

Mass Intentions

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 06

8:00am: +Dolores Aquila
5:00pm: +Joshua St. Germain

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 07

2nd Sunday of Advent

8:15am: For the Parish, William Billingsley, Sr.
11:15am: +John J. Hail, Jr.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 08

7:00am: +Ciro Franco
9:00am*: Kia Batchelder
7:00pm: Achile Egbunu

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 09

7:00am: John & Pat Harriety

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10

7:00am: +Wayne Weaver

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11

7:00am: +Mary Hammond

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12

7:00am: +Antonio & Elisa Enriquez
9:00am*: Jeannie Green

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13

8:00am: Mary Ann DeMaiores
5:00pm: McKinley & Petrina Curtis

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14

3rd Sunday of Advent

8:15am: +Nancy Marie Leslie
11:15am: For the Parish, +Yvonne DeLorenzo

PRAYER REQUESTS

We are here to pray for you!

Barbara Brodeur, Carolyn Wingenter, Zanetta Brown, Faye Fletcher, Batchelder Family, Stachura Family, Sayre Family, Maddie Clearly, John Rourke, Jr., Cindy Morales, Linda Dimmock, Ralph & Helen Kissel, Judi Trygg, Cecilia Hall, Deacon Mike Rooney, Jane and Dena Bell, Marie Basta, Richard Brown, Jena Lanzell, Charlotte Johnson, Emma Lang, Jackie Weems, Bob Strang, Jacqueline Meador, Adrianna Hilburn, Jason & Jaxson Rivera, Therese Thomas, Art Sandridge, Chris Karlson, Mary Vandergraft, Jeff Baldwin, Ben Sundey, Anna Wilks, Bill Boehme, Mary Flatt, Kennita Turner, Eva Nave, Anna Belander, the Price family, Gail Johnson, Sally Cox, Mary Andrus family, Bruce Jansen, Mary Jean Travis, Jean Arndt, Mil White, Fr. Tim Pfander, Bobbie Quintana, Jr., Ezra Morris, Mark Manning, Larry Barnett, Susan Sheehy, Mike Harwood, Chris Johnson, Peter Donnelly.

Note

If you wish to add someone to the prayer list, please contact the parish office. When that person recovers, please call again to remove their name so that others can be put on the list. **Thank you, Fr. Joe**

Dear Brothers and Sisters:



Here we are, beginning the second week of Advent. Advent is a time of joy, celebration and anticipation as we prepare for Christmas. Yet, it can be a time of anxiousness and worry. In *The Word Among Us: Daily Meditations for Catholics* the meditation for November 29 was particularly appropriate to share as we become immersed in this holiday season. The readings for that day were: **Daniel 7:15-27/Psalm Daniel 3:82-87/Luke 21:34-36.**

The anxieties of daily life (Luke 31:34)

In clinical terms, anxiety is often defined as a feeling of restriction, both physical and emotional. People undergoing an anxiety attack typically experience a racing heart, tightness in the chest, shortness of breath and muscle tension. Emotionally, they can feel as if the walls are closing in around them, or as if the weight of the world were bearing down on them. It can be overwhelming!

No wonder Jesus warns us against letting “the anxieties of daily life” overwhelm us (**Luke 21:34**)! It’s hard to “stand before the Son of Man” with a clenched jaw and shallow breathing (**Luke 21:36**). It’s hard to sense his love or his presence and the people around you when you are closed in on yourself.

Jesus wants us to learn how to go through life at peace and open to everything that comes our way. He wants us to practice accepting each situation on its own terms, confident in his mercy and relying on his power. He knows that if we can do that, we will be better able to receive his guidance, speak his word and reflect his love, no matter what the circumstance. We will be like St. Paul, who wrote, “I have the strength for everything through him who empowers me” (**Philippians 4:13**).

Of course, this kind of open-hearted approach to life doesn’t come easily, and it doesn’t happen overnight. But it can grow as we try to live every day in the peace of Christ and as we immerse ourselves in his presence and prayer. Staying connected to Jesus, the Prince of Peace, we will gradually become more peaceful ourselves.

Try it today. Close your eyes, and take three long, deep breaths. With each inhale and exhale, slowly repeat the key verse in today’s responsorial psalm: “Bless the Lord; praise and exalt him above all forever” (**Daniel 3:82**). Let his peace wash over you and calm your fears and anxieties. You belong to Christ, and he has you in the palm of his hand!

“Jesus, help me to face today with an open heart, filled with trust in you.”

You are in my daily thoughts and prayers. May Advent be a wonderful time of spiritual growth. Enjoy this time and remember that “*Jesus is the reason for the season,*” and everything else is extra.

Always in the Savior, Fr. Joe

Sacrament of the Sick

Here at St. Joseph, we have the communal anointing of the sick twice a year – during Advent and Lent. On the weekend of December 13 and December 14, there will be the Sacrament of the Sick available at each of the Masses. After the final hymn, those who wish to be anointed will stay in the church and fill every other pew.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday	Genesis 3:9-15, 20	Friday	Revelation 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab
<i>Immaculate</i>	Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4	<i>Our Lady of</i>	Ps Judith 13:18bcde, 19
<i>Conception</i>	Ephesians 1:3-6, 11-12	<i>Guadalupe</i>	Luke 1:39-47
	Luke 1:26-38	Saturday	Sirach 48:1-4, 9-11
Tuesday	Isaiah 40:1-11		Ps 80:2ac, 3b, 15-16, 18-19
	Ps 96:1-2, 3, 10ac, 11-13		Matthew 17:9a, 10-13
	Matthew 18:12-14	Sunday	Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10
Wednesday	Isaiah 40:25-31	<i>3rd Sunday</i>	Ps 146:6-10
	Ps 103:1-4, 8, 10	<i>of Advent</i>	James 5:7-10
	Matthew 11:28-30		Matthew 11:2-11
Thursday	Isaiah 41:13-20		
	Ps 145:1, 9-11, 12-13ab		
	Matthew 11:11-15		

THANK YOU. The Donnelly family would like to express our sincere thanks to our St. Joseph community for all the beautiful cards, delicious food, prayers, hugs and great stories offered to us during our time of loss. We are truly blessed.

THE WIDOWS AND WIDOWERS GROUP Annual Pot-luck Christmas Party will be on Thursday, December 11, at The Villas of Jones Valley clubhouse, 1 Valley Way Circle (off Four Mile Post Road and across the street from Phase 3 Fitness Center).

Social hour begins at 11:00 a.m., lunch at 11:30 a.m. Please bring a wrapped unisex gift around \$15 value if you plan to join in the "dirty Santa" gift exchange, a dish to share for the pot-luck and \$3 toward the ham that will be provided.

Please RSVP to Cathy at candjcal2u@aol.com or 256-489-7111. We are an informal group that gets together. Newcomers are

LITURGICAL MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES Are you interested in being an altar server, a lector or an extraordinary minister of Holy Communion? The next ministry schedule will begin with the start of Advent, November 29/30, 2025, through the end of March 2026. You will be trained before you are placed on the schedule by one of the following: Fr. Joe (altar servers), Tom Uss (lectors) or Josette Dant (EMHC).

Please contact the parish office with your choice of ministry. We look forward to your service at the Lord's Supper.

2025 Advent Communal Penance & Confessions Schedule

Our Lady Queen of the Universe	Dec. 6, 8:30 a.m.-10:30 p.m. *
St. Joseph	Dec. 11, 5:30 p.m.-7:00 p.m. *
St. Mary of the Visitation	Dec. 13, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. **
St. John the Baptist, Madison	Dec. 15, 5:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. *
Holy Spirit	Dec. 16, 6:30 p.m. **
St. Paul, Athens	Dec. 17, 6:30 p.m. **
Mercy Parish, Madison	Dec. 18, 6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. **

* = Confessions only

** = Penance Service with Confessions

Please verify the date and time with the parish where you plan to attend an Advent reconciliation service.

CURRENT WEEKLY OFFERING

Regular Collection	\$ 11,031.13
Christmas Boxes	\$ 8,780.00
Other Designated Funds	\$ 3,280.00

LITURGICAL MINISTERS SCHEDULE

DECEMBER 13-DECEMBER 14, 2025

ALTAR SERVERS

5:00pm:	Geri Reddy
8:15am:	Dawson Amos
11:15am:	Travis Aragon, Aaron Goudeau

LECTORS

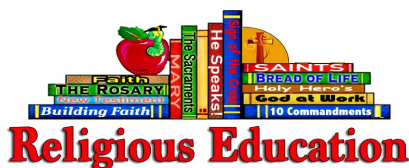
5:00pm:	Bonnie Johanneman, Grady Harmon
8:15am:	Christina Pohl, Don Gregory
11:15am:	Tyrell Hongo, Florence Okafor

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

5:00pm:	Ben Sunde*, Webb Tadesse, Patty Ayala, Maritza Holland, George Holland
8:15am:	Laura Hall*, David Brost, Anne Heatherly, Cecilia Bruton, Teri Lynch
11:15am:	Jim Powell*, Jane Dodd, Bea Terry, Maggie Taylor, Norma Whitehead

Religious Education

Formation and Catechesis



FORMATION CALENDAR

- Dec. 7 1st Reconciliation Retreat 9:00 a.m.
St. Francis Hall
RE/OCIA 9:30 a.m.-11:00 a.m.
St. Francis Hall/HFS/Parish Office Building
- Dec. 13 1st Reconciliation 10:00 a.m.
St. Joseph Church
- Dec. 14 RE/OCIA 9:30 a.m.-11:00 a.m.
St. Francis Hall/HFS/Parish Office Building



CHRISTMAS BOXES 2025



It's Christmas Box time at St. Joseph! Please pick up a food item list in the church vestibule. All donations must be returned to the church by December 6. You can also purchase Scrip for the boxes, put it in an envelope marked "Christmas Box Donation," and place in the offertory basket. We will have two collections designated for the Christmas Boxes— the Thanksgiving Day collection and a second collection on November 29/30. Proceeds from these collections will be used to purchase item shortages and grocery store gift cards. The gift cards will allow recipients to buy perishable items, such as meats and fresh produce, that we do not provide. Please help us on the following important dates.

- Dec. 12 Build packing boxes—5:00 p.m.
Dec. 13 Pack the boxes—9:00 a.m.
Dec. 14 Boxes available for pick-up

This is a big annual undertaking for our parish that could not be done without the efforts of all who contribute to this outreach ministry. Please give generously of your time, talent and spirit to make this another successful year. For more information, call the parish office at 256-534-8459.

DEACON GREG THOMPSON will host a one-hour Scripture Study entitled *The Coming of the New Born King* on Sunday, December 7, beginning at 9:45 a.m. in the chapel. We will reflect on the Advent Season and the "New Born King" who is Jesus Christ as shared in the Gospel of Matthew.

VETERANS "COMING HOME" RETREAT: A day of spiritual reflection for adults

Saturday January 24, 2026, 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Holy Spirit Catholic Church Parish Life Center

All veterans, spouses and their adult family members are welcome for reflection on the gifts and burdens of having served. Whether you served in any of our military components: full time, national guard or reserves; whether you are currently serving, recently discharged or back in civilian life for many years, this is a day of healing, hope and sharing with others who understand your story.

Open to all faiths. There is no cost for attendees. Attendance is limited to 20.

For more information or to register, contact:

John Durant johndurant8005@gmail.com, 256-604-6030
Deacon Lee Heckman lee.g.heckman@gmail.com, 256-714-7027.

2026 BREAKING BREAD MISSALS will be available for \$10.00 each at this weekend's Masses and at the parish office during regular office hours, while supplies last.

Here Is What's Happening This Week

MONDAY, DECEMBER 08

Immaculate Conception, Holy Day
Masses @ 7 a.m., 9 a.m. & 7 p.m.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 09

10:00am: Parish Staff Meeting (LIB)
6:00pm: Parish Advisory Board (LMR)
6:00pm: Boy Scouts

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10

6:00pm: St. Vincent de Paul (LMR)
7:00pm: Comfort & Joy Concert (SJC)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11

9:00am: Rosary Makers (LMR)
4:00pm: HFS Foundation (LIB)
5:30pm: Advent Communal Reconciliation (SJC)

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12

Christmas Box Set-up (FMC)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13

Christmas Box Packing (FMC)

*Advent Communal Anointing
after the 5:00 p.m. Mass*

10:00am: 1st Reconciliation (SJC)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14

Christmas Box Pick-up (FMC)

*Advent Communal Anointing
after the morning Masses*

9:30am: RE/OCIA (LMR/LIB/HFS/SFH)
12:30pm: KPCLA (LIB/LMR)
2:00pm: Tiny Saints Christmas Pageant (SFH)

Facilities Key

FMC = Messmer Center/Gym

SJC = St. Joseph Church

SFH = St. Francis Hall

LMR/LIB = RE Center

STA = St. Thomas Aquinas Chapel