

# ST. JEROME ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

December 24th, 2023 | *The Nativity of the Lord*



*Venite  
Adoremus*

*The Adoration of the Shepherds (c 1650), Bartolomé Esteban Murillo (1617–1682), oil on canvas, Museo Nacional del Prado, Madrid, Spain. Public Domain.*

## MASS TIMES

SATURDAY VIGILS: 4:00PM & 5:30PM  
SUNDAY: 7:30AM, 9:00AM (FAMILY LITURGY), 10:45AM, 12:30PM & 5:00PM (LIFE TEEN)

MON.-FRI.: 7:00AM & 9:00AM  
SATURDAY: 9:00AM  
CONFESSIONS: SATURDAYS  
3:00-3:45PM IN CHAPEL



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Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

I want to take this opportunity to wish all of you a very happy and blessed Christmas! At the first Christmas, the heavenly host of angels announced to the shepherds glad tidings of great joy, that today is born our Savior, Christ the Lord! In haste they came to the stable to adore the newborn King. This holy encounter filled them with wonder, amazement and joy. May we approach this Christmas just as the shepherds did. As we come to Christmas Mass and celebrate the Christmas season, may we be filled with that same wonder, amazement and joy at the birth of Christ our Savior. As we gaze upon the Christ Child in the manger, may we express our heartfelt love for Jesus as He draws us to Himself in all tenderness and humility. May we also experience this same closeness to Jesus as we partake of the Holy Eucharist, and with eyes of faith recognize that Christ who came in history 2,000 years ago, comes to us at every Mass in His Sacred Body and Precious Blood. Let us approach the Holy Eucharist just as the shepherds approached the Christ Child, with wonder, amazement and joy! May this holy encounter fill us with the desire to share these glad tidings of great joy with all we meet this holy Christmas season!



May the Christmas season and the New Year fill you and your loved ones with the peace, hope and joy of the Christ Child!

Christmas Blessings,  
Fr. Blum



## Christmas & New Year Calendar

- 12/23 – Fourth Sunday of Advent VIGIL - Masses 4:00PM & 5:30PM
- 12/24 – Fourth Sunday of Advent - Masses 7:30AM, 9:00AM, & 10:45AM.  
NO 12:30PM.  
Christmas Vigil Masses 4:00PM (Children's Nativity) – Church,  
4:00PM – Parish Center, 6:00PM – Church, 6:00PM – Parish Center
- 12/25 – Christmas Day Masses: Midnight Mass at 12:00AM (11:00PM Carols by Choir), 7:30AM, 9:00AM, 10:45AM, and 12:30PM.
- 12/25 & 12/26 - Parish Office closed
- 12/28 – 9:30AM Exposition / 10:20AM Benediction
- 1/1/24 – \*Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God Masses – 7:00AM & 9:00AM  
Parish Office closed

*\*NOTE: There will be NO 5:00PM Sunday Mass scheduled for Dec 24th (due to Christmas Vigil Mass schedule) AND Dec 31th (New Year's Eve). Also, because the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God (Jan. 1) falls on a Monday this year, it is NOT a Holy Day of Obligation, so our Mass schedule January 1st will be our usual daily schedule of 7:00AM and 9:00AM.*

## Saturday, December 23rd - Vigil, 4th Sunday of Advent

- 9:00 AM † Michael O'Connor - Fr. Blum
- 3:00 PM Confessions

### 4th Sunday of Advent

- 4:00 PM † Paula Weber - Fr. Waters
- 5:30 PM All the People of the Parish - Fr. Blum

## Sunday, December 24th - 4th Sunday of Advent (Morning), & CHRISTMAS EVE

### 4th Sunday of Advent:

- 7:30 AM † Luis Leon - Fr. Cadrecha
- 9:00 AM For Those With No One to Pray for Them - Fr. Blum
- 10:45 AM † Dec'd Members of Anselmo & Chiavetta Families - Fr. Cadrecha
- NO 12:30PM Mass

### Christmas Eve:

- 4:00 PM CHURCH † Carol Sweetland - Fr. Mike
- 4:00 PM PARISH CENTER † Paul Chapman - Fr. Blum
- 6:00 PM CHURCH † Louis Vinci - Fr. Waters
- 6:00 PM PARISH CENTER - † Jeannine Bodine - Fr. Cadrecha

## Monday, December 25th - CHRISTMAS DAY

- 12:00 AM † Raymond Joseph & Barbara Sutter - Fr. Blum
- 7:30 AM † Carolyn Russo & Gregory John - Fr. Cadrecha
- 9:00 AM † Robert Cocozza - Fr. Tony
- 10:45 AM † Margaret Harneit - Fr. Blum
- 12:30 PM † Peter J. Azzarelli - Fr. Cadrecha

## Tuesday, December 26th

- 7:00 AM † Freda Mae Mitchell - Fr. Tony
- 9:00 AM † Raymond McCoy - Fr. Mike

## Wednesday, December 27th

- 7:00 AM † Mary Bueno - Fr. Tony
- 9:00 AM Tanya Adam - Fr. Blum

## Thursday, December 28th

- 7:00 AM † Christine Huffine - Fr. Tony
- 9:00 AM † Brownie & Hazel Parhalo - Fr. Blum

## Friday, December 29th

- 7:00 AM † Danika Burr - Fr. Tony
- 9:00 AM † Rev. Joseph E. Walsh - Fr. Cadrecha

## Saturday, December 30th

- 9:00 AM † Shelley Sarabia - Fr. Blum
- 3:00 PM Confessions
- 4:00 PM † Giovanni Staiano - Fr. Blum
- 5:30 PM † Andrew Ermilio - Fr. Cadrecha

## Sunday, December 31st - Feast of the Holy Family

- 7:30 AM † All the People of the Parish - Fr. Blum
- 9:00 AM † Carl Hawkins - Fr. Cadrecha
- 10:45 AM † Ron Barretto - Fr. Blum
- 12:30 PM † Matthew Moro - Fr. Cadrecha
- NO 5:00 PM Mass

### NEXT SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

FIRST READING:  
Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14  
PSALM: Psalm 128:  
1-2, 3, 4-5

SECOND READING:  
Colossians 3:12-21  
GOSPEL: Luke 2:22-40

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Hours: Saturdays 3:30-  
5:30PM; Sundays 9:30AM-  
12:30PM in the Gathering  
Space in the Church

## No Donuts

No coffee & donuts on  
12/24 and 12/31.

*\*Priest schedule subject to change.  
\*\*If there is a Mass intention error, please contact the  
Receptionist in the Parish Office at (727) 595-4610.*



# AdventURES



Our Lady of Guadalupe  
 Feast Celebration!  
 Jack Hartman Concert!  
 Rick Bankemper Trio!  
 Suncoast Symphony Orchestra!  
 Erica DiCeglie!  
 Parish Christmas Concert!



St. Jerome parish is alive with the love of Christ!  
 If you're looking for a place to belong...welcome home.♥



### St. Nicholas visits ECC!

We are so grateful for visit from St. Nicholas, Bishop of Myra, and his friend, parishioner Eddy Padilla, to visit the classes of our Early Childhood Center on his feast day. In character, he explained a little about himself and his life. He told them the importance of acting like Jesus and sharing love with all.

After, the children were delighted to find candy canes in the "shoes" they had made and left in the hallway. One candy cane to eat and one to give away... just like St. Nick!



**A VERY MERRY**  
*ministry spotlight*  
**St. Jerome**  
**Young Adults**

*The St. Jerome young adults are rocking around MUCH more than your average Christmas tree!*

*Not only do they meet the last Sunday of every month (excluding December) after the 5:00PM Mass for fellowship, they are also engaged in weekly bible studies, service events, social events both in small group at the parish and larger Diocesan events like SUMMIT at the House of Prayer, the new Tampa Young Catholic Professionals, and more.*

*If you are looking to grow in your faith with friendship and fun, and are between 18-35, come check it out! Contact Alexandra & Charles M. for more info at: 904-673-2912*

### Thank You, Joyce!

The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd catechists and families want to congratulate Joyce McCain for **more than fifty years** of devoted service to this diocese. Bishop Parkes honored her on December 12th during the annual Advent Gathering at the Bethany Center acknowledging that this is the first time he has ever given out an award for more than fifty years of service! Congratulations, Mrs. Joyce, from a most grateful parish!



### Stewardship

We are called to give to the Lord the time, talent, and treasure with which He has blessed us. An easy way to give to St. Jerome: [www.stjeromeonline.org](http://www.stjeromeonline.org) or scan the QR Code by opening your camera and follow the link to our safe and secure online giving portal. From there, go to "offertory" and fill in your information to give.



#### December 17, 2023\*

- Offertory: \$16,709.00
- E-Giving: \$4,501.00
- Total Offertory: \$21,210.00
- \*\*\*CMA Cash: \$36.00
- \*\*\*Roof Cash: \$66.00

\*Most recent offertory numbers available at publication.

# RAISE THE ROOF A solid, lasting future

## RAISE THE ROOF UPDATE

**As of November 31st, our roof fund is now sitting at \$1,012,669.73. We have broken one million dollars! This is a substantial milestone!** We are blessed to have the Diocese be the financial record keepers of our campaign.

We are working hard towards the goal of **\$1.4 million**. Thanks for pledging today so we can quickly complete this much needed project for our parish to replace the Church roof.



A great Christmas gift to the parish would be funds towards replacing the roof!

## TAX-FREE CHARITABLE DISTRIBUTION



Need a tax break? Congress has permanently enacted qualified charitable distributions from your traditional IRA accounts for those 70 1/2 or older. These distributions can be used to satisfy all or a portion of your Required Minimum Distribution and are free of federal income tax. Also, these gifts help you avoid the Medicare high income surcharge and can help reduce your income taxes on your social security benefits. Distributions must be made directly from your IRA account to St. Jerome Catholic Church. For questions, contact our parish manager, Chris McBride at (727) 595-4610.





## Lifeline Ministries

Last week, Lifeline served a record breaking 118 families comprised of 433 people. Parishioners donated 169 bags of food for a total of 377 so far this month. We are grateful for your continued generosity to those who need food assistance.

- Boxed mashed potatoes
- Canned pork & beans
- Canned tuna/chicken/turkey
- Canned vegetables (corn, beans, carrots)
- Hearty canned soup
- Pasta/spaghetti
- Pasta sauce
- Peanut butter
- Cereal
- Canned fruit
- Beef Stew
- Jellies & jams
- Granola bars
- Peanut butter crackers
- Boxed mac & cheese



## Health Care Ministry

Lost or confused about a medical problem, illness or concern? Don't know where to turn?

The Health Care Ministry of St Jerome can assist. We have knowledge and resources that can point you in the proper direction. Don't navigate the rough seas alone. Contact us at 321-403-3356 or email at [healthministriesj@gmail.com](mailto:healthministriesj@gmail.com).

*© Come, Let us Adore Him!*

## Enjoy Bingo!

Join us every Thursday afternoon in the Parish Center; doors open at noon. See old friends, make new ones, test your luck! Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus. Questions? Bill: [knightsdmoj17249@gmail.com](mailto:knightsdmoj17249@gmail.com)



## GriefShare

The holidays can complicate grief. At GriefShare, we support each other on our journey of grief. We meet on Tuesday mornings from 10:00-11:30AM in the Education Building Art Room. You don't have to walk alone. Questions? Judy: (727) 595-4610

## Rosary Group

We welcome all to pray the Rosary each Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday following the 9:00AM Mass. You can also pray a Pro Life Rosary in the Chapel at 7:00PM Wednesday evenings! Questions? Virginia (727) 393-6063 or Mary Pat (727) 517-4289.



## The Divine Mercy of Jesus Knights of Columbus Council 17249



The Knights meet on the second Wednesday of each month in the Parish Center. We are very active in serving the community, our parish, and growing in faith.

For more information, visit our website at <https://knightsdmoj17249.org>. To order a brick to be placed at the Grotto, visit <https://knightsdmoj17249.org/grotto> and select "Buy a Brick".



## The Columbiettes, Divine Mercy of Jesus Council



The new Columbiettes, Divine Mercy of Jesus Auxiliary, is growing with 40 members to date! More women are committed to join this fall. Women eighteen or older who are practicing Catholics are invited to join. Our purpose is to assist the Knights in their commitments as well as establish our own projects. We want to assist those in need in our parish and community.

Interested? Claudia, President, 724-766-2615.

## Bethlehem Centre 2023-2024

The Bethlehem Centre will be closed from December 23rd to January 2nd in observance of the Christmas season. If questions about the Bethlehem Centre, contact Tim Kunish at (727) 596-9394. Thank you!

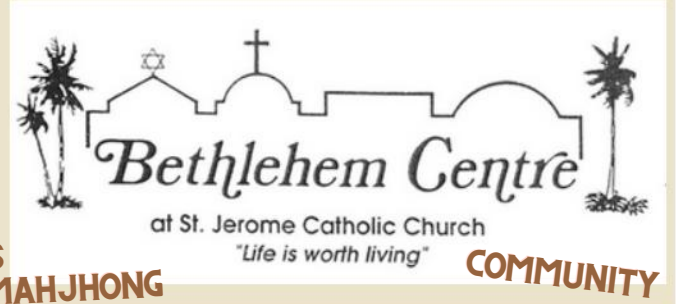
ART

SPANISH

EXERCISE CLASSES

MAHJHONG

COMMUNITY



## Ecumenical Prayer Service for Christian Unity

1/21/2024, 3:00-4:00PM, St. Jerome Church

SAVE THE DATE! All are invited to attend the annual Ecumenical Prayer Service for Christian Unity, sponsored locally by the Community Ecumenical Committee of twelve local churches, here at St. Jerome Church, on Sunday January 21 at 3:00PM. Sponsored by the St. Jerome Ecumenical Ministry. Questions? Contact Sr. Lucia at [Srlucia@stjeromeonline.org](mailto:Srlucia@stjeromeonline.org)

## Marriage Troubles?

If your marriage has become troubled and stressed, unloving or uncaring; if you have grown cold and distant; even if you are divorced or separated, or are thinking about it, Retrouvaille can help, as it has helped tens of thousands of others. Our next program begins January 26-28, 2023. For more information, visit [www.HelpOurMarriage.org](http://www.HelpOurMarriage.org), or call (727) 343-6701. Not counseling or group therapy. All contacts and names held in strictest confidence.





## Adult Confirmation Classes

Adult Confirmation preparation sessions are held for those active Catholics who wish to receive the sacrament of Confirmation. Meet Wednesdays at 6:00PM starting February 7, 2024, in the Parish Office. If interested, please call Sr. Lucia at the Parish Office: 727-595-4610.

## BAPTISM CLASSES & INTRO TO CGS



We rejoice with our families blessed with the birth or adoption of a child or anticipating a newborn. We offer Baptism Classes on the second Tuesday of the month at 6:30PM in the Parish Office Conference Room. Call the Parish Office (727) 595-4610 to register. In addition, we would also like to arrange for you to tour our Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Toddler Atrium and other Atriums. (Info provided at the Baptism Class).

*New schedule for classes will be announced shortly.*

[www.stjeromeonline.org/baptism](http://www.stjeromeonline.org/baptism)

## A Christmas Prayer

Hail and blessed be the hour and moment in which the Son of God was born of the most pure Virgin Mary, at midnight, in Bethlehem, in the piercing cold. In that hour vouchsafe, I beseech Thee, O my God, to hear my prayer and grant my desires, [here you may mention your specific request] through the merits of Our Savior, Jesus Christ, and of His blessed Mother.

Amen.



✂ Cut and pray every day of the Christmas season!

 *Star of wonder, star of light...*

## Youth Ministry December Calendar

Merry Christmas! We are off on December 24th, & 31st; there will be no Life Teen or Edge. See you in the new year!

### Usual Sunday Schedule

- 3:30-4:45PM-EDGE Middle School in Education Building
- 5:00PM-Youth Mass
- 6:00PM-Family Dinner (middle, high, & parents)
- 7:00-8:30PM-Life Teen High School

### 12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

#### Catholic Symbolism

Take a look at the true Catholic origins behind the popular song.

1 CRUCIFIXION	2 OLD AND NEW TESTAMENT	3 VIRTUES OF FAITH, HOPE, AND LOVE
4 GOSPELS: MATTHEW, MARK, LUKE, & JOHN	5 FIRST FIVE BOOKS OF THE OLD TESTAMENT	6 DAYS OF CREATION
7 GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT	8 BEATITUDES	9 FRUITS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
10 COMMANDMENTS	11 FAITHFUL APOSTLES	12 BELIEFS IN THE APOSTLES CREED

## PARISH INFORMATION

PARISH OFFICE HOURS: Monday-Friday, 9:30AM-4:30PM

ANOINTING OF THE SICK: Second Sunday of the Month after the 12:30PM Mass in the Church, or by request.

CONFESSIONS: Saturdays 3:00-3:45PM-Chapel.

HOLY HOUR & BENEDICTION: Every Thursday, every First Friday, and every First Saturday 9:30AM-10:30AM; also Livestreamed.

Some Masses Livestreamed at: [www.stjeromeonline.org](http://www.stjeromeonline.org) & [www.facebook.com/StjeromeLargo](http://www.facebook.com/StjeromeLargo)

## CLERGY

Fr. John Blum, Pastor  
Fr. Robert Cadrecha, Parochial Vicar  
Deacon Fred Kunder

## PARISH STAFF

Chris McBride, Parish Manager  
Rita Gianninoto, Assistant to Parish Manager  
Pat Kunish, Sacramental Coordinator & Receptionist  
Sylvia Cummings, Receptionist  
Tracey Swaine, Administrative Assistant  
Tom Kurt, Music Director  
Erica DiCeglie, Associate Music Director  
Francesca Ani, Life Teen Mass Musician  
Maintenance: Michael Shaughnessy & Bruce Villeneuve  
Sarah Williford, Bulletin Editor

## EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

Phyllis Steele, Administrator, (727) 596-9491

## ASSISTING PRIESTS

Msgr. Brendan Muldoon, Pastor Emeritus  
Fr. Michael O'Brien, In residence  
Very Rev. Joseph Waters, JV, JCL  
Fr. Anthony Nyong

## BETHLEHEM CENTRE

Tim Kunish, Coordinator, (727) 596-9394

## FORMATION TEAM

Sr. Lucia Brady, OSC, Pastoral Care & Life Long Faith Formation  
Stephanie Martin, Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Coordinator  
[faithformation@stjeromeonline.org](mailto:faithformation@stjeromeonline.org)

Taylor Gunn, Youth Minister  
Rob Kidney, Youth Ministry Assistant  
[youthministry@stjeromeonline.org](mailto:youthministry@stjeromeonline.org)

For Sacraments, contact the Parish Office  
(727) 595-4610



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