

St. Joseph Catholic Church

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

“ADVENT
IS A TIME
TO PREPARE
NOT ONLY FOR THE
JOY OF CHRISTMAS,
BUT ALSO
FOR THE
SUFFERING
OF THE
CROSS,
WHERE OUR
SALVATION
IS COMPLETED.”

ST. THOMAS MORE
16TH CENTURY ENGLISH MARTYR



Pastor: Fr. David Violi

Fr. David's 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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT - DECEMBER 22, 2024

A special "Welcome Home!" to all our university students on their winter break and all military personnel on leave with us this coming Christmastide.

This weekend (December 21st/22nd), the Church celebrates the **Fourth Sunday of Advent**. Our readings mark a switch in focus from St. John the Baptist to the events immediately leading up to the birth of Jesus Christ. With today's Gospel, we join the Blessed Mother and St. Elizabeth in the joyous and expectant excitement that arises from the coming of Jesus. With them, we already rejoice to welcome our Savior before we see even Him directly.

As these last few days of Advent quickly pass us by, may we prepare to warmly welcome all those who will be joining us for the coming holy days. If you know of any who have been away from the practice of the Faith or even just Church itself, please reach out to them and personally invite them to join in our Christmas celebrations. May they find in us such joy that they will be drawn irresistibly to come back and be with us each Sunday!

BOOK STUDY - GREAT CATHOLIC THINKERS

In September, we began a walk-through of *The Divine Comedy* by Dante Alighieri. Over several sessions, we worked our way through the entirety of *The Inferno*, which was no small task. Moving into the winter months, we will be offering a new opportunity for a parish "book" study. Instead of diving into a single work, we will instead turn our focus on a number of short stories and poems from various Catholic authors throughout history.

This approach will allow us to explore a truly rich tapestry of themes, from the struggles of Faith and the nature of grace to the exploration of human virtue and sin. There is truly an enormous treasure-trove of literature available to us that can offer unique perspectives and provide enriching experiences for all participating in these sessions, whether they are well-versed in Catholic literature or just beginning to explore it.

Our first session will be on **Monday, January 13th, at 6:30 PM in the Parish Conference Room**. Each session will include time for discussion and reflection on how the story of the day speaks to our modern lives. I encourage and invite you to join us for this enriching journey through Catholic literature as we discover how these timeless works continue to inspire and shape our understanding of the world and our relationship with God.

Please see the sign-up sheet in the Narthex to receive more information about this upcoming opportunity.

ADVENT BABY SHOWER

Thank you for supporting our **Advent Baby Shower** to benefit one of our local pregnancy and family resource centers, *Helping Hands*, and the families they serve. Donations can be placed in the playpen in the Narthex throughout the end of this weekend. In the words of Pope St. Leo the Great: "*Let us prepare for Christ's coming and make ourselves ready to welcome Him by giving to those in need, that we may reflect His light in the world.*"

CHRISTMAS AT THE DIOCESAN MUSEUM

One of the hidden gems of our diocese is the **Diocesan Museum** alongside the *Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception* in Fort Wayne. If you're looking for something fun to do throughout this Christmastide, I encourage you to go and visit the museum. Throughout Christmastide, the museum has a display of over 130 Nativity Scenes from all throughout the world.

Admittance to the Museum is free. It is located in Fort Wayne, next to the Cathedral on *1103 S. Calhoun Street*. It is open Tuesdays thru Saturdays from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Free parking is available in the Cathedral Parking Lot. During my summers as a seminarian, I had the great opportunity to assist in the upkeep of the **Diocesan Museum**. It contains a great wealth of knowledge about our Catholic history in the area. I hope you have a chance to visit!

Saturday, December 21

8:00 a.m. Special Intention
8:30-9:00 a.m. Confession
4:00-4:45 p.m. Confession
4:35 p.m. Rosary
5:00 p.m. Parish Family

Sunday, December 22

7:10 a.m. Rosary
7:30 a.m. Greg Mayer +
9:40 a.m. Rosary
10:00 a.m. Rose Marie & Robert Bates +

Monday, December 23

No public Mass

Tuesday, December 24

7:00-8:00 a.m. Adoration
8:00 a.m. Barney Hickert +
8:30 a.m. Confession

Tuesday, December 24

Christmas Eve Masses

4:00 p.m. Robert & Mary Haecker/Trent Patterson +
5:30 p.m. Christmas Carol Sing-A-Long
6:00 p.m. Parish Family
12:00 a.m. (Midnight) Ed Bushee +

Wednesday, December 25

Christmas Day Mass

9:00 a.m. Emily Butler +

Thursday, December 26

8:00 a.m. Vickie Kidwell

Friday, December 27

8:30 a.m. Beatrice Hickert +

Saturday, December 28

8:00 a.m. Special Intention
8:30-9:00 a.m. Confession
4:00-4:45 p.m. Confession
4:35 p.m. Rosary
5:00 p.m. Ann Schnerre +

Sunday, December 29

7:10 a.m. Rosary
7:30 a.m. Geoff Frank +
9:40 a.m. Rosary
10:00 a.m. Parish Family

MASS READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Mon., Dec. 23 - Fourth Week of Advent - St. John of Kanty, Priest - Mal 3:1-4, 23-24 / Ps 25:4-5b, 8-10, 14 / Lk 1:57-66

Tues., Dec. 24 - Advent Weekday - 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16 / Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29 / Lk 1:67-79.

Tues., Dec. 24 - Vigil of the Nativity of the Lord - 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

Wed., Dec. 25 - The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) - (Night) Is 9:1-6 / Ps 96:1-3, 11-13 / 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 98:1-6 / Heb 1:1-6 / Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

Thurs., Dec. 26 - St. Stephen, The First Martyr - Acts 6:8-10, 7:54-59 / Ps 31:3c-4, 6, 8a, 16b-17 / Mt 10:17-22

Fri., Dec. 27 - St. John, Apostle, Evangelist - Jn 1:1-4 / Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12 / Jn 20:1a, 2-8

Sat., Dec. 28 - The Holy Innocents, Martyrs - 1 Jn 1:5—2:2 / Ps 124:2-5, 7b-8 / Mt 2:13-18

Sun., Dec. 29 - The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph - Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 / Ps 128:1-5 / Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 / Lk 2:41-52



**PARISH OFFICE HOURS
DURING CHRISTMAS BREAK**

Mon., Dec. 23rd - Open 9am to 4pm

Tues., Dec. 24th - Open 9am to Noon

Wed., Dec. 25th to Fri., Dec. 27th - Closed

Mon., Dec. 30th - Open 9am to 4pm

Tues., Dec. 31st to Wed., Jan. 1st - Closed

Thurs., Jan. 2nd / Fri., Jan. 3rd - Open 9am to 4pm

**For Pastoral Emergencies
outside of office hours,
please call - (260)-296-0511**

PARISH CALENDAR

- **Sat., Dec. 21** - Confession 4-4:45 p.m. / Mass 5:00 p.m.
- **Sun., Dec. 22** - Mass 7:30 a.m. / 10:00 a.m.
- **Sun., Dec. 22** - **No Religious Education Class- Christmas Break.**
- **Mon., Dec. 23** - Children's Choir Practice- 5:30 p.m.
- **Tues., Dec. 24** - Adoration 7-8:00 a.m. / Mass 8:00 a.m. / Confession 8:30 a.m.
- **Tues., Dec. 24** - **Vigil of the Nativity of the Lord - Christmas Eve Masses - 4:00 p.m. / 5:30 p.m. Christmas Carol Sing-a-Long / 6:00 p.m. / Midnight.**
- **Wed., Dec. 25** - **The Nativity of the Lord - Christmas Morning Mass - 9:00 a.m. followed by brunch in the Parish Social Hall. All are Welcome!**
- **Thurs., Dec. 26** - Mass 8:00 a.m.
- **Thurs., Dec. 26** - Parish Office Closed Today
- **Thurs., Dec. 26** - Christmas Octave - *No Catholicism Explained.*
- **Fri., Dec. 27** - Mass 8:30 a.m.
- **Fri., Dec. 27** - Parish Office Closed Today
- **Sat., Dec. 28** - Mass 8:00 a.m. / Confession 8:30
- **Sat., Dec. 28** - Confession 4-4:45 p.m. / Mass 5:00 p.m.
- **Sun., Dec. 29** - Mass 7:30 a.m. / 10:00 a.m.
- **Sun., Dec. 29** - **No Religious Education Class- Christmas Break**
- **Tues., Dec. 31** - Adoration 7-8:00 a.m. / Mass 8:00 a.m. / Confessions 8:30 a.m.
- **Tues., Dec. 31** - **Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God Vigil Mass - 5:00 p.m.**
- **Wed., Jan. 1** - **Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God (A Holy Day of Obligation) - Masses at 7:30 a.m. / 10:00 a.m.**
- **Thurs., Jan. 2** - Mass 8:00 a.m.
- **Thurs., Jan. 2** - *Catholicism Explained* - 6:30 p.m. in the Parish Conference Room.
- **Fri., Jan. 3** - Mass 8:30 a.m.
- **Sat., Jan. 4** - Mass 8:00 a.m. / Confession 8:30
- **Sat., Jan. 4** - Confession 4-4:45 p.m. / Mass 5:00 p.m.
- **Sun., Jan. 5** - Mass 7:30 a.m. / 10:00 a.m.
- **Sun., Jan. 5** - Religious Education Class - 8:30-9:45 a.m.

Weekend of December 28th & 29th



5:00 Teresa Smith
7:30 David Smith
10:00 Jay Crisp



5:00 Dan Geimer
7:30 Sarah McCorkle
10:00 Ellie Coyne



5:00 Volunteer
7:30 Dale McCorkle
10:00 Jacque Johnson, Kevin Seago, Volunteer



5:00 Alex/Audrey Mechling, Volunteer
7:30 Charlene/Anna Lynn Felger, Annie Herr
10:00 Grant Reifsteck, Charlie Andrews, Volunteer

**St. Joseph Parish Finance Report
for the Weekend of
December 14th & 15th**

Adult Envelopes- \$4,786.00
Loose- \$182.00

Repair/Rainy Day Fund-
\$206.67

Immaculate Conception- \$83.00

Christmas Flower Donation-
\$65.00

Christmas Offering- \$60.00

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of
God- \$10.00

General Bequest- \$4,389.00

Easter Offering- \$50.00

Total- \$9,831.67

Our weekly budget is \$5,116.40

We are \$6,991.67 ahead of our
budget for the month of
December.

St. Vincent de Paul Fund-
\$3,248.00

*Your gifts to St. Joseph Parish
are greatly appreciated.
Thank you!*

To set up Online Giving through Our Sunday Visitor, please visit:
<https://www.osvhub.com/stjosephchurchbluffton/giving/funds>



We are always searching for those
who would love to help "Minister"
at Mass, including Lectors,
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy
Communion, and Servers

If you are a trained Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion and would like to be added to the parish ministry schedule, please notify the Parish Office by email at stjosephchurch@adamswells.com. Please include in the email which Mass you normally attend.

For those who would like to be trained to help Minister at Mass as a Lector, Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion or Server, please notify the Parish Office of your interest and training will be scheduled.

Do you love to sing? Contact Teresa at teresasmith2000@yahoo.com to learn more about becoming a Cantor or join the Choir.

FORMED.ORG - Our Parish Code: 7N68MY



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 Francisco Sanchez, Parishioner




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 Matt Hayes, and Brigitte Washburn
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 Dan Gordon, Parishioner
 Matt Hayes, Parishioner
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 105 N Jefferson Street, Ossian, IN 46777
 Office: 260-622-1000



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



dash90wines.com

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

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



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



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