

St. Joseph Parish



2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

“One mightier than I is coming after me.”
- Mk 1:7a

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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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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

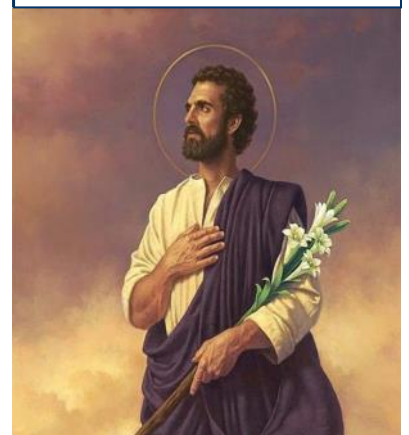
3:45-4:30 p.m.

Inside Church

Adoration

First Fridays

8:00-9:00 a.m.





Letter From Our Pastor

Dear Parish Family:

Welcome to the Second Sunday of Advent! I hope you're taking a couple of minutes a day to read and reflect from the Advent booklet. Remember that the greatest preparation for Christmas is to allow Advent to become the "Pause that Refreshes!"

Last weekend we started our new parish initiative called "Invite One Back." As Catholics, we are a Eucharistic Church, and we are sent forth to bring our Eucharistic Jesus to others. Last weekend, over 1, 000 special invitation cards were distributed so that you could invite someone to join us for Sunday Mass. All studies have shown that the one single action that does more than anything else to awaken faith in someone and promote a renewed interest in attending Mass is a personal invitation from a friend or loved one. Please remember to follow through by addressing the envelope, simply writing Dear..., inside the card on the letter, sign the card, stamp it and deposit into the mail. Call the recipient of the card within a week or two and see if they will join you at Mass. Additional cards are available on the table inside the Church. No one is going to get upset with you for sending a gentle and loving invitation to faith.

Dr. Bill Creasy was a blessing to our parish this past week and the full church was a testament to his teaching and evangelization skills. Our parish is grateful to Shelley Padilla, our pastoral council chair, who organized the event and all the volunteers who helped with hospitality.

Please scroll down to see our Christmas Mass schedule. The fourth week of Advent is very brief – only one day. Advent Masses are at the Saturday Vigil and the 3 regular Sunday morning Masses on Dec. 24th. The **FIRST CHRISTMAS MASS IS AT 4:00 PM ON CHRISTMAS EVE, DEC. 24TH**. This Mass is outside in the courtyard – bring your own lawn chair. The following Christmas Masses are all in the Church!! if you have any questions, please call the parish office.

Thank you for beginning to prayerfully consider your Christmas gift to your parish. This annual gift helps us to balance the budget for the year so thanks for your generosity.

Advent Blessings,
Msgr. Kevin

Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

A voice cries out:
In the desert prepare the way of the LORD!
Make straight in the wasteland a highway for our God!
(Is 40:3)

Psalm:

Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation. (Ps 85)

Second Reading:

We await new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. (1 Pt 1:13)

Gospel:

John the Baptist appeared in the desert proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. (Mk 16:4)

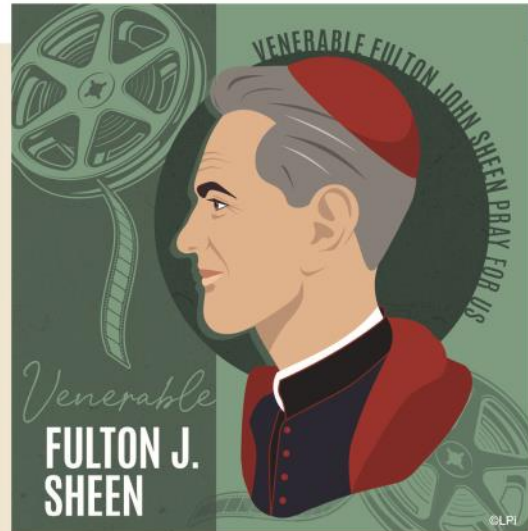
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Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

Christ is making a journey into each of our hearts this Advent. Clear away whatever blocks his way. Make straight the path. Invite him in.

Observances for the week of December 10, 2023

- Sunday:** 2nd Sunday of Advent
Monday: St. Damasus I, Pope
Tuesday: Our Lady of Guadalupe
Wednesday: St. Lucy, Virgin and Martyr
Thursday: St. John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church
Next Sunday: 3rd Sunday of Advent



Saint of the week

Venerable Bishop Fulton John Sheen was a prominent American Catholic bishop, theologian, and media personality. Considered one of the first televangelists, his charisma and defense of the faith made him a household name for American Catholic families.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, source of all holiness, You raise up within the Church in every age men and women who serve with heroic love and dedication. You have blessed Your Church through the life and ministry of Your faithful servant, Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen. He has written and spoken well of Your Divine Son, Jesus Christ, and was a true instrument of the Holy Spirit in touching the hearts of countless people.

If it be according to Your will, for the honor and glory of the Most Holy Trinity and for the salvation of souls, we ask You to move the Church to proclaim him a saint. We ask this prayer through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer Source: <https://celebratesheen.com/prayers-2/>)

Worship & Meditation

Readings for the week of December 10, 2023

Sunday:

Is 40:1-5, 9-11/Ps 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14 (8)/2 Pt 3:8-14/Mk 1:1-8

Monday:

Is 35:1-10/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14/Lk 5:17-26

Tuesday:

Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/Jdt 13:18bcde, 19/Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47

Wednesday:

Is 40:25-31/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8 and 10/Mt 11:28-30

Thursday:

Is 41:13-20/Ps 145:1 and 9, 10-11, 12-13ab/Mt 11:11-15

Friday:

Is 48:17-19/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6/Mt 11:16-19

Saturday:

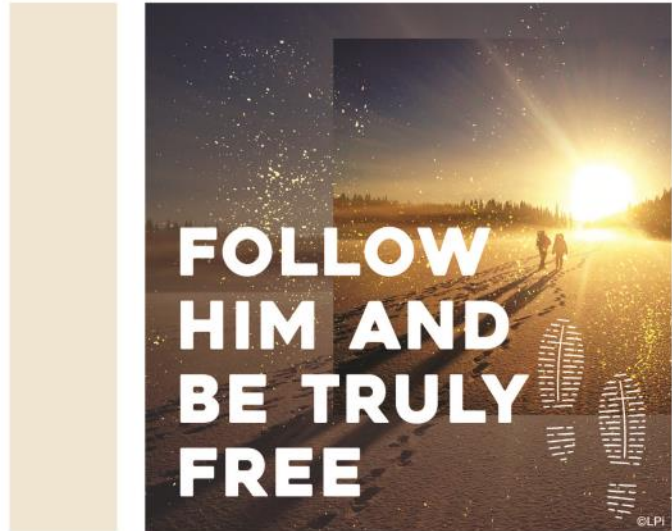
Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Ps 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16, 18-19/Mt 17:9a, 10-13

Next Sunday:

Is 61:1-2a, 10-11/Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54 (Is 61:10b)/1 Thes 5:16-24/Jn 1:6-8, 19-28



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Gospel Meditation

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

We like to think we are totally free, but the bitter truth is we simply are not. Or better put, our freedom is limited on every side — by governments, corporate giants, physical and mental frailties, genetic shortcomings, and even the boundaries of time and space, and above all, the burden of our sins and pending deaths. In our day, we are perhaps particularly aware that we are not free to disconnect from the technocratic rulers of the air. If you doubt me, try not paying your internet bill and see what happens. We are not totally free.

It's nothing new, of course. In Jesus' day, everyone felt the crushing weight of the Roman Empire. You can say you're free all you want. But try not paying your taxes to Rome and see what happens.

Once we feel this burden in our own lives — however it comes — we are ready to hear the stunning announcement that commences Mark's gospel, **"The beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God."** It's not a simple perfunctory introduction, but a dramatic announcement of new freedom. The word "gospel" was a political, even military, term. It meant: a great victory has been won and a new king is in charge. This Jesus — not the Roman emperor — is God's son, and he has defeated all that crushes human freedom. It's time to follow him and be truly free. This week let's refuse to submit our freedom to false rulers — especially that of sin. And let's rejoice that Christ is coming to make us perfectly free from all our oppressors.

— *Father John Muir*

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2023 | 2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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Christmas

MASS SCHEDULE

SUNDAY, DEC. 24TH
VIGIL SOLEMNITY OF CHRISTMAS

4:00 PM - OUTDOOR MASS IN COURTYARD -
(PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN LAWN CHAIR)
6:00 PM - MASS INSIDE THE CHURCH
9:00 PM - MASS INSIDE CHURCH

MONDAY, DEC. 25TH
SOLEMNITY OF CHRISTMAS

9:00 AM - MASS INSIDE CHURCH
10:30 AM - MASS INSIDE CHURCH





Movement for a Better World



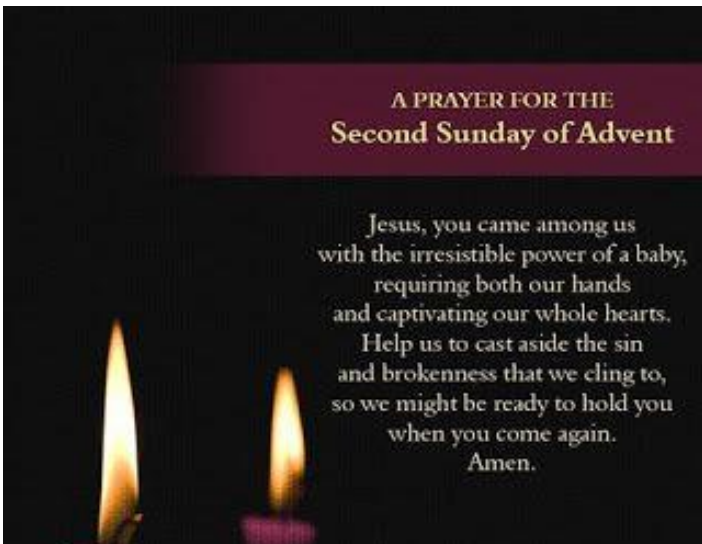
“You are being enriched in every way for all generosity, which through us produces thanksgiving to God.” 2 Cor 9:11

Christmas Present Drive: Envelopes containing a child’s information of one of the families we will support for Christmas will be available at all Masses this weekend. Please take one, purchase a gift for the child, and return to the Parish Life Center or to church by 12:30 pm, Dec. 10.

Dec. 16 - Christmas Food and Present

Distribution: As a parish community, we will support 71 families for Christmas, and Easter. **Can you help us deliver?** So meaningful to kids! Please contact Jill Salinaz (562) 822-7367 or jmsalinaz@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 Second Sunday of Advent

Jesus, you came among us with the irresistible power of a baby, requiring both our hands and captivating our whole hearts. Help us to cast aside the sin and brokenness that we cling to, so we might be ready to hold you when you come again. Amen.

Saint Joseph Music Ministry

'Tis the Season for Christmas Music!



Christmas Weekend Music Schedule

Get into the holiday spirit with our choir leading classic and contemporary Christmas songs. Full schedule below.

Christmas Eve:

4 pm Mass (courtyard) will be led by members in the 8:30 am group, both current and alumnae

6 pm Mass (church) will be led by members of the 12:30pm contemporary band.

8:15 pm Concert in the Church, will be performed by 10:30 am choir. We will offer a series of beautiful Christmas Octavos intermingled with traditional Christmas Caroling.

Christmas Day:

9am & 10:30 am Mass (church) will be led by Vivian

All are welcome to join us in celebrating the joy of Christmas. We look forward to seeing you there!

sign up for TK - Gr. 4
basketball

St. Joe's Parish Community

Saturday Mornings in Jan/Feb

\$60 per player

practices will be 30 minutes prior to games

Want to sign up? Contact stjosephbasketball23@gmail.com



“Listen, put it into your heart, my youngest and dearest son, that the thing that disturbs you, *the thing that afflicts you, is nothing.* Do not let your countenance, your heart be disturbed...
Am I not here, I, who am your Mother?
 Are you not under my shadow & protection?
Am I not the source of your joy?
 Are you not **in the hollow of my mantle**, in the crossing of my arms?
 Do you need anything more?
Let nothing else worry or disturb you.”
 ~ Our Lady of Guadalupe



The next meeting of the St. Joseph Senior Group will be on **Monday, December 11**. This will be our Christmas meeting and you must have a reservation and paid for your lunch. The Alpha K and K classes will be singing for us promptly at 11:00, so **we ask all of you to be there around 10:30**. We will have lunch after the children perform and then we will play games in the afternoon. We are still collecting new clothing or toys for babies and toddlers for Movement for a Better World Christmas drive. You may bring them to the December 11 meeting. This will be our last meeting in 2023, and we will meet again on Monday, January 8, 2024. I hope all of you have a blessed Christmas and a happy, healthy 2024.



Recognizing the signs of physical abuse

Safe adults should be on the lookout for signs of physical abuse in children in their care. Some signs include frequent bruises or cuts, frequent and unexplained absences or injuries. Physical abuse can include hitting, kicking, shaking, or other forceful actions, resulting in harm or even death. Children who are suffering from physical abuse may be distrustful or reluctant to receive physical contact, and may dress inappropriately for the season, wearing long pants or long-sleeved shirts to hide injuries. For more information, read the VIRTUS® article “Recognizing Child Maltreatment” at lacatholics.org/did-you-know/.



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Ages 3-6

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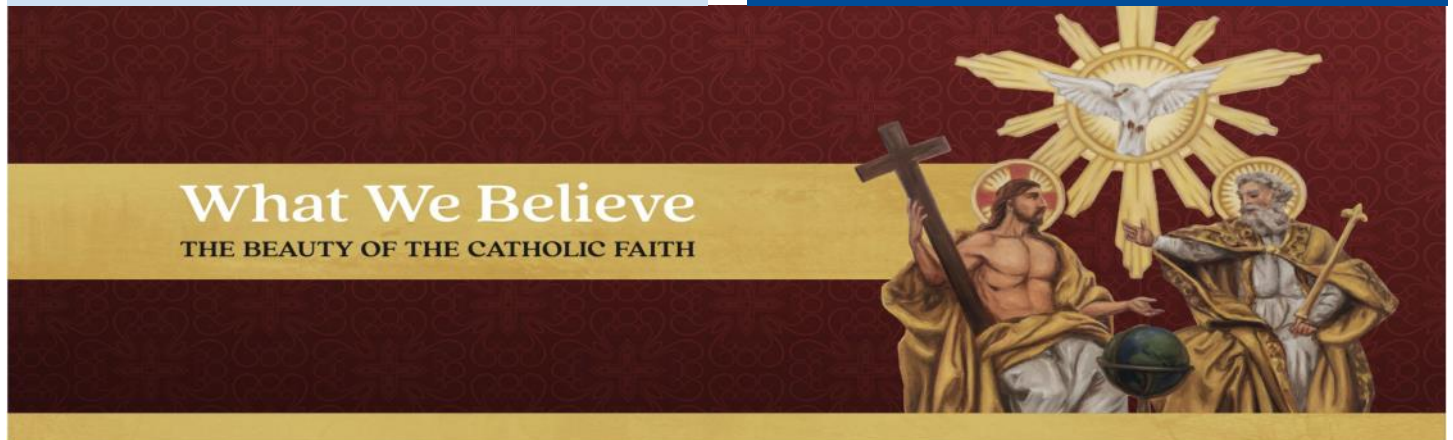


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<https://sjknights.net/schedule-a-tour>



What We Believe
THE BEAUTY OF THE CATHOLIC FAITH

What We Believe: The Beauty of the Catholic Faith

The Catholic Church is extraordinary. It is where we encounter God in his Word, his sacraments, and his saints. It proclaims the fullness of life, leaving no person out. It calls all to repent and to believe in God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, the source of all life and salvation.

Maybe you've been Catholic your entire life. Maybe you're just beginning to explore the Catholic Faith. Wherever you may be in your journey, you will be profoundly moved by the beauty and the richness of the Catholic Church. Join us for *What We Believe: The Beauty of the Catholic Faith* at St. Joseph in the PLC and on Zoom beginning Thursday, January 11th from 7:00pm to 8:30pm and continuing every Thursday for 10 weeks. For more information or to register for the study, contact Mike Santy at 562-370-0769 or by email at mike@stjosephlb.org.



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