

# St. Joseph Catholic Church

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

## HOW TO GO TO CONFESSION

- 1 Examine your conscience by reflecting on your sins.
- 2 Enter the confessional and greet the priest. Begin with the sign of the cross and say "Bless me, Father, for I have sinned."
- 3 List your sins.
- 4 Listen to the priest.
- 5 Pray the Act of Contrition.
- 6 Receive absolution.
- 7 Depart and fulfill your act of penance.

### ACT OF CONTRITION

O my God, I am heartily sorry for having offended You and I detest all my sins, because I dread the loss of heaven and the pains of hell, but most of all because they offend you, my God, who are all good and deserving of all my love. I firmly resolve, with the help of your grace, to confess my sins, to do penance and to amend my life.

Advent Penance Service • Wednesday, Dec. 20<sup>th</sup> • 6 - 7 PM

### CHRISTMAS EVE

*December 24<sup>th</sup>*

4:00 PM Vigil Mass

5:30 PM Christmas Carols

6:00 PM Vigil Mass

## CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

### CHRISTMAS DAY

*December 25<sup>th</sup>*

12:00 AM Midnight Mass

9:00 AM Mass

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 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 +

## Monday, December 18

No Public Mass

## Tuesday, December 19

7:00-8:00 a.m. Adoration  
8:00 a.m. Andrea Grover +  
8:30 a.m. Confession

## Wednesday, December 20

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

## Thursday, December 21

8:00 a.m. Marj Sanders +

## Friday, December 22

8:30 a.m. Gertie Wyss +

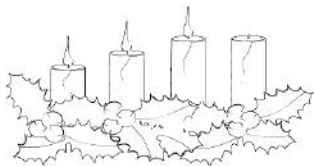
## Saturday, December 23

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. Greg Mayer +

## Sunday, December 24

### Fourth Sunday of Advent

7:10 a.m. Rosary  
7:30 a.m. Parish Family  
9:40 a.m. Rosary  
10:00 a.m. Liam & Libby Dunn



### MASS READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Mon., December 18 - Late Advent Weekday -  
Jer 23:5-8/ Mt 1:18-25

Tues., December 19 - Late Advent Weekday -  
Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/ Lk 1:5-25

Wed., December 20 - Late Advent Weekday -  
Is 7:10-14/ Lk 1:26-38

Thurs., December 21 - Late Advent Weekday  
- St. Peter Canisius, Priest and Doctor of the  
Church - Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/ Lk 1:39-45

Fri., December 22 - Late Advent Weekday - 1  
Sm 1:24-28/ Lk 1:46-56

Sat., December 23 - Late Advent Weekday -  
St. John of Kanty, Priest - Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/  
Lk 1:57-66

Sun., December 24 - Fourth Sunday of Ad-  
vent - 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/ Rom 16:25-27/  
Lk 1:26-38

## THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT - DECEMBER 17, 2023

*A special "Welcome Home!" to our university students on their Christmas break and our service men and women on leave for the holiday. We rejoice to join together with you as one family in prayer to start the Christmas season!*

This weekend (Dec. 16<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup>), the Church celebrates the **Third Sunday of Advent**, or **Gaudete Sunday**. Marking the "halfway" point of **Advent**, this Sunday receives its name from the first words of the Mass Introit, or Entrance Antiphon, from today's liturgy ("*Gaudete in Domino*" or "*Rejoice in the Lord*"). Those at our 10 AM Mass this weekend will hear our choir beautifully introduce our Mass with this antiphon before the opening hymn.

The antiphon, like most antiphons, is itself taken directly from the Sacred Scriptures. This antiphon comes from St. Paul's Epistle to the Philippians: "*Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near*" (Phil. 4:4-5). Though St. Paul would have first established the Church in Philippi during his second missionary journey (~AD 50), he would have only written this epistle itself a decade later during his imprisonment in Rome.

How beautiful it is that St. Paul, though imprisoned and awaiting execution, was still able to share these words: "*Rejoice in the Lord always!*" Offered as parting words and continued encouragement to the faithful in Philippi, St. Paul reminds them (*and us!*) that, despite all obstacles and trials in this life, Jesus is still coming to us. And, for this we rejoice, for the Lord is near; Salvation Himself is nigh at hand; God is with us, Emmanuel; We have nothing to fear!

This zealous joy is meant to overflow into our liturgy today. The penitential practices of **Advent** briefly give way as we "*rejoice in the Lord!*" Reflected not only in our entrance antiphon, but also in the priest's vestments: The violet of **Advent** is tinged with the gold of **Christmas**, creating a beautiful *rose* color. Worn only for this day, we are reminded that our penance always has a purpose: Our **Advent** practices are preparing us for Christmas and for Christ.

Given how short **Advent** is this year, this Sunday quickly brings us right into the second half of the Advent season. The second half of **Advent**, which begins on December 17<sup>th</sup>, turns our focus from the Second Coming to the historical Incarnation of the Lord. In a word, our desire to prepare ourselves for our encounter with the Lord at the end of time is only possible because He first made Himself known to us in time.

This second half of **Advent** is greeted by the **O Antiphons**, leading us into our Christmas celebrations. Each antiphon (*taken from the Prophet Isaiah*) is proclaimed throughout the Church's liturgy each day this week. Each antiphon will be used as a part of both the *Liturgy of the Hours* and at Mass (*as the scriptural verse with the Gospel acclamation*). Please see this weekend's insert offering daily prayers to help us unite the **O Antiphons** into our prayer life.

### ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE

Join us this **Wednesday, Dec. 20<sup>th</sup>**, for our **Advent Penance Service from 6:00 - 7:00 PM**. Following an introductory reflection, we will have five priests available for individual confessions throughout the hour. During Confession, Adoration will be ongoing. In the Sacrament of Confession, the Lord has given us the gift of the forgiveness of our personal sins.

In our preparations for Christmas, we often clean our homes so that we are ready to welcome guests for the holiday. In this great Sacrament, we have the chance to "clean" our hearts and souls to welcome Christ for the holy day. Let us make use of this great gift in our preparations for Christmas and embrace the loving forgiveness and freedom found in Christ through this Sacrament.

### FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT & CHRISTMAS MASS OBLIGATIONS

As a reminder, we have two celebrations next weekend as we assist at two Masses: Once for the **Fourth Sunday of Advent** and once for **Christmas**. What better way to pray as a parish family then together as Mass!

~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.



## ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE

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

Adoration 6-7:00 PM / Mass at 7:00 PM



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

Immediately after Mass in the Parish Social Hall,

### PARISH CALENDAR

- 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.
- Thurs., Dec. 22 - Catholicism Explained 6:30 p.m. in the Parish Social Hall
- 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.
- Mon., Dec. 25 - Christmas Midnight Mass - 12:00 a.m.
- 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.
- Tues., Dec. 26 - Adoration 7-8:00 a.m. / Mass 8:00 a.m. / Confessions 8:30 a.m.
- Tues., Dec. 26 - Parish Office Closed
- Wed., Dec. 27 - Mass 8:00 a.m. (No Adoration/Confession).
- Thurs., Dec. 28 - Mass 8:00 a.m.
- Thurs., Dec. 28 - Ask Father - 5:30 p.m. in the Parish Conference Room.
- Fri., Dec. 29 - Mass 8:30 a.m.
- Sat., Dec. 30 - Mass 8:00 a.m. / Confession 8:30 a.m.

### Weekend of December 23/24



5:00 Marita Crawfis  
7:30 Mike Morrissey  
10:00 Teresa Smith



5:00 Carol Butler  
7:30 Ben Wagner  
10:00 Bruce Holland



5:00 Volunteer  
7:30 Jill Morrissey  
10:00 Kevin Seago, Diana Cole, Volunteer



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

### St. Joseph Parish Finance Report for the Weekend of Dec. 9/10

Adult Envelopes- \$2,301.00

Loose- \$173.00

Repair/Rainy Day Fund-  
\$1,917.16

Immaculate Conception- \$804.50

Christmas Flowers- \$539.00

Canon Rebate- \$117.31

**Total- \$5,851.97**

**Our weekly budget is \$5,116.40**

We are \$443.82 ahead of our  
budget for the month of December.

St. Vincent de Paul Fund- \$120.00

*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>



### You're invited to a Christmas Brunch!

Join us Monday, December 25th following the 9:00 a.m.

Christmas Mass for *brunch* in the Parish Social Hall.

If you plan to attend, please see the sign up sheet  
available in the narthex. All are welcome!

### CHRISTMAS BREAK

As a reminder, we will not have Religious Education Class on  
December 24th or December 31st for Christmas break. Classes  
will resume on Sunday, January 7, 2024 at 8:30 a.m. - 9:45 a.m.

### ASK FATHER

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



### From Death To New Life

In your charity, please pray for the repose of the soul of  
Kimberli Kunkel, sister of Missy (Nathan) Huss, who  
passed away Wednesday, December 13, 2023

May God welcome her home,  
fill her with peace and bless those who will miss her.

Eternal Rest Grant unto her O Lord, and let Perpetual light shine  
upon her. May her soul and the souls of all the faithful departed  
through the mercy of God rest in Peace. Amen.

**Mariachi LOCO**  
MEXICAN GRILL

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

Francisco Sanchez, Parishioner



Knights of Columbus  
Father Aloysius Phillips  
Council 7555



# Daniel's JEWELERS

(260)824-9643

2155 N. MAIN ST., BLUFFTON, IN

www.daniels-jewelers.net

STRONGER TOGETHER  
HELPING HANDS  
PREGNANCY • FAMILY • COMMUNITY

116 E. Dustman Road, Bluffton  
260.824.4263  
Monday, Wednesday  
& Thursday 9am-5pm

Serving All Surrounding Areas

GOODWIN - CALE & HARNISH  
MEMORIAL CHAPEL

3320 East State Road 124  
Bluffton, IN 46714  
260-824-3852  
Douglas L. Cale  
Mitch Harnish

GORDON & ASSOCIATES,  
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

## El Camino Real

Authentic Mexican Food  
2185 Commerce Dr.,  
Bluffton - 565-3300

Juan & Rosa Ortiz,  
Parishioners

## DUNWIDDIE

Heating, Air Conditioning & Plumbing, Inc.

702 W. Washington St. 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

Sam Haiflich & Lisa Haiflich: The Haiflich Team  
Brokers/Agents

Sam's Cell: 260-740-7293  
Lisa's Cell: 260-438-2437

sam@bkmrealestate.com  
lisa@bkmrealestate.com

105 N Jefferson Street, Ossian, IN 46777  
Office: 260-622-1000

**BKM REAL ESTATE**

Sam & Lisa Haiflich, Parishioners  
St. Aloysius Parish, Yoder, IN

## The Grover Company

Property Management  
Fully Licensed and  
Insured

260-820-0638  
Bret Grover

**H&K** CHEVROLET  
Family Auto

www.hkfamilyauto.com

624 IN-930, New Haven, IN 46774  
260-748-1000

Eric Perrine - Service Manager  
Parishioner

"Service customers and the community for over 70 years"



ABORTION KILLS...  
PERIOD!



FAIRWAY FLOOR  
COVERING  
Residential and  
Commercial

1503 W. Lancaster St., Bluffton  
Charles Thompson  
260-824-3049  
Open - Monday - Friday, 8a-5p

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

EXPERIENCE  
**audiology**

"Hear what you've been missing."

2035 Commerce Dr., Suite 201  
Bluffton, IN 46714

Phone: (260) 706-2558

Dr. Jennifer L. Wagner, Au.D.  
Parishioner



Country Road Primitives  
Gifts & Home Decor  
2446E - 350 N, Bluffton

Everything rustic, primitive and country  
for your home. Visit the bereavement  
shop for cemetery saddles, vases,  
lanterns wind chimes, throws, stepping  
stones and other bereavement items.

Hours: Friday & Saturday  
10 am to 4 pm.  
Or by appointment:  
260-273-0222

**HOTT**  
FAMILY DENTISTRY

Bartholome L. Hott  
706 N. Main St, Bluffton, IN 46714

\* Taking New Patients  
\* Emergency Exams Available

P: 260-824-2442  
F: 260-824-8101

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



dash90wines.com

Thursday's: 3pm-8pm  
Friday's: 3pm-8pm  
Saturday's: Noon-8pm

See us on Facebook &  
Instagram!

The Herr Family  
Parishioners

**HIDAY MOTORS, INC**  
1791 N Main St | Bluffton | IN 46714

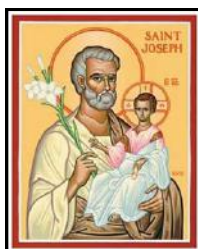


Nick Boratenski  
260-824-1931  
WWW.HIDAYCHRYSLERDODGEJEEP.COM  
Parishioner

**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



Pray for Us!



Colin Z. Andrews  
Parishioner

Tel: (260) 824-4049  
Fax: (260) 827-5099  
candrews@andrewsandcrell.com  
www.andrewsandcrell.com  
Bluffton: 116 S. Main St., Bluffton, IN 46714  
Fort Wayne: 7617 W Jefferson Blvd., Suite F  
Fort Wayne, IN 46804



Call us for your next event!

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