



# ST. JOSEPH

## CATHOLIC CHURCH

BLUFFTON, INDIANA

### FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

#### CONTACT US

ADDRESS: 1300 NORTH MAIN STREET  
BLUFFTON, IN 46714

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EMAIL: STJOSEPHCHURCH@ADAMSWELLS.COM

WEBSITE: STJOSEPHCHURCHBLUFFTON.ORG

OFFICE HOURS: MON - FRI, 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

EMERGENCY PHONE: (260) 296-0511

#### MASS SCHEDULE

SATURDAY VIGIL: 5 PM

SUNDAY: 7:30 AM & 10 AM

DAILY MASS: (CHRISTMAS WEEK)

TUESDAY, SATURDAY: 8 AM

FRIDAY: 8:30 AM

#### CONFESIONS:

TUESDAY: 8:30-9 AM

SATURDAY: 8:30-9 AM & 4-4:45 PM

#### CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE:

CHRISTMAS EVE: 4 PM & 6 PM

CHRISTMAS CAROL SING-A-LONG: 5:30 PM

CHRISTMAS DAY: MIDNIGHT & 9 AM

#### ADORATION:

TUESDAY: 7-8 AM

#### STAFF

PASTOR: FR. DAVID VIOLI

EMAIL: FRDAVIDVIOLI@GMAIL.COM

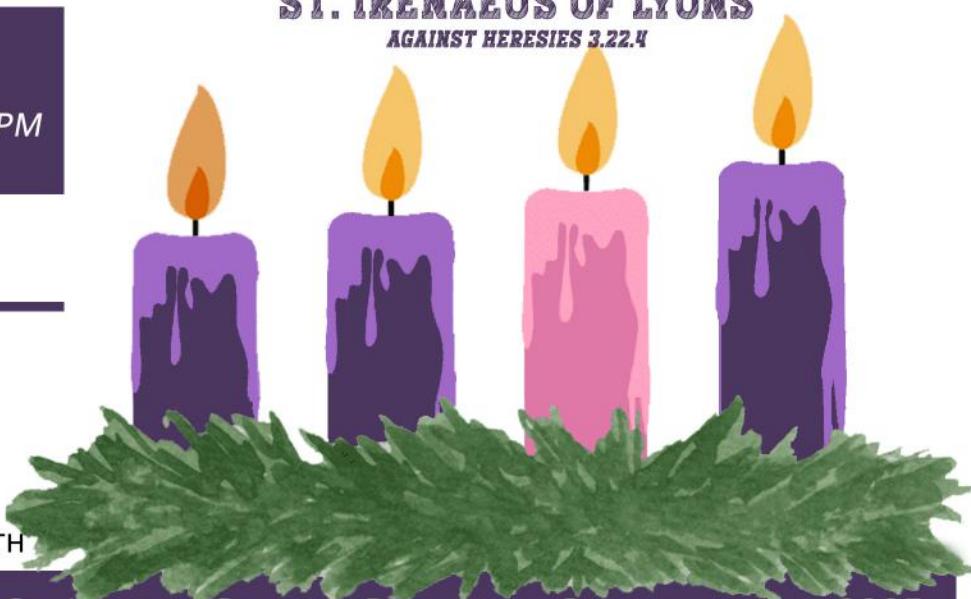
ADMIN. ASST. / DRE: MICHELLE PAXTON

DIRECTOR OF SACRED MUSIC: TERESA SMITH

**“THE KNOT OF EVE’S  
DISOBEDIENCE WAS  
LOOSED BY THE  
OBEDIENCE OF MARY.  
WHAT THE VIRGIN EVE  
BOUNDED BY UNBELIEF,  
THE VIRGIN MARY  
UNBOUND BY FAITH.”**

**ST. IRENAEUS OF LYONS**

*AGAINST HERESIES 3.22.4*



## Saturday, December 20

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

4:35 p.m. *Rosary*

5:00 p.m. Delfin Rios +

## Sunday, December 21

7:10 a.m. *Rosary*

7:30 a.m. Chris Hartman

9:40 a.m. *Rosary*

10:00 a.m. Our Parish Family

## Monday, December 22

*No Public Mass*

## Tuesday, December 23

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

8:00 a.m. Greg Mayer +

8:30-9:00 a.m. *Confession*

## Wednesday, December 24

8:00 a.m. Poor Souls in Purgatory

## Christmas Eve Masses

**4:00 p.m.** Bob & Mary Haecker  
Family and Trent Patterson +

**6:00 p.m.** Our Parish Family

## Thursday, December 25

**Midnight Mass** Bob Bushee +

**Christmas Day Mass**

**9:00 a.m.** Ron Smith +

## Friday, December 26

8:30 a.m. Emily Butler +

## Saturday, December 27

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. Norbert Huseman +

## Sunday, December 28

7:10 a.m. *Rosary*

7:30 a.m. Our Parish Family

9:40 a.m. *Rosary*

10:00 a.m. Rose Marie & Robert  
Bates +

## MASS READINGS FOR THE WEEK

**Mon., Dec. 22 - Advent Weekday [4]** - 1 Sm 1:24-28 (Ps) 1 Sm 2:1, 4-8d / Lk 1:46-56

**Tues., Dec. 23 - Advent Weekday [4] - St. John of Kenty, Priest** - Mal 3:1-4, 23-24 / Ps 25:4-5b, 8-10, 14 / Lk 1:57-66

**Wed., Dec. 24 - Advent Weekday [4]** - 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16 / Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29 / Lk 1:67-79

**Wed., 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

**Thurs., 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 - **(Day)** Is 52:7-10 / Ps 98:1-6 / Heb 1:1-6 / Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

**Fri., Dec. 26 - St. Stephen, The First Martyr** - Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59 / Ps 31:3cd-4, 6, 8ab, 16bc-17 / Mt 10:17-22

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

**Sun., Dec. 28 - 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 / Mt 2:13-15, 19-23

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT - DECEMBER 21, 2025

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

This weekend (Dec. 20<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup>), the Church celebrates the **Fourth Sunday of Advent**. As we enter the final days that lead us to **Christmas**, we count down the remaining hours until we celebrate the birth of the **MESSIAH**. In these last days, the Church invites us to step back from the noise of the world and seek out that quiet in our hearts, just as Israel once went into the wilderness to hear the voice of John, so that we may prepare more faithfully and joyfully to welcome our **REDEEMER** on **Christmas Day**.

This quiet of the heart can be found in simple practices, such as lighting the candles of our **Advent** wreath, praying together as a family, or contemplating the Nativity scene. In each of these moments, we are preparing our hearts to welcome the **CHRIST-CHILD**. Reducing distractions and practicing small acts of charity create space for grace. When our homes become places of prayer and love, they truly become a dwelling place for the **NEWBORN KING**.

## CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Each Christmas Mass reveals a different facet of the same great mystery. On Christmas Eve, the Church turns our eyes to the long waiting of Israel, showing us that the Child in the manger was promised from the beginning. At Midnight, heaven breaks its silence as the angels proclaim His birth. And, on Christmas Day, St. John lifts the veil and shows us who the Child truly is: the eternal Word made flesh, Emmanuel, God with us.

Similarly, each of our Masses offer a unique element. On **Christmas Eve (Wednesday, Dec. 24<sup>th</sup>)**, **Mass will be offered at 4 PM and 6 PM**. The 4 PM Mass will include the blessing of our Nativity scene in the Church and music will be led by our Children's Choir. The 6 PM Mass will have music led by our Adult Choir, in addition to a prelude of **Christmas Music and Carols at 5:30 PM (prior to Mass)** to raise our hearts in preparation for Mass.

On **Christmas Day (Thursday, Dec. 25<sup>th</sup>)**, **Mass will be offered at both Midnight and 9 AM**. The Midnight Mass (which is at midnight!) will be offered solely by candlelight and Christmas lights. The 9 AM Mass will have a **Christmas Brunch** offered afterwards in the Parish Social Hall. If you are planning to attend our annual **Christmas Day Brunch**, please see the sign-up sheet in the Narthex this weekend.

As always, we are preparing to welcome many guests this Christmas season. Thank you ahead of time for your warm and welcoming embrace for those joining us. If you know of someone with nowhere to go, please invite them to join us in prayer for our Christmas celebrations. There are additional postcards with our Christmas Mass Times in the Narthex for you to take and share. An invitation to Mass could be the greatest Christmas gift one may ever receive.

## KARING FOR KIDS BLESSING TREE AND ADVENT BABY SHOWER

Thank you for your support of both the **Karing for Kids Blessing Tree** and our **Advent Baby Shower** for **Helping Hands Family Resource Center**. In the words of Pope St. Leo the Great, we best "prepare for Christ's coming and make ourselves ready to welcome Him by giving to those in need, so that we may reflect His light in the world." Thanks to your generosity this **Advent**, the joy of Christ's coming is already being made visible in the lives of so many.

## PARISH RENOVATIONS—VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

As a reminder, in preparation for the start of our renovations on January 5<sup>th</sup>, we will have two volunteers days: **Sunday, Dec. 28th from 11 AM—1 PM and Tuesday, Dec. 30th from 1 PM—3 PM**. During this time, we will move our liturgical furniture from the Church to the Social Hall and begin preparing the space to serve as our temporary "Church" during the renovations.

~Fr. David



Becky Biberstein, Michael Green, Frances Carr, Tom Richhart, Troy Cook, Bobbie Jackson, Kimberly Abney, Sydnee Bradburn, Leanne Lee, Jeff Tillman, Mike Holland, Richard Payne and Matt Norris.

# ST. JOSEPH CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

CHRISTMAS EVE  
DECEMBER 24<sup>TH</sup>

CHRISTMAS DAY  
DECEMBER 25<sup>TH</sup>

4:00 PM Vigil Mass  
5:30 PM *Christmas Carols*  
6:00 PM Vigil Mass

12:00 AM Midnite Mass  
9:00 AM Mass at Dawn  
*Brunch following Mass*



**Join Us in Celebrating the Birth of Christ**



ENCOUNTER VOCATIONS.  
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**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 26**

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TIPOFF 6:30 P.M. | FREE ADMISSION  
[DIOCESEFWSB.ORG/CUPERTINO](http://DIOCESEFWSB.ORG/CUPERTINO)



JOIN BISHOP RHOADES FOR ADORATION AND MASS  
ADORATION 3 - 4 P.M. | MASS 4 P.M.  
ORATORY (CHAPEL) AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ST. FRANCIS  
2701 SPRING STREET | FORT WAYNE, IN 46808

## PARISH CALENDAR

- Sat., Dec. 20 - Confession 4:00-4:45 p.m. / Mass 5:00 p.m.
- Sun., Dec. 21 - Mass 7:30 a.m. / 10:00 a.m.
- Sun., Dec. 21 - No Religious Ed. Classes - Christmas Break
- Mon., Dec. 22 - Children's Choir Practice - 5:30-6:30 p.m. in the Parish Conference Room.
- Tues., Dec. 23 - Adoration 7:00-8:00 a.m. / Mass 8:00 a.m. / Confessions 8:30 a.m.
- Wed., Dec. 24 - Parish Office Closed
- Wed., Dec. 24 - Mass 8:00 a.m.
- Wed., Dec. 24 - *Christmas Eve Mass* - 4:00 p.m. (Children's Choir)
- Wed., Dec. 24 - *Christmas Carols* - 5:30 p.m. / *Christmas Eve Mass* - 6:00 p.m. (Adult Choir)
- Wed., Dec. 24 - *Midnight Mass* - 12:00 a.m.
- Thurs., Dec. 25 - *Christmas Day Mass* - 9:00 a.m.
- Thurs., Dec. 25 - Christmas Brunch following Mass
- Fri., Dec. 26 - Mass 8:30 a.m.
- Fri., Dec. 26 - Parish Office Closed
- Sat., Dec. 27 - Mass 8:00 a.m. / Confession 8:30 a.m.
- Sat., Dec. 27 - Confession 4:00-4:45 p.m. / Mass 5:00 p.m.
- Sun., Dec. 28 - Mass 7:30 a.m. / 10:00 a.m.
- Sun., Dec. 28 - No Religious Ed. Classes - Christmas Break

## WEEKEND OF DECEMBER 27<sup>TH</sup> & 28<sup>TH</sup>

### MASS *Cantors*

5:00 p.m. Dan Lautzenheiser  
7:30 a.m. Mike Morrissey  
10:00 a.m. Teresa Smith

### *Lectors*

5:00 p.m. Stacey Coulardot  
7:30 a.m. Ben Wagner  
10:00 a.m. Patti Clark-Johnson

### *Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion*

5:00 p.m. Larisa Sudhoff  
7:30 a.m. Twilla Herr  
10:00 a.m. Jacque Johnson, Monica Harris, Rick Singer

### *Servers*

5:00 p.m. Alex/Audrey Mechling, volunteer  
7:30 a.m. Abby or Adrienne Wagner, Ainsley Wagner, Annie Herr  
10:00 a.m. Charlie/Louis Andrews, volunteer

St. Joseph Parish Finance Report  
for the Weekend of Dec. 13<sup>th</sup> / 14<sup>th</sup>

Adult Envelopes - \$2,150.00  
Loose - \$272.00

Repair / Rainy Day - \$155.00

Holy Day Offerings- \$220.00

Christmas Flowers- \$155.00

Religious Ed. Fund- \$400.00

Bequest Donations- \$710.00

Total- \$4,062.00

Our weekly budget is \$5,116.40

We are **\$1,725.66** behind  
our budget for the month  
of December 2025.

St. Vincent de Paul Fund -  
\$325.00

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

To set up **Online Giving**  
through *Our Sunday Visitor*, visit:  
[www.osvhub.com/stjosephchurchbluffton](http://www.osvhub.com/stjosephchurchbluffton)  
or  
Scan the QR Code on the right.



## The origin of the word Christmas



The word "Christmas" comes from the Old English phrase *Christes maesse* ("Christ's Mass")—that is the Mass celebrated in honor of Christ's birth. From this original reference to a particular Mass celebrated in the Church's liturgical year, the term came to apply both to the day on which the Mass was celebrated and to the liturgical season associated with it (i.e., the Christmas season, a.k.a. Christmastide).



Sign in at [FORMED.ORG](http://FORMED.ORG) with our Parish Code: 7N68MY

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A  
KNIGHT**

IN SERVICE TO ONE. IN SERVICE TO ALL.

Before you speak....

T H I N K !

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