

**Served By: Fr. Paul Bisson**  
**Box 776, Russell, MB R0J 1W0**  
**Phone Office: 204-773-2924**  
**Deacon Darin Douglas: 204-532-2157**  
**Email: [stjowkr@gmail.com](mailto:stjowkr@gmail.com)**  
**Website: [www.stjosephrussell.com](http://www.stjosephrussell.com)**  
**Archdiocese of Winnipeg [www.archwinnipeg.ca](http://www.archwinnipeg.ca)**



St. Joseph The Worker Parish, Russell, MB

St. Theresa's Parish Rosburn, MB

**Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 24):** May the Lord come in; he is king of glory.

**Welcome**

We're glad you came to join with us in our Mass today.  
 We hope that you have felt God's love in a new, refreshing way  
 for you're so welcomed in this place. And we hope you'll come again,  
 to join us in fellowship and to make some special friends.

### **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 Christians in areas of conflict:* Let us pray that Christians living in areas of war or conflict, especially in the Middle East, might be seeds of peace, reconciliation of hope.

### **Mass Intentions For This Week:**

#### **4th Sunday of Advent**

Saturday Dec 20 7:30 p.m. Russell + Pat Edgerton req by her family



Sunday Dec 21 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. Rosburn + Mary McLaughlin req by the McLaughlin family

Monday Dec 22 Confessions at Rosburn 4 – 5 p.m. and 6 – as needed

Tuesday Dec 23 Charlie Le req by Holly & Tony Doan & family



#### **Christmas Eve**

Wed Dec 24 6:00 p.m. – Russell For Fr Paul req by Brad & Brenda Robin

8:00 p.m. – Russell **Zoom on-line Mass 8:00 p.m. and YouTube after 9:15 p.m.**  
 + Ben Schmidt req by Jim & Bev & family

#### **Christmas Day**

Thurs Dec 25 9:00 a.m. – Russell For all parishioners req by Fr Paul

11:00 a.m. - Rosburn + Frank, Nellie & Norma Kaskiw req by the Kaskiw family

Friday Dec 26 **No Mass Russell** Health of Family & friends req by Jean Goba

#### **Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph**

Saturday Dec 27 7:30 p.m. Russell Irene Deschamps req by Ron & Darlene Witty

Sunday Dec 28 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. Rosburn +Eugene Lepischak req by Joyce Lepischak & family

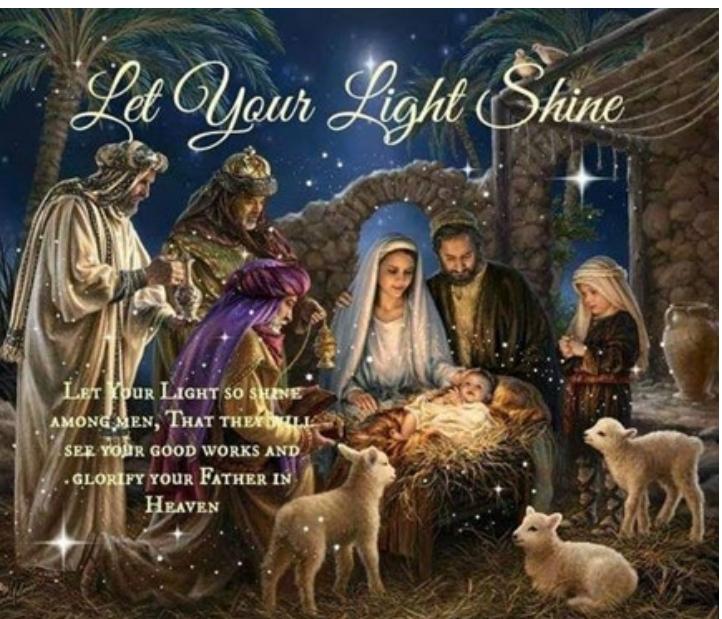
**Russell & Area Food Connection's Basket** is located at the church entrance for your food donations. Please help those less fortunate in our communities.

#### **Reconciliations:**

Rosburn – December 22<sup>nd</sup> at Sacred Heart 4-5 and 6- as needed



The envelopes for 2026 are ready to be picked up at the entrance of the church. Please pick up 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 use your 2025 envelopes in 2026. Also, for the families on Direct Deposit there will not be envelopes for you. Every year more families are going to the Direct Deposit method. The concern we hear 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 20<sup>th</sup> 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.



Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

The beautiful feast of the Incarnation [that the eternal Son of God took on flesh as a human] stirs up wonderful images of a fragile Christ child born into a longing and needy world. That same Jesus awaits a welcome from you and I that he may come once again into the world, this time into the hectic pace of our lives, bringing each of us light and hope. God created us and wants to have a relationship with us. As on the first Christmas, God gave himself to us out of love.

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

Sincerely, **Father Paul Bisson, Pastor**

#### **St. Theresa's Rosburn**

At our Pastoral Council meeting it was decided that we would extend the hours of Eucharistic Adoration. For the time being we will have silent Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament from 1pm-5pm on Thursdays. For January 8<sup>th</sup> 2026, on January 15<sup>th</sup>, and January 23<sup>rd</sup>. We extend a gentle invitation to anyone who might be interested to call Lynda at 204 859 2760 if you have any questions or feel Jesus calling you for a quiet visit with Him! Thank you.

#### **Brandon Helping Hands Soup Kitchen**

**Thank you** to those volunteers this past week who travelled to Brandon Helping Hands Soup Kitchen to serve lunch. 173 people were served – the non-profit organization serves up to 200 people/day at lunchtime, year-round. They depend on volunteers to keep this service available. Our parish offers this opportunity every year to travel together and serve those who are in need. If you are interested in the future, please contact Deacon Darin Douglas for more information, 204-532-2157.

**Congratulations to Treverie Madlangbayan** and to his parents Gilbert and Joricar! Treverie was baptized last Tuesday, December 16<sup>th</sup> at St. Joseph The Worker Parish.

**\*\*\*Confirmation classes will begin again after Christmas on January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

#### **Christmas & New Year's Mass Schedule at St. Joseph's**

**Wednesday, December 24<sup>th</sup> Christmas Eve 6:00 p.m. & 8:00 p.m. Russell**

**Thursday, December 25<sup>th</sup> Christmas Day 9:00 a.m. Russell  
 & 11:00 a.m. Rosburn**

**Thursday, January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026 New Year's Day 9:00 a.m. Russell  
 & 11:00 a.m. Rosburn**

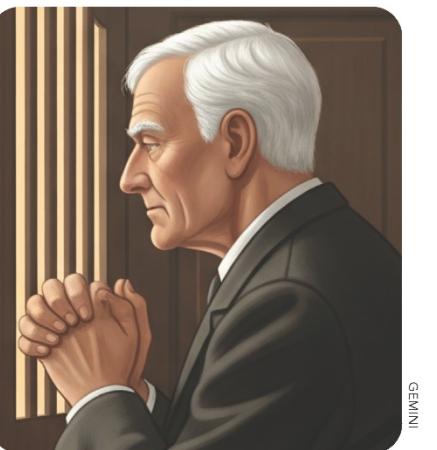
# Dear Padre,

*I went to confession, and then, months later, my priest was removed for alcoholism and theft. Is my confession still worthy?*

Your confession is not dependent on the worthiness or the unworthiness of the priest. Your confession is made to Jesus; the priest is a witness who pronounces the words of absolution that Jesus intended in the sacrament. "From the moment that a sacrament is celebrated in accordance with the intention of the Church, the power of Christ and his Spirit acts in and through it, independently of the personal holiness of the minister" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1128).

The question of the efficacy of the sacrament and the unworthiness of the minister who performs the sacrament in the name of the Church is not new. During the time of persecution, in the early centuries of the Church, some people, including priests and bishops, avoided martyrdom by offering the required oblation to Caesar. Later, they repented and returned to the Christian community, a community that included the surviving family and friends of the men and women who were martyred. The question was asked, and with some animated energy, "How could these ministers who sinned to save their own lives now represent the Church?" The answer, arrived at with patience and discernment, is that the minister is only the representative of the sacrament, not the source of the sacrament. Jesus is faithful, even when his ministers have been unfaithful. ●

Fr. Thomas M. Santa, CSsR / DearPadre.org



# Our Parish COMMUNITY

December 21, 2025

Fourth Sunday of Advent (A)

Isaiah 7:10–14 / Romans 1:1–7 / Matthew 1:18–24



The angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, 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. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus."

MATTHEW 1:20–21



## A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV



*I think it is important for all of us to learn how to listen more, to enter into dialogue. First and foremost, with the Lord: always listen to the word of God. Then also listen to others, to know how to build bridges, to know how to listen without judging, not closing the doors [and] thinking that we have all the truth and no one else can tell us anything.*

HOMILY, ROME, MAY 11, 2025

Monday	Thursday	Saturday
December 22	December 25	December 27
Advent Weekday	<i>The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)</i>	<i>St. John, Apostle and Evangelist</i>
1 Sm 1:24–28	Lk 1:46–56	1 Jn 1:1–4
Lk 1:46–56	Heb 1:1–6	Jn 20:1a, 2–8
Tuesday	Jn 1:1–18 or 1:1–5, 9–14	
December 23	Heb 1:1–6	
Advent Weekday	Jn 1:1–18 or 1:1–5, 9–14	
Mal 3:1–4, 23–24		
Lk 1:57–66		
Wednesday		
December 24		
Advent Weekday		
2 Sm 7:1–5, 8b–12, 14a, 16		
Lk 1:67–79		
Friday		
December 26		
<i>St. Stephen, the First Martyr</i>		
Acts 6:8–10; 7:54–59		
Col 3:12–21 or 3:12–17		
Mt 10:17–22		
Sunday		
December 28		
<i>The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph</i>		
Sir 3:2–6, 12–14		
Acts 6:8–10; 7:54–59		
Col 3:12–21 or 3:12–17		
Mt 2:13–15, 19–23		

## Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to [DearPadre.org](https://DearPadre.org) to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.



Catholic. Pastoral. Trusted. © 2025 Liguori Publications. *Imprimi Potest*: Fr. Kevin Zubel, CSsR, Provincial, Denver Province, the Redemptorists. Liguori Publications, a nonprofit corporation, is an apostolate of the Redemptorists. To learn more about the Redemptorists, visit [Redemptorists.com](https://Redemptorists.com). No part of this work may be used in any form without the prior written permission of Liguori Publications. Scripture texts in this work are taken from *The New American Bible, Revised Edition* © 2010, 1991, 1986, 1970 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Inc., Washington, DC. All Rights Reserved. Printed in USA. Visit [Liguori.org](https://Liguori.org) or call 800-325-9521.

# Close Enough!

MIGUEL DULICK

**I**t is the fourth Sunday of Advent. When Christmas is this close, one takes that final leap. Isaiah is centuries from Christmas, but he cannot wait! He sees the "sign" as clear as day: "the young woman, pregnant and about to bear a son" (Isaiah 7:14). And how about that Son! None other than "Emmanuel" himself—God-With-Us! Paul, too, is bursting at the seams! Inspired by what he calls "the obedience of faith" (Romans 5), he is excited to see the gospel thriving even among the Gentiles. For him, the "Spirit of holiness" is a gift offered to all—Christmas every day, you might say.

Speaking of "obedience of faith," Joseph is the perfect example. The word "obey" comes from the same root as "to hear," and Joseph has almost supernatural ears! Matthew, the former tax collector, tells "how the birth of Jesus Christ came about" in today's gospel reading like a bookkeeper—the Holy Spirit in Column A, Joseph in Column B, with Mary in the middle. But when an angel whispers to Joseph at night, his dream comes true: "he took his wife into his home." Everything is set for Emmanuel!

So, the Bible is brimming with Christmas, that is, "God-With-Us," from end to end. And when a virgin can conceive, are any of us exempt from "birthing" Jesus in our midst? Even when a "happy holiday" seems impossible in the midst of war or violence or poverty, when our ears hear only silence, let's sing Christmas carols every day! ●



SCAN TO LEARN ABOUT AUTHOR MIGUEL DULICK

## Reflect

*How am I at listening? Can I find new insights in old stories that I think I know so well?*