

Dear Padre,

I haven't been to Mass in a long time, but lately I feel drawn to come again. Can you help me better understand the Mass?

Welcome home! To learn more about the Mass, you might consider participating in your parish's program for those who are thinking about joining the Catholic Church. Meanwhile, we can offer five principles that form the foundation for what happens at Mass.

Participation rather than passive attendance: Mass is a time of prayerful activity—listening intently, praying fervently, reflecting quietly, singing and worshipping joyfully.

Gratitude for God's mercy as we acknowledge our sinfulness: There are several occasions during Mass when we are called to acknowledge that we sin, but also that mercy and forgiveness are offered freely to all who acknowledge their imperfections and sinful behavior.

Word and sacrament: The liturgy comprises the Liturgy of the Word (penitential act, Scripture readings, homily, and prayers of the faithful) and the Liturgy of the Eucharist (presentation of gifts, eucharistic prayer, and Communion rite). Both are important.

Christ's Real Presence: Under the forms of bread and wine (the Eucharist), the Real Presence of Christ retains a prominent place in the Mass. Christ is also present—in different ways—in the words of Scripture, in the presence of the priest, and in the assembly gathered in his name.

A celebration of family and community: Jesus fostered a sense of family among his disciples. Parish liturgies should be a time when young and old, rich and poor, families and single people join together to experience unity in Christ Jesus. ●



SHUTTERSTOCK

The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org

MONDAY

December 26
*St. Stephen,
First Martyr*
Acts 6:8–10;
7:54–59
Mt 10:17–22

TUESDAY

December 27
*St. John,
Apostle and
Evangelist*
1 Jn 1:1–4
Jn 20:1a, 2–8

WEDNESDAY

December 28
*Holy Innocents,
Martyrs*
1 Jn 1:5–2:2
Mt 2:13–18

THURSDAY

December 29
Christmas Weekday
1 Jn 2:3–11
Lk 2:22–35

FRIDAY

December 30
*Holy Family of
Jesus, Mary, and
Joseph*
Sir 3:2–6, 12–14 or
Col 3:12–21 or
Col 3:12–17
Mt 2:13–15, 19–23

SATURDAY

December 31
Christmas Weekday
1 Jn 2:18–21
Jn 1:1–18

SUNDAY

January 1, 2023
*Blessed Virgin Mary,
the Mother of God*
Nm 6:22–27
Gal 4:4–7
Lk 2:16–21

Daybreaks inspires during our Church's holiest seasons.

Leading Catholic voices inspire the faithful with daily reflections & prayers for Advent and Lent. Including: Fr. Ron Rolheiser, Dr. Mary Katharine Deeley, Sr. Dianne Bergant, Fr. Paul Turner, and more at Liguori.org.



CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

The great mystery of our faith is shown in this simple sign of the Nativity scene....God loves us to the point of sharing our humanity and our lives. He never leaves us alone; he accompanies us with his hidden, but not invisible, presence. In all circumstances, in joy as in pain, he is the Emmanuel, God-with-us.

HOMILY, SHRINE OF GRECCIO, RIETE, ITALY, DECEMBER 1, 2019



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The Jesus Stories of Christmastime

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

Every year, pundits lament the glitter of our commercialized Christmases. Beneath all such trappings, however, our cultural Christmases are really disguised and unrecognized celebrations of God-made-flesh.

"'Twas the night before Christmas and all through the house, not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse" is really the story of a Santa-type God who slips into our lives with great generosity, though we seldom notice as we go through life half asleep. "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" is about a misfit reindeer with a "wrong-colored" nose who is rejected by the other reindeer and not welcomed into their games. But then he becomes the means of saving a foggy Christmas Eve with his shining light of a nose. Rudolph is like the stone rejected by the builders that becomes the cornerstone—Jesus, who saves us not only at Christmas but all year long. Frosty the Snowman brings happiness to boys and girls for a time, but then he begins to melt, only to promise he'll come again another day—all a hint of the hope offered by Jesus, who continues to come in resurrection and life. And Ebenezer Scrooge, whose withered and crusty spirit is transformed into generosity and love in *A Christmas Carol*, all without his ever realizing what is taking place until, of course, it happens. Then he proclaims he will honor Christmas in his heart the whole year long—a transformation that God brings about in each of us. Christmas celebrates God-made-flesh in Jesus, something that took place then and echoes now for all of time and in all of life. ●

Reflect

How do you experience God-made-flesh during these Christmas days?





St. Joseph Neier

Rev. Thomas J. Wissler, Pastor

December
24 & 25
2022

Weekday: 6:30am

Saturday: 5:00pm

Sunday: 8:00am & 10:00am

Confessions – Saturday

4:00pm – 4:40pm

Office: 636.583.2806

Website: stjosephneier.com

Email: parishoffice@stjosephneier.com

Father Tom's Cell: 636.744.5587

Sarah's Cell: 314.808.0337



From Fr. Tom,

Merry Christmas everybody! May you all have a blessed and glorious day and a very holy Christmas Season. Far from the trappings of a traditional Christmas with Santa, the elves, and the other “things” that define this secular holiday we celebrate the most significant birth that will ever happen in this world. Jesus Christ, the Son of God being who and what He is has changed the face of sinfulness in our world into the tremendous possibility of forgiveness and the chance for eternal life with God. Now THAT is something to celebrate! Out of the absolute lowliness of Jesus' birth comes the greatest of all events in human history. At first glance, the circumstances surrounding the first Christmas in Bethlehem do not suggest anything great, royal, or beautiful, on the contrary. They suggest an anonymous, unclean, rather disgusting environment for a human birth. Just compare the reality of Jesus' birth place to the pristine, ultra-clean birthing centers of our modern day hospitals! But real Beauty, which is the reflection of God's own self, rarely begins with surface glow and sparkle, but time reveals Divine Beauty in its fullness, hence the newborn king, Jesus Christ. To view this in a different way, imagine who would win a beauty contest between Miss America and St. Mother Theresa of Calcutta? Let's all thank God for sending His beloved Son today on His birthday! God bless you.



Please pray for those who are sick in our parish and families:

Betty Bean
Shirley Beckman
Anna Marie Brueggemann
Peggy Collins
Chris Elbert
Cynthia Faust
Zachery Goosage
Benny Hammer
Andrew Hellebusch
Marcia Herbst
Brandon Huels
Kevin Gibbons
Olivia Jasper
Rick Just

Get
Well
Soon

Alisha Koelling
Marcus Lowe
Jacob McMullin
Jean Oldavi
Frank Rice
Alice Rolf
Ashley Shelton
Marcia Shollenberger
Courtney Smith
Dan Snelling
Special Intention
George West
Sr. Georgiann Wildhaber, SSND
Sheri Zambruski



Please pray for those serving our country:

Adam Amato
Matthew Blankenship
Jamie Brueggemann
Murphy
Andy Davis
Taylor Donner
Emily Guenther

Caleb Logsdon
Michael Miller
Michael Murphy
Reese Pellin
Sam Smith
Owen Struckhoff
Luke Stuesse

Thank you for your generosity!

**Donations for General Fund
December 12 – 18, 2022**

Regular Offering Envelopes: (71)	\$	4,038.00
Regular Offering Loose:	\$	87.00
Christmas: (2)	\$	45.00
Immaculate Conception: (2)	\$	7.00
Rental Income: (1)	\$	75.00
Online Giving*:	(11) \$	445.00
Total:	\$	4,697.00

*With Transaction Fees Removed.
(Number of Contributors)



**Tithes &
Offerings**
*Giving Back
to God*

**Thank you for your
generosity!**

**Donations for Restricted
Funds: December 12 – 18**

- Capital Maintenance & Preservation (2)
\$52.00
- Catholic Education (4+2*)
\$95.70
*Online Giving
- Christmas Flowers (1)
\$20.00
- Seminary (1)
\$600.00

**December
"General Fund"
Collections**

December 4, 2022
\$5,165.02

December 11, 2022
\$3,521.43

December 18, 2022
\$4,697.00

December 25, 2022
\$ TBD

Christmas Mass Schedule

**5:00PM MASS
SATURDAY,
DECEMBER 24TH**
Mass Intention
MELVIN BRUNE
Lector
MICHELLE YOUNG
Eucharistic Ministers
THERESA
STRAATMANN
JO NOELKER

**12:00AM MASS
SUNDAY,
DECEMBER 25TH**
Mass Intention
ED & IRENE STUESSE
Lector
KAREN CERLEMANN
Eucharistic Ministers
KATHY FETH
DIANE SCHMIDT

**8:00AM MASS
SUNDAY,
DECEMBER 25TH**
Mass Intention
LOUIS BOLZENIUS
Lector
JIM & CHRIS BLOCK
Eucharistic Ministers
CATHIE GRUS
JEANNE DIERKING



**10:00AM MASS
SUNDAY,
DECEMBER 25TH**
Mass Intention
PARISH FAMILY
Lector
VIOLA SCHROEDER
Eucharistic Ministers
CHRISTINE BAKER
PATTI GREIFE

Regular Mass Schedule

**5:00PM MASS
SATURDAY,
DECEMBER 31ST**
Mass Intention
VIRGINIA, ARTHUR,
DENNIS & KAREN VOSS
Lector
JIM NOELKER
Eucharistic Ministers
JO NOELKER
KATHY FETH

**8:00AM MASS
SUNDAY,
JANUARY 1ST**
Mass Intention
REV. ROBERT
BANKEN
Lector
MICHELLE YOUNG
Eucharistic Ministers
DELORES SWOBODA
DENNIS RANDOLPH

**10:00AM MASS
SUNDAY,
JANUARY 1ST**
Mass Intention
PARISH FAMILY
Lector
PATTI GREIFE
Eucharistic Ministers
JEFF BAKER
VOLUNTEER

**6:30AM MASS
MASS INTENTIONS
NO MASS ON MONDAY**

**TUESDAY,
DECEMBER 27TH
NO MASS**

**WEDNESDAY,
DECEMBER 28TH
NO MASS**

**THURSDAY,
DECEMBER 29TH
BETTY UNNERSTALL**

**FRIDAY,
DECEMBER 30TH
WILLIAM & IDA SCHROEDER**



Other Donors

Tom & Jessica Cronin

Daniel & Anna Donner

Michael & Shelly Wilson



Thank you!!

*Wishing you
and your family many
Christmas Blessings
this year!*



*In Loving Memory Of
those God
has in His arms,
and we have in
our hearts...*

In Loving Memory Of

Deceased Members of the Adams Family

Thomas Adams Sr.

Tommy Jr. & Tonya Adams

Donated by:
Dennis Adams

Bonnie Birke

Paul & Pauline Birke

Gus, Sally & Mark Bolzenius

John Eckstein

Donated by:
Rich Birke

Louis Bolzenius

Charles & Mary Lou Herberholz

Donated by:
Marvin & Diana Bolzenius

Helene, John & Don Boschert

Gen Butler

Charlotte, Patrick, Matthew & Gary Hellmann

Ervin Hellman

Donated by:
Dale & Susie Boschert

Louis Bolzenius

James & Dorothy Doerr Family

Donated by:
Val & Brenda Bolzenius

Ray Brueggemann Family

Al Miesner Family

Donated by:
Carol & Judy Brueggemann

Deceased Members of the Edmund & Frances Weber Family

Melvin Brune

Donated by:
Angie Brune & Family

In Loving Memory Of

Eileen Beuke

Ed Mense

Frank & Emma Schmuke

Ambrose & Marie Swoboda

Donated by:
Lester & Dolores Swoboda

Sue Weber

Donated by:
Leon Weber

Louis Bolzenius

Jane Sturm

Donated by:
Robert & Donna Sturm

Carol Schulte

Sheila Zagarri

Donated by:
Nick & Kelly Zagarri

CPL. W. Ruben Shortt, USMC

Donated by:
Ron & Jane Struckhoff

Kathy Brueggemann

Betty Heard, Jerry Voss & Jane Turner

Lisa Kasmann & Dan Snelling

Gail Straatmann

Paul & Neil Straatmann

Rudy & Rosemary Straatmann

Hilda & Robert Voss

Donated by:
Mark & Theresa Straatmann

Alfons & Edith Banken

Leo Schroeder

William & Ida Schroeder

Donated by:
Viola Schroeder

In Loving Memory Of

Mr. & Mrs. Stanley Greife

Robert, Gary, Raymond & Patty Greife

Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Portell

Clarence Werges

Donated by:
James & Patti Greife

Joe & Gladys Helmig

Ronnie Helmig

Donated by:
Lanny & Lesa Girardier

Theresa Boland

Christine Grus

Leon Grus, Sr.

Myrtle Grus

Jonathan Redhage

Donated by:
Curt & Cathie Grus

Ryan & Kenny Gerlemann

Clifford & Lorraine Jacquin

Emma Schmuke

Ambrose & Marie Swoboda

Donated by:
Gary & Karen Gerlemann

Adam & Durverd Jacquin

Donated by:
The Alan Jacquin Family

Arthur, Virginia, Dennis & Karen Voss

Donated by:
Dan & Linda Friedman

In Loving Memory Of

Jeff Brune Lee Brune

Pat Burton

Al Shy Trudy Shy

Donated by:
Leon & Stacy Burton

Alphonse & Lucille Brune

Donated by:
The Melvin Brune Family

Clayton Connelly

Leonard Feth

Donated by:
Dave & Debbie Connelly

Edwin & Dorothy Mount

Donated by:
Steve & Mary Coble

Bernadine & Leonard Diener

Frances & William Diener

Robert Fitzgerald

Betty Goodmann

Anna & Anthony Marquart

Donated by:
Dale Diener

Bill Davis Kenneth Davis

Velma Fitzgerald

Opal Lewis Bob Wagner

Donated by:
Steve & Norma Davis

Louis Bolzenius

Driver & Odell Dierking

Donated by:
Donald & Jeanne Dierking

In Loving Memory Of

Leo & Veronica Donner
—*—
Ray & Enid Donner
—*—
Ed & Irene Stuesse
—*—
Fred & Elizabeth Stuesse
—*—
Joyce Stuesse
—*—
Donated by:
Jim & Gerry Donner

Dodridge Eckstein
—*—
Lella Eckstein
—*—
Clarence Mueller
—*—
Matilda Mueller
—*—
Donated by:
Vernon & Carol Eckstein

Tom & Jane Briggs
—*—
Renee Cella
—*—
John & Helen Feth
—*—
Frank & Elizabeth Kloeppel
—*—
Donated by:
Mike & Kathy Feth

Mary Catherine Fink
—*—
Terry Fink
—*—
Donated by:
Theodore Fink

Bill Feth
—*—
Donated by:
Dennis Feth

Flagg Family
—*—
Kopmann Family
—*—
Donated by:
Dave & Theresa Flagg

Leonard Feth
—*—
Donated by:
Mary Ann Feth

In Loving Memory Of

Albert, Dorothy & Francis Brueggemann
—*—
Walter, Evelyn, & Marilyn Noelker
—*—
Donated by:
Jim & Jo Noelker

Chris & Marissa Jacquin
—*—
Donated by:
The James Jacquin Family

Louis Bolzenius
—*—
Donated by:
Lilly Mae Randolph

Albert & Mary Eckstein
—*—
Roman & Lucille Schmidt
—*—
Louis & Rose Schmuke
—*—
Donated by:
Walter & Diane Schmidt

Everet & Mary Marquart
—*—
Vincent Schmuke, Jr.
—*—
Donated by:
Thelma Schmuke

Donna Marie Mackey
—*—
Phil & Al Pagano
—*—
Karen Salvino
—*—
Mary & Al Salvino
—*—
Ronald Salvino
—*—
Donated by:
Norma Jean Salvino

Joseph & Mathilda Feth
—*—
Frank & Elizabeth Kloeppel
—*—
Donated by:
Jerry & Joan Kloeppel

UPCOMING EVENTS

December

- **Wednesday, December 28th**
 - NO PSR – Christmas Break



January

OPEN HOUSE

- **Sunday, January 1st**
 - Open House – 12pm – 4pm – Church
- **Monday, January 2nd**
 - OFFICE CLOSED
- **Wednesday, January 4th**
 - PSR – 6:30pm – 7:45pm – Parish Hall
- **Thursday, January 5th**
 - Eucharistic Adoration – 7am – 5:50pm – w/ Benediction after – Church
 - 4H – 7pm – Parish Hall



Knights of Columbus “Roses for Life” Campaign

The Knights of Columbus ask that you sign the postcards that are available in the pews at Mass on the weekend of January 7th & 8th. There are cards for various officials so sign as many as you can. Please take these home, sign them and drop the postcards in the box provided in the vestibule. If you wish to make a donation to help support the “Pro-Life Campaign”, please put it into the same box. The postcards will be delivered to our elected officials to show our concern for the unborn infants whose lives are being taken every day through abortion.

Thank you for your support.

Fr. Tom will take a few days off after Christmas, & return Wednesday evening, December 28th.

please join us



Eucharistic
Adoration

Let's give thanks to Our Lord

Thursday, January 5th

7:00AM – 5:50PM
With Benediction After

**Last chance to let your voice be heard.
Take the survey!**

All Things New
Planning Area 12
Survey Link

[https://allthingsnew.archstl.org/
Planning-Area-12](https://allthingsnew.archstl.org/Planning-Area-12)

Text Sarah @ 314-808-0337
for the link to the survey

Survey ends
December 31st