

St. Joseph Parish



Third Sunday of
Advent

December 12, 2021

I am baptizing you with water,
but one mightier than I is coming.
I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals.

Luke 3:16

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Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (Closed Noon - 1:00 for lunch)

stjosephlb.org

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Boy Scouts	Gene Wohlgezogan	(562) 857-3880
Sacristans	Joe Dang	(562) 493-2198

Mass Schedule

Saturday

5:00 p.m.

Indoor Vigil

Sunday

Mass on the Grass

Outdoors

8:30 a.m.

Indoor Mass

10:30 a.m.

Indoor Mass

12:30 p.m.

Daily Mass (M-W)

8:00 a.m. Indoor

Reconciliation

Saturdays

3:45-4:30 p.m.

By the East Church

Door parking lot





Letter From Our Pastor

Dear Parish Family:

Our Marian Garden continues to be a work in progress. The idea initially came from Paulina Tostado as a Camp Fire project. I'm grateful to her father, Marco Tostado, past President of the Knights of Columbus for working and completing this project and to the Knights for funding the renovated Marian Garden. All the old roses have been uprooted and we've ordered new white rosebushes called the "Pope John Paul II Roses". They'll be planted in January. All new pavers have been installed, Our Lady was painted and a new bench and kneeler are being reviewed. We honored the original dedications to the Garden and so a new plaque is being created which will read:

SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF PEACE

Dedicated to Msgr. John Reilly

GROTTO

Dedicated to Joe & Virginia Souza

RENOVATION

Knights of Columbus Council 3629

May our Blessed Mother, Our Lady of Peace inspire us to be faithful witnesses to her Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Please see our Christmas Mass Schedule in this bulletin and plan with your family to celebrate the Birth of the Lord here at St. Joseph's. Please pray about your Christmas contribution to your St. Joseph's family. St. Joseph's, like all parishes relies on its' Christmas collection to balance the budget. Your prayerful consideration of your annual generous Christmas gift is greatly appreciated!

Everything we do during Advent has a spiritual dimension. One of the favorite things to do is decorate the home for Christmas. On page four of this bulletin, you'll see a Special Blessing of the Christmas tree. By yourself or with family or neighbors, gather around the tree and pray that the tree will be a sign of Christ's beauty and light!

I'm praying for you and your families during these Advent days and the approaching season of Christmas! If I can serve you in anyway, please contact me at the Parish Life Center!

Gratefully,
Msgr. Kevin



(Begin with the tree lights off)

My Brothers and Sisters,

Amidst signs and wonders Christ Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea: his birth brings joy to our hearts and enlightenment to our minds. With this tree, decorated and adorned, may we welcome Christ among us; may its lights guide us to the perfect light.

Intercessions:

Let us ask God to send his blessing upon us and upon this sign of our faith in the Lord.

℟. Lord, give light to our hearts.

That this tree of lights may remind us of the tree of glory on which Christ accomplished our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

℟. Lord, give light to our hearts.

That the joy of Christmas may always be in our homes, let us pray to the Lord.

℟. Lord, give light to our hearts.

That the peace of Christ may dwell in our hearts and in the world, let us pray to the Lord.

℟. Lord, give light to our hearts.

With confident faith let us pray as Christ taught us:

All: Our Father...

Blessing of a Christmas Tree

Lord God,

Let your blessing come upon us as we illumine this tree.

May the light and cheer it gives

be a sign of the joy that fills our hearts.

May all who delight in this tree

come to the knowledge and joy of salvation.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

℟. Amen.

(Turn the tree lights on)



CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Friday, December 24th

Vigil Solemnity of Christmas

4:00 PM – Outdoor Mass in Courtyard

(Please bring your own lawn chair)

6:00 PM - Mass inside Church

9:00 PM – Mass inside Church

Saturday, December 25th

Solemnity of Christmas

9:00 AM - Mass inside Church

10:30 AM – Mass inside Church

(No 5:00 PM Vigil Mass Today)

Sunday, December 26

Feast Day of The Holy Family

8:30 AM – Outdoor Mass on The Grass

10:30 AM – Mass inside Church

12:30 PM – Mass inside Church



THIRD
Sunday
OF
Advent

DECEMBER 12, 2021

REJOICE

Today is known as *Gaudete*—Rejoice—Sunday, the day’s Latin nickname is taken from today’s ancient official Entrance Antiphon, “Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.” The optional rose vestments—reminiscent of winter’s early morning skies as the solstice draws near, the festal organ music, the floral arrangements, all these ancient traditions together with the antiphon are meant to anticipate, in sight and sound, the soon-to-break-upon-us Christmas joy. How well today’s scriptures illustrate the struggle between Advent’s contrasting moods: “joyful expectation” in light of Christ’s nativity, and “serious repentance” inspired by John the Baptist’s preaching, reminding us that Christ’s next coming—at death or at the end of time—will be for judgment as well as redemption.

JOY AND EXULTATION

Joy and exultation ring through the first reading, as Zephaniah’s ancient messianic prophecy pictures God “rejoicing over (us) with gladness, renewing (us) in his love, singing joyfully because of (us) as one sings at festivals.” This joyful God is not distant: the prophet declares twice that God “is in your midst.” Zephaniah so trusts this joyful God’s love for us that he declares our deliverance “a done deal”: both from inward fear and guilt—“the Lord has removed the judgment against you”—and from external threats: “he has turned away your enemies.” The Responsorial Psalm, from Advent’s principal prophet, Isaiah, echoes an exultant joy that should prompt us to be “confident and unafraid,” “for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.” Paul likewise exhorts the Philippians—and us—to joy, to a kindness that should be evident to all, to prayer free from anxiety, serene and thankful.

WHAT SHOULD WE DO?

But then John the Baptist cries out on Jordan’s bank: Repent! Prepare for a Messiah whose baptism “with the Holy Spirit and fire,” unlike John’s water baptism, will utterly transform its recipients. His winnowing fan will clear away the dead wood, bundling wheat and burning chaff in unquenchable fire. If this is going to be “good news” for us, then well might we, like the crowds, tax collectors, and soldiers who first heard John, ask “What should we do?” When John responds to the people then, and to us today, the answer, while supremely challenging, is almost surprisingly simple. Nobody is ordered to abandon the place in which their personal life’s journey or the realities of a history beyond their control have put them. God saves us not despite or apart from our real-life circumstances but in them and through them. Our call now is to practical, generous charity: we are to share clothing and food; practice justice and professional and personal integrity; and be honest toward others and with ourselves. Such is the teaching of the Messiah that John heralded.

TODAY’S READINGS

Zephaniah 3:14–18a
Isaiah 12:2–3, 4, 5–6
Philippians 4:4–7
Luke 3:10–18

Whoever has two cloaks should share
with the person who has none.
And whoever has food should do likewise.

Luke 3:11

Inc.
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Safeguard The Children



Try these tips to get your children talking about their days

Ever been met with silence when you ask, “How was your day?” Your communication efforts with your children, especially school-age children, may need some tweaking. Try asking concrete questions, like “Who did you sit next to at lunch?” or, “What was the most interesting thing you learned today?” If your child is struggling with sharing his or her emotions, it might be helpful to ask about other emotions you see around you. Find opportunities to get children talking about how they feel by focusing on other people: “Why do you think that girl and her dad are hugging? What made that boy on the playground mad earlier?” You may be surprised at the results! For more tips, request a copy of the VIRTUS® article “Communicating with School-Age Children” at lacatholics.org/did-you-know/.



Movement For A Better World

“Whoever receives one child such as this in my name receives me.” Mt 18:5


This week - Christmas Present Drive: PLEASE return gifts by 12:30 pm, Sunday Dec. 12!

Dec. 18th Christmas Food and Present

Distribution: As a parish community, we will support 72 families for Christmas, and Easter. **Can you help us deliver?** Please contact Tom and Marie Newton (562) 209-1298 or e-mail tjn8343@gmail.com

Family Adoptions: Can you adopt a family, on a family-to-family basis for Christmas, and Easter? Questions? Please call Donna Luciene at (562) 421-4993 or e-mail Amy Ford at amyford6331@yahoo.com.

Skip-a-Meal Donations: Please be especially mindful during the holiday season when our needs are greatest. For many fulfilling ways to serve, please call Tim Clark (562) 431-4385.



**A Prayer for
the Third Sunday of
ADVENT**

Jesus, you will come among us once again to give us your very life. May your life's gift inspire us to make our lives a gift to you, over and over again. Amen.

**Next Sunday at all Masses
we will Bless the Baby Jesus**



Please bring the Baby Jesus from your nativity scene for a Special Blessing

Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

DECEMBER 12

Immaculate Heart of Mary,
Heart of my Mother,
Our Lady of Guadalupe,
I unite to thy purity, thy sanctity,
thy zeal and thy love,
all my thoughts, words, acts
and sufferings this day,
that there may be nothing in me
that does not become
through thee,
a pleasure to Jesus,
a gain to souls
and an act of reparation
for the offenses against
thy Heart.



RCIA - The Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults



For more info, contact Olga
at olga@stjosephlb.org

RCIA is a program for any non-baptized adult interested in becoming a Catholic. It is also for adults baptized in the Catholic faith (or in another Christian faith), who would like to complete the Sacraments of Confirmation and Holy Eucharist.

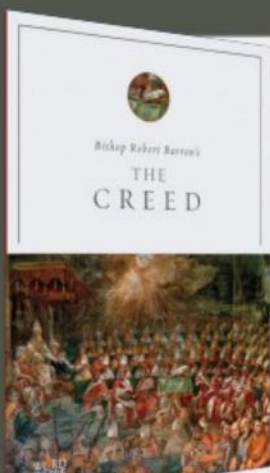
RCIA begins with a period of Inquiry, where you can find out what the Catholic Church teaches and believes. If you, or anyone you know, would like to find out more please contact Olga Cuda at olga@stjosephlb.org

Come-and-See what RCIA is all about !



Bishop Robert Barron's newest study program

THE CREED



Recent decades have witnessed a surge of the religiously unaffiliated, especially among young people. Many former believers have simply turned their backs on Christianity and no longer accept its teachings. But what are those teachings?

In *The Creed*, a new film series blending documentary conversations and dynamic talks, Bishop Robert Barron guides viewers into the depths of the Nicene Creed, a fourth-century statement of faith that has profoundly influenced Christian spirituality, theology, and liturgy in both the East and West.

Explore the meaning of “belief” and whether it contradicts reason; the creative love of God the Father; the shocking mystery of his Son’s Incarnation, and the great drama of his Crucifixion and Resurrection; the life-giving power of the *Spiritus Sanctus*, or “holy breath,” shared between them; and the mystical reality of the Church, which calls all of humanity out of the world of sin to receive forgiveness and participate in Christ’s divinity—not only in the next world but here and now.

The keys that unlock the beliefs of the Christian Faith are stated succinctly in the Nicene Creed, which we pray at every Sunday Mass. Born at the Council of Nicaea in the Fourth Century after intense debates, this formal statement of faith is the foundation of both eastern and western Christianity. And to this day, most Christians around the world would subscribe to it.

Please join us as we explore the Creed with Bishop Robert Barron in a new study beginning Thursday, January 13 at 7:00pm. To register, please email mike@stjosephlb.org or text 562-370-0769 to reserve your materials. The cost for the study materials is \$15. Registration is open until Friday, January 7th so please reserve your seat and materials as soon as possible. Sessions will be held using Zoom and the details will be provided to those registered prior to starting.

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