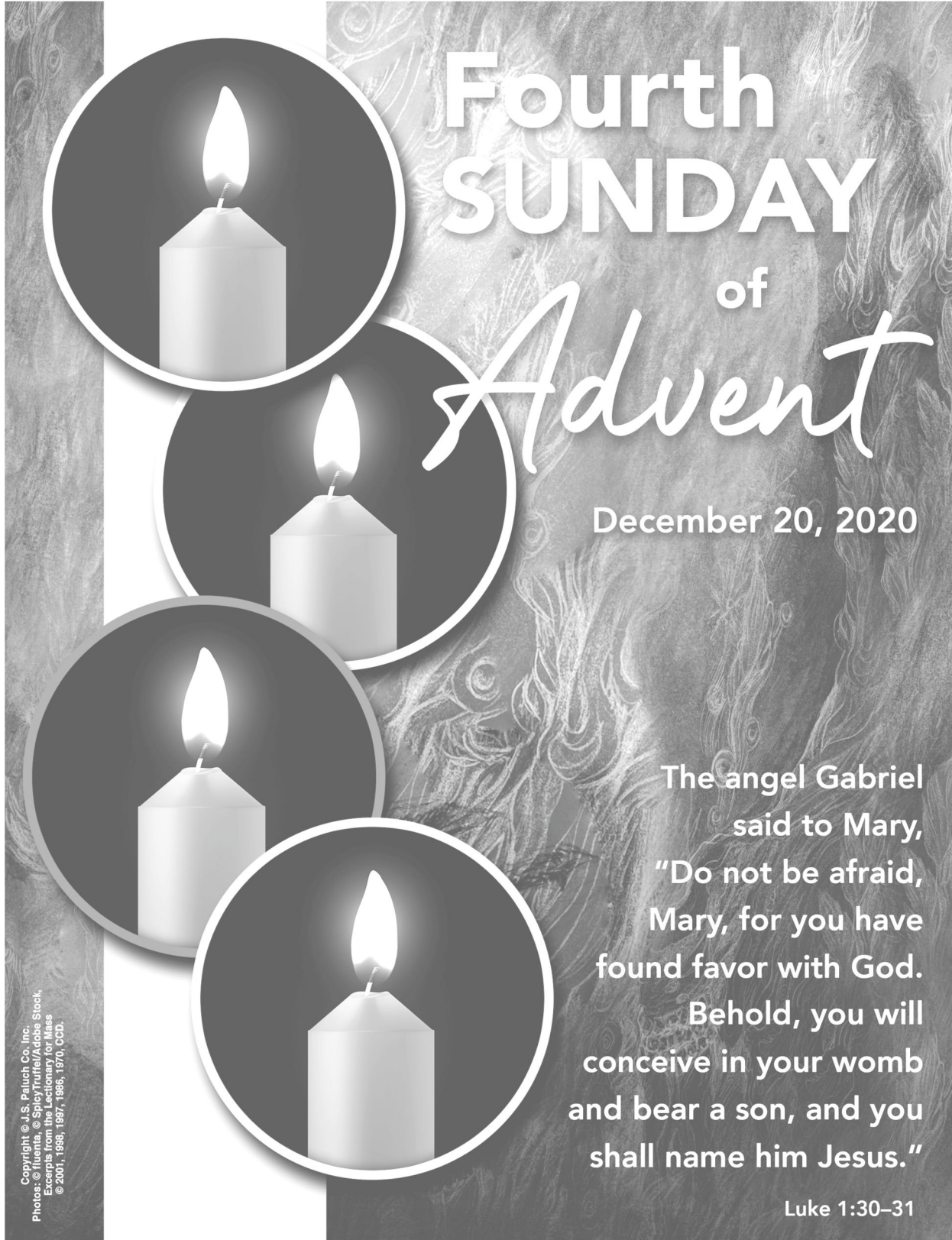


ST. JOSEPH ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH



**Fourth
SUNDAY**
of
Advent

December 20, 2020

The angel Gabriel
said to Mary,
"Do not be afraid,
Mary, for you have
found favor with God.
Behold, you will
conceive in your womb
and bear a son, and you
shall name him Jesus."

Luke 1:30-31

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Rev. Msgr. John B. Gordon - Pastor
Rev. Msgr. Pafnouti Wassef - Parochial Vicar
Rev. Sean G. Winters - In Residence
Deacon Ramon Torres - Hispanic Ministry

Deacon George Kimball - Permanent Deacon
Ms. Joanne McKnight - Principal
Mrs. Marcelle Doherty - Director of Religious Education/Pastoral Assistant
Dr. Thomas Juneau - Director of Music

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 20, 2020

SUNDAY MASS

Saturday - 5:00 PM, Vigil

**Sunday - 8:00 AM, 10:30 AM and a
1:30 PM Spanish Mass**

For those unable to attend Mass a video of the Mass can be viewed on our Parish website.

DAILY MASS

Monday through Friday - 8:00 AM

Thursday - 7:00 PM, Spanish Mass

Saturday - 8:30 AM

Daily Masses are held in the Church Chapel.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION - Thursdays, from 11:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m., in the Church Chapel.

CONFESSIONS - Saturday mornings, from 11:00 a.m. until noon, in the Church Chapel.

For your safety, all those attending any services in the Church must wear a mask. All social distancing and sanitizing guidelines will be followed.

WORDS FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Parish Family,

Greetings in the Lord! On behalf of myself, Fr. Sean Winters, Msgr. Wassaf Pafnouti, our Deacons and Parish Staff please receive warmest wishes for the joy of Christmas, this coming week! It has been a well spent Advent, as much as possible, with opportunities to share and prepare for the birthday of our Savior. May our relationships of love and family and faith feel renewed in Jesus' name.

Please consult the listing of Christmas Mass times printed in the bulletin, with a children's theme scheduled, and a song carol prelude announced, as well. If anyone is in need of last minute Sacrament of Confession, please see the Priest prior to Mass for the blessing of absolution.

A display is found in the foyer this Sunday describing our outreach ministries of 'Food Bank', 'St. Vincent de Paul Charities' and a new 'Adopt a Family' effort. We invite everyone to be informed and consider volunteering individually or as a household in our Parish works of mercy.

Merry Christmas with much joy, peace, and good health!

Msgr. John

ANTIPHON DAYS, the last seven days before the vigil of Christmas, continue. On **December 21, 22, 23**, Mass will be celebrated in the Church, at **7:00 p.m.** On those days, we will not have the daily 8:00 a.m. Mass, usually held in the Chapel.

SACRAMENTS

Baptism (English): The second Saturday of the month at 1:00 PM.

Baptism (Spanish): The first Sunday of the month at 1:30 p.m.

Please arrange for the obligatory preparation session by calling the Parish Office.

Pastoral Care of the Sick: The Holy Eucharist and the Anointing of the Sick are available to the sick and shut-ins upon request.

First Penance, First Eucharist, Confirmation:

Children are expected to receive a Catholic upbringing in their family life, to worship regularly at Sunday Mass, and to receive ongoing Religious Education in the years preceding the reception of these sacraments.

Matrimony: To allow ample time for preparation, please contact the Parish Office at least one year before the intended wedding date.

Holy Orders or Religious Life: If you are considering serving God as a Priest, Deacon or Religious, you may contact your Parish Priest or Deacon; or phone the Office of Vocations at 732-562-2457 for additional information.

MASS SCHEDULE

5:00 PM (*Saturday evening Vigil Mass*)

Sunday: 8:00 AM, 10:30 AM

1:30 PM - Spanish Mass

Monday to Friday: 8:00 AM

Saturday: 8:30 AM

Thursday: 7:00 PM - Spanish Mass

St. Peregrine Mass for the Sick

Second Thursday of the month - 7:00 PM

CONFESSIONS

Saturday: 11:00 AM

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Weekdays: 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM

MAILING ADDRESS

Parish

55 High Street
Carteret, NJ 07008

School

865 Roosevelt Avenue
Carteret, NJ 07008

TELEPHONE DIRECTORY

Parish Office	732-541-8946
Parish Office Fax	732-541-0500
Religious Education	732-969-8767
St. Joseph School	732-541-7111
St. Vincent de Paul Society	732-541-8946 x108

PARISH SERVICES

Parish Registration: New parishioners are welcome. Please call the Parish Office to register. Please notify us if you move.

R.C.I.A.: Adults inquiring about the Catholic Church with a desire to become Catholic are invited to call the Parish Office for information about the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults.

Parish Organizations: Adult Choir, Children's Choir, Ministry to the Sick & Elderly, RCIA Team, Food Pantry, Hispanic Ministry, St. Vincent de Paul Society, Home School Association, Athletic Association, and Catechetical Instruction.

Sponsorship: To act as a Godparent for Baptism or sponsor for Confirmation, the sponsor must be a baptized Catholic, Confirmed, received Communion, and live a morally good life; if married, done so within Church law. Ordinarily the sponsor must be at least 14 years old.

PARISH WEBSITE

www.stjosephparishfamily.com

SUNDAY READINGS

First Reading - 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16

Second Reading - Romans 16:25-27

Gospel - Luke 1:26-38

Prepare a place for the Lord

As we begin our last week of preparation for the coming of our Lord, we listen to the preparations three others took during earlier eras. King David intended to prepare a house for the ark of God, but God revealed a more important house to prepare. Saint Paul completed his letter to the Romans, a church he'd helped prepare for the mystery of Christ. In the Gospel, Mary agreed to prepare a place in her womb for the Son of God. Let us prepare a place in our hearts now for our Lord.

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SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Sg 2: 8-14 or Zep 3: 14-18a; Lk 1: 39-45

Tuesday: 1 Sm 1: 24-28; Lk 1: 46-56

Wednesday: Mal 3: 1-4, 23-24; Lk 1: 57-66

Thursday: 2 Sm 7: 1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Lk 1: 67-79

Vigil of Christmas: Is 62: 1-5; Acts 13: 16-17, 22-25; Mt 1: 1-25 or 1: 18-25

Friday: *The Nativity of the Lord*

Midnight: Is 9: 1-6; Ti 2: 11-14; Lk 2: 1-14

Day: Is 52: 7-10; Heb 1: 1-6; Jn 1: 1-18 or Jn 1: 1-5, 9-14

Saturday: Acts 6: 8-10, 7: 54-59; Mt 10: 17-22

Sunday: Sir 3: 2-6, 12-14; Col 3: 12-21 or 3: 12-17; Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40 or in Year B, Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3; Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19; Lk 2:22-40 or 2: 22, 39-40

THANK YOU for Your Continued Support!

We greatly appreciate all those who have so generously continued to donate to our Parish, during this difficult time.

We ask that you continue your donations to our Church, as your means allow, by mailing in your envelopes, dropping them in the Parish Office mail slot, or through Online Giving.

December 6	5:00 p.m.	\$1094	
	8:00 a.m.	\$478	
	10:30 a.m.	\$689	
	1:30 p.m.	\$828	
	Online Giving	\$287	
	By Mail	<u>\$2948</u>	
	Total	\$6324	(\$6750 2019)

As generous distributors of God's manifold grace, put your gifts at the service of one another, each in the measure he has received. -Romans 12: 6-8

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, ever faithful to Your promises and ever close to Your Church: the earth rejoices in hope of the Savior's coming and looks forward with longing to His return at the end of time. Prepare our hearts and remove the sadness that hinders us from feeling the joy and hope which His presence will bestow, for He is Lord for ever and ever. Amen.



All life has inestimable value even the weakest and most vulnerable, the sick, the old, the unborn and the poor, are masterpieces of God's creation, made in His own image, destined to live forever, and deserving of the utmost reverence and respect. -Pope Francis

Father and Maker of All, You adorn all creation with splendor and beauty, and fashion human lives in Your image and likeness. Awaken in every heart reverence for the work of Your hands, and renew among Your people a readiness to nurture and sustain Your precious gift of life. Amen.

"For everything there is a season and a time for every purpose under Heaven. . ."

a time to heal... for the sick of our Parish and especially for Anthony LaMotta, Charles Alongi, Angelina Virola
a time to die... for the soul of Helen Gilligan, James Keating, Barbara Palughi

If you are unbaptized, baptized into another Christian denomination, or baptized Catholic but never received the sacraments of Eucharist and Confirmation and would like to know more about the Catholic faith, consider attending a **RCIA Inquiry Session**. For more information, please call our Religious Education Office at 732-969-8767.

PRAY AND FAST FOR VOCATIONS

Father, in the power of the Spirit, You send us forth to build up Your Kingdom. I pray especially for those whom You are calling to serve the Church as Priests, Deacons, Sisters and Brothers. Help them to hear and answer Your call to discipleship. The harvest is plenty, but laborers are few. Please provide for us men and women who will help to gather in a great harvest of souls. I make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Remember in your prayers the members of our Armed Services, especially: *Taylor Setar*, daughter of Greg and Terry Setar; *Thomas Rapp*, grandson of Jeanette Miller; *Justin Lurker*, grandson of Helen Lurker; *Robert Michnowicz*, nephew of Helen Lurker; *Justin Molarz*, grandson of Susan Molarz; *Andrew Weaver*, grandson of Joanne Halkovich; *Darren T. Dreboty*, son-in-law of Jacqueline Eak; *James Molnar*, grandson of Alice Benson; *Elizabeth Brito* and *Lisa Marie Brito*, daughters of Ivette Brito; *Raymond Torres*, son of Deacon and Mrs. Ramon Torres; *Laura Roe*, daughter of Louis and Maria Pena.

PRAY FOR OUR TROOPS

Heavenly Father, send out Your angels to protect the brave men and women now serving in our Armed Forces, both at home and abroad. Help them discharge their duties honorably and well, and bring them safely home to their families and loved ones. We ask this, Father, in the name of Jesus, Your Son, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

CHRISTMAS MASSES

Christmas Eve ~ December 24

5:00 PM - *Children's Mass*

9:30 PM - *Christmas Carols*

10:00 PM - *Midnight Mass Readings*

Christmas Day ~ December 25

8:00 AM and 10:30 AM

12:30 PM - *Spanish Mass*

NEW YEAR'S DAY MASS SCHEDULE

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

December 31, 2020

Vigil - 7:00 PM

January 1, 2021

8:00 AM and 9:30 AM

ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL CALENDAR RAFFLE

There is still time to purchase a ticket for our School's Calendar Raffle. Don't miss out on multiple opportunities to win a Cash Prize! Ten drawings in all, with a total amount in cash prizes of \$4,000. \$20 per chance. The first drawing will be held the first week of January. To purchase tickets, call the School Office at 732-541-7111 or the Parish Office at 732-541-8946.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED – Please consider sharing your time and talents with the youth of our Parish. For additional information, contact the PREP Office at 732-969-8767.

-We will not have Eucharistic Adoration on Christmas Eve, Thursday, December 24.

-There will not be an 8:30 a.m. Mass on Saturday, December 26.

-The Parish Office will be closed on December 24, and 25.

-The Parish Office is now located at 7 Locust Street (the Rectory address). Parking is available behind the Church, in the Locust Street parking lot.

A Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend gives you the tools to revitalize romance, deepen communication, and nourish the spirituality in your marriage. Attend from the comfort of your home, via Zoom, for eight evening sessions on Sunday and Wednesday evenings, **January 20 to February 14**. Call Tony & Linda Massimo at 302-220-9833 for an application and information, or visit www.wwme-delmar.org

Mother Seton Virtual Gala

Mother Seton Regional High School, Clark, will hold their *2020 Alumnae Fundraising Gala* on **January 22**, from 7:00 p.m. until 8:15 p.m. Alumnae, family, and friends are invited to visit online for the 2020 Awards and Silent Auction. For more information, visit their website at www.msrgala.org or sign up at REGISTERNOW@MSRGALA.ORG. There is no charge to participate in this event.

THE WORD BECAME FLESH - FOR YOU!

Watch Special EWTN Christmas Programming

Unite with Christians around the globe in the celebration of Christmas! Attend Mass in Vatican City with Pope Francis, enjoy beautiful musical concerts from Europe, and travel to the sacred sites of the Holy Land - all by watching EWTN! Find EWTN in your area by visiting www.ewtn.com

COVID-19 ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

- **Housing Assistance Program** - If you have not been able to pay your rent or mortgage, due to COVID-19, visit www.nj.gov/humanservices/covid19housingassistance/

- **School-Age Tuition Assistance** - Families can now apply for childcare tuition assistance to help with care for children who have remote learning schedules due to COVID-19. Visit www.ChildCareNJ.gov to apply.

Free Counseling Services for Woodbridge Township Residents. Immediate Openings now available.

Woodbridge Health Center

2 George Frederick Plaza, Woodbridge, NJ

Available to Woodbridge residents of low and moderate income. Child, Adult and Family Counseling provided. To make a referral or for more information, please call 732-855-0600 ext. 5018.

Mass Intentions



SATURDAY	December 19
5:00 PM	Mr. and Mrs. Onofrio Alongi
SUNDAY	December 20
8:00 AM	Charles Lyons
10:30 AM	Jose Betanzos and the Parishioners of St. Joseph Parish
1:30 PM	Angel Santos
MONDAY	December 21
7:00 PM	Souls in Purgatory - <i>Antiphon Day Mass</i>
TUESDAY	December 22
7:00 PM	Innocent unborn - <i>Antiphon Day Mass</i>
WEDNESDAY	December 23
7:00 PM	William Lenahan - <i>Antiphon Day Mass</i>
THURSDAY	December 24
8:00 AM	Nan and Bob Balewicz
	<u>Christmas Eve</u>
5:00 PM	Parishioners - <i>Children's Mass</i>
10:00 PM	Parishioners - <i>Midnight Mass Readings</i>
FRIDAY	December 25
	<u>Christmas Day</u>
8:00 AM	Parishioners
10:30 AM	Parishioners
12:30 PM	Parishioners - <i>Spanish Mass</i>
SATURDAY	December 26
5:00 PM	Joseph Kammerer
SUNDAY	December 27
8:00 AM	Msgr. Donald Endebrook
10:30 AM	Carmen Betanzos
1:30 PM	Parishioners of St. Joseph Parish

CANDLE INTENTIONS

FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 20 - 26

The **Saint Joseph Church Sanctuary Lamp** burns in loving memory of *John and Sophie Raia*, requested by their grandson, Anthony Russo.

The **Pieta Lamp** burns in loving memory of *Frank Tomasino*, requested by his friend, Anthony Russo.

The **Saint Joseph Lamp** burns in loving memory of *Stanley J. Gilbert*, requested by his Family.

JOY TO THE WORLD



A CHRISTMAS PRAYER

Come, Lord Jesus, Prince of Peace and beloved Savior; come into our hearts this Christmas and fill us with Your gifts of love and joy.

Thank You for "gifting" us with Your presence among us. With Mary and Joseph, we rejoice and thank God for You. With the angels and saints in Heaven we sing, "Glory to God in the Highest." With the Magi and the shepherds we bow before You with hearts full of wonder.

Dear Emmanuel, help us to follow You faithfully and to share the good news of Your coming with everyone we meet, this Christmas season and always. Amen.

THE CANDYMAKER'S TESTIMONY



A candymaker in Indiana wanted to make a candy that would be a witness to his Christian belief. So, he made the Christmas Candy Cane. He incorporated several symbols for the birth, ministry, and death of Jesus.

He began with a stick of pure white hard candy - white to symbolize the Virgin Birth and the sinless nature of Jesus, and hard to symbolize Him as our Solid Rock, the Foundation of the Church.

The candymaker made the candy in the form of a *J* to represent Jesus' name. He quickly realized that when he turned the *J* upside down, it was like a shepherd's staff. Jesus, the Good Shepherd, is our staff, our spiritual support.

Thinking that the candy was somewhat plain, he stained it with red stripes to represent the blood shed by Jesus for the forgiveness of our sins.

His prayer was that the symbol be used as a witness to the Wonder of God and His great love in sending us His Son.

INSPIRATIONAL SPOT

Just as Jesus at His birth drew wise men from afar, today He draws people of all backgrounds to Himself. People all over the world, whether consciously or unconsciously, are searching for the Truth and Life found in Jesus. There is not one person to whom Jesus does not wish to manifest His Presence and His Love.

To the people, oppressed and suffering, who walked in darkness, there appear "a great light". A truly "great" light indeed, because the light which radiates from the humility of the crib is the light of the new creation. If the first creation began with light (cf. Gen 1:3), how much more splendid and "great" is the light which inaugurates the new creation: it is God Himself made man! -St. John Paul II, Christmas, 2011