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St. Joseph The Worker Parish, Russell, MB St. Theresa's Parish Rossburn, MB

Responsorial Psalm 89: Forever I will sing of your steadfast love, O Lord.

St. Joseph The Worker News:

Please remember in your prayers those who are sick in hospitals, care homes, or in their homes & those who care for them. If you wish to receive the Sacraments of Anointing, Confession, or Holy Communion – please call the parish office & leave a message: 204-773-2924.

Praying with Pope Francis December: *For persons with disabilities: We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the center of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation.*

Mass Intentions For This Week:

Fourth Sunday Of Advent

Saturday Dec 23 7:30 p.m. Russell Special Intentions req. by Irene Deschamps

Sunday Dec 24 9:00 a.m. Russell **Zoom on-line Mass 9:00 a.m.**
 For all parishioners by Father Paul

11:00 a.m. Rossburn + Frank & Nellie Kaskiw req by the Kaskiw family

Christmas Eve

Sunday Dec 24 6:00 p.m. Russell **Zoom on-line Mass 6:00 p.m. & YouTube after 7:30 p.m.**
 + Ben Schmidt req. by Jim & Bev & family

8:00 p.m. Russell Fr Paul req. by Jim & Bev & family

Christmas Day

Monday Dec 25 9:00 a.m. Russell For all parishioners by Father Paul

11:00 a.m. Rossburn + Norma Kaskiw req. by the Kaskiw family

Tuesday Dec 26 + Mary & Andrew Welechenko req. by John Welechenko

Wed. Dec 27 + Deceased family members req. by Jean Goba

Thurs Dec 28 10:30 a.m. Rossburn Adoration
 11:00 a.m. Mass Fr Paul req. by Rose & family

Friday Dec 29 8:30 a.m. Russell Adoration

9:00 a.m. Mass Dana & Jordan Wedding Blessings req. by Darin & Carlene

Holy Family

Saturday Dec 30 7:30 p.m. Russell + Duncan Spurway req. by Funeral Mass offering

Sunday Dec 31 9:00 a.m. Russell **Zoom on-line Mass 9:00 a.m. & YouTube after 10:15 a.m.**
 For all parishioners by Father Paul

11:00 a.m. Rossburn + John Ryshtylo req. by Michael & Myrna & family

New Years Day *Day of obligation*

Monday Jan 1 9:00 a.m. Russell **Zoom on-line Mass 9:00 a.m. & YouTube after 10:15 a.m.**
 For all parishioners by Father Paul

11:00 a.m. Rossburn + Frank & Nellie Kaskiw req. by Kaskiw family

Helping Hands Soup Kitchen, Brandon is a non-profit serving communities for decades. They depend on volunteers to help serve daily lunch. St. Joseph The Worker Parish plans soon in the New Year to travel to Brandon, volunteering as a group to assist giving out food at their lunch buffet. For more information contact Deacon Darin Douglas, 204-532-2157.



****If anyone would like to help with decorating** St. Joseph's church for Christmas, you are more than welcome to stay today after 9 a.m. mass. The more hands that help the quicker it will be. Thank you.

Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

As we come to the shortest and colder day of the year our world has grown darker by the violence of war, and natural disasters around us. And there has been many challenges we face in our work and labours that have set us in danger of neglecting ourselves and families.

No matter what our age we look forward to gifts or reunion with our families but from a stirring hope for an even deeper joy a Christmas of profound peace and intimate divine friendship. God created us and wants to have a relationship with us. As on the first Christmas, God gave himself to us out of love. He doesn't force himself upon us but quietly waits for us to invite him in.

I wish to thank you for the many kindnesses, invitations, cards, prayers and gifts that you have offered me and to the community. May God richly bless you, with hope, happiness, and peace during this Christmas season and throughout the coming New Year.

Sincerely,

Father Paul Bisson, Pastor



5 Common Questions About Prayer

Prayer is important, but even the devout are confused by different aspects of it. Here are some answers to five common questions about prayer.

Does God need our praise and adoration?

No. In fact, God doesn't need anything from us. He is the fullness of existence and therefore sufficient unto Himself. Our praise and adoration don't add any glory to Him that He doesn't already possess. Praising God does do something to us: It puts us in a right relationship with our Creator and Father.

Is God unaware of our needs?

God knows everything we need (and want) before we even ask. Yet, we still need to pray. Our heavenly Father has foreordained that certain graces be given through prayer. Yes, He could have given all graces to us without anyone asking, but He wants us to be active participants in His plan, not passive observers.

Can prayer change God's mind?

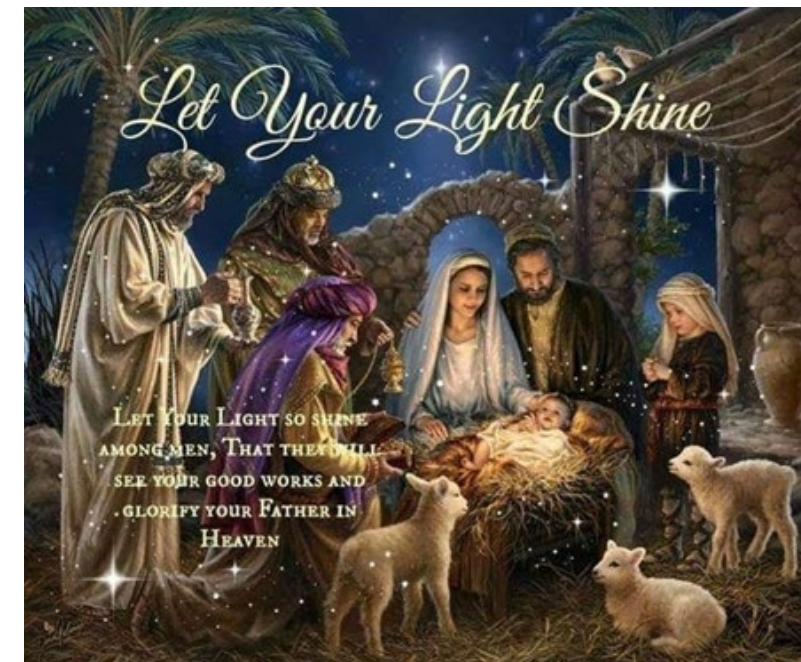
As a perfect being, God cannot change. Change implies imperfection because when something changes, it either loses something it possessed or gains something it formerly lacked. Any "change" we experience as the result of prayer is not a change in God's mind, but a change in us that God — in His eternal plan — willed to grant through our prayer.

Why does God take so long to answer my prayer?

He doesn't do it to tease you or drive you to despair, although it can feel that way at times. It's not always good for you to get what you need right away, as you may not appreciate the gift as deeply as you would have otherwise. God knows the right time and place for His response to benefit you the most.

Is praying to the saints going behind God's back?

No. We don't pray to the saints because we think they'll be more likely to hear us than God. God created us to be in communion with each other and help each other meet our material and spiritual needs. Those in heaven are still in communion with us and more powerful than those on earth since they're in God's presence. Ultimately, prayer is a relationship. Like any human relationship, both parties have their roles. Have you talked to your heavenly Father today? [5 Common Questions About Prayer - Pints with Aquinas](#)



Dear Padre,

The Bible talks about Jesus' brothers and sisters. Is there scriptural proof that Jesus was Mary's only child?

The Catholic Church's position is that Mary had only one child; her son called Jesus. Yet there are at least ten scriptural references to "the brothers of Jesus" or to his "sisters" (see Matthew 13:55-56, Mark 6:3, and Luke 8:19-21).

The difficulty is that the meaning of the term "brothers" (translated from the Greek *adelphos*) isn't restricted to the sharing of a parent. On the contrary, it may not only refer to other relatives, including cousins, but also to close relationships, such as disciples. This is not unlike how we might refer to "brothers in arms" as those who fought in a war together, or a religious order of brothers or sisters.

Recall, too, that Jesus and his disciples spoke Aramaic, and there is no equivalent for the meaning of "cousins" as we know it in that language. Instead, the word for brother or sister was used when referring to cousins. Thus, when St. Jerome (*circa* 340-420) translated the Bible from Hebrew into Church Latin, he considered "the brothers of Jesus" as cousins, not siblings. After all, it would have been the rightful responsibility of these male relatives of Jesus to take care of Mary when Jesus died. Yet Jesus entrusts his mother to the care of his beloved disciple John (John 19:26). ●



VIRGIN AND CHILD, ASIA (ARTIST UNKNOWN)

Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR / DearPadre.org

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
December 25 <i>Nativity of the Lord</i> Is 52:7-10 Heb 1:1-6 Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14	December 26 <i>St. Stephen, the First Martyr</i> Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59 Mt 10:17-22	December 27 <i>St. John, Apostle and Evangelist</i> 1 Jn 1:1-4 Jn 20:1a, 2-8	December 28 <i>Holy Innocents, Martyrs</i> 1 Jn 1:5-2:2 Mt 2:13-18	December 29 <i>Christmas Weekday</i> 1 Jn 2:3-11 Lk 2:22-35	December 30 <i>Christmas Weekday</i> 1 Jn 2:12-17 Lk 2:36-40	December 31 <i>Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph</i> Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40

Do you have a question for the Padre?
Go to DearPadre.org to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.



A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

Let us ask our Lady for a grace...that she kindle our enthusiasm for the ideal of holiness which is not a matter of holy cards and images, but is about living what happens each day, humbly and joyfully...with our eyes fixed on God and the neighbor we meet.

ANGELUS, ROME, DECEMBER 8, 2021



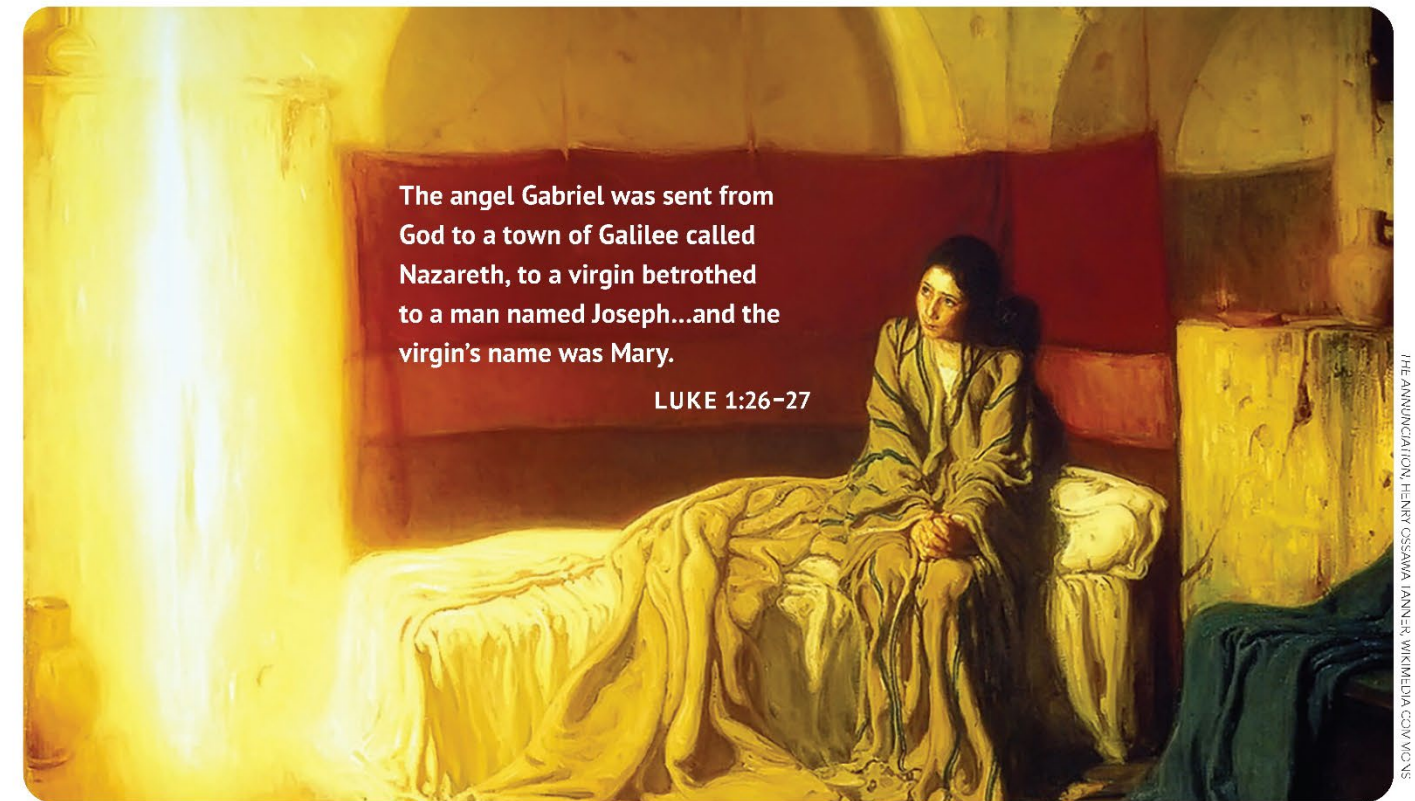
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Our Parish COMMUNITY

December 24, 2023

Fourth Sunday of Advent (B)

2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16 / Romans 16:25-27 / Luke 1:26-38



The angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph...and the virgin's name was Mary.

LUKE 1:26-27

THE ANNUNCIATION, HENRY OSSAWA TANNER, WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Wondering Why

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

The old axiom goes: if you want to make God laugh, tell God your plans. All too often the vision God has for us takes us in quite varying directions. The stories of King David and of Mary echo such realities. David, who wanted to build a temple for the Ark of the Covenant so God would not need to live in a tent, had his plans nixed, only to be reminded that it is *God* who does the building in life and not David. And Mary, who found herself confused over how she might conceive, was asked to simply trust and place her life in the hands of God. Both said "yes."

There are always times when the unfolding path of God for us may unsettle us: the complexities of immigrants at our doorstep, the changing demographics of our cities, the need to close or merge parishes, the upheavals of our personal lives. We find ourselves asking why without receiving any answers. Each time there is no answer, consider it an invitation to trust in a power greater than ourselves.

Not all rhythms of life are necessarily caused by the hand of God, but then one can never be sure. Who is to say where and how and through whom God works? Christmas comes as a reminder that God's love and presence still unfolds in varied and new ways, always giving birth again and again to the divine made flesh in our lives. The mystery of the Incarnation points to this truth: God is present in all of life. ●

Reflect

Have you ever had your plans unsettled in a way that turned out, in the end, to be a gift from God?