

December 12, 2021



“HE WILL BAPTIZE YOU WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT AND FIRE.”  
- LK 3:16

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3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT

# HOLY SPIRIT CATHOLIC CHURCH

515 South Albert Street Saint Paul, MN 55116 | (651) 698-3353 | holy-spirit.org

Tues.–Fri. 7:30 a.m. Mass • Sat. 3–4 p.m. Confessions & 4:30 p.m. Mass • Sunday 8:30 & 10:30 a.m. Mass & 11:45 a.m.–4 p.m. Adoration

## MASS INTENTIONS

### December 12, 3rd Sunday of Advent & Our Lady of Guadalupe

8:30 a.m. Retired religious  
10:30 a.m. Holy Spirit community

### December 13, St. Lucy

### December 14, St. John of the Cross

7:30 a.m. Children at the Naomi Family Shelter & Mary's Place

### December 15

7:30 a.m. Grandparents

### December 16

7:30 a.m. Robert Keenan†  
Steve Johnson†

### December 17

7:30 a.m. Houseless neighbors

### December 18

4:30 p.m. Special intention of Mike Lynett



## TODAY: SECOND COLLECTION

**Help aging religious.** Elderly Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests have offered their lives in service to others—educating the young, comforting the sick, and ministering to the less fortunate. Today, many are frail and need assistance. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious helps furnish medications, nursing care, and more. Please give generously to today's second collection. Thank you in advance for your generosity!

## Thanks for Supporting Us!



The Men's Club tree lot is sold out!

Thanks to the many volunteers who helped organize, set-up, run, and tear down the lot. It was another successful year. Thanks also to the customers that come back year after year to buy a tree and wreath from us—Merry Christmas!



## Celebrate Christmas at Holy Spirit!

We look forward to celebrating Christmas with you and your loved ones as we rejoice in the Lord's coming! Please join us for one of our Christmas Masses:

- December 24 at 4:30 & 10 p.m.  
*Preludes will start 30 minutes prior to Mass*
- December 25 at 9 a.m.

## - TODAY'S READINGS -

### First Reading

The LORD, your God, is in your midst,  
a mighty savior; he will rejoice over you with  
gladness. (Zep 3:17)

### Psalm

Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the  
great and Holy One of Israel. (Is 12:6)

### Second Reading

The Lord is near. Have no anxiety at all, but in  
everything, by prayer and petition, with  
thanksgiving, make your requests known to God.  
(Phil 4:6)

### Gospel

The crowds asked John the Baptist,  
"What should we do?" (Lk 3:10)

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## - LIVE THE LITURGY -

Shout for joy! When was the last time you ever felt  
like doing that? Fear, uncertainty, pressure,  
negativity, disappointment, and myriad other  
human experiences can rob us of joy. We can never  
predict what life will bring. As unsettling as that  
can often seem, life's unpredictability is also the  
very thing that allows it to be exciting and  
adventuresome! We know that life can be difficult,  
and it is unrealistic to expect it to be otherwise.

God never promised an easy road. But, when a  
person truly falls in love with God and discovers  
the peacefulness and assurance of God's presence,  
then a depth of understanding will be brought to  
everything they do and experience. Nothing will  
be able to rob them of joy! When we realize that  
God, the King of Israel, is in our midst and with us,  
there is no further misfortune to fear. We celebrate  
the beauty and wonder of God's gift of joy today  
as we ready ourselves, even more excitedly, for the  
coming of our Savior. Do not fear and do not be  
discouraged. There is a power and presence within  
us, our God, who has made us, who loves us and  
who will keep us. What more do we need? Rejoice!

## THE GIVING TREE

Holy Spirit parish youth are sponsoring a Christmas  
Giving Tree to benefit the children at Mary's Place and  
the Naomi Family Center in St. Paul.

Look for the Giving Tree at the Randolph Avenue  
entrance of the church. Simply choose an ornament  
and return a **new, unwrapped** gift to the gift box by  
**Sunday, Dec. 19.**



Thank you to all who celebrated Deacon Lane at his  
ordination reception last weekend!

## SAVE THE DATE!

Night of Spirit will return as an in-person event on  
April 30, 2022

Join us for an evening of community, fun, and  
fundraising with your Holy Spirit family!

- More event details to come in January 2022 -  
*Ticket Information • Theme • Donation Information*  
*Group Party Hosting Opportunities*  
*Sponsorship Opportunities*

# AROUND THE ARCHDIOCESE

Discussion on Assisted Suicide

Dec. 13, 7 p.m.

Nativity of our Lord, St. Paul

Attend this discussion on assisted suicide with Lynn Varco of the Minnesota Catholic Conference (MCC). There will be a screening of the short film "Fatal Flaws" about the harms of euthanasia and assisted suicide followed by a discussion of efforts to support alternatives and how people can take action on this issue by visiting [EthicalCareMN.org](http://EthicalCareMN.org).

Cathedral Festival of Lights

Dec. 15-19, Cathedral of Saint Paul

The Cathedral Heritage Foundation brings back the Cathedral Festival of Lights with a major expansion. The CHF presents both an indoor and outdoor Christmas light shows, *Starry Night*, and *The Beginning*, along with an outdoor market. The outdoor show is free. Purchase tickets for the indoor event at [eventbrite.com](http://eventbrite.com) for \$15-\$40. Visit [cathedralheritagefoundation.org](http://cathedralheritagefoundation.org) for more information.

The Christmas Season and Beyond

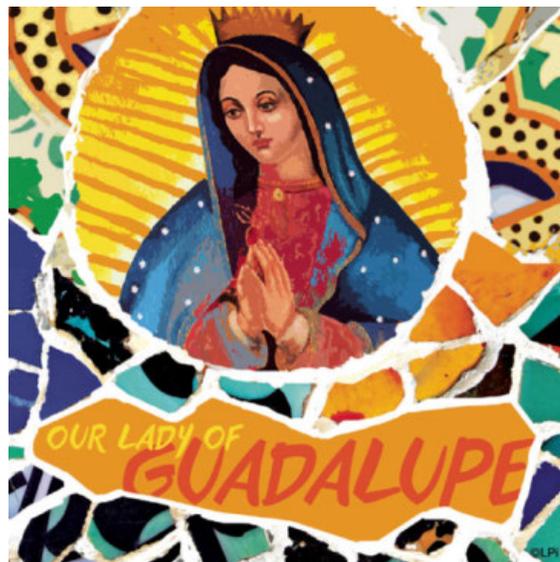
Dec. 20, 6:30-8 p.m., Virtual Event

You are invited to attend a special evening to connect as we head into the holiday home stretch of 2021. Join us to encourage one another, boost our resiliency, and share our experiences in the different ways we create new and positive memories. To register, email Paula Kaempffer at [kaempfferp@archspm.org](mailto:kaempfferp@archspm.org).

**New documentary from the Knights of Columbus sheds light on humble man of the Bible, Saint Joseph**

A new documentary, *St. Joseph: Our Spiritual Father*, sheds light on one of the most hidden protagonists in the Bible. The 60-minute documentary premieres on ABC-affiliated stations across the country, October to early December. The film's release coincides with the final months of the Year of Saint Joseph. The documentary offers an opportunity to learn about Jesus' foster father from a historical perspective and the extent to which a devotion to him can be life-changing. Segments from the documentary and resources on Saint Joseph, as well as a schedule of airings, are available at [kofc.org/stjoseph](http://kofc.org/stjoseph). Know someone who could benefit from joining the Knights of Columbus?

Visit [kofc.org/joinus](http://kofc.org/joinus) for details.



- PRAY FOR US -

## *The Well That Never Dries Up*

Depending on how your mood is today, the words of Paul will hit you differently. "Rejoice always," he tells us. Well, if your football team is poised to win this weekend or next, maybe you're really feeling this vibe. But if you've got a long slog at work ahead of you this week and a to-do list that only seems to grow and never shrink, it may make you grumble. "Rejoice always? Always? When I'm tired? Cranky? When I'm sick of doing and giving? Thanks, Paul. I'll be sure to scribble that phrase on a Post-It and stick it to my dashboard for when some entitled punk inevitably cuts me off on tomorrow's morning commute."

When we feel this way, we know it's time to head back to the well. Think of all the places in Scripture where God compares His love, His mercy, His salvation to water. And not just any water — living water, water that moves. God's strength is not a stagnant puddle sure to evaporate and disappear. It's water you can keep coming back to. It's water that never dries up.

Which is good news for us, because we never stop failing to do what we should, never stop failing to feel the joy and the compassion and the selflessness we are called to. We need a source of living water if we are going to 'rejoice always.' To be everyday stewards, we need a well that never empties.

The fountain of salvation never dries up. There is always more there for us to draw from. It's a sign of His commitment — so let us, in turn, be committed to Him.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

## - Gospel Meditation -

"From silly devotions and sour-faced saints, good Lord,  
deliver us!"

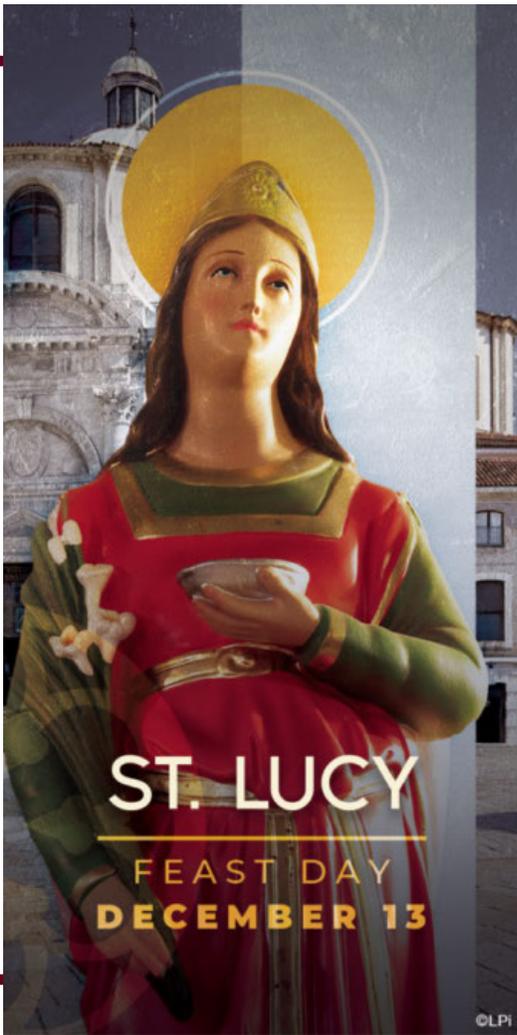
St. Teresa of Avila

We've all heard the adage, "Laughter is the best medicine." In many ways, it really is. When was the last time you really laughed? The gift of imagination allows us to see possible things that are yet to be. Imagine a world filled with laughter. We take life too seriously sometimes. Fear, uncertainty, pressure, negativity, disappointment, and myriad other human experiences can rob us of the joy needed for laughter. God never promised us an easy road, and we do have to take the course of our lives seriously. However, there is a balance to be sought and a possible joy that can be brought even to the darkest and most challenging of encounters.

St. Therese of Lisieux reminds us that, "Joy is not found in the material objects surrounding us but in the inner recesses of the soul. One can possess joy in a prison cell as well as in a palace." Falling in love with God, who is present in all of creation, allows us to bring a depth of understanding to everything we do and experience. We can more easily see above and beyond things while pursuing the only One who can truly satisfy our hearts. When we realize that God, the king of Israel, is in our midst and with us, there is no further misfortune to fear. We can celebrate the wonder and beauty of God's gift of joy. It is no wonder that many saints radiate joy and have no reservations expressing laughter. They are happy because they have found a pearl of great price.

We celebrate with joy today with hearts filled with expectation, wonder, awe, and beauty as we ready ourselves, even more excitedly, for the coming of our Savior. Do not fear and do not be discouraged. If you haven't laughed in a while, why? Something is preventing you from expressing the magnificence of your soul and the presence of God who dwells within. God's power and presence within us assures us that we are loved and kept in that presence. What more is really needed? Rejoice and laugh in the presence of God! It really is the best medicine and a most perfect way to convince others that

God is really with us. "Go ahead, laugh! Live your life with joy and serve the Lord with laughter! Joy, with peace, is the sister of charity. Serve the Lord with laughter." (St. Padre Pio of Pietrelcina)



### ST. LUCY | FEAST DAY DECEMBER 13

A name that means "light," St. Lucy (283 – 304) is the patron saint of those blind or suffering with eye trouble. Not much is known about her life, except that she was determined to remain a virgin and thus refused marriage. History tells the story of a frustrated suitor who eventually accused St. Lucy of being a Christian (a crime at the time), and she was executed in Syracuse, Sicily, in the year 304.

Today, we celebrate a number of traditions that incorporate symbolic meaning of St. Lucy as the "bearer" of light in the darkness of winter. This is particularly seen in Scandinavian countries, with their long dark winters. There, a young girl dressed in a white dress and a red sash (as the symbol of martyrdom) carries palms and wears a crown or wreath of candles on her head. In Denmark, Norway and Sweden, girls dressed as Lucy carry rolls and cookies in procession as songs are sung.



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