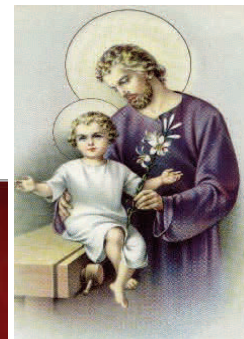
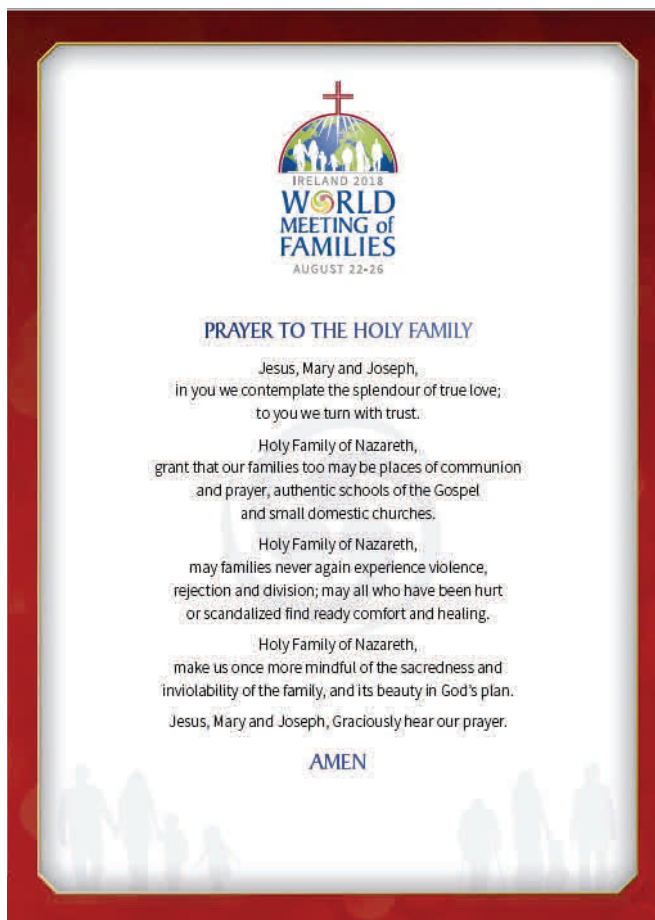


St. Joseph Catholic Community



**Holy Family of Jesus,
Mary and Joseph
December 31, 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 30

4:00 p.m. Confessions

4:35 p.m. Rosary

5:00 p.m. Dennis Heyne + by Friends

Sunday, December 31

- The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph -

7:10 a.m. Rosary

7:30 a.m. Parish Family

9:40 a.m. Rosary

10:00 a.m. Marcella Quinn + by Soul Core Ladies

Monday, January 1

- Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God -

9:00 a.m. Toni Villamil + by Al & Mary Porrata

Msgr. Pius N. Iechukwu will be out of town until

February 1, 2018. There will be not be weekday

Mass here in our Parish; However,

Monsignor Pius will celebrate these intentions

while he is away in Nigeria:

Monday, January 1— Deceased Family & Friends of
Ray & Chris Hartman by Ray & Chris Hartman

Tuesday, January 2— Living & Deceased Family &
Friends of Diane Humphrey by Diane Humphrey

Wednesday, January 3— Hildegard Schaefer +
by Diane Humphrey

Thursday, January 4— Deceased Members of the
Witwer Family by George & Dianne Witwer

Friday, January 5— Edward J. Schaefer + by
Diane Humphrey

Saturday, January 6— Richard & Madlyn Schortgen
+ by Kurt & Becky Biberstein

Sunday, January 7— Living & Deceased Priests of St.
Joseph Parish, Bluffton by Parish Family

Saturday, January 6

4:00 p.m. Confessions

4:35 p.m. Rosary

5:00 p.m. Ray Smith Family by Don & Mary Lou
Smith

Sunday, January 7

- The Epiphany of the Lord -

7:10 a.m. Rosary

7:30 a.m. Parish Family

9:40 a.m. Rosary

10:00 a.m. Marcella Quinn + by Mike & Debbie
Lautzenheiser

**Priests who will be helping with Masses while
Msgr. Pius is away; WELCOME!**

Dec., 30/31— Fr. Bob Lengerich / Fr. Jose Panamat-
tathil

Jan. 1— Fr. Bob Lengerich / Fr. Jose Panamattathil

Jan., 6/7— Fr. Bob Lengerich / Fr. Jose Panamattathil

Jan., 13/14— Fr. Vincent Joseph

Jan., 20/21— Fr. Vincent Joseph

Jan., 27/28— Fr. Gus Gordon (Food for the Poor
Priest)



Please remember in your prayers...

Bud & Sharon Miller, Ramon Villamil,
Genevieve Lohmuller, Becky Biberstein,
Fern Britton, James A. Yonker, Sr., Eve-
lyn Morrissey, Betty Meyer, Ron Payne, David Carr,
Ronnie & Bonnie Burns, Michael Green, Dorothy
'Dottie' Marbach and Rick Cotterman.

Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph



One of the most beautiful miracles that I am privileged to witness is when a couple turns into a family on the occasion of the birth of their first child or when they adopt their first children. Those who are married but do not yet have children are families too — I'm not saying they aren't — but I think those of you who do have children know exactly what I'm talking about.

Childbirth or adoption changes both the husband and the wife — and consequently their relationship — more profoundly than just about any other event in their entire marriage. You are now not just husband and wife, but also father and mother, and this transition to parenthood produces in you virtues that no one knew you had and draws on instincts that surprise even you as a couple.

I had never thought of my sisters as especially courageous until I saw each of them the day they gave birth. And I definitely never thought of my brothers as especially patient until I observed them calmly reasoning with their children regarding their behavior. When they became parents those famous parental instincts kicked in big time and changed them forever.

Today is the feast of the Holy Family. On Christmas, Mary and Joseph became a family in the full sense of the term and like many of you, the arrival of this child changed them profoundly. They were now not just husband and wife, but also foster-father and mother, and this transition produced in them virtues that we see throughout the story of Jesus' infancy and childhood. We see Mary's courage in riding a very uncomfortable donkey to Bethlehem while nine months pregnant and Joseph's patient, futile attempt to find lodging, and finally their faith-filled, humble acceptance of an unsanitary barn in which to give birth to their child.

At this point they become parents, which changed them more than even the remarkable events of Mary's pregnancy and produced in them the virtues and parental instincts that they would need to protect Jesus from harm and raise him as God would want. And it is a good thing that this change kicked in right away because they soon faced crises far more difficult than the usual grind of sleepless nights and dirty diapers — and far harder to understand.

Some of these events were pleasant but strange: poor shepherds visit at midnight, babble on about angels and then drop to their knees to worship the infant — how strange. Rich foreigners arrive after a long journey, talk about a star and offer gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh — what to make of this?

And in today's Gospel, odd prophecies about this child's remarkable destiny, spoken in the Temple by Simeon and Anna. But other crises they soon faced were not only strange but also life-threatening and eerily resembled what had happened 1,200 years earlier to Moses. A murderous king killed baby boys in an attempt to eliminate Jesus, the new Moses, but like Pharaoh let the girls live.

Warned in a dream, just like another Joseph 1,700 years earlier, Jesus' father fled with his family to the safety of Egypt, where they lived as refugees. And when the time was right, they left Egypt in a new exodus and made their home in Nazareth. Joseph and Mary's trust in God's providence enabled them to know what to do in their times of crisis. They walked by faith.

More beautiful than the miracle of a couple turning into a family at the arrival of their first child is the even greater miracle of a worldly family turning into a holy family as they learn to walk by faith. We feel so responsible and want to control everything, want everything to be "just so." But if that is where we place our trust, we're in for a rude awakening — that's how the worldly live, and besides, you can't know what the future will hold.

Mary and Joseph show us a better way: do the best you can and then trust God to do the rest — recognize that he's the one in control, not us. Jesus, Mary and Joseph are not the only holy family. They are the holiest family ever, but they are not the only family to walk by faith, trusting God and eager to do his will in all things. This is how you and I are called live as well. So does this describe your family ... is your family truly a holy family too? Today's feast of the Holy Family should be our family feast as well! *-Bishop Anthony B. Taylor preached the following homily in Ponca City, Okla. On Sunday, December 28, 2014*

Epiphany Brunch – Sunday, January 7, 2018

Following 10:00 a.m. Mass – Sign up sheet in the narthex.



MEETING REMINDER! -Tuesday, January 2, 2018

Meet in Church for the Rosary at 6:40 and meeting to follow in social hall at 7:00.



HELPING HANDS PREGNANCY RESOURCE CENTER

Baby Bottle Campaign

Baby Bottles will be passed out at all the Masses on the weekend of Jan. 6th & 7th for donations to Helping Hands Pregnancy Resource Center. Please take one home and fill it with change, dollar bills, or checks made out to “Helping Hands Pregnancy Resource Center.” These donations will be used to help mothers who have chosen life for their babies, but may find it hard to provide everything these babies need. Helping Hands provides Pregnancy Tests, Ultrasounds, Baby Clothes, Baby Supplies, and Maternity Clothes. They have Family Life Groups, Mom Time Groups, Man to Man Groups, a Bereavement Group and a Smoking Cessation Program for parents who are expecting. Please donate and help Women, Men and their Families make Life-Affirming decisions that will benefit our Community.

SCRIPTURE/MASS READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Mon., Jan. 1 - The Octave Day of the Nativity of the Lord; Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God (Not a Holy Day of Obligation this year) New Year's Day/ World Day of Prayer for Peace - Nm 6:22-27/ Gal 4:4-7/ Lk 2:16-21

Tues., Jan. 2 - Sts. Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church - 1 Jn 2:22-28/ Jn 1:19-28

Wed., Jan. 3 - The Most Holy Name of Jesus - 1 Jn 2:29-3:6/ Jn 1:29-34

Thurs., Jan. 4 - St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious - 1 Jn 3:7-10/ Jn 1:35-42

Fri., Jan. 5 - St. John Neumann, Bishop - 1 Jn 3:11-21/ Jn 1:43-51

Sat., Jan. 6 - St. Andre Bessette, Religious - 1 Jn 5:5-13/ Mk 1:7-11 or Lk 3:23-38

Sun., Jan. 7 - The Epiphany of the Lord - Is 60:1-6/ Eph 3:2-3a,5-6/ Mt 2:1-12

From Death To New Life

In your charity, please pray for the repose of the soul of Norma Bauman, mother of Linda (Dan) Felger, died Friday, December 22, 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.

ST. JOSEPH'S 2017/18 PARISH CALENDAR

- 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 JANUARY 6 / 7, 2018

CANTORS:

5:00 Jay Crisp
7:30 Mike Morrissey
10:00 Larry Leitz (Choir Mass)

LECTORS:

5:00 Knights of Columbus
7:30 Carol Butler
10:00 Dan Geimer

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS:

5:00 Knights of Columbus
7:30 Jill Morrissey, Sherry Makowski, Barb Ault
10:00 Monica Harris, Diana Cole, Sandy Smythe, Rick Singer, Steve Higgins, Luisa Sumabat

MINISTERS OF HOSPITALITY:

5:00 Knights of Columbus
7:30 Al/Mary Porrata
10:00 Mike Painter, Brad/Susan Poper, Volunteer

SERVERS:

5:00 Knights of Columbus
7:30 Clayton Vachon, Oriana Makowski
10:00 Quinn Dreiband, Catherine Crawfis, Grant Reifsteck

Collection for Weekend of December 23 & 24 and Christmas 2017

Adult Envelopes- \$5,145.00
Adult Christmas Env.- \$2,291.00
Child Envelopes- \$4.00
Christmas Child Env.- \$44.75
Loose- \$111.00
Christmas Loose- \$392.00
Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary- \$20.00
Religious Ed. Fund- \$50.00
Repair/Rainy Day Fund- \$100.00
Total- \$8,157.75

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

We are \$3,041.35 ahead of budget from last week.

Other Collections within our Parish–

St. Vincent de Paul Fund- \$60.00
Bolivian Mission- \$100.00
Gifts to others- \$50.00

Diocesan Special Collections:

Catholic Charities; Christmas- \$1,045.00

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

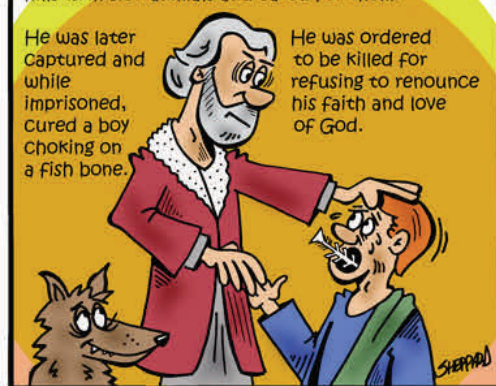
SAINTS FUN FACTS

by John Sheppard

Raised as a Christian in a rich family, he became a bishop. In a vision, God appeared to him and told him to flee. To avoid persecution, he lived in the hills with sick animals and cared for them.

He was later captured and while imprisoned, cured a boy choking on a fish bone.

He was ordered to be killed for refusing to renounce his faith and love of God.



St. Blaise

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

The Feast of St. Blaise is February 3rd.

BLESSING OF THROATS

FEBRUARY 3 AND 4, 2018
WEEKEND AT ALL MASSES!

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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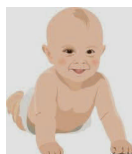


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And Matt Hayes

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109 E. Huntington St., Montpelier
765-209-4614
Wednesday & Friday from 10-4

LARRY E. MOCK

Attorney at Law
Wells County Public Defender
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zitros@msn.com
Larry E. Mock, Parishioner

Knights of Columbus
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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?