

St. Joseph Parish



• THE HOLY FAMILY •

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

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Mass Schedule

Saturday Vigil

5:00 p.m.

Sunday

Mass on the Grass

Outdoors

8:30 a.m.

Indoor Mass

10:30 a.m.

12:30 p.m.

Daily Mass (M-W)

8:00 a.m.

Reconciliation

Saturdays

3:45-4:30 p.m.

Inside Church

Adoration

First Fridays

8:00-9:00 a.m.





Letter From Our Pastor

Dear Parish Family:

Merry Christmas Season!! This weekend we celebrate the Solemnity of the Holy Family! As we listen to the Lucan version of the Gospel, he's the only Evangelist to offer an account of Jesus' youth. Jesus declares to his parents that he is about His Father's business. In the time given to us in this new year, may we be about doing the Father's business!!

This coming year time is on our side as we'll have:

12 Months

52 Weeks

365 Days

8,760 Hours

525,600 Minutes

31,536,000 Seconds

The great Doctor of the Church, Saint Anselm of Canterbury, in the 11th century wrote "Without God's Son, nothing could exist, without Mary's Son, nothing could be redeemed." May every waking moment in this New Year be renewed with grace and the wonder and awe of the presence of God. The Church has declared 2025 to be a Year o Jubilee and you'll hear more about this in the coming weeks!!

This Wednesday, January 1, is New Year's Day. It is NOT a Holy day of Obligation. For those who would like to start off the New Year in Eucharistic Thanksgiving, our Mass on New Year's Day is at 8:00 AM!!

May abundant Blessings be upon your family in this new year of 2025 Anno Domini (In the year of our Lord)!

New Year's Peace,
Msgr. Kevin



Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

"I prayed for this child, and the LORD granted my request.
Now I, in turn, give him to the LORD;
as long as he lives, he shall be dedicated to the LORD."
(1 Sm 1:27-28)

Psalm:

Blessed are they who dwell in your house, O Lord. (Ps 84)

Second Reading:

Beloved, we are God's children now;
what we shall be has not yet been revealed. (1 Jn 3:2)

Gospel:

After three days they found him in the temple,
sitting in the midst of the teachers. (Lk 2:46)

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Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

For three days, Mary and Joseph search and worry before finding Jesus in the temple. "Didn't you know where I was?" he says to them, in so many words. We, too, look for Jesus. We, too, know where to find him. Let us never forget and never despair.

Observances for the week of December 29, 2024

- Sunday:** The Holy Family
Tuesday: St. Sylvester I, Pope; New Year's Eve
Wednesday: Mary, The Holy Mother of God, New Year's Day, World Day of Peace
Thursday: Sts. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church
Friday: The Most Holy Name of Jesus
Saturday: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious
Next Sunday: The Epiphany of the Lord



Saint of the week

St. Gianna Beretta Molla (1922-1962) is the first woman doctor and working mom to be canonized. During her last pregnancy a uterine tumor was surgically removed so she could bring her daughter into the world, even at the expense of her own life.

Prayer for Family

Dear God,

Help my family to be holy, too!

Amen.



Worship & Meditation

Readings for the week of December 29, 2024

Sunday:

1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28/Ps 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10
(see a)/1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24/Lk 2:41-52

Monday:

1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10/
Lk 2:36-40

Tuesday:

1 Jn 2:18-21/Ps 96:1-2, 11-12, 13/Jn 1:1-18

Wednesday:

Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3,5, 6, 8 (2a)/
Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21

Thursday:

1 Jn 2:22-28/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/
Jn 1:19-28

Friday:

1 Jn 2:29—3:6/Ps 98:1, 3cd-4, 5-6/
Jn 1:29-34

Saturday:

1 Jn 3:7-10/Ps 98:1, 7-8, 9/Jn 1:35-42

Next Sunday:

Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 (see
11)/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12



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Gospel Meditation

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

As a first-time pastor in a parish, I received a phone call one afternoon from a young married couple, “Father, our 2-year-old son drowned in our pool this morning. We are at the hospital. Please help us.” I sped over. The little boy was gone, his body cold, slightly blue, laid out on a bed. His parents were distraught and in shock. For the next few years, I walked with the couple along their difficult and painful road. They openly shared with me how they were often tempted to blame and accuse each other for the loss. And yet, by God’s grace, their love for each grew stronger and deeper as the years went by.

The Holy Family was not without its pain and loss, either. Luke tells us, after losing their twelve-year-old son, Joseph and Mary “after three days found him in the temple area, sitting among the teachers...” (Luke 2:46). We don’t know specifically what those three days were like for them except for what Mary says: **“Your father and I have been looking for you anxiously.”** The three days of his absence foreshadow his death and burial. His finding in the temple is a kind of resurrection for his family. They had to learn, again and again, that their family was becoming a place where death and resurrection was not only accepted but welcomed and celebrated. But surely they deeply felt the dangerous agony of their loss — just like every couple who has lost a child.

What losses in your experience of family still cause you anxiety? In what ways has God’s presence seemingly vanished in your family? Will you keep searching for Jesus? Remember, he will rise and be found. Your family may be suffering, but when he is found, it will be stronger than ever before.

— Father John Muir

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2024 | THE HOLY FAMILY

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Prayer to Jesus for the New Year

Lord Jesus Christ,

As we stand at the threshold of this New Year, we turn our hearts to You with trust and hope. You are the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. We place this year and all its days into Your loving hands.

Grant us the grace to walk closely with You, to seek Your will in all that we do, and to trust in Your divine plan even when the way seems unclear. May we grow in faith, deepen our love for You, and bear witness to Your truth in our words and actions.

Help us to leave behind the sins and failures of the past year, turning to You with contrite hearts and a renewed desire to follow You. Fill us with Your mercy, that we may offer forgiveness and love to others as You have done for us.

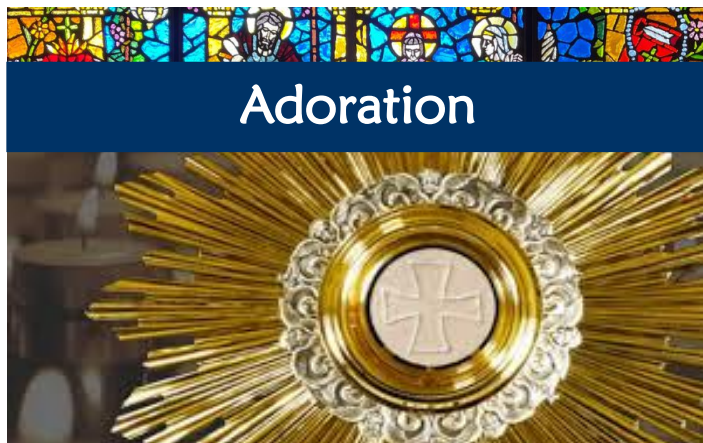
Strengthen us, Lord, to face the challenges ahead with courage and perseverance. Be our refuge in times of trouble, our comfort in moments of sorrow, and our joy in all things.

Bless our families, friends, and all those we meet, that Your light may shine through us to bring peace and unity. Guide us in serving the poor, comforting the sorrowful, and sharing Your Good News with the world.

May this New Year be a year of grace, growth, and renewal in You. We entrust it to Your Sacred Heart and place our hopes in Your redeeming love.

We ask this in Your holy name,
Amen.

"Behold, I make all things new." (Revelation 21:5)



Adoration

Come and spend an hour with our Lord Jesus Christ in the Blessed Sacrament. Experience what Catholic author Matthew Kelly calls "The Classroom of Silence," and respond to Jesus' call: "Could you not watch with me one hour?" (Matthew 26:40).

Deacon Tom & Pat Halliwell will lead Eucharistic Adoration this **Friday January 3rd** at **8:00 am**.



Ask yourself these questions -
Do you feel that there is something missing from your life?
Are you struggling to find clarity and purpose in a busy world?
Would you like to meet more people in the parish?
Would you like to strengthen your faith?
Do you want to be a better version of yourself?

You're invited to experience a weekend like no other right here at St. Joseph Church! A weekend filled with spiritual renewal and Christian fellowship. Learn how to become a better version of yourself as you uncover the path to true happiness. This is the best gift you can give yourself!

Please visit our parish website for more information and to sign up.

www.stjosephlb.org/welcome-Christ-renews/



"You are being enriched in every way for all generosity, which through us produces thanksgiving to God." 2 Cor 9:11

Christmas Food and Gifts: Our most sincere **THANK YOU** to everyone that contributed to our Christmas Present Drive Dec. 14-15. We collected over 450 gifts for our Parish Community supported families! Our Adopting Families provided over 150 MORE!

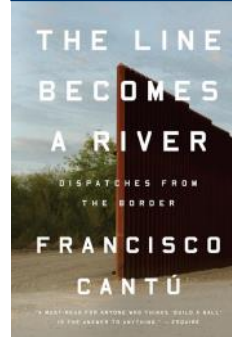
Along with four or more boxes of food, these presents were distributed this weekend to 108 families in need! 4,500 lbs. of food was provided by way of over \$6,000 in Skip-a-Meal donations and our School's food drive. Please be especially mindful of Skip-a-Meal donations during the holiday season when our needs are greatest.

Home Furnishing Special Needs: Our holiday distributions provided feedback of many basic home furnishing needs by our supported families; refrigerator repairs, beds, tables, dressers, heaters, immanent loss of utility service, etc. We have begun to fulfill these needs as a parish. Are you able to help us in this urgent ministry? For many fulfilling ways to serve, please call Tim Clark (562) 431-4385.

Jan. 18-19: Homeless Kit Drive: Provide daily necessities to people experiencing homelessness. Shopping lists will be available Jan. 11.



Book Club



Our next Book Club meeting is **Wednesday, February 19th at 7pm on Zoom**

The Line Becomes a River: Dispatches from the Border by Francisco Cantú

"A personal, unguarded look at border life from the perspective of a migrant and agent, recommended for those wishing to gain a deeper understanding of current events." —

Library Journal

Amazon.com: The Line Becomes a River: Dispatches from the Border: 9780735217737:

Cantú, Francisco: Books

All are welcome. For more info, email agoodlife@msn.com

Senior Group



Our next get together will be at the
El Dorado Restaurant on
Monday, January 13th at 9:30 am.

Lets welcomer in the new year together. Please join us for a nice time catching up with old friends and meeting new friends. When you arrive, tell the server that you are with St. Joseph and he/she will direct you to the area we are gathering in. Everyone will order and pay for his/her own breakfast. We look forward to seeing you there. For future reference, we meet there on the 2nd Monday of every month, at the same time.

Looking forward to seeing you!

St. Joseph Grief Support

Grief support



If you think you can't survive grieving, and
Your dreams feel shattered, consider joining

Our support group:

Tuesday 9:30 -11:30 a.m. each week beginning

January 28th, 2025. Contact May Pace,

Bereavement Minister, maypace@gmail.com

Or 562/833-6370

CLASSES ARE HELD AT THE PLC BUILDING.

Feast of the *Holy Family* of Jesus, Mary & Joseph



Let the heart of
our families, be
like that of Jesus,
and together
with Mary and
Joseph may we
ask ourselves
what God wants
of us and joyfully
do it.

Did You Know?



Some facts about abductions

About 100 children per year are abducted by strangers in the U.S. The reality is that most children are abducted by people they already know, a reality that is also true of almost every form of child victimization. Statistics show that the most common way a child goes missing is by running away, or being enticed to run away by a friend or family member the child thinks is trustworthy. We can't control the dangers around them, but we can support children in learning about and developing skills to identify and establish healthy boundaries, listen to their intuition, and how to ask for help — at any age. For more information about abductions, read the VIRTUS® article "Know the Facts: Abductions and Human Trafficking" at lacatholics.org/did-you-know/.



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