

# St. John the Evangelist Church

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## Pastoral Team

Rev. Francisco Fernandez Siles	Pastor
Deacon Dan Humphries	Permanent Deacon
Mrs. Kristine Blyth	Lay Pastoral Asst.
Mrs. Vicki Morgan	Secretary
Mrs. Sarah Rodrigues	Youth Ministry
Eileen McGowan	Music Director

## Support Staff

Mr. Francisco Perez	Caretaker
Mrs. Sue McGee	Bookkeeper
Mrs. Gail Stewart	Cook/Housekeeper

# ADVENT





Message from the  
Pastor

Peace to all of you!

This Sunday we celebrate the Fourth Sunday of Advent. We are very close to the coming of the Lord at Christmas. The First Reading, from the Book of the prophet Isaiah, gives us the announcement of the coming of Immanuel, God with us. King Ahaz, king of Judah, is afraid because Jerusalem is under siege. To avoid being conquered, he wants to make an alliance with Assyria. However, God assures him to trust in God since He will take care of his land. He distrusts God and the prophet offers him a sign of hope saying that a young woman will bear a son, Immanuel. This sign is also given to us so that we can place our hope and trust in the Lord. He comes to share our weaknesses and fragilities so that He can help in time of need. The Second Reading, from the Letter of St. Paul to the Romans, offers us the background that the Messiah who we are waiting is coming from the lineage of King David. We are called to welcome Him with faith and to rely in the marvelous deeds that He wants to accomplish in our lives. He comes to live among us so that with His help we find support and fullness of life. The Gospel, from St. Matthew, gives us the account of the annunciation to St. Joseph. He has been engaged to Mary, and he was waiting to consummate the marriage by living together. During this period, he received the unexpected news that Mary is pregnant, and he does not know how this happened. According to the Jewish law, she should be dismissed and stoned to death because of her supposed adultery. However, Joseph does not want to put Mary to such a penalty. He enters into a great dilemma in what to do: whether to continue and formalize the marriage or abandon her and divorce her. In this very difficult situation, the angel of the Lord reassures him that the baby that Mary is waiting for, comes from the Holy Spirit. Joseph believes in this news and welcomes Mary into his home and becomes his wife. There are situations in our lives that we do not expect or

understand, and we tend to reject them, but even through these events God can bring out salvation, peace, and life. God asks us to trust in Him because all the events that God allows in our lives come from the Holy Spirit that He will give us the grace to accept them. Let us wait with a joyful heart and through the intercession of St. Joseph let us welcome Jesus in our hearts!

***We will have mass on Christmas Eve at 5pm, 8pm and 10pm and on Christmas Day 9am, 11am and 2pm in Spanish.***

I really want to encourage you to come and worship with us during the time of Christmas. Jesus is coming soon to give us life to the full!

***Merry Christmas!***

*Fr. Francisco Fernandez, Your servant, and your Pastor*

Pope Benedict XVI's Angelus on the Fourth Sunday of Advent (December 19, 2010)

On this Fourth Sunday of Advent the Gospel according to St Matthew recounts the birth of Jesus from St Joseph's viewpoint. He was betrothed to Mary who, "before they came together... was found to be with child of the Holy Spirit" (Mt 1:18). The Son of God, fulfilling an ancient prophecy (cf. Is 7:14), became man in the womb of a virgin and this mystery at the same time expressed the love, wisdom and power of God for mankind, wounded by sin. St Joseph is presented as "a just man" (Mt 1:19), faithful to God's law and ready to do his will. For this reason he enters the mystery of the Incarnation after an Angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, announcing: "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit; she will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins" (Mt 1:20-21). Having given up the idea of divorcing Mary secretly, Joseph took her to himself because he

then saw God's work in her with his own eyes.

St Ambrose comments that "Joseph had the amiability and stature of a just man, to make his capacity as a witness worthier" (Exp. Ev. sec. Lucam II, 5: CCL 14,32-33). St Ambrose continues: "He could not have contaminated the temple of the Holy Spirit, the Mother of the Lord, the womb rendered fertile by the mystery" (ibid., II, 6: CCL 14,33). Although he had felt distressed, Joseph "did as the Angel of the Lord commanded him", certain that he was doing the right thing. And in giving the name of "Jesus" to the Child who rules the entire universe, he placed himself among the throng of humble and faithful servants, similar to the Angels and Prophets, similar to the Martyrs and to the Apostles — as the ancient Eastern hymns sing. In witnessing to Mary's virginity, to God's gratuitous action and in safeguarding the Messiah's earthly life St Joseph announces the miracle of the Lord. Therefore, let us venerate the legal father of Jesus (cf. Catechism of the Catholic Church, n. 532), because the new man is outlined in him, who looks with trust and courage to the future. He does not follow his own plans but entrusts himself without reserve to the infinite mercy of the One who will fulfil the prophecies and open the time of salvation.

Dear friends, I would like to entrust all Pastors to St Joseph, universal Patron of the Church, while I urge them to offer "Christ's [humble] words and actions each day to the faithful and to the whole world", (Letter Proclaiming the Year for Priests, 16 June 2009). May our life adhere ever more closely to the Person of Jesus, precisely because "the One who is himself the Word takes on a body, he comes from God as a man, and draws the whole of man's being to himself, bearing it into the Word of God" (Jesus of Nazareth, New York 2007, p. 334). Let us invoke with trust the Virgin Mary, full of grace, "adorned by God", so that at Christmas, which is now at hand, our eyes may be opened and see Jesus, and our hearts rejoice in this wonderful encounter of love.

## DECEMBER 21, 2025



**4th Week** – All four candles are lit.

**Suggested Scripture Readings:**

Sunday Dec 21: Isaiah 7: 10-16  
Monday Dec 22: Luke 1: 26-38  
Tuesday Dec 23: Romans 1: 1-7

**Replace purple and pink candles with White Candles as we enter Christmas Season:**

Wednesday – Christmas Eve: Luke 2:25-33  
Thursday – Christmas Day: John 1: 1-18

**MEMORIES OF LOVED ONES  
WE HAVE LOST**

\*\*\*

Someone Who Is Missing at  
Christmas

*Let this be a loving reminder  
That someone is missing today,  
Someone our hearts still hold on to,  
As we travel along life's way.  
Someone who made life so  
special,*

*For all those who gather here,  
Someone who won't be forgotten,  
But cherished from year to year.*

*And now as we pause to  
remember,  
Let us all fondly recall,  
How dearly they were loved by  
each of us,*

*And oh...how they loved us all.  
Adapted from G Graveline's  
Someone Is Missing at Christmas*

\*\*\*

God bless you at this Christmas  
time,  
Your Parish Ministry of Consolation



**Masses For The Week**

**Sat Dec 20 – 5:00pm**  
**+Des Newman**  
*req. by Kathleen Murray & Family*

**Mon Dec 22 – 8:20am**  
**+Andrew Marioselva**  
*req. by His Family*

**Tues Dec 23 – 8:20am**  
**+John & Mary Fox**  
*req. by Catherine & Family*

**Wed Dec 24 – 5pm, 8pm, 10pm**  
**CHRISTMAS EVE**  
**NO INTENTIONS**

**Thur Dec 25 – 9am, 11am CHRISTMAS DAY**

**NO INTENTIONS**

**Fri Dec 26 – 9am FEAST OF ST. STEPHEN**

**+John Jack Elliott**  
*req. by Roseanne & Family*

Migrant Worker envelopes are available for donations to assist those working on farms and living in our community. Your donation will be used to purchase gift cards. Please include your name & address with your donation for tax receipt purposes for cash or cheque donations.

**ATTENTION ENGAGED COUPLES!**  
**MARRIAGE PREPARATION CLASSES**  
Our next Marriage Preparation Course at St. John the Evangelist will begin on Monday nights, April 6, 2026 to May 11, 2026 from 7pm to 9pm. Call 668-3676 to register. Cost is \$300 per couple.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PARENT MEETING** Tuesday February 3rd, 2026 at 7pm Rite of Enrolment Cards will be distributed at this time.

**CONFIRMATION PREPARATION Session #2** January 2026 Please see your Sacrament schedule for your child's date.



*Christmas Flower fund – envelopes are available at the back counter for your donation this Christmas*

*The office will close at noon Dec 24<sup>th</sup> and reopen Dec 29<sup>th</sup> at 9am. Also closed noon on Dec 31<sup>st</sup> and reopen Monday, January 5<sup>th</sup> at 9am. Merry Christmas!*

**CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE**

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2025**  
**VIGIL OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD**  
**5PM, 8PM, 10PM**

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2025**  
**NATIVITY OF THE LORD**  
**9AM, 11AM, 2PM SPANISH**

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 26, 2025**  
**ST STEPHEN, FIRST MARTYR**  
**9AM**

**SATURDAY/SUNDAY DECEMBER 27,28 2025**  
**THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH**  
**5PM, 9AM, 11AM**  
**2PM SPANISH**

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2025**  
**8:20AM**

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2025**  
**8:20AM**

**WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 31, 2025**  
**OCTAVE OF THE NATIVITY**  
**5PM WITH ADORATION**

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 1, 2026**  
**SOLEMNITY MARY, MOTHER OF GOD**  
**9AM, 11AM, 2PM**

**SAT/SUN JANUARY 3, 4, 2026**  
**EPIPHANY OF THE LORD**  
**5PM, 9AM, 11AM**  
**2PM SPANISH**

**New Assistive Hearing Devices**  
**We have 3 new hearing-impaired auditory units available to use for those who need an assistive device to hear the homily during mass. Please ask an usher or Vicki or Fr. Francisco to provide you with one and give a quick demonstration. All devices must be returned after mass so everyone can utilize them. Thank you!**



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