



Blessed Trinity

Weekend Magazine

Over 60 YEARS COURAGEOUSLY *Living the Gospel*

December 18, 2022 ▪ The Fourth Sunday of Advent

Advent is a time to evangelize and proclaim the joy of Christmas



God sent angels to tell the shepherds a Savior had been born. Today He sends us.

Christmas has been so reclaimed by a godless world that a growing number of our contemporaries have forgotten its origin. Certainly, the Nativity scene gives them a general idea, but they do not know that this little child lying in a simple manger has come to bring them the love and joy they desperately seek.

Instead of bringing hope, Christmas time for so many is an opportunity to feel even more acutely the emptiness of an existence without ideals, the weight of loneliness, bitterness over the lack of money, and disgust with oneself and others.

We cannot resign ourselves to the materialistic usurpation of Christmas. We are responsible for our brethren; we are responsible for the Gospel that the Lord has entrusted to us. We must evangelize. It is not optional, it is a duty. And it is especially so in this time of Advent. God sent angels to the shepherds to tell them that a Savior had been born. Today He is sending us.

“I am sending you like sheep among wolves” (Mt 10:16). Jesus warned us. So let’s not be surprised when we are misunderstood, mocked or scorned. Let’s not worry about the obstacles that arise to discourage our evangelizing zeal: in a way, this is a rather good sign. The Evil One does not like joy and seeks by all means to prevent us from spreading it. Evangelizing has never been easy, but if the Lord asks us, He will give us the means to do so. Let us trust Him.

Announcing the joy of Christmas is first of all about living it and sharing it.

How can the world believe in the Good News of Christmas if Christians, like others, are mired in their own worries, monopolized by the race for money and material goods, more concerned about what food is on their plate than about the fate of their neighbor? During this time of Advent, let us ask ourselves what the meaning of Christmas is for us. **What is the true essence of Christmas? What does this essence change, or what should it change, in our lives?** These weeks leading up to Christmas are offered as an opportunity for conversion. If we do not enter fully into the mystery of Christmas, we will not be able to evangelize.

It is up to each family to find ways to do this: make a Christmas Eve meal for an elderly neighbor, call distant relatives or friends (a phone call can be a very beautiful Christmas gift), or make Christmas cards or small gifts (cakes, bars, cookies) to give someone who lives alone.

The first ones to we have to announce the joy of Christmas to are our children.

Announcing the joy of Christmas is also a reminder that, in time and beyond time, God became man to save us from evil and death, that Santa Claus is only a legendary character while Jesus is real, that He is alive today, that the Christmas story is not a beautiful past legend but a message of Good News that is still relevant today.

Continued on page 2



PASTOR

Rev. Wayne C. Genereux

DEACONS

Deacon Bill Lovelace
Deacon Lionel Roberts,
Deacon Emeritus

CLERGY ASSISTANCE

Fr. Jack McDowell, OFM
Fr. Anthony Fortunato, OdeM
Fr. Victor Bartolotta

MASS SCHEDULE

Weekday Masses

Monday - Saturday 8:00 AM

Weekend Masses

Saturday Vigil at 4:00 PM

Sunday

8:00 AM, 9:30 AM & 11:30 AM

Follow the Sunday Mass on our
website, btsp.org.

Confessions will be held
Saturdays 2:45-3:45

PARISH OFFICE

Monday—Friday 9-12 and 1-4
Closed for Lunch Noon to 1 pm
1600 54TH AVE S.
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FAX

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... Continued from cover

If a child has found the right words to announce the joy of Christmas, if he has kept the wonder of his childhood around this feast, it is because he has experienced real Christmas with his family, centered on the essential, where the joy came neither from the sumptuousness of the gifts, nor from the huge meal of Christmas Eve, nor from the expectation of Santa Claus.

The first ones we have to announce the joy of Christmas to are our children: let us prepare for them and with them a beautiful Christmas celebration so that they may discover, through the little human joys, the joy of God.

Christine Ponsard

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December Events at Blessed Trinity

Sunday, December 18

Pancake Breakfast

After 8:00am Mass

Breakfast with Santa

After 9:30 Mass

Children's Christmas Matinee

12 Noon

Parish Hall

Parish Hall

Parish Hall

Wednesday, December 21

Gathering of Women's Christmas Party

2:30pm – 5:00pm

Parish Hall

Saturday, December 24

Morning Mass of Advent

8:00am

Children's Christmas Vigil Mass

4:00pm

Christmas Mass of the Night

9:00pm

Church

Church

Church

Sunday, December 25

Christmas Masses

8:00am, 9:30am, 11:30am

Church

Saturday, December 31

Vigil Mass – Holy Mary Mother of God

4:00pm

Church



December 18, 2022

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Is 7:10-14 | Rom 1:1-7 | Mt 1:18-24

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

In our family's department-store Nativity set, Joseph blends into the background: Mary and the infant Jesus steal the scene, she in her blue robes and looking over the sweet, tiny and vulnerable Son of God. Even the Magi stand out more than humble Joseph. Yet today's Gospel focuses on Jesus' earthly father, whom many of us Catholics grew to know a little better during the Year of St. Joseph in 2021. Imagine Joseph's shock at learning Mary was pregnant! Rather than quietly divorcing her, he accepts the angel's words at face value: "For it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." Joseph takes Mary into his home and embraces her and the child Jesus she bears. As we celebrate this fourth Sunday of Advent, we can all do well to follow Joseph and Mary's example by saying "yes" to God, even though it may turn our lives upside down. We can dust off our Nativity scenes and ask the Lord to help us prepare our hearts and homes for Jesus.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

I remember our first trip to the pediatrician with our newborn. Our job as parents, he said in so many words, was to raise him so that he'd be ready to leave us at 18. As our youngest approaches that milestone, I'm having a hard time letting go. In his apostolic letter *Patris Corde*, Pope Francis holds up St. Joseph as an example of what it means to be a father (and I think this applies to mothers, too): "Every child is the bearer of a unique mystery that can only be brought to light with the help of a father who respects that child's freedom. A father who realizes that he is most a father and 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. When he becomes like Joseph, who always knew that his child was not his own but had merely been entrusted to his care." Joseph and Mary loved Jesus in this way, accepting that Jesus did not "belong" to them but to all of us. Whether or not we are parents, we can learn from their example, entrusting our lives and those of our loved ones to God. As St. Paul reminds us, we "belong to Jesus Christ."

ACTION "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel, which means 'God is with us.'" As you light the Advent candles or say evening prayers this week, reflect on the ways Jesus has made his presence known to you today and give thanks.



Figure 1: Annunciation by Giovanni Veronese, 1661. CC BY 2.0, via Wikimedia Commons



Are You Hoping to Receive One of the Seven Sacraments With Us?

Matrimony

Congratulations on your engagement! Every Diocese in Florida requires at least six months preparation before marriage. Please call our Pastor, Fr. Wayne Genereux, at the Parish Office for an appointment before setting a date.

Baptism

We are honored that you would like to choose Blessed Trinity Catholic Church for the baptism of your child! We ask that you please call our Pastor, Fr. Wayne Genereux, at the Parish Office for information regarding the pre-baptism class before scheduling a baptism.

Office Hours

Monday—Friday 9-12 and 1-4
Closed for Lunch Noon to 1 pm

Mass Intentions

Saturday, December 17, Advent Weekday

4:00 p.m. Lucy Beddoe (Dec)

Sunday, December 18, Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:00 a.m. Claude & Leda Dutilly (Dec)

9:30 a.m. Mass for Parishioners

11:30 a.m. Marlene Romani (Dec)

Monday, December 19, Advent Weekday

8:00 a.m. Marina Vasquez (Dec)

Tuesday, December 20, Advent Weekday

8:00 a.m. William Isaac (Dec)

Wednesday, December 21, Memorial of Saint Peter Canisius, Priest and Doctor of the Church

8:00 a.m. Mass for Vocations

Thursday, December 22, Advent Weekday

8:00 a.m. Merlene & Lionel Roberts
60th Wedding Anniversary

Friday, December 23, Memorial of Saint John of Kanty, Priest

8:00 a.m. Lyliane Corvington (Dec)

Saturday, December 24, Advent Weekday

8:00 a.m. Kristin Boss (Dec)

4:00 p.m. Ron Bento (Dec)

9:00 p.m. Fr. John Cardinal Patrick Foley (Dec)

Sunday, December 25, The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)

8:00 a.m. Young & King Families (Dec)

9:30 a.m. Mass for Parishioners

11:30 a.m. Viola & Marlene Romani (Dec)

Prayer for Priests & Future Priests

Eternal Father, We lift up to you these and all the priests of the world. Sanctify them, heal and guide them. Mold them into the likeness and holiness of your Son Jesus, the Eternal High Priest. May their lives be pleasing to you. In Jesus name, we pray. Amen.

12/18 • Rev. Charles Nkafu

12/19 • Rev. Phillip Scott

12/20 • Rev. Louis G. Turcotte

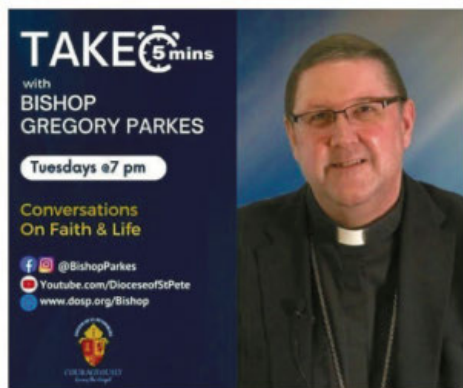
12/21 • For Vocations to Priesthood & Religious Life

12/22 • Austin Smith, Seminarian

12/23 • Msgr. Joseph Pellegrino

12/24 • Rev. Jose George

These are the names of the active priests and seminarians in our Diocese. Remember our Bishop has designated Wednesdays as Diocesan Day of Prayer for Vocations. Please continue to pray that more young people will hear and answer God's call to the Priesthood and Religious Life.



Marriage Jubilee



of marriage during the 2023 calendar year.

Please RSVP to our parish office at (727) 867-3663 by Tuesday, January 17 if you will be attending.



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For those wishing to contribute towards the Altar flowers, you may do so in one of two ways:

1. Use the Christmas Flowers Envelope included in your envelope packet.
2. Complete this form and return it to the office with your donation.

The names of the donors will be listed in the bulletin. **Deadline for inclusion of your name in the Christmas bulletin is Monday, December 19.**

The names listed for remembrance and honor will be placed on the altar.

Please Check One:

☐ In Honor of

☐ In Memory of

Donor's Name: _____

Donation Amount: \$ _____

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

St. Joseph the Steward

St. Joseph is one of the greatest examples of stewardship we have in the Gospels. Here is a man who understands care and reverence for the property of God, a man chosen to be steward over the very life and breath of God's Son and Spouse.

Joseph was mindful. He recognized what belonged to God. When he understood that Mary was to be the mother of God, he was not jealous or bitter. He did not presume to claim ownership over her.

Joseph was prayerful. He accepted the opportunity to be in relationship with God, even if it was in a radical and unexpected way. How many of us would trust a crazy dream we have where an angel tells us our fiancée is carrying the Son of God? Well, those of us who are already profoundly connected to God through prayer. Joseph was open to receiving God, and so he was open to the truth in a way many of us would not have been.

Joseph was gracious. Even before he had full understanding of the situation, he was unwilling to expose Mary to shame. He did not give himself over to feelings of betrayal.

Joseph was committed. He persevered. The Lord had no shortage of strange and even dangerous-sounding tasks for Joseph, but he submitted to each one.

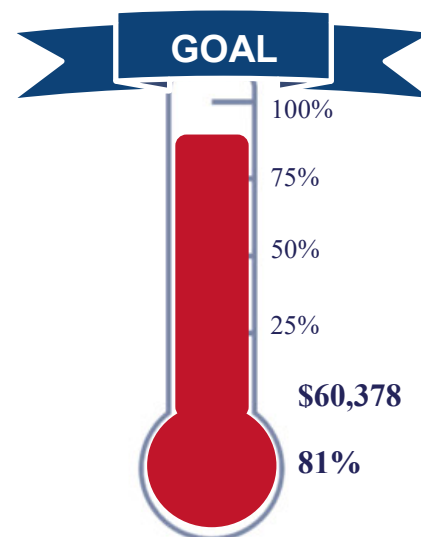
Joseph was accountable. When he awoke from his dream, "he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him, and took his wife into his home."

Joseph was a man entrusted with many gifts, and he gave of them wisely. Let us pray that we have the grace to follow in his example.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS ©LPi



Our Goal \$74,741



Thank you for your prayerful giving!

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For questions, contact the Diocese of St. Petersburg Campaign Office at stock-iradonations@dosp.org or 727.341.6841.

Living as a Disciple Takes Courage
We got this!

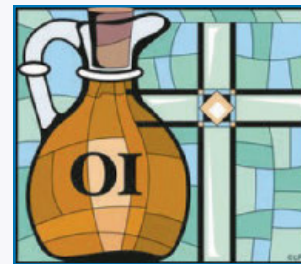
- Join our Scripture Reflection community!
- Receive a personal message each day via email or text.
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- Written by people you probably know, including priests, sisters, deacons, and parishioners.

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or text REFLECTION to 84576

A Service of the Diocese of St. Petersburg & Bishop Gregory Parkes

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Catel, Martha
Christ, Kathryn
Comeau, Teresa
Congui, Mario
Curtis, Sherlyl
Daniels, Joshua
DeZarn, Vickie
Feltes, Chuck & Lauren
Ferrara, Antoinette
Fitzgerald, Dan
Forbes, Monica & Tom
Genereux, Carol
Gosselin, Norman
Grimberg, Carol
Hawkins, Ashlyn
Hawkins, Barbara
Heilman, Rita
Helbig, Len
Hoffman, Bette
Holley, Gerry
Huff, Walt & Carole
Irvin, John and Marsha
Kindel, Helen
Kirchgessner, Marie

Kiroufis, Linda
Lanigan, John
Lashley, Diana
Lawler, Matthew
LeVan, George
Lewis, Cynthia
Maharne, Cecile
Manley, Jan
Manley, Paul
Membreno, Mary & Gus
Mesick, Phil & Nancy
Oliphant, Brian
Parmigiani, George
Parmigiani, Valerie
Preeper, Helen
Privitera, Sandy
Privitera, Peter
Roberts, Deacon Lionel
Romani, Angelo
Shelby, Ron & Montez
Stankiewicz, Cy
Theissen, Robert
Thompson, Susan E.
Thuline, James and Lil
Vanderbeck, Jay
Walsh, Thomas
Wanize, Tom
Youngman, Ruth



Anointing of the Sick

To request the Anointing of the Sick for yourself or a loved one, please contact the parish office, 727-867-3663.

If you or a close family member would like to be added or removed from our prayer list, please contact the parish office at 727-867-3663.



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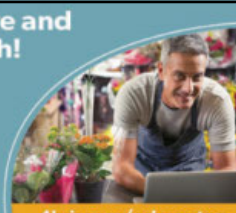
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