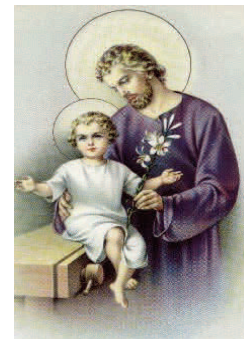


St. Joseph Catholic Community

Third Sunday of Advent

December 17, 21017



St. Joseph Catholic Church
1300 N. Main, Bluffton 46714
260-824-1380

email: stjosephchurch@adamswells.com
website: stjosephchurchbluffton.org

Pastor: Rev. Msgr. Pius N. Ilechukwu

Msgr. Pius' direct email: stjosephchurch1875@gmail.com

Director of Liturgical Music: Sr. Rose Clare Ehrlich, CSA

Administrative Assistant/DRE: Michelle Paxton

Director of Youth Ministry: Steve Higgins

Steve's email: sehiggins78@yahoo.com

Finance Committee Members:

Doug Lehman- 824-0367 / Rick Singer- 824-8009
Becky Biberstein- 565-4143 / Jim Yonker- 824-0651

Parish Council Members:

Barb Ault- 638-4725 / John Horn- 433-5544
Monica Harris- 450-9818 / Dave Huss- 622-7531
Mike Lautzenheiser- 820-0316 / Sue Singer- 824-8009

Social Committee Members:

Jessica Seago, Chairperson- 273-3475
Ann Reifsteck- 824-1044 / Carrie Onweller- 273-9734
Jenny Esmond- 824-4312 / Missy Huss- 820-0411
Tori Emrah- 622-1241 / Mary Ann Flowers- 824-1132
Rebecca Anderson- 273-3353

Building Board Committee Members:

Oscar Heyne- 273-1415 / Doral Smith- 824-1484
Joe Baur- 824-1760 / Dan Sudhoff- (317)-654-2075

Welcome! We extend our hearts and hands to all who celebrate with us at St. Josephs. We would like to invite any guest to fill out the form below, if interested in becoming a registered member of this Parish.

Thank you for worshipping with us! Again Welcome, Bienvenidos, Benvenuto, Willkommen, Nno-nu, Byenveni!

------(cut here)-----

Name: _____ Phone: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
e-mail address: _____

[] New Parishioners, please send a Parish Registration Form [] We've Moved, here is our new information

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, December 16

- 7:45 a.m. Morning Prayer
- 8:00 a.m. Deceased members of the Braun Family by Dave & Margie Huss
- 8:30 a.m. Rosary
- 4:00 p.m. Confessions
- 4:35 p.m. Rosary
- 5:00 p.m. Gonzalo Riveros + by Gloria & Gerry Riveros

Sunday, December 17

- Third Sunday of Advent -

- 7:10 a.m. Rosary
- 7:30 a.m. Parish Family
- 9:40 a.m. Rosary
- 10:00 a.m. Bob & Rose Marie Bates + by their Children

Monday, December 18

- 7:45 a.m. Morning Prayer
- 8:00 a.m. Deceased Family & Friends of George & Dianne Witwer by George & Dianne Witwer
- 8:30 a.m. Rosary

Tuesday, December 19

Eucharistic Adoration- 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m.

- 7:45 a.m. Morning Prayer
- 8:00 a.m. Deceased members of the Huss Family by Dave & Margie Huss
- 8:30 a.m. Rosary
- 8:30 a.m. Confession

Wednesday, December 20

- 6:25 p.m. Rosary
- 6:45 p.m. Evening Prayer
- 7:00 p.m. Leo & Florence Gillig Family by Family

Thursday, December 21

- 7:45 a.m. Morning Prayer
- 8:00 a.m. Trent Patterson + by Friends
- 8:30 a.m. Rosary

Friday, December 22

- 7:45 a.m. Morning Prayer
- 8:00 a.m. Deceased members of the Joe & Pat Pfeifer Family by Joe & Pat Pfeifer
- 8:30 a.m. Rosary

Saturday, December 23

- 7:45 a.m. Morning Prayer
- 8:00 a.m. Fathers of Tom & Becky Jackson by Tom & Becky Jackson
- 8:30 a.m. Rosary
- 4:00 p.m. Confessions
- 4:35 p.m. Rosary
- 5:00 p.m. Harry Bowers Family by Don & Mary Lou Smith

Sunday, December 24

- Fourth Sunday of Advent -

- 7:10 a.m. Rosary
- 7:30 a.m. Parish Family
- 9:40 a.m. Rosary
- 10:00 a.m. Herman (Pete) Leitz & Dale Morrissey + by Larry & Nancy Leitz

Sunday, December 24 - Christmas Eve Masses

- 5:00 p.m. Bob & Mary Haecker + by Mary Beth Patterson
- 10:00 p.m. Edward Bushee + by Bob & Betty Miller

Monday, December 25 -

Christmas Morning Mass

- 9:00 a.m. Ron & Sally Smith Family by Family

3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT: DECEMBER 17TH, 2017 YR. B

WE ARE INVITED TO FIND JOY IN OUR SAVIOR: THUS, REJOICE AND PRAY

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ I say peace be with you all. **Today is Gaudete Sunday. Why Gaudete Sunday? It is so called because from tradition the 3rd Sunday of Advent is called Gaudete Sunday, for it was taken from the first word of the antiphon of the Introit – Entrance hymn “Rejoice”, (Cf. Phil 4:4-5).** It is so called, also because we have gone half way in our preparation and anticipation of the coming of our savior Jesus Christ. So, we need to rejoice for our salvation is close at hand. **From December 17, we enter the second part of the Advent. We are invited to prepare more directly for the Lord’s birth. We can now use “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, more extensively. The Christmas Tree can be blessed. We will bless ours on December 24 Sunday. Remember that we have done our Advent Penance Service, Reconciliation/Confessions, last Monday December 11, 2017. If you did not come or you still need Confession, come on Tuesday December 19th by 8:30 a.m.**

Thus: In the 1st Reading, (Is 61:1-2a, 10-11), Isaiah the prophet assured us that the Lord, the Savior of the world, the liberator, the Anointed One of God, is coming to liberate us, to set prisoners of sin free. We rejoice in God for he has clothed us with the garment of salvation. This prophecy was made to the Israelites who came back from exile, from Babylon. They rejoiced coming back to their land. We in our own part, we rejoice for coming back and closer to God, through intensive preparation and confessing our sin. And so, we need to rejoice.

The 2nd Reading, (1 Thes. 5:16-24), also called us, to rejoice, to be happy and pray always. We should pray always, giving thanks to God. Why should we pray always? Yes, we need to pray always because prayer is life. What water is to the life of the fish, that is what prayer is to our spiritual life. What air is to human life is what prayer is to your spiritual life. You know now why you must pray always. How can you pray always? You can pray always by offering everything you do to God. Then pray at least in the morning and in the evening. Then all through the day call God to help you in everything you do any time. Try to live in the presence of God. More details on this will be some other time. So, rejoice and be happy for your deliverance is close at hand.

Then, in the Gospel, (Jn 1:6-8, 19-28), John the Baptist was baptizing the people with water and was testifying that he was not the Christ. We notice the unselfishness of John and his humility. He is a great preacher but bears witness to Christ. If he had claimed that he was the Christ, many people if not all the people would have believed him. But he just spoke the truth. Let us learn to speak the truth always. He was a voice crying out in the wilderness saying: “Prepare the way for the Lord and make straight his paths”. I hope that we are doing something about what John the Baptist said. You know that one of the greatest contributions of Christianity is that it brought joy to the world. The joy of Christmas, the joy of service, the joy of loving one another, the joy of helping those in needs. All these Christianity taught us and brought to the world. It is wonderful. We must do something to contribute our quota in bringing joy to ourselves, individually, to our Family, to our community and to the entire world, and especially to all around us.

God bless you

Msgr. Pius N. Ihechukwu

NB: “Heaven is for us all. I hope you are doing something about it”.

Third Sunday of Advent... Joy



Rejoice in the Lord always.
I shall say it again: Rejoice!
Philippians 4:4



Please remember in your prayers... Bud & Sharon Miller, Ramon Villamil, Genevieve Lohmuller, Becky Biberstein, Fern Britton, James A. Yonker, Sr., Evelyn Morrissey, Betty Meyer, Ron Payne, David Carr, Ronnie & Bonnie Burns, Michael Green, Dorothy ‘Dottie’ Marbach and Rick Cotterman.

REKINDLE THE FIRE

8th Annual Diocesan Men's Conference— *Fully* ALIVE

Saturday, February 24, 2018 at the
Allen County War Memorial Coliseum

Registration Forms are on the bulletin board in the narthex,
please help yourself to one!

From Death To New Life

In your charity, please pray for the repose of the soul of
Reyes S. Ortiz, father of Elizabeth 'Liz' (Larry) Ortiz Mock,
died Monday, December, 2017

May God welcome her home,
Fill her with peace and bless those who will miss her.

Eternal Rest Grant unto her O Lord, and let Perpetual light shine
upon her. May her soul and the souls of all the faithful departed
through the mercy of God rest in Peace. Amen.

Epiphany Brunch

Sunday, January 7, 2018

Following 10:00 a.m. Mass

Signup sheet in the narthex.



THANK YOU!

Thank you to everyone who generously contributed to the 31st Annual Bishop's Appeal. Your contributions to our Diocese and Parish are greatly appreciated!

Remember! With God all things are possible! Luke 1:37

ST. JOSEPH'S PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND

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ST. JOSEPH'S 2017/18 PARISH CALENDAR

- Sun., Dec. 17- Coffee & Donuts after 7:30 & 10:00 a.m. Masses by Knights of Columbus
- Sat./Sun., Dec. 23 & 24- 4th Sunday of Advent Masses- 5:00 p.m., 7:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.
- Sun., Dec. 24 & Sun., Dec. 31- No Religious Ed. Classes/ Christmas break
- Sun./Mon., Dec. 24 & 25- The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)- Family Mass Dec. 24- 5:00 p.m. / Christmas Night Mass- 10:00 p.m. / Mon., Dec. 25- Christmas Day Mass- 9:00 a.m.
- Sat./Sun., Dec. 30 & 31- Usual Mass Times
- Mon., Jan. 1, 2018- Mass 9:00 a.m.- Not a Holy Day of Obligation this year.
- Sun., Jan. 7- The Epiphany of the Lord- Epiphany Brunch- immediately following 10:00 a.m. Mass- Everyone is invited!!

WEEKEND OF DEC. 24/25, 2017 - (4th Sunday of Advent)

CANTORS:

5:00 Larry Leitz
7:30 Mike Morrissey
10:00 Debbie Lautzenheiser

LECTORS:

5:00 Stacey Coulardot
7:30 Carol Butler
10:00 Dan Geimer

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS:

5:00 Kevin or Jessica Seago, Janette Minch, Linda Huseman
7:30 Dave Gruss, Sherry Makowski, Jill Morrissey
10:00 Ann Reifsteck, Larisa Sudhoff, Monica Harris, Rick Singer, Diana Cole

MINISTERS OF HOSPITALITY:

5:00 Volunteers
7:30 Dale/Sarah McCorkle Family
10:00 Dan/Larisa Sudhoff, Mike/Brenden Kobryn

SERVERS:

5:00 Darren or Corey Huss, Brooklynn Huss, Wyatt Girod
7:30 Oriana Makowski, Mitchel/Justin Mayer
10:00 Grayson Christal, Sophie Emrah, Volunteer

Christmas Masses signup sheet is on the desk in the narthex:

Sun., Dec. 24- Children/Family Mass- 5:00 p.m.

Sun., Dec. 24- Christmas Night Mass- 10:00 p.m.

Mon., Dec. 25- Christmas Morning Mass- 9:00 a.m.

Collection for Weekend of December 9/10, 2017

Adult Envelopes- \$4,006.00
Child Envelopes- \$13.00
Loose- \$347.00
Religious Ed. Fund- \$0
Repair/Rainy Day Fund- \$570.00
Flowers- \$885.00
Votive Candles- \$31.00
Immaculate Conception- \$822.00
Total- \$6,674.00

The amount needed each week to make budget is \$5,116.40

We are \$1,557.60 ahead of
budget from last week.

Other Collections within our Parish-

St. Vincent de Paul Fund-
\$900.00

Diocesan Special Collections:

Religious Retirement- \$1,392.00

*Thank you for your gifts
to St. Joseph's!*

REMINDER! - There will not be Religious Education Classes
December 24th or December 31st for Christmas Break; classes
will resume January 7, 2018.

SCRIPTURE/MASS READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Mon., Dec. 18 - Third Week of Advent - Jer 23:5-8/ Mt 1:18-25

Tues., Dec. 19 - Jgs 13:2-7,24-25a/ Lk 1:15-25

Wed., Dec. 20 - Is 7:10-14/ Lk 1:26-38

Thurs., Dec. 21 - St. Peter Canisius, Priest and Doctor of the Church - Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/ Lk 1:39-45

Fri., Dec. 22 - 1 Sm 1:24-28/ Lk 1:45-56

Sat., Dec. 23 - St. John of Kanty, Priest - Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/ Lk 1:57-66

Sun., Dec. 24 - Fourth Sunday of Advent - 2 Sm 7:1-5,8b-12,14a,16/ Rom 16:25-27/ Lk 1:26-38

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

All that we have belongs to God.

"The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and
all who live in it" (Psalm 24:1).

**St. Joseph Council
Of Catholic Women**



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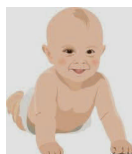


Sam Haiflich, Parishioner
St. Aloysius Parish, Yoder, IN

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Kris Thompson, Parishioner



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of a dead child.

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Dr. Julayne Miller, Parishioner

Don't cry because
it's over
Smile
because it happened.

To our men and women
in uniform...
past, present and future,



Thank you and
God Bless You!

Before you speak...

THINK!

T - is it true?
h - is it helpful?
i - is it inspiring?
n - is it necessary?
k - is it kind?



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John Horn MS, MBA- Parishioner

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Spread *love*
everywhere you go.
Let no one ever
come to you
without leaving
happier.

-Mother Teresa