

St. Joseph Catholic Church

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

Advent



Dear lord, please allow me to embrace Advent in the way the Church intends: as a way to prepare for Your arrival. May everything I do—every gift I send, every party I attend, every meal I share—remind me to prepare space in my heart for You. Amen.

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

Saturday, December 2

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. Sophie Wormcastle +

Sunday, December 3

First Sunday of Advent

7:10 a.m. *Rosary*
7:30 a.m. Parish Family
9:40 a.m. *Rosary*
10:00 a.m. Emily Butler +

Monday, December 4

No Public Mass

Tuesday, December 5

7:00-8:00 a.m. Adoration
8:00 a.m. David Thiem +
8:30 a.m. *Confession*

Wednesday, December 6

6:00-7:00 p.m. Adoration
6:00-6:45 p.m. *Confession*
7:00 p.m. Darwin William Robinson +

Thursday, December 7

8:00 a.m. Cole/Wyss Family
Immaculate Conception— Vigil Mass
7:00 p.m. Sue Meyer +

Friday, December 8

Immaculate Conception

7:00 a.m. Parish Family
Noon Marvin Gorski +
7:00 p.m. Patricia Pfeifer +

Saturday, December 9

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. Carolyn Butler +

Sunday, December 3

First Sunday of Advent

7:10 a.m. *Rosary*
7:30 a.m. Parish Family
9:40 a.m. *Rosary*
10:00 a.m. Gonzalo Riveros +

MASS READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Mon., December 4 - Advent Weekday -
St. John Damascene, Priest and Doctor of
the Church - Is 2:1-5/ Mt 8:5-11

Tues., December 5 - Advent Weekday - Is
11:1-10/ Lk 10:21-24

Wed., December 6 - Advent Weekday -
St. Nicholas, Bishop - Is 25:6-10a/ Mt
15:29-37

Thurs., December 7 - St. Ambrose, Bish-
op and Doctor of the Church - Is 26:1-6/
Mt 7:21,24-27

Fri., 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

Sat., December 9 - Advent Weekday - St.
Juan Diego Cuauhtlatotzin - Is 30:19-
21,23-26/ Mt 9:35—10:1,5a,6-8

Sun., December 10 - Second Sunday of
Advent - Is 40:1-5,9-11/ 2 Pt 3:8-14/ Mk
1:1-8

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT - DECEMBER 3, 2023

This Friday, December 8th, the Church celebrates the **Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception**, a **holy day of obligation**. The Blessed Virgin, under this title, is the patroness of both our diocese and our country, giving us even greater reason to celebrate this solemnity. The best way to crown our celebration is by joining together in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. To help fulfill our obligation to assist at Mass on this holy day, our Masses for the Immaculate Conception are offered as follows:

Thursday, Dec. 7th - Vigil Mass - 7:00 PM

Friday, Dec. 8th - Mass - 7:00 AM, Noon, 7:00 PM

This weekend (December 2nd/3rd), the Church starts a new liturgical year of God's grace as we enter into the **First Sunday of Advent**. Having walked through the Gospel of St. Matthew this past year, we will now begin anew our walk with the Lord through the Gospel of St. Mark. This Gospel was written to a primarily Gentile audience, demonstrated by their unfamiliarity with Jewish customs (cf. Mark 7:3-4, 11), sometime shortly before the destruction of the Temple in A.D. 70.

Given the brevity of the Gospel of St. Mark, being the shortest of the three synoptic Gospels, we will also have an opportunity to hear from the Gospel of St. John (*normally proclaimed throughout the **Easter Season***) right in the middle of this liturgical year. Quite beautifully, this jaunt into the Gospel of St. John takes us through the Bread of Life Discourse and our Lord's clear teaching on the gift of the Eucharist. How appropriate that our entire three-year lectionary cycle keeps us centered on the Eucharist.

Advent, though a brief season, is one of great importance. As the world and our culture has already embraced the secular "holiday season," we recognize in **Advent** that **Christmas** is not yet here. We are only now beginning our preparations, not simply for a holiday, but for the holy day that welcomes the birth of our Savior. May we not lose sight of this important **season of Advent** in our desire to welcome **Christmas Day**.

The prayer on our bulletin cover, taken from the *Hallow.com* App's "*Complete Guide to the Season of Advent*," offers a simple way to invite God's calming presence in our lives amid the many distractions of the season. We can see these good things as foretaste for the true joy that awaits, both on Christmas Day and on the last day when we are face to face with the Lord Himself. For this is the true purpose of both the **Advent season** and the entire liturgical year: **To prepare us for Christ**.

Liturgically, we welcome this preparation by embracing several seasonal "penitential" practices. First, we deprive ourselves of the *Gloria*, which is a hymn of praise. Like the Blessed Mother, we are called to hold these words in our hearts and ponder them (Luke 2:19) throughout **Advent** until **Christmas Day**. We do see a brief reprieve from this practice, however, on the upcoming holy day. As it is a solemnity, we once again sing out the *Gloria* on that day as a brief glimpse reminding us of what we are preparing for.

Second, our normal candlesticks and bleached candles are replaced by wooden candlesticks and unbleached candles. These adornments in the sanctuary help us to recognize the simplicity and penitential nature of the season. Lastly, the vestments, chalice veil, and adornments of the sanctuary are violet. This liturgical color is meant to symbolize the penance, sacrifice, and preparation we undertake during this season.

These various elements of preparation remind us that we are preparing for something. **Advent** prepares us for **Christmas**. Our life is meant to prepare us for Christ. **Christmas** is not just a day, but an entire season. In the same way, life with Christ is not simply a moment, but an eternity. We are made for heaven. And, this liturgical year is made to help us get there. Let us use everyday of it as a chance to grow closer and closer to Christ. ~In Christ, Fr. David

Becky Biberstein, Michael Green, Frances Carr, Tom Richhart, Troy Cook, Bobbie Jackson, Bonnie Burns, John Houlihan, Kimberly Abney, Sydnee Bradburn, Leanne Lee, Dr. Doug Phillips, Jeff Tillman, Margaret Pogue, and Richard Payne.





REMINDER!

Help bake *Christmas cookies* in the Parish Social Hall Kitchen on Monday, December 4th at 4:30 p.m. for Grace & Mercy's Annual Cookie Walk. We are also planning to go out for dinner afterwards. Everyone is welcome!

Learn to pray the Liturgy of the Hours
Monday, Dec. 4th
6:30 p.m.

Parish Conference Room



Karing for Kids Blessing Tree

All gifts for the Blessing Tree need to be returned by Monday, December 4th. Please make sure the gifts are not wrapped and the Angel tag is attached. Thank you.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Monthly Meeting - Tuesday, December 5, 2023
Recitation of the Rosary at 6:40pm in the Church
Meeting in the Parish Social Hall at 7:00 p.m.



First Wednesday Praise & Worship Holy Hour

Wednesday, December 6

6:00 - 7:00 p.m.

"Sing to the LORD, praise his name." (Ps. 96:2)

PARISH CALENDAR

- **Sat., Dec. 2** - Confession 4-4:45 p.m. / Mass 5:00 p.m.
- **Sun., Dec. 2** - Mass 7:30 a.m. / Mass 10:00 a.m.
- **Sun., Dec. 3** - Religious Education Classes - 8:30-9:45 a.m.
- **Mon., Dec. 4** - Bake cookies for Grace & Mercy Annual Cookie Walk- Parish Social Hall Kitchen - 4:30 p.m.
- **Mon., Dec. 4** - Learn how (and why) to Pray the *Litany of the Hours* with Fr. David - 6:30 p.m. in the Parish Conference Room.
- **Tues., Dec. 5** - Adoration 7-8:00 a.m. / Mass 8:00 a.m. / Confessions 8:30 a.m.
- **Tues., Dec. 5** - Knights of Columbus Meeting - Recitation of the Holy Rosary at 6:40 p.m. in the Church, and meeting in the Parish Social Hall at 7:00 p.m.
- **Wed., Dec. 6** - Praise & Worship Adoration 6-7:00 p.m. / Confession 6-6:45 p.m. / Mass 7:00 p.m.
- **Wed., Dec. 6** - Choir Practice - 7:30 p.m.
- **Thurs., Dec. 7** - Mass 8:00 a.m.
- **Thurs., Dec. 7** - *Immaculate Conception Vigil Mass* - 7:00 p.m.
- **Fri., Dec. 8** - *Immaculate Conception* - A Holy Day of Obligation - Masses 7:00 a.m. / Noon / and 7:00 p.m.
- **Sat., Dec. 9** - Mass 8:00 a.m. / Confession 8:30 a.m.
- **Sat., Dec. 9** - Confession 4-4:45 p.m. / Mass 5:00 p.m.
- **Sun., Dec. 10** - Mass 7:30 a.m. / Mass 10:00 a.m.
- **Sun., Dec. 10** - Religious Education Classes - 8:30-9:45 a.m.
- **Tues., Dec. 12** - Adoration 7-8:00 a.m. / Mass 8:00 a.m. / Confessions 8:30 a.m.
- **Tues., Dec. 12** - GIRL's Night Out Christmas Party at the home of Nancy Leitz - 6:30 p.m. Bring an appetizer!

Weekend of December 9/10



5:00 Jay Crisp
7:30 Mike Morrissey
10:00 Marita Crawfis



5:00 Stacey Coulardot
7:30 Steve Wagner
10:00 Patti Clark-Johnson



5:00 Need 1 trained Minister
7:30 Jill Morrissey
10:00 Dan Geimer, Rick Singer, Kevin Seago



5:00 Alex or Audrey Mechling, Isaiah/Melanie Bedwell
7:30 Abby/Adrienne Wagner, Charlene Felger
10:00 Grant Reifsteck, Ellie Coyne, Gabby and Olivia Hoffacker

St. Joseph Parish Finance Report for the Weekend of Nov. 25/26

Adult Envelopes- \$2,781.00
Loose- \$203.25

Repair/Rainy Day Fund-\$369.07
Votive Candles- \$149.10

Donation- \$4,500.00
NDFCU donation- \$542.67

Total- \$8,545.09

Our weekly budget is \$5,116.40

We are **\$3,898.88** ahead of our budget for the month of November.

St. Vincent de Paul Fund- \$42.00

*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>

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception Holy Day of Obligation

December 7—Vigil Mass at 7:00 PM
December 8— Mass at 7:00 AM
Noon and 7:00 PM



Wish List

THE CLOSET

PLEASE SUPPORT FAMILY CENTERED
SERVICES MINISTRY THE CLOSET

Examples:

Kid's Gloves
(Infant-Youth)

Boy's Winter
Coat (12m-3t)

Diapers (Size
NB, 1,2, 3, 5, 6)

DONATIONS CAN BE PLACED IN THE NARTHEX

FIND THE FULL WISHLIST AND VOLUNTEER
OPPORTUNITIES BY SCANNING THE QR CODE



ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE

Wednesday, December 20th
6:00-7:00 PM

Several Priests will be available
to hear your confession.
Mass will follow at 7:00 PM

Mariachi LOCO
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1595 HARRISON PLZ
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P.C., Attorneys

Dan Gordon, Tony Crowell
Michelle Adler, Matt Hayes, and
Brigitte Washburn
260-824-9377
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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Thursday's: 3pm-8pm
Friday's: 3pm-8pm
Saturday's: Noon-8pm

See us on Facebook &
Instagram!

The Herr Family
Parishioners

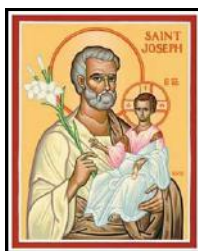
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Fort Wayne: 7617 W Jefferson Blvd., Suite F
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Call us for your next event!

Ginny 260-402-1834
Michelle 260-307-6191
Parishioners