

St. Joseph Catholic Church

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

Planning for the Fourth Sunday of Advent and Christmas

Back-to-Back Mass Obligations • Two Obligations = Two Masses

1ST OBLIGATION

4th Sunday of Advent

(Pick one from the right)

Saturday, December 23rd

5 PM

Sunday, December 24th

7:30 AM

10 AM

4 PM

6 PM

2ND OBLIGATION

Christmas

(Pick one from the right)

Sunday, December 24th

4 PM

6 PM

Monday, December 25th

12 AM

9 AM

As **CHRISTMAS** (December 25th) falls on Monday this year, this means that the **FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT** is also **CHRISTMAS EVE**. These two celebrations each carry their own separate obligation to assist at Mass. This means that we have both the obligation and opportunity to assist at Mass twice over the three days between December 23rd-25th.

(*Note: The 4 PM and 6 PM Masses on **CHRISTMAS EVE** can be attended to fulfill either our **FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT** obligation or our **CHRISTMAS** obligation, but **not** both.*)

Advent Penance Service • Wednesday, Dec. 20th • 6 - 7 PM

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 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 10 Second 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 +

Monday, December 11

No Public Mass

Tuesday, December 12

7:00-8:00 a.m. Adoration
8:00 a.m. Jim & Betty Kistler +
8:30 a.m. *Confession*

Wednesday, December 13

6:00-7:00 p.m. Adoration
6:00-6:45 p.m. *Confession*
7:00 p.m. Martin J. (Marty) Lohmuller +

Thursday, December 14

8:00 a.m. Mohler Witwer +

Friday, December 15

8:30 a.m. Greg Mayer +

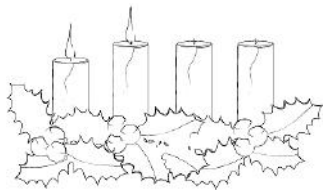
Saturday, December 16

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 17

Third Sunday of Advent

7:10 a.m. *Rosary*
7:30 a.m. Ronnie Burns +
9:40 a.m. *Rosary*
10:00 a.m. Rose Marie & Robert Bates +



MASS READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Mon., December 11 - Advent Weekday - St. Damasus I, Pope - Is 35:1-10/ Lk 5:17-26

Tues., December 12 - Our Lady of Guadalupe - Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a,12:1-6a, 10ab/ Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47

Wed., December 13 - St. Lucy, Virgin and Martyr - Is 40:25-31/ Mt 11:28-30

Thurs., December 14 - St. John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church - Is 41:13-20/ Mt 11:11-15

Fri., December 15 - Advent Weekday - Is 48:17-19/ Mt 11:16-19

Sat., December 16 - Advent Weekday - Sir 48:1-4,9-11/ Mt 17:9a,10-13

Sun., December 17 - Third Sunday of Advent - Gaudete Sunday - Is 61:1-2a,10-11/ 1 Thes 5:16-24/ Jn 1:6-8,19-28

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT - DECEMBER 10, 2023

This weekend (Dec. 9th/10th), the Church celebrates the **Second Sunday of Advent**. Our Gospel reading this weekend is always focused on St. John the Baptist and his call to repentance. To understand the importance of this call, we must first understand who St. John is. He is often considered to be both the last and greatest prophet of the Old Testament. Our Lord Himself says that no one born of woman was greater than St. John (Matthew 11:11).

St. John the Baptist serves in a truly unique role as the immediate precursor to the Savior of the World. In this way, he bridges together both the Old and New Testaments. He is also among the first to recognize the Savior Himself, both in action and in word. When the Blessed Mother visited Elizabeth, John leaped in his mother's womb (Luke 1:41). Similarly, he calls Jesus the "*Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world*" along the Jordan (John 1:29).

St. John the Baptist lived a life that embraced prayer, poverty, simplicity, and penitential practices. Throughout his ministry, he preached from the desert of Judea. Despite this, people still came to him, including many Pharisees and Sadducees. As people came to him, he preached bold words to all as he called all people to repentance. He went on to preach that someone much mightier than he was coming after him who would become the source of salvation.

Though much more could be said about St. John the Baptist, it's essential that we regularly consider the words that he preaches today. His message of repentance is one that is meant to shake us to the core. From it, we must ask ourselves this question: *In what ways do I need to hear St. John's message of repentance today?* This question is a reminder that we are called to daily death to self and conversion, which open us up to a deeper relationship with Jesus.

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

It is worth note that, this year, **Advent** is the shortest that it can ever be. After our morning Masses for the **Fourth Sunday of Advent**, we will enter into our celebrations for the Vigil Masses of **Christmas** later that same afternoon. This means that we have the obligation and opportunity to assist at Mass twice, once to fulfill our **Sunday obligation** and the other our **Christmas obligation**. To help you in planning for these upcoming dates, please see our bulletin cover this weekend with a helpful table of all of our Mass times.

Similar to past years, each of our Christmas Masses has a certain uniqueness to it. At our **4 PM Christmas Vigil Mass**, we will bless our parish Nativity scene, be joined by our Children's Choir, and welcome Fr. Bill Sullivan as our homilist. At 5:30 PM, our Adult Choir invites us to join in singing Christmas Carols that will lead us into our **6 PM Christmas Vigil Mass**. Our **Midnight Mass (12:00 AM)** will be celebrated by candlelight. And, finally, our **9 AM Christmas Day Mass** will be followed by brunch (*sign-up in the narthex*).

As always, we are planning and preparing to welcome a number of guests to our Christmas liturgies. If you see anyone that you do not recognize, please welcome them to the parish! If you know of anyone who has no where to go, please invite them to join us. And, if you know what Mass time you will be attending, please consider signing up as a "Greeter" to welcome our guests and share with them the joy of Christmas and the Christ-child.

THE CHRISTMAS SEASON—NOT JUST ONE DAY

Part of the joy of preparing for **Christmas** through **Advent** is recognizing that **Christmas** isn't just one day, but a whole season. As captured by "*The Twelve Days of Christmas*," the **Christmas Season** continues throughout the celebration of the **Epiphany**. There is even historic precedent to continue our **Christmas** celebration for *forty days* through the **Feast of the Presentation of the Lord**, or **Candlemas**. Let us not end our **Christmas** celebrations on **Christmas Day**, even as our secular culture moves on. Instead, let us prepare to continue our celebration and prayerfully spend time "unwrapping" the many gifts of grace that the Lord gives to us over the coming days.

~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.

THANK YOU! From Michelle

Thank You to everyone who came and helped bake cookies last Monday, December 4th for the Annual *Grace & Mercy Cookie Walk Fundraiser*. We had a total of 13 helpers in the kitchen. Many hands did make light work! *Thank You!*

ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE

Wednesday, December 20th

6:00-7:00 PM

Adoration 6-7:00 PM



G.I.R.L.'s Night Out

CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Women's group will have their Annual Christmas Party at the home of Nancy Leitz on Tuesday, December 12th at 6:30 p.m.

PARISH CALENDAR

- **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 to share!
- **Wed., Dec. 13** - Adoration 6-7:00 p.m. / Confession 6-6:45 p.m. / Mass 7:00 p.m.
- **Wed., Dec. 13** - Choir Practice - 7:30 p.m.
- **Thurs., Dec. 14** - Mass 8:00 a.m.
- **Fri., Dec. 15** - Mass 8:30 a.m.
- **Sat., Dec. 16** - Mass 8:00 a.m. / Confession 8:30 a.m.
- **Sat., Dec. 16** - Confession 4-4:45 p.m. / Mass 5:00 p.m.
- **Sun., Dec. 17** - Mass 7:30 a.m. / Mass 10:00 a.m.
- **Sun., Dec. 17** - Religious Education Classes - 8:30-9:45 a.m.
- **Tues., Dec. 19** - Adoration 7-8:00 a.m. / Mass 8:00 a.m. / Confessions 8:30 a.m.
- **Wed., Dec. 20** - Adoration 6-7:00 p.m. / Advent Penance Service 6-7:00 p.m. / Mass 7:00 p.m.
- **Wed., Dec. 20** - Choir Practice - 7:30 p.m.
- **Thurs., Dec. 21** - Mass 8:00 a.m.
- **Fri., Dec. 22** - Mass 8:30 a.m.
- **Sat., Dec. 23** - Mass 8:00 a.m. / Confession 8:30 a.m.
- **Sat., Dec. 23** - Confession 4-4:45 p.m. / Mass 5:00 p.m. (*Vigil Mass Fourth Sunday of Advent*)
- **Sun., Dec. 24** - Mass 7:30 a.m. / Mass 10:00 a.m. (*Fourth Sunday of Advent*)
- **Sun., Dec. 24** - Christmas Eve Mass - 4:00 p.m.
- **Sun., Dec. 24** - Christmas Carols - 5:30 p.m.
- **Sun., Dec. 24** - Christmas Eve Mass - 6:00 p.m.
- **Sun., Dec. 24** - Christmas Midnight Mass
- **Mon., Dec. 25** - Christmas Morning Mass - 9:00 a.m.
- **Mon., Dec. 25** - Christmas Brunch, in the Parish Social Hall, immediately following Mass. Sign up sheet in the narthex.

Weekend of December 16/17



5:00 Dan Lautzenheiser
7:30 Donna Geisel
10:00 Jay Crisp/Adult Choir



5:00 Glenn Ryan
7:30 Barb Ault
10:00 Dan Geimer



10:00 Jeff Miller, Jacque Johnson, Diana Cole



5:00 Angel/Zoe Soto, Isaiah or Melanie Bedwell
7:30 Jacquelyn/Phillip Mayer, Spencer McCorkle
10:00 Charlie Andrews, Sam Smith, Luke Miller

St. Joseph Parish Finance Report for the Weekend of Dec. 2/3

Adult Envelopes- \$3,161.00
Loose- \$113.00

Repair/Rainy Day Fund-
\$1,222.00

Votive Candles- \$67.65
Immaculate Conception- \$26.00

Christmas Flowers- \$50.00

Christmas Offering- \$40.00
Solemnity of Mary, Mother of
God- \$30.00

Hall Rent- \$115.00

Total- \$4,824.65

Our weekly budget is \$5,116.40

We are **\$291.75** behind our
budget for the month of December.

Online Giving for November was
\$6,805.00. We ended the month of
November \$10,703.88 ahead of our
budget.

St. Vincent de Paul Fund- \$66.00
Online Giving, St. Vincent de Paul
Fund- \$235.00

*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>

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL FUND REPORT - November 2023

Utilities- \$300.00

Charitable Donations- \$1,500.00

Total Charitable Donations- \$1,800.00

Thank you for helping us help others!

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)
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DONATIONS CAN BE PLACED IN THE NARTHEX

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

ASK FATHER

Ask Father returns Thursday, December 28th at
5:30 PM in the Parish Conference Room.

Mariachi LOCO
MEXICAN GRILL

1595 HARRISON PLZ
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PHONE: 260-827-0616
FAX: 260-827-0625

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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
St. Vincent de Paul

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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

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Parishioners

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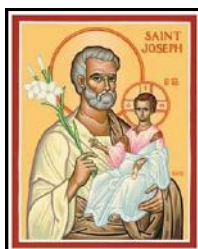


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Fort Wayne: 7617 W Jefferson Blvd., Suite F
Fort Wayne, IN 46804



Call us for your next event!

Ginny 260-402-1834
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