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

**Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 80):** Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

**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:**

**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

Monday Dec 23 Brother Gordon Lysyshyn req by Rose & family

**Christmas Eve**

Tuesday Dec 24 6:00 p.m. - Russell - Fr Paul req by Merril & Lorna Kiliwnik & family  
 8:00 p.m. - Russell - For Ben Schmidt req by Jim & Bev & family

**Christmas Day**

Wed Dec 25 9:00 a.m. – Russell – For all parishioners req by Father Paul  
 11:00 a.m. – Rossburn - + Frank & Nellie & Norma Kaskiw req by the Kaskiw family

Thurs Dec 26 No Mass

Friday Dec 27 No Mass

**Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph**

Saturday Dec 28 7:30 p.m. Russell For Fr Paul req by Darin & Carlene

Sunday Dec 29 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 Johnny Kostecki req by the Kaskiw family



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

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

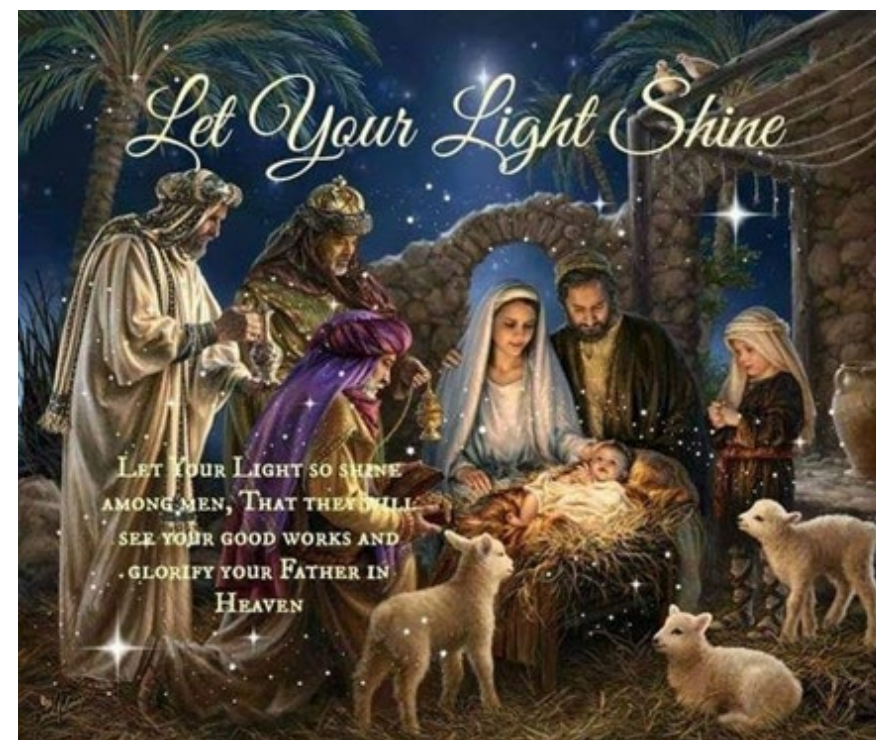
**Wednesday, December 25<sup>th</sup> Christmas Day 9:00 a.m. Russell  
 & 11:00 a.m. Rossburn**

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

\*Two things worry people these days: one, that things may never get back to normal; and the other, that they have already.

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 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.

**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.



**Greetings Brothers and Sisters,**

The days preceding Christmas are particularly laborious for all and a danger of neglecting ourselves. Christmas is a feast of union – the union of God and humanity in Christ. This is the basis of Christmas joy.

No matter what our age may be, it is impossible to await Christmas without some expectancy and excitement of a child. This does not stem from looking 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.

As on the first Christmas, God gave himself to us out of love. I believe we are sincere in this expectation but a little slow to place our own gift before the manger.

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*

**Food For Thought**

Today's readings prepare us for the upcoming feast of Christmas by bringing together the major themes of the first three Sundays of Advent, namely, promise, repentance, and joyful transformation. They remind us that the mystery of the Incarnation comes to ordinary people living ordinary lives, who have the openness to do God's will and the willingness to respond to God's call. Today's readings suggest that we should not celebrate Christmas as just an occasion for nice feelings. Instead, commemorating Jesus' birth should inspire us to carry out God's word as Mary and Jesus did, in perfect, loving obedience to His will, with the cheerful kindness and unselfish generosity that will help make us true disciples.

Heavenly Father; who chose the Virgin Mary, full of grace, to be the mother of our Lord and Saviour, now fill us with your grace, that we, in all things, may embrace your will and with her, rejoice in your salvation through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.  
 -Book of Common Prayer

# Dear Padre,

## Where does the Hail Mary prayer come from?

The Hail Mary owes its origin to the rosary. The traditional story of the rosary was that Mary herself appeared to St. Dominic in the twelfth century and gave him the rosary with the promise that if he spread devotion to the rosary, his religious order would flourish. In the twelfth century, religious orders recited together the 150 psalms as a way to mark the hours of the day and the days of the week. In order to pray the psalms, though, people had to know how to read. People who didn't know how to read wanted to share in the practice, so the rosary, or praying on beads, began as a parallel prayer practice. It was a way that illiterate people could remember the Lord and his Mother throughout the day.

The first rosaries consisted of a string of 150 beads, and, much as we do now, a person would pass over each bead after saying a prayer, usually the Our Father. Later, people added the Archangel Gabriel's greeting—"Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee"—and later still, Elizabeth's prayer we hear in today's Gospel—"Blessed art thou among women." Finally this prayer was added in the sixteenth century: "Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death." ●



IMMACULATE / SHUTTERSTOCK

### The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
December 23 Advent Weekday Mal 3:1-4, 23-24 Lk 1:57-66	December 24 Advent Weekday 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16 Lk 1:67-79	December 25 Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) Is 52:7-10 Heb 1:1-6 Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14	December 26 St. Stephen, First Martyr Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59 Mt 10:17-22	December 27 St. John, Apostle and Evangelist 1 Jn 1:1-4 Jn 20:1a, 2-8	December 28 Holy Innocents, Martyrs 1 Jn 1:5-2:2 Mt 2:13-18	December 29 Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28 Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 or 1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24 Lk 2:41-52

### Do you have a question for the Padre?

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



YARA NARDI / CNS

### A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

*Do I move forward with hope...? We can also ask for...the grace of a healthy sense of humor: it does so much good.... The first act of charity we can do for our neighbors is to offer them a serene and smiling face. It is bringing the joy of Jesus to them, as Mary did with Elizabeth.*

ANGELUS, ROME, DECEMBER 19, 2021



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# Our Parish COMMUNITY

December 22, 2024

Fourth Sunday of Advent (C)

Micah 5:1-4a / Hebrews 10:5-10 / Luke 1:39-45



[Elizabeth said to Mary,] "Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled."

LUKE 1:45

## Feeling Our Way

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

Most of the time we find ourselves backing our way into the will of God, or maybe even feeling our way into it. There are times when the will of God is quite clear: Should I lie or tell the truth? Should I steal or not? Most often, however, the will of God is not so clear. Too often it becomes a question of how to negotiate an aspect of life that's been handed to us, often a reality we cannot escape. It may be an unwanted divorce, or a son or daughter in a questionable relationship, or an illness that dismantles one's life plans. On the one hand, it is not as if God hands out scripts that we are expected to live by. On the other hand, God is part of all that unfolds. Somewhere in the midst of that is the will of God, which is another way of saying somehow you and I need to negotiate what we never chose, but is now served up by life. Or is it served up by God? Or by our own doing? Or all of that? That's what I mean when I say we feel our way into the will of God.

It is what Jesus sorted out in the desert when he was tempted, "I come to do your will, O God." It is Elizabeth's story of an unexpected pregnancy in her old age. It is Mary saying "Yes" to an uncharted path. Living God's will seems mostly to be a sorting process. ●

### Reflect

**Have you responded with a wholehearted "Yes" to God's will for you?**