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

Responsorial Psalm (Isaiah 12): Shout a loud and sing for joy: great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

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:

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
 Monday Dec 16 **Reconciliations** at St. Joseph's from 4–5, 6 – as needed
Fr Paul's 19th Anniversary of Ordination
 Tuesday Dec 17 No Mass
 Wed Dec 18 **Reconciliations** at Sacred Heart from 4-5, 6 – as needed
 Thurs Dec 19 No Mass
 Friday Dec 20 8:30 a.m. Russell Adoration
 9:00 a.m. For Fr Paul req by Irene Deschamps



4th Sunday of Advent

Saturday Dec 21 7:30 p.m. Russell + Myron Andrews req by Jim & Bev & family
 Sunday Dec 22 9:00 a.m. Russell **Zoom on-line Mass 9:00 a.m. and YouTube after 10:15 a.m.**
 + Deceased family members req by The Chartier Family
 11:00 a.m. Rossburn – For all parishioners req by Father Paul

Thank you to everyone who has been praying for me over the passed couple weeks. Thank you also to all the nurses, doctors and staff at the hospital for their exceptional care while I was there. I will be restarting my treatments this week here in Russell. Thank you again. Father Paul

A 4-year-old boy, Jimmy, was asked to give the blessing before Christmas dinner. The family members bowed their heads in expectation. He began his prayer, thanking God for all his friends, naming them one by one. Then he thanked God for Mommy, Daddy, brother, sister, Grandma, Grandpa, and all his aunts and uncles. Then he began to thank God for the food. He gave thanks for the turkey, the dressing, the fruit salad, the cranberry sauce, the pies, the cakes– even the Cool Whip. Then he paused, and everyone waited–and waited. After a long silence, the young fellow looked up at his mother and asked, “If I thank God for the broccoli, won't He know that I'm lying?”

Congratulations to Father Paul who will be celebrating his 19th Anniversary of Ordination on December 16th!!

The last **first communion class until after the holidays will be today at 10:00 a.m. after 9 a.m. mass. Thank you.

The envelopes for 2025 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 2024 envelopes in 2025. 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.



Reconciliations:

Russell – December 16th at St. Joseph's from 4–5, 6 – as needed

Rossburn – December 18th at Sacred Heart 4-5, 6 – as needed

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

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

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

Wednesday, January 1st, 2025 New Year's Day 9:00 a.m. Russell
& 11:00 a.m. Rossburn

The central theme of today's readings is the command “Rejoice!” We are to do so mainly by realizing the presence of Jesus in our midst, by receiving Jesus into our lives through our repentance, by our renewal of life, and by our faithful doing of God's will. Today is called “*Gaudete*” Sunday because today's Mass begins with the opening antiphon, “*Gaudete in Domino semper*” (“*Rejoice in the Lord always*”). Today we light the rose-colored candle of the Advent wreath, and the priest may wear rose-colored vestments, to express our communal joy in the coming of Jesus as our Savior. We rejoice because a) we are celebrating the day of Christ's birth, b) we recognize Jesus' daily presence in our midst, and c) we wait for Christ's return in glory.

We are called to a change of life. John the Baptist, the stern and uncompromising preacher, challenges our superficial attempts at change, demanding that we take a deeper look at ourselves. Obeying the commandments is a good start, but we must then examine our relationships with others. We must mend ruptures, ease or eliminate frictions, face family responsibilities, work honestly, and treat employees and employers justly. Start where you are, John says. Our domestic and social lives must be put in order. John's voice is sober. It runs counter to the intoxicating voices around us. John calls for rectitude and social consciousness. We must abandon our selfish thirst for consumption, and instead, be filled with the expectation of Jesus' coming. Hence, let us *celebrate* the memory of Jesus' first advent at Bethlehem, *prepare for* Jesus' daily advent into our lives, *welcoming, loving and serving* Jesus, present in other people, *delighting in Jesus'* presence in our own souls and lives, and *waiting for* Jesus' third advent or “*second coming*” (“*Parousia*”) at the end of the world, with joyful expectation.

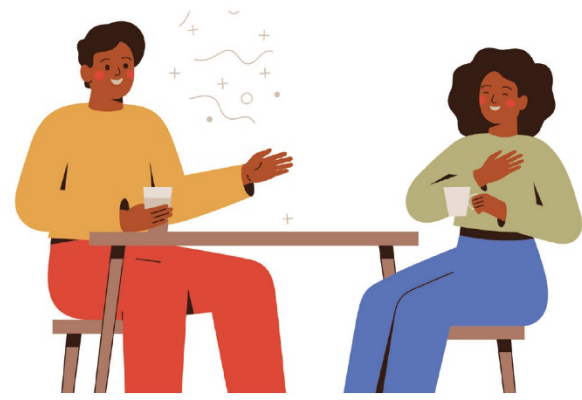
Dear Padre,

My family, friends, and coworkers seem to be uncomfortable when I tell them that I've been praying for them. Should I just keep it to myself?

There is nothing fundamentally wrong with telling people you have been praying for them. Most people are probably grateful for such care and support. But it can be a little tricky. If the person believes the praying is actually a judgment and not a blessing, it may provoke a less-than-grateful response. This is where honest discernment on your part is invited. Are you coming across as prayerfully concerned, or is there some criticism or judgment in what seems to be an innocent blessing? People are able to perceive the difference.

Another consideration—and this is not at all unusual as a response in the culture of today—is that some people are very defensive about any religious expressions and do not react favorably. Think, for example, about the different reactions to “Merry Christmas” or “Happy Holidays,” which can often provoke the familiar idiom “them’s fightin’ words.” My best advice is to keep praying for everyone, as no one truly understands or fully appreciates the power of prayer. That being said, temper your announcement when you suspect it will not be well received. This demonstrates a grateful and blessed heart, which is what you intend and hope for, after all. ●

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



MARY LONG / SHUTTERSTOCK

Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to DearPadre.org to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
December 16	December 17	December 18	December 19	December 20	December 21	December 22
Advent Weekday	Advent Weekday	Advent Weekday	Advent Weekday	Advent Weekday	Advent Weekday	Fourth Sunday of Advent
Nm 24:2–7, 15–17a Mt 21:23–27	Gn 49:2, 8–10 Mt 1:1–17	Jer 23:5–8 Mt 1:18–25	Jgs 13:2–7, 24–25a Lk 1:5–25	Is 7:10–14 Lk 1:26–38	Sg 2:8–14 or Zep 3:14–18a Lk 1:39–45	Mi 5:1–4a Heb 10:5–10 Lk 1:39–45



A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

[The crowd asked John the Baptist,] “What shall we do?”
By suggesting this question, the Gospel reminds us of something important: life has a task for us.... Each of us—let us not forget this—has a mission to accomplish. So, let us not be afraid to ask the Lord: what shall I do?

ANGELUS, ROME, DECEMBER 12, 2021

Our Parish COMMUNITY

December 15, 2024

Third Sunday of Advent (C)

Zephaniah 3:14–18a / Philippians 4:4–7 / Luke 3:10–18



The Light Side of the Dark

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

There’s something to be said for kindness. Often when we say to ourselves that something is an act of godliness, it’s when someone is kind, especially when it seems to come out of the blue. It’s what John the Baptist seemed to be thinking when he said we would be baptized with the Holy Spirit and with the sort of passionate fire that warms and gives off light. Henry James, the British novelist, once said that three things were important in life—the first, be kind; the second, be kind; the third, be kind. Long before Henry James said it, St. Paul wrote to the Christian community in Philippi: “Your kindness should be known to all. The Lord is near” (Philippians 4:5). God’s presence seems to be nearer when someone is kind.

It is curious how in the darkest moments of life, the light of kindness shines more brightly. Natural calamities seem to bring out kindness toward those who suffer. So too, at times of personal tragedies or disasters, when others are grieving the death of someone they love, as well as countless other times when people find themselves lost in the dark. Little wonder then how during this time of year when the days are shortest, and the nighttime dark is longest, that the days of Advent and Christmas seem to be laced with kindness for one another. Then the veil that hides God from our eyes grows thinner, and we catch glimpses of “God with us.” ●

Reflect

Have you made kindness a regular practice?



The peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

PHILIPPIANS 4:7