



# ST. JOSEPH

## CATHOLIC CHURCH

BLUFFTON, INDIANA

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

### CONTACT US

ADDRESS: 1300 NORTH MAIN STREET  
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OFFICE HOURS: MON - FRI, 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

EMERGENCY PHONE: (260) 296-0511

### MASS SCHEDULE

SATURDAY VIGIL: 5 PM

SUNDAY: 7:30 AM & 10 AM

### DAILY MASS:

TUESDAY, THURSDAY, SATURDAY: 8 AM

WEDNESDAY: 7 PM

FRIDAY: 8:30 AM

### CONFESIONS:

TUESDAY: 8:30-9 AM

SATURDAY: 8:30-9 AM & 4-4:45 PM

### ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE:

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 17<sup>TH</sup>: 6-7 PM

### ADORATION:

TUESDAY: 7-8 AM

WEDNESDAY: 6-7 PM

### STAFF

PASTOR: FR. DAVID VIOLI

EMAIL: FRDAVIDVIOLI@GMAIL.COM

ADMIN. ASST. / DRE: MICHELLE PAXTON

DIRECTOR OF SACRED MUSIC: TERESA SMITH

"WE ARE JOYFUL  
NOT BECAUSE  
THIS LIFE BRINGS  
US REST, BUT  
BECAUSE THE LORD  
IS COMING TO  
BRING US HOME."

ST. AUGUSTINE OF HIPPO  
ON CHRISTIAN JOY, SERMON 256.1



## Saturday, December 13

4:00-4:45 p.m. *Confession*

4:35 p.m. *Rosary*

5:00 p.m. Leonard Smythe +

## Sunday, December 14

7:10 a.m. *Rosary*

7:30 a.m. Our Parish Family

9:40 a.m. *Rosary*

10:00 a.m. Gonzalo Riveros +

## Monday, December 15

No Public Mass

## Tuesday, December 16

7:00-8:00 a.m. *Adoration*

8:00 a.m. Sue Meyer +

8:30-9:00 a.m. *Confession*

## Wednesday, December 17

6:00-7:00 p.m. *Adoration*

6:00-6:45 p.m. *Confession*

7:00 p.m. Emmanuel Thach +

## Thursday, December 18

8:00 a.m. Daniel & Audrey Mayer Family

## Friday, December 19

8:30 a.m. Martin & Lois Simon +

## Saturday, December 20

8:00 a.m. Special Intention

8:30-9:00 a.m. *Confession*

4:00-4:45 p.m. *Confession*

4:35 p.m. *Rosary*

5:00 p.m. Delfin Rios +

## Sunday, December 21

7:10 a.m. *Rosary*

7:30 a.m. Chris Hartman

9:40 a.m. *Rosary*

10:00 a.m. Our Parish Family



## MASS READINGS FOR THE WEEK

**Mon., Dec. 15 - Advent Weekday [3] -** Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a / Ps 25:4-5b, 6, 7bc, 8-9 / Mt 21:23-27

**Tues., Dec. 16 - Advent Weekday [3] -** Zep 3:1-2, 9-13 / Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-19, 23 / Mt 21:28-32

**Wed., Dec. 17 - Advent Weekday [3] -** Gn 49:2, 8-10 / Ps 72:1-4b, 7-8, 17 / Mt 1:1-17

**Thurs., Dec. 18 - Advent Weekday [3] -** Jer 23:5-8 / Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19 / Mt 1:18-25

**Fri., Dec. 19 - Advent Weekday [3] -** Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a / Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6b, 16-17 / Lk 1:5-25

**Sat., Dec. 20 - Advent Weekday [3] -** Is 7:10-14 / Ps 24:1-6 / Lk 1:26-38

**Sun., Dec. 21 - Fourth Sunday of Advent -** Is 7:10-14 / Ps 24:1-6 / Rom 1:1-7 / Mt 1:18-24

## THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT - DECEMBER 14, 2025

Thank you to all those who participated in our *Forty Hours Devotion and Consecration to St. Joseph* this past week. May this time given to the Lord bear tremendous fruit in both our lives and the life of our parish.

This weekend (Dec. 13<sup>th</sup>/14<sup>th</sup>), the Church celebrates the **Third Sunday of Advent**, also known as **Gaudete Sunday** or **Rejoice Sunday**. This name comes from the beginning of the Entrance Antiphon for today's Mass: ***Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice!*** (*Philippians 4:4*) This brief moment of joy during a penitential season marks the halfway point of **Advent** and emphasizes that the One we await is already drawing near.

The expectant and hope-filled joy of this day is reflected in the rose-colored vestments worn by the priest and the rose Advent candle, both of which mix the penitential violet of Advent with the joyful gold of Christmastide. We also raise our voices for a recessional hymn today, breaking our musical fast for a day's time as a reminder of what silence is meant to prepare us for: That glorious day when "*all God's people shall see together the glory of the Lord.*"

On Wednesday (Dec. 17<sup>th</sup>), the Church will fully change her **Advent** focus from the second coming of Christ to His coming on **Christmas Day** as we begin the recitation of the "*O Antiphons*." The "*O Antiphons*" are formally recited as a part of *Vespers (Evening Prayer)* at the Liturgy of the Hours, the daily prayer of the Church. Dating back to at least the 6<sup>th</sup> Century, each antiphon is an Old Testament messianic prophecy fulfilled in Jesus Christ.

By the 8<sup>th</sup> Century, the "*O Antiphons*" were in regular use throughout Rome. It is believed that Benedictine monks were the first to arrange these antiphons with a definite purpose and order: Working in reverse order, the first letter of each antiphon spells out **E-R-O C-R-A-S**, Latin for "***Tomorrow, I come to you.***" As the "*O Antiphons*" end on **Christmas Eve**, this phrase anticipates the coming joy of the Christ-child on **Christmas Day**.

In our modern day, these antiphons are recognizable from both the Alleluia verse at daily Mass and the lyrics of "*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.*" The repeated use of "*Come!*", crescendo-ing with each verse, is meant to emphasize our intense longing and desire for the LORD. In the same way, these four weeks of **Advent** are meant to awaken us from slumber, stoke the flames of our hearts, and prepare us to welcome our SAVIOR on **Christmas Day**.

## ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE—DEC. 17<sup>TH</sup> FROM 6:00-7:00 PM

Our **Advent Penance Service** is **Wednesday, December 17<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 - 7:00 PM** in the Church. We will be joined by three priests to hear confessions. I would encourage you to welcome the peace that is Jesus Christ by coming to the Sacrament of Confession. Here, the Lord heals, strengthens, and reconciles our souls through the power of His forgiveness. In this way, we prepare our hearts for **Christmas Day** by giving it over entirely to the Lord.

## PARISH RENOVATIONS—VOLUNTEER WORK DAYS

Though Shawnee Construction will formally begin work on our church renovations Monday, Jan. 5<sup>th</sup>, we will begin "preparations" for the renovations **following the 10 AM Mass on Sunday, Dec. 28<sup>th</sup>. Volunteers are welcome to join us after Mass, from 11 AM - 1 PM** to move furniture from the Church to the Parish Social Hall, move tables from the Parish Social Hall to the Parish Gym, and begin arranging chairs in the Parish Social Hall.

On Monday, Dec. 29<sup>th</sup>, local ***Yaste Painting*** will remove the pews from the Church to begin the needed repair work and re-staining. We will have a second **Volunteer Work Day on Tuesday, Dec. 30<sup>th</sup> from 1 PM - 3 PM**. On this day, we will begin disassembling cabinets in the sacristy, transitioning the Youth Den into a Calming Room / Cry Room, and tackle a number of other projects as we prepare to celebrate our first Masses in the Parish Social Hall. Please come dressed in work clothes if volunteering on this day.

~Fr. David



Becky Biberstein, Michael Green, Frances Carr, Tom Richhart, Troy Cook, Bobbie Jackson, Kimberly Abney, Sydnee Bradburn, Leanne Lee, Jeff Tillman, Mike Holland, Richard Payne and Matt Norris.

# G.I.R.L.'s Night Out

**G.I.R.L'S Night Out** will have their  
**ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY**  
on Tuesday, December 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.  
in the Parish Social Hall.

Bring an appetizer & enjoy a time of fun & fellowship.  
All women of the Parish are Welcome!

## ADVENT

## PENANCE SERVICE

Wednesday, Dec. 17<sup>th</sup> - 6:00-7:00 PM

## ST. JOSEPH CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

### CHRISTMAS EVE DECEMBER 24<sup>TH</sup>

4:00 PM Vigil Mass  
5:30 PM Christmas Carols  
6:00 PM Vigil Mass



### CHRISTMAS DAY DECEMBER 25<sup>TH</sup>

12:00 AM Midnite Mass  
9:00 AM Mass at Dawn  
Brunch following Mass



**Join Us in Celebrating the Birth of Christ**

### PLEASE NOTE...

There will be **NO** Religious Education Classes  
on December 21<sup>st</sup> or December 28<sup>th</sup> for Christmas Break.

### PARISH CALENDAR

- Sat., Dec. 13 - Confession 4:00-4:45 p.m. / Mass 5:00 p.m.
- Sun., Dec. 14 - Mass 7:30 a.m. / 10:00 a.m.
- Sun., Dec. 14 - Religious Education Classes - 8:30-9:45 a.m.
- Mon., Dec. 15 - Children's Choir Practice - 5:30-6:30 p.m. in the Parish Conference Room
- Tues., Dec. 16 - Adoration 7:00-8:00 a.m. / Mass 8:00 a.m. / Confessions 8:30 a.m.
- Tues., Dec. 16 - G.I.R.L's Night Out Christmas Party - 6:30 p.m. in the Parish Social Hall.
- Wed., Dec. 17 - Advent Penance Service - 6-7:00 p.m. / Mass 7:00 p.m.
- Thurs., Dec. 18 - Mass 8:00 a.m.
- Thurs., Dec. 18 - Adult Choir Practice - 6:30 p.m. in the Parish Conference Room.
- Thurs., Dec. 18 - Discover Catholicism - 6:30-7:30 p.m. in the Parish Social Hall.
- Fri., Dec. 19 - Mass 8:30 a.m.
- Sat., Dec. 20 - Mass 8:00 a.m. / Confession 8:30 a.m.
- Sat., Dec. 20 - Confession 4:00-4:45 p.m. / Mass 5:00 p.m.
- Sun., Dec. 21 - Mass 7:30 a.m. / 10:00 a.m.
- Sun., Dec. 21 - No Religious Ed. Classes - Christmas Break
- Mon., Dec. 22 - Children's Choir Practice - 5:30-6:30 p.m. in the Parish Conference Room.

### WEEKEND OF DECEMBER 20<sup>TH</sup> & 21<sup>ST</sup>

#### MASS Cantors

5:00 p.m. Dan Lautzenheiser

7:30 a.m. Mike Morrissey

10:00 a.m. Adult Choir

#### Lectors

5:00 p.m. Carol Butler

7:30 a.m. Barb Ault

10:00 a.m. Monica Harris

#### Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

5:00 p.m. Laurisa Roper

7:30 a.m. Jill Morrissey

10:00 a.m. Tammi Helm, Larisa Sudhoff, Kevin Seago

#### Servers

5:00 p.m. Angel/Zoe Soto, volunteer

7:30 a.m. Charlene/Anna Lynn/Jackson Felger

10:00 a.m. Charlie Andrews, Isaiah/Dominic Bedwell

### St. Joseph Parish Finance Report for the Weekend of Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> / 7<sup>th</sup>

Adult Envelopes - \$2,592.00

Loose - \$343.15

Repair / Rainy Day - \$994.99

Holy Day Offerings- \$155.00

Christmas Flowers- \$65.00

Hall Rent- \$120.00

Cookbook Sales- \$50.00

Religious Ed. Fund- \$125.00

Total- \$4,445.14

Your gifts to St. Joseph Parish  
are greatly appreciated.  
Thank you!

Our weekly budget is \$5,116.40

We are **\$671.26 behind**  
our budget for the month  
of December 2025.

St. Vincent de Paul Fund - \$65.00

Online Giving for November -  
\$5,905.00. We ended the month  
**\$7,710.32 ahead of our budget.**

Online Giving for St. Vincent de  
Paul Fund for November -  
\$200.00

To set up Online Giving  
through *Our Sunday Visitor*, visit:  
[www.osvhub.com/stjosephchurchbluffton](http://www.osvhub.com/stjosephchurchbluffton)  
or  
Scan the QR Code on the right.



ENCOUNTER VOCATIONS.  
ENJOY THE GAME.

# FRIDAY, DECEMBER 26

BISHOP LUERS HIGH SCHOOL | FORT WAYNE

TIPOFF 6:30 P.M. | FREE ADMISSION

[DIOCESEFWSB.ORG/CUPERTINO](http://DIOCESEFWSB.ORG/CUPERTINO)



JOIN BISHOP RHODES FOR ADORATION AND MASS

ADORATION 3 - 4 P.M. | MASS 4 P.M.

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**Preach the Gospel at all times and when necessary use words.**  
St. Francis of Assisi

RON BANTER

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Before you speak....

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?



"Saint Joseph was a just man, a tireless worker, the upright guardian of those entrusted to his care. May he always guard, protect and enlighten families."  
- St. John Paul II