

# St. Jerome Catholic Church

*As parishioners of St. Jerome and as Catholic disciples of Jesus Christ, we respond to our Lord's invitation to walk with Him in the Sacraments and prayer, to deepen our faith through lifelong formation, to serve those in need and to invite others to the fullness of the Catholic faith through sharing His Holy Word and His Teaching.*

## PASTORAL TEAM

**Rev. Tom Morgan**  
Pastor

**Rev. Robert Cadrecha**  
Parochial Vicar

**Very Rev. Joseph Waters, JV, JCL**  
Assisting Priest

**Deacon Fred Kunder**  
Permanent Deacon

**Sr. Lucia Brady, OSC**  
Pastoral Care / Outreach  
Life Long Formation

## RETIRED

**Msgr. Brendan Muldoon**  
Pastor Emeritus

**Msgr. Dacian Dee**  
Assisting Priest

## FORMATION TEAM

**Lisa Brett-Reeves**  
Coordinator of Catechesis  
of the Good Shepherd

**Tina Bowen**  
Youth and Family Coordinator

## ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM

**Cindi Munroe**  
**Karen Kurt**

## MUSIC TEAM

**Tom Kurt**, Music Director  
**Erica DiCeglie**, Assoc. Music  
Director

## BETHLEHEM CENTRE

**Joanne Biamonte**, Coordinator  
727-596-9394

## EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

**Phyllis Steele**, Administrator  
727-596-9491

## Parish Office Hours:

Monday - Friday, 9:30am - 4:30pm

## Address:

10895 Hamlin Blvd, Largo, FL 33774  
Tel: (727) 595-4610

[www.stjeromeonline.org](http://www.stjeromeonline.org)  
[Receptionist@stjeromeonline.org](mailto:Receptionist@stjeromeonline.org)

**Saturday Vigil Mass: 4pm & 5:30pm**

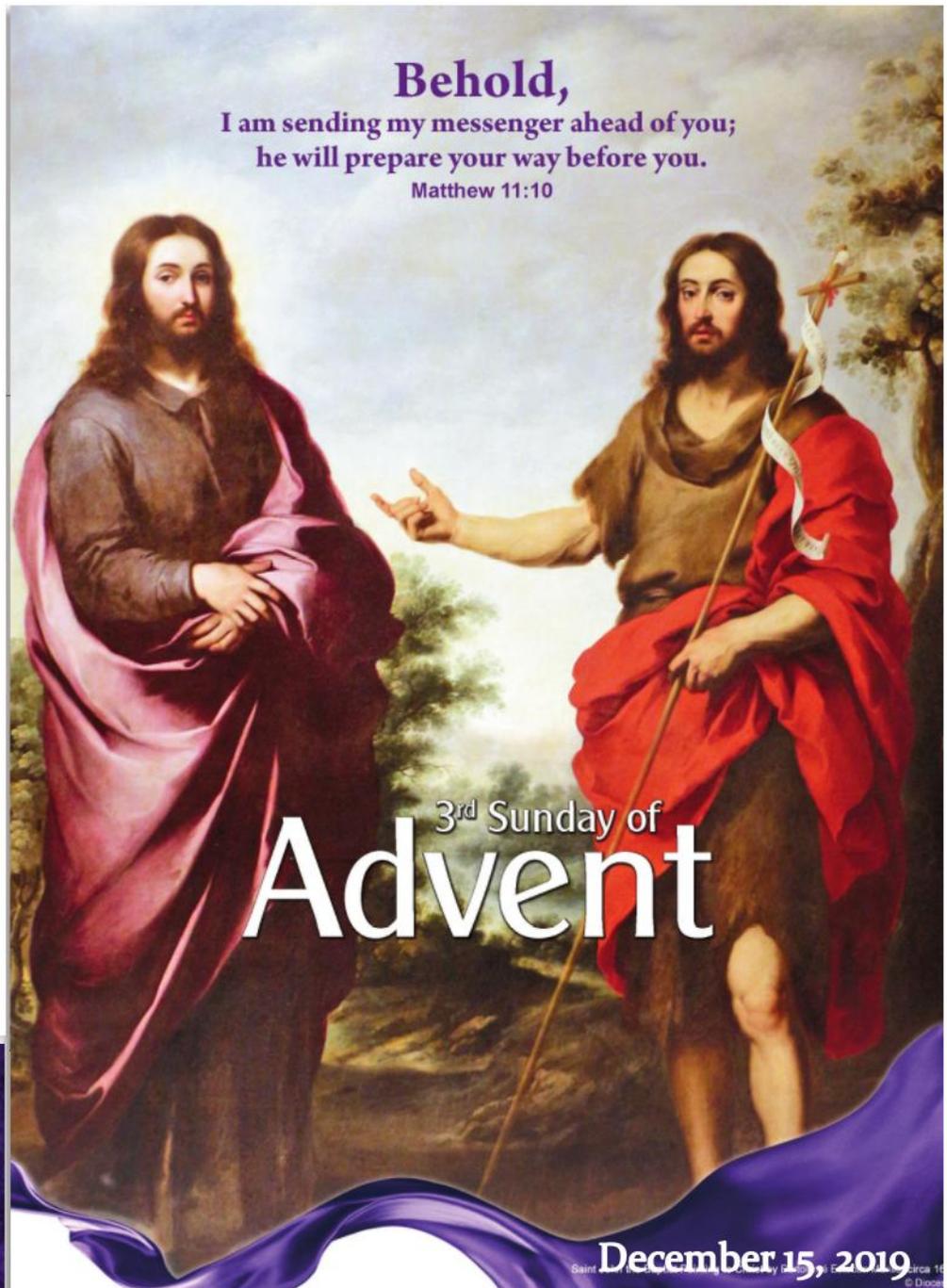
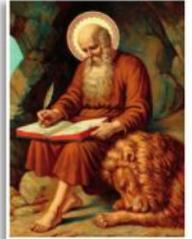
**Sunday Mass: 7:30am, 9am, 10:45am, 12:30pm & 5pm**

**Daily Mass: Monday - Friday at 7am & 9am, and Saturday at 9am**

**Holy Family Chapel** open 24 hours every day;

**Confessions**, Saturday: 3pm - 3:45pm; **Anointing of the Sick**, first weekend of the month Saturday 9:30am & Sunday 1:30pm;

**Holy Hour and Benediction**, 1st & 3rd Friday 9:30am - 10:30am



**ADVENT TRADITIONS**



**The Empty Manger:** Each child may have his own individual manger, or there may be one manger for the whole family. The idea is that when acts of service, sacrifice, or kindness are done in honor of Baby Jesus as a birthday present, the child receives a piece of straw to put into the manger. Then, on Christmas morning, Baby Jesus is placed in the manger. Encourage your children to make Jesus’ bed as comfortable as possible through their good deeds. In the process, explain Christ’s incomparable self-gift at Christmas and Easter that enables us to be part of God’s family.

**St. Lucy Cakes:** The feast of St. Lucy, virgin and martyr, is on December 13th. This marks the opening of the Christmas season in Sweden. Her life story can be found in most saints books, as can the recipe for the traditional cakes. The symbolism is rich and her life story worthwhile reading.

**The Nativity Scene:** This is the event in which the entire family shares setting up the Christmas manger. Mary and Joseph should be far off traveling and their approach to Bethlehem can be adjusted daily. Older children can make life-size Nativity models, carve them, cut them out from cardboard, or set up pre-made figurines. The creative ideas are without limit. Make sure to place the Nativity scene where many can admire the children’s efforts to give God glory.

**Christmas Baking:** There are many recipe books available to find great traditional Christmas baking ideas. The baking usually starts around December 20th. As Christmas approaches, the house will smell of baking and fresh wreaths. The glory of Christmas is at hand! Move the manger to a focal point, add lights to the Nativity to be lit on Christmas Eve, and anticipate together.

**Blessing of the Tree:** More and more frequently families are blessing their Christmas trees. It is good to remind children that the tree relates to many aspects of our faith. For example, we are reminded that our first parents were not allowed to eat from one tree, and that Christ paid the great price for our redemption by hanging on a tree (Acts 5:29-32)

**Blessing of the Christmas Tree for the Home**

**All make the sign of cross +**

**Leader:** Blessed be the name of the Lord.

**All:** Now and forever.

One of those present reads a text from sacred Scripture:

*But when the kindness and generous love of God our savior appeared, not because of any righteous deeds we had done, but because of his mercy, he saved us through the bath of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he richly poured out on us through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that we might be justified by his grace and become heirs in hope of eternal life. (Titus 3:4-7)*

**Leader:** Holy Lord, we come with joy to celebrate the birth of your Son, who rescued us from the darkness of sin by making the cross a tree of life and light. May this tree, arrayed in splendor, remind us of the life-giving cross of Christ, that we may always rejoice in the new life that shines in our hearts. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**All:** Amen.



**Prayed  
December 16  
through  
December 24**

Hail, and blessed be the hour and moment at which the Son of God was born of a most pure Virgin at a stable at midnight in Bethlehem in the piercing cold. At that hour vouchsafe, I beseech Thee, to hear my prayers and grant my desires. (Mention your intentions here)  
Through Jesus Christ. Amen.

**Question & Mission of the Week:**

**Question:**

What do you expect to happen this Advent, and how does this expectation affect your experience of this season?

**Mission:**

The kingdom is coming! Everybody has a share in the harvest, but also a share in the sowing. Choose one seed to plant-gentleness, forgiveness, gladness-and tend it patiently in prayer and practice.

**CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE:**

**Tuesday, December 24th - Christmas Eve Masses:** 4:00pm Mass with Nativity/Church, 4:00pm Mass only/Parish Center, 6:00pm Mass/Church, 11pm Christmas Eve Concert/Church 12am Midnight Mass/Church

**Wednesday, December 25th - Christmas Day Masses:** 7:30am, 9am, 10:45am and 12:30pm Masses/Church

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We are blessed at St. Jerome with our beautiful church where we have our most intimate encounters with the Lord. This is His house, and it comes as a gift from current and past parishioners. We take very seriously the responsibility to be good stewards of this gift which we have so gratefully received.

For close to a year the Finance Council, with support from the Diocese, outside experts/consultants with expertise in building and construction and considerable comments and suggestions from parishioners, has been working on determining the best option to replace our failing church roof.

We have determined that the only option is to replace our roof with an enduring metal roof which will meet or exceed all State and Federal requirements for wind resistance and would last as long as 50 years.

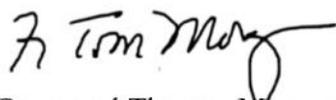
We now have bids from multiple roofing contractors. They have a heavy amount of work at this time and that is reflected in the bids. The best bid came in at \$1.2 million which is higher than we expected. After discussion with our consultant and contractors, we are seeking rebids next year when the backlogs drop, and contractors can meet our guidelines with competitive bids.

Some parishioners suggested that we put a shingle roof on because it was much cheaper. Initial estimates may have supported this idea. However, our latest estimate for a shingle roof is \$804,000. One of the reasons is that much of the cost is the labor in replacing the roof not the material. Hence putting a 15-year life shingle roof on does not make sense especially considering the high cost. Comparing apples to apples we would have to replace a shingle roof twice compared to a metal roof. A metal roof also offers significant savings in energy costs over the 40 to 50-year life of the roof. Getting revised bids will push out the date when we can get the roof replaced but should result in saving in the cost. Because we are pushing out the replacement, like it or not, we need to do some extensive temporary repairs to the existing roof, in order to prevent further damage to the interior of the church. There is nothing but a thin layer of tar paper protecting the interior in many places where shingles are missing. There is already some damage to the interior of our church (peeling paint and drywall). Fortunately, this is mostly around the Plexiglas skylight at the very top of the church roof. If we do get a significant amount of moisture through the shingles, the damage to the interior of the church could be extensive.

We have also been working with the Diocese and banks and have been able to obtain very favorable financing costs and terms.

I know we all love our church and feel confident that all will step up and support our "Raise the Roof" Campaign. This is borne out by the fact that we already have \$109,000 in our Raise the Roof fund and we really haven't been publicizing it much. Because of the major financial impact, we will kick off a formal "Raise the Roof Campaign" with a goal to raise \$600,000. We will kick off our Raise the Roof Campaign after the first of the year. You will be hearing from members of the Finance Council who will further explain the Campaign and will have pledge cards available. \$600,000 sounds like a lot, but if you divide it by the number of active families it comes to \$375 per family. It is an achievable amount particularly when spread over three years. It is important to mention that this is a separate campaign, in addition to our regular offertory giving. We still have to maintain our campus and programs. We need your financial support. Given our faith and our desire to give thanks to the Lord there is nothing we can't accomplish. As we await the coming of Jesus, it is my hope that you will prayerfully consider contributing to the success of our "Raise the Roof Campaign".

Sincerely Yours in Christ,



Reverend Thomas Morgan  
Pastor



## CHRISTMAS FLOWERS FOR LOVED ONES

Christmas flowers are used to beautify the Church during the Christmas Season. We are continuing our tradition to honor or memorialize loved ones by making available the privilege of donating toward the Christmas flowers and decorations for the Church. The name of the person being memorialized or honored will be listed along with the donor name in the Parish bulletin during the Christmas Season. In addition, those using the flower envelope in the December packet or in the pews will have their name included in the bulletin.

To place an order, please complete this form. Your offering (a \$10 suggested minimum per name) should be attached. Please make your check payable to "St. Jerome Church". You may place it in the Offertory collection or drop it off at the Parish Office.

**The deadline to place your order is Wednesday, December 18th at Noon.**

PLEASE WRITE LEGIBLY AND INCLUDE YOUR PHONE NUMBER  
SO YOU MAY BE CONTACTED WITH ANY QUESTIONS.

YOUR NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
 ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
 PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ ENVELOPE # \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE CIRCLE "IN HONOR OF" OR "IN MEMORY OF":

In Honor of / In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_  
 In Honor of / In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_

# \_ NAMES x \$10 EACH = \_\_\_\_\_ CHECK TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_

If you have any questions, please call the parish office..



### Lifeline Advent Calendar

Thanks to your generosity, every month St. Jerome's LifeLine Food Bank is able to provide an average of 250 families with a wide variety of foods. For many, this resource really IS a lifeline. During the Advent season the need is especially great and we ask you to consider a Christmas gift of food.

- |                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| December 1 - box of cereal          | December 13 - canned beans                 |
| December 2 - peanut butter          | December 14 - canned spaghetti & meatballs |
| December 3 - jelly                  | December 15 - package of rice              |
| December 4 - boxed potatoes         | December 16 - any Progresso soup           |
| December 5 - box mac & Cheese       | December 17 - package of pasta             |
| December 6 - canned peaches         | December 18 - spaghetti sauce              |
| December 7 - diced tomatoes         | December 19 - small chicken soup           |
| December 8 - can mini ravioli       | December 20 - small tomato soup            |
| December 9 - can of tuna            | December 21 - canned corn                  |
| December 10 - canned pears          | December 22 - canned green beans           |
| December 11 - can pork & beans      | December 23 - canned carrots               |
| December 12 - canned fruit cocktail | December 24 - can of chili                 |



**Each day add the item listed to a box. Then anytime from mid-December until January 6th bring your box to church and put it in a LifeLine collection box.**



## EMBRACE: EVANGELIZATION & DISCIPLESHIP

*“Go and make disciples of all nations” . . . Matthew 28:19*

St. Joseph is the silent saint — the Gospels record none of his spoken words.

**Challenge:** Review the list of Spiritual Gifts and Talents (find the document on the Time & Talent page of the parish website).

Which gifts do you think best apply to St. Joseph? Why?

**Go further:** Which gifts best apply to YOUR patron saint? Which of these match your gifts and talents?

### Mark Your Calendars!

#### The 5th Gifts & Talents Workshop is coming!

As part of **Courageously Living the Gospel**, St. Jerome Catholic Church has committed to encouraging all parishioners to learn more about their God-given talents.

Find the Gifts & Talents Questionnaire on the Parish Website Time & Talent page.

Our next workshop is especially for parents and guardians of children and teens, to be held in the TV Lounge on Sunday morning, February 9, 2020. We look forward to seeing you for coffee and conversation.



### HELP- WANTED

**Qualifications:** Love the Lord and seek to serve Him by serving His people.

**Job description:** varies! We offer Alpha, Connect Groups, Prayer Line Ministry and Gifts & Talents, and need help in all areas. ***In the year ahead, EMBRACE will be adding more workshops and retreats to serve our parishioners and guests!*** Be part of the team! Do you want to offer your gifts? Do you have ideas that we might consider? Email us at: [1SJ.Embrace@gmail.com](mailto:1SJ.Embrace@gmail.com).

## St Jerome Christmas Special!

Friday, December 20

@7:30pm



*Featuring*

*St Jerome Chorale, Spirit Singers, Praise Band, Bell Choir, soloists & instrumentalists*

**directed by Tom Kurt & Erica DiCeglie**



Come get into the Christmas season with Christmas classics and favorites! Join the Suncoast Symphony Orchestra on Sunday, December 15th at 2:30pm in the church for a beautiful afternoon of music.



### Gift Shop

We are open on Sunday mornings from 8:30am – 12:30pm. Come check out our wonderful religious gifts for the Advent and Christmas season!



**Coffee and Donuts:**

Please join us every Sunday from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm.

Volunteers needed to serve! Please contact John Francks at 727-595-4610.



**Bingo** is a fun, social and good time every Thursday in the Parish Center.

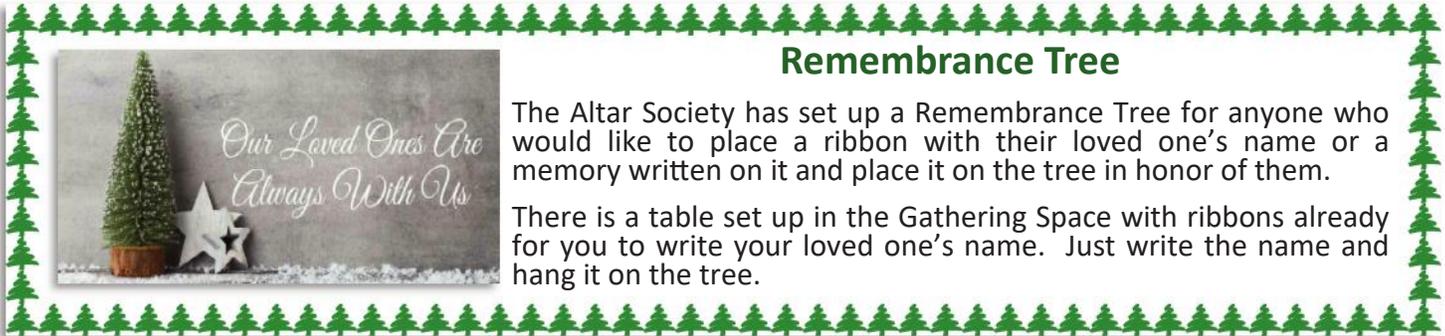
Doors open at 10am. Early bird begins at 12pm followed by the regular games until about 3pm.

In keeping with the generosity of our church, if you bring in a can or a box of food for the poor, we will give you a free bingo card for a special game. One card per can every week!



**The Bethlehem Centre lunch program** is served in the Parish Center from 11:30am – 12pm on Tuesdays, November through March. Salad and beverage are available at 11:15am. Come early to meet old friends and make some new ones. Donation \$6.00.

**Tuesday, December 17th menu:** Beef Stew, Cole Slaw, Corn Casserole, Salad and Biscuits, Beverage, Dessert



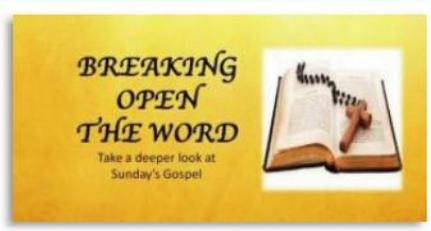
### Remembrance Tree

The Altar Society has set up a Remembrance Tree for anyone who would like to place a ribbon with their loved one's name or a memory written on it and place it on the tree in honor of them.

There is a table set up in the Gathering Space with ribbons already for you to write your loved one's name. Just write the name and hang it on the tree.

### Break Open the Word

– Reflecting on the upcoming Sunday readings  
Meet Wednesday mornings after the 9am Mass in the Parish Center. All are welcome!



### Around the Diocese



Palestine Film Series continues... "Open Bethlehem"  
Tuesday, December 17th at 2pm  
Seminole Community Library  
727-798-9699 for more info

For more info: contact Carla Rollandini, coordinator in parish office. Monthly Meeting Justice & Fast Ministry is Thursday, Dec 26 at 4pm in the Education Center Lounge. Preview Movie: Bonhoeffer; Agent of Grace.

## St. Jerome Catholic Church Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

faithformation@stjeromeonline.org

Families have a choice of five Mass times to attend on Sunday: 7:30am, 9am, 10:45am, 12:30pm or 5pm.  
Remember to attend a Mass to fulfill your Sunday obligation!

### Living a Holy and Sacramental Life: ADVENT

#### WELCOMING THE PRINCE OF PEACE

Advent candles shine brightly, symbolizing and reminding us that Jesus came as light into our dark world. Each of the candles has a unique symbolization and specific reason for being part of the Advent wreath.

#### PREPARING TO FULLY CELEBRATE ADVENT THE ADVENT WREATH



The first candle symbolizes **HOPE**. The prophets of the Old Testament waited in **HOPE** for the Messiah's arrival.

The second candle represents **FAITH**. Micah had foretold that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem.

The third candle symbolizes **JOY**. To the shepherd's great **JOY** the angels announce that Jesus came for humble people like them too. In liturgy, the color rose signifies **JOY**.

The fourth candle represents **PEACE**. The angels announced that Jesus came to bring **PEACE**. He came to bring people close to God and close to each other again.

CGS will not be held on  
December 22nd, 23rd AND December 29th, 30th

### YOUTH, YOUNG ADULT & FAMILY MINISTRY

Tina Bowen, youthandfamily@stjeromeonline.org Tel: 727-595-4610, ext. 302



Youth (ages 10 – 18) are invited to join the Frassati Expedition Team for an introductory kayak paddle on Saturday, December 21st at 9am. Adore God's creation while exploring the spoiler islands in double kayaks. Only 6 spots left! Email [youthandfamily@stjeromeonline.org](mailto:youthandfamily@stjeromeonline.org) to reserve yours.

Our next Confirmation Preparation class will be on Monday, December 9th at 6:30pm in the Parish Center. We will be learning about prayer & different ways to strengthen our relationship with God.



MOPS is a group for ALL moms with kids of ALL ages. Come join us!  
Monday, December 16, at 10:00 am in the Education Building  
Please RSVP for FREE childcare at [www.stjeromeonline.org/mops](http://www.stjeromeonline.org/mops).  
**AND...save the date for our next BUNCO night – Saturday, January 11th!**



The RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults) is the means by which we welcome and instruct new members of the Church in what it means to be Catholic. We are changing our meeting time to Sunday at the 10:45am Mass. We will leave

Mass after the Homily and go to discuss the readings and then have our formational portion of the Journey immediately following. So we will begin to meet once a week as opposed to the twice we currently meet. RCIA is a journey, a personal journey with Christ into his Church. If you have thought of becoming Catholic or would like to deepen your understanding of what it means to be Catholic, join us each Sunday at the 10:45am Mass. For more information contact Deacon Fred Kunder at the office 727-595-4610 or visit our website at: <http://www.stjeromeonline.org/rcia.html>.

## Join us for St. Jerome's Nativity Play!



It's the most wonderful time of the year!  
We need your children (and you) to participate in St. Jerome's Christmas Nativity Play!

The play will take place at the Christmas Eve 4pm Mass in the Church. All are invited and welcome to rejoice in the birth of our Lord, Jesus!

Please contact Erica for more info and to sign up, [edicegliesings@gmail.com](mailto:edicegliesings@gmail.com).

## *St. Jerome's Needs Your Friendly Face!*

*GREETERS AND USHERS ARE NEEDED FOR ALL OF THE CHRISTMAS MASSES.*



*Please prayerfully consider volunteering to serve as a greeter or an usher for the Christmas season.*

*Bring your friendly, welcoming attitude. If you have questions, feel free to ask anyone currently serving in these positions.*

*We would LOVE to have you!*

*Sign up sheets will be at the Welcome Desk.*





## You are invited to Alpha!

Join us for a great meal and conversation with others who are exploring life and faith; no strings attached. If you come, we won't call you after, write, or ask you to pick up the check – the ball is completely in your court.

**Alpha is a chance to explore life and the Christian faith in a friendly, open and informal environment.**

## What do you have to lose?

Beginning - Wednesday, Jan. 15, 2020 at 6:30 pm  
Parish Center at St. Jerome Catholic Church  
10895 Hamlin Blvd, Largo, Florida 33774

For questions, registration or free childcare contact:  
[StJeromeAlpha@gmail.com](mailto:StJeromeAlpha@gmail.com) or 727-537-0143

*"Finding friends, peace and purpose."*

*The St. Jerome, Divine Mercy of Jesus Knights of Columbus Council 17249*, Largo Florida, meets on the first and second Wednesdays of each month. At the first Wednesday night's meeting, which starts at 6:30 pm, we will have a 30-minute officers' meeting after which we will share in our Holy Hour with all interested parties, pray, and learn how to increase the signs of the Holy Spirit's presence within us.

During the second Wednesday of the month, the Knights gather at 6:30 pm to pray together the Rosary, then at 7 pm we will have our regular general business meeting: "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

Go to <http://www.stjeromeonline.org/knights-of-columbus.html>  
Or Call 727 244-2832 for more information.



## Mass Intentions

**Saturday, December 14**

**Vigil for the Third Sunday of Advent**

4:00 pm † Mary Kelly Fr. Tom  
5:30 pm † Mary Geary Fr. Cadrecha

**Sunday, December 15**

**The Third Sunday of Advent**

7:30 am † James & Anna Mackay Fr. Tom  
9:00 am † Frances McBride Fr. Tom  
10:45 am **All the People of the Parish** Fr. Waters  
12:30 pm † Ludwika & John Liput Fr. Cadrecha  
5:00 pm † John Badali Msgr. Muldoon

**Monday, December 16**

7:00 am † Doris Piazza (died 3-18-2019) Fr. Cadrecha  
9:00 am † Eileen & David Komuro Fr. Tom

**Tuesday, December 17**

7:00 am **All the People of the Parish** Msgr. Muldoon  
9:00 am **O'Connor Family** Fr. Cadrecha

**Wednesday, December 18**

7:00 am † Paul Chapman Fr. Tom  
9:00 am **Intentions of Gail Chieco** Fr. Cadrecha

**Thursday, December 19**

7:00 am † Paul Chapman Fr. Tom  
9:00 am † Bobby Hall Fr. Cadrecha

**Friday, December 20**

7:00 am † Joannie Kenneally (anniversary) Fr. Tom  
9:00 am † Michael O'Reilly Msgr. Muldoon

**Saturday, December 21**

8:45 am Novena  
9:00 am † Jack McGlone Msgr. Muldoon

**Saturday, December 21**

**Vigil for the Fourth Sunday of Advent**

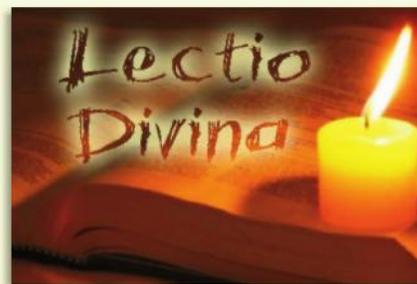
4:00 pm † Paula Weber (Birthday Remembrance) Fr. Waters  
5:30 pm † Dominic & Bridget DiSanto Fr. Tom

**Sunday, December 22**

**The Fourth Sunday of Advent**

7:30 am † Paul Chapman Fr. Tom  
9:00 am **All the People of the Parish** Fr. Cadrecha  
10:45 am † Marie Lawrence Msgr. Muldoon  
12:30 pm † Dorothy Calos Fr. Cadrecha  
5:00 pm † Edgar Vallar Fr. Tom

*\*Priest Schedule subject to change. \*\*If there is a Mass intention error, please contact Pat Cummings in the Parish Office.*



## Scripture Readings

**Prepare & Pray  
the Word of God**

✠

**Today's Readings: December 15  
The Third Sunday of Advent**

Is 35:1-6a; Ps 146 [Is 35:4]; Jas 5:7-10;  
Mt 11:2-11

**Monday, December 16**

Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a; Ps 25; Mt 21:23-27

**Tuesday, December 17**

Gn 49:2, 8-10; Ps 72; Mt 1:1-17

**Wednesday, December 18**

Jer 23:5-8; Ps 72; Mt 1:18-25

**Thursday, December 19**

Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Ps 71; Lk 1:5-25

**Friday, December 20**

Is 7:10-14; Ps 24; Lk 1:26-38

**Saturday, December 21**

Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Ps 33; Lk  
1:39-45

**Next Sunday's Readings: December 22  
The Fourth Sunday of Advent**

Is 7:10-14; Ps 24; Rom 1:1-7; Mt 1:18-24

First Reading — Therefore the Lord himself will give you this sign: the virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel. (Is 7:14)

Psalm — Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory. (Ps 24)

Second Reading — Through him we have received the grace of apostleship, to bring about the obedience of faith. (Rom 1:5a)

Gospel — "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus." (Mt 1:20b-21a)

*At last weekend's Masses, the correct Mass Intention was prayed for during Mass and listed in the bulletin. Unfortunately, the previous week's Mass Intentions were read during the Prayers of the Faithful. We apologize for the mistake. The correct Mass Intentions were: 4pm Jerry Speece, 5:30pm Paul Dolan, 7:30am All the People of the Parish, 9am Jimmy White, 10:45am Raymond Joseph Sutter, 12:30pm Morgan Jame Hodgen, 5pm George Bezold.*

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