

St. Joseph Parish



4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

“Therefore the child to be born will be called holy,
the Son of God.” - Lk 1:35

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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.





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





Letter From Our Pastor

Dear Family of St. Joseph:

Emmanuel, God with us, the Incarnate One, the Savior has found a home in you! Receive the Lord's gift to you as you journey through faith and life this Christmas and in the coming year! May our human longing for peace fill our world this Christmas.

You are a Blessing to me and your St. Joseph's family. Thank you for sharing your presence, worship, time, talent and treasure with your parish community.

May the peace and joy of Christmas fill your hearts and those of your family during this Holy Season.

Be assured of my Christmas remembrance and prayers for you and your loved ones.

A Blessed Christmas in the love, joy and hope of the Christ Child,
Msgr. Kevin



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Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

"Your house and your kingdom shall endure forever before me; your throne shall stand firm forever." (2 Sm 28:16)

Psalm:

For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord. (Ps 89)

Second Reading:

The revelation of the mystery kept secret for long ages but now manifested through the prophetic writings and, according to the command of the eternal God, made known to all nations to bring about the obedience of faith. (Rom 16:25-26)

Gospel:

"Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus." (Lk 1:31)

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Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

God's plans are not always what we imagined. Sometimes they make us hesitate. Be like Mary. Say "Yes, Lord" — and God will show you that His imagination is better than yours.

Observances for the week of December 24, 2023

- Sunday:** 4th Sunday of Advent; Christmas Eve
Monday: The Nativity of the Lord
Tuesday: St. Stephen, First Martyr
Wednesday: St. John, Apostle and Evangelist
Thursday: The Holy Innocents, Martyrs
Friday: St. Thomas Becket, Bishop and Martyr
Next Sunday: The Holy Family; New Year's Eve



Saint of the week

Servant of God Michelle Christine Duppong worked as a FOCUS missionary and a lay parish minister in the early 2000's. Her life was a testament to her commitment to God and social justice work. She died at age 31 in 2015 but her legacy lives on today in those whose lives she touched.

Prayer

Jesus, I praise and thank you for the life of your servant Michelle Duppong. In her life and suffering, she joined you in your thirst for souls and embraced the cross offered to her. Following her example, I ask for the special grace of [personal intercession] and, if it brings you greater glory, that she be honored by your Church. Jesus, I ask this in your Holy Name.
Amen.

-With ecclesiastical approval of Bishop David D. Kagan, Diocese of Bismarck

(Prayer Source: <https://bismarckdiocese.com/prayer-of-intercession>)

Worship & Meditation

Readings for the week of December 24, 2023

Sunday:

2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29/Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:26-38

Monday:

Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29/
Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25
Night: Is 9:1-6/Ps 96: 1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13/
Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14 *Dawn:* Is 62:11-12/Ps
97:1, 6, 11-12/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20 *Day:* Is
52:7-10/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6/Heb 1:1-6/Jn
1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

Tuesday:

Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and
8ab, 16bc and 17/Mt 10:17-22

Wednesday:

1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12/Jn 20:1a, 2-8

Thursday:

1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7cd-8/
Mt 2:13-18

Friday:

1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6/
Lk 2:22-35

Saturday:

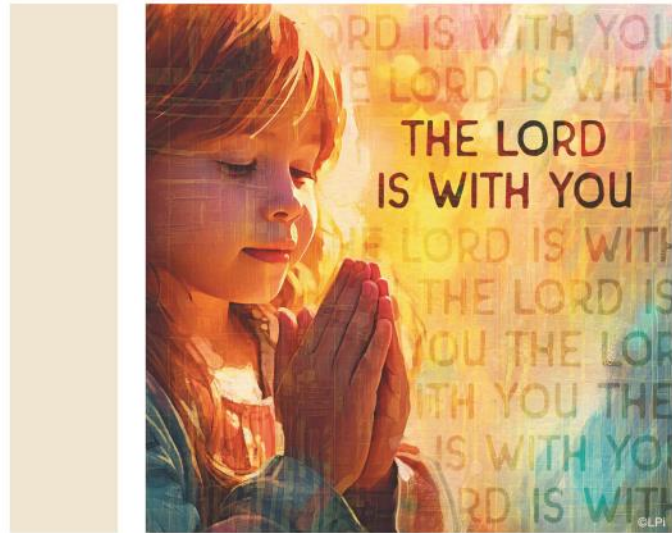
1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10/Lk 2:36-40

Next Sunday:

Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3/Ps
128:1-2, 3, 4-5 or Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9/
Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 or Heb 11:8, 11-12,
17-19/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40



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Gospel Meditation

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

Life is troubling. Who among us has not struggled with anxiety and difficulties, sometimes massive ones? I certainly have, as have many of my loved ones. If we do, does this mean that we don't trust the Lord or just need to toughen up?

I don't think so. How encouraging for us anxious and troubled souls to hear Luke describe the Blessed Mother Mary in these words, **"But she was greatly troubled at what was said."** An archangel has visited her. An inconceivable promise has been made to her. Her life has become wildly unpredictable, perhaps more so than any person before or since. The first point for us: the Lord is with her precisely when she is troubled. Her anxiousness and God's presence are not mutually exclusive. Christianity is not about a trance-like robotic indifference. It's about the presence of divine love. Even in — especially in — troubled circumstances.

Our troubled soul can become our greatest treasure. What seems so troubling at first to Mary becomes the best possible thing, Jesus, the Savior and Lord, is now her son. All the difficulties and troubles remain, and yet her movement into the fullness of God is accelerated. What is troubling you right now? This scripture invites us now, this week, to hear the Lord's messenger say to us what he said to Mary, **"Do not be afraid! You have found favor with God."**

— *Father John Muir*



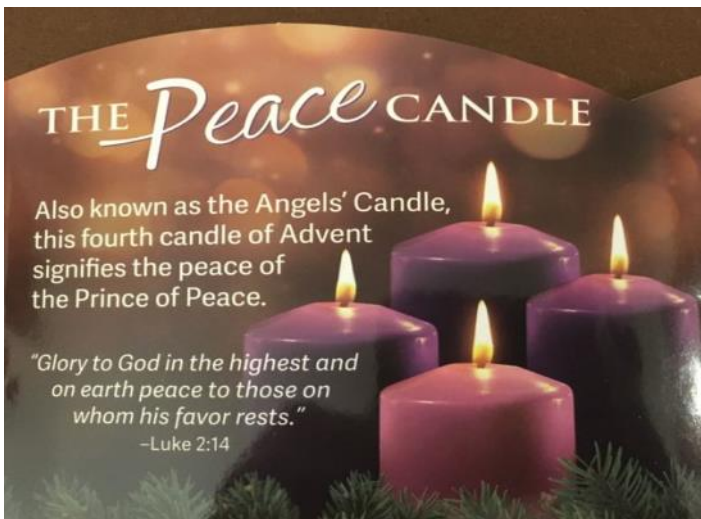
Merry Christmas!

Christmas Food and Gift Distribution: Our most sincere THANK YOU to everyone that helped with, and contributed blessings and hope to families in need: deliveries to 107 families, 2 or more gifts to 250 children, \$6,000 Skip-a-Meal purchases, transportation of over 4,000 lbs. of food, and a School food drive.

Jan. 13-14: Homeless Kit Drive: Provide daily necessities to people experiencing homelessness. Shopping lists will be available Jan. 6.

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? Please call Tim Clark to learn about the types of opportunities, (562) 431-4385.

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



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!



Merry Christmas

May your **Christmas** be blessed by **baby Jesus!** Wishing you and your loved ones the happiest of Holidays & a **Joyful New Year.** Thank you for all your support and dedication to your St. Joseph Parish community. Blessings from all of the St. Joseph Staff



Seniors Group

The next meeting of the St. Joseph Senior Group will be on **Monday, January 8, 2024**, in the hall. The activities will begin at **11:00 am** and will include Bingo, many kinds of card games, Mexican train, and lots of socializing. Bring your brown bag lunch, and coffee, tea, water, snacks and cookies will be provided. We look forward to seeing all our members and any new friends who would like to join us. Many blessings to you during this holiday season.



Safeguard The Children

What is a trial balloon?

One of the best ways safe adults can help children who are suffering from abuse is to recognize and listen to their disclosures — even if they are done in stages or in subtle ways. A child may float a “trial balloon” disclosure, meaning he may use a single sentence or phrase to see if a safe adult will respond appropriately. Be on the lookout for sudden disclosures like, “I don’t want to go to So-and-so’s house anymore,” and try responding in a way designed to let the child continue to open up: “Do you want to tell me why?” or “Let’s talk about that,” for example. For more information, read the VIRTUS® article “Test Balloons or Trial Balloons” at lacatholics.org/did-you-know/.



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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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