



ST. JOAN OF ARC

CATHOLIC CHURCH

DECEMBER 24, 2023 / 24, DE DECEMBER 2023

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Thursday
9:00 AM-4:00 PM
closed for lunch
12-1:00 PM

MASSES TIMES

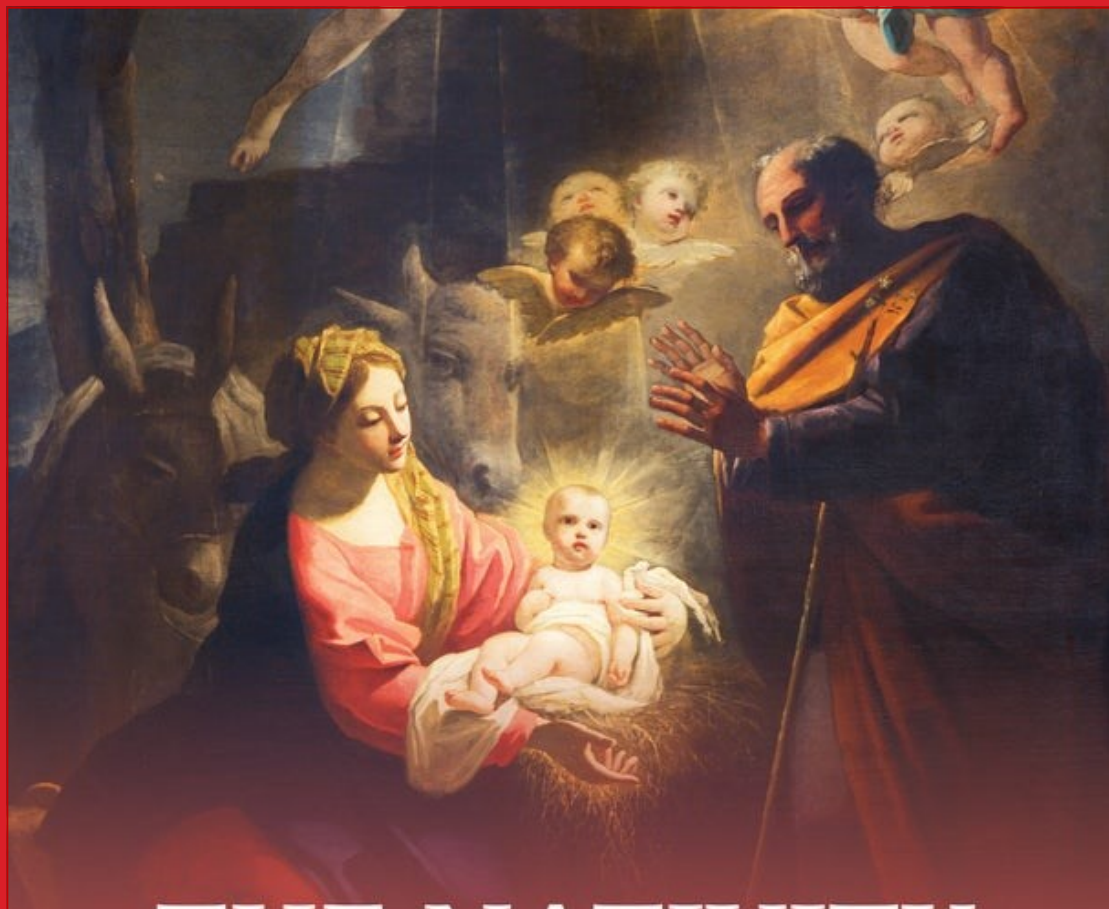
Saturday: 4:00 PM
Sunday Masses:
8:00 AM in English
9:30 AM in Spanish
11:00 AM in English

DAILY MASS

9:00 AM
Monday-Saturday

MISSION

*The Mission of St.
Joan of Arc Parish is
to put Jesus first in our
lives by seeking to
know Him in
Scripture,
Encountering
Him in Prayer,
Celebrating His
Presence among us
in praise and worship
and uniting with one
another in loving
service.*



THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

All things came to be through him,
and without him nothing came to be.
What came to be through him was life,
and this life was the light of the human race.

- Jn 1:3-4

13485 Spring Hill Drive | Spring Hill, FL 34609 | (352) 688-0663 |
sjoa-office@tampabay.rr.com

DIACANO JOSE

¿Dónde guardas lo más importante para ti? Para el pueblo escogido el arca de la alianza era el objeto más importante que tenían. David determina que el arca debería de estar en un palacio y no en una tienda de campaña. Pero Dios tenía una perspectiva diferente. Para Dios la casa de David, o sea su linaje familiar era mucho más importante que un objeto, por muy sagrado que fuese ese objeto. Por lo tanto, Dios bendijo el linaje de David, estableció una casa, pero no para el arca, sino para David. Tal vez ésa sea una lección para nosotros darle más importancia a las personas que tenemos en nuestra vida que a los bienes que tenemos. ¿Cuidamos más a nuestros seres queridos que a nuestras pertenencias?

El rey David vivía en un palacio, pero Jesús nació en un lugar que ni remotamente se asemejaba a un palacio. En vez de en un palacio lujoso en la ciudad de Jerusalén nuestro Señor nació en un insignificante y pequeño establo en Belén. De hecho, él fue concebido en el pueblito remoto de Nazaret a una distancia de varios días de Judea. ¿Por qué? María era mucho más importante que la ciudad de David. La prioridad de Dios no fue el ambiente externo de la ciudad santa, sino el vientre sagrado en que Jesús se desarrolló.

La visita de Gabriel fue impactante y bien preocupante para esta joven y humilde mujer soltera. Todo lo que le dijo Gabriel era más increíble de lo que ella jamás pudo imaginar. Sin embargo, ella inmediatamente acepta la voluntad de Dios y dice: “cúmplase en mí lo que me has dicho” (Lucas 1, 38). Es la fe y la confianza de María en el Señor lo que hace posible la encarnación. Es nuestra fe y confianza en Dios lo que continúa haciendo posible la encarnación de Jesús en el mundo de hoy.

Pregunta de la Semana

¿Cómo discierno lo que es la voluntad de Dios?
¿Estoy dispuesto a confiar en Dios y cumplir su voluntad?



DEACON JOSE

Where do you house what is most important to you? For the Chosen People, the ark of the covenant was the most important object they had. David concluded that it should be housed in a palace, not a tent. But God's perspective was different. For God, it was the house of David, his family line, which was much more important than an object, no matter how sacred it was. Therefore, God blessed David's lineage, establishing a house, not for the ark, but for David. Perhaps that can be a lesson to us to view the people in our lives as more important than our possessions. Do we take more care of our loved ones than we do our precious belongings?

King David lived in a palace, but when it came for Jesus to be born, it did not take place in anything resembling a palace. Instead of a luxurious palace in the holy city of Jerusalem, our Lord was born in a meager stable in tiny Bethlehem. In fact, he was conceived in the remote village of Nazareth, days away from Judea. Why? The person of Mary was much more important than the City of David. God's priority was not the external environment of the holy city, but the blessed womb in which Jesus developed.

Gabriel's visit is shocking and greatly troubling to this young, lowly, unmarried woman. Everything Gabriel said was as incredible as she could possibly imagine. Yet, she immediately assents to God's will, saying, "May it be done to me according to your word" (Luke 1:38). It is Mary's faith and trust in the Lord that makes the incarnation possible. It is our faith and trust in God that continues to make Jesus' incarnation possible in today's world.

Question of the Week

How do I discern what God's will is? Am I willing to trust in God and follow God's will?



Registration Now Open for Diocesan Marriage Conference

The Diocese of St. Petersburg is partnering with the St. John Paul II Foundation to sponsor a special event for married couples titled, *Together in Holiness*.

This conference is designed to strengthen marriages and includes dynamic presentations, childcare, Mass, Adoration, Reconciliation, and more. Couples will learn the Seven Habits of a Healthy Marriage. This event will be held on Saturday, March 16, 2024, at the Cathedral of St. Jude the Apostle, St. Petersburg.

To register, visit forlifeandfamily.org/events/th24-spf

PRACTICING CATHOLIC - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

NEWS OF GREAT JOY

I am not going to wish you a Merry Christmas.

I have no problem with merriness, and I certainly hope you have your share of it this Christmas Season. May the frosting on your cookies be extra thick. May the lights of your tree be particularly twinkly. May the crackling of your fire be especially pleasant, and the places around your table filled by smiling loved ones. No, there is nothing wrong with being merry, especially on such a day.

But the angels did not bring news of great merriment. They brought news of great joy, and though our world often confuses the two, they are not the same thing.

Joy is harder to achieve than merriness, but it's easier to keep because it is far, far more durable. Joy can withstand the roughness of this earthly life in a way that merriness never could.

Merriness cannot live in the hearts of people whose plans have been upended, whose futures have been rearranged and whose very lives are in danger. But joy certainly can.

Merriness doesn't follow from a long and uncertain journey, with no reassurances except the steadfast belief that you are doing the will of God. But joy does.

Merriness does not shiver in a stable or hang on a cross. But joy can, and it has.

May you have a truly joyful Christmas.

"You have brought them abundant joy and great rejoicing..." — Isaiah 9:2

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

The **WIDOWS GROUP** will be meeting on Friday January 5th 2024, the first Friday of the month, after the 9 o'clock mass. Our Speaker this month will be Gary Joseph LeBlanc.

He will present his program on The Different Types of Dementia.

This is one meeting not to be missed!

After his presentation we will be having a lunch around noon at the Thousand Island Restaurant on Highway 19 in Spring Hill. See you at the Meeting!

IGNATIAN SPIRITUALITY GROUP

"Please join us at Ignatian Spirituality group. We meet every 2nd, 3rd and 4th Thursday at 6:00pm in the Deacon Lee Library. The Gospel for the following Sunday is read and the scriptures significance and personal interpretation is reviewed in a group discussion as well as how these readings impact our Spiritual growth. Do not miss this opportunity to spend time learning about the teachings of our Lord as well as improving our personal relationship with Jesus."

TO ALL CHILDREN WHO HAVE ATTENDED FIRST AND ARE CURRENTLY IN SECOND GRADE IN A CATHOLIC SCHOOL!!!! All children must receive Sacramental Preparation through their parish Sacramental Preparation Program. You must pre-register for our Spring Semester Program by January 8th to receive First Reconciliation and First Communion in the Spring. Classes begin on **January 10th** for Sacramental Preparation. NO EXCEPTIONS!



**Monday, January 1, 2024:
10:00 a.m. Mass
Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God.**



**Remember we are in the
Liturgical Christmas Season until January 7th.**



If you would like to donate to Fr. John Boshobora's ministry in Uganda, please write checks to: American Friends of the Father Bash Foundation, Inc.
(or abbreviate AFFBF, Inc.)
6525 Pine Meadows Drive - Spring Hill, FL 34606
Fr. Bosh uses these funds to support over 20,000 orphans in Uganda.



NYLON AMERICAN FLAGS ON SALE IN THE PARISH OFFICE!

These flags are manufactured by Annin and are the same flags that are raised and flown over the US Capital. These flags are the finest quality and fade resistant.
3'x5' \$20.00— 4' x 6' \$25— (Checks only please) Offered in the Parish Office for the Knights of Columbus, Fourth Degree Assembly 3603

CRS EMERGENCY RESPONSE TO CRISIS IN THE HOLY LAND

Catholic Relief Services (CRS) has been serving families in the Holy Land since 1961, and they are currently responding to the needs of those individuals and families in Gaza who have been displaced since the October 7th attack on Israel and subsequent retaliatory strikes on Gaza. For more information on how CRS is serving our brothers and sisters in the Holy Land, and for details on how to donate to the CRS relief efforts to them: support.crs.org/donate/holy-land-conflict, or 1-877-HELP-CRS or send check to: Catholic Relief Services, Holy Land Response—P.O. Box 5200, Harlan, IA 51593-0700

ST MARIA GORETTI SCHOLARSHIP

The St. Maria Goretti Scholarship is available to All active Catholic 12th Grade High School young women entering College or Vocational Training:



1st Scholarship prize \$1000.00

2nd Scholarship \$500.00

3rd Scholarship \$500.00

Visit spdccw.org to obtain Scholarship application and details. Under Events follow the link to St Maria Goretti Scholarship Forms and Information. Deadline for submission is March 1, 2024. Sponsored by the St Petersburg Diocesan Council of Catholic Women.

MISSION STATEMENT

The St. Petersburg Diocesan Council of Catholic Women acts through its members to support, empower, and educate all Catholic women in Spirituality, Leadership and Service. SPDCCW programs respond with Gospel values to the needs of the Church and Society in the modern world.

PLEASE CONSIDER ONLINE GIVING

Our parish is grateful for your continued support at this time. Go to our website: www.StJoanofarefl.com and click on Online Giving. Thank you.

STEWARDSHIP DONATIONS FOR DECEMBER 10

**Try tithing 10% for three months
and see how God blesses your life.**

Attendance: 812

Sunday Offertory: \$8580.70

Debt: \$244.00....Immaculate Conception: \$1114.00.

Retirement for Religious: \$445.00

Altar Flowers purchased in Memory of:



Cullen, Reece Ida
Rayborn, Joseph
Rayborn, James
Mundy, Richard
Marrero Children

Nelson, John Gwen
Schaubernbauer, Marcy
Walaas, Solveig
Walaas, Arnt Sr.
Walass, Arnt Jr.
DeRise Raffa, Marie
Montelione, Louis
Sachs, Ken and Ella
Norman, Bill and Fran
Flynn, Bob
Flynn, Wayne
Flynn, Wilson
Maureen and Kate
Page, Joseph
McCarrick, Robert and Dolores
McCarrick, Robert Jr.
Skineer, Roni
Smith, Buddy
Members Rohde Family
Holman, Fred
Morrow, Joe
Schenkel, Joe and Kate
Morrow, Alyssa
Diaz, Eliza
Morales, Domingo
Diaz, Cirilo
Hermanos Morales Diaz
Rizzo, Anthony
Flynn, Eugene "Gene"
Carville, Doris
Moynahan, Kathleen
Butterfield, Jackie
Lavalle, Ray
McElhinney, Edward
McElhinney, Lillian
Lavallee, Florence

Sciorra Family
Tonelli Family
Peters Family
Finnerty Family
Sunderland, John
Hennessy, Tom
Welshoff, Jerry and Anna
Keely, George
Dantoni Family
Hintz, Kenneth G.
Lorincz, Julianna
Pataki Family
Dwyer and White Families
Miller, Daniel
Miller, Mr and Mrs Pius
Pitlik, Barbara
Skinner, Bill and Loretta



Ducharme, Carol
Bartku, Nick
Gotty, Bill
Yeske Family
Nardi, Family
Lynch, Michael

Cassella, Jack
DeTrani, Thomas, C.
Wellman, Travis
Anderson, Carl
Anderson, Helen
Coady, Patrick
Mezzacapo Family
DeMartino Family
Walters, Martin Wallace
Syrocki, Stanley and Deloris
Syrocki, Matthew
Syrocki, MaryElles
Chapyak, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph
Grace, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas
Scannapieco, Susan
Johnson, Steve
Skinner, Roni
Dey, Daniel

*(This represents envelopes received into the
office by December 11th.)*

Thomas, Hank
Roswick, Phyllis
Mogavero, Al and Mary
Montemagno, John and Edith
Spagna, Josephine
Jones, Patricia
Quinn, Aldona
Leavy, Susan
Trepren, Chrisine
Hoeftler, John
Berry, James
Gormley, Martin
Almedina, Santos
Solivan, Miguel
Knight, Jim
Fernandez, Francisco and Haydee
Pacheco Souffront Family
Fernandez Family
Paddock, Rae and Joanna
Paddock, Harry and Ora
Waskieucicz, Joseph and Frances
Johnston, Jeff
Gonzalez, Felipe Sanchez
Rivera Ruiz, Eva
Jablonski, Richard
Jablonski and White Families
Lambraia, Bruno
Notaro, Assunta
Notaro, SanFolo
Corvino, Carmela
Carr, Kathy
DeLuca, Joseph
DeLuca, Mom and Dad
Russo, Mom and Dad
DeLuca, Bob
Dickinson, Ronald Sr
Barbara (wife)
DelVecchio, Anthony
Fanzo, Frank and Carol
Kolanz, Angela
Palumbo, Andrew J. II



READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 24, 2023

Sunday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29/Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:26-38
Monday: **Vigil:** Is 62:1-5/Ps 96: 1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14
Night: Is 9:1-6/Ps 96: 1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14
Day: Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14
Tuesday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17/Mt 10:17-22
Wednesday: 1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12/Jn 20:1a, 2-8
Thursday: 1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7cd-8/Mt 2:13-18
Friday: 1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6/Lk 2:22-35
Saturday: 1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10/Lk 2:36-40
Next Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 /Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 /Col 3:12-21 /Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40

OBSERVANCES WEEK OF DECEMBER 24, 2023

Sunday: 4th Sunday of Advent; Christmas Eve
Monday: The Nativity of the Lord
Tuesday: St. Stephen, First Martyr
Wednesday: St. John, Apostle and Evangelist
Thursday: The Holy Innocents, Martyrs
Friday: St. Thomas Becket, Bishop and Martyr
Sunday: The Holy Family; New Year's Eve

MONTHLY EVENTS

Choir Practice 5:30PM
4th Degree Knights 2nd Tuesday 2:00PM
Knights of Columbus Board 2nd Thursdays 2:00PM
Knights of Columbus Meeting 2nd Thursdays 7:00PM
Prayer Group in English every Thursday 6PM
Youth Group—every Wednesday 6:30-8:00PM
St. Vincent de Paul 2nd Monday 9:30AM

Adult Ed—Thursdays 1:00PM
RCIA—Sunday 9:00AM
Rosary Making - every Wednesday 9:30 AM
Estudio de la Biblia los lunes a las 6:00PM
Legionarias de María cada miércoles 9:30AM
Adoración los jueves 9:45AM
Adoration Thursdays at 6:00PM

MASS INTENTIONS JOIN IN PRAYER-DAILY ROSARY IN THE CHURCH BEGINNING AT 8:25 AM—MON-FRI

SATURDAY DECEMBER 23

9:00 AM † For the Souls in Purgatory
req by Barbara

4:00 PM † Leah Wellman
req by Cylann & Dom

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT DECEMBER 24

8:00 AM For Our Parish Community

9:30 AM † Mary Colon req by Loving Family

11:00 AM † Theodore and Mary Ann Statuto
req by Loving Family

CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES

4:00 PM † Ralph Johnson req by Val

10:00PM For Our Parish Community

MONDAY, DECEMBER 25— Jesus' Birthday

10:00 AM † Fr. Ray O'Neil

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 26

9:00 AM † Bill and Annette Gross
req by loving friend Val

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 27

9:00 AM † Victoria Southard req by Cathy Sponton

THURSDAY DECEMBER 28

9:00 AM † Shirley Wilcox req by her friend, Lean

FRIDAY DECEMBER 29

9:00 AM † Michael Lovelock req by MaryJo

SATURDAY DECEMBER 30

9:00 AM Happy 65th Anniversary to
Raul & Dolores Vilar

4:00 PM † Victor Manuel Ruiz Ardila req by
Theresa Rojas

SUNDAY DECEMBER 31

8:00 AM † Robert Gaudette req by Norm and Robyn

9:30 AM For Our Parish Community

11:00 AM † David Robert Bounds req by Kathy

MONDAY JANUARY 1—**Mary, Holy Mother of God**

9:00 AM † Paul Sirois req by his wife Anne

PARISH STAFF

Pastor Rev. Patrick Rebel
Asst. Priests: Rev. Edward Reiter
..... Rev. Michael Kouts
..... Rev. Dennis Kaelin

Deacons: Deacon Jose Cruz
..... Deacon Tom Casey
Deacon Jose Cruz
Pastoral Consultant Mark McGovern

Business Manager Melinda Pataki
Director of Faith Formation Mary Jo Waggoner
..... FFofficesjao@gmail.com
Director of Junior High and Youth Ministry Nancy Lovelock
..... Sjao-youth@tampabay.rr.com
Director of Music Joyce Thorpe
..... Sjoaorganist@gmail.com

SACRAMENTS

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION
Saturday: 10:00 am-11:00 am or by appointment.

BAPTISM FOR CHILDREN
Please call the Parish Office to pre-register. (352) 688-0663.
Workshop is 3rd Tuesday of the Month at 6pm.

MATRIMONY If you are contemplating marriage at St. Joan of Arc Church, please be mindful that there is a six month, prior Notice Request, required.

PARISH INFORMATION

OFFICE EMAIL
Sjao-office@tampabay.rr.com

BULLETIN EMAIL sjao-bulletin@tampabay.rr.com

FAITH FORMATION & YOUTH MINISTRY
FFofficesjao@gmail.com & Sjao-youth@tampabay.rr.com

RCIA/RCIC
Rite Initiation into the Catholic Faith

“IN HIS FOOTSTEPS” SOUP & SANDWICH LUNCH
Served in our Parish Family Hall the 4th Thursday of each month from Noon-2:00 pm & on 2nd Thursdays lunches are delivered to our homebound.

MARY & MARTHA’S GIFT SHOP
SjaoGiftShop@gmail.com
Saturday 3:30 pm-5:30 pm
Sunday 7:00 am-12:30 pm
Wednesdays 9:30 am-10:30 am
Closed during all Masses.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY
(352) 556-3670

NOTRE DAME CATHOLIC SCHOOL
(352) 683-0755
www.ndcsfl.org