

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Mass Intentions

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20
8:00am: Paulette Risher
5:00pm: +Victor Pesqueira

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21
4th Sunday of Advent
8:15am: For the Parish, +Francisco Xavier Gomez
11:15am: +Dolores Aquila

MONDAY, DECEMBER 22
7:00am: Diana Ruzicka

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 23
7:00am: +Linda Alt

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24
Christmas Eve
4:00pm: Jimmy Stachura
6:00pm: +Jacqueline Webb Hallowes

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25
Christmas Day
12:00am: HFS & Parish Staff
9:00am: +Richard Kowalik

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 26
7:00am: +Anna Cavrak

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 27
8:00am: +Lorenzo Carrillo
5:00pm: +Mark Manning

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28
Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph
8:15am: +Viviana Uribe Torres
11:15am: For the Parish, +Jeremy Cantrell

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 Rourk, Jr., Cindy Morales, Linda Dimmock, Ralph & Helen Kissel, Judi Trygg, Cecilia Hall, Deacon Mike Rooney, Jane and Dena Bell, Marie Basta, Richard Brown, Jena Lanszell, 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, Larry Barnett, Susan Sheehy, 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:

On December 9, we celebrated the feast day of St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin. In *The Word Among Us: Daily Meditations for Catholics*, there was a meditation that reminds us of what Advent is all about. The readings for that day were: ***Isaiah 40:1-11/Psalm 96: 1-3, 10-13/Matthew 18:12-14.***

Speak tenderly to Jerusalem. (*Isaiah 40:2*)

Did you know that Advent and Lent are both seasons of repentance? During Advent, we are called to purify our hearts to prepare the way of the Lord, and during Lent, we follow Jesus along the way of the cross. That's why Advent has been called a "Nazareth" season, while Lent is known as a "desert" season.

Advent, with its focus on the dawning of our salvation, is meant to lead us to the warmth of the manger, the start of a new family and the gifts of the Magi. It's a joyful, hopeful season that reflects the humble life that Jesus, Mary and Joseph shared in Nazareth. While Lent leads us to the cross, Advent leads us to the poverty of the stable and the crib of the Christ Child.

We see this humility and warmth in the first reading from Isaiah, as the prophet speaks of comfort and hope amid the weight of the Israelites' sin. God calls his people to repentance, but he speaks "tenderly" to the people, promising to replace our guilt with his consolation (***Isaiah 40:2***).

So Advent is not just about combating sin, although that is still very important. It is oriented toward opening up space for Jesus. If our hearts are clogged by selfishness and disobedience, there will be no room for him to enter. But if our hearts are softened and emptied out by prayer and repentance, we will be free, expectant and even joyful as we wait for him to fill us with his presence and consolation at Christmas.

That's why the prophet reminds us that "though the grass withers and the flower wilts, the word of our God stands forever" (***Isaiah 40:8***). As we turn away from the sin that "withers" us, and as God removes the burden of our guilt, we can exult in the faithfulness of God. We can rejoice that our God came down low to meet us. The Infant King will be poor like us, vulnerable as we are. How wonderful, how full of love is our Lord Jesus, who emptied himself in this divine poverty!

Whatever your Advent has been like so far, make space for him in your heart today. He will fill it with his presence and goodness. Receive his tender words of comfort and the joy he has in store.

"Lord Jesus, thank you for becoming poor for me. Come and open my heart so there will be room for you there."

You are in my daily thoughts and prayers. May these last days of Advent and Christmas be a wonderful time of spiritual growth. Enjoy this time and remember that "Jesus is the Reason for the Season," - everything else is extra. My prayer is that you have a blessed Christmas filled with the joy of family and friends.

Always in the Savior, Fr. Joe



READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday	1 Samuel 1:24-28 Ps 1 Samuel 2:1, 4-7, 8abcd Luke 1:46-56
Tuesday	Malachi 3:1-4, 23-24 Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-10, 14 Luke 1:57-66
Wednesday ***4:00pm & 6:00pm***	Isaiah 62:1-5 Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29 Acts of the Apostles 13:16-17, 22-25 Matthew 1:1-25 or 1:18-25
Midnight	Isaiah 9:1-6 Ps 96:1-3, 11-13 Titus 2:11-14 Luke 2:1-14
Thursday ***Christmas Day***	Isaiah 62:11-12 Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12 Titus 3:4-7 Luke 2:15-20
Friday	Acts of the Apostles 6:8-10; 7:54-59 Ps 31:3cd-4, 6, 8ab, 16bc, 17 Matthew 10:17-22
Saturday	1 John 1:1-4 Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12 John 20:1a, 2-8
Sunday ***Holy Family***	Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14 Ps 128:1-5 Colossians 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23

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.

CURRENT WEEKLY OFFERING

Regular Collection	$ 10,699.03
Other Designated Funds	$ 6,907.00

SANCTUARY FLOWERS



If you would like to make a donation to seasonal flower arrangements or request a special commemoration, please call the parish office at 256-534-8459.

ST. JOSEPH CHURCH

2025 CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

****

CHRISTMAS MASSES

Wednesday, December 24
4:00 p.m. Family Mass 6:00 p.m. Vigil Mass

Thursday, December 25
12:00 a.m. Mass at Midnight (music starts at 11:30 p.m.)
9:00 a.m. Christmas Day Mass

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

Saturday, December 27: 5:00 p.m. Vigil Mass
Sunday, December 28: Masses @ 8:15 a.m. & 11:15 a.m.

SOLEMNITY OF MARY (Holy Day of Obligation)

Wednesday, December 31: 5:00 p.m. Vigil Mass
Thursday, January 1, 2026: Holy Day Mass @ 9:00 a.m.

EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Saturday, January 3, 2026: 5:00 p.m. Vigil Mass
Sunday, January 4, 2026: Masses @ 8:15 a.m. & 11.15 a.m.
Epiphany Potluck in St. Francis Hall after the 11:15 a.m. Mass

LITURGICAL MINISTERS SCHEDULE

DECEMBER 27-DECEMBER 28, 2025

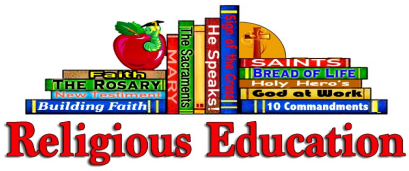
Please see the full schedule for ministry assignments for the Solemnity of Mary, Dec. 31, 2025/Jan. 1, 2026

ALTAR SERVERS
5:00pm: John Johanneman
8:15am: Maddie Lynch, Paige Howell
11:15am: Michael Terry

LECTORS
5:00pm: Randy Buckner, Lydia Tadesse
8:15am: Donna Howell, Don Gregory
11:15am Shyntia Diallo, Tom Uss

EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS
5:00pm: Marian Kilgore*, George Holland, Maritza Holland , McKinley Curtis III, Tamy Hoskins
8:15am: Teri Lynch*, Ellen Styles, Gina Bain, Muriel Weston, David Brost
11:15am: Nelene Odutola*, Kristy Hayne, Josette Dant, Jerolyn Golightly, Michelle Jansen

Religious Education
Formation and Catechesis



FORMATION CALENDAR

Dec. 21 ***NO RE/OCIA CHRISTMAS BREAK***

Dec. 28 ***NO RE/OCIA CHRISTMAS BREAK***

2026 ADULT FORMATION Hebrews is "the greatest Christian sermon ever preached or written," according to New Testament scholar Daniel Harrington, SJ. Join Tom Uss to explore this brilliant message of encouragement for six sessions beginning January 7, 2026.

This unique New Testament text presents Jesus as the great High Priest who simultaneously offers sacrifice to God and is himself the sacrifice. His compassion is rooted in his humanity, for he is like us in all things but sin. Harrington's accessible commentary helps us read and reflect on this beautiful Scripture text, giving us a renewed appreciation for the saving work of Jesus.

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

ST. JOSEPH PARISH 2026 CALENDARS We will begin distributing our 2026 church calendars this weekend at all the Masses. Please take one per household and, if we have any extras, we will make them available after Christmas.

THANK YOU The Joyful Workers would like to thank Sabine Wlodarski for her donation of designer handbags for the Designer Handbag Auction during the Holiday Bake Sale, and for her designer handbag donations for the upcoming Nite at the Races. Thank you, Sabine!

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 to attend. 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.

JOHN PAUL II CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL 2026-2027 ADMISSIONS ARE OPEN Apply today to become a part of the Falcon family. Schedule a tour or a shadow day to learn more about what makes JPII the foremost Catholic high school in Alabama.

Visit ***https://www.jp2falcons.org/application-process***, or contact our Admissions Office at 256-430-1760 (ext. 2117) or ***admissions@jp2falcons.org*** for more information.

Here Is What's Happening This Week

HFS Closed Dec. 22-Jan. 2—Christmas Break

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 23
6:00pm: Boy Scouts

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24
Christmas Eve
4:00pm: Family Mass (SJC)
6:00pm: Vigil Mass (SJC)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25
Christmas Day
Parish Office Closed
12:00am: Midnight Mass (SJC)
9:00am: Christmas Mass (SJC)

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 26
Parish Office Closed

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28
NO RE/OCIA

Facilities Key
FMC = Messmer Center/Gym
SJC = St. Joseph Church
SFH = St. Francis Hall
LMR/LIB = RE Center
STA = St. Thomas Aquinas Chapel
BRZWY = Breezeway
VBC = Von Braun Center