



Sunday, December 22, 2024

Fourth Sunday of Advent

**ST. JOHN PAUL II**  
CATHOLIC CHURCH



*When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb."*

*Luke 1:41:42*

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

## OFFICE HOURS

**Monday**  
CLOSED

**Tuesday – Friday**  
9:00am – 4:00pm  
(Closed for lunch 12:00pm – 1:00pm)

## PARISH STAFF

**Rev. Rafael Lavilla, Pastor** .....pastor@nocateecatholic.com  
**Deacon Anthony Colichio** .....deacontony@nocateecatholic.com  
**Joe Iannotti, Finance Manager** .....bookkeeper@nocateecatholic.com  
**Sharon Bohres, Parish Coordinator** .....coordinator@nocateecatholic.com  
**Dominic Salamida, Family Life Coordinator** .....flc@nocateecatholic.com  
**Matthew Crews, Family Life Ministries Assistant**.....youthflc@nocateecatholic.com  
**Rafal Adamski, Music Director** .....music@nocateecatholic.com

# Advent & Christmas Schedule

## MASS TIMES

### CHRISTMAS EVE

CHILDREN'S MASS 4:00PM  
MASS 7:00PM  
MIDNIGHT MASS 12:00AM

### CHRISTMAS DAY

MASS 8:00AM  
MASS 10:00AM

### PRAYER OF ST. MICHAEL

Saint Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil; May God rebuke him, we humbly pray; And do thou, O Prince of the Heavenly Host, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan and all evil spirits who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls.

**Amen.**



### PRAYER FOR THE SUCCESSFUL CONSTRUCTION OF OUR NEW CHURCH

Almighty and merciful Father, You have created all things through your Son and have made Him the unshakable foundation of your kingdom. Through the gift of your eternal wisdom, grant that the construction of our Parish Church Building will be materialized for your greater glory and that our well-being may progress day by day to its successful completion. Through the intercession of our Patron, Saint John Paul II, and the guidance of St. Joseph and Mother Mary, we ask you to bless all of us with the eagerness to participate through our prayers and the many blessings you have given us.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**St. John Paul II, pray for us.**

## LOCAL CONFESSION TIMES

### Our Lady of La Leche National Shrine

Available in English & Spanish  
Monday through Saturday  
11:00 AM to 11:55 AM

### Our Lady Star of the Sea

Wednesday: 5:30 - 6:30pm  
Friday: 9:00 - 9:45am

### St. Joseph Catholic Church

SUNDAY  
8:40 AM to 9:00 AM  
(Iglesia histórica) – En español  
10:10 AM to 10:30 AM  
(Iglesia histórica) – En español

SATURDAY: 4:30 PM to 5:30 PM  
(Main Church - Marian Center)

MON - SAT  
7:30 AM to 7:55 AM  
(Historic Church)  
Offered before Daily Masses

THURSDAY  
5:30 PM to 6:00 PM  
(Iglesia histórica) – En español

# Prayer & Worship

## PRAYER REQUESTS

### OUR SICK & INFIRM

Lori Anderson, Riley McCahill, Kenneth Minutoli, Letecia Pangilinan-Gella, John Parkin, Mary Pilcher, Alexander Sandel, Dennis Siple, Judy Tagliaferri

### OUR EXPECTANT MOTHERS

Angela DiBenedetto, Caroline Fairly, Sarah Martin, Karol Robles, Yahaira Moonan

### OUR DEPLOYED MILITARY

ENS Alyssa Albano, USN; LT Aidan Byrnes, USA; LT Chalin Fairly; SGT Kyle Graves, USA; LCDR Trevor Hoyt; 2Lt. Matthew Mahlmeister, USA; SGT Daniel O'Connor; LT Col Edyta Partum, Polish Army; ENS Erin Sass, USCG; AT2 Kyle Swanson, USN; AOC Shaun Wildenstein, USN; Command Master Chief Avagayle Williams, USN; SGT Scott Zemaitis, USAR

If you wish to add an individual's name to the prayer list, please send a request: [nocateecatholic.com/prayer-request](http://nocateecatholic.com/prayer-request). In addition to prayers, if you would like a blessed Prayer Shawl, please contact us at [prayershawl@nocateecatholic.com](mailto:prayershawl@nocateecatholic.com).



## PARISH OFFICE HOURS

The office will be closed  
December 23rd through  
December 27th for Christmas.  
We will return to regular office  
hours Tuesday, December 31st.



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.

## MASS SCHEDULE

Monday – Friday 8:30am  
Saturday Vigil 4:00pm & 6:00pm  
Sunday 8:00am, 10:00am & 12:00pm  
Confessions Saturday 2:30 – 3:45pm

## PRAYER & ADORATION

### WEDNESDAYS

Morning Prayer 8:00am  
Adoration 9:00am – 4:00pm  
Evening Prayer & Benediction 4:00pm

## MASS INTENTIONS

### Fourth Sunday of Advent

#### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21

4:00pm + George Koch  
6:00pm People of the Parish

#### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22

8:00am + Patrick Ryan  
10:00am + Concetta & Luke Antonacci  
12:00pm + Helen & Walter Spiegel

#### MONDAY, DECEMBER 23

8:30am + Matthew Colonna

#### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24

##### Christmas Eve

4:00pm + Danuta Kocikowski  
7:00pm + John Pawloski  
12:00am + John Koch

#### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25

##### The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)

8:00am + Dr. Roger O'Bryan  
10:00am + Alejandro Gonzalez

#### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 26

8:30am + George Waghorn

#### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 27

8:30am + Efigenia Luis

Mass intentions through Feb 2025 have been filled. Intentions can be reserved through May 2025 at this time.

# Ministry Activities

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## Bible Study

### The Prophets, Messengers of God's Mercy

Thursdays, January 16 - April 3 9:45 am - 11:45 am

Cost: **\$28.00** (Workbook and Bible Timeline)

Note: Couples may share a workbook

Workbooks will be distributed on January 16th

Questions?

Contact - biblestudy@nocateecatholic.com



Scan Below



To Register

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## SPECIAL NEEDS MINISTRY



The Special Needs Ministry welcomes you to join us as we support the integration of all individuals into our faith filled community. Our ministry typically meets on the **second Monday of each month at 6:30-7:30pm** in the Church.

Come join us as we aim to foster inclusiveness within our church community to empower individuals with special needs and their families as full participants in spiritual, sacramental, and social growth at Saint John Paul II Catholic Church.

For questions or more information contact: support@nocateecatholic.com

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## HOLY COMMUNION FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND

Please let our Homebound Ministry volunteers bring you the Eucharist and pray with you.

Only a commissioned minister should bring the Eucharist outside of church. Send an email to homebound@nocateecatholic.com or contact the parish office at 904-330-0153 to schedule a visit.



## MINISTRY OF CONSOLATION

### Grief and the Holidays

Surviving the Holidays while experiencing deep grief can feel like an ominous task. Under the best of circumstances, the Christmas Season presents many challenges. The expectations of a Hallmark Christmas with cozy fires, Christmas Caroling and ongoing joy may not always come to fruition. Although a time of magic and wonder...our routines are disrupted, fatigue may be present, and children may get sick, relegating them to the couch for Christmas Day.... And yet, the Christmas Season is a time of prayer, hope and peace and taking time to gather with family and friends.

For those who have lost a loved one...the pain of their absence may be unbearable...while the entire world is singing, "JOY TO THE WORLD" The Christmas Season may bring the feeling of dread and deep sadness. It may be that the anticipation of Christmas Day is harder than the actual day, and it always comes. How do we survive this season while we are absorbed in the pain of grief?



We have learned some ways of coping from many who have shared their stories in our bereavement groups:

1. Make a plan for Christmas Day.
2. Be with others that understand your pain
3. If you are flooded with emotion at Christmas time, avoid Christmas songs that may overwhelm you...or listen to them if they bring you comfort.
4. Take care of yourself if possible...your whole body grieves.
5. Make a list of the rituals you want to keep and the plans you want to change.
6. Some people plan a vacation away from the sights and sounds of Christmas.

At St. John Paul II, we come together to share your joy and your grief. It may be a time to refocus on the meaning of Christmas while grieving. Our scriptures are filled with hope at the coming of new life through Jesus whose life gave us a new meaning of life and death. We can wrap our deep pain and grief in a gift, like the Magi, to the birth of our hope in new life. We pray to find the meaning of our loss by entering the mystery of God's love and the reality of healing through our community...God's love shows up when least expected. Our arms and hearts are always open.

“ The Lord rebuilds Jerusalem, and gathers the dispersed of Israel, healing the brokenhearted, and binding up their wounds. ”  
Psalm 147:2-3



### ADVENT BY CANDLELIGHT

Thank you to all those who joined us for the Advent by Candlelight program. Fr. Rafael delivered a beautiful message about building disciples in our parish. A special thanks goes to Teena Agcanas and The Knights! Thanks for all you do for our parish!

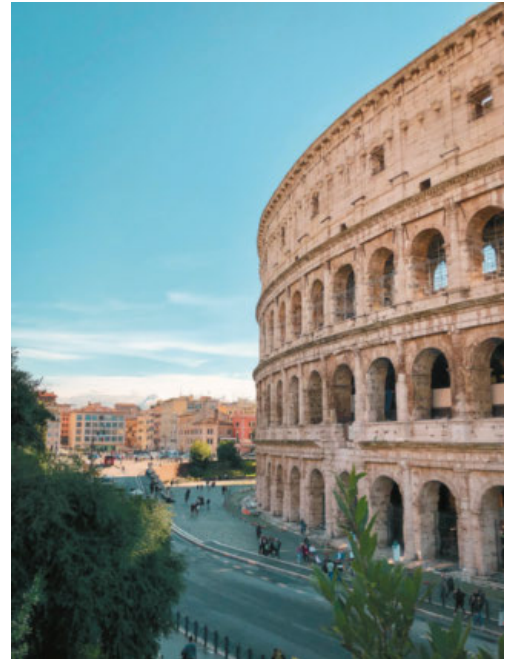
## 2025 JUBILEE OF YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS PILGRIMAGE TO ROME

July 26 - August 5, 2025

2025 Jubilee of Youth and Young Adults Pilgrimage to Rome from **July 26 - August 5, 2025** The Diocese of St. Augustine will be going on pilgrimage to Rome and St. John Paul II will be joining! Our very own Fr. Rafael will be the chaplain for the pilgrimage! Families are welcome to join, but the pilgrimage is designed for our teens and young adults.

We will start with 2 days in Assisi with the rest of the pilgrimage being in Rome to participate in the Jubilee of Youth Events.

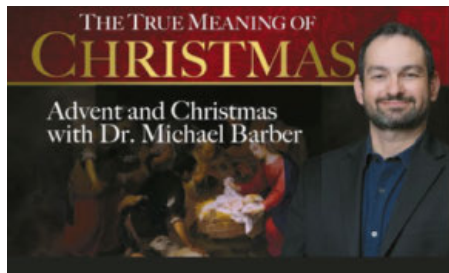
If you would like to know more information regarding flights, pricing, itinerary, or would like to register, please reach out to [youthflc@nocateecatholic.com](mailto:youthflc@nocateecatholic.com)



## FORMED

### PICKS OF THE WEEK

December 22, 2024



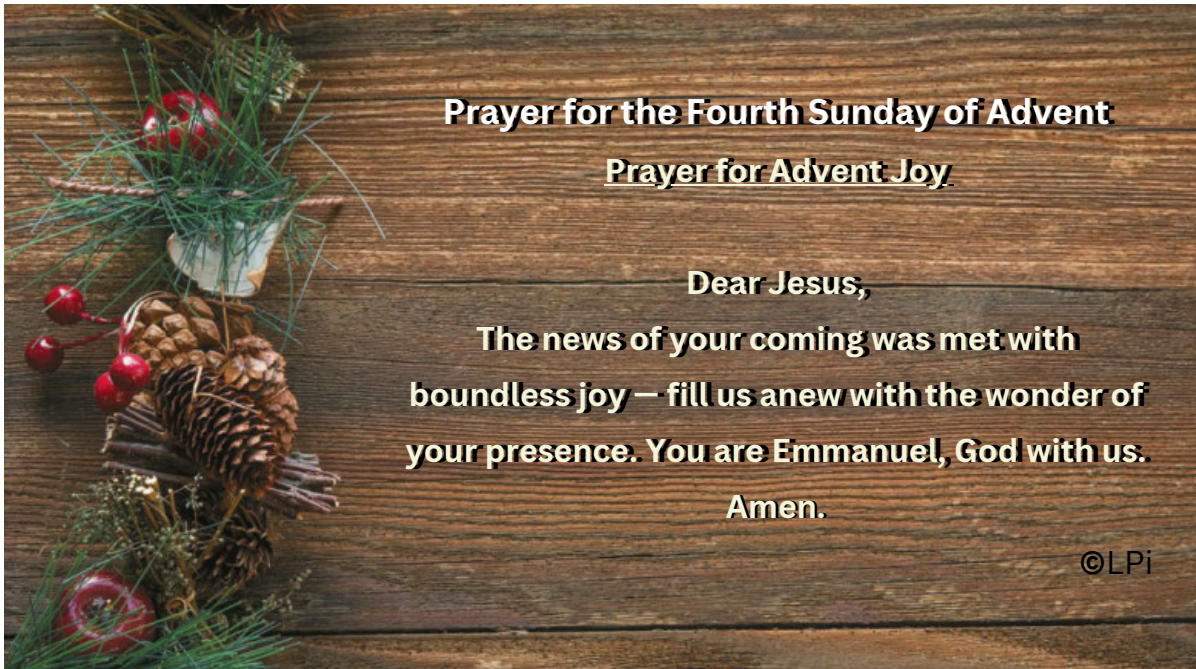
Do you love Christmas traditions but don't know where they come from? Watch **"The True Meaning of Christmas"** with Michael Barber this week on FORMED.org. In this series of Advent reflections, you'll learn the meaning behind your favorite Christmas pastimes; from St. Nicholas and the Christmas Tree to Christmas Angels, Grace and even Bah! Humbug and more!



Want to help your children focus more on the true meaning of Christmas and a little less on the commercialization? Watch **"Lukas Storyteller: The True Meaning of Christmas"** With them this week on FORMED.org. Christmas is coming and the Lukas Storyteller kids expect to receive many gifts, but when they caught in one of their antics, Lukas and Noah will help them understand the true story of Christmas and how the birth of the Son of God should change our hearts.

To set up your free account visit [formed.org/signup](https://formed.org/signup) and insert the SJPII zip code (32081)

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## GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

The Blessed Virgin teaches us the secret to being blessed, happy, and full of joy. When Elizabeth, her cousin, greets her, she calls Mary “blessed” for two reasons, her motherhood of Jesus, and Our Lady’s belief that “there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord” (Luke 1:45).

Mary is “blessed” entirely because of her relationship to the Incarnation of God in Jesus, and for no other. This of course makes perfect sense, because as the Lord, as God-in-the-flesh, her son is the source of all blessedness, life, and joy. Mary is blessed because of her contact with Jesus, and by her faith in him.



So, it is with us, too. We become blessed by our “motherly” contact with Christ in our souls through baptism. He lives in us and grows to maturity within us. We bear him to the world. This requires unshakeable faith that his promises to us will be fulfilled, despite all the problems and difficulties that plague us. We become blessed, happy, and joyful in the measure that we are in contact with Jesus and trust in him.

Advent challenges:

1.) This week go to someone who has borne the love of Jesus to you and tell her or him how they have been a blessing to you.

2.) Name someone in your life now to whom God has sent you to bring Jesus’ presence. Pray: “Lord, thank you for the blessing of sending me to bring your presence to this person. Help me bear you faithfully to him/her.”

– Father John Muir ©LPi

## JOB POSTING



The St. John Paul II office is looking for a full-time financial assistant. A job description is available on the Diocesan website. If interested, please forward your resume to [bookkeeper@nocateecatholic.com](mailto:bookkeeper@nocateecatholic.com)

## DONATION OF FOREIGN CURRENCY

We are so grateful for our parishioners' generosity however, we are not able to accept donations of foreign, non-US currency. Please do not put foreign currency in the collection basket. Thank you.



## *External Ministry Activities*

### RACHEL'S VINEYARD

A Rachel's Vineyard weekend retreat is a beautiful opportunity for any man or woman who is struggling with the emotional and spiritual pain of an abortion or miscarriage in their life. Come and receive peace, forgiveness of self and others and the compassion of God. These retreats are private, strictly confidential and for people of all faiths. For more information call 904-221-3232 or email [rachelsvineyardjax@yahoo.com](mailto:rachelsvineyardjax@yahoo.com). All calls & inquiries are very confidential.

COME AND BE RESTORED!



## A CHRISTMAS GIFT FOR MARRIED COUPLES



Couples.....want to give each other something really special this Christmas? How about a gift filled with Romance and Excitement? That's just the beginning of what you will receive on a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. Sign up today to attend an upcoming Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend on **Feb 14-16 in Tallahassee, or April 4-6 in Titusville, or July 25-27 in St. Johns**. For more information or for other scheduled weekends visit our website at [wwme.org](http://wwme.org) or e-mail: [Applications@FLCN-wwme.org](mailto:Applications@FLCN-wwme.org) Or contact Walt & Viv Paskowski at [waltviv.wwme@gmail.com](mailto:waltviv.wwme@gmail.com) if you have any questions.



# FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

**“Blessed are you who believed that  
what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled.”**

**Luke 1:45**



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**“Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to  
me according to your word.”**

**Luke 1:38**

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**“A Virgin shall conceive and bear a son; and his name will be  
called Emmanuel.”**

**Isaiah 7:14**

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**“Drop down dew from above, you  
heavens, and let the clouds rain  
down the Just One; let the earth be  
opened and bring forth a Savior.”**

**Cf. Isaiah 45:8**





### PARISH REGISTRATION, LOGIN & PASSWORD

Please register online at [www.nocateecatholic.com](http://www.nocateecatholic.com), or come into the office for assistance. Only ONE person per household needs to register at the following address or by scanning the QR code. If you have questions, please email [registration@nocateecatholic.com](mailto:registration@nocateecatholic.com).



**Already registered?** Create your account at [sjiichurch.breezechms.com/login/create](http://sjiichurch.breezechms.com/login/create)

### MINISTRY DIRECTORY

Looking for information about our ministries? Scan the QR code or **go to [nocateecatholic.com/ministries](http://nocateecatholic.com/ministries)** for the SJPII Ministry Directory. For general ministry questions, [ministry@nocateecatholic.com](mailto:ministry@nocateecatholic.com).



### HOW DO I MAKE A DONATION?

#### TEXT TO GIVE:

Text the amount you would like to donate to 904-901-7884.

#### ONLINE DONATIONS:

Set up online donations at <https://nocateecatholic.com/giving/>

#### ALTAR FLOWER DEDICATIONS

Altar Flowers may be sponsored on a weekly basis in memory of a loved one or to celebrate a special occasion.

#### MASS INTENTIONS

Mass Intentions may be made for a living or deceased loved one. **Only one Mass Intention per Mass is permitted.** To accommodate more parishioners, we limit the number of Mass Intentions per person. Requests may be made up to 6 months in advance. Please call 904-330-0153 or visit the Parish Office for availability.

#### BENEFICIARY DESIGNATION GIFTS

Many IRA owners are unaware that gifts (offertory, campaign pledges, etc.) made to their parish directly from their IRAs are not subject to taxes, do not raise their taxable income and can satisfy all or part of their required minimum distributions. Questions? **Contact Kelly Wood 904-208-6931 or [kwood@dosafll.com](mailto:kwood@dosafll.com)**

### SAFE ENVIRONMENT TRAINING

Our Diocese asks us to verify that all volunteers and employees comply with the provisions to be able to serve within our Parish to ensure a safe environment for our children and seniors. To check your status, or to complete or update your requirements, please visit [www.virtusonline.org](http://www.virtusonline.org). Email questions to: [safeenvironment@nocateecatholic.com](mailto:safeenvironment@nocateecatholic.com).

### ATTENTION

The Diocese of Saint Augustine treats all allegations of sexual misconduct seriously and deals with the allegations in a prompt, confidential and thorough manner.

#### To Report Abuse Call:

**Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator at 1-800-775-4659, ext. 129 or Department of Children & Families at 1-800-96Abuse or 1-800-962-2873.**

### NEVER MISS A BULLETIN

Sign up to have our weekly parish bulletin emailed to you at [www.parishesonline.com](http://www.parishesonline.com). You also can find the bulletin on our website at [www.nocateecatholic.com](http://www.nocateecatholic.com).

### SUBMIT COMMUNICATIONS REQUESTS

Submit the online form at: <https://nocateecatholic.com/communications-request/>  
Requests must be received **by 5:00pm on Tuesdays**; nineteen days prior to the Sunday bulletin publication date.

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