

# ST. JOSEPH & ST. AGATHA

UNITED IN THE BODY OF CHRIST

DECEMBER 26, 2021



## THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

“For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord.” - Lk 2:11

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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### A LOOK AT THE WEEK AHEAD

Mon, Dec 27	Tues, Dec 28	Wed, Dec 29	Thurs, Dec 30	Fri, Dec 31	Sat, Jan 1	Sun, Jan 2
	8:15am MASS 8am Adoration 9am Adoration 9am Quilting	8:15am MASS	8:15am MASS	4pm MASS (Solemnity of Mary)	9am MASS (Solemnity of Mary)  5pm MASS (Sunday Vigil)	8am MASS  10am MASS
St. Agatha events in brown St. Joseph events in black						

## Mass Schedule

### Weekend Masses

Saturday, 5:00pm St. Joseph  
Sunday, 8:00am St. Joseph  
**Sunday, 10:00am St. Agatha**

### Weekday Masses

Tues & Thurs 8:15am St. Joseph  
**Wed & Fri 8:15am St. Agatha**

## Reconciliation

Saturdays 3pm to 4:30pm at the parish with Saturday evening Mass or call either church office for an appointment.

## Parish Staff

Rev. Von Deeke, Pastor  
vondeeke@hotmail.com  
618-214-6852

Deacon Corby Valentine, Permanent Deacon  
deaconcorby@stjosephfreeburg.org  
618-795-3737

Mrs. Margie Reaka, Office Assistant  
bulletin@stjosephfreeburg.org

## St. Joseph Office Staff

Office Manager  
parish@stjosephfreeburg.org

Mr. Brad Niebruegge, Maintenance  
618-539-0129  
brad.niebruegge901@gmail.com

Mrs. Jean Reinneck, Music Director

Mrs. Carol Schlitt, Choir Director

Mrs. Kelly Schaaf, Principal  
kschaaf@stjcsil.org

Mrs. Katie Waeltz, School Secretary  
office@stjcsil.org

## St. Agatha Office Staff

Mrs. Carol Mayfield, Bookkeeper  
cmayfield@stagathaparish.com

Mrs. Melissa Gummersheimer,  
Music Director

## Pastor's Residence

9 N. Alton Street  
Freeburg, IL 62243

## From Fr. Von's Desk

May you all have a Blessed Christmas as we celebrate the birth of the Son of God made man, Jesus Christ.

We see the meaning of Christmas described in the prayers from our Christmas Masses. At the Vigil Mass, we pray that, as we joyfully welcome God's Son as our Redeemer, we may also be able to face him confidently as our Judge. So, may we welcome Jesus now and ask for the forgiveness and help we need to be welcomed into his heavenly kingdom. We pray that we might always welcome him every day of our lives.

In the Mass during the Night, we pray that Jesus, the true Light, may make his light known to us on earth and that we might also delight in his gladness in heaven. At the Prayer Over the Offerings and the Prayer after Communion, we pray that, through this holy exchange, as God the Son becomes man, we might become more the likeness of Christ; that, through an honorable way of life, we may become worthy of union with him.

At the Mass at Dawn, we pray that God may be seen in our works as his light of faith illumines our minds. At the Prayer after Communion, we pray that we may know the hidden depths of this mystery of the Incarnation, God becoming man, with fullness of faith.

In the Mass During the Day, we pray the prayer that the deacon or priest prays when he mixes water with the wine in the chalice at the Offertory: "May we share in the divinity of Christ who humbled himself to share in our humanity." Yes, God became one of us so that we could be united with him forever. We are given a share in God's divine life in Baptism and it is strengthened throughout our lives by Jesus acting in the sacraments. May that life continue to grow in us throughout our earthly lives.

Yes, we celebrate that God became one of us, so that, through the life, death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus, we might become more like God and be united in the love of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit forever.

Have a Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Fr. Von Deeke

## Our Parishes

### St. Joseph Parish

P.O. Box 98  
6 N. Alton Street  
Freeburg, Illinois 62243  
p: 618-539-3209  
f: 618-539-4772  
w: stjosephfreeburg.org  
Office Hours  
Monday-Thursday 8:00am-4:00pm

St. Joseph Parish Mission Statement:  
Walk by Faith, Trust in Hope,  
Serve with Love

### St. Agatha Parish

205 S. Market Street  
New Athens, Illinois 62264  
p: 618-475-2331  
p: 618-475-3579 (Parish Hall)  
f: 618-475-3177  
w: stagathaparish.com

Office Hours  
Monday 9:00am-2:00pm  
Wednesday & Friday 9:00am-12noon

# - THIS WEEK -

## Readings for the Week of December 26

**Sunday:**

**First Reading:**

"I prayed for this child, and the LORD granted my request. Now I, in turn, give him to the LORD; as long as he lives, he shall be dedicated to the LORD." (1 Sm 1:27-28)

**Psalm:**

Blessed are they who dwell in your house, O Lord. (Ps 84)

**Second Reading:**

See what love the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called the children of God. And so we are. (1 Jn 3:1)

**Gospel:**

After three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. (Lk 2:46)

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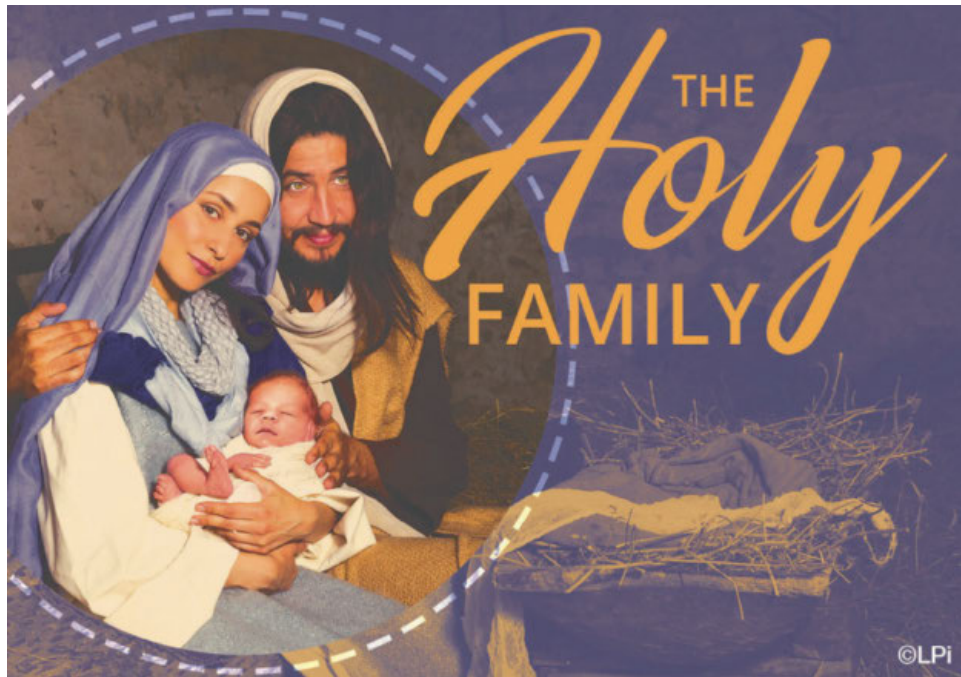
- Monday:** 1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12 [12]/Jn 20:1a, 2-8
- Tuesday:** 1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8 [7]/Mt 2:13-18
- Wednesday:** 1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6 [11a]/Lk 2:22-35
- Thursday:** 1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10 [11a]/Lk 2:36-40
- Friday:** 1 Jn 2:18-21/Ps 96:1-2, 11-12, 13 [11a]/Jn 1:1-18
- Saturday:** Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 [2a]/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21



<b>TUES., Dec 28</b> 8:15am—St. Joseph	<b>The Holy Innocents, Martyrs</b> Diane Karban McGuire
<b>WED., Dec 29</b> 8:15am—St. Agatha	<b>Fifth Day within in the Octave of the Nativity of Our Lord</b> Richard P. Mueller`
<b>THURS., Dec 30</b> 8:15am—St. Joseph	<b>Sixth Day within the Octive of the Nativity of Our Lord</b> Rev. Joseph Thoonkuzhy
<b>FRI., Dec 31</b> 4pm—St. Agatha	<b>Solemnity of Mary (Vigil)</b> Delia Sinn
<b>SAT., Jan 1</b> 9am—St. Joseph	<b>Solemnity of Mary</b> Lucille Recker
<b>SAT., Jan 1</b> 5pm—St. Agatha	<b>Epiphany of the Lord (Vigil)</b> For the People of St. Agatha and St. Joseph
<b>SUN., Jan 2</b> 8am—St. Joseph 10am—St. Agatha	<b>Epiphany of Our Lord</b> Rodriguez/Kern Families Donald and Jacqueline Hagen

	Jan 1, 5pm Mass Epiphany of Our Lord	Jan 2, 8am Mass Epiphany of Our Lord	Jan 2, 10am Mass Epiphany of Our Lord
<b>Altar Servers</b>	Isaiah Lintker Aubrey Waeltz Reid Waeltz	Gus Biver Josiah Biver Zeke Biver	Grace Mulholland Will Mulholland Wyatt Mulholland
<b>Ministers of Hospitality</b>	Mike Kurtz, Jr. Debra Matzenbacher David Parker	Randy Kasper Jim Middendorf Myra Middendorf Tony Welsch	Jerome Greten Jeremy Mulholland Jill Mulholland
<b>Sanitizer</b>	2 needed	3 needed	2 needed
<b>Lector</b>	Lori Main-Sinn	Justin Reinneck	Charlotte Newbold
<b>Cantor</b>	Jean Huth	Robin Schuetzenhofer	Alaina Geppert
<b>Organist</b>	Alaina Geppert	Jean Reinneck	Melissa Gummersheimer
<b>Other Ministries</b>		<b>Live Streamer</b> Geraldyn Erwin <b>Extraordinary Minister</b> Margie Reaka <b>Cedar Trails</b> Vernetta Buss	<b>Rosary Leader</b> Marilyn Calvert

## - THE HOLY FAMILY -



### Pregnancy Care Donations

Women in need of help during and after pregnancy is the focus of the Pregnancy Care Center in Belleville, Illinois.

This Christmas season, as we reflect on our many blessings, there are many babies in our area born into poverty, just like the Christ Child.

Please consider a donation of any size diapers or wipes as they are much needed. We will collect through December 31. There will be a Pack 'N Play in the back of St. Joseph Church for your donation.

If you have questions please call Chris Moddrell at 618-581-3502.

### Diocesan Employment Opportunity

#### Director of Respect Life Apostolate

The Director supervises, develops, and directs the Office in fulfilling the three-fold mission: to educate, to advocate, and to provide pastoral and spiritual programs that protect and respect human life from conception to natural death.

Essential qualifications include being a practicing Catholic; Bachelor's Degree preferred, or equivalent experience; and 1-3 years' experience in a related role plus knowledge in Microsoft Office and other computer programs/applications.

TO APPLY: Send resume, cover letter, and references to Human Resources, Diocese of Belleville, 222 South Third Street, Belleville, IL 62220 or email [humanresources@diobelle.org](mailto:humanresources@diobelle.org) Application Deadline: January 21, 2022.

### Vocation Corner

Today's Gospel tells of Jesus starting the work of His "vocation". He begins His teaching at the age of 12. Our vocation starts (maybe even earlier than age 12) as an indwelling, with the quiet whisper of God's pull on our heart. It's often personal and difficult to describe to others and often takes much prayer and discernment to see clearly. St. Francis de Sales reflected on this individual nature of our call, "We all have a vocation. We believe that God has placed us in this life to fill a special need that no one else can accomplish."

### Neighboring Events

#### St. Augustine, Belleville

January 10, 2022 — 2pm to 6pm, at 1900 West Belle, Belleville, To schedule an appointment call 1-800-RED CROSS or visit [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org) and enter: SAOC.

#### Holy Trinity Catholic Church—Quilt of the Month

Tickets are \$30 each of 4 for \$100 and are available in St. Joseph Parish office or call 681-792-9439 for more information.

#### St. Michael, Paderborn—Quilt of the Month

Tickets are \$20 each and are available in the St. Joseph Parish office or call 618-473-2798.

### A Message from Bishop McGovern

As we celebrate the Nativity of our Lord, I think of the words St. John wrote in one of his epistles: "we have come to know and believe in the love God has for us." My sincere prayer for the people of our diocese is that as we celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus, each of us comes to know and believe more deeply in the love God has for us. May this Christmas be filled with a spirit of kindness and compassion, and may you, your families and loved ones be filled with the peace of Christ.

Sincerely yours in Christ,  
Bishop Michael McGovern

### Pray for ...

Jean Price  
Dorothy Normand  
Pat Kreher  
Rose Hinrichs  
Deloris Bramstedt  
Scott Kalina  
Chris Elbert  
Betty Rauch  
Beckett Krieg  
Patricia McGuire Nordman

Mary Racho  
Michael Houghland  
Clayton Melvin  
Barb Speiser  
Evelyn Rae Spier  
Rosanne Amann  
Judy Mathews

Josh Reuter, US Navy

### The Messenger

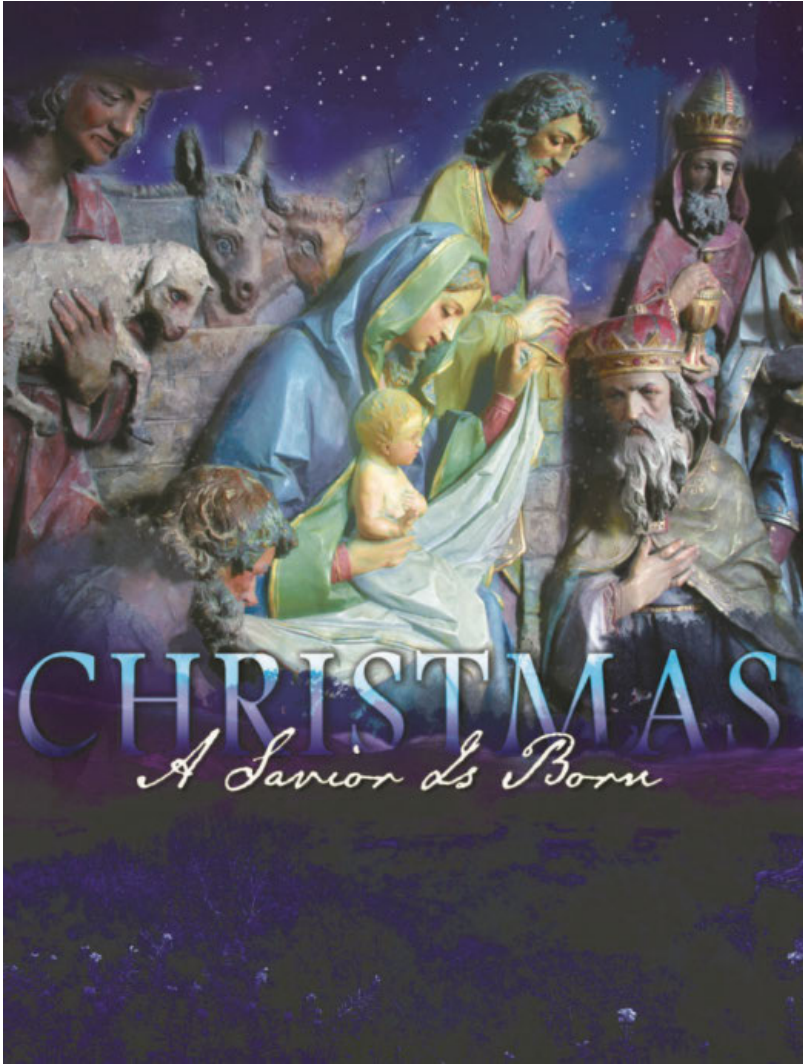
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Please contact either Parish Office to add or remove someone from the prayer lists. Each prayer request will be honored for approximately six weeks, but can be added again. If you have a family member in active military service please contact either parish office to add them to our prayer list.

**Happy Birthday Margaret Heil!**  
103 Years Old on December 15th



The Staff of St. Joseph and St. Agatha  
Wish You  
A MERRY CHRISTMAS



*The Advent season has ended and now we begin the Christmas season. We have lighted four candles these past four weeks and asked God to help us be present to our neighbors and friends. Now in the Christmas season we are called to be Christ in the flesh to our world.*

**A Christmas Prayer**

Let us pray...

God,

you became human through the obedience of a simple young woman named Mary.

Mary is our model of faith.

May we be faithful to your word as Mary was.

Give us the courage to face each day with the yes that Mary gave to you.

We ask this through the incarnate God,

who comes to us again during this Christmas season.

Amen.

**Mass Schedule—Dec 31 through Jan 2**

**Solemnity of Mary**

December 31, 4:00pm—St. Agatha  
January 1, 9:00am—St. Joseph

**Epiphany of Our Lord**

January 1, 5:00pm — St. Agatha  
January 2, 8:00am — St., Joseph  
January 2, 10am — St. Joseph



**Merrier Christmas Drive**

Thank you to those who participated in the Merrier Christmas Drive! We had another successful year of bringing some cheer and Christmas magic to local children. -- St. Agatha Community Outreach Committee.

**Cookie Sale**

Thank you to the parishioners who donated supplies and monetary for the Council of Catholic Women's recent Cookie Sale. The cookies brought in were also much appreciated. A big thank you to the women who helped do the baking, mixing, and assembled the plates. You are awesome. — Karen Birkner and Roth Owens

**Women's Club**

A poinsettia has been purchased by the Women's Club for the families of those that have passed throughout the year.

- |                 |                     |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| Johanna Thomas  | Alvin Juenger       |
| Thomas Wilkens  | James Derwort       |
| Dorothy Hentzel | Raymond Reuss, Jr.  |
| Donald Hagen    | Jacqueline Hagen    |
| Worley Frye     | Mary Ellen Duquette |
| LaVern Warden   |                     |

**Interested in a Description of the St. Agatha Church Bell Tower Project?**

Mr. Randy Warneke, of Warneke Construction, will meet with interested parishioners to describe the planned maintenance work on the Saint Agatha Church bell tower and exterior. This meeting will be on Sunday, 16 January 2022, after the 10 AM Mass, in the Parish Hall. Coffee and doughnuts are planned.

St. Agatha, Week of December 12, 2021	
Sunday Collection	\$1,323.00
Loose Collection	\$102.00
Online Giving	\$1,975.00
Total (December Goal is \$13,860.00)	\$7,635.00
Youth Collection (CESNA)	\$20.00
Building Fund	\$30.00
Cemetery Donations	\$61.22
Capital Improvement	\$2,260.00
Fiscal Year to Date Information (Operating Expenses Only)	
Collections required to date	\$83,160.00
Total Collections to date	\$72,851.89

**The Life and Ministry of St. Paul Continues**

The Bible study of the life and ministry of St. Paul with Fr. Michael will meet on January 4th, 18th and February 1st. We will meet at 7pm in the Youth Room of the Parish Center. All are welcome.

**St. Joseph Men's Club Meeting Notes**

The members of the Men's Club met last week to discuss a variety of issues including disbanding the organization. The Men's Club was started in the early 1980's and has involved itself in raising funds for various parish projects. Most recently the proceeds of the "Chicken and Beer" dances were earmarked for the Parish Center loan.

So on Wednesday, February 9th, 2022 the members will vote on whether or not to continue the Men's Club. The meeting will start at 7:00 P.M. in the Parish Center. All male members of St. Joseph's and St. Agatha's parishes are encouraged to attend.

For additional information call President Bob Mense or Don Rak-ers.

**St. Agatha and St. Joseph Children's Stewardship**

- I helped my mom carry groceries in the house.
- Helped my mom with leaves.
- Picked up my toys.
- Getting a child a gift for Christmas.

St. Joseph, Week of December 12, 2021	
Sunday Collection	\$20,769.00
Loose Collection	\$349.00
Online Giving	\$8,296.00
Total (December Goal is \$30,000.00)	\$32,571.00
Youth Collection (Freeburg Food Pantry)	\$17.91
Debt Reduction	\$11,365.00
Adopted Parish	\$92.50
Building Fund	\$715.00
Cemetery Donations	\$100.00
Fiscal Year to Date Information (Operating Expenses Only)	
Collections required to date:	\$180,483.87
Total Collections to date:	\$183,326.00
Principal Balance - Parish Center Loan (Balance as of Nov 18, 2021)	\$185,365.00




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