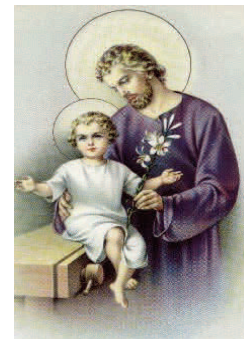


# St. Joseph Catholic Community

## Fourth Sunday of Advent

### December 24, 2017



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

email: [stjosephchurch@adamswells.com](mailto:stjosephchurch@adamswells.com)  
website: [stjosephchurchbluffton.org](http://stjosephchurchbluffton.org)

Pastor: Rev. Msgr. Pius N. Ilechukwu

Msgr. Pius' direct email: [stjosephchurch1875@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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 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 - The Nativity of the Lord Christmas Morning Mass

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

### Tuesday, December 26

#### Eucharistic Adoration- 6:00 a.m. - 7:00 a.m.

- 6:45 a.m. Morning Prayer  
7:00 a.m. Adam Bauman + by Dan & Linda Felger  
7:30 a.m. Rosary

**Msgr. Pius N. Ihechukwu 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:**

- Wednesday, December 27- Hildegard Schaefer + by Diane Humphrey  
Thursday, December 28- Deceased Members of the Braun Family by Dave & Margie Huss  
Friday, December 29- Edward J. Schaefer + by Diane Humphrey  
Saturday, December 30- Richard & Madlyn Schortgen + by Kurt & Becky Biberstein  
Sunday, December 31- Deceased Members of the Huss Family by Dave & Margie Huss

### 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



#### 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.

## 4th SUNDAY of ADVENT DECEMBER 24, 2017 YR. B

### THE DICE IS CAST, DO NOT BE AFRAID, TRUST GOD, FOR HE HAS FOUND FAVOR WITH YOU.

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ I say peace be with you all. Today is the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of advent the last Sunday before the 'D Day', Christmas Day. We have been preparing and we should continue to prepare, in anticipation for the birth of Christ, though the "D Day" is tomorrow.

**N.B.:** 1. Please pay attention; for the fulfillment of the days of Obligation, Sunday and Christmas. You need to attend Sunday Mass and Christmas Mass separately. These Masses are for Sunday: Vigil Mass by 5:00 p.m. on Saturday December 23 and the two Masses, 7:30 and 10:00 a.m. on December 24. For Christmas; Vigil Mass on Sunday December 24, by 5:00 p.m., Night Mass, by 10:00 and 9:00 a.m. on Monday December 25. However, you can attend Sunday Vigil Mass by 5:00 p.m. to fulfill Sunday Obligation, then you MUST attend either night Mass by 10:00 p.m. or 9:00 a.m. Mass on Christmas Day for Christmas Obligation. The Vigil Mass on Sunday, December 24, by 5:00 p.m. CANNOT suffice for both Sunday and Christmas Obligations. I hope it is clear. This is Church's instruction.

2. I will be going on my annual vacation. I leave on 12/26/2017 and come back on 2/1/2018. Be assured, I will pray for you all. Thanks for your own prayers for my safe journey to and from. May God continue to protect and bless you all.

3. As the year come to an end, remember that we plan for Pilgrimage to the Holy Land, next year to join in the "Foot Steps of Our Lord Jesus Christ". So, consider seriously of joining us to the home land of Jesus Christ, our Redeemer and Messiah. You will never regret going. It will help you to understand more vividly the Scripture passages. It is from April 23 to May 2, 2018.

In the first reading, 2 Sam 7:1-5, 6b-12 14a-16), David full of good will wanted to build a house/Church/Temple for God, but instead, God promised and built a kingdom for him. You see in a desire to give God, God gives us. It is in giving gifts to God that we receive gifts from him. It is in preparing for God's coming that God will prepare a place for us. Listen, Christmas is such an important event to come. Celebrate it very well.

Thus, St. Paul tells us in the second reading, (Rm 16:25-27), that In Christmas, in Christ, God revealed the mystery He kept secret for ages past, for a long time ago. In our time he has revealed it in Christ. He gave us the image of himself in his Son Christ Jesus, an image we can perceive with our weak human senses. Christmas is a yearly momentous event for those who are expecting the "Emmanuel, God is with us" in faith and wonderment.

Then in the Gospel, (Lk 1:26-38) just read, the angel Gabriel, which means the "Strength of God" was sent by God to Galilee and he greeted Virgin Mary. The greeting disturbed her, because the word 'Hail' is an attribute of divinity. She was given the most difficult message ever given to a human person. "Behold you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. ..." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I have no relations with a man?" The angel assured her that God will take care of everything. She trusted God and accepted the impossible task, and the impossible became possible. She said, "Let it be done to me according to your word". Mary consented. And immediate conception took place in her womb. By trusting in God, she said: "Yes" to God. This yes, the Church is asking us to say to God in our lives. "It is a million yes, a billion yes, and a trillion yes". As Mary welcomed the son of God Jesus Christ in her womb, so too, let us welcome him in our hearts: Hearts free from sin, free from hatred, jealousy, calumny, Gossip, but hearts full of love, kindness, forgiveness. Let us also welcome him in our midst, in our homes and in our community. The "Yes" of Our Lady Mary in the Gospel fulfilled the promise God made to our ancestors and to us through David, that his own flesh will be the heir who will take seat, and sit on his throne and that his kingdom will have no end. Let us my dear brothers and sisters in Christ, say yes to God in all things in our lives as Mary did.

God bless you

Fr. Pius N. Ihechukwu

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

## 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!



## HELPING HANDS PREGNANCY RESOURCE CENTER

### Baby Bottle Campaign



Baby Bottles will be passed out at all the Masses on the weekend of Jan. 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> 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.

### From Death To New Life

In your charity, please pray for the repose of the soul of  
Betty Kistler, mother of Carmie Anderson,  
died Monday, December 18, 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

- 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 DECEMBER 30 and 31, 2017

### CANTORS:

5:00 Debbie Lautzenheiser  
7:30 Tammy Horn  
10:00 Larry Leitz

### LECTORS:

5:00 Michelle Paxton  
7:30 Carol Butler  
10:00 Marita Crawfis

### EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS:

5:00 Kevin or Jessica Seago, Janette Minch, Linda Huseman  
7:30 Dave Gruss, Sherry Makowski, John Horn  
10:00 Ann Reifsteck, Larisa Sudhoff, Rick Singer, Jeff Miller, Steve Higgins

### 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/Jeremy Mayer  
10:00 Grant Reifsteck, Catherine Crawfis, Sophie Emrah

### Collection for Weekend of December 16 & 17, 2017

Adult Envelopes- \$3,339.00  
Child Envelopes- \$22.00  
Loose- \$356.00  
Religious Ed. Fund- \$543.00  
Repair/Rainy Day Fund— \$75.00  
Flowers- \$31.00  
Votive Candles- \$48.00  
Immaculate Conception- \$25.00  
Christmas Offering- \$300.00  
St. Aloysius Knights of Columbus Reimbursement- \$375.00

**Total- \$5,114.00**

**The amount needed each week  
to make budget is \$5,116.40**  
We are \$2.40 behind budget from  
last week.

### Other Collections within our Parish—

St. Vincent de Paul Fund-  
\$154.00

### Diocesan Special Collections:

Religious Retirement- \$327.00  
Catholic Charities; Christmas-  
\$50.00

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

## SCRIPTURE/MASS READINGS FOR THE WEEK

**Mon., Dec. 25 - The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) - Day:** Is 52:7-10/Heb 1:1-6/ Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5,9-14

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

**Wed., Dec. 27 - St. John, Apostle and Evangelist -** 1 Jn 1:1-4/ Jn 20:1a,2-8

**Thurs., Dec. 28 - The Holy Innocents, Martyrs -** 1 Jn 1:5—2:2/ Mt 2:13-18

**Fri., Dec. 29 - The Fifth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord - St. Thomas Becket, Bishop and Martyr -** 1 Jn 2:3-11/ Lk 2:22-35

**Sat., Dec. 30 - Sixth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord -** 1 Jn 2:12-17/ Lk 2:36-40

**Sun., Dec. 31 - The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph -** Sir 3:2-6,12-14 or Gn 15:1-6,21:1-3/ Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 or Heb 11:8,11-12,17-19/ Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22,39-40

## 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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**Kris Thompson, Parishioner**



It's a child, not a  
choice...  
Abortion does not make  
you "un-pregnant", it  
makes you the mother  
of a dead child.

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Dan Gordon, Tony Crowell  
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it's over  
**Smile**  
because it happened.

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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?



*Guiding You Back On Course*

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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