

St. Joseph Catholic Church

1300 N. Main, Bluffton 46714 (260)-824-1380 stjosephchurch@adamswells.com stjosephchurchbluffton.org

Twelve Days of Christmas



“On the first day of Christmas, my true love gave to me...”

Historically, the Twelve Days of Christmas have been a time of celebration spanning from Christmas Day to Epiphany. In 567, the Council of Tours proclaimed it a "sacred and festive season" after setting aside Advent for fasting and preparation. There are many cultural references including Shakespeare's play "Twelfth Night", and the English Christmas carol detailing gifts for each day. Some believe that The 12 Days of Christmas song was actually a tool used by persecuted Catholics after the reformation in England to catechize in secret. Whether or not this is true, it can still be a fun, instructional tool. As Christians, we do not follow the way of the world and immediately stop all talk of Christmas after midnight on December 25. Below, find some of the symbolism behind the popular song, religious feasts that fall on those days, and ways to maintain your focus on Christ throughout the entire Christmas season!

**DEC
25**

Partridge in a Pear Tree
Jesus Christ

The Nativity of the Lord
Rejoice in the birth of our savior!
Reflect on the mystery of the incarnation, the Divine choosing to become one of us.

**DEC
26**

Two Turtle Doves
Old and New Testament

Feast of St. Stephen
St. Stephen was the first deacon, part of whose ministry was to care for the poor. Celebrate his feast by sharing Christmas gifts with the poor.

**DEC
27**

Three French Hens
Theological Virtues: Faith, Hope and Love

Feast of St. John the Evangelist
St. John answered the call to be an Apostle. Are you listening to God's call in your life? Pray to know your vocation.

**DEC
28**

Four Calling Birds
Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John

Feast of the Holy Innocents
So many young lives were extinguished by Herod in this massacre. Appreciate the gift of the young children in your life.

**DEC
29**

Five Golden Rings
Pentateuch: First Five Books of the Old Testament

Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph
Let the Holy Family serve as a model for how to build a domestic church in your home.

**DEC
30**

Six Geese a-Laying
Six Days of Creation

Resist the urge to take down all your Christmas decorations and stop singing Christmas music. The liturgical season of Christmas is one of the most important, second only to Easter.

**DEC
31**

Seven Swans a-Swimming
Gifts of the Holy Spirit: Wisdom, Understanding, Counsel, Fortitude, Knowledge, Piety, and Fear of the Lord

Consider making a faith-based resolution this year.

**JAN
1**

Eight Maids a-Milking
Eight Beatitudes

Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God
Go to Mass on this Holy Day of Obligation and meditate on how important Mary's "yes" was to the whole season of Christmas.

**JAN
2**

Nine Ladies Dancing
Fruits of the Holy Spirit: Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self-Control

Memorial of Sts. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen
Call a friend to say "Merry Christmas" in honor of these saints and lifelong friends.

**JAN
3**

Ten Lords a-Leaping
Ten Commandments

Think of the Wise Men as they get closer to reaching their destination. Move the figures of the Wise Men in your own nativity set at home closer each day, or take a journey of your own and visit nativity scenes at nearby Churches.

**JAN
4**

Eleven Pipers Piping
Eleven Faithful Apostles

Memorial of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton
As the patron of converts to the faith, ask for this saint's intercession as you share your faith with a non-believer.

**JAN
5**

Twelve Drummers Drumming
Twelve Points of Belief in the Apostles Creed

The Epiphany of the Lord
Just as the Wise Men paid homage to Jesus, chalk your door with 20+C+M+B+20 as a request for Christ to bless your home and dwell with all who stay there.

---(cut here)---

Name: _____ Phone: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
e-mail address: _____

[] New Parishioners, please send a Parish Registration Form [] We've Moved, here is our new information

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, December 26

- 8:00 a.m. Special Intention
- 4:00 p.m. Confessions
- 4:35 p.m. Rosary
- 5:00 p.m. Paxton & Marshall Families

Sunday, December 27 - The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph -

- 7:10 a.m. Rosary
- 7:30 a.m. Parish Family
- 9:40 a.m. Rosary
- 10:00 a.m. Robert and Rose Marie Bates +
- 12:10 p.m. Rosary
- 12:30 p.m. Special Intention

Monday, December 28

No Morning Mass

Tuesday, December 29

- 7:00 a.m. - 8:00 a.m. Adoration
- 8:00 a.m. Fathers of Ben & Jenny Wagner
- 8:30 a.m. Confession

Wednesday, December 30

- 6:00-7:00 p.m. Adoration
- 6:00-6:45 p.m. Confession
- 7:00 p.m. Father of Matt Scheidler

Thursday, December 31

- 8:00 a.m. Mary Ann Flowers +
- 5:00 p.m. Living & Deceased members of the Dale & Evelyn Morrissey Family

Friday, January 1

- Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God -

- 7:30 a.m. All Priests, Living & Deceased
- 10:00 a.m. Parish Family

Saturday, January 2

- 8:00 a.m. Special Intention
- 4:00 p.m. Confessions
- 4:35 p.m. Rosary
- 5:00 p.m. Julie Johnson +

Sunday, January 3

- 7:10 a.m. Rosary
- 7:30 a.m. Parish Family
- 9:40 a.m. Rosary
- 10:00 a.m. Maria Edwards +
- 12:10 p.m. Rosary
- 12:30 p.m. Special Intention

MASS READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Mon., Dec. 28 - The Holy Innocents, Martyrs - 1
Jn 1:5—2:2/ Mt 2:13-18

Tues., Dec. 29 - St. Thomas Becket, Bishop and Martyr - 1
Jn 2:3-11/ Lk 2:22-35

Wed., Dec. 30 - 1
Jn 2:12-17/ Lk 2:36-40

Thurs., Dec. 31 - St. Sylvester I, Pope - 1
Jn 2:18-21/ Jn 1:1-18

Fri., Jan. 1 - Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God -
Nm 6:22-27/ Gal 4:4-7/ Lk 2:16-21

Sat., Jan. 2 - Sts. Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church - 1
Jn 2:22-28/ Jn 1:19-28

Sun., Jan. 3 - Epiphany of the Lord - Is 60:1-6/ Eph 3:2-3a,5-6/ Mt 2:1-12

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

DECEMBER 27, 2020

This Friday (**Jan. 1st**), the Church celebrates the **Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God**, which marks the end of the **Christmas Octave** (*but not the Christmas season*). While this celebration is a yearly Holy Day, the obligation to attend the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass on this day remains dispensed by Bishop Rhoades due to COVID-19. Though not a Holy Day of Obligation this year, may we see it as a **holy day of opportunity**. For those able to join us in person, Masses will be offered on Thursday, Dec. 31st, at 5 PM and Friday, Jan. 1st, at 7:30 AM and 10 AM. (*The 10 AM Mass will be live-streamed.*)

This solemnity finds its roots from the **Council of Ephesus** in the 5th Century. This Church council declared the Blessed Virgin Mary as *Theotokos*, or “God-bearer.” As we celebrate this solemnity, we offer due veneration (or respect) to the Blessed Virgin Mary while also asserting the divinity of her Son, Jesus Christ. (*We welcome Fr. Nathan Maskal as our celebrant for the Solemnity Masses. Fr. Maskal is assisting us while he is in the area to visit family. Likewise, I will be in South Bend to assist at his parish while also visiting with my family.*)

Though the end of the **Christmas Octave** does not end the Christmas season, it is still a “quick” season this year given how late in the week **Christmas Day** fell. Next weekend, we celebrate the **Epiphany of the Lord** and, the following weekend, the **Baptism of the Lord**. This latter feast will end the Christmas season and move us towards **Ordinary Time**, though the Christmas season will have a brief resurgence on the **Feast of the Presentation** (*marking 40 days after Christmas Day*).

Continuing our yearly parish tradition, we will bless and offer **Epiphany Chalk** at all Masses next weekend to be taken home. You are encouraged to use this sacramental as it invites God into our homes and places our families under His constant protection. More information next weekend.

A special “**Thank You!**” to all those who worked so hard to ensure our Christmas Liturgies were so beautiful! Our **Decorating Committee** put in many hours this past week to ensure the Church was decorated to the nines! Our musicians, **Diane and Dianne**, spent much time preparing instrumental music, along with our volunteer cantors and musicians (**Marita, Catherine, Nancy, Larry, Mike, and Jill**) who provided the beautiful Christmas hymns at various Masses. **Eric, Sam, Alex, and Audrey** helped to construct our “*Cantor Box*” in the choir loft. Many other hands, especially **Michelle** in the parish office and **Nathan**, have been invaluable help to me throughout our Advent and Christmas season.

An additional special “*Thank You!*” to all those who participated in our **Advent Food Drive**. Your generosity throughout the season helped to provide over an entire carload worth of food and other personal items to the **Wells County Food Bank**. We’ll be continuing this tradition of collecting food and needed personal items for the food bank every Advent and Lent. Our **St. Vincent de Paul Fund** also supports the food bank with monetary donations at those times when monthly assistance requests made through the fund are low. (*These contributions are listed as “Donations” in our monthly St. Vincent de Paul Fund Report.*)

Faithfully in Christ, Fr. David




Sharon Miller, Becky Biberstein, Betty Meyer, David Carr, Bonnie Burns, Michael Green, Rick Cotterman, Frances Carr, Tom Richhart, Carol Leitner, Pat Pfeifer, Troy Cook, Cheryl Jackson, Sandy Arnold, Jimmy Robbins, Jean Steele, Andrea Holte, Tom Williams, Jen Coyne, and John Houlihan.



Mass times for the Solemnity:

Thursday, December 31 - 5:00 p.m.
Friday, January 1 - 7:30 and 10:00 a.m.



RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!
Knights of Columbus
Blood Drive
Sunday, January 17
7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the gym.

PARISH CALENDAR

- Sat., Dec. 26 - Mass 8:00 a.m.
- Sat., Dec. 26 - Confession 4:00-4:45 p.m. / Mass 5:00 p.m.
- Sun., Dec. 27 - Mass 7:30 a.m. / 10:00 a.m. / 12:30 p.m.
- Sun., Dec. 27 - No Religious Education Classes - Christmas Break
- Thurs., Dec. 31 - Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God Vigil Mass - 5:00 p.m.
- Fri., Jan. 1 - Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God Masses - 7:30 and 10:00 a.m.
- Thurs., Dec. 31 and Fri., Jan. 1 - the Parish office will be closed for the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God (New Year's).

***** 2021 *****

- Sat., Jan. 2 - Mass 8:00 a.m.
- Sat., Jan. 2 - Confession 4:00-4:45 p.m. / Mass 5:00 p.m.
- Sun., Jan. 3 - Mass 7:30 a.m. / 10:00 a.m. / 12:30 p.m.
- Sun., Jan. 3 - Religious Education Classes resume - 8:30-9:45 a.m. / Grade 5 will lead the Rosary.
- Tues., Jan. 5 - Knights of Columbus - 6:40 p.m. recitation of the Holy Rosary / meeting at 7:00 p.m. in the social hall. Watch for details of in-person or virtual meeting via email or bulletin.
- Wed., Jan. 6 - Parish Council meeting 7:30 p.m. (after 7 p.m. Mass).
- Sun., Jan. 10 - January Discussion Forum - "Teaching Mass" - 8:30-9:30 a.m. in the Church.
- Tues., Jan. 12 - St. Joseph Women's Group meeting - 7:00 p.m. in the social hall.
- Wed., Jan. 13 - January Discussion Forum - "Teaching Mass" - 7:30-8:30 p.m. (following 7:00 Mass) in the Church.
- Sun., Jan. 17 - Knights of Columbus Red Cross Blood Drive - 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the gym.

FORMED®

Our Parish Code: 7N68MY
THE CATHOLIC FAITH.
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Religious Education Classes resume
Sunday, January 3, 2021 * 8:30-9:45 a.m.
Grade 5 will lead the Holy Rosary in Church at 8:40 a.m.

JANUARY DISCUSSION FORUM - "TEACHING MASS"

Sunday, January 10, 2021 from 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. and Wednesday, January 13 from 7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Fr. David will host a Discussion Forum - "Teaching Mass". This is not an actual Mass but a walk-through of the Mass. The Forum will take place in the Church rather than the Parish Social Hall. For your convenience, the Discussion Forum will be live-streamed on our Facebook page.



St. Joseph Parish Finance Report December 19/20

Adult Envelopes- \$2,812.00
Child Envelopes- \$0
Loose- \$102.00
Repair/Rainy Day Fund- \$1,463.54
Religious Ed. Fund- \$146.00
Christmas Flowers- \$20.00
Votive Candles- \$359.25
CDs- \$10.00
Christmas Offering- \$135.00
Immaculate Conception- \$40.00
Light Refund- \$1,000.00
Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God- \$10.00
Total- \$6,097.79

Our weekly budget is \$5,116.40

We are \$1,647.18 *ahead of* our budget for the month of December.

St. Vincent de Paul Fund- \$489.00

***Thank you for your gifts
to St. Joseph's!***

osvonlinegiving.com/4741



CONFESSIONS TIMES

Tuesdays at 8:30 a.m. (following Morning Mass)
Wednesdays, 6:00-6:45 p.m.
Saturdays at 4:00 p.m.



**St. Joseph
Pray For Us**

"St. Joseph was a just man, a tireless worker, the upright guardian of those entrusted to his care. May he always guard, protect and enlighten families" - St. Pope John Paul II

Memorare to St. Joseph

Remember, O most chaste spouse of the Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who implored your help and sought your intercession were left unassisted. Full of confidence in your power I fly unto you and beg your protection. Despise not O Guardian of the Redeemer my humble supplication, but in your bounty, hear and answer me. Amen.

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Michelle Adler, David Anthony,
And Matt Hayes

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of a dead child.

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Parishioner

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THINK!
T - is it true?
h - is it helpful?
i - is it inspiring?
n - is it necessary?
k - is it kind?

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-St. Mother Teresa

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St. Joseph
Pray For
Us!