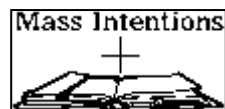



Recognizable Offering.....	\$6,456.63
Loose Cash	\$291.00
Total Weekly Offering.....	\$6,747.63
Retired Religious Fund Collection.....	\$1,397.00
Mass Attendance Dec 10/11	324



Dec 19 - 25

Monday	Kimberly Arnold(liv)
Tuesday	Trey Corbitt(+)
Thursday	Dan & Eve Westwood(+)
Friday	Michael White(+)
Saturday	Peggy Pilgrim(+)(6:00 p.m.)
Sunday.....	St. Peter Parishioners(Midnight)
.....	Trey Corbitt(+)(9:00 a.m.)

 **In Loving Memory** and last-
ing peace for all who have died, espe-
cially **Michael White**, brother of
Fr. Paul White. Pray for the consola-
tion of his family as they mourn his loss.

Thank You

The poinsettia fundraiser to benefit Ronda Coon Women's Home was very successful and on behalf of Around Town Ministry, we wish all of you who participated by purchasing flowers and/ or being on the delivery team, our debt of gratitude. Our church purchased over 60 plants and provided a team of 6 drivers to deliver over 500 flowers throughout Okaloosa County.



It is the final Sunday of Advent, the Fourth Sunday of Advent, yet because of the calendar in this year of 2016, Christmas is still a full week away. We may ask ourselves if we are prepared for Christmas, but that question may focus on the wrong things — we may be thinking of decorations and Christmas gifts and Christmas dinners.

However, the question we should be asking is “Are our souls ready for Christmas?” That should be the most important part of our Advent preparation. Is God present within us? Are we ready to welcome Christ? Do we acknowledge our need to be prepared for Christ’s Second Coming?

In his letter to the Romans, the Second Reading, St. Paul uses the phrase “the Spirit of holiness.” Paul, and in a more important way Christ Himself, calls us to holiness. Holiness is more than what we do; it has everything to do with what we are. It has to do with our very identity. Holiness is characterized by our relationship with the Lord. We are waiting for Christ, but the reality is that Christ is waiting for us. God loves us; knowing and responding to that love is holiness.

St. Teresa of Calcutta may have said it best when she stated, “It is Christmas every time you let God love others through you. Yes, it is Christmas every time you smile at someone and offer them your hand.” Doing that is being holy, too; that, too, is stewardship.

Weekly Calendar of Events

- 12/18 No Religious Education
- 12/19 Rosary - after 8:00 a.m. Mass
- 12/20 Rosary - after 8:00 a.m. Mass
- 12/21 Legion of Mary - 8:30 a.m.
- 12/24 Christmas Vigil Mass Prelude - 5:40 p.m.
Christmas Vigil Mass - 6:00 p.m.
- 12/25 Midnight Mass Prelude - 11:35 p.m.
Midnight Mass
Christmas Day Mass - 9:00 a.m.

Farewell Bishop Parkes

A Farewell Reception in honor of Bishop Gregory Parkes will held Wednesday, December 21st, from 5:00 p.m.- 7:00 p.m. at the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, Ave Maria Hall, in Pensacola. All are invited to join, as we share with him our gratitude and best wishes in his assignment as Bishop of St. Petersburg.

Calendar

- Monday**
December 19
Advent Weekday
Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a
Lk 1:5-25
- Tuesday**
December 20
Advent Weekday
Is 7:10-14
Lk 1:26-58
- Wednesday**
December 21
Advent Weekday
Sg 2:8-14
or Zep 3:14-18a
Lk 1:59-45
- Thursday**
December 22
Advent Weekday
1 Sm 1:24-28
Lk 1:46-56
- Friday**
December 25
Advent Weekday
Mal 3:1-4, 25-24
Lk 1:57-66
- Saturday**
December 24
Advent Weekday
2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12,
14a, 16
Lk 1:67-79
- Sunday**
December 25
The Nativity of the Lord
Is 52:7-10
Heb 1:1-6
Jn 1:1-18
or 1:1-5, 9-14

Dear Padre,

**Why is St. Joseph called “the Worker?”
Shouldn’t he be honored primarily
as the father of Jesus?**

Devotion to St. Joseph has developed along an interesting path. It was not until the eighth century that Joseph, underneath the title “Spouse of Mary,” was even publicly acknowledged—except perhaps as an afterthought or silent participant in the Christmas story. The Church has always acknowledged that Joseph’s relationship with Jesus was unique, but there was, and continues to be, reluctance to call him the father of Jesus. We understand the father of Jesus is not Joseph but rather God the Father.



A consensus about Joseph’s role in the plan of salvation seems to be in place by the early fourteenth century. In 1870, Pope Pius IX declared Joseph the patron of the universal Church. By the early twentieth century, worldwide devotion had found a home at St. Joseph’s Oratory in Montreal.

The title of “the Worker” was used most often by Pope Pius XI in his references to Joseph as the patron of the Church’s battle against atheistic communism. Pope Pius XII established the May 1 feast in 1955 to emphasize the Catholic teaching concerning the dignity of labor. Saint Joseph could be summarized best as a man who did the best he could when God’s will became clear. This image and model seems the best and most helpful for deepening our understanding of and devotion to him.

From *Dear Padre: Questions People Ask*, Liguori, 2003
sundaybulletin@liguori.org



A Word From Pope Francis

“By accepting himself according to God’s design, Joseph fully finds himself, beyond himself. His freedom to renounce even what is his, the possession of his very life, ...challenge us and show us the way.”

—Angelus, December 22, 2013

Our Parish COMMUNITY

December 18, 2016

Fourth Sunday of Advent (A)
Is 7:10-14
Rom 1:1-7
Mt 1:18-24

Focusing on God

Today's Nativity scene shows the figures set in a golden, eternal background. Details are missing: no landscape, cave, stable, or cattle. Ghirlandaio, Michelangelo's teacher, focuses on the people. The Gospel also refrains from external details and focuses only on the main actors: Mary and Joseph and what is going on in their hearts and minds.

Joseph has to decide how to handle surprising news: His wife is with child and he isn't the father. She claims it was by divine intervention. He had every intention of protecting her while at the same time respecting the law. Luckily his open and honest heart hears indications from an angel. He is to do the unthinkable—take her to himself—because the unimaginable has happened: "It is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived" (Matthew 1:20).

The artist paints Joseph sleeping peacefully because he is the just man who silences his troubled heart in order to hear God's voice. He, like Mary, reflects on things profoundly and grapples with God's will and the amazing vocation placed before

him. His struggle in prayer leads him to have faith and trust. Following God's plan will mean pilgrimage, thus the walking stick, water jug, and knapsack.

We are all tempted to flee from the challenges of discipleship. Yet today Joseph shows us how to "man up." He assumes his role as a servant leader, teacher, and example. His dozing is not one of laziness but of silent self-control that leads to attentiveness and obedience to God's voice.

—Fr. Mark Haydu, LC



Piece: Nativity
Artist: Domenico Ghirlandaio (Ghirlandaio), 1492
Location: Vatican Pinacoteca, Room IX

For Reflection

Challenges are opportunities for growth.

How do I face the challenges of following Jesus?

"...Do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her" (Matthew 1:20).

Liturgical Roles*

Weekend of Dec 24/25

6:00 p.m.

Altar Servers: Joseph Sweeney

Extraordinary Ministers: Therese Sweeney, Shareen Ketchem, Penny Sweeney, Stacy Fralic, Petey Brennan

Lectors: Terri Turnbull, Ron Berthelette

Ushers: _____, _____, _____, _____

Greeter: _____

Sacristan: Mike Brennan

Midnight

Altar Servers: Paul Gagnon, Micayla Colwell, _____

Extraordinary Ministers: Alice Thompson, Angela Zangerle, Carrie Gagnon, Katherine Colwell

Lectors: Paul Gagnon II, Lynn Griggs

Ushers: Stewart Grogan, _____, _____, _____

Greeter: _____

Sacristan: Stan Griggs

9:00 a.m.

Altar Servers: _____, _____, _____, _____

Extraordinary Ministers: Kathleen Garcia, Nancy McCreary, _____, _____, _____

Lectors: _____, _____

Ushers: Cathy McKnight, Gary Jordan, _____, _____

Greeter: _____

Sacristan: Jean Jordan

Saint Peter Parish Prayer Chain: For prayer needs, contact Susi Evers at 664-9165 or email her at saintpeterparishprayerchain@gmail.com

Hospitalized Parishioners: If you or a family member are hospitalized, please call the Parish Office, otherwise we have no way of knowing who in our parish is there.

In Your Daily Prayers, Please Remember our parishioners who are deployed and:

Monday Johanna Adam*, Charles Cummings*, Steve Lange, Margie Wadsworth*

Tuesday Lynn Graham*, Thomas Holdsworth, Pam Stockbridge, Mary Eichler, Hiram Alaniz

Wednesday Gordon Pritchard*, Ken and Bette Dellner*, Caroline Frederick, Barbara Kirschten*

Thursday Gene and Pam Bauchwitz*, Robert Welniak, Theresa Stegall, Connie Jordan, Lucille Kesler, Clare Van Zelfden

Friday Lloyd Biehl*, Doug Babiak*, Sharon Lewis, Shannon Anderson, Vera Thornburg*, Ann Crouch*

Saturday Peter Adam*, Mary Anyel*, Dan Brenton*, Rick Zern*, Faith and Hope Powell

Sunday Theresa Fowler, Ann Hart, Cipriano Matiga*, Bonita Long, Kimberly Arnold and unborn twins

*Indicates our parishioners.

Please call the church office if you or a family member can be removed from this prayer list.

Young Adults: You are invited to a gathering for young adults at St. Mary Parish, FWB, on Wednesday, January 4th at 6:30 pm in the Parish Life Center. There will be a group meeting for those 18-24 years old and one for those 25-39 years old. Come for faith sharing and fellowship.

36TH ANNUAL CATHOLIC RENEWAL CONFERENCE

January 20, 2017, 6:00 p.m. - January 22, 2017

Location: Holy Name of Jesus Catholic Church, Niceville

The theme is inspired by Joel 3:1: "I will pour out my Spirit upon mankind." The conference will feature great speakers, music, a healing service, a eucharistic procession, adoration chapel, religious bookstore and free nursery. Confession and individual prayer time will be available. Sunday Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Parkes.

- Pre-Registration: Single \$25 / Family \$45 / Religious & Youth under 18 Free
 - At the door: Single \$30 / Family \$50
 - Local Lodging: Holiday Inn Express, 850-678-9131 \$80/night; Comfort Suites, 850-279-6547 \$79/night
- For questions or more information, contact Sue McAllister at 850-341-0379 or ptdccr@gmail.com.



THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE
of
PENSACOLA-TALLAHASSEE



celebrate vocations

CELEBRATE FAITH 2017

Speakers



Michaelann & Curtis Martin
FOCUS



Father Leo Patalinghug
Grace Before Meals



Roberto Ramirez



Out of Darkness

Musicians

Saturday, Feb. 18
Emerald Coast
Convention Center

\$25/person
\$60/family

Registration ends
Friday, Feb. 3

more details at

ptdiocese.org/celebratefaith2017

SPECIAL PROGRAMMING

Spanish Track

Spanish-speakers are invited to register for an all Spanish language track. The programming and music for this track will be led by Roberto Ramirez.

Child/Youth Track

Celebrate Faith is a family conference, so children are welcome to attend! Activities will be provided for children and youth from kindergarten through middle school.

Nursery

Younger children are also invited to attend the conference! While their parents participate in the main programming, and their older siblings participate in the youth track, children who are 4-years-old and younger will be cared for in a nursery.

Because the special programming tracks are limited in size, we ask that those who wish to participate register as soon as possible.

REGISTER TODAY AT
ptdiocese.org/celebratefaith2017