



Saint Joseph's Monastery Parish



3801 Old Frederick Rd. at Monastery
Avenue Baltimore, Maryland 21229

We are a welcoming parish. Whatever your present status in the Catholic Church, whatever your current family or marital situation, whatever your past or present religious affiliation, whatever your personal history, age, background, race or color, sexual orientation, whatever your self-esteem, you are invited, welcomed, accepted, loved and respected by the Catholic Community of St. Joseph's Monastery Parish.



December 25, 2021
The Nativity of the Lord

“He so loved us that for our sake He was made man in time, through Whom all times were made; was in the world less in years than His servants, though older than the world itself in His eternity; was made man, Who made man; was created of a mother, whom He created; was carried by hands which He formed; nursed at the breasts which He had filled; cried in the manger in wordless infancy, He the Word without Whom all human eloquence is mute (St. Augustine, Sermon 188).” The miracle of what happens at Christmas is truly an awesome mystery. Revealed in the silent ordinariness of life is God’s intimate love for humanity and all that he made. The Word, existing for all time, comes and dwells among us. God kisses us. We can seek and soar with playful delight as a joy never known before fills our heart. Joy is best expressed through dance. There is just something truly wonderful about the self-abandon a beautiful melodic dance reveals. If we are able to let go and really be free, it celebrates life in a way few other experiences really can. With the birth of Jesus Christ, God takes the Divine Dance to a deeper and more tangible level. We can now not only see what we believe but believe what we see! This most perfect dance is a call to beauty, innocence, truth, purpose, hope, faith, and love. Today we know, beyond doubt, that we are a necessary part of God’s beautifully choreographed masterpiece of life and not just a random happening without real intent or purpose. We are loved, treasured, and blessed.

Accepting the truth of God’s birth in time we also accept an invitation to dance with God. We can let go of what tethers us to anxious concerns and superficial securities. Throw caution to the wind and go with God. We have been blessed with talents, gifts, and life eternal. Follow the rhythm of the dance with joy and listen to what the Word who became flesh tells us about what the next steps can be. Today, heaven remains the same, but earth has been profoundly changed.



The Nativity of the Lord / December 25, 2021

First Reading:

All the ends of the earth will behold the salvation of our God. (Is 52:10)

Psalms:

All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God. (Ps 98)

Second Reading:

In times past, God spoke in partial and various ways to our ancestors through the prophets; in these last days, he has spoken to us through the Son. (Heb 1:1-2)

Gospel:

And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us, and we saw his glory, the glory as of the Father’s only Son, full of grace and truth. (Jn 1:14)

QUESTIONS FOR THE DAY

First Reading:

The prophet Isaiah offered a song of praise in seeing the Lord’s return and the salvation of his people. How will you celebrate today the birth of the Messiah?

Second Reading:

The opening prologue of the Letter to the Hebrews is similar in poetic structure and theology to the prologue of the Gospel of John (today’s Gospel reading). Both texts place heavy emphasis on the divinity of Jesus. In the birth of Jesus where do you see his divinity present?

Gospel:

The opening prologue to the Gospel of John offers a beautiful portrait of Jesus: “And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.” How does the celebration of Christmas help you sense God’s presence in the world?



The Holy Family / December 26, 2021

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)

WEEKLY READINGS AND OBSERVANCES - Readings for the week of December 26, 2021

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

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

Next Sunday: Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-
13 [cf. 11]/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12

Observances for the week of December 26, 2021

Sunday: The Holy Family

Monday: St. John, Apostle and Evangelist

Tuesday: The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

Wednesday: St. Thomas Becket, Bishop and Mar-
tyr

Thursday:

Friday: St. Sylvester I, Pope; New Year's Eve

Saturday: New Year's Day; Mary, The Holy Mother
of God; World Day of Peace

Next Sunday: The Epiphany of the Lord; Sts. Bas-
il the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and
Doctors of the Church

GOSPEL MEDITATION December 26, 2021

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

Families can be very difficult things to negotiate. This is true not only of our families of origin, the current family of which we are a part, the family of our Church, our society, and our global family as well. Everything human can be found in family stories. Those stories speak of wonderful life-giving successes as well as painful spirit-robbing abuses. Our greatest joys and our greatest wounds are usually connected with the experience of family. Our needs, experiences, and unresolved baggage often color what we bring to our familiar relationships. They contribute to our level of defensiveness, how guarded and protected we become, and what prejudices we believe. In order to break the cycle of dysfunction we have to remember that it is not only by human effort that we negotiate the difficult and challenging events of our lives. There is a Divine Effort at work as well. For sure, the human effort can create quite a mess and easily destroy lives. This is true of any family with which we are associated. Today's Feast of the Holy Family serves to help us understand that there is a Divine Story being told as well. It is a story of perseverance in the face of hardship, determination in the face of despair, healing when we see nothing but wounds, and light where there is darkness. Do we believe that God is always working, guiding, restoring, and leading? Unless we do, we will never be free from the imperfections and wounds that bind us and never be able to understand what it really means to forgive. Pope Francis tells us that the "light which comes from the Holy Family encourages us to offer human warmth to other families." While this is most certainly true, we can only really begin to do this when we realize that we are still works in progress, not anchored to the wounds and sins of our past, and still a leading star in God's continually unfolding story of love. The Holy Family persevered and radiated warmth because they knew they were not alone. We can too.

St. Stephen | Feast Day December 26

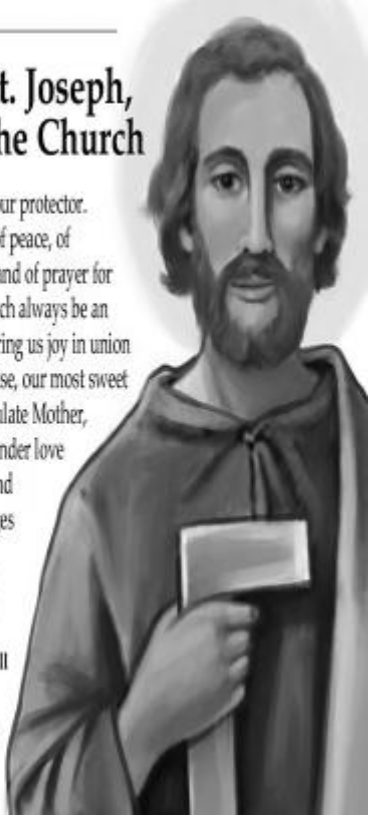
The Acts of the Apostles tells the story of St. Stephen, the first Christian martyr. A man filled with grace and power, he worked great wonders among the people. Some Jews debated with St. Stephen but could not match his wisdom and spirit. Eventually, a charge of blasphemy was brought up against him, and the local population demanded that he be tried and sentenced. He was seized and carried before the Sanhedrin. Despite the danger he faced, in front of the Sanhedrin and his accusers, St. Stephen gave a long speech about the history of Israel and the blessings that God had given upon His chosen people. He talked about how Israel had become disobedient despite God's abundant mercy. This enraged his accusers, and eventually the crowd dragged him out of the city and stoned him to death. Even in his final moments, St. Stephen displayed great forgiveness and even asked God not to hold the sins of his attackers against them. Hundreds of years after his death, he is still a role model for us to follow.

PARISH INFORMATION

Prayer to St. Joseph, Patron of the Church

St. Joseph! Always be our protector.
May your inner spirit of peace, of
silence, of good work, and of prayer for
the cause of Holy Church always be an
inspiration to us and bring us joy in union
with your blessed spouse, our most sweet
and gentle and Immaculate Mother,
and in the strong yet tender love
of Jesus, the glorious and
immortal King of all ages
and peoples.
Amen

—Pope St. John XXIII



PASTORAL STAFF

Rev. Michael A. Murphy, x216 Pastor
Mrs. Gail Fischer, x226 GFischer@sjmp.org Religious Education
Ms. Rebecca Obniski, x235 info@sjmp.org Director of Music

PARISH STAFF

Mr. Al McGill x219 AMcgill@sjmp.org Facilities Manager
Ms. Lisa Jacobs x214 LJacobs@sjmp.org Parish Secretary

OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Thursday 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM
Friday 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM
251 S. Morley Street
Phone-410 -566-0877 Fax-410 -233-4974
E-mail: info@sjmp.org

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (ages 3-12) (9:30 a.m.- 10:40 a.m.)
Sunday School9:30 a.m.. - 10:40 a.m.
RCIA 9:35 a.m. – 10:35 a.m.
Mrs. Barbara Dawson: 443-844-1068 bid70x7@aol.com
Mrs. Mary Homans 410-299-6187 marymargarethomans@gmail.com

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

Pastor to be notified 6 months in advance of plan date.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Arrangements are made with the Pastor

PASTOR

Father Michael Murphy



CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

Saturday Vigil 4:00 p.m.
Sunday Masses 8:30 a.m. &
11:00 a.m. (Family Liturgy)
Daily Mass 8:00 a.m. Monday-Thursday

SACRAMENT OF ANOINTING OF THE SICK

If you or a family member is ill or anticipating surgery, please contact the Pastor to be anointed.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday 3:00 - 3:45 PM

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

To assure the safety of our parishioners and our parish office staff our winter related closings will be as follows: There will be **NO** daily mass if Baltimore County Schools are closed or delayed in opening. If Baltimore County Schools are closed, the parish office will also be closed. If Baltimore County Schools are delayed in opening the parish office will open at 10:00 am. Our primary concern is to keep everyone safe. Thank you.

We wish to welcome everyone to become an active member of the St. Joseph's Monastery Parish Family!

Hello! I would like to become a member of St. Joseph's Monastery Parish. Please send me a registration form as soon as possible.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____
(Area Code)

Check:
 Change of Address
 Moving out of Parish
 Want Envelopes

Please cut out and drop in the Collection box or mail to:

St. Joseph's Monastery Parish Rectory
251 South Morley Street
Baltimore, MD 21229

BULLETIN MASSES Fo

December 24,2021-January 2,2022

Friday, December 24 ,2021

4:00 p.m. Urban P. Bowes (D)
16th Anniversary of Death

7:00 p.m. People of the Parish

Midnight: Barbara Rizzi (D)

Saturday, December 25,2021

10:00 a.m. Rita (D) & Dick (D)
Moxley, Margaret Huppmann (D)

Sunday, December 26,2021

8:30 a.m. C. Godfrey Garvey (D)

11:00 a.m. Henry Hartman (D)

Monday, December 27,2021

8:00 a.m. No Intentions

Tuesday, December 28,2021

8:00 a.m. No Intentions

Wednesday, December 29,2021

8:00 a.m. Mary Angela Peters
Good Health

Thursday, December 30,2021

8:00 a.m. No Intentions.

Saturday, January 1,2022

10:00 a.m. No Intentions

Sunday, January 2,2022

8:30 a.m. People of the Parish

11:00 a.m. Joseph Neville (D)
5th Anniversary of Death

Bulletin Masses

Please call the Rectory office to have your loved ones and friends remembered or honored in a Bulletin Mass. It is a great way to remember and honor your special dates and occasions.

**POPE FRANCIS'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR
December - Catechists**

Let us pray for the catechists, summoned to announce the Word of God: may they be its witnesses, with courage and creativity and in the power of the Holy Spirit.



The angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger." Lk 2: 10-12

PRAYER LIST : Please remember those who are sick, in a nursing or convalescent home, the homebound and their families and caregivers by including them in our Parish Prayer Chain. Please call the Rectory 410-566-0877 to add them to our list. If anyone needs visitation, please call the Rectory 410-566-0877 with the names of anyone in the hospital, nursing home or assisted living facility or who is homebound.

Richard (Cancer) Nadine (Cancer). Tom M.(Special Intentions) Dick K. (Cancer) Peggy, Bob & Andy Moan (Special Intentions) Mara, Fadi, Yousif, Mara & Sally, Hanan ,Shawn , Alton (Special Intentions) . Cecilia W. (Special Intention) Barbara's Neighbor (Cancer) Larry J. (Good Health) Dareen McGloin (Good Health), Joseph Meyer (Good Health) & Family ,Karen Bowen (Fall & Surgery), Herman Williams (Fall) Peggy Day (Fall) Mike G. (Stroke) & Strength for the Family, Marian Erdman (Fall) Chris (Good Health) Pat B. (Good Health) Eugene M. (Covid recovery) Louis (Avon) Owens (Good Health) Mary Dooley (Liver Condition) ,Chuck McNery (Cancer) Daniel Thomas (Cancer) , Tom Cornell (Cancer) Pat Bunke & Family (Cancer), Elaine M. (Cancer) , Joe Garbo (Good Health) Michael J. Lampieri (Special Intentions) John Jackson (Special Intentions Recovery from an Accident) Bill Thornberg (Kidney Cancer) , Elaine (Good Health), Betty Ann (Stroke), Bernard (Good Health) Christine (Good Health) Julie (Good Health) Ted (Good Health) Cayden & Parents (Good Health) Mary Margaret Richards (Cancer), Maria (Good Health) ,Emma and Kathy (Special Intention), Kay (Fall & Good Health) ,Richard Melson (For Peace & Healing) Ann Cleaver & Sons (Special Intention) Gloria Ratliff (Surgery & Treatment) Please pray for the repose of the soul of Jim R. and keep Jim's family in your prayers, Lyla (Good Health) Ernie (Surgery and Recovery) Dennis Dooley (Cancer) Trish K. (Good Health) Please pray for the repose of the soul of Jesse and keep Jesse's Family in your prayers., Please pray for the repose of the soul of Carl and keep Carl's Family in your prayers, Mary Jean (Good Health) , Laura (Good Health)

Prayer for Families

Almighty God and Father, help all families to live like the Holy Family, Jesus, Mary and Joseph , united in respect and love. Teach us through them the sanctity of human love, the value of family life and the way to live at peace with all, that we may share your love and your life forever. Amen.

LIVE THE LITURGY –

Merry Christmas! There is something sacred about sun when it dances upon a field of newly iced snow. Lights and colors bounce around in myriad ways flashing prisms of beauty as if in tune with the rhythm of a melodic dance. The Word became flesh and now dwells among us. Humanity can now dance. We sparkle with the beauty and radiance of God and can now walk through life with confidence knowing that we have been divinely kissed. It is a sacred moment, a holy marriage between God and His sons and daughters. All is bright and all is well. Today we celebrate who we are in Christ and rest safely in God's care. God's presence, revealed in the humble birth of His Son, dances in our hearts, calling us to beauty, truth, purpose, and love. Today we know, without doubt, that we are not the product of the rambling offerings of a universe that created itself. We are loved, treasured, and blessed. We have a Savior who can show us the way. Accept him.



CHRISTMAS PRAYER

Lord, in this holy season of prayer and song and laughter, we praise you for the great wonders you have sent us: for shining star and angel's song, for infant's cry in lowly manger. We praise you for the Word made flesh in a little Child. We behold his glory, and are bathed in its radiance. Be with us as we sing the ironies of Christmas, the incomprehensible comprehended, the poetry made hard fact, the helpless Babe who cracks the world asunder. We kneel before you shepherds, innkeepers, wise men. Help us to rise bigger than we are. Amen.



NEW YEAR'S DAY MASS 10:00 AM

No 4:00 PM Mass

Consult not your fears, but your hopes and your dreams. Think not about your frustrations, but about your unfulfilled potential. Concern not yourself with what you tried and failed in, but what it is still possible to do. Now is the time to put aside past and present setbacks and failures and look with confidence to the new day called tomorrow. — Pope John XXIII

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - Stewardship Ties

There is a lot of imagery around Christmas that has to do with adoption — or, more specifically, with a child being loved by another as if they belonged to that person and loved in such a profound way that in time, they do come to belong to that person.

We see this with Joseph and the infant Jesus. Joseph is not Jesus' biological father. But through a series of actions, and through his faithfulness in small, everyday matters, Joseph becomes the foster father of Jesus.

Perhaps we are parents who have adopted children, or we ourselves were adopted. We have also seen how, through a series of actions of love and sacrifice, someone can become the parent of a person who is not their "blood." A lot of times these families celebrate the day of the adoption. I've heard it called a "gotcha day," and it's marked joyously, like a birthday.

Most of us are not descended from the Israelites, God's Chosen People. But through a series of extraordinary actions of love and sacrifice, God has made Himself our parent, too. And through our own actions, and through faithfulness in small and everyday matters, we are His children.

But in this family, instead of blood ties, we have stewardship ties. It's not about who we look like, it's about how we treat one another. How we take care of one another.

So this Christmas, let's think about how we will celebrate our adoption. As much as it is Jesus' birthday, it's also our "gotcha day" — the day we received the gift of eternal family. — Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS



Not finding (Jesus), they returned to Jerusalem to look for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions, and all who heard him were astonished at his understanding and his answers. Lk 2: 45-47



JESUS, Son of God and Son of Mary, bless our family. Graciously inspire in us the unity, peace, and mutual love that you found in your own family in the little town of Nazareth.

MARY, Mother of Jesus and Our Mother, nourish our family with your faith and your love. Keep us close to your Son, Jesus, in all our sorrows and joys.

JOSEPH, Foster-father to Jesus, guardian and spouse of Mary, keep our family safe from harm. Help us in all times of discouragement or anxiety.

HOLY FAMILY OF NAZARETH, make our family one with you. Help us to be instruments of peace. Grant that love, strengthened by grace, may prove mightier than all the weaknesses and trials through which our families sometimes pass. May we always have God at the center of our hearts and homes until we are all one family, happy and at peace in our true home with you. Amen.



He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them; and his mother kept all these things in her heart. And Jesus advanced in wisdom and age and favor before God and man. Lk 2: 51-52

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP

All in the Family

At first glance, we can often find the image of the Blessed Mother, St. Joseph and the Christ Child intimidating — who are we to aspire to that level of discipleship? How could we ever hope to conform ourselves to that mold? Sometimes, it can even be painful — perhaps we hail from a broken family or struggle with a broken relationship within our family, or perhaps we long to be a mother or a father ourselves and that state in life has eluded us. But the image of the Holy Family is, in reality, a beautiful invitation to us all, no matter our vocation or our state in life, and the example of Mary, Joseph and Jesus is rich with the symbolism of stewardship.

You need not be a biological mother who has carried a child in her womb to be a mother in spirit. Who in your world needs you to love them with the heart of a mother?

The same goes for fatherhood. The Church and the world are crying out for the courageous witness of Christian men like St. Joseph. Who can you love with the steadfast, selfless protection of a father?

Who in your life needs you to love them with the faithful, unconditional love of a son? Who needs your gentle and constant love as a daughter? We are the Body of Christ, friends. Those of us rejoicing in heaven, those of us suffering in purgatory, and those of us struggling here on earth. We are the great family. Let us love each other well.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

LIVE THE LITURGY

It was the best of times and it was the worst of times. Our families can bring out the best and the worst in us. This is true of our families of origin, the current family of which we are a part, the family of our church, our society, and the like. In all of our family experiences, what stands out as our most challenging memory? Everything human can be found on the pages of family life. But there is also a Divine story to be discovered as well.

When life gets difficult and perplexing, today's Feast of the Holy Family stands to remind us that it is not just by human effort that we tread treacherous waters. We have to remember and learn from the Divine effort too. We need this perspective if our love lessons are going to be learned completely and well. We are all works in progress and we all come from homes that are broken by imperfection. In whatever life brings us and in whatever family we find ourselves, may the promptings we feel toward faith and hope lead us to greater love.

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