

# St. Joseph Catholic Church

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

## 4 WAYS TO SAVOR ADVENT

### 1) Seek Reconciliation

Go to Confession and invite your family and friends to go as well.

**Penance Service - Dec. 21<sup>st</sup> @ 7 PM**

### 2) Volunteer your time

Volunteer at a local charitable organization with your family

### 3) Make homemade presents

Make homemade gifts for family and friends. This can be a nice, personal gesture to a loved one.

### 4) Celebrate Christmas

Remember that Christmas begins (and doesn't end) on Dec. 25<sup>th</sup>. Celebrate the full Christmas season!



## IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

### What is it?

The **Immaculate Conception** is celebrating the conception of Mary. Through a special grace given by God, the Blessed Virgin was kept free from Original Sin and lived her whole life free from personal sin in order to carry out her mission as the Mother of Jesus.

Though formally defined as dogma by Pope Pius IX in 1854, this is an ancient Church teaching.

The Church has held it as a point of faith for centuries before.

### Why celebrate?

Because it is a gift that Mary said "yes" to God and bore His Son, Jesus Christ, into the world. We, in turn, are called to immitate Mary's "yes" to God's will in our daily lives.

Pastor: Fr. David Violi

Fr. David's direct email: frdavidvioli@gmail.com / Sacramental Emergency Number: 260-296-0511

Administrative Assistant/DRE: Michelle Paxton

Director of Sacred Music: Teresa Smith

-(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 4

8:00 a.m. Special Intention

4:00-4:45 p.m. Confession

4:35 p.m. Rosary

5:00 p.m. Parish Family

### Sunday, December 5

#### - Second Sunday of Advent -

7:10 a.m. Rosary

7:30 a.m. Gordon Shaffer +

9:40 a.m. Rosary

10:00 a.m. Living & Deceased members of  
Judy Bayne Family

### Monday, December 6

No Public Mass

### Tuesday, December 7

Adoration 7:00-8:00 a.m.

8:00 a.m. Gertie Wyss +

5:30 p.m. Vigil Mass Immaculate Conception  
Donna Jean Warnimont +

### Wednesday, December 8 -

#### Feast of the Immaculate Conception

7:00 a.m. Jerri Mowry +

Noon Parish Family

7:00 p.m. Special Intention

### Thursday, December 9

8:00 a.m. Mary Ann Flowers +

### Friday, December 10

8:30 a.m. Dale Morrissey +

### Saturday, December 11

8:00 a.m. Special Intention

4:00-4:45 p.m. Confession

4:35 p.m. Rosary

5:00 p.m. June Gazdik +

### Sunday, December 12

#### - Third Sunday of Advent -

7:10 a.m. Rosary

7:30 a.m. Parish Family

9:40 a.m. Rosary

10:00 a.m. Andrea Grover +

## MASS READINGS FOR THE WEEK

**Mon., December 6 - Advent Weekday - St.**

**Nicholas, Bishop** - Is 35:1-10/ Lk 5:17-26

**Tues., December 7 - St. Ambrose, Bishop**

**and Doctor of the Church** - Is 40:1-11/ Mt  
18:12-14

**Wed., December 8 - The Immaculate Con-**

**ception of the Blessed Virgin Mary** - Gn 3:9-  
15:20/ Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/ Lk 1:26-38

**Thur., December 9 - Advent Weekday - St.**

**Juan Diego Cuauhtlatotzin** - Is 41:13-20/ Mt  
11:11-15

**Fri., December 10 - Advent Weekday - Is**

48:17-19/ Mt 11:16-19

**Sat., December 11 - Advent Weekday - St.**

**Damasus I, Pope** - Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/ Mt

17:9a, 10-13

**Sun., December 12 - Third Sunday of Ad-**

**vent** - Zep 3:14-18a/ Phil 4:4-7/ Lk 3:10-18

## SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT – DECEMBER 5, 2021

*This Wednesday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, the Church celebrates our country's patronal feast: **The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception**. This day is a **Holy Day of Obligation**. To assist in fulfilling this obligation, **Masses for the Holy Day will be offered on Tuesday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, at 5:30 PM, and Wednesday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 AM, Noon, and 7:00 PM (with Choir).***

This weekend (December 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup>), the Church celebrates the **Second Sunday of Advent**. In our readings, we hear the theme of movement and conversion. In our first reading (Baruch 5:1-9), Baruch speaks of the end of the diaspora (*Israel's exile*) and the return of the Israelites to Jerusalem. Similarly, our responsorial psalm (Psalm 126) is a song rejoicing in the return from exile. Though they have returned, the journey had only begun in their desire to restore Jerusalem to its former glory.

In our second reading (Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11), St. Paul speaks to the Church in Philippi. This Roman town, occupied by both Gentiles and a small Jewish community, had embraced the Lord. Though he is imprisoned as he writes them, he rejoices with those in Philippi about the great growth the Church had seen. As great as the growth had been, he prays that their relationship with and their conversion in Christ continues to deepen.

Finally, this call is echoed again in our Gospel (Luke 3:1-6) as St. John the Baptist calls all people to repentance. Israel responds to his call as those from within and without the cities go out into the desert to encounter him. John, though, is only preparing the way for something (*someone*) greater: Jesus Christ. The best gift that we can give to Jesus this Christmas is the gift of our conversion. And, the best way for us to receive this gift from Jesus is in the sacramental form in which He wishes to give it: Confession.

## ADVENT MISSION AND PENANCE SERVICE

**Mark your calendar!** Our Advent Parish Mission will be hosted from **Monday, December 20<sup>th</sup>, through Wednesday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>, at 7 PM each evening**. We will welcome a different speaker to lead each evening, hearing from Fr. Stephen Felichia (*St. Elizabeth Ann Seton*), Fr. Dan Koehl (*St. Charles Borromeo*), and Fr. Eric Burgener (*St. Vincent de Paul and Chaplain to Parkview Hospital*).

On **Tuesday, December 21<sup>st</sup>**, our **Parish Mission (7 PM)** will lead into our **Parish Penance Service (~7:30 PM)**, where we will have several priests available to hear Confessions. Our **Parish Mission** will conclude at our evening 7 PM Mass on Wednesday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>, with Fr. Eric Burgener serving as our primary celebrant and homilist. The Parish Mission will also be available via live-stream.

## CHRISTMAS MASS PLANNER

I do hope that you found our **Christmas Mass Planner** in last weekend's bulletin helpful. To clarify one question we received: The **5 PM Saturday evening Mass on Christmas Day** can be attended to fulfill **either** the Christmas obligation **or** the Sunday obligation, **but not both**. If you have any questions regarding the Christmas Mass schedule, please let me know.

## Did You Know? Campaign

Our Parish Council has been worked the past several months on a new informational campaign, "*Did You Know?*", for our parish and our town that will begin in January. More information to come soon! ~Faithfully in Christ,

Fr. David



Sharon Miller, Becky Biberstein, Michael Green, Rick Cotterman, Frances Carr, Tom Richhart, Carol Leitner, Pat Pfeifer, Troy Cook, Bobbie and Cheryl Jackson, Sandy Arnold, Andrea Holte, Jen Coyne, Bonnie Burns, John Houlihan, Nora LaVine, Kimberly Abney, Sydnee Bradburn, Doreen Ayres, Leanne Lee, Matt McFarren, Ryan Feeback, Dr. Doug Phillips, Gene Keys and Jean Johnson.





## “HAIL, FULL OF GRACE! THE LORD IS WITH YOU.”

Luke 1:28

In the Gospel of St. Luke, the Archangel St. Gabriel greets the Blessed Virgin Mary by crying out “Hail, full of grace!” (Luke 1:28). This greeting is no ordinary greeting. St. Gabriel does not call the Blessed Virgin by her given name, which, in Hebrew, is מִרְיָם or *Miryam* (Mary). Instead, the archangel refers to her by a new name: Full of grace. In the Greek manuscript of the Gospel, this name is conveyed by the Greek word *κεχαριτωμένη* (*kecharitomene*).

This new name given to Mary by the archangel is found only in this single verse throughout the entirety of the Sacred Scriptures. To be given a new name communicates something that is permanent about the character of the one who is named. This is seen throughout the Old Testament, such as when Abram becomes Abraham (Genesis 17:5), Sarai becomes Sarah (Genesis 17:15), and Jacob becomes Israel (Genesis 32:28). To understand this significance in relation to Mary, we must look to the name itself as it has been given.

The Greek word *κεχαριτωμένη* (*kecharitomene*), meaning “full of grace,” is taken from the Greek verb *χαριτόω* (*charitōō*), meaning “to fill or endow with grace.” *Kecharitomene* is, in Greek, the past perfect tense of this verb. (In English, we refer to this tense as the pluperfect.) The past perfect tense of a verb denotes an action that has taken place in the past and has lasting results throughout time. In relation to Mary, the use of *kecharitomene* in the Gospel denotes an action that has taken place in the past, before the announcement of the angel, and that it continues throughout history.

What is this action? This action is the act of Mary being filled with God’s grace from the very moment of her conception and remaining full of His grace throughout her entire life. Therefore, when Mary is referred to as *kecharitomene*, it means that she is one who is and has always been full of God’s grace. The archangel uses this word as an adjective referring to Mary. For Mary, being full of grace is not simply an action, but expresses her very identity. Before she was the Mother of God [*theotokos*] (Luke 1:43), before she was Mother of the Church [*mater ecclesiae*] (John 19:27), she was, from her very beginning, *kecharitomene*, or “full of grace” (Luke 1:28).

Mary received this great gift as a result of that “singular privilege and grace granted by God, in view of the merits of Jesus Christ, the Savior of the human race.” This understanding, as with all things Marian, points us to her Son, Jesus Christ.



## ■ 1st Apparition

**Feb 11**

Accompanied by her sister and a friend, Bernadette went to Massabielle on the banks of the Gave to collect dead wood. Removing her socks in order to cross the stream, she heard a noise like a gust of wind, she looked up towards the Grotto.

**Bernadette relates:** I saw a lady dressed in white, she wore a white dress, an equally white veil, a blue belt and a yellow rose on each foot.



Bernadette made the Sign of the Cross and said the Rosary with the lady. When the prayer ended the Lady suddenly vanished.

## ■ 3rd Apparition

**Feb 18**

For the first time, the Lady spoke.



Bernadette held out a pen and paper asking her to write her name.

**Our Lady:** It is not necessary.

**Our Lady:** Would you be kind enough to come here for a fortnight?

I do not promise to make you happy in this world but in the other.

## ■ 9th Apparition

**Feb 25**

**Bernadette relates:** She told me to go, drink of the spring. I only found a little muddy water. At the fourth attempt I was able to drink. She also made me eat the bitter herbs that were found near the spring, and then the vision left.

**The crowd:** Do you think that she is mad doing things like that?

**Bernadette replied:** It is for sinners.

# Lourdes 1858

## The Immaculate Conception

“  
She lifted up her eyes to heaven,  
joined her hands as though in prayer,  
and said to me:  
*I am the Immaculate Conception.*”

— St. Bernadette relates (On March 25)

The apparitions at Lourdes took place only four years after the proclamation of the dogma of the Immaculate Conception, in 1854, and given their nature it is only natural to see a strong link between the two.

On 11 February 1858, fourteen year old Bernadette Soubirous saw a beautiful young girl in a niche at a rocky outcrop called Massabielle, about a half mile outside the town. This was the beginning of a whole sequence of apparitions, 18 in all, which occurred during the spring and early summer of 1858.



St. Bernadette refers to the vision as 'Aquero', which means, 'this thing', and said that the Lady spoke in the Lourdes dialect.

**Location:** Lourdes,  
Hautes Pyrenees, France  
**Date:** 11 Feb - 16 July 1858  
**Visionary:** Bernadette Soubirous



## ■ 13th Apparition

**March 2**

**Our Lady:** Go, tell the priests to come here in procession and to build a chapel here.

Bernadette spoke of this to Fr. Peyramale, the Parish Priest of Lourdes.



**Fr. Peyramale:** If the Lady really wishes that a chapel be built, then she must tell us her name and make the rose bush bloom at the Grotto in the middle of winter.

## ■ 14th-15th Apparition

**March 3, 4**

The crowd becomes larger and larger (about 8,000). Soldiers and police had been put on duty to control the expected large crowd.

**Bernadette:** Would you kindly tell me who you are?

The vision response was a smile.

## ■ 16th Apparition

**March 25**

The Lady finally revealed her name.

**Our Lady:** I am the Immaculate Conception.

Bernadette left and, running all the way, repeated continuously the words that she did not understand.

These words troubled the Parish Priest.

Four years earlier, in 1854, the Church declared that Mary was the "Immaculate Conception".

The title would certainly have been unknown to Bernadette since it was not broadly discussed in the liturgy at that time.

"She could never have invented this ..." wrote Fr. Peyramale to the bishop that evening.





## KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS MEETING -

Tuesday, December 14th - Recitation of the Holy Rosary 6:40 p.m. in Church meeting in Parish Social Hall at 7:00 p.m.

## G.I.R.L.'s night out

*(Growing, Inspiring, Rejoicing, Loving)*

*Tuesday, December 14th 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Conference Room*

### ADVENT FOOD DRIVE

We will be collecting non-perishable food items throughout the Advent Season to help assist the Wells County Food Bank and the citizens of Wells County who are in need of food. Donations may be placed in the tote in the narthex. Thank YOU!



### PARISH CALENDAR

- Sat., December 4 - Confession 4-4:45 p.m. / Mass 5:00 p.m.
- Sun., December 5 - Mass 7:30 a.m. / 10:00 a.m.
- Tues., December 7 - Adoration 7-8:00 a.m. / Mass 8:00 a.m.
- Tues., December 7 - Immaculate Conception Vigil Mass - 5:30 p.m.
- Tues., December 7 - Children's Choir Practice - 5:30 - 6:30
- Wed., December 8 - Immaculate Conception (a Holy Day of Obligation - Masses 7:00 a.m. / Noon / 7:00 p.m.
- Thurs., December 9 - RCIA - 6:30 p.m.
- Sat., December 11 - Confession 4-4:45 p.m. / Mass 5:00 p.m.
- Sun., December 12 - Mass 7:30 a.m. / 10:00 a.m.
- Tues., December 14 - Adoration 7-8:00 a.m. / Mass 8:00 a.m.
- Tues., December 14 - Children's Choir Practice - 5:30 - 6:30
- Tues., December 14 - Knights of Columbus - Recitation of the Holy Rosary 6:40 p.m. in Church meeting in Parish Social Hall at 7:00 p.m.
- Tues., December 14 - G.I.R.L.'s Night Out - 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Social Hall.
- Wed., December 15 - Adoration 6-7 p.m. / Confessions 6:00-6:45 p.m. / Mass 7:00 p.m.
- Thurs., December 16 - RCIA - 6:30 p.m.
- Sat., December 18 - Confession 4-4:45 p.m. / Mass 5:00 p.m.
- Sun., December 19 - Mass 7:30 a.m. / 10:00 a.m.
- Tues., December 21 - Adoration 7-8:00 a.m. / Mass 8:00 a.m.
- Tues., December 21 - Children's Choir Practice - 5:30 - 6:30
- Wed., December 22 - Adoration 6-7 p.m. / Confessions 6:00-6:45 p.m. / Mass 7:00 p.m.
- Thurs., December 23 - RCIA - 6:30 p.m.
- Friday, December 24 - Christmas Eve Masses - 4:00 p.m. / 6:00 p.m. / Midnight Mass
- Saturday, December 25 - Christmas Day Mass - 9:00 a.m.
- Sat., December 25 - Confession 4-4:45 p.m. / Mass 5:00 p.m.
- Sun., December 26 - Mass 7:30 a.m. / 10:00 a.m.

### WEEKEND OF DECEMBER 11/12



**5:00** Larry Leitz  
**7:30** Mike Morrissey  
**10:00** Jay Crisp



**5:00** Stacey Coulardot  
**7:30** Sarah McCorkle  
**10:00** Patti Clark-Johnson



**5:00** Volunteers  
**7:30** Dale/Sarah McCorkle  
**10:00** Chris/Laurie Reifsteck Family & Todd/Anjie Hartman Family



**5:00** Alex/Audrey Mechling  
**7:30** Abby/Adrienne Wagner  
**10:00** Ellie Coyne, Gracie Haiflich, Gabby Hoffacker

### Trained Ministers Needed For

**Liturgies:**  
December 7 & 8  
Immaculate Conception Masses

December 24-  
Christmas Eve  
Masses

December 25  
Christmas Day  
Masses

Please see signup  
sheet in the narthex.

Thank you!

### St. Joseph Parish Finance Report November 27/28 Weekend

Adult Envelopes- \$4,991.00  
Child Envelopes- \$0  
Loose- \$249.00

Repair/Rainy Day Fund- \$500.40

Religious Ed. Fund- \$275.00

Farm Land Rent Donation-  
\$4,500.00

Hall Rent- \$100.00

Votive Memorial Candle Donation- \$25.00

General Donations- 560.00

**Total- \$11,200.40**

### Our weekly budget is \$5,116.40

Including the Online Giving from November of \$5,310.00, we ended \$10,342.75 ahead of our budget for the month of November.

St. Vincent de Paul Fund- \$275.00

St. Vincent de Paul Fund- November Online Giving- \$210.00

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

**osvonlinegiving.com/4741**

### ST. VINCENT DE PAUL FUND REPORT - November

Housing - \$380.00 / Utilities - \$749.87

Other Charitable Donation - \$1,000.00

**Total Charitable Donations - \$2,129.87**

*Thank you* for helping us help others!

"For it is in giving that we receive." - St. Francis of Assisi

## ADVENT PARISH MISSION

*Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday*

**December 20, 21 & 22 at 7:00 p.m.**

**Please see Fr. David's article for more information!**

### From Death To New Life

In your charity, please pray for the repose of the soul of Raymond "Bud" Helm, father of Tammi Helm, who passed away Wednesday, December 1, 2021.



May God welcome Raymond home, fill him with peace and bless those who will miss him.

Eternal Rest Grant unto him O Lord, and let Perpetual light shine upon him. May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in Peace. Amen.

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**Sam Haiflich, Parishioner**  
St. Aloysius Parish, Yoder, IN



GORDON & ASSOCIATES,  
P.C., Attorneys


Dan Gordon, Tony Crowell  
Michelle Adler, David Anthony,  
And Matt Hayes

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**Dan Gordon, Parishioner**  
**Matt Hayes, Parishioner at**  
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Before you speak...  
**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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