



ST. JOHN'S CHURCH NEWSLETTER

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For Private Circulation Only

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FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT, YEAR A

Reading I: Isaiah 7:10-14

Reading II: Roman 1:1-7.

Gospel: Matthew 1:18-24.

Revised Roman Missal: 204

Gospel Summary

Matthew recounts the circumstances of Jesus' birth by telling us the story of Mary's engagement to Joseph and the child she carried originating from the Holy Spirit. This reality made no sense to Joseph, but he did not want to dishonor Mary so he planned to quietly divorce her. An angel came and told Joseph not to be afraid, that Mary's child was conceived by the Holy Spirit and that they should call him Emmanuel meaning, "God is with us."

Reflection for Families

How often have our young children called out to us in fear. Maybe they're afraid of the night, or a bad dream, or an insect. They call out to us with complete trust that we will run to their side as soon as we hear their cry. It's important that we remind our children that God is with us always. Like a loving parent, God is there when we call out. It is reassuring for our children to hear about examples from our own lives that recall times when we were afraid and God was present to us.

Bringing the Gospel into Your Family

Light the fourth candle on your family's Advent wreath. Ask each person to recall one time during this Advent season when they were confused, unsure, or frightened about something. Encourage each person to share how Jesus helped them . . . or how they will call on Jesus the next time they're in a frightening situation.

Discussion Starters

1. I remember one time when I was afraid but knew that God was with me..
2. It's important to me that my children know I'll be there when they call me because..
3. This week I heard a news story that made me know God is with us. The story was about..

“UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS”



'DECORATE THE CHRISTMAS TREE' PROJECT

Parishioners are invited to decorate the Christmas Trees around the church
by sponsoring Christmas bell ornaments at \$5 each.

Those sponsoring may write down their names on the ornament(s) and hang it on the Christmas Tree.

A separate box has been allocated for the Christmas prayers and wishes.

All proceeds will go to SJC's Emergency and Relief Fund.

◆ SECOND COLLECTION

There will be a Second Collection at all Masses for the Priests' Retirement Fund. Thank you for your generosity.

◆ CAROL SERVICE AND CHRISTMAS MIDNIGHT AND DAY MASSES

We will be having our usual Carol Service on Wednesday, 24th December at 11:00 p.m. This will be followed by the Christmas Midnight Mass at 00:00 hrs . The Christmas Day Mass will be at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, 25th December.

◆ ST JOHN'S FEAST DAY POTLUCK CELEBRATION & GIFT EXCHANGE

Holy Mass in celebration of our Patron's feast day will be at 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, 27th December, followed by a potluck fellowship. During the fellowship, we will be having a gift exchange activity. To be eligible to join, each participant must bring a gift of a minimum \$5 (For children) and \$10 (For adults). More instructions will be given on the day.

◆ SJC NEW YEAR CELEBRATION 2026

All parishioners are cordially invited to celebrate the start of 2026 at our Parish New Year Celebration on Thursday, 1st January 2026 at 6:00 p.m. It will be an evening of fun, games and fellowship with one another.

◆ REGISTRATION FOR SJC NEW YEAR CELEBRATION

For catering purposes, all those attending the SJC New Year Celebration are highly encouraged to register. Please register by using this QR code. Deadline for registration is Sunday, 28th December.



◆ DONATIONS FOR NEW YEAR CELEBRATIONS

If you wish to donate some prizes for the lucky draw for our New Year Celebrations, please pass your gifts to the Parish office by Monday, 29th December. Thank you for your generosity.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 5:30 PM	2 5:30 PM	3 5:30 PM	4 5:30 PM	5 5:30 PM Eucharistic Adoration	6 5:30 PM Devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary
7 9:00 AM 6:00 PM	8 6:00 PM Advent Recollection in SJC @ 7:30 PM	9 12:15 NN Advent Recollection in SJC @ 7:30 PM	10 12:15 NN Advent Penance Service in SJC @ 4-6 PM & 7-9 PM	11 12:15 NN	12 12:15 NN	13 12:15 NN JCCS in SJC @ 7:30 PM
14 9:00 AM 6:00 PM	15 5:30 PM	16 5:00 AM Missa De Gallo	17 5:00 AM Missa De Gallo	18 5:00 AM Missa De Gallo	19 5:00 AM Missa De Gallo	20 5:00 AM Missa De Gallo
21 5:00 AM Missa De Gallo 9:00 AM	22 5:00 AM Missa De Gallo	23 5:00 AM Missa De Gallo	24 5:00 AM 11:00 PM Carol 12:00 AM Christmas Eve	25 9:00 AM Christmas Day Mass	26 5:30 PM	27 6:00 PM followed by potluck fellowship - St. John's Feast Day
28 9:00 AM 6:00 PM	29 5:30 PM	30 5:30 PM	31 5:30 PM followed by Eucharistic Adoration			

DAY	EVENTS	READINGS	MASS TIME
Monday 22	4TH WEEK OF ADVENT <u>MISSA DE GALLO OR DAWN MASS</u>	1 Sam 1: 24-28 Lk 1: 46-56	5:00 AM
Tuesday 23	4TH WEEK OF ADVENT <u>MISSA DE GALLO OR DAWN MASS</u>	Mal 3: 1-4, 23-24 Lk 1: 57-66	5:00 AM
Wednesday 24	4TH WEEK OF ADVENT <u>MISSA DE GALLO OR DAWN MASS</u> <u>CHRISTMAS CAROL</u>	2 Sam 7: 1-5, 8-12, 14, 16 Lk 1: 67-79	5:00 AM 11:00 PM
Thursday 25	THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (CHRISTMAS MIDNIGHT) CHRISTMAS DAY	Is 9: 1-7 Tit 2: 11-14 Lk 2: 1-14 Is 52: 7-10 Heb 1: 1-6 Jn 1: 1-18 (or 1-5, 9-14)	12:00 AM 9:00 AM
Friday 26	ST. STEPHEN, THE FIRST MARTYR (FEAST DAY)	Acts 6: 8-10, 7: 54-59 Mt 10: 17-22	5:30 PM
Saturday 27	ST. JOHN, APOSTLE & EVANGELIST (FEAST DAY)	1 Jn 1: 1-4 Jn 20: 2-8	6:00 PM
Sunday 28	THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH	Ecclus 3: 2-6, 12-14 Col 3: 12-21 Mt 2: 13-15, 19-23	9:00 AM 6:00 PM