the Lord, grant in your kindness, we pray, that no infirmity may weary us as we long for the comforting presence of our heavenly physician. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

**Contemplation:** In the Season of Advent we celebrate the coming of the Messianic King who ushers in the reign of God. The prophets foretold that the Messiah would establish God's kingdom of righteousness, peace, and joy. Those who put their trust in God and in the coming of his kingdom receive the blessings of that kingdom - peace with God and strength for living his way of love and holiness (ref. Isaiah 40). Jesus fulfills all the Messianic hopes and promises of God's kingdom. That is why he taught his disciples to pray, "thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven" (ref. Matthew 6:10). In his kingdom sins are not only forgiven but removed, and eternal life is poured out for all its citizens. This is not a political kingdom, but a spiritual one. The yoke of Christ's kingdom, his kingly rule and way of life, liberates us from the burden of guilt and from the oppression of sin and hurtful desires. Only Jesus can lift the burden of sin and the weight of hopelessness from us. Jesus used the analogy of a yoke to explain how we can exchange the burden of sin and despair for a burden of glory and yoke of freedom from the grip of sin. The yoke which Jesus invites us to embrace is his way of grace and freedom from the power of sin. Do you trust in God's love and submit to his will for your life? If not, why not?

### **Thursday, December 11 ~ Second Week in the Season of Advent** **Optional Memorial: Pope Saint Damasus I**

**Holy Gospel: Matthew 11:11-15** Jesus said to the crowds: "Amen, I say to you, among those born of women there has been none greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the Kingdom of heaven is greater than he. From the days of John the Baptist until now, the Kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent are taking it by force. All the prophets and the law prophesied up to the time of John. And if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah, the one who is to come. Whoever has ears ought to hear."

**Meditation:** John the Baptist is the last and greatest of the prophets of the old covenant. He fulfilled the essential task of all the prophets: to be fingers pointing to Christ, God's Anointed Son and Messiah. John proclaimed Jesus' mission at the Jordan River when he exclaimed, "Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world" (ref. John 1:29). John saw from a distance what Jesus would accomplish through his death on the cross — our redemption from bondage to sin and death and our adoption as sons and daughters of God and citizens of the kingdom of heaven. John the Baptist bridges the Old and New Testaments. He is the last of the Old Testament prophets who point the way to the Messiah. He is the first of the New Testament witnesses and martyrs. He is the herald who prepares the way for Jesus the Messiah. Jesus confirms that John has fulfilled the promise that Elijah would return to herald the coming of the Messiah (Malachi 4:5). Jesus declares that John is nothing less than the great herald whose privilege it was to announce the coming of the Messiah. Jesus equates the coming of his kingdom with violence. John himself suffered violence for announcing that the kingdom of God was near. He was thrown into prison and then beheaded. Since John's martyrdom to the present times the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence and persecution at the hands of violent men. The blood of the martyrs throughout the ages bear witness to this fact. The martyrs witness to the truth — the truth and love of Jesus Christ who shed his blood to redeem us from slavery to sin and Satan and the fear of death. The Lord Jesus gives us the power of his Holy Spirit to overcome fear with faith, despair with hope, and every form of hatred, violence, jealousy, and prejudice with love and charity towards all — even those who seek to destroy and kill.

**Prayer:** Grant, we pray, O Lord, that we may constantly exalt the merits of your Martyrs, whom Pope Saint Damasus so venerated and loved. 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:** God may call some of us to be martyrs for our faith in Christ. But for most of us our call is to be dry martyrs who bear testimony to the joy and truths of the laws of God and the teachings of Jesus Christ in the midst of daily challenges, contradictions, temptations and adversities which come our way as we faithfully follow the Lord Jesus. What attracts others to those who follow the truth of God and his son, Jesus Christ? When they see Christians loving their enemies, being joyful in suffering, patient in adversity, pardoning injuries, and showing comfort and compassion to the hopeless and the helpless. Jesus tells us that we do not need to fear our adversaries. He will give us sufficient grace, strength, and wisdom to face any trial and to answer any challenge to our faith. Are you eager to witness to the joy and freedom of the gospel today? In the coming year? At all times?

## Friday, December 12 ~ Second Week in the Season of Advent Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

**Holy Gospel: Luke 1:26-38** The angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary. And coming to her, he said, "Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you." But she was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his Kingdom there will be no end." But Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I have no relations with a man?" And the angel said to her in reply, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. And behold, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren; for nothing will be impossible for God." Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

**Meditation:** How does Mary respond to the word of God delivered by the angel Gabriel? She knows she is hearing something beyond human capability. It will surely take a miracle which surpasses all that God has done previously. Her question, "how shall this be, since I have no husband" is not prompted by doubt or skepticism, but by wonderment! She is a true hearer of the Word and she immediately responds with faith and trust. Mary's prompt response of "yes" to the divine message is a model of faith for all believers. Mary believed God's promises even when they seemed impossible. She was full of grace because she trusted that what God said was true and would be fulfilled. She was willing and eager to do God's will, even if it seemed difficult or costly. Mary is the "mother of God" because God becomes incarnate when he takes on flesh in her womb. When we pray the Nicene Creed, we state our confession of faith in this great mystery: "For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit, he was born of the Virgin Mary, and was made man". God gives us grace and he expects us to respond with the same willingness, obedience, and heart-felt trust as Mary did. When God commands he also gives the help, strength, grace and means to respond. We can either yield to his grace or resist and go our own way. Do you believe in God's promises? Do you yield to his grace? If not, why not?

**Prayer:** O God, Father of mercies, who placed your people under the singular protection of your Son's most holy Mother, grant that all who invoke the Blessed Virgin of Guadalupe, may seek with ever more lively faith the progress of peoples in the ways of justice and of peace. 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:** Do you know the favor of the Lord? God lavishes his grace upon all who believe in him. He shows his favor to the lowly, to those who are humble and receptive to his word. We see the unfolding of God's plan of redemption in the events leading up to the Incarnation, the birth of the Messiah. The new era of salvation begins with the conception of Jesus in the womb of Mary. This child to be born is conceived by the gracious action of the Holy Spirit upon Mary, who finds favor with God. As Eve was the mother of all humanity doomed to sin, now Mary becomes the mother of the new Adam who will father a new humanity by his grace (Romans 5:12-21). This child to be conceived in her womb is the fulfillment of all God's promises. He will be "great" and "Son of the Most High" and "King" (Luke 1:32-33), and his name shall be called "Jesus," which means "the Lord saves." "He will save his people from their sins" (Matthew 1:21). The promise of an everlasting kingdom to the house of David (Isaiah 9:6-7) is fulfilled in the King to be born in Mary's womb. Let us prepare ourselves in these weeks of Advent to come and adore him.

Scripture passages (NAB translation) courtesy of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. Daily meditations and contemplations adapted from the Irish Jesuits' *Sacred Space* web page and *Biblical Medications for Ordinary Time* by Rev. Carroll Stuhlmueller, C.P.; 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:2025



## **MCC Appalachian Build** **(Formerly known as SWAP)**

MCC Appalachia Build (formerly SWAP) is a home repair ministry program in eastern Kentucky and West Virginia. Volunteers help families make their homes safe, warm and dry, while building relationships and learning about Appalachia.

If you are interested in joining us, or learning more about the trip and the experiences of those who attended last year, please contact, John Karl or Matt Ritzert.

More information will be coming soon about our upcoming 2026 trip! To learn more, visit <https://mcc.org/get-involved/volunteer/mcc-appalachia-build>.

## **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 out one and drop it in the collection basket, stop in the Parish Office during the week or on Sunday mornings after the Masses and request a form.

## **Christmas Catholic Charities Collection**

The Annual Collection for Diocesan Catholic Charities will be taken up during the Christmas Season. The envelopes are in your packet. This Collection allows the diocese to meet a variety of basic needs directly and through diocesan agencies and organizations, including J.O.I.N. (Join Organization for Inner-city Needs), St. Stephen's Community House, Catholic Social Services, and many more. You can help share in this important work by generously supporting the Catholic Charities Collection this year. For more about our diocesan sponsored charities, visit [www.charities.columbuscatholic.org](http://www.charities.columbuscatholic.org).

## **Promise to Protect – Pledge to Heal**

Believe in the possibility of help and healing. There is hope. Your local victim coordinator is available to help you or anyone who has been abused or victimized by someone representing the Catholic Church. We will listen to your needs and support you. We encourage you to come forward and speak out. We will help you make a formal complaint and arrange a personal meeting with the bishop or his delegate, if desired.

## **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.



## **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.

**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).

**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.



**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 give is made and where it goes. To get started please visit [www.stjosephdover.org](http://www.stjosephdover.org). If you have any questions or need assistance, please call the Parish Office.

**If you know of a friend or family member that is in a 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.**



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).

## **The Holy Father's Prayer Intentions** **December 2025**

**For Christians in areas of conflict.**

Let us pray that Christians living in areas of war or conflict, especially in the Middle East, might be seeds of peace, reconciliation and hope.

## **OUR ADVERTISER OF THE WEEK**

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# Our Lady of Guadalupe

The Image of Our Lady of Guadalupe presents the Catholic Faith in a way that was immediately understood and accepted by the native Mexican Indians. It is impossible to describe fully the rich symbolism contained on the Tilma of Juan Diego because every detail of color and of form carries a theological message.

Our Lady's **hair**, parted in the middle and hanging loosely, indicates she is a virgin maiden.

Scientific analysis has shown **reflections** of people in the Virgin's **eyes**, just as any human eye would reflect. There are 13 total figures (including Juan Diego and Bishop Zumárraga) that form two scenes in both eyes.

One can **see a cross** in the center of the medallion that she carries on the upper part of her dress. This manifests her consecration to her Son Jesus, whose cross reminds us of both His total sacrifice for love and the moment when he gives us Mary as our Mother.

The symbol of the Cross was seen on the sails of the Spaniards' ships.

The Virgin's identity as a woman of heaven and earth is affirmed by her **garments' colors and decorations**: her reddish tunic is the color symbolic of earth, while the star-speckled green-blue mantle symbolizes the heavens. The mantle's color indicates her royalty, since only the Aztec emperors could wear cloaks of that color. The Virgin, Queen of heaven and earth, points us toward the truth that God is love, and mankind is the recipient of His love.

The **8-petaled flowers** symbolize the day of new creation. The 'blossom' is in the form of a hill, and the stem is presented as a river. The "hill-water" represented the concept of civilization. The 'hill' represents the highest point of encounter between God and man. **Viewed upside down**, the flower/stem takes the form of a heart - source of life, which belongs to and has its origin in God.

Our Lady's appearance is mestiza, both **Aztec and Spanish**, showing the two cultures coming together at this point in history.



The stars on her mantle signify **she comes from heaven** - the Queen of Heaven. The **constellations** are in the **exact position as appeared** before dawn on the morning of December 12, 1531.

Her **hands are joined in prayer** and, therefore, she is not God but clearly there is one greater than she, and she points her finger to the cross on her brooch.

The image of Our Lady of Guadalupe depicts a **dark ribbon above her womb**, indicating that she is a woman anticipating the birth of God's only Son. The Spanish expression is *encinta*, "adorned with ribbon."

In the **center of her tunic, overlying her womb**, is a four petal jasmine flower which is the sign of the Divine and the center of the cosmic order to the Aztec. The Virgin's Baby, Jesus, is Divine and the true center of the universe.

The **4-petaled flowers** with leaves on her tunic symbolize to the Aztecs that the fifth-age, the Age of Peace, has begun.

The Virgin of Guadalupe is shown **among the clouds**, representing her divine origin.

Our Lady **stands in front of the sun**. The sun symbolized the greatest Aztec god - Huitzilopochtli. She announces the God who is greater than their sun god.

**Our Lady stands on the moon**. The crescent moon symbolized the Aztec god Quetzalcoatl, the feathered serpent moon god. She has clearly crushed and defeated him. **The Virgin's shoe**, which appears over the moon, has no color, but is simply the raw tilma. This is inexplicable.

**An angel with eagle's wings** supports the Mother of God. The eagle was the "bird of the sun." Here the angel is the messenger of the Virgin. The angel wears both a tunic of the same color and a brooch like hers. The angel holds her mantle in one hand and the robe with the other, signifying the Son she bears is from both heaven and earth.



SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

**Iglesias San José**  
**Ministerios Hispanos**  
**Segundo Domingo de Adviento**  
**7 de Diciembre del 2025**



**Calendario Litúrgico:**

**Misas en Español**

**Celebración de la Virgen de Guadalupe**

11 y 12 de diciembre de 2025

Adoración 7:00 p.m.-5:00 a.m.

Mañanitas 5:00 a.m.

Misa 6:00 a.m.

Domingo	14 de Diciembre	1:30 p.m.
Domingo	21 de Diciembre	1:30 p.m.

**Navidad**

24 de Diciembre

5:00 p.m. en Ingles,

7:30 p.m. en Español

11:30 p.m. en Ingles

**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.



**Horario de los Coros**

Diciembre 14	El Nuevo Sembrador
Diciembre 21	Seguidores de Cristo
Diciembre 28	Mensajeros de Cristo
Enero 4	El Buen Pastor
Enero 11	Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe
Enero 18	El Nuevo Sembrador
Enero 15	Seguidores de Cristo

**Intenciones de Oración del Santo Padre**

**December 2025**

**Por los cristianos en contextos de conflicto.**

Oremos para que los cristianos que viven en contextos de guerra o conflicto, especialmente en Medio Oriente, sean semillas de paz, reconciliación y esperanza.



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.

**Notas Espirituales**

La iglesia primitiva vio a Jesús como el cumplimiento de la profecía de Isaías "una raíz del tronco de Jesé." Jesé fue el padre del rey David, uno de los más grandes reyes de Israel. En la época de Isaías, la casa de David se redujo a un restante, con frecuencia dirigida por reyes desobedientes a las leyes de Dios. Isaías mira al futuro, "ese día," cuando Dios va a restaurar y renovar su pueblo. Aunque Israel puede ser un tronco, todavía hay esperanza para el futuro. La armonía será restaurada a la creación como "el lobo habitara con el cordero." Pablo ora para que los romanos "piensen en armonía," está verdaderamente preocupado por los demás. Él escribe que en las Escrituras tenemos una fuente de esperanza; la palabra de Dios se escribió "para nuestra instrucción." Varios versículos después de la lectura, se hace referencia al texto de Isaías: "la raíz de Jesé" vendrá a "gobernara a los Gentiles." Jesús vino, Pablo nos dice, "para confirmar las promesas hechas a los patriarcas." Estas promesas son acerca de las bendiciones de Dios, no solo para el pueblo elegido, sino para todas las personas. En el Evangelio de hoy Juan el Bautista se presenta como un profeta. Vive en el desierto, vestido con "pelo de camello" y comiendo "saltamontes y miel silvestre," que nos recuerda de los grandes profetas del antiguo Israel como Elías. Su mensaje nos llama a "preparar el camino del Señor." A medida que el predecesor del Mesías, sus palabras nos llaman al arrepentimiento. Él nos desafía a "producir buenos frutos como evidencia de su arrepentimiento." El tiempo está a la mano, porque "el hacha está puesta a la raíz de los árboles" y todo árbol que no dé fruto, será cortado y arrojado al fuego. Para responder adecuadamente a su mensaje, debemos reconocer nuestros pecados y abrirnos al don de la misericordia de Dios.

*Para la reflexión: ¿Hay algún lugar en mi vida donde la armonía se debe restablecer? ¿Qué "buen fruto" no produzco?*



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