



ST. JOSEPH

CATHOLIC CHURCH

BLUFFTON, INDIANA

SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF JESUS CHRIST



1875

• CONSECRATED TO ST. JOSEPH, SENT TO PROCLAIM CHRIST

• 2025

THE HOUSE OF CHRISTMAS

G. K. Chesterton

Step softly, under snow or rain,
To find the place where men can pray;
The way is all so very plain
That we may lose the way.

Oh, we have learnt to peer and pore
On tortured puzzles from our youth,
We know all labyrinthine lore,
We are the three wise men of yore,
And we know all things but the truth.

We have gone round and round the hill
And lost the wood among the trees,
And learnt long names for every ill,
And served the mad gods, naming still
The furies the Eumenides.

The gods of violence took the veil
Of vision and philosophy,
The Serpent that brought all men bale,
He bites his own accursed tail,
And calls himself Eternity.

Go humbly... it has hailed and snowed...
With voices low and lanterns lit;
So very simple is the road,
That we may stray from it.

The world grows terrible and white,
And blinding white the breaking day;
We walk bewildered in the light,
For something is too large for sight,
And something much too plain to say.

The Child that was ere worlds begun
(...We need but walk a little way,
We need but see a latch undone...)
The Child that played with moon and sun
Is playing with a little hay.

The house from which the
 heavens are fed,
The old strange house that is our own,
Where trick of words are never said,
And Mercy is as plain as bread,
And Honour is as hard as stone.

Go humbly, humble are the skies,
And low and large and fierce the Star;
So very near the Manger lies
That we may travel far.

Hark! Laughter like a lion wakes
To roar to the resounding plain.
And the whole heaven shouts and shakes,
For God Himself is born again,
And we are little children walking
Through the snow and rain.

THE NATIVITY OF JESUS CHRIST - DECEMBER 25, 2025

Merry Christmas! Whether you are a lifelong parishioner or a visiting guest, we are so happy to celebrate the **Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ** with you! May our Lord fill your heart with the true joy of His peace as we rejoice together in the birth of the Savior. If this is your first time here at St. Joseph's or if you are recently returning, we would love to welcome you back every weekend, throughout the full **Christmas season** and beyond!

As it took us four long weeks of Advent to reach **Christmas Day**, may we not forget that our celebration has only just now begun! The joy of **Christmas** cannot be contained in a single day, but is instead, in the life of the Church, a season within itself. I encourage you, keep the tree up! Let the Christmas lights shine! Listen to Christmas music! **CHRIST IS BORN!** What more reason do we need to continue celebrating? **Rejoice, for the Savior is born!**

Our **Christmas celebrations** are made more *joyous* by your presence here! This year is perhaps even more special as we conclude our 150th Anniversary, marking not only a milestone in our parish history, but also a renewed call to welcome Christ into our parish, our families, and our hearts. Looking ahead to the months to come, this **Christmas** also finds us on the threshold of renewal.

With major renovations set to begin, we give thanks for the generations who have handed on the faith to us and entrust this next chapter of our parish to the Lord who is born anew among us. We prayerfully ask the Christ-child to guide our parish through this time of transition, that all we do may serve His glory and strengthen the faith of generations yet to come.

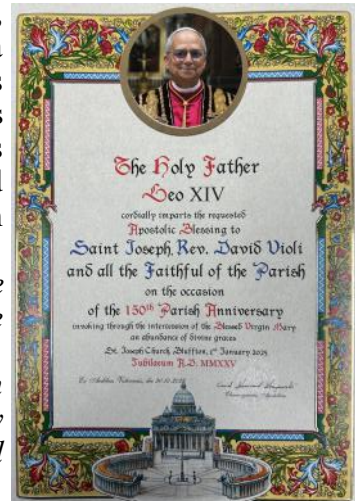
~Faithfully in Christ, Fr. David

A PAPAL BLESSING TO MARK OUR ANNIVERSARY YEAR

Shortly after arriving at St. Joseph's in 2018, I had the opportunity to travel to Rome for the diaconate ordination of now-Fr. Spenser St. Louis, a priest of our diocese. As a part of that trip, I passed through St. Anne's Gate into the Vatican City State and found the Vatican's Office of Papal Charities. Through this office, the Faithful can request a papal blessing from the Pope for major events in one's life or in the life of the Church.

At that time, I requested a special blessing for our parish by the late-Holy Father, Pope Francis I. During my travels this year, I once again traced this same path and requested a papal blessing from Pope Leo XIV this Christmas in honor of our parish's 150th Anniversary. This Papal Blessing to end our anniversary year marks the culmination of our anniversary celebrations and serves as a tangible sign of our communion with the Holy Father and the universal Church.

The Papal Blessing (*right*) reads as follows: *The Holy Father, Leo XIV, cordially imparts the requested Apostolic Blessing to St. Joseph, Rev. David Violi, and all the Faithful of the Parish on the occasion of the 150th Parish Anniversary invoking through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary an abundance of divine graces.*



I would like to say thank you
to the Adult Choir, Children's
Choir, Cantors and Musicians for
all the hard work you have done in
preparation for our Lord's Nativity.
May Jesus bless you
with His peace.
Teresa

With humble gratitude to everyone
who sent a card or Christmas gift:
Thank you!

To my Parish Family, may God
bless you and your family
abundantly in the coming New year.
Know of my continued prayers for
you and your family.
Michelle

"What Christmas Means To Me..."

The Second Grade Religious Education Class...

- * The family gets to come together and they get to have fun.
- * It is Jesus' birthday.
- * We are celebrating the Savior's birthday.
- * Gather with my family to celebrate.
- * God, Jesus, and Family
- * I think of my uncle and my cousins and we get together at a hotel and we play games.

Christmas to me is celebrating the birth of Jesus with my family. We can enjoy being together and being grateful for what we have. It reminds me of what really matters.

By Macy McNabb, Grade 8

To me, Christmas means spending time with my family and remember that God loves us. I like how everything feels more peaceful and everyone tries to be a little kinder. Decorating the tree and talking about Jesus' birth helps me feel closer to God and the people I care about.

By Zoe Draper, Grade 6

The First Grade Religious Education Class...

It means decorating Christmas cookies with my family. We spend time together. We get to open gifts. We also get to buy gifts for others. We do things like decorate for Christmas and watch the tree lighting. We eat Christmas ham and prime rib at Christmas Eve dinner. It means spending time with Grandmas and Grandpas, other family, and playing board

Christmas is the best time of the year!

My favorite part is gathering with family and friends to celebrate Jesus birthday. To me, Christmas means loving Jesus and showing kindness to others. And of course, Christmas cookies!

By Lincoln Fosnaugh, Grade 4

Glory to the newborn King!



Christmas is a time to reflect on our past year with the Lord and what we want next year to look like. Christmas is about family and remembering the life of Jesus. It means remembering no love will ever be greater and he came in the humblest way possible. Christmas is a time to think about what we can give Jesus. Christmas in a way can be about the gifts but only if it is what you can give to the Lord. He has given us the best gift imaginable of forgiving our sins and the option of heaven. We can never repay that, but we can start to try. For me Christmas is reflecting on how I can do better by the Lord and how I can make him more proud of me. Christmas is a time to rejoice and be thankful for the sacrifice of God and be grateful for the people

He has placed into our lives and the blessings He has given us. Christmas is when I get to go to Midnight Mass and repeat my favorite tradition with the Lord. Christmas to me is a time I get to look back at all the blessings God has given me through this year that I didn't realize in the moment. By Ellie Coyne, Grade 11

Mariachi LOCO
MEXICAN GRILL

1595 HARRISON PLZ
BLUFFTON, IN 46714
PHONE: 260-827-0616
FAX: 260-827-0625

facebook

Francisco Sanchez and Family, Parishioners

READ CRAFTS WITH LOVE
THE CRAFTY OLE HENS

Tumblers. Wreaths. Florals. More.
122 Lamar St. Bluffton, IN
260-402-6574
Like Us On Facebook: The Crafty Ole Hens

STRONGER TOGETHER
HELPING HANDS
PREGNANCY • FAMILY • COMMUNITY

116 E. Dustman Rd., Bluffton-260.824.4263

Open Monday through
Thursday 9am-5pm
Serving All Surrounding Areas

ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH
SJ
EST. 1875

DUNWIDDIE
Heating, Air Conditioning & Plumbing, Inc.
702 W. Washington St. CHICAGO Bluffton, IN
(260) 824-1999

- HEATING & COOLING (Service All Brands)
- PLUMBING • RADIANT FLOOR HEAT

Free Estimates • Insured • License No. - CP 89100065

ARMSTRONG AIR The Professional's Choice

RIGHT TO LIFE
OF NORTHWEST INDIANA

MARCH FOR LIFE
Parkview Field
January 31st, 2026
www.ichooselife.org/march

Keep your smile bright!

HOTT
FAMILY DENTISTRY

Dr. Bartholomew L. Hott
706 N. Main St, Bluffton, IN 46714

P: 260-824-2442 F: 260-824-8101
hottfamilydenistry.com

Dan Gordon, Tony Crowell, Michelle Adler,
Matt Hayes & Brigitte Washburn
TEL 260.824-9377
gordonlegal.net
Dan Gordon, Parishioner
Matt Hayes, Parishioner, St. Vincent de Paul

GORDON ADLER HAYES WASHBURN PC

GOODWIN - CALE & HARNISH
MEMORIAL CHAPEL

3320 East State Road 124
Bluffton, IN 46714

260-824-3852

Douglas L. Cale / Mitch Harnish

El Camino Real
Authentic Mexican Food

2185 Commerce Dr.
Bluffton, IN 46714
(260) 565-3300

Juan & Rosa Ortiz, Family, Parishioners

RON BANTER

PLASTERING & STUCCO

CELL 260-820-0137
HOME 765-728-5234
OVER 30 YRS. EXPERIENCE

FREE ESTIMATES
plasterer85@yahoo.com

Thursday's: 3pm-8pm
Friday's: 3pm-8pm
Saturday's: Noon-8pm
See us on Facebook & Instagram!

dash90 WINES

dash90wines.com **The Herr Family**
Parishioners

Preach the Gospel
at all times and
when necessary
use words.
St. Francis of Assisi

EXPERIENCE **audiology**

"Hear what you've been missing."
Dr. Jennifer L. Wagner, Au.D. (260) 706-2558
www.ExperienceAudiology.com

NOTRE DAME
FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

Thomas Obergfell
Fort Wayne Market President
(260-715-1747
TObergfell@NotreDameFCU.com
800/522/6611 * NotreDameFCU.com

FAIRWAY FLOOR COVERING
Residential and Commercial
1503 W. Lancaster St., Bluffton

Charles Thompson
260-824-3049
Open- Monday - Friday, 8a-5p

Kris Thompson, Parishioner- 260-820-2333
Kent Thompson- 260-307-6584
Bekkee Thompson- 260-273-6354

Thoma/Rich, Lemler
Funeral Home

Proud to be Family Owned & Operated
Building Upon the Thoma Tradition for Over 170 Years!
260-824-3850 • www.thomarich.com

Place your ad here

Contact the
the Parish
Office at
(260) 824-1380

Knights of Columbus
Father Aloysius Phillips, Council 7555

KOFC BECOME A KNIGHT
IN SERVICE TO ONE. IN SERVICE TO ALL.

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

"Saint 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. John Paul II