

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
Receptionist@stjeromeonline.org

Saturday Vigil Mass: 4pm & 5:30pm

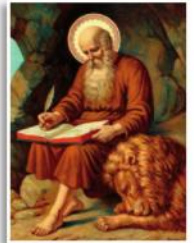
Sunday Mass: 7:30am, 9am, 10:45am, 12:30pm & 5pm

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

Holy Family Chapel open 24 hours every day;

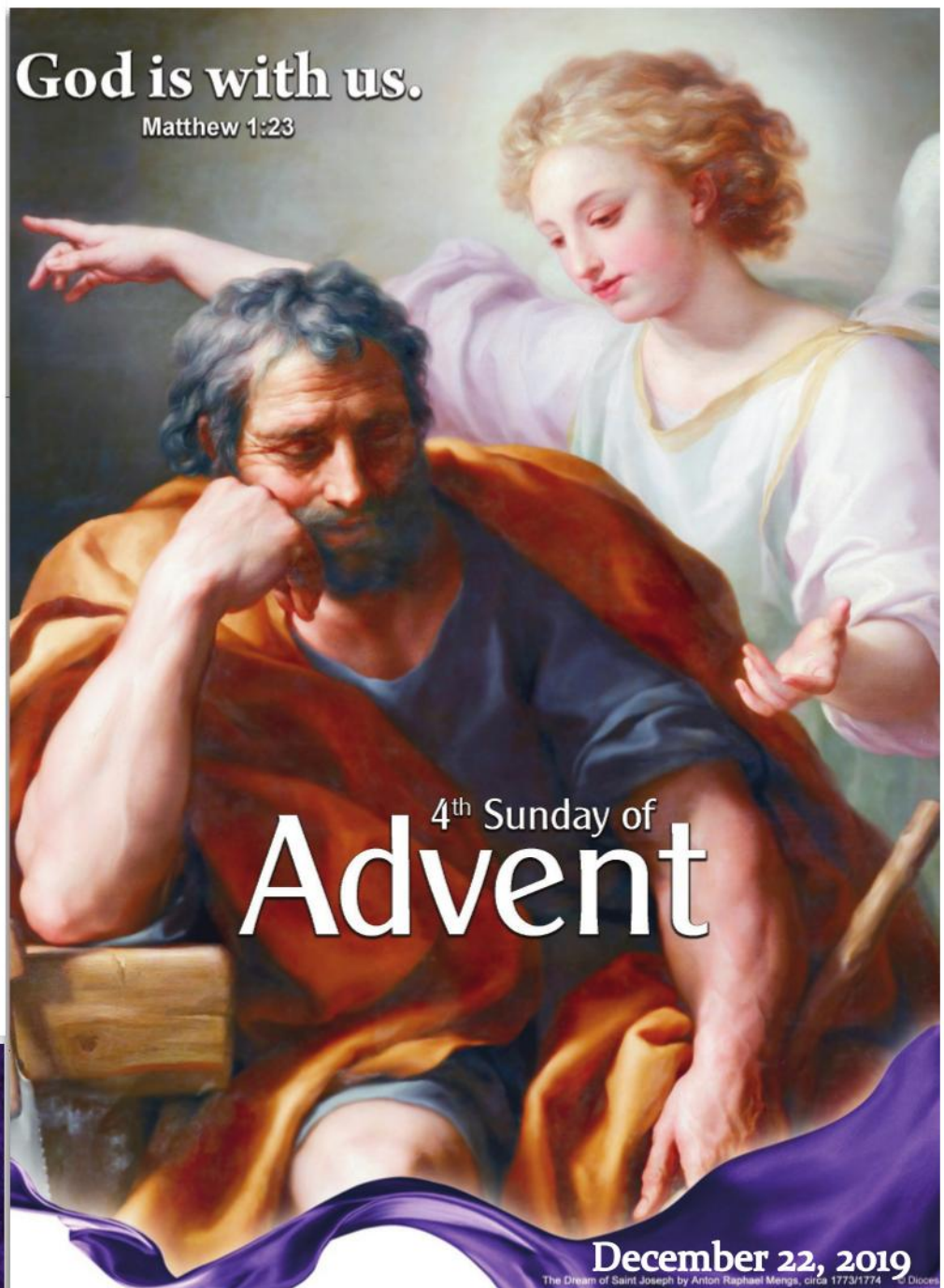
Confessions, Saturday: 3pm - 3:45pm; **Anointing of the Sick**, first weekend of the month Saturday 9:30am & Sunday 1:30pm;

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



God is with us.

Matthew 1:23



December 22, 2019

The Dream of Saint Joseph by Anton Raphael Mengs, circa 1773/1774 © Diocesi



OH COME, OH COME Emmanuel

Dear Friends:

Advent brings us to Bethlehem this week as we journey with Joseph and Mary. We anticipate our Christmas Mass celebration this week. The schedule for Christmas is:



Christmas Eve – Tuesday, December 24:

4pm Mass and Children’s Nativity Pageant (in the church) and 4pm Mass (in the parish center), 6pm Mass, 11pm Choir Concert, and 12am Midnight Mass.

Christmas Day – Wednesday, December 25:

7:30am, 9am, 10:45am, and 12:30pm.
(There will be no 5pm Mass on Christmas).

If you will be traveling and away for our parish, please know that the priests will be remembering you and all of our parishioners in our Christmas Masses. May the Holy Family keep you safe as you travel.

We have included in this week’s bulletin prayers for the home for the blessing of a: Christmas tree, Manger scene, and an expectant mother. Please see page 3.

Respectfully yours in Christ,

Fr. Tom Morgan



Question & Mission of the Week:

Question:

Grace is happening in your life right now. Are you participating in it, or you an obstacle in its path?

Mission:

Christmas is the best time of year to work on enlarging your heart. In exchanging gifts, do not forget those who cannot reciprocate your generosity. Remember the poor and the lonely in this season of families.



Christmas Novena: Prayed 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.

FORMED

FORMED.ORG St. Jerome Parish Access Code: DVD3DQ

PICK OF THE WEEK



The Story of the Nativity

Understanding the Full Story of Jesus’ Birth

The birth of Jesus is often misunderstood, but this fast-paced, thought-provoking look at the true story of the Nativity clarifies widespread misunderstandings of Jesus’ origin. Join top scholars, inspirational speakers, and popular authors as they explain the story behind the story of the birth of Jesus.

WATCH ON FORMED.ORG

Prayer for Expectant Mothers During the Christmas Season

+ Sign of the Cross

Payer: *Lord God, Creator of the human race, your Son, through the working of the Holy Spirit, was born of a woman, so that He might pay the age-old debt of sin and save us by His redemption. Receive with kindness the prayer of your servant as she asks for the birth of a healthy child. Grant that she may safely deliver a son or daughter to serve you in all things, and to gain eternal life. We ask this through Christ the Lord.* All: Amen.

+ Sign of the Cross

Prayers for the Home: Christmas Tree

When all have gathered, a suitable song may be sung. The leader makes the sign of the cross, and all reply "Amen." The leader may greet those present in the following words:

Let us glorify Christ our light, who brings salvation and peace into our midst, now and forever. R/. Amen.

In the following or similar words, the leader prepares those present for the blessing:

My brothers and sisters, amidst signs and wonders Christ Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea: his birth brings joy to our hearts and enlightenment to our minds. With this tree, decorated and adorned, may we welcome Christ among us; may its lights guide us to the perfect light.

One of those present or the leader reads a text of sacred Scripture, for example, Titus 3:4 (lines 4-7) or Ezekiel 17:22 (lines 22-24 4; I will plant a tender shoot on the mountain heights of Israel.)

Reader: *The Word of the Lord.* R/. **Thanks be to God.**

The intercessions are then said. The leader says:

Let us ask God to send his blessing upon us and upon this sign of our faith in the Lord.

R/. Lord, give light to our hearts.

That this tree of lights may remind us of the tree of glory on which Christ accomplished our salvation, let us pray to the Lord. **R/.**

That the joy of Christmas may always be in our homes, let us pray to the Lord. **R/.**

That the peace of Christ may dwell in our hearts and in the world, let us pray to the Lord. **R/.**

After the intercessions the leader invites all present to say the Lord's Prayer. The leader says the prayer with hands joined:

Lord our God, we praise you for the light of creation: the sun, the moon, and the stars of the night. We praise you for the light of Israel: the Law, the prophets, and the wisdom of the Scriptures. We praise you for Jesus Christ, your Son: He is Emmanuel, God-with-us, the Prince of Peace, who fills us with the wonder of your love.

Lord God, let your blessing come upon us as we illumine this tree. May the light and cheer it gives be a sign of the joy that fills our hearts. May all who delight in this tree come to the knowledge and joy of salvation. We ask this through Christ our Lord. R/. Amen.

The lights of the tree are then illuminated. The leader concludes the rite by signing himself or herself with the sign of the cross and saying: *May the God of glory fill our hearts with peace and joy, now and forever. R/. Amen.*

The blessing concludes with a verse from "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel":

— From "Catholic Household Blessings & Prayers"



Prayers for the Home: Manger

All make the sign of the cross as the leader says:

Our help is in the name of the Lord. R/. Who made heaven and earth.

One of those present or the leader reads a text of sacred Scripture, for example, Luke 2:1 (lines 1-8) or Isaiah 7:10 (lines 10-15, the birth of Emmanuel).

Reader: *The Gospel of the Lord.* R/. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

The leader prays with hands joined:

God of every nation and people, from the very beginning of creation you have made manifest your love: when our need for a Savior was great you sent your Son to be born of the Virgin Mary. To our lives he brings joy and peace, justice, mercy, and love.

Lord, bless all who look upon this manger; may it remind us of the humble birth of Jesus, and raise our thoughts to him, who is God-with-us and Savior of all, and who lives and reigns forever and ever. R/. Amen.

—From "Catholic Household Blessings & Prayers"



**The University of Notre Dame
Women's Choir
in Concert**

**here at
St. Jerome Catholic Church!!!**

**Sunday, January 5th, 2020
7:30pm**

*Come enjoy an afternoon of beautiful
sacred and classical choral music!*

****We are in need of host homes
for these ladies for one night, January 5th.*

*If you are interested in hosting, please call the Parish Office
at 727-595-4610 and leave your name and phone number.*



What does the Martha Mary Guild Do?

Intentional activities build relationships and offer women opportunities to connect with one another. The aim of the Guild is to unite women of the parish in purpose, direction and action in religious, educational, social and economic fields.

We meet the first Wednesday of each month in the Parish Center at 11am.

Our meetings are from September thru May.

ALL LADIES OF THE PARISH ARE INVITED TO JOIN US!!!!



January 8th - General Meeting. Guest speaker Karen MacClellan Clear Captions. GREAT for those with hearing loss. Your calls get captioned & then you can read them. No cost to qualified users through a federally-funded program.

February 5th - Day of Recollection / General Meeting.

Guest speaker Sister Renetta Graff, SND. She will speak of peace and calmness in our daily journeys.

April 1st - General Meeting. Guest speaker Julie Norton ARNP, Bone Clinic of Orthopedic Association of West Pinellas. Talk called: "About Our Bones" She will also bring her testing equipment to do bone density testing. This would be good for men in our parish to attend also.

MARTHA & MARY GUILD 2019-2020

January 1st	General Meeting
January 5th	Guild Mass
February 2nd	Guild Mass
February 5th	Day of Recollection / Continental Breakfast & Mtg
March 1st	Guild Mass
March 4th	General Meeting
April 1st	General Meeting
April 5th	Guild Mass
May 3rd	Guild Mass
May 6th	General Meeting / Picnic Lunch



**SAVE THE DATE
RETREAT FOR A DAY AND COME OUT SMILING!**

**Women's Retreat at St. Jerome's Parish
Saturday, January 25, 2020, from 9am - 3pm**

**Tickets: \$15 donation per person
Music by Jamie Topolski & Tom Kurt
Talks by Patricia Lorenz**

Patricia Lorenz is an inspirational, art-of-living speaker and writer and lifelong Catholic. She is the author of 14 books, over 400 newspaper and magazine articles, four dozen anthologies, a contributing writer to 60 *Chicken Soup for the Soul* books, award-winning newspaper columnist, and contributing writer to 30 "Daily Guideposts" books. She has spoken across state lines many times in the past twenty years.

1. LISTENING FOR THE VOICE OF GOD. We all talk to God, praise God, confess to God, thank God and ask God for blessings. But do we ever listen, really listen, for God to speak to us?
2. LEARNING TO LOVE YOUR STRUGGLES. Learn how to appreciate the struggles we have in life and how they make us much better people. You'll learn how to take life's stumbling blocks and turn them into terrific building materials.
3. THE FIVE THINGS WE NEED TO BE HAPPY. This talk will help you set your priorities, adjust your attitude, eliminate stress and appreciate the blessings you already have.

Note: Talks & music are in the Church and lunch is in the Parish Center. Tickets are available in the Parish Center and also in the Gathering Space in back of Church.

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!

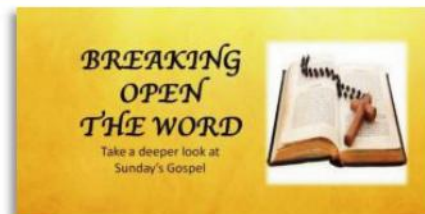
***No Bingo 12/26. See you on 1/2/20!**



Bethlehem Centre is closed until the week of January 6th. The Bethlehem Centre lunches resume on Tuesday, January 7th.

Break Open the Word

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



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.stjeroneline.org/rcia.html>.

Around the Diocese



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

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

**We wish each of you and your families a time filled with joy and celebration!
 Christmas blessings to all!**

**For God so loved the world, He gave his only begotten Son, so whosoever
 believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. John 3:16**



**CGS will not be held on
 December 22nd & 23rd AND December 29th & 30th.
 Remember to attend Mass as a family**

YOUTH, YOUNG ADULT & FAMILY MINISTRY

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

BUNCO is back!

**All women are invited to a special ladies night...
 Saturday, January 11th in the Parish Center
 Doors open at 6:30 pm – play begins at 7:00 pm
 Cost: \$10**



this is motherhood

*Join us as we celebrate 2020
 with a "Roaring 20's" themed Bunco game!
 Food, fun and fellowship - No Bunco experience necessary.
 Proceeds will benefit MOPS at St. Jerome,
 a group for ALL MOMS!*

Once again the Knights of Columbus will provide a **FREE BREAKFAST** on the first Sunday of January - (January 5th) - after the 7:30am, 9am, and 10:45am Masses.



The meal will consist of eggs, bacon and sausage, biscuits and gravy, and condiments. Our breakfasts are well received. Join us and see why!

Donations will be accepted.



EMBRACE: EVANGELIZATION & DISCIPLESHIP

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

The shepherds abandoned their flocks and traveled in haste to Bethlehem when they heard the angels' joyous news, and then told everyone about the Baby and what the angels told them.

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 the shepherds? Why?

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.



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 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 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

Monday, December 23

7:00 am † Paul Chapman Fr. Cadrecha
9:00 am † Sarah Svabek Fr. Tom

Tuesday, December 24

7:00 am † Carol Sweetland Msgr. Muldoon
9:00 am † Robert Natale Fr. Cadrecha

CHRISTMAS EVE

4:00 pm † Sr. Helen Conway, OSC CHURCH Fr. Tom
4:00 pm † McKernan & Chapman Families PARISH CENTER Fr. Cadrecha
6:00 pm † Louis Fabrizio Fr. Waters
12:00 am † Paul Chapman Fr. Cadrecha

Wednesday, December 25 CHRISTMAS DAY

7:30 am † Magda & Andrew Kazmiecjak Msgr. Muldoon
9:00 am † James Kinney Fr. Waters
10:45 am † Margaret Harneit Fr. Tom
12:30 pm † Carolyn Russo & grandson Gregory Miles John Fr. Cadrecha

Thursday, December 26

7:00 am Intentions of Blanca Pearl Msgr. Muldoon
9:00 am † Joseph DeBow Sr. Fr. Cadrecha

Friday, December 27

7:00 am **All the People of the Parish** Msgr. Muldoon
9:00 am † Charles Tellone Fr. Carro

Saturday, December 28

8:45 am Novena
9:00 am **Special Intentions of the Munroe Family** Msgr. Muldoon

Saturday, December 28

Vigil for the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

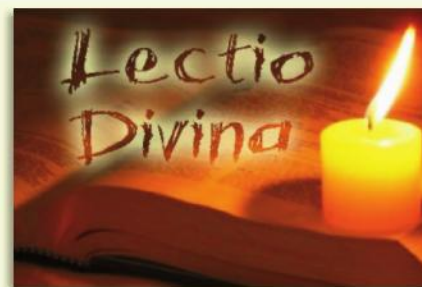
4:00 pm † Paul Dolan Fr. Carro
5:30 pm † Sue Leary Fr. Waters

Sunday, December 29

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

7:30 am **All the People of the Parish** Fr. Cadrecha
9:00 am † Frances McBride Fr. Tom
10:45 am † Emanuel Mizzi Fr. Tom
12:30 pm † Rev. Joseph Walsh Fr. Cadrecha
5:00 pm † Marilyn Harlan Maher Msgr. Muldoon

**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 22
4th Sunday of Advent**

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

Monday, December 23

Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Ps 25; Lk 1:57-66

Tuesday, December 24

2 Sm 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16; Ps 89; Lk 1:67-79

Wednesday, December 25

Vigil: Is 62:1-5; Ps 89; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25. Midnight: Is 9:1-6; Ps 96 [Lk 2:11]; Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14. Dawn: Is 62:11-12; Ps 97; Ti 3:4-7; Lk 2:15-20. Day: Is 52:7-10; Ps 98; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18 or Jn 1:1-5, 9-14

Thursday, December 26

Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Ps 31; Mt 10:17-22

Friday, December 27

1 Jn 1:1-4; Ps 97; Jn 20:1a, 2-8

Saturday, December 28

1 Jn 1:5—2:2; Ps 124; Mt 2:13-18

Next Sunday's Readings: December 29

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph
Sir 3:2-6; 12-14; Ps 128; Col 3:12-21; Mt 2:13-15, 19-23

First Reading — Kindness to a father will not be forgotten, firmly planted against the debt of your sins — a house raised in justice to you. (Sir 3:14)

Psalm — Blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways. (Ps 128)

Second Reading — And let the peace of Christ control your hearts, the peace into which you were also called in one body. And be thankful. (Col 3:15)

Gospel — When the magi had departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I tell

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jghezzi70@gmail.com


Parishioner
Knights of Columbus



Joe Ghezzi

Pray often for the souls of your loved ones and please consider joining us at the Month's Mind Mass on the last Saturday of every month at 10:00 a.m. in the Chapel of the Resurrection.

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