

St. Joseph Catholic Church

1300 N. Main St., Bluffton | (260) 824-1380 | stjosephchurch@adamswells.com | stjosephchurchbluffton.org

“On the first day of Christmas, my true love gave to me...” *Twelve Days of Christmas*

Historically, the Twelve Days of Christmas have been a time of celebration spanning from Christmas Day to Epiphany. In 567, the Council of Tours proclaimed it a "sacred and festive season" after setting aside Advent for fasting and preparation. There are many cultural references including Shakespeare's play "Twelfth Night", and the English Christmas carol detailing gifts for each day. Some believe that The 12 Days of Christmas song was actually a tool used by persecuted Catholics after the reformation in England to catechize in secret. Whether or not this is true, it can still be a fun, instructional tool. As Christians, we do not follow the way of the world and immediately stop all talk of Christmas after midnight on December 25. Below, find some of the symbolism behind the popular song, religious feasts that fall on those days, and ways to maintain your focus on Christ throughout the entire Christmas season!



**DEC
25**

Partridge in a Pear Tree
Jésus Christ

The Nativity of the Lord
Rejoice in the birth of our savior!
Reflect on the mystery of the incarnation, the Divine choosing to become one of us.



**DEC
26**

Two Turtle Doves
Old and New Testament

Feast of St. Stephen
St. Stephen was the first deacon, part of whose ministry was to care for the poor. Celebrate his feast by sharing Christmas gifts with the poor.



**DEC
27**

Three French Hens
Theological Virtues: Faith, Hope and Love

Feast of St. John the Evangelist
St. John answered the call to be an Apostle. Are you listening to God's call in your life? Pray to know your vocation.



**DEC
28**

Four Calling Birds
Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John

Feast of the Holy Innocents
So many young lives were extinguished by Herod in this massacre. Appreciate the gift of the young children in your life.



**DEC
29**

Five Golden Rings
Pentateuch: First Five Books of the Old Testament

Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph
Let the Holy Family serve as a model for how to build a domestic church in your home.



**DEC
30**

Six Geese a-Laying
Six Days of Creation

Resist the urge to take down all your Christmas decorations and stop singing Christmas music. The liturgical season of Christmas is one of the most important, second only to Easter.



**DEC
31**

Seven Swans a-Swimming
Gifts of the Holy Spirit: Wisdom, Understanding, Counsel, Fortitude, Knowledge, Piety, and Fear of the Lord

Consider making a faith-based resolution this year.



**JAN
1**

Eight Maids a-Milking
Eight Beatitudes

Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God
Go to Mass on this Holy Day of Obligation and meditate on how important Mary's "yes" was to the whole season of Christmas.



**JAN
2**

Nine Ladies Dancing
Fruits of the Holy Spirit: Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self-Control

Memorial of Sts. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen
Call a friend to say "Merry Christmas" in honor of these saints and lifelong friends.



**JAN
3**

Ten Lords a-Leaping
Ten Commandments

Think of the Wise Men as they get closer to reaching their destination. Move the figures of the Wise Men in your own nativity set at home closer each day, or take a journey of your own and visit nativity scenes at nearby Churches.



**JAN
4**

Eleven Pipers Piping
Eleven Faithful Apostles

Memorial of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton
As the patron of converts to the faith, ask for this saint's intercession as you share your faith with a non-believer.



**JAN
5**

Twelve Drummers Drumming
Twelve Points of Belief in the Apostles Creed

The Epiphany of the Lord
Just as the Wise Men paid homage to Jesus, chalk your door with 20+C+M+B+25 as a request for Christ to bless your home and dwell with all who stay there.

Pastor: Fr. David Violi

Fr. David's Email: frdavidvioli@gmail.com | **Sacramental Emergency Number:** (260) 296-0511

Administrative Assistant / DRE: Michelle Paxton | **Director of Sacred Music:** Teresa Smith

----- (cut here) -----

Name: _____ Phone: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
e-mail address: _____

[] New Parishioners, please send a Parish Registration Form [] We've Moved, here is our new information

Saturday, December 28

8:00 a.m. Special Intention
8:30-9:00 a.m. *Confession*
4:00-4:45 p.m. *Confession*
4:35 p.m. *Rosary*
5:00 p.m. Ann Schnerre +

Sunday, December 29

7:10 a.m. *Rosary*
7:30 a.m. Geoff Frank +
9:40 a.m. *Rosary*
10:00 a.m. Parish Family

Monday, December 30

No public Mass

Tuesday, December 31

7:00-8:00 a.m. *Adoration*
8:00 a.m. Mary Ann Flowers +
8:30 a.m. *Confession*
5:00 p.m. Ronnie Burns +

Wednesday, January 1

Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God

7:30 a.m. Evelyn Morrissey +
10:00 a.m. Parish Family

Thursday, January 2

8:00 a.m. Dick Lautzenheiser +

Friday, January 3

8:30 a.m. Emmanuel Thach +

Saturday, January 4

8:00 a.m. Special Intention
8:30-9:00 a.m. *Confession*
4:00-4:45 p.m. *Confession*
4:35 p.m. *Rosary*

5:00 p.m. Bob Butler +

Sunday, January 5

7:10 a.m. *Rosary*
7:30 a.m. Dale & Alice Pearson
9:40 a.m. *Rosary*
10:00 a.m. Parish Family



MASS READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Mon., Dec. 30 - Sixth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord - Jn 2:12-17 / Ps 96:7-10 / Lk 2:36-40

Tues., Dec. 31 - Seventh Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord - St. Sylvester I, Pope - 1 Jn 2:18-21 / Ps 96:1-2, 11-13 / Jn 1:1-18

Wed., Jan. 1 - Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God - Nm 6:22-27 / Ps 67:2-3, 5-6, 8 / Gal 4:4-7 / Lk 2:16-21

Thurs., Jan. 2 - Sts. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops, and Doctors of the Church - 1 Jn 2:22-28 / Ps 98:1-4 / Jn 1:19-28

Fri., Jan. 3 - Christmas Weekday; The Most Holy Name of Jesus - 1 Jn 2:29—3:6 / Ps 98:1, 3cd-6 / Jn 1:29-34

Sat., Jan. 4 - St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious - Sir 26:1-4, 13-16 or 1 Cor 13:4-13 / Lk 10:38-42

Sun., Jan. 5 - The Epiphany of the Lord - Is 60:1-6 / Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-13 / Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6 / Mt 2:1-12

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH - DECEMBER 29, 2024

This weekend (December 28th/29th), the Church celebrates the **Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph**. This celebration, though with roots in the 17th Century, was only added to our universal liturgical calendar in 1921. Following the devastation of the First World War, it was the hope of Pope Benedict XV that devotion to the Holy Family would lead to a renewal of both familial and societal life.

This feast seeks to portray the Holy Family of Nazareth as the model of family life from which our own families can draw inspiration and find help. As we celebrated just a few days ago, our Lord did not enter this world alone; He came through the way of the family. And, in this way, family life has been sanctified. May we place our families under the protection of the Holy Family, entrusting ourselves into the loving embrace of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph.

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD - HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION

On Monday, January 1st, the Church celebrates the Solemnity of **Mary, Mother of God**. This ancient celebration traces itself back to at least the 5th Century. At the Council of Ephesus in AD 431, Mary was recognized as *Theotokos*, or “*God-bearer*” by the Church. This title of the Blessed Mother emphasizes that Jesus is true God and true man. As with all things, the Blessed Mother always points us right back to her Son, Jesus Christ.

The **Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God is a Holy Day of Obligation**. To help ensure that we have the opportunity to meet our obligation of assisting at Mass on this day, we will have Masses for the Holy Day as follows:



Tuesday, Dec. 31st—Vigil Mass—5:00 PM
Wednesday, Jan. 1st—Mass—7:30 AM and 10:00 AM



LIVING WITH THE SAINTS IN THE NEW YEAR

As we gather to celebrate the coming Holy Day and *New Year*, we will continue our parish tradition of “choosing” a Saint to spend the coming year with. As we know, however, in the wise and loving plan of Jesus Christ, it is not we who “choose” the Saint but the Saints who “chooses” us! As we have so many friends in Heaven, should we not strive each year to learn a little more about them and grow closer in relationship with them.

You can find a basket in the narthex with little strips of paper, each with a Saint’s name and a little biographical information, for you to “choose” from. This practice, first started by Saint Faustina Kowalska (*of the Divine Mercy apparition*) among the Sisters in her convent, invites us to spend the year learning about our Saint, both historically and spiritually. By inviting these Saints into our lives, they become intercessors on our behalf before the Lord (James 5:17) amid the coming New Year.

THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS AND CHRISTMASTIDE

Our bulletin cover highlights the ongoing *Twelve Days of Christmas*, which reference the time from **Christmas Day** to the **Epiphany**. Throughout these days, we are reminded that our Christmas celebration is not meant to last only for one day, but for an entire season. In fact, our celebrations continue for at least two more weeks as we celebrate the Epiphany next weekend and the Baptism of the Lord the following weekend. Let us continue to rejoice in the good news proclaimed by the angels so long ago: “*A Savior has been born for you who is Messiah and Lord*” (Luke 2:11).

~Faithfully in Christ, Fr. David

A special “Thank You!” to all those who have helped make this Christmas season so beautiful. Our Choir, Children’s Choir, cantors, and musicians put much effort and practice into ensuring that our Masses were accompanied with beautiful music. Our Decorating Committee transformed the Church beautifully for the Christmas season. Our Parish Office and Parish Staff were, as always, an invaluable assistance to me throughout both the Advent season and into the Christmas season. “Thank You!” again to the many hands that helped lead us into this beautiful season.

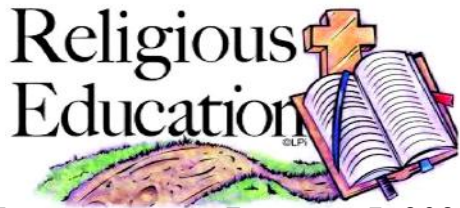


Becky Biberstein, Michael Green, Frances Carr, Tom Richhart, Troy Cook, Bobbie Jackson, Kimberly Abney, Sydnee Bradburn, Leanne Lee, Jeff Tillman, and Richard Payne.



**SOLEMNITY OF
MARY, MOTHER OF GOD
HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION**

Mass Times
Dec. 31st - 5:00 PM
Jan. 1st - 7:30 AM & 10 AM



**Classes resume January 5, 2025
8:30-9:45 a.m.**

PARISH CALENDAR

- **Sat., Dec. 28** - Confession 4-4:45 p.m. / Mass 5:00 p.m.
- **Sun., Dec. 29** - Mass 7:30 a.m. / 10:00 a.m.
- **Sun., Dec. 29** - **No Religious Education Class— Christmas Break**
- **Tues., Dec. 31** - Adoration 7-8:00 a.m. / Mass 8:00 a.m. / Confessions 8:30 a.m.
- **Tues., Dec. 31** - **Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God Vigil Mass - 5:00 p.m.**
- **Wed., Jan. 1** - **Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God (A Holy Day of Obligation) - Masses at 7:30 a.m. / 10:00 a.m.**
- **Thurs., Jan. 2** - Mass 8:00 a.m.
- **Thurs., Jan. 2** - *Catholicism Explained* - 6:30 p.m. in the Parish Conference Room.
- **Fri., Jan. 3** - Mass 8:30 a.m.
- **Sat., Jan. 4** - Mass 8:00 a.m. / Confession 8:30
- **Sat., Jan. 4** - Confession 4-4:45 p.m. / Mass 5:00 p.m.
- **Sun., Jan. 5** - Mass 7:30 a.m. / 10:00 a.m.
- **Sun., Jan. 5** - Religious Education Class - 8:30-9:45 a.m.
- **Tues., Jan. 7** - Adoration 7-8:00 a.m. / Mass 8:00 a.m. / Confessions 8:30 a.m.
- **Tues., Jan. 7** - Knights of Columbus - Rosary 6:40 p.m. / meeting at 7:00 p.m.
- **Wed., Jan. 8** - Adoration - 6-7:00 p.m. / Confession 6-6:45 p.m. / Mass 7:00 p.m.
- **Thurs., Jan. 9** - Mass 8:00 a.m.
- **Fri., Jan. 10** - Mass 8:30 a.m.
- **Sat., Jan. 11** - Mass 8:00 a.m. / Confession 8:30
- **Sat., Jan. 11** - Confession 4-4:45 p.m. / Mass 5:00 p.m.
- **Sun., Jan. 12** - Mass 7:30 a.m. / 10:00 a.m.
- **Sun., Jan. 12** - Religious Education Class - 8:30-9:45 a.m.
- **Mon., Jan. 13** - Great Catholic Thinkers—6:00 p.m. in the Parish Conference Room
- **Tues., Jan. 14** - Adoration 7-8:00 a.m. / Mass 8:00 a.m. / Confessions 8:30 a.m.
- **Tues., Jan. 14** - GIRL's Night Out Women's meeting - 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Conference Room.
- **Wed., Jan. 15** - Adoration - 6-7:00 p.m. / Confession 6-6:45 p.m. / Mass 7:00 p.m.
- **Thurs., Jan. 16** - Mass 8:00 a.m.
- **Thurs., Jan. 16** - *Catholicism Explained* - 6:30 p.m. in the Parish Conference Room.

Weekend of January 4th & 5th



5:00 TBD
7:30 TBD
10:00 TBD



5:00 Ginny Fenstermaker
7:30 Sarah McCorkle
10:00 Mike Dunn



5:00 Volunteer
7:30 Dale McCorkle
10:00 Jacque Johnson, Kevin Seago, Jeff Miller



5:00 Alex/Audrey Mechling, Volunteer
7:30 Phillip/Angela/James Mayer
10:00 Charlie Andrews, Luke Miller, Volunteer

**St. Joseph Parish Finance Report
for the Weekend of
December 21st & 22nd**

Adult Envelopes- \$2,786.00
Loose- \$278.00
Repair/Rainy Day Fund- \$477.83
Immaculate Conception- \$38.00
Christmas Flower Donation- \$10.00
Christmas Offering- \$90.00
Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God- \$10.00
Memorial Candles- \$30.00
Total- \$3,719.83

Our weekly budget is \$5,116.40

We are \$5,595.10 ahead of our budget for the month of December.

St. Vincent de Paul Fund- \$70.00

*Your gifts to St. Joseph Parish are greatly appreciated.
Thank you!*

To set up Online Giving through Our Sunday Visitor, please visit:
<https://www.osvhub.com/stjosephchurchbluffton/giving/funds>

GREAT CATHOLIC THINKERS

Join our Winter Book Study starting on January 13th at 6:30 PM in the Parish Conference Room.

We'll explore short stories and poems from a variety of Catholic authors. See the sign up sheet in the Narthex!



We are always searching for those who would love to help "Minister" at Mass, including Lectors, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, and Servers

For those who would like to be trained to help Minister at Mass as a Lector, Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion or Server, please notify the Parish Office of your interest and training will be scheduled.

Do you love to sing? Contact Teresa at teresasmith2000@yahoo.com to learn more about becoming a Cantor or join the Choir.

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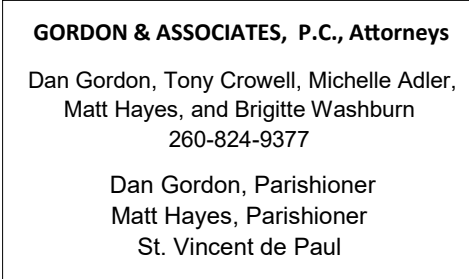


GORDON & ASSOCIATES, P.C., Attorneys

Dan Gordon, Tony Crowell, Michelle Adler,
 Matt Hayes, and Brigitte Washburn

260-824-9377

Dan Gordon, Parishioner
 Matt Hayes, Parishioner
 St. Vincent de Paul



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Sam Haiflich & Lisa Haiflich: The Haiflich Team

Brokers/Agents

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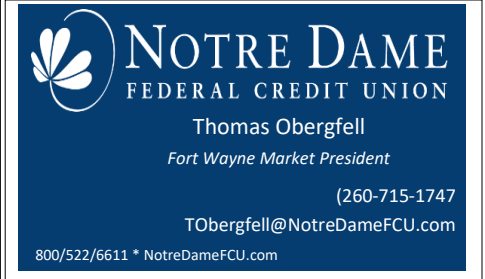
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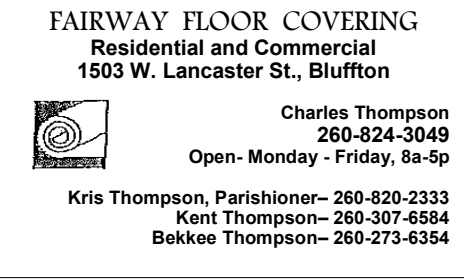
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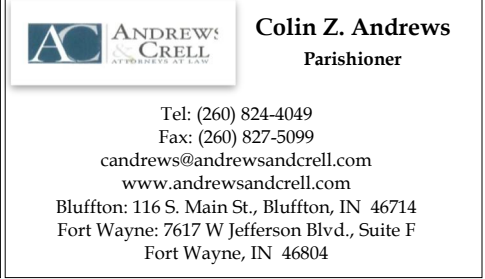


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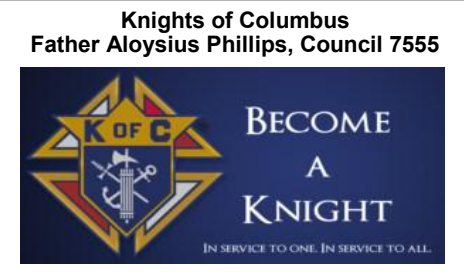


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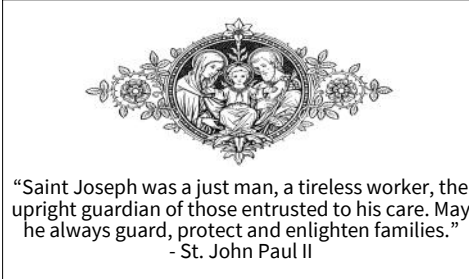
IN SERVICE TO ONE. IN SERVICE TO ALL.



THINK!

T - is it true?
 h - is it helpful?
 i - is it inspiring?
 n - is it necessary?
 k - is it kind?

"Saint Joseph was a just man, a tireless worker, the upright guardian of those entrusted to his care. May he always guard, protect and enlighten families."
 - St. John Paul II



Before you speak....

THINK!

T - is it true?
 h - is it helpful?
 i - is it inspiring?
 n - is it necessary?
 k - is it kind?

