

St. Joseph Parish

Served by the Holy Cross Fathers

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Pastoral Staff

Pastor: Fr. Francis Noronha, C.S.C.

Secretary & Finance: Erma Relunia

Custodian: Allan Cobham

**JOY • PEACE •
LOVE**



HOPE • FAITH

On the **Fourth Sunday of Advent**, we read **Luke's Gospel** of the Annunciation, the moment when a troubled Mary is told she has found favor with God and she will conceive and bear a son. She questions: "How can this be, since I have no relations with a man?" Then declaring herself the handmaiden of the Lord, she accepts: "May it be done to me according to your word."

Monday is **Christmas Day**. The first celebration of **The Nativity of the Lord is Family Mass at 7:00pm and a second celebration is the Mass at Midnight**. The first reading for these two celebrations is from **Isaiah**: "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shone." This powerful reading deserves a slow contemplation. The Gospel is from **Luke**: the journey to Bethlehem, the birth, the angels announce the birth to the shepherds. The third celebration of **The Nativity of the Lord** is the **Mass during the Day**. Here the Gospel is from the beginning of **John's Gospel**: "And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us, and we saw his glory, the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth."

Then, the church celebrates three very important feasts after Christmas. Tuesday is the **Feast of Saint Stephen**, the first public witness who gave his life for his faith. Wednesday is the **Feast of Saint John, Apostle and Evangelist**. Thursday is the moving **Feast of the Holy Innocents**, remembering the infant martyrs of Herod's jealous rage.

On the **Fifth Day in the Octave of Purification** in the temple and the story about Anna in the temple and Jesus child grew and became strong, filled with upon him."

Next Sunday is the wonderful **Feast of the Holy Family**. **Luke's Gospel** is the story of the teen aged Jesus teaching in the temple while his parents searched for him. Jesus goes back home with his family. "He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them; and his mother kept all these things in her heart. And Jesus advanced in wisdom and age and favor before God and man."

...The power of this Child, Son of God and Son of Mary, is not the power of this world, based on might and wealth; it is the power of love. It is the power which created the heavens and the earth, which gives life to all creation: to minerals, plants and animals; it is the force which attracts man and woman, and makes them one flesh, one single existence; it is the power which gives new birth, pardons faults, reconciles enemies, and transforms evil into good. It is the power of God. This power of love led Jesus Christ to strip himself of his glory and become man; it led him to give his life on the cross and to rise from the dead. It is the power of service, which inaugurates in our world the Kingdom of God, a kingdom of justice and peace...Pope Francis

Wishing you and your loved one's Merry CHRISTMAS. May Jesus bless you with peace, joy and happiness. Have a wonderful season of CHRISTMAS.

Source: "Taken from Creighton University's *Online Ministries* website:www.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/online.html. Used with Permission."



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Christmas we have the story of the powerful words of Simeon about the newborn Jesus. In the **Octave of Christmas** we have the story of the Holy Family going home with their parents. "The wisdom; and the favor of God was

the Holy Family. Luke's Gospel is



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT & CHRISTMAS WEEK —YEAR B: DECEMBER 24, 2017

Heartfelt Gratitude....

Special thanks to Erma, Megan, Eric, Daniel and Maarten for making our liturgies beautiful through your music.

Thanks to the Fundraising committee for organizing our annual bake sale and for selling Christmas ornaments. Thanks to those who donated baked goods. Thank you for your continued support towards the parish projects.

Special thanks to Linda, Carmen, Bro. Fernando, Maarten and family, and Larry for making our Church beautiful through your decorations.

Thank you to all of you for donating money towards our Christmas flowers. May God bless your generosity.

Thank you to all those who donated socks and mittens and for filling our Food Donation basket.

Thanks to the Vincent De Paul Society for reaching out to the poor in the area.

Thanks to the Children's liturgy coordinator for preparing children for singing during Christmas Eve Mass.

Thanks to all the **lectors, Eucharistic ministers, Altar servers, sacristans** and ushers for your help during this special season and throughout the year.

Special thanks to the **Knights of Columbus** for distributing treats to our Children. Thank you for your continued support to St. Joseph Parish.

Thank you to everyone who made our Christmas celebrations beautiful through your presence and contributions. May God bless us with peace and hope.

Fr. Francis

MASSES FOR CHRISTMAS: Christmas Eve:
Family Mass at 7:00pm. There will be midnight Mass.

CHRISTMAS DAY: Mass will be at 10:00am

We will be singing carols 30 minutes prior to each of the Masses. All are welcome.

There will be refreshments after each Mass. Please feel free to bring baked goods to share with others. Thank you for your generosity.

NEW YEAR MASSES:

Feast of the Holy Family: December 30/31: Masses as usual.

Note: There will be no New Year's Eve Mass. There will be only one Mass on New Year's Day at 10:00am.

Office will be closed on December 25, 26 and 28. We will begin usual schedule starting January 2, 2018.

NEW ENVELOPES Please start using the new Envelopes starting January 1, 2018. Please write your full information in the first two or three envelopes for tax receipts purposes. There are still boxes of envelopes at the entrance of the Church. If you wish to have a box, please pick them up at the entrance of the Church. If you wish to consider pre-authorized giving, please talk to Fr. Francis. God bless your generosity.

MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, December 24

10:00am † *Fr. Manuel Gedes*
Req. Alfredo Costa

7:00pm *For Family Intentions*
Req. Linda Bharara

12:00am *Healing Mass for Jonna Prodanoz*
Req. Ron & Marilyn Roberts

Monday, December 25

10:00am *Infant Jesus*
Req. Alfredo Costa

Tuesday, December 26

9:00am † *Mike McCabe*
Req. Sheila Brosnan
† *Antonio Ordoña*
Req. Julie Ordoña

Wednesday, December 27

7:00pm † *Michael Romano*
Req. Marisa Romano

Thursday, December 28

9:00 am *Family Intentions of Maria & Alfredo Costa*
Req. Alfredo Costa

Friday, December 29

7:00pm † *Michael Romano*
Req. Marisa Romano

Saturday, December 30

5:00pm † *Valerie Moniz*
Req. Cremilde & Manuel Moniz

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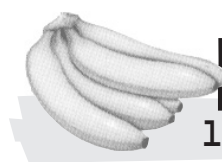
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