



# Blessed Trinity

## Weekend Magazine

Over 60 YEARS COURAGEOUSLY *Living the Gospel*

December 25, 2022 ▪ The Nativity of the Lord

*Christ the Savior fills our hearts with peace  
and gives us hope for a troubled world.*





### 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](http://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.  
ST. PETERSBURG, FL 33712

### PHONE

(727) 867-3663

### FAX

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### WEB SITE

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## Christmas highlights Jesus' personal love for you

By Philip Kosloski



*Jesus loved you so much that he came into this world as a little child.*

Why did Jesus come into this world? Have you ever thought that **he came into this world for you, in a personal way**, that he had you in his mind?

We don't always remember that Jesus didn't simply come into this world for all of us in a general way, but more importantly, **he was born in a stable for each one of us in a personal way**. He knew about us and chose to suffer so that we might have life.

St. Francis de Sales reflects on this kind of personal love in his book, *Introduction to the Devout Life*.

*Be sure, my daughter, that **the Heart of our most Dear Lord beheld you ... and loved you**, and by that Love He won for you all good things which you were ever to have, and amongst them your good resolutions.*

Jesus knew us before we were even born and called us by name, doing everything on earth for our salvation.

*Of a truth we have all reason like Jeremiah to confess that **the Lord knew us, and called us by our name ere ever we were born, the more that His Divine Goodness in its Love and Mercy made ready all things, general and individual, which could promote our salvation.***

We should never forget that God loves us individually, not simply part of a large mass of human beings.

*Surely we ought ever to remember this, and ask fervently: **Is it possible that I was loved, and loved so tenderly by my Savior, that He should have thought of me individually, and in all these details by which He has drawn me to Himself?** With what love and gratitude ought I to use all He has given me?*

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December 25, 2022

## The Nativity of the Lord

Is 52:7-10 | Heb 1:1-6 | Jn 1:1-18

Written by  
THE  
FAITHFUL  
DISCIPLE

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

The day we have been awaiting has arrived: Christ is born! All of our Christmas preparations – wrapping gifts and preparing holiday meals to be shared among family and friends – are meant to glorify and reflect God’s own work for and in us. That is, God’s greatest gift of himself, clothed in mortal flesh, who would one day offer himself as the bread of life: “The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.” Jesus came to the world in the form of the most helpless of us all, a newborn infant, so that through him we would be reconciled to the Father, for “to those who did accept him he gave power to become children of God.” We celebrate the Incarnation of the Lord, for Christ is our salvation! It is through Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit that we are adopted into God’s family and receive the fullness of his grace. The fullness of God’s truth is revealed in Jesus Christ. “The Lord has made his salvation known”; “he has spoken to us through the Son.” Let us give thanks and rejoice this day!

### GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

The Good News of Jesus Christ is not meant to be kept to ourselves. Today’s Gospel reading reminds us that John the Baptist testified to the light of Christ before Christ had yet publicly appeared. Sharing the Good News is not optional! Even the earth proclaims the Good News in Isaiah, “announcing salvation, and saying to Zion, ‘Your God is King!’” Indeed, Christ the King – God in human flesh – has arrived. Just as John was sent before the Lord to proclaim his coming, so are we charged: Sent out to the world to go and announce the Gospel of the Lord, “so that all might believe.”

**WITNESS** How might you go out and proclaim the coming of the Lord? Don’t forget: sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ isn’t limited just to speaking to others. It includes *living* as Christ did – feeding the hungry, caring for the sick and the poor, defending the helpless – because we are Christ’s body in the world.



## **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 24, Advent Weekday**

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)

### **Monday, December 26, Feast of St. Stephen, First Martyr**

8:00 a.m. Gerald Hayman (Dec)

### **Tuesday, December 27, Feast of St. John, Apostle and Evangelist**

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

### **Wednesday, December 28, Feast of Holy Innocents, Martyrs**

8:00 a.m. Mass for Vocations  
Helen Fegley Murray (Dec)

### **Thursday, December 29, Fifth Day in the Octave of Christmas**

8:00 a.m. Gary Romani (Dec)

### **Friday, December 30, Feast of The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph**

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

### **Saturday, December 31, Seventh Day in the Octave of Christmas**

8:00 a.m. Kristin Boss (Dec)  
4:00 p.m. Christopher Boss (Liv)

### **Sunday, January 1, Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God**

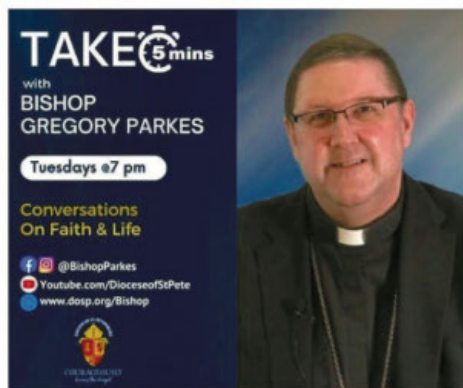
8:00 a.m. Maria Williams (Dec)  
9:30 a.m. Mass for Parishioners  
11:30 a.m. Betty Alexander (Dec)

## **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.

12/25 • Christmas  
12/26 • Rev. Michael O'Brien  
12/27 • Rev. Tim Cummings  
12/28 • For Vocations to Priesthood & Religious Life  
12/29 • Rev. Gregory Andrews  
12/30 • Rev. Carlos Rojas  
12/31 • Rev. Brendan Muldoon

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



The Marriage Jubilee Mass of Thanksgiving will take place at the Cathedral of St. Jude the Apostle on Sunday, February 12 at 3:00 pm. This event honors couples throughout the diocese who will celebrate their 25th anniversary as well as those celebrating 50 or more years

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.

## St. Stephen | Feast Day December 26

The Acts of the Apostles tells the story of St. Stephen, the first Christian martyr. A man filled with grace and power, he worked great wonders among the people. Some Jews debated with St. Stephen but could not match his wisdom and spirit. Eventually, a charge of blasphemy was brought up against him, and the local population demanded that he be tried and sentenced. He was seized and carried before the Sanhedrin. Despite the danger he faced, in front of the Sanhedrin and his accusers, St. Stephen gave a long speech about the history of Israel and the blessings that God had given upon His chosen people. He talked about how Israel had become disobedient despite God's abundant mercy. This enraged his accusers, and eventually the crowd dragged him out of the city and stoned him to death.

Even in his final moments, St. Stephen displayed great forgiveness and even asked God not to hold the sins of his attackers against them. Hundreds of years after his death, he is still a role model for us to follow.

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Text BTSP to 84576 or connect with us online at [btsp.flocknote.com](https://btsp.flocknote.com)



## EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

### Being the Sign

I think the real challenge of evangelization in the modern age is the reality that pretty much everyone has already heard of Jesus Christ — or, at least, they think they have.

To our 21st-century eyes, the angel who shared news of the birth of Jesus with the shepherds had an easy job. All he had to do was announce it.

Our baptism compels us to do the same — to announce the coming of Christ over and over again, always and everywhere. But our audience is not a group of illiterate shepherds in ancient Judea. Our audience is a world that has heard so much about Jesus they often claim weariness of his name. So how do we do it? If we walk into a crowd of strangers and tell them we want to talk about Jesus, their reaction will probably be either “I already know about Jesus, thanks,” or “I’ve heard of him, and based on the behavior of those who claim to follow him, I’m really not interested in hearing more.”

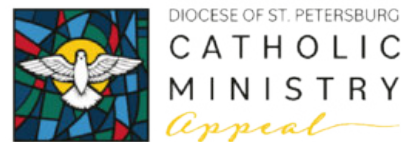
Because in the end, our very lives are how we “announce his salvation” in the present day. We announce it in our actions to strangers. We announce it in our treatment of people who have wronged us. We announce it in our interactions with those who disagree with us.

How long had the coming of the Messiah been foretold to the Israelites? So long that, no doubt, many of them despaired of his coming altogether. So, God had to give them a sign: “You will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.”

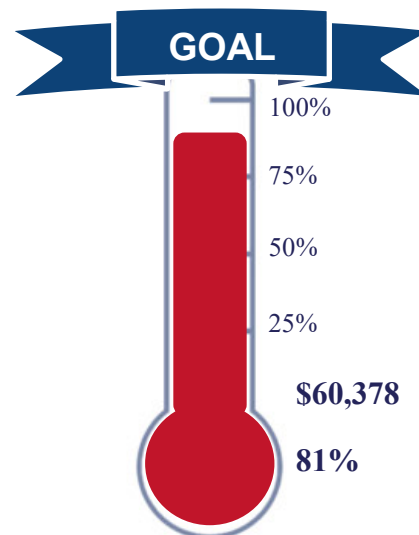
Now we are the sign.

The world has heard of Christ by now. But have they all seen him? It’s our job to show them.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS ©LPi



**Our Goal \$74,741**



**Thank you for your prayerful giving!**

### Need a tax break?

Congress has permanently enacted qualified charitable distributions from your traditional IRA accounts for those 70 1/2 or older. These distributions can be used to satisfy all or a portion of your *Required Minimum Distribution* and are free of federal income tax. Also, these gifts help you avoid the Medicare high income surcharge and can help reduce your income taxes on your social security benefits. Distributions must be made *directly* from your IRA account to your parish, or *directly* from your IRA account to the Diocese of St. Petersburg for the benefit of your parish.

For questions, contact the Diocese of St. Petersburg Campaign Office at [stock-iradonations@dosp.org](mailto:stock-iradonations@dosp.org) or 727.341.6841.

**Living as a Disciple Takes Courage**  
**We got this!**

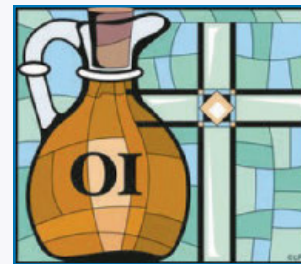
- Join our Scripture Reflection community!
- Receive a personal message each day via email or text.
- Includes a prayer intention and question of the day.
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**SIGN UP:**  
[BeCourageousEachDay.org](http://BeCourageousEachDay.org)  
or text REFLECTION to 84576

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

Arnold, Barbara  
Barr, Bill  
Brown, Bob & Beverly  
Cameron, Christopher  
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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