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

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 146): Your words, Lord, are spirit and life.

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:

3rd Sunday of Advent

Saturday Dec 13 7:30 p.m. Russell + Carol Schott req by Wade Schott

Sunday Dec 14 9:00 a.m. Russell **Zoom on-line Mass 9:00 a.m. and YouTube after 10:15 a.m.**
 Fr Paul req by Jim & Bev & family

11:00 a.m. Gambler Liturgy Of The Word with Communion with Deacon Darin

11:00 a.m. Rossburn For all parishioners req by Father Paul

Monday Dec 15 Health of Family & friends req by Jean Goba

Tuesday Dec 16 Father Paul's 20th Anniversary of Ordination

Wed Dec 17 No Mass

Thurs Dec 18 10:30 a.m. Rossburn Adoration
 11:00 a.m. + Suffering Souls in Purgatory req by Rose & family

Friday Dec 19 8:30 a.m. Russell Adoration
 9:00 a.m. + Mangin Family req by George Mangin & family

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. Rossburn + Mary McLaughlin req by the McLaughlin family



Congratulations to Father Paul who will be celebrating his 20th Anniversary of Ordination on December 16th!!

Attention CWL Ladies: membership fees of \$25 are now due for 2026. Please pay Darlene Witty, Box 426, Russell, MB R0J 1W0. Our CWL have been together for 70 years. Wow! What an accomplishment. New members are more than welcome to join!

Note a change in the date for the CWL Christmas supper. It will be on Monday, December 15th at the Tin House. Supper will be at 6 o'clock. No gift exchange, just the pleasure of your company. You are responsible to pay for your own supper. Thank you.

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:

Russell – December 18th at St. Joseph's from 4-5 and 6- as needed
 St. Lazare – December 19th at 4 on and as needed
 Rossburn – December 22nd 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 to 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 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.

Food for thought

The prophet Isaiah, in today's first reading, encouraged the exiled Jews in Babylon to rejoice because their God was going to liberate them from slavery and lead them safely to their homeland. The Refrain for today's Responsorial Psalm has us sing, "*Lord, come and save us!*" In the second reading, James the Apostle encourages the early Christians to rejoice and wait with patience for the imminent second coming of Jesus. Finally, in the first part of today's Gospel reading, Jesus encourages John the Baptist in prison to rejoice by casting away his wrong expectations about the Messiah and simply accepting Jesus' healing and preaching ministry as the fulfillment of the Messianic prophecy of Isaiah. In the second part of today's Gospel, Matthew presents Jesus, the true Messiah, paying the highest compliments to John the Baptist as his herald and the last of the prophets, and giving special credit to the courage of John's prophetic convictions, asking his listeners to rejoice in the greatness of his herald.



Life messages: 1) We need to learn how to survive a Faith crisis: If John the Baptist, even after having had a direct encounter with Jesus, the Messiah, had his doubts about Jesus and his teachings, we, too, can have our crises of Faith. On such occasions, let us remember the truth that all our Christian dogmas are based on our trusting Faith in the Divinity of Jesus who taught them, and on his Divine authority which he gave to his Church to teach what he taught. Hence, it is up to us to learn our Faith in depth and ask the Lord to remove our doubts.

2) "Go and tell others what you hear and see." We rejoice at the thought that Jesus is going to be reborn in our lives, deepening in us his gifts of love, mercy, forgiveness and the spirit of humble and sacrificial service during this Christmas season. Hence, let us joyfully share God's bountiful grace, forgiveness, and mercy with others. What Jesus demanded of John's disciples, he demands of us as well: "*Go and tell others what you hear and see.*" This means that we have to share with others our experience of the rebirth of Jesus within us.

3) We need to open our hearts and let God transform our lives: Today's readings remind us that our lives can also be transformed if we are patient and place our trust in God. The message of Advent is that God is present among us, in our everyday lives. We must prepare our hearts to recognize and welcome him by allowing a *metánoia* (a change of thinking about God, ourselves, and the world) — wrought by the Holy Spirit, with our cooperative assent, of course — to take place in us during Advent.

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

Wednesday, December 24th Christmas Eve 6:00 p.m. & 8:00 p.m. Russell

**Thursday, December 25th Christmas Day 9:00 a.m. Russell
 & 11:00 a.m. Rossburn**

**Thursday, January 1st, 2026 New Year's Day 9:00 a.m. Russell
 & 11:00 a.m. Rossburn**

Dear Padre,

Does the Bible say that Mary was in her sixth month of pregnancy at the Annunciation?

The announcement of Jesus’ birth in Luke begins, “In the sixth month, 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). This Scripture passage taken out of context could possibly give the impression that “in the sixth month” refers to Mary. However, it refers to Mary’s cousin Elizabeth, who was in the sixth month of her pregnancy with John the Baptist. The proper context is a few verses before this one that reads, “Elizabeth conceived, and she went into seclusion for five months” (Luke 1:24).

Regarding Mary’s pregnancy, at the Annunciation, the angel Gabriel tells her, “Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus.... The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore, the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God” (Luke 1:31, 35). Gabriel also informs Mary, “And behold, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren” (Luke 1:36).

In general, women already in their sixth month of pregnancy would likely be aware of their condition, and it would not be easy to conceal from others. ●

Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR / DearPadre.org



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
December 15	December 16	December 17	December 18	December 19	December 20	December 21
Advent Weekday	Advent Weekday	Advent Weekday	Advent Weekday	Advent Weekday	Advent Weekday	Fourth Sunday of Advent
Nm 24:2–7, 15–17a	Zep 3:1–2, 9–13	Gn 49:2, 8–10	Jer 23:5–8	Jgs 13:2–7, 24–25a	Is 7:10–14	Is 7:10–14
Mt 21:23–27	Mt 21:28–32	Mt 1:1–17	Mt 1:18–25	Lk 1:5–25	Lk 1:26–38	Rom 1:1–7
						Mt 1:18–24



A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

There are many settings in which the Christian faith is considered absurd.... Yet, precisely for this reason, they are the places where our missionary outreach is desperately needed. A lack of faith is often tragically accompanied by the loss of meaning in life, the neglect of mercy, appalling violations of human dignity, the crisis of the family, and so many other wounds that afflict our society.

HOMILY, ROME, MAY 9, 2025

Our Parish COMMUNITY

December 14, 2025
Third Sunday of Advent (A)
Isaiah 35:1–6a, 10 / James 5:7–10 / Matthew 11:2–11



Say to the fearful of heart:
Be strong, do not fear!
Here is your God,
he comes with vindication;
With divine recompense
he comes to save you.

ISAIAH 35:4

The Gift of Questions

FR. THOMAS M. SANTA, CSsR

We sometimes imagine that a sign of a strong faith is firm conviction and freedom from doubt. However, despite our imaginings, the authentic experiences of saints and ordinary people alike seem to point in another direction. The question of John the Baptist today—“Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?” (Matthew 11:3)—suggests that John is filled with questions, and these are important questions because they are asked from the depths of King Herod’s prison, which is not exactly the place of idle musings or concerns.

If John, who is a great saint and a man who encountered Jesus and witnessed the powerful manifestation of the Holy Spirit at his baptism, can have a question, doesn’t it suggest that questions are acceptable—perhaps even needed? Perhaps questioning is an indication of faithfulness, not a lack of faith. Questions do not suggest that something is missing; rather, they confirm that something is growing and developing. The Baptist could just have easily said, “Jesus, you are doing and saying more than I ever imagined possible. Please help me to understand,” or, to quote an unnamed saint, “I do believe, help my unbelief!” (Mark 9:24).

God will not shatter, and faith will not collapse, because you have questions or doubts. Experience suggests that questions and doubts strengthen our belief and our commitment to a life of faith. ●

Reflect

Do I welcome questions, mine and others, as a way to grow in faith?



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