

# Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church Newsletter

December 13, 2020

## ***Rejoice in the Lord Always; Again I say rejoice! Indeed the Lord is near!***

**My Dear Parishioners**

The entrance antiphon for Gaudete Sunday says it all. We are called to rejoice. We are called to rejoice as we make our final preparations for Christmas. We are called to rejoice as we await the Second Coming. We are called to rejoice in the fact that God loves us and has redeemed us. So this weekend let us take seriously this command from the Church, and rejoice!

We rejoice in the fact that it is morning again in America, as the new vaccine is on its way. I am absolutely and positively convinced that the vaccine never would have been developed so quickly without our prayers. Yes, it was developed in a laboratory by research scientists, but I am convinced that it was our prayers that brought everything together so quickly. From the bottom of my heart, I thank you for all of those prayers and let us continue praying our Rosaries and Chaplets for the successful immunization of our entire country. And yes, when it is available to clergy, I am planning on receiving the vaccine—for you, for my family and friends, and for myself.

We also rejoice in Pope Francis's proclamation of the year of St. Joseph. St. Joseph guided the Holy Family through some very difficult times, and under the guidance of our Holy Father, we entrust ourselves to St. Joseph during these difficult times. I have included excerpts of the Holy Father's Apostolic Letter "Patris Corde," With A Father's Heart, in this e-newsletter.

As we rejoice and make our final preparations for Christmas, we must remember to do so with some common sense. That is why we still ask you to wear your masks in church and to sanitize your hands frequently. It is why we are asking you to stay home if you are not feeling well or may have been exposed to the virus. It is also why we are asking you to consult with your own personal physician if you have any health questions or concerns. On our part, we are "fogging" the church regularly and, thanks to our excellent staff and many faithful volunteers, we are regularly sanitizing door handles and such. Let us "stick with it" and, under the protection of St. Joseph, let us together see this through.

Yes then, let us rejoice, for the Light of the World is with us, and let us continue to pray our Rosaries and Chaplets for the good of our families, our friends, our neighbors, our country, and ourselves.

**Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, have mercy on us!  
Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, pray for us!**

**Fr. Michael J Pawelko**



## *Advent Confession Schedule*

### **Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church**

Thursday, December 17<sup>th</sup>

4:00 – 5:00 PM & 7:00 – 8:00 PM

We will have SIX priests hearing Confessions, so the line should keep moving!

### ***St. Agnes ~ Sellersville***

Thursday, December 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 – 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, December 19<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

### ***St. Jude ~ Chalfont***

Monday, December 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.

## *News on the Chapel*

**Because it is hard to keep both the church and the chapel sanitized, and also because it is hard to keep the steps leading down into the chapel clean and safe during the winter months, the Finance and Facilities Committee and the Pastoral Council have agreed that the chapel should be closed from Monday December 21, 2020 until Holy Week of 2021. Please remember that the church is open Monday to Friday from morning Mass until about 3:30PM for anyone who wishes to make a visit. We are sorry for any inconvenience, and we thank you for your understanding.**

## **FORMED** *Update*

Because of the high cost of renewing formed.org and the low number of parishioners who are taking advantage of formed.org, we have decided not to renew it for this coming year.

We sincerely apologize to those who do use it, and we hope that you understand. In the future, if there is a renewed interest in formed.org, or a similar program, we can discuss the possibilities.

In the meantime, there is a lot of good, free, Catholic stuff available from [catholicphilly.com](http://catholicphilly.com), [newadvent.org](http://newadvent.org), [usccb.org](http://usccb.org), and many, many other good Catholic websites.

# Patris Corde

## With A Father's Heart

BY POPE FRANCIS



WITH A FATHER'S HEART: that is how Joseph loved Jesus, whom all four Gospels refer to as "*the son of Joseph*".

Matthew and Luke, the two Evangelists who speak most of Joseph, tell us very little, yet enough for us to appreciate what sort of father he was, and the mission entrusted to him by God's providence.

We know that Joseph was a lowly carpenter (cf. *Mt* 13:55), betrothed to Mary (cf. *Mt* 1:18; *Lk* 1:27). He was a "just man" (*Mt* 1:19), ever ready to carry out God's will as revealed to him in the Law (cf. *Lk* 2:22.27.39) and through four dreams (cf. *Mt* 1:20; 2:13.19.22). After a long and tiring journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem, he beheld the birth of the Messiah in a stable, since "there was no place for them" elsewhere (cf. *Lk* 2:7). He witnessed the adoration of the shepherds (cf. *Lk* 2:8-20) and the Magi (cf. *Mt* 2:1-12), who represented respectively the people of Israel and the pagan peoples.

Joseph had the courage to become the legal father of Jesus, to whom he gave the name revealed by the angel: "You shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins" (*Mt* 1:21). As we know, for ancient peoples, to give a name to a person or to a thing, as Adam did in the account in the Book of Genesis (cf. 2:19-20), was to establish a relationship.

In the Temple, forty days after Jesus' birth, Joseph and Mary offered their child to the Lord and listened with amazement to Simeon's prophecy concerning Jesus and his Mother (cf. *Lk* 2:22-35). To protect Jesus from Herod, Joseph dwelt as a foreigner in Egypt (cf. *Mt* 2:13-18). After returning to his own country, he led a hidden life in the tiny and obscure village of Nazareth in Galilee, far from Bethlehem, his ancestral town, and from Jerusalem and the Temple. Of Nazareth it was said, "No prophet is to rise" (cf. *Jn* 7:52) and indeed, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" (cf. *Jn* 1:46). When, during a pilgrimage to Jerusalem, Joseph and Mary lost track of the twelve-year-old Jesus, they anxiously sought him out and they found him in the Temple, in discussion with the doctors of the Law (cf. *Lk* 2:41-50). After Mary, the Mother of God, no saint is mentioned more frequently in the papal magisterium than Joseph, her spouse. My Predecessors reflected on the message contained in the limited information handed down by the Gospels in order to appreciate more fully his central role in the history of salvation. Blessed Pius IX declared him "Patron of the Catholic Church", Venerable Pius XII proposed him as "Patron of Workers" and Saint John Paul II as "Guardian of the Redeemer". Saint Joseph is universally invoked as the "patron of a happy death".

Now, one hundred and fifty years after his proclamation as *Patron of the Catholic Church* by Blessed Pius IX (8 December 1870), I would like to share some personal reflections on this extraordinary figure, so close to our own human experience. For, as Jesus says, "out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks" (*Mt* 12:34).

My desire to do so increased during these months of pandemic, when we experienced, amid the crisis, how "our lives are woven together and sustained by ordinary people, people often overlooked. People who do not appear in newspaper and magazine headlines, or on the latest television show, yet in these very days are surely shaping the decisive events of our history. Doctors, nurses, storekeepers and supermarket workers, cleaning personnel, caregivers, transport workers, men and women working to provide essential services and public safety, volunteers, priests, men and women religious, and so very many others. They understood that no one is saved alone... How many people daily exercise patience and offer hope, taking care to spread not panic, but shared responsibility. How many fathers, mothers, grandparents and teachers are showing our children, in small everyday ways, how to accept and deal with a crisis by adjusting their routines, looking ahead and encouraging the practice of prayer. How many are praying, making sacrifices

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and interceding for the good of all”. Each of us can discover in Joseph – the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence – an intercessor, a support and a guide in times of trouble. Saint Joseph reminds us that those who appear hidden or in the shadows can play an incomparable role in the history of salvation. A word of recognition and of gratitude is due to them all.....

The aim of this Apostolic Letter is to increase our love for this great saint, to encourage us to implore his intercession and to imitate his virtues and his zeal.

Indeed, the proper mission of the saints is not only to obtain miracles and graces, but to intercede for us before God, like Abraham and Moses, and like Jesus, the “one mediator” (*1 Tim 2:5*), who is our “advocate” with the Father (*1 Jn 2:1*) and who “always lives to make intercession for [us]” (*Heb 7:25*; cf. *Rom 8:34*).

The saints help all the faithful “to strive for the holiness and the perfection of their particular state of life”. Their lives are concrete proof that it is possible to put the Gospel into practice.

Jesus told us: “Learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart” (*Mt 11:29*). The lives of the saints too are examples to be imitated. Saint Paul explicitly says this: “Be imitators of me!” (*1 Cor 4:16*). By his eloquent silence, Saint Joseph says the same.

Before the example of so many holy men and women, Saint Augustine asked himself: “What they could do, can you not also do?” And so he drew closer to his definitive conversion, when he could exclaim: “Late have I loved you, Beauty ever ancient, ever new!”

We need only ask Saint Joseph for the grace of graces: our conversion.

Let us now make our prayer to him:

*Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,  
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.  
To you God entrusted his only Son;  
in you Mary placed her trust;  
with you Christ became man.  
Blessed Joseph, to us too,  
show yourself a father  
and guide us in the path of life.  
Obtain for us grace, mercy and courage,  
and defend us from every evil.  
Amen.*

Given in Rome, at Saint John Lateran, on 8 December, Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, in the year 2020, the eighth of my Pontificate.

Pope Francis



# Sunday Mass Readings

## Third Sunday of Advent

### Reading 1: [Isaiah 6:1-2a, 10-13](#)

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring glad tidings to the poor, to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners, to announce a year of favor from the LORD and a day of vindication by our God. I rejoice heartily in the LORD, in my God is the joy of my soul; for he has clothed me with a robe of salvation and wrapped me in a mantle of justice, like a bridegroom adorned with a diadem, like a bride bedecked with her jewels. As the earth brings forth its plants, and a garden makes its growth spring up, so will the Lord GOD make justice and praise spring up before all the nations.

### Responsorial Psalm: [Luke 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54](#)

R. (Is 61:10b) **My soul rejoices in my God.**

► My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked upon his lowly servant. From this day all generations will call me blessed. **R.**

► The Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name. He has mercy on those who fear him in every generation. **R.**

► He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty. He has come to the help of his servant Israel for he has remembered his promise of mercy, **R.**

### Reading 2: [1 Thessalonians 5:16-24](#)

Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophetic utterances. Test everything; retain what is good. Refrain from every kind of evil. May the God of peace make you perfectly holy and may you entirely, spirit, soul, and body, be preserved blameless for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will also accomplish it.

### Alleluia

R. **Alleluia, alleluia.**

► The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor.

R. **Alleluia, alleluia.**

### Gospel: [John 1:6-8, 19-28](#)

A man named John was sent from God. He came for testimony, to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to testify to the light. And this is the testimony of John. When the Jews from Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to him to ask him, “Who are you?” He admitted and did not deny it, but admitted, “I am not the Christ.” So they asked him, “What are you then? Are you Elijah?” And he said, “I am not.” “Are you the Prophet?” He answered, “No.” So they said to him, “Who are you, so we can give an answer to those who sent us? What do you have to say for yourself?” He said:

“I am *the voice of one crying out in the desert, ‘make straight the way of the Lord,’*”

as Isaiah the prophet said.” Some Pharisees were also sent. They asked him, “Why then do you baptize if you are not the Christ or Elijah or the Prophet?” John answered them, “I baptize with water; but there is one among you whom you do not recognize, the one who is coming after me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie.” This happened in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

# *Advent Reflections*

We come together as a community to deepen our awareness and to prepare for the coming of Jesus in our lives.

Tuesday  
December 15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>

## *Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church*



On December 15<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> from 7:00 - 8:30 PM, Deacon Vince will lead us in:

*Scripture and Reflection*

*Quiet period of personal reflection*

*Divine Chaplet*

*Benediction*

Join us as we embrace the season of Advent and to fully greet Christmas with true readiness.







## Christmas Mass Schedule

*2020*

### **Christmas Eve**

Thursday, December 24

2:00 PM ~ Church

4:00 PM ~ Church

4:15 PM ~ Gym

6:00 and 8:30 PM ~ Church

8:00 PM ~ Carols

**LIVE** Streaming ~ 8:00 PM Carols and 8:30 PM Mass

### **Christmas Day**

Friday, December 25

8:00 AM, 9:30 AM, and 11:00 AM ~ Church

### **Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God**

Thursday, December 31

4:00 PM ~ Church

Friday, January 1<sup>st</sup>

9:30 AM ~ Church