



ST. JOSEPH OF THE LAKES
CATHOLIC CHURCH

TOGETHER IN SPIRIT

*FOURTH SUNDAY
OF ADVENT*

“BLESSED ARE YOU WHO BELIEVED
THAT WHAT WAS SPOKEN TO YOU BY THE LORD
WOULD BE FULFILLED.”

—LUKE 1:45

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

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Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 19, 2021

FROM FR. MIKE'S DESK

At the end of this week we celebrate the One who comes to bring us all together in love. He is Emmanuel: God who is with us. The scriptures never put a singular when they speak of God; in other words; It isn't God who is with Mike Anderson and no one else; but it is God who is with everyone. Let us celebrate with our brothers and sisters with care for each other in these holy days.

Blessings to you all as we prepare to celebrate the birth of the Christ child and a special thank you to all in our ministries at St. Joe's who make our celebrations so special.

END OF THE YEAR GIVING

Maximize the Blessings from a High-Income Year

If you find yourself having a high-income year – because you received a large bonus or equity compensation or realized gains from a long-term investment -- you may be looking to reduce your tax liability.

Before meeting with your financial advisor to make a plan, we invite you to prayerfully consider how you're called to share your blessings. This might be an opportunity to offer compassion to your neighbor and to love as St. John the Beloved instructed: in deed and truth (1 John 3:18).

If you want to ensure more of your dollars get to the ministries and causes you care most about, you may want to leverage one or all of these giving strategies:

- Give Appreciated Assets – The most common example is a donation of stock shares to St. Joseph of the Lakes. You can claim a charitable deduction for the gift, and you don't have to pay taxes on the capital gains.
- "Bunch" Your Giving – By combining charitable gifts from two or more years into a single tax year, you might be able to exceed the standard deduction this tax year. Then, in the off years, you might take the standard deduction.
- Use a Donor Advised Fund – This allows you to "bunch" your gifts in a single tax year and maintain consistent and steady support to your favorite charities. It's like a charitable checking account – you make a gift into a fund and distribute grants from it on your own timeline.
- Work with your tax advisor to determine a good plan for your situation.

Please keep in mind that any gift must be allocated to St. Joe's by Friday, December 31, 2021 in order to be recorded on this year's giving statement.

Blessings during these seasons of Advent and Christmas.

ALL ABOUT ADVENT & CHRISTMAS AT ST. JOE'S

Seasonal Decorating

The Church will be decorated for Christmas on Tuesday, December 21. The Christmas flowers will be delivered and arranged between 9:00 am and 10:00 am. If you are available to help, please call Andrea Grasse at the parish office.



Christmas Flowers

This year we are offering the opportunity to order a poinsettia to adorn the sanctuary during the Christmas season. The suggested donation is \$15 – 20 per poinsettia. If you wish to donate a plant in honor or in memory of someone, please fill out the "Christmas Flowers" envelope that was included in your packet of contribution envelopes and place it in the collection basket. Additional envelopes may be found at the Information Desk. The names and intentions will be listed on a bulletin insert.



Christmas, New Years & Epiphany Mass Schedule

We are planning our Christmas celebrations and all are invited to celebrate with us.

Friday, December 24 Masses

- 3:30 pm Sounds of Christmas
- 4:00 pm Mass
- 9:30 pm Sounds of Christmas
- 10:00 pm Mass

Saturday, December 25 Mass

- 9:45 am Sounds of Christmas
- 10:00 am Christmas Day Mass
- *No 5:00 pm Mass*

Holy Family—Sunday, December 26

- 8:30 am & 10:00 am Mass

Epiphany of the Lord

- Saturday, January 1
5:00 pm
- Sunday, January 2
Regular Mass schedule (8:30 & 10:00 am)
Faith Formation "Epiphany Drama" at 10:00 am Mass

PARISH INFORMATION

IN PERSON MASS TIMES:

SATURDAYS AT 5:00 PM
SUNDAYS AT 8:30 AM & 10:00 AM

- MASKS & SOCIAL DISTANCING ARE OPTIONAL AT ALL MASSES.
- BY ATTENDING THE 5:00 PM MASS ON SATURDAYS YOU AGREE TO BE FILMED FOR OUR RECORDED ONLINE MASS.

WEEKDAY MASSES

MONDAYS—8:30 AM WORD & COMMUNION
TUESDAYS—6:30 PM
WEDNESDAYS –FRIDAYS—8:30 AM

Website.....www.mystjoes.me
Parish Office.....651- 784-3015

FAITH FORMATION

Faith Formation small groups and Joe’s Diner are off the next couple of weeks. We wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

7th—10th Grade Faith Formation December Dates

Wednesday, December 22 Middle School/High School Christmas Celebration including a Gingerbread House Making Contest from 7:00 – 9:00 pm

Feed My Starving Children

Year 1 DTS Candidates will be going to FMSC January 5. Leave from St Joe’s at 6:45 PM and Return at 9:00 PM

7th – 8th Grade go to FMSC January 26. Leave at 6:45 PM and Return at 9:00 PM

7th & 8th Graders will meet on January 12 in St Joseph Hall 7:15 – 8:30 PM with Overtime from 8:30 – 9:00 PM Nothing on January 19th

Retreats in January

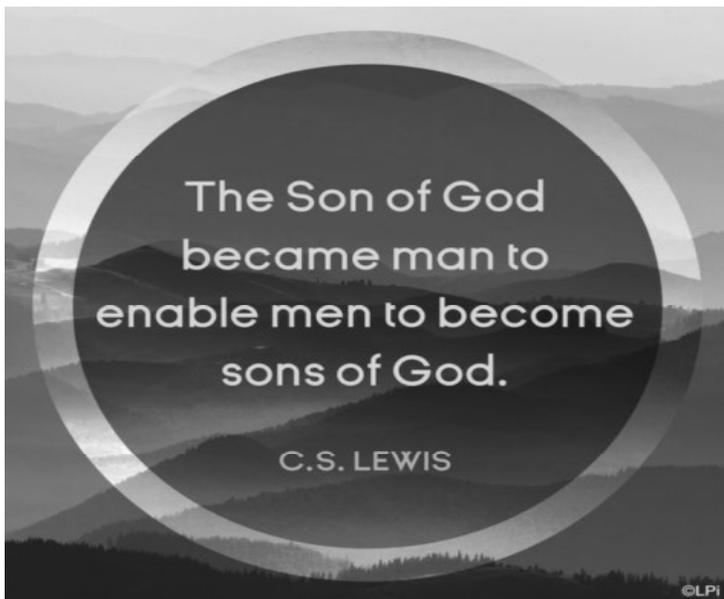
Year 1 DTS Retreat, January 9 11:15 – 5:30 PM @ St Joseph’s
Year 2 DTS Retreat January 30 – 11:15 – 6:15 PM (Location to be determined)

**Faith Chat Series: Why Catholic? with Meisha Johnson
Sunday, December 19, 2021
7:00—8:30 pm in the Great Hall**

Come join a night of conversation with Meisha Johnson, the new Coordinator of Mission here at St. Joseph’s, as she shares her very personal story about leaving a successful career as a journalist and on air personality at CBS in Philadelphia to pursue a relationship with God that ultimately led her to joining the Catholic Church in 2019.

Learn about the challenges that Meisha faced in leaving a life that she had worked so hard for and the amazing ways that God revealed himself to her on this journey. Meisha is passionate about her relationship with God which can be seen by all who she encounters.

No registration required. If you have any questions about Faith Chats please contact Scott Frieler at 651-784-3015 x104 or by email at ScottF@SaintJosephsParish.org.



At St. Joseph of the Lakes this Week

Sunday, December 19

Coffee & Donuts in the Great Hall	After Masses
Girl Scouts in Rooms 9 & 11	4:00 pm
Fall DTS in the Great Hall	6:45 pm

Monday, December 20

Baptism Preparation Class in Rooms 105-106	5:30 pm
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Tuesday, December 21

Instrument Ensemble in the Worship Space	5:30 pm
Martial Arts Class in Room 9 & 11	5:30 pm
AA in Room 2	7:30 pm

Wednesday, December 22

Family Playtime in the Childcare Room	9:30 am
Choir in the Worship Space	6:30 pm
Youth Ministry Christmas Celebration	7:00 pm

Thursday, December 23

Martial Arts Class in Rooms 9 & 11	5:30 pm
RCIA in Rooms 105-106	6:30 pm

Friday, December 24

Parish Office Closed	
Christmas Eve Mass in the Worship Space	4:00 pm
Christmas Eve Mass in the Worship Space	10:00 pm

Saturday, December 25

Christmas Day Mass in the Worship Space	10:00 am
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Sunday, December 26

Mass in the Worship Space	8:30 am
Mass in the Worship Space	10:00 am

CHRISTMAS OUTREACH

Thank you everyone for your generosity with our Christmas trees! We’ve already organized all the gifts for the different charities and we’ve started distribution so we appreciate all in getting them under the trees. Happy Advent!



CHARITY & JUSTICE

No Empty Hands

This year we are re-establishing the connection between coming to church and helping those in need. We challenge ourselves and each other to bring a non perishable food item of some kind to Mass every Sunday. We also ask that our faith formation youth and teens bring food items with them every faith formation night. The food collected on Mondays and Wednesdays will be donated to Hope 4 Youth, the Anoka County homeless shelter for teens and young adults. We ask that this food be portable, quick and/or microwavable. This is just one more way we feel our community can make the world a better place.

Thank You, Advertisers!

Be sure to check out the back page. These are the people and companies who make our bulletin possible. This week’s featured advertiser is:

TRW’s Tax Service

COMMUNITY LIFE

**Coffee & Donuts**

We are taking a holiday break on Sunday, December 26 and will be back to celebrate Epiphany on January 2. Hope you have a wonderful Christmas and Happy New Year!

Family Playtime

For parents/caregivers and their young children, ages birth through kindergarten. A great opportunity to:

- have fun together
- meet other children and adults
- do craft/music/story activities together
- play and pray

So join us on Wednesday mornings 9:30 - 11:30 am in the Childcare Room this December! Fee \$2.00 per child per Wednesday. No registration necessary! Come when it's convenient for you!

Baptism Preparation Class

The next Baptism preparation session is on Monday, December 20 at 5:30 pm. Please call Andi Million at 651.784.3015 to register for this class or for more information on baptisms here at St. Joe's.

Parish Office Closed

The Parish Office will be closed on the following days in December for the Christmas & New Year's Holiday:

Friday, December 24
Monday, December 27
Friday, December 31

Hurry and Pick Up Yours Before it's Too Late!

The St Joseph Knights of Columbus will be selling our 2022 Calendars with profits going to St Joseph Faith Formation tuition assistance and Knights of Columbus charities after all masses this weekend. They make great Christmas stocking stuffers for only \$10 each. There are a variety of great prizes all year long. Please join us in helping other families in our parish!

St. Joe's Variety Show 2022 is coming!

St. Joe's Variety Show is back for this coming February 25, 26 and 27. We'd love to have you join the cast or crew! The show will have an "up-north" theme. We are looking for anyone who'd like to sing with a large group, perform a solo or sing with a small group, help with the stage crew, or help in the kitchen. Please contact Andrea Grasse for more information about needs and rehearsals at 651.784.3015 x 105 or by email at AndreaG@SaintJosephsParish.org.

"May we be in this world a ray of that light which shone forth from Bethlehem, bringing joy and peace to the hearts of all men and women."

~ Pope Francis

Starting Seven Sisters Apostolate at St. Joe's

Are you interested in deepening your prayer life and discovering more about the value of intercessory prayer? We are looking for 7 women to form a *Seven Sisters Apostolate* which will be dedicating 1 hour a week to praying for our pastor. Each person will take a different day of the week and offer 1 hour of prayer on their assigned day. If you feel called to this ministry/small group please contact Meisha Johnson at MeishaJ@SaintJosephsParish.org or call 651.784.3015 x 108.

Grief During the Holidays

If you are grieving a loss of a loved one, or grieving a change or some other transition take care of yourself during this important season! Be patient, realistic, kind and gentle with yourself. Decide what is important to you, and scratch the rest off the list for this holiday. Spend some quiet time listening to your heart and acknowledging your limits. Become aware of your needs and express them to those with whom you plan to spend the holidays. Remember that it is O.K. to say "no". When loss and grief overwhelm us at the holidays, we are sometimes tempted to scrap the whole thing, to do absolutely nothing. But you can keep traditions alive by adapting them in ways that make sense given the new reality of your life. In the Christian tradition, Advent can be a time of quiet reflection and spiritual preparation. May this season of hopeful anticipation touch the yearning within you with healing care and love.

4H Family Dance Party

Dust off your dancing shoes for a fun-filled family friendly evening! The Lino Lakes 4-H Club is hosting a dance party to raise money for Anoka County 4-H Camp Salie.

- When: Friday, January 7, 2022
- Time: 7:00—10:00 pm
- Where: St. Joseph of the Lakes Great Hall
- What: A fun filled night with a DJ, face painting, and games for the kids!
- Who: All ages are invited—help spread the word!
- Cost: \$5.00 per person (at the door) and bring some extra for concessions!

If you have any questions, please contact Christy Joyer at 612.750.0252.

St. Joe's Spirit Connection

Our Advent edition of St Joe's Spirit Connection was delivered to parishioner mailboxes last week. With all of the activities and opportunities for involvement and fellowship in our community, we hope to keep you updated through this publication, as well as our website, mobile app, Facebook page, and weekly bulletin. We welcome your input and invite you to contribute stories, articles, and ideas.

You can connect with the communications committee by email: CC@SaintJosephsParish.org. As our parish theme states, *We are Changing Lives* and there are so many opportunities for you to be a part of that mission. The Communications Committee is always looking for volunteers to join us. Or if you are interested in contributing to the newsletter, we welcome your thoughts. **Make this your year to share your talents and get more involved at St. Joe's!**

STAFF CORNER

“Early deadlines” seems to be the theme around this time of year. As of this writing, we have yet to light the 3rd Advent candle, and yet my thoughts are racing ahead to the last Sunday of Advent and all the activities that this week will bring. For anyone who has watched any of “The Chosen” series, you may recall the words of the shepherds who visited the barn shortly after Jesus’ birth. As they left with great haste, they said, “People must know!” There is a lot to unpack in those three words. The shepherds were of course referring to the news that the savior had been born.

There is a lot of news to share with our parishioners as we approach the end of 2021. To borrow the phrase from the lowly shepherds, “People must know!” Our year-end video message this year will highlight a recap of all the great ministry work that St. Joseph of the Lakes has shared with one another and the greater community. Watch for it at upcoming Masses and on our Facebook page. Part of our work has been messy and full of last-minute modifications. Some has been surprising, unpredictable, and uncertain. We have been vulnerable at times and yet through the months of living with Covid-19 restrictions and then the opportunities to become vaccinated and all the changes that came with that, we continued to show up.

Being present to one another is huge. It’s not always easy – there have been some tough conversations and some moments when we longed for conversations that didn’t happen. We have all changed somewhat in the last 12 months – not only because we all aged another year, but because we experienced a year like none other.

At this time, the words that come to mind are simply, “thank you.” My prayer is that we continue to allow grace and hope and joy to enter into our hearts and lives this Christmas Season. As we continue to be the heart, hands and feet of Christ, we haven’t given up on spreading the news that “People must know!”

Continued Advent Blessings and Peace during the Christmas Season,
Amy Moore, Parish Administrator

STEWARDSHIP MESSAGE

The Gospel today tells of the Virgin Mary, pregnant herself, hurrying off to help her cousin Elizabeth. The model of good stewardship, she who had given herself to bear the Savior gave her time and love to others as well.

WEEKLY READINGS

Week of December 19, 2021

Sunday: Mi 5:1-4a/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 [4]/Heb 10:5-10/Lk 1:39-45

Monday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6 [cf. 7c and 10b]/Lk 1:26-38

Tuesday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21 [1a; 3a]/Lk 1:39-45

Wednesday: 1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd [cf. 1a]/Lk 1:46-56

Thursday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14 [cf. Lk 21:28]/Lk 1:57-66

Friday: *Morning*: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29 [2]/Lk 1:67-79

Saturday: *Vigil*: Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29 [2a]/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25

Night: Is 9:1-6/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13 [Lk 2:11]/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14

Dawn: Is 62:11-12/Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20

Day: Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 [3c]/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

Next Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 [cf. 1]/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Lk 2:41-52 or 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28/Ps 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10 [cf. 5a]/1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24/Lk 2:41-52

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MASSES FOR THE WEEK

Monday, December 20

8:30 am Word & Communion

Tuesday, December 21

6:30 pm Bridget Dunn †

Wednesday, December 22

8:30 am All Souls in Purgatory †

Thursday, December 23

8:30 am Ian McNamara †

Friday, December 24

4:00 pm People of the Parish

10:00 pm Rosemary Czech †

Saturday, December 25

10:00 am John Mooney †

Sunday, December 26

8:30 am Scott Bothwell †

10:00 am People of the Parish

WE REMEMBER IN
OUR PRAYERS

Rosanne Glenda, Marlene Golden, Andrew Vargas, Baby Kenna, Gillian, Judy LeTendre, Fern Long, Ken Uthe, David Delgado, David Kirchberg, Jennifer Millsap, Joie (Frischmon) Toetschinger, Dawn Stenstrom, Dennis Cokley, Michelle Flaherty, Tom Olsen, Jim Frischmon, Wendy Nutter Young, Paul and Lorretta Toetschinger, Barb Mickelson, Bill Franzmeier, Dennis Albert, Leon Meuwissen, Christine Matushak, Lucia Maki, Lorraine Miller, Ron Sprague, and the many living with long term health challenges.

*Please note that due to many requests, names will remain on the prayer list for about three weeks from the time of the request and then reviewed again based on need.

RECENTLY DEPARTED

Mary Paloney †

KC'S CALENDAR

12/13 Shane Wehlage, \$10; 338
12/14 Chloe Lundequam, \$25 Home Depot; 108
12/15 Kelly Million, \$10; 153
12/16 Andy Westerhaus, \$20 Maynards; 245
12/17 Joe & Dawn George, \$10; 359
12/18 Barb Uschold Anderson, \$10; 627
12/19 Rosemary Czech, \$10; 316

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