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Please keep Father Paul in your prayers!!

OUR THANKS to all our parishioners who gathered together last Saturday to celebrate the beginning of the Advent season with a Communion Service, followed by our Parish Advent Potluck Party! Even though Fr. Paul was unable to be with us, and we did miss him, all who attended enjoyed the delicious food, games, caroling, and visiting. How wonderful it was to see all the children having a great time!

Presentations to Deacon Darin and to our altar servers were also part of the evening. Special thanks to all who donated gifts for our Draw Table, brought food items for the Food Bank, gave monetary donations, bought tickets, and to those who helped in the kitchen. Congratulations to all our prize winners! Because of your generosity, our parish will donate a total of \$875.00 to our Russell & Area Food Connections and \$415.00 to Sr. Hilda Simard's Orphanage in Peru. While having a wonderful time at our parish celebration, we have also helped so many families in need this Christmas.

Our thanks to the CWL and the Knights of Columbus (who also presented the children with gifts) for their prize donations. We also would like to thank our parish social committee for organizing another successful evening of fun times and generous giving.



Reconciliations:

St. Lazare – December 11th at St. Lazare 3 p.m., then 7:30 p.m.
Russell – December 16th at St. Joseph's from 4–5, 6 – as needed
Rossburn – December 18th at Sacred Hearth 4-5, 6 – as needed

The envelopes for 2025 are ready to be picked up at the entrance of the church. Please pick your envelopes. If there is not a box of envelopes for your family and you want envelopes, please contact the church office (204-773-2924) or Gary Petz (204-773-3198). A reminder: Do not to use your 2024 envelopes in 2025. Also, for the families on Direct Deposit there will not be envelopes for the most is "Once I start Direct Deposit is it difficult to stop?" This should not be a concern, if you contact Gary Petz before the 20th of the month you can stop the next month's Direct Deposit. If you have other questions about Direct Deposit call the Parish Office or Gary Petz. Thank you for supporting St. Joseph the Worker Parish.

Women's Vocations Discernment Group - December 14, 2024

Beginning Saturday, December 14, 2024, Women's Vocations will meet the second Saturday of each month from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm. With the prayer intention of vocational and spiritual fruitfulness, as an initiative with the Archdiocese of Winnipeg, participants of Women's Vocations support each other in sharing our discernment journey. Under the patronage and intercession of the Virgin Mary and Elizabeth (Luke 1: 5-80), emulating their receptivity to the grace of the Holy Spirit as well as their support for one another, we pray for purity of faith and fidelity to follow God's will as disciples of Jesus Christ. We gather as Catholic women from a variety of vocations and avocations, discerning how God is inviting us to love and serve Him and His Church. **A virtual option is available for those who cannot meet in person.** For location, meeting format, and scheduling updates, please apply or call Jennifer at (204) 390-8961 or by email at womensvocationswpg@gmail.com. This is in Winnipeg, but optional online is available.

Food for Thought: We need to repent and seek forgiveness from God and those we have injured: John's message calls us to confront and confess our sins. We need to turn away from them in sincere repentance and receive God's forgiveness. Next, we need to forgive others who have offended us and ask forgiveness for our offenses. Jesus explicitly declares (Mt 6:14-15): "For if you forgive men their transgressions, your Heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions"

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

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 126): The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

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 pilgrims of hope: Let us pray that this Jubilee strengthen us in our faith, helping us to recognize the Risen Christ in the midst of our lives, transforming us into pilgrims of Christian hope.

Mass Intentions For This Week:

2nd Sunday of Advent

Saturday Dec 7 7:30 p.m. Russell **Liturgy of the Word with Deacon Darin**
 Sunday Dec 8 9:00 a.m. Russell **Zoom on-line Mass 9:00 a.m. and YouTube after 10:15 a.m.**
 Liturgy of the Word with Deacon Darin
 11:00 a.m. Rossburn **Liturgy of the Word with Deacon Darin**

Monday Dec 9 No Mass
 Tuesday Dec 10 No Mass
 Wed Dec 11 No Mass
 Thurs Dec 12 No Mass
 Friday Dec 13 No Mass



3rd Sunday of Advent

Saturday Dec 14 7:30 p.m. Russell For Fr Paul req by Brad & Brenda Robin
 Sunday Dec 15 9:00 a.m. Russell **Zoom on-line Mass 9:00 a.m. and YouTube after 10:15 a.m.**
 For all parishioners req by Father Paul
 11:00 a.m. Rossburn + For Norma Kaskiw req by the Kaskiw family

St. Theresa's Advent Potluck lunch is today December 8th following mass.

First communion classes are today, Sunday, Dec 8th after 9:00 a.m. mass. Our last class before Christmas will be on the 15th and we will resume after the holidays. Thank you.

Please bring your un-wrapped gift with attached Gift Tag and place it in the hamper next to the tree. Deadline is today, Sunday, Dec. 8th.

Socks (unwrapped) of all sizes and colors are also needed! Bring have those in by today, Sunday, December 8th, and place them under the Stewardship Tree.

If you are unable to drop off gifts/socks at the church, you may also drop off at Bev & Jim Roszell's at 328 Mather St. E. Russell (phone 204-773-3998).

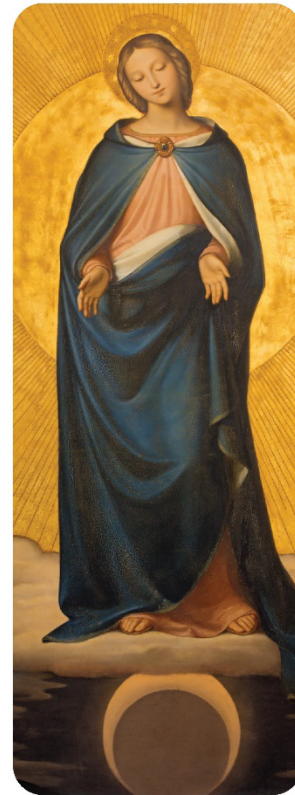
Dear Padre,

If Christmas is on December 25, why is the Immaculate Conception on December 8, rather than sometime in March?

The doctrine of the Immaculate Conception asserts that Mary was free of the stain of original sin from the time she was conceived in her mother's womb. Jesus was also free of the stain of original sin and his conception by Mary is referred to as the Incarnation of Christ. Mary's Immaculate Conception is often confused for Christ's Incarnation.

In the Church's liturgical calendar, Mary's conception is celebrated on December 8; her birthday is celebrated exactly nine months later on September 8. Likewise, Christ's conception is celebrated on March 25 on the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord; his birthday is celebrated exactly nine months later on December 25.

Mary's Immaculate Conception was celebrated many centuries before Pope Pius IX defined it as dogma on December 8, 1854: "The doctrine that maintains that the Blessed Virgin Mary in the first instant of her conception, by a unique grace and privilege granted to her by Almighty God, in consideration of the merits of Jesus Christ the Savior of mankind, was preserved free from all stain of original sin, is a doctrine revealed by God and therefore must be firmly and constantly believed by all the faithful" (*Ineffabilis Deus*). In fact, eight years before, in 1846, the bishops of the United States had already adopted the Immaculate Conception as the patronal feast for Catholics in this country.



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION BY PHILIP VEIT (1830) RENATA SEMAKOVA / SHUTTERSTOCK

Fr. Byron Miller, CSSR / DearPadre.org

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
December 9 <i>Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i> Gn 3:9-15, 20 Eph 1:3-6, 11-12 Lk 1:26-38	December 10 <i>Advent Weekday</i> Is 40:1-11 Mt 18:12-14	December 11 <i>Advent Weekday</i> Is 40:25-31 Mt 11:28-30	December 12 <i>Our Lady of Guadalupe</i> Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47	December 13 <i>St. Lucy, Virgin and Martyr</i> Is 48:17-19 Mt 11:16-19	December 14 <i>St. John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church</i> Sir 48:1-4, 9-11 Mt 17:9a, 10-13	December 15 <i>Third Sunday of Advent</i> Zep 3:14-18a Phil 4:4-7 Lk 3:10-18

Our Parish COMMUNITY

December 8, 2024

Second Sunday of Advent (C)

Baruch 5:1-9 / Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11 / Luke 3:1-6



Jerusalem, take off your robe of mourning and misery; put on forever the splendor of glory from God.

BARUCH 5:1

Coming Home

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

Coming home can take place in many varied ways. Sometimes it's at the end of a long day when we come home to where we can be ourselves without any pretensions. Sometimes it's going back to the neighborhood we grew up in, to the old haunts that remind us of the dreams we had and how they now seem tucked in every niche. Sometimes coming home is what happens after many wanderings, after we've sown our oats and harvested little and now have nowhere else to go. That too is a coming home, back to where it all began, back to where we dare to hope that life might begin again.

All of this is how the Hebrew people found themselves coming home to Jerusalem after eighty years of exile, coming back to start anew with the hope that their God would once again be proud of them, back to where they could be as God intended them to be. All of that is what we do when we decide we will try to be the sort of person we'd always hoped to become. It's when we attempt a second effort at making a marriage work, or a job productive, or maybe simply putting the pieces of our lives back in some sort of order. It's all about coming back home to God's dream for us, a kind of second Advent, when God comes into our lives and is born once again. ●

Reflect

Have you wandered too far from the values of your true home? Can you find your way back?



YARA NARDI / CNS

A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

By calling us to conversion, John urges us to go "beyond" where we presently are; to go beyond what our instincts tell us....

Let us ask for the grace to believe that with God things really do change, that he will banish our fears, heal our wounds....

Let us ask for the grace of hope....

HOMILY, ATHENS, DECEMBER 5, 2021



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