

# St. Joseph Catholic Church

1300 N. Main, Bluffton 46714 (260)-824-1380 stjosephchurch@adamswells.com stjosephchurchbluffton.org

## The Christmas Crib

Manger, Nativity Scene or Crèche



**What is it?**  
A depiction of the scene of the birth of Jesus in a manger in Bethlehem.

**DID YOU KNOW?**  
**St. Francis of Assisi** made the Christmas crib popular and turned it into a familiar part of Christian homes around the world. He presented a Bethlehem scene with live animals on Christmas Eve in 1223 in Greccio, Italy.



"I wish to recall to memory the little child who was born in Bethlehem. I want to set before our bodily eyes the hardship of his infant needs, how he lay in the manger, how with an ox and ass standing by, he lay upon the hay."

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

The preparation of the Nativity scene at home is a wonderful **opportunity for family prayer!**



**TIP #1:** Include a reading from St. Luke's account of the birth of Christ

Our Saviour is coming  
Luke 1:28-33

Bethlehem  
Luke 2:1-5

Birth of Jesus  
Luke 2:6-7

The Shepherds & Angels  
Luke 2:8-20

**TIP #2:** Sing an Advent hymn or a Christmas carol

*O Come All Ye Faithful  
Joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye  
to Bethlehem.  
Come and behold Him,  
Born the King of Angels;  
O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
Christ the Lord!*

**TIP #3:** Say prayers of petition and praise

Let us praise our Lord Jesus Christ, the Saviour of the world, who was born for our salvation.

*Glory to God in the highest!*



-(cut here)-

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e-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

[ ] New Parishioners, please send a Parish Registration Form

[ ] We've Moved, here is our new information

## MASS INTENTIONS

**Saturday, December 19**

8:00 a.m. Special Intention  
4:00 p.m. Confessions  
4:35 p.m. Rosary  
5:00 p.m. Leo Gillig Family

**Sunday, December 20**

- **Fourth Sunday of Advent -**

7:10 a.m. Rosary  
7:30 a.m. Ronnie Burns  
9:40 a.m. Rosary  
10:00 a.m. Parish Family  
12:10 p.m. Rosary  
12:30 p.m. Special Intention

**Monday, December 21**

No Morning Mass  
5:00-6:00 p.m. Confession

**Tuesday, December 22**

7:00 a.m. - 8:00 a.m. Adoration  
8:00 a.m. Mary Ann Bickley  
8:30 a.m. Confession

5:00-6:00 p.m. Confession

**Wednesday, December 23**

6:00-7:00 p.m. Adoration  
6:00-6:45 p.m. Confession

7:00 p.m. Marty Lohmuller +

**Thursday, December 24 - Christmas Eve -**

8:00 a.m. David Thiem +  
4:00 p.m. Bob and Mary Haecker Family/Trent  
Patterson +

6:00 p.m. Parish Family

12:00 Midnight Ed Bushee +

**Friday, December 25 - Christmas -**

8:00 a.m. Parish Family  
10:00 a.m. Special Intention

**Saturday, December 26**

No Morning Mass  
4:00 p.m. Confessions  
4:35 p.m. Rosary

5:00 p.m. Paxton & Marshall Families

**Sunday, December 27 - The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph -**

7:10 a.m. Rosary  
7:30 a.m. Parish Family  
9:40 a.m. Rosary  
10:00 a.m. Robert and Rose Marie Bates +  
12:10 p.m. Rosary

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## MASS READINGS FOR THE WEEK

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

**Tues., Dec. 22 -** 1 Sm 1:24-28/ Lk 1:46-56

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

**Thurs., Dec. 24 - Morning:** 2 Sm 7:1-5,8b-12,14a,16/ Lk 1:67-79

**Fri., Dec. 25 - The Nativity of the Lord - Christmas - Vigil:** Is 62:1-5/ Acts 13:16-17,22-25/ Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25/ Night: Is 9:1-6/ Ti 2:11-14/ Lk 2:1-14/ Dawn: Is 62:11-12/ Ti 3:4-7/ Lk 2:15-20/ Day: Is 52:7-10/ Heb 1:1-6/ Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5,9-14

**Sat., Dec. 26 - St. Stephan, The First Martyr -** Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/ Mt 10:17-22

**Sun., Dec. 27 - The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph -** Year B- Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3/ Heb 11:8,11-12,17-19/ Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT - DECEMBER 20, 2020

Entering this **Fourth Week of Advent**, our Christmas celebrations draw near! Over the next few days, the Church will begin to be decorated, replacing the simplicity of **Advent** with the great and exuberant joy of the **Christmas season**. Just as we walked the four weeks of **Advent** to reach Bethlehem, our Christmas celebration will continue beyond just Christmas Day, culminating on the **Feast of the Baptism of the Lord** (*January 10th*).

Preparing for Christmas, we will offer **extra times for Confession** this **Monday and Tuesday from 5:00-6:00 PM**. For Christmas itself, we've increased the number of Masses between Christmas Eve and Day from **three to five**. Our well-attended "Family" Mass on Christmas Eve will be offered at **both 4:00 PM and 6:00 PM** to allow for social distancing. Overflow seating will be available in the Parish Social Hall for all Masses.

As mentioned last weekend, Pope Francis has recently declared it the **Year of St. Joseph**. This celebration of the Patron of the Universal Church (*and our own parish patron!*) will continue until next year on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception (Dec. 8th, 2021). As a part of this celebration, our Holy Father has granted plenary indulgences available throughout the duration of this special year. By committing ourselves to prayer and good works, we are able "*to perpetuate the entrustment of the whole Church to the powerful patronage of the Custodian of Jesus.*"

Included in this week's bulletin is a handout that offers the conditions for the aforementioned plenary indulgence. As we know, a plenary indulgence is "*the remission granted by the Church of all the temporal punishment due to our sins.*" Through these acts of prayer and charity, we are called out of ourselves and are challenged to deepen our relationship with the Lord, preparing our hearts right now so that we might be ready to meet Him at the hour of our death.

The reverse-side of the handout offers an exegesis of our Gospel reading (*Luke 1:26-38*) in relation to the Blessed Virgin Mary. With a focus on the greeting of the Archangel St. Gabriel, we gain a better understanding of Mary's role in salvation history, the Church's teaching of the Immaculate Conception, and Mary as the new Eve. As St. Irenaeus of Lyon wrote in the late-2nd Century: "*The knot of Eve's disobedience was loosed by the obedience of Mary. What the virgin Eve had bound in unbelief, the Virgin Mary loosed through faith.*"

In the coming weeks, our **St. Joseph Women's Group** will be hosting a **raffle** which will award several cash prizes. The proceeds raised from the raffle will be put towards cleaning and refurbishing our baptismal font, ensuring its proper upkeep for years to come. As has been done with past raffles, each parish family will be sent raffle tickets. If so inclined, we invite you to participate in the raffle or, if you know others who might be interested, to invite them to participate.

For your planning purposes, our **January Discussion Forum** will be a **"Teaching Mass"** offered at our normal times (Sunday, Jan. 10th, from 8:30 AM - 9:30 AM, and Wednesday, Jan. 13th, from 7:30 PM - 8:30 PM). Please note, a "**Teaching Mass**" is not a Mass; Instead, it is a walk-through of the Mass that looks at the various prayers, items, and traditions found throughout our liturgy. Given the nature of the discussion, this forum will take place in the Church, not the Parish Social Hall. All are welcome.

Faithfully in Christ, Fr. David



Sharon Miller, Becky Biberstein, Betty Meyer, David Carr, Bonnie Burns, Michael Green, Rick Cotterman, Frances Carr, Tom Richhart, Carol Leitner, Pat Pfeifer, Troy Cook, Cheryl Jackson, Sandy Arnold, Jimmy Robbins, Jean Steele, Andrea Holte, Tom Williams, Jen Coyne, and John Houlihan.

# Thank You FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Thank you to everyone who supported the Wells County Food Bank Christmas Project. Your donations of canned goods, paper products, personal items and monetary gifts are a blessing to so many of our brothers and sisters in our community who have been affected by illness or the loss of a job. You have eased their anxiety with your generosity and kindness. God Bless You!



## *St. Joseph Christmas Mass Schedule*

December 24 - 4:00 p.m.  
 December 24 - 6:00 p.m.  
 December 24 - Midnight  
*(Candlelight Mass)*  
 December 25 - 8:00 a.m.  
 December 25 - 10:00 a.m.

## PARISH CALENDAR

- Sat., Dec. 19 - Mass 8:00 a.m.
- Sat., Dec. 19 - Confession 4:00-4:45 p.m. / Mass 5:00 p.m.
- Sun., Dec. 20 - Mass 7:30 a.m. / 10:00 a.m. / 12:30 p.m.
- Sun., Dec. 20 - No Religious Education Classes - Christmas Break
- Thurs., Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve Vigil Masses - 4:00 p.m. / 6:00 p.m. / Midnight Candlelight
- Fri., Dec. 25 - Christmas Day Masses - 8:00 a.m. / 10:00 a.m.
- Thurs., Dec. 24 and Fri., Dec. 25 - the Parish office will be closed for Christmas.
- Sat., Dec. 26 - No Morning Mass
- Sat., Dec. 26 - Confession 4:00-4:45 p.m. / Mass 5:00 p.m.
- Sun., Dec. 27 - Mass 7:30 a.m. / 10:00 a.m. / 12:30 p.m.
- Sun., Dec. 27 - No Religious Education Classes - Christmas Break
- Thurs., Dec. 31 - Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God Vigil Mass - 5:00 p.m.
- Fri., Jan. 1 - Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God Masses - 7:30 and 10:00 a.m.
- Thurs., Dec. 31 and Fri., Jan. 1 - the Parish office will be closed for the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God (New Year's).

\*\*\*\*\* 2021 \*\*\*\*\*

- Sat., Jan. 2 - Mass 8:00 a.m.
- Sat., Jan. 2 - Confession 4:00-4:45 p.m. / Mass 5:00 p.m.
- Sun., Jan. 3 - Mass 7:30 a.m. / 10:00 a.m. / 12:30 p.m.
- Sun., Jan. 3 - Religious Education Classes resume - 8:30-9:45 a.m. / Grade 5 will lead the Rosary.
- Tues., Jan. 5 - Knights of Columbus - 6:40 p.m. recitation of the Holy Rosary / meeting at 7:00 p.m. in the social hall. Watch for details of in-person or virtual meeting via email or bulletin.
- Wed., Jan. 6 - Parish Council meeting 7:30 p.m. (after 7 p.m. Mass).
- Sun., Jan. 17 - Knights of Columbus Red Cross Blood Drive - 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.



## JANUARY DISCUSSION FORUM - "TEACHING MASS"

Sunday, January 10, 2021 from 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. and Wednesday, January 13 from 7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Fr. David will host a Discussion Forum - "Teaching Mass". This is not an actual Mass but a walk-through of the Mass. The Forum will take place in the Church rather than the Parish Social Hall.

### St. Joseph Parish Finance Report

**December 12/13**

Adult Envelopes- \$3,058.00  
 Child Envelopes- \$3.00  
 Loose- \$197.00  
 Repair/Rainy Day Fund- \$270.00

Religious Ed. Fund- \$0

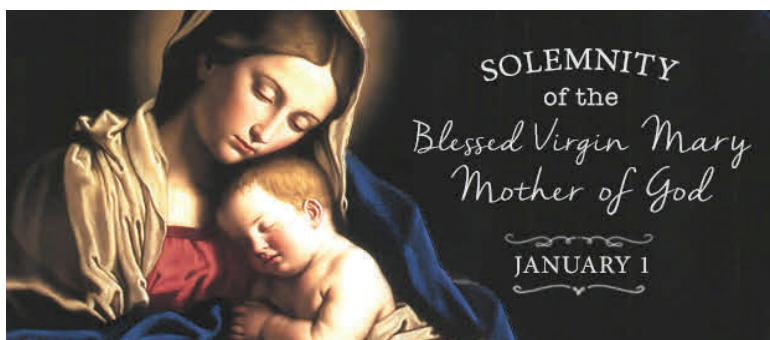
Immaculate Conception- \$60.00  
 Christmas Flowers- \$177.00  
**Total- \$3,765.00**

**Our weekly budget is \$5,116.40**

We are \$665.79 ahead of our budget for the month of December.

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

[osvonlinegiving.com/4741](http://osvonlinegiving.com/4741)



Please join us as we celebrate the Mass of the Solemnity of Mary the Holy Mother of God

Mass Times: 5:00 p.m., Thursday, December 31  
 7:30 and 10:00 a.m., Friday, January 1

## From Death To New Life

In your charity, please pray for the repose of the soul of Martin 'Marty' Lohmuller, brother of Theresa (Larry) Sell who passed away Sunday, December 13, 2020

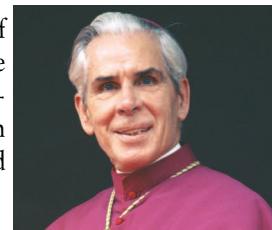


May God welcome Marty home, fill him with peace and bless those who will miss him.

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

"How to find Christmas peace in a world of unrest? You cannot find peace on the outside but you can find peace on the inside, by letting God do to your soul what Mary let Him do to her body, namely, let Christ be formed in you."

Venerable Fulton J. Sheen





## **“HAIL, FULL OF GRACE! THE LORD IS WITH YOU.”**

Luke 1:28

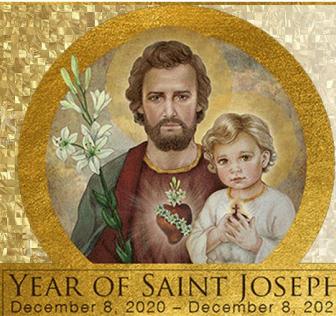
In the Gospel of St. Luke, the Archangel St. Gabriel greets the Blessed Virgin Mary by crying out “Hail, full of grace!” (Luke 1:28). This greeting is no ordinary greeting. St. Gabriel does not call the Blessed Virgin by her given name, which, in Hebrew, is מִרְיָם or Miryam (Mary). Instead, the archangel refers to her by a new name: Full of grace. In the Greek manuscript of the Gospel, this name is conveyed by the Greek word κεχαριτωμένη (kecharitomene).

This new name given to Mary by the archangel is found only in this single verse throughout the entirety of the Sacred Scriptures. To be given a new name communicates something that is permanent about the character of the one who is named. This is seen throughout the Old Testament, such as when Abram becomes Abraham (Genesis 17:5), Sarai becomes Sarah (Genesis 17:15), and Jacob becomes Israel (Genesis 32:28). To understand this significance in relation to Mary, we must look to the name itself as it has been given.

The Greek word κεχαριτωμένη (kecharitomene), meaning “full of grace,” is taken from the Greek verb χαριτώω (charitóō), meaning “to fill or endow with grace.” Kecharitomene is, in Greek, the past perfect tense of this verb. (In English, we refer to this tense as the pluperfect.) The past perfect tense of a verb denotes an action that has taken place in the past and has lasting results throughout time. In relation to Mary, the use of *kecharitomene* in the Gospel denotes an action that has taken place in the past, before the announcement of the angel, and that it continues throughout history.

What is this action? This action is the act of Mary being filled with God’s grace from the very moment of her conception and remaining full of His grace throughout her entire life. Therefore, when Mary is referred to as *kecharitomene*, it means that she is one who is and has always been full of God’s grace. The archangel uses this word as an adjective referring to Mary. For Mary, being full of grace is not simply an action, but expresses her very identity. Before she was the Mother of God [theotokos] (Luke 1:43), before she was Mother of the Church [mater ecclesiae] (John 19:27), she was, from her very beginning, *kecharitomene*, or “full of grace” (Luke 1:28).

Mary received this great gift as a result of that “singular privilege and grace granted by God, in view of the merits of Jesus Christ, the Savior of the human race.” This understanding, as with all things Marian, points us to her Son, Jesus Christ.



YEAR OF SAINT JOSEPH  
December 8, 2020 – December 8, 2021

Pope Francis has announced a year dedicated to St. Joseph starting from **December 8, 2020 until December 8, 2021**, on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of St. Joseph being named as the **Patron of the Universal Church**. The Apostolic Penitentiary also issued a decree granting special indulgences for the duration of this year to celebrate the anniversary and “*to perpetuate the entrustment of the whole Church to the powerful patronage of the Custodian of Jesus.*”

## CONDITIONS FOR A PLENARY INDULGENCE DURING THE YEAR OF ST. JOSEPH

A plenary indulgence is granted to the Faithful under the usual conditions\* who participate in the **Year of St. Joseph** through one or all of the following ways:

- ◆ Meditate for at least 30 minutes on the Lord’s Prayer, or take part in a Spiritual Retreat of at least one day that includes a meditation on St. Joseph.  
*“St. Joseph, an authentic man of faith, invites us”, the decree reads, “to rediscover our filial relationship with the Father, to renew fidelity to prayer, to listen and correspond with profound discernment to God’s will.”*
- ◆ Perform a spiritual or corporal work of mercy.  
*St. Joseph “encourages us to rediscover the value of silence, prudence and loyalty in carrying out our duties.”*
- ◆ Recite the Holy Rosary together as a family and among engaged couples.  
*“All Christian families may be stimulated to recreate the same atmosphere of intimate communion, love and prayer that was in the Holy Family.”*
- ◆ Entrust your daily activity to the protection of St. Joseph and invoke his intercession so that those seeking work can find dignifying work.  
*On May 1, 1955, Pope Pius XII instituted the feast of St. Joseph “with the intent that the dignity of work be recognized by all, and that it inspires social life and laws, based on the fair distribution of rights and duties.”*
- ◆ Recite the Litany to St. Joseph (for the Latin tradition), or the Akathistos to St. Joseph (for the Byzantine tradition), or any other prayer to St. Joseph proper to the other liturgical traditions, for the persecuted Church and for the relief of all Christians suffering all forms of persecution.  
*“The flight of the Holy Family to Egypt shows us that God is there where man is in danger, where man suffers, where he runs away, where he experiences rejection and abandonment.”*

## ST. JOSEPH, PRAY FOR US!

\*The usual conditions for a plenary indulgence include: (1) Having no attachment to sin; (2) Make use of the Sacrament of Confession; (3) Receive the Holy Eucharist; (4) Pray for the intentions of the Holy Father. These last three conditions should be carried out within several days (about 20) before or after the indulged act

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makes you the mother  
of a dead child.

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T H I N K !  
T - is it true?  
h - is it helpful?  
i - is it inspiring?  
n - is it necessary?  
k - is it kind?

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-St. Mother Teresa

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Saint Augustine

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Us!