

St. Joseph's Catholic Church



St. Joseph's Catholic Church

78 St. Josephs Lane
Woodlawn VA 24381-1101
Sunday English Mass 11:30am
Spanish Mass: 2:30 PM
Daily Mass: Wednesday & Friday 9:00am
Spanish Weekday Mass : Thurs. 6:00 pm
Sacrament of Reconciliation
Before Mass 11:00-11:15 am

Risen Lord Catholic Church

59 Mountain View Park
Stuart, VA 24133
Sunday Mass: 8:30 AM
Sacrament of Reconciliation: Sun. 7:45-8:15am

All Saints Catholic Church

598 Needmore Lane, NE
Floyd, VA 24091 (540)763-6000
Mass: English
Saturday Vigil at 5:00 PM
Sacrament of Reconciliation: Sat. 4:15-4:45pm



Father Herman Katongole, Pastor

Pastor's E-mail: sjpastor@embarqmail.com

Ken Miller - Admin. Assistant/Bookkeeper

Office Hours : Tue-Thu 8:00 AM- 3:00PM

E-mail: sjoffice@embarqmail.com

Ana Sandoval—Hispanic Ministry Pastoral Associate

sjoffice3579@embarqmail.com

Hispanic Ministry Office Hours: Sat. 9AM-4PM & Sun. 1PM-4PM

Website for all parishes: <http://stjosephswoodlawn.net>

Mailing Address for All Parishes

78 St. Josephs Lane

Woodlawn, Virginia 24381-1101

(276)236-7814

Risen Lord Catholic Church

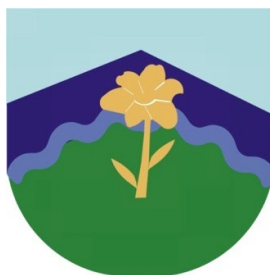


All Saints Catholic Church



The "Shields" of our Parishes Explained

One often asked question regarding our parishes is for an explanation of the meaning behind our "logo" which is in fact not a logo at all. It is instead a "shield". Father Brickner is credited with their design. Father Brickner was contacted and provided this explanation.



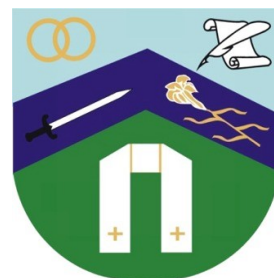
On all three the background (known as the field in heraldry) is the same. The light blue at the top is the sky, the green at the bottom is our forests, and the dark blue chevron represents the Blue Ridge Mountains. All three parishes are in the Blue Ridge Mountains.

On the SJ shield the wavy blue line represents the New River which flows through the parish. Remember that the parish includes Carroll County, Galax, and Grayson County. The golden lily represents St. Joseph. The lily is the ecclesiastical symbol of virginity (making a theological statement here about Our Lady's perpetual virginity). It's golden as a sign of importance.



The RL shield has as its charge a lamb. This depiction is known in heraldry as a Paschal Lamb. Since it's a "Paschal" lamb, that indicates the Resurrection. He has a golden halo and holds a victory banner. In this particular depiction he is facing the viewer, which is known as guardant, watching. That means that he dies and rose again for us.

On the AS shield were put symbols of the various Christian callings. The golden rings represents marriage. The pen and scroll represent the doctors of the Church. The sword represents the martyrs. And the stole represents the ordained ministers. The lily represents the Virgins both male and female. Missing from representation are the penitents but this was because of a lack of symbol to represent them.



St. Joseph Pastoral Council:		Risen Lord Pastoral Council:		All Saints Pastoral Council :	
Mickey Dubs	276-236-5688	John Abadie	276-930-2298	Deanna Boswell	540-285-0039
Richard Koske	276-235-0142	Marcus Brinks		JJ Mammi	540-763-2253
Ken Miller	276-779-4068	Julia Hennessy	276-694-3883	Monica Ogle	540-789-4789
Fabian Hernandez	276-728-0130	Nichols Hughes	276-694-5471	Dana Postiglione	919-201-6449
Gregorio Sierra	276-233-8954	Brunilda Seda	276-694-9939	Kevin Stokes	540-312-5841
St. Joseph Finance Council:		Risen Lord Finance Council:		All Saints Finance Council:	
Barbara Dwyer	276-728-2045	John Coffey	276-694-0429	Mary Belcher	540-593-2113
Olga Carranza Torres	276-238-4635	Helen Barnard	276-694-3504	Susan Edwards	540-745-3361
Bisia Moreno	276-233-4604	Sue Ann Ehmann	276-957-4479	Lorna Wanner	540-929-8006
Michael Riccitello	276-728-0130	Jim Keesee	276-591-7013	Nanette Showalter	540-789-4123
Cristina Hernandez	276-233-0518	Steve Jones	276-591-7013	Chris Borin	

Dear brethren,

At this close of 2020, I want to reach out and send my best wishes to you and all your dear ones.

The year 2020 came with its challenges, countless lives were dramatically altered, some folks fell sick while others lost relatives and dear ones, and I condole with you. As a cluster, we lost some of our members. We continue to pray for a peaceful repose of their souls.

In 2020 we were struck by the deadly Covid-19 pandemic which saw us locked up in our homes, jobs were lost, some family businesses closed and so was the church for a couple of months. The pandemic has and is still claiming many lives worldwide and driving our lives to every wrong direction.

However, our being alive is enough reason to thank God for His protection. So, let us open the New Year with thanksgiving for all the graces and blessings the Almighty God has showered upon us. Let us count our blessings and hope for the best in 2021!

It has not been easy to observe the safety measures put in place to enable church worship in-person to resume. Your patience has been great. In the middle of all these challenges you have kept going, you have not given up. You have supported the church in the course of this pandemic. Words cannot express how much I appreciate you for remaining with us throughout all these challenges. Thank you.

In a special way, I thank all the staff and volunteers in the cluster for the great support they have accorded me in the course of the year. You have worked tirelessly to see that our worship continues seamlessly.

On the other hand, since the weekly attendance in the Sunday Mass has largely reduced, so is our general offertory collection. Our expenses often exceed our income.

I know the current situation is tough; however, I request you folks to consider adding a little to your weekly offertory just in case the situation allows you, so that our parishes may be able to meet their monthly bills.

I am grateful for your consideration of this important request and thank you most of all for the prayers you offer to our noble cause. Let us continue praying for each other.

Wishing you and your families a happy and safe new year.
Fr. Herman Katongole, Pastor.

Queridos hermanos

En este cierre de 2020, quiero extender la mano y enviarles mis mejores deseos a ustedes y a todos sus seres queridos.

El año 2020 llegó con sus desafíos, innumerables vidas se alteraron drásticamente, algunas personas se enfermaron mientras que otras perdieron a familiares y seres queridos, y les doy el pésame. Como grupo, perdimos algunos de nuestros miembros. Seguimos rezando por un pacífico descanso de sus almas.

En 2020 nos golpeó la mortal pandemia de Covid-19 que nos encerró en nuestras casas, se perdieron trabajos, cerraron algunos negocios familiares y también la iglesia durante un par de meses. La pandemia se ha cobrado y sigue cobrando muchas vidas en todo el mundo y conduciendo nuestras vidas en todas direcciones equivocadas.

Sin embargo, nuestro estar vivo es razón suficiente para agradecer a Dios por su protección. Entonces, abramos el Año Nuevo con acción de gracias por todas las gracias y bendiciones que el Dios Todopoderoso ha derramado sobre nosotros. ¡Cuentemos nuestras bendiciones y esperemos lo mejor en 2021!

No ha sido fácil observar las medidas de seguridad implementadas para permitir que se reanude el culto en la iglesia en persona. Tu paciencia ha sido grandiosa. En medio de todos estos desafíos has seguido adelante, no te has rendido. Ha apoyado a la iglesia en el curso de esta pandemia. Las palabras no pueden expresar cuánto le agradezco por permanecer con nosotros durante todos estos desafíos. Gracias.

De manera especial, agradezco a todo el personal y voluntarios del clúster el gran apoyo que me han brindado a lo largo del año. Ha trabajado incansablemente para que nuestra adoración continúe sin problemas.

Por otro lado, dado que la asistencia semanal a la misa dominical se ha reducido en gran medida, también lo está nuestra colección de ofertorio general. Nuestros gastos a menudo superan nuestros ingresos.

Sé que la situación actual es difícil; sin embargo, les pido que consideren agregar un poco a su ofertorio semanal en caso de que la situación lo permita, para que nuestras parroquias puedan cumplir con sus facturas mensuales.

Agradezco su consideración de esta importante solicitud y, sobre todo, las gracias por las oraciones que ofrece a nuestra noble causa. Sigamos orando los unos por los otros.

Les deseo a usted y a sus familias un feliz y seguro año nuevo.
P. Herman Katongole, pastor.



A Prayer to Combat the Coronavirus Pandemic

Most Merciful and Triune God,
We come to You in our weakness.
We come to You in our fear.
We come to You with trust.
For You alone are our hope.

We place before You the disease present in our world.
We turn to You in our time of need.
Bring wisdom to doctors.
Give understanding to scientists.
Endow caregivers with compassion and generosity.
Bring healing to those who are ill.
Protect those who are most at risk.
Give comfort to those who have lost a loved one.
Welcome those who have died into Your Eternal Home.
Stabilize our communities.
Unite us in our compassion.
Remove all fear from our hearts.
Fill us with confidence in Your care.

(mention your particular concerns and prayers now)

Jesus, I trust in You.

Jesus, I trust in You.

Jesus, I trust in You.

Amen.

Short Litany to Our Blessed Mother

Our Lady, Queen of Peace, pray for us.
Our Lady, Comforter of the Afflicted, pray for us.
Our Lady, Help of Christians, pray for us.
Our Lady, Health of the Sick, pray for us.
Our Lady, Seat of Wisdom, pray for us.
Our Lady, Queen of Heaven and Earth, pray for us.
Amen.

REVISED COVID 19 PROTOCOL

In recent weeks, Southwest Virginia has experienced a surge of new Coronavirus cases. The Governor of Virginia and the Bishop of our Diocese have issued revised guidelines for the faithful to safely attend Mass in person.

As a Catholic community we have an obligation to safeguard parishioners who attend Mass. Because of this, a mask, face covering or face shield will be a REQUIREMENT to all who attend Mass in person without exception.

Our Parish has always had this requirement, however the Diocese has recently added a face shield to meet the acceptable face covering requirement. This will accommodate parishioners unable to wear a mask or face covering.

For those unwilling or unable to comply with this requirement, we encourage you to attend Mass virtually via Facebook. Our Livestream can be found on Facebook [https://](https://www.facebook.com/stjosephswoodlawn.net/)

www.facebook.com/stjosephswoodlawn.net/

HELP US reduce the spread of this virus and protect your fellow parishioners.

January 2021

January 2021							February 2021						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	1	2	3	4	5	6	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
31							28						

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Dec 27	28	29	30	31	Jan 1, 21	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
8:30am RL Sunday Mass		AS Parish Council	9:00am SJ weekday Mass	6:00pm SJ Misa en Español seguida con Adoracion del Santisimo	9:00am SJ weekday Mass	5:30pm AS Sunday Vigil Mass
11:30am SJ Sunday Mass			5:30pm RL Finance Council			
2:30pm Misa en Español					2:30pm SJ Misa del dia	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
8:30am RL Sunday Mass			9:00am SJ weekday Mass	6:00pm SJ Misa en Español seguida con Adoracion del Santisimo	9:00am SJ weekday Mass	5:30pm AS Sunday Vigil Mass
11:30am SJ Sunday Mass			5:30pm SJ Parish Council			
2:30pm Misa en Español						
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
8:30am RL Sunday Mass		5:30pm SJ Finance Council	9:00am SJ weekday Mass	6:00pm SJ Misa en Español seguida con Adoracion del Santisimo	9:00am SJ weekday Mass	5:30pm AS Sunday Vigil Mass
11:30am SJ Sunday Mass						
2:30pm Misa en Español						
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
8:30am RL Sunday Mass		AS Finance Council	9:00am SJ weekday Mass	6:00pm SJ Misa en Español seguida con Adoracion del Santisimo	9:00am SJ weekday Mass	5:30pm AS Sunday Vigil Mass
11:30am SJ Sunday Mass			5:30pm RL Parish Council			
2:30pm Misa en Español						
31	Feb 1	2	3	4	5	6
8:30am RL Sunday Mass						
11:30am SJ Sunday Mass						
2:30pm Misa en Español						

<p>1 January 2021 – Friday MARY, MOTHER OF GOD Solemnity (Octave of Christmas), Holy Day of Obligation First Reading: Numbers 6: 22-27 Responsorial Psalm: Psalms 67: 2-3, 5, 6, 8 (2a) Second Reading: Galatians 4: 4-7 Gospel: Luke 2: 16-21</p>	<p>7 January 2021 – Thursday First Reading: First John 4: 19 – 5: 4 Responsorial Psalm: Psalms 72: 1-2, 14 and 15bc, 17 Second Reading: Null Gospel: Luke 4: 14-22</p>	<p>14 January 2021 – Thursday First Reading: Hebrews 3: 7-14 Responsorial Psalm: Psalms 95: 6-7c, 8-9, 10-11 Second Reading: Null Gospel: Mark 1: 40-45</p>	<p>20 January 2021 – Wednesday First Reading: Hebrews 7: 1-3, 15-17 Responsorial Psalm: Psalms 110: 1, 2, 3, 4 Second Reading: Null Gospel: Mark 3: 1-6</p>	<p>26 January 2021 – Tuesday First Reading: Second Timothy 1: 1-8 or Titus 1: 1-5 Responsorial Psalm: Psalms 96: 1-2a, 2b-3, 7-8a, 10 Second Reading: Null Gospel: Mark 3: 31-35</p>
<p>2 January 2021 – Saturday First Reading: First John 2: 22-28 Responsorial Psalm: Psalms 98: 1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4 Second Reading: Null Gospel: John 1: 19-28</p>	<p>8 January 2021 – Friday First Reading: First John 5: 5-13 Responsorial Psalm: Psalms 147: 12 -13, 14-15, 19-20 Second Reading: Null Gospel: Luke 5: 12-16</p>	<p>15 January 2021 – Friday First Reading: Hebrews 4: 1-5, 11 Responsorial Psalm: Psalms 78: 3 and 4bc, 6c-7, 8 Second Reading: Null Gospel: Mark 2: 1-12</p>	<p>21 January 2021 – Thursday First Reading: Hebrews 7: 25 – 8: 6 Responsorial Psalm: Psalms 40: 7-8a, 8b-9, 10, 17 Second Reading: Null Gospel: Mark 3: 7-12</p>	<p>27 January 2021 – Wednesday First Reading: Hebrews 10: 11-18 Responsorial Psalm: Psalms 110: 1, 2, 3, 4 Second Reading: Null Gospel: Mark 4: 1-20</p>
<p>3 January 2021 – Sunday EPIPHANY OF THE LORD Solemnity First Reading: Isaiah 60: 1-6 Responsorial Psalm: Psalms 72: 1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 Second Reading: Ephesians 3: 2-3a, 5-6 Gospel: Matthew 2: 1-12</p>	<p>9 January 2021 – Saturday First Reading: First John 5: 14-21 Responsorial Psalm: Psalms 149: 1-2, 3-4, 5 and 6a and 9b Second Reading: Null Gospel: John 3: 22-30</p>	<p>16 January 2021 – Saturday First Reading: Hebrews 4: 12-16 Responsorial Psalm: Psalms 19: 8, 9, 10, 15 Second Reading: Null Gospel: Mark 2: 13-17</p>	<p>22 January 2021 – Friday First Reading: Hebrews 8: 6-13 Responsorial Psalm: Psalms 85: 8 and 10, 11-12, 13-14 Second Reading: Null Gospel: Mark 3: 13-19</p>	<p>28 January 2021 – Thursday First Reading: Hebrews 10: 19-25 Responsorial Psalm: Psalms 24: 1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6 Second Reading: Null Gospel: Mark 4: 21-25</p>
<p>4 January 2021 – Monday First Reading: First John 3: 22 – 4: 6 Responsorial Psalm: Psalms 2: 7bc-8, 10-12a Second Reading: Null Gospel: Matthew 4: 12-17, 23-25</p>	<p>10 January 2021 – Sunday BAPTISM OF THE LORD Feast First Reading: Isaiah 55: 1-11 Responsorial Psalm: Isaiah 12: 2-3, 4bcd, 5-6 (3) Second Reading: First John 5: 1-9 Gospel: Mark 1: 7-11</p>	<p>17 January 2021 – Sunday SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME First Reading: First Samuel 3: 3b-10, 19 Responsorial Psalm: Psalms 40: 2, 4, 7-8, 8-9, 10 (8a, 9a) Second Reading: First Corinthians 6: 13c-15a, 17-20 Gospel: John 1: 35-42</p>	<p>23 January 2021 – Saturday First Reading: Hebrews 9: 2-3, 11-14 Responsorial Psalm: Psalms 47: 2-3, 6-7, 8-9 Second Reading: Null Gospel: Mark 3: 20-21</p>	<p>29 January 2021 – Friday First Reading: Hebrews 10: 32-39 Responsorial Psalm: Psalms 37: 3-4, 5-6, 23-24, 39-40 Second Reading: Null Gospel: Mark 4: 26-34</p>
<p>5 January 2021 – Tuesday First Reading: First John 4: 7-10 Responsorial Psalm: Psalms 72: 1-2, 3-4, 7-8 Second Reading: Null Gospel: Mark 6: 34-44</p>	<p>11 January 2021 – Monday First Reading: Hebrews 1: 1-6 Responsorial Psalm: Psalms 97: 1 and 2b, 6 and 7c, 9 Second Reading: Null Gospel: Mark 1: 14-20</p>	<p>18 January 2021 – Monday First Reading: Hebrews 5: 1-10 Responsorial Psalm: Psalms 110: 1, 2, 3, 4 Second Reading: Null Gospel: Mark 2: 18-22</p>	<p>24 January 2021 – Sunday THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME First Reading: Jonah 3: 1-5, 10 Responsorial Psalm: Psalms 25: 4-5, 6-7, 8-9 (4a) Second Reading: First Corinthians 7: 29-31 Gospel: Mark 1: 14-20</p>	<p>30 January 2021 – Saturday First Reading: Hebrews 11: 1-2, 8-19 Responsorial Psalm: Luke 1: 69-70, 71-72, 73-75 Second Reading: Null Gospel: Mark 4: 35-41</p>
<p>6 January 2021 – Wednesday First Reading: First John 4: 11-18 Responsorial Psalm: Psalms 72: 1-2, 10, 12-13 Second Reading: Null Gospel: Mark 6: 45-52</p>	<p>13 January 2021 – Wednesday First Reading: Hebrews 2: 14-18 Responsorial Psalm: Psalms 105: 1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8-9 Second Reading: Null</p>	<p>19 January 2021 – Tuesday First Reading: Hebrews 6: 10-20 Responsorial Psalm: Psalms 111: 1-2, 4-5, 9 and 10c Second Reading: Null Gospel: Mark 2: 23-28</p>	<p>25 January 2021 – Monday First Reading: Acts 22: 3-16 or Acts 9: 1-22 Responsorial Psalm: Psalms 117: 1bc, 2 Second Reading: Null Gospel: Mark 16: 15-18</p>	<p>31 January 2021 – Sunday FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME First Reading: Deuteronomy 18: 15-20 Responsorial Psalm: Psalms 95: 1-2, 6-7, 7-9 (8) Second Reading: First Corinthians 7: 32-35 Gospel: Mark 1: 21-28</p>

Pope Francis proclaims "Year of St Joseph": by Vatican News

In a new Apostolic Letter entitled *Patris corde* ("With a Father's Heart"), Pope Francis describes Saint Joseph as a beloved father, a tender and loving father, an obedient father, an accepting father; a father who is creatively courageous, a working father, a father in the shadows. The Letter marks the 150th anniversary of Blessed Pope Pius IX's declaration of St Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church. To celebrate the anniversary, Pope Francis has proclaimed a special "Year of St Joseph," beginning on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception 2020 and extending to the same feast in 2021. The Holy Father wrote *Patris corde* against the backdrop of the Covid-19 pandemic, which, he says, has helped us see more clearly the importance of "ordinary" people who, though far from the limelight, exercise patience and offer hope every day. In this, they resemble Saint Joseph, "the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence," who nonetheless played "an incomparable role in the history of salvation."

A beloved, tender, obedient father Saint Joseph, in fact, "concretely expressed his fatherhood" by making an offering of himself in love "a love placed at the service of the Messiah who was growing to maturity in his home," writes Pope Francis, quoting his predecessor St Paul VI. And because of his role at "the crossroads between the Old and New Testament," St Joseph "has always been venerated as a father by the Christian people". In him, "Jesus saw the tender love of God," the one that helps us accept our weakness, because "it is through" and despite "our fears, our frailties, and our weakness" that most divine designs are realized. "Only tender love will save us from the snares of the accuser," emphasizes the Pontiff, and it is by encountering God's mercy especially in the Sacrament of Reconciliation that we "experience His truth and tenderness," – because "we know that God's truth does not condemn us, but instead welcomes, embraces, sustains and forgives us" (2).

Joseph is also a father in obedience to God: with his 'fiat' he protects Mary and Jesus and teaches his Son to "do the will of the Father." Called by God to serve the mission of Jesus, he "cooperated... in the great mystery of Redemption," as St John Paul II said, "and is truly a minister of salvation" (3). Welcoming the will of God At the same time, Joseph is "an accepting Father," because he "accepted Mary unconditionally" — an important gesture even today, says Pope Francis, "in our world where psychological, verbal and physical violence towards women is so evident." But the Bridgroom of Mary is also the one who, trusting in the Lord, accepts in his life even the events that he does not understand, "setting aside his own ideas" and reconciling himself with his own history. Joseph's spiritual path "is not one that explains, but accepts" — which does not mean that he is "resigned." Instead, he is "courageously and firmly proactive," because with "Holy Spirit's gift of fortitude," and full of hope, he is able "to accept life as it is, with all its contradictions, frustrations and disappointments." In practice, through St. Joseph, it is as if God were to repeat to us: "Do not be afraid!" because "faith gives meaning to every event, however happy or sad," and makes us aware that "God can make flowers spring up from stony ground." Joseph "did not look for shortcuts but confronted reality with open eyes and accepted personal responsibility for it." For this reason, "he encourages us to accept and welcome others as they are, without exception, and to show special concern for the weak" (4).

A creatively courageous father, example of love *Patris corde* highlights "the creative courage" of St. Joseph, which "emerges especially in the way we deal with difficulties." "The carpenter of Nazareth," explains the Pope, was able to turn a problem into a possibility by trusting in divine providence." He had to deal with "the concrete problems" his Family faced, problems faced by other families in the world, and especially those of migrants. In this sense, St. Joseph is "the special patron of all those forced to leave their native lands because of war, hatred, persecution and poverty." As the guardian of Jesus and Mary, Joseph cannot "be other than the guardian of the Church," of her motherhood, and of the Body of Christ. "Consequently, every poor, needy, suffering or dying person, every stranger, every prisoner, every infirm person is 'the child' whom Joseph continues to protect." From St Joseph, writes Pope Francis, "we must learn... to love the Church and the poor" (5).

MATTHEW 25 PILL BOTTLE MINISTRY

In developing countries, medicines—when actually obtainable—are often dispensed into hands, pockets, leaves or any other available container. Matthew 25 Ministries accepts donations of empty pill bottles to help improve health care quality in developing nations. Donations of clean, unlabeled pill bottles help the poorest of the poor in many ways: Medicine can be distributed in sterile containers. Pill bottles that are not appropriate for shipping are recycled for cash that goes towards Matthew 25:Ministries' programs. This plastic recycling program keeps thousands of bottles out of landfills each year.

Matthew 25: Ministries accepts the following types of empty pill bottles:

Prescription pill bottles, all sizes

Pill bottles with and without child resistant caps

Over-the-counter pill bottles.

Bring your bottles to Sue Ann Ehmann any Sunday. If I'm not there just leave them in the kitchen at Risen Lord.



#iGIVECATHOLIC

All Saints reports that its 2020 #GiveCatholic campaign was very successful. Through the generous support of donors we raised \$550 during the campaign. We also won one of the top prizes awarded on Giving Tuesday. The "Power Lunch" prize added another \$700 to our campaign totals. **Our Grand Total was \$1,350.** These funds will be set aside to aid in the construction of a parish hall. A thousand Thank You's to all of the donors

All Saints Catholic Church parishioners have contributed approximately 340 pounds of food to Plenty since June 1, 2020. The priority items needed are the following:

Unsweetened cereals like Cheerios
Oatmeal
Dried beans
Canned beans
Canned tomatoes
Canned tomato sauce & paste
Canned spaghetti sauce

A father who teaches the value, dignity and joy of work "A carpenter who earned an honest living to provide for his family," St Joseph also teaches us "the value, the dignity and the joy of what it means to eat bread that is the fruit of one's own labor." This aspect of Joseph's character provides Pope Francis the opportunity to launch an appeal in favor of work, which has become "a burning social issue" even in countries with a certain level of well-being. "there is a renewed need to appreciate the importance of dignified work, of which Saint Joseph is an exemplary patron," the Pope writes. Work, he says, "is a means of participating in the work of salvation, an opportunity to hasten the coming of the Kingdom, to develop our talents and abilities, and to put them at the service of society and fraternal communion." Those who work, he explains, "are cooperating with God himself, and in some way become creators of the world around us." Pope Francis encourages everyone "to rediscover the value, the importance and the necessity of work for bringing about a new 'normal' from which no one is excluded." Especially in light of rising unemployment due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Pope calls everyone to "review our priorities" and to express our firm conviction that no young person, no person at all, no family should be without work!" (6).

Children, the Pope says, need fathers who will not try to dominate them, but instead raise them to be "capable of deciding for themselves, enjoying freedom and exploring new possibilities." This is the sense in which St Joseph is described as a "most chaste" father, which is the opposite of domineering possessiveness. Joseph, says Pope Francis, "knew how to love with extraordinary freedom. He never made himself the center of things. He did not think of himself, but focused instead on the lives of Mary and Jesus." Happiness for Joseph involved a true gift of self: "In him, we never see frustration, but only trust," writes Pope Francis. "His patient silence was the prelude to concrete expressions of trust." Joseph stands out, therefore, as an exemplary figure for our time, in a world that "needs fathers," and not "tyrants"; a society that "rejects those who confuse authority with authoritarianism, service with servility, discussion with oppression, charity with a welfare mentality, power with destruction." True fathers, instead, "refuse to live the lives of their children for them," and instead respect their freedom. In this sense, says Pope Francis, a father realizes that "he is most a father and an educator at the point when he becomes 'useless,' when he sees that his child has become independent and can walk the paths of life unaccompanied." Being a father, the Pope emphasizes, "has nothing to do with possession, but is rather a 'sign' pointing to a greater fatherhood": that of the "heavenly Father" (7).

In his letter, Pope Francis notes how, "Every day, for over forty years, following Lauds [Morning Prayer]" he has "recited a prayer to Saint Joseph taken from a nineteenth-century French prayer book of the Congregation of the Sisters of Jesus and Mary." This prayer, he says, expresses devotion and trust, and even poses a certain challenge to Saint Joseph, "on account of its closing words: 'My beloved father, all my trust is in you. Let it not be said that I invoked you in vain, and since you can do everything with Jesus and Mary, show me that your goodness is as great as your power.'"

At the conclusion of his Letter, he adds another prayer to St Joseph, which he encourages all of us to pray together:

**Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
To you God entrusted his only Son;
in you Mary placed her trust;
with you Christ became man.**

**Blessed Joseph, to us too,
show yourself a father
and guide us in the path of life.
Obtain for us grace, mercy, and courage,
and defend us from every evil. Amen.**

SAINT JOSEPH FINANCIALS LAST MONTH AND YTD	ALL SAINTS FINANCIALS LAST MONTH AND YTD	RISEN LORD FINANCIALS LAST MONTH AND YTD
NOVEMBER 2020	NOVEMBER 2020	NOVEMBER 2020
INCOME \$7,422.42	INCOME \$4,756.00	INCOME \$4,119.73
EXPENSES \$5,885.20	EXPENSES \$17,439.93*	EXPENSES \$700.37*
NET +(-) \$1,537.22	NET +(-) \$(12,683.93)	NET +(-) \$3,419.36
YEAR TO DATE 2020	YEAR TO DATE 2020	YEAR TO DATE 2020
INCOME \$35,088.63	INCOME \$19,979.97	INCOME \$21,660.58
EXPENSES \$42,182.17	EXPENSES \$25,253.05	EXPENSES \$19,496.41
NET +(-) (\$7,173.54)	NET +(-) \$(5,273.08)	NET +(-) \$2,164.67
Source: PARISHSoft® Accounting State- ment of Activity FYTD through 11/30/2020	Source: PARISHSoft® Accounting State- ment of Activity FYTD through 11/30/2020. *\$14k PARKING LOT INVOICE PAID 11/2020	Source: PARISHSoft® Accounting Statement of Activity FYTD through 11/30/2020* \$2,256.57 REIMBURSEMENT TO CLUSTER PAID IN 12/2020

Christmas may come but once a year, but thankfully the season doesn't end in the church's Liturgical Calendar on December 25th. After all the bustling activity leading up to Christmas Day, we get more time afterwards to reflect on the wonders of the Incarnation.

Think of it! God first assumed a human nature to save us from our sins, most vulnerably, as a little baby in a *stable* in a *cave* in Bethlehem! In being born in such a seemingly lowly circumstance, Jesus wished to highlight for us how much he values true humility.

Yet He also shows us His place as the "King of Kings" and "Lord of Lords" (1 Tim 6:15; Rev 17:14) in that He as a newborn baby is worshiped by shepherds (Luke 2:15-20) and kings (Matt 2:1-12) alike!

I'd like to focus here on those kings (also known as the Three Wise Men or the Magi) who followed the Star of Bethlehem that they saw in the sky heralding our Lord's birth. Matthew's Gospel refers to them as [Magi](#), a word for astrologers, although tradition associates these men with royalty. They followed that star to the cave outside Bethlehem to pay homage to the "newborn king of the Jews" as they referred to Jesus (Matt 2:2).

Their journey is remembered not only on Christmas Day, but more prominently, [afterwards](#), in the United States and many other countries on the first Sunday after New Year's Day on what we call Epiph-

any (although the official date of Epiphany is January 6th). This special holiday also commemorates Christ's manifestation to the gentiles (in this case the Magi).

Epiphany is also called Three Kings Day and children receive their gifts on this day in many Latin American countries (as well as in Puerto Rico and Spain) in commemoration of the gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh that the Magi brought Jesus!



In honor of this blessed event, I'd like to offer this selection below. It's taken from a chapter entitled *The Adoration of the Magi* from the book *The Life of Mary as Seen by The Mystics*. Raphael Brown, its author, masterfully wove together various mystical accounts of events in the life of our Lord and Our Lady. Although these private revelations by no means constitute a Fifth Gospel, they are faithful to the Gospel accounts, and as such, have been deemed worthy of belief by clergy over the centuries.

We read in this account reprinted from the book below of the great joy the Magi experienced when they saw the Christ child, the great hospitality the Holy Family showed them, and the evil anguish of King Herod, who went on to order the massacre of all babies under the age of two in Bethlehem (Matt 2:16) in an effort to kill the little baby Jesus who he saw as a threat to his power.

One particularly intriguing point made here is that the Magi arrived

in Jerusalem thinking that would be the most logical spot to find the long awaited Messiah but when they got there they found....nothing. Our God is truly a God of surprises! Born in Bethlehem? Not in the Temple or a palace surrounded by worshipers? Nope!

We are not required to take as fact any of the details enhancing Matthew's Gospel account given below (such as the names and other descriptive information given about the Magi and their entourage) but I have found them most helpful for meditations and hope you might too. On behalf of Our Catholic Prayers I would like to wish you all a Blessed Christmas, Epiphany, and New Year!



God Bless,

Christopher Castagnoli
for www.ourcatholicprayers.com



'TIS THE SEASON FOR SNOW ICE AND COLD TEMPS.

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Fuel and Hunger Assistance Available

Do you know of a parishioner or someone else that needs assistance with utilities (heat/ electric/ water/ gas) or someone who needs food assistance? All parishes have limited funds available to provide assistance. Funds are distributed on a first come, first served basis with supporting documentation of need (for utility assistance). Contact the office for specifics.

Please pray for sick members of our parish community including:

St. Joseph:

- ⇒ Robert Rosenbaum
- ⇒ Jim and Maryann Ridley
- ⇒ Penny Woody
- ⇒ Brian Dunn

Risen Lord:

- ⇒ Helen Barnard
- ⇒ Martha Niedjala
- ⇒ Nicole Torres
- ⇒ Hilda Vivier

All Saints:

- ⇒ Deana Boswell
- ⇒ Gladys Genova

Prayer for the Sick Person

Father Lord,

As You are the One, and we, Your servants, we pray Oh God above to heal and support

_____NAME_____.

Destroy any sickness that is, was, and will ever be in his/her body In Jesus Name. We pray that thereafter, You rejuvenate his/her mind, body, and soul, that he/she may be granted the strength to function in all areas of his/her life.

_____NAME_____ shall stand before You Oh Lord, and he/she will pray and raise his or her voice in thanks to You.

We glorify Your mighty deeds Oh Lord, and In Jesus Name, Amen.

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