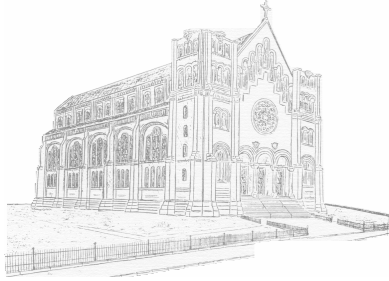


December 15, 2019

St. Joseph Roman Catholic Church

1802 Tulane Ave New Orleans, LA 70112-2246



**A New Orleans Historic Landmark
Founded in 1844**

**Entrusted to the pastoral care of
the Congregation of the Mission
(Vincentians) since 1858.**



PARISH STAFF

Fr. Tom Stehlik, C.M., *Pastor*
Sr. Claire Edwards, D.C., *Pastoral Associate*
Gina Fulton, *Receptionist, Wedding Director*
Diamilette McMiller, *Office Assistant*
Tasheena Butler, *Mission and Service Coordinator*
Rose Mary McDonald, Jane Tonglet, *Housekeeping*
Sr. Juanita Chenevert, D.C., *Bookkeeper*

CONTACT US

Church: 504-522-3186; 522-3187
Church Fax: 504-522-3171
E-mail Address: stjoseph@bellsouth.net
Website Address: www.stjosephchurch-no.org

MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday Masses: 10 a.m. & 8:30 p.m.
Weekday Masses: 12:15 p.m.

CHURCH HOURS

Mondays thru Fridays: 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
One hour before each Sunday Mass

The Rebuild Center 1803 Gravier St., NO, 70112

Lantern Light/Feed Jesus
504-273-5573

Birth Certificate Assist. Mon.
Mail, M-F 9-10 am
ID Assist. Tues. 8am
Lunch—Daily M-F 12:45 pm
Resume Typing: Thurs.

Health, Hygiene Kits,
Emergency groceries
& financial assistance
for area residents

Harry Tompson Center
504-273-5547

Showers, Restroom Facilities
Legal Aid Mon/Wed 8am
Phones; Notary T, W, Th 12:15
Computer Wed. 9:30-11:30
Medical Services, Mental

DePaul USA
504-273-5561
Housing w/ case mgt.
Transportation

Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confessions): Wed. & Fri. 11:50—12:10 ; Sundays 7:45—8:15 p.m.

Baptisms Call the Pastor to make appointment. Parents and Godparents need to attend instruction for sacrament prior to date being established.

Weddings Contact priest at least six months prior to planned wedding date. After contacting priest, contact the wedding director, (x141) to reserve the time and date for your wedding.

Ministry to Sick Please call the church office if your loved one is hospitalized or shut-in and unable to attend Mass for *the Anointing of the Sick* for healing and to receive communion.

New Parishioners Welcome to St. Joseph Church. If you wish to become a member of our parish family, please complete one of the registration forms on the table in the rear of the church. You can turn in the completed form to the receptionist in the church office.



10:00 am Pippy Sanders; Clarence Schlamp+; Bert Wallace+; John Lawyer +; Madeline von Almen +
8:30 pm St. Joseph Parishioners, Living & Deceased

Monday, December 16, 2019—

12:10 p.m. **Souls in Purgatory**

Tuesday, December 17, 2019—

12:15 p.m. **Virginia Stehlik**

Wednesday, December 18, 2019—

12:15 p.m. **Fr. Tom Nelson +**

Thursday, December 19, 2019—

12:15 p.m. **Infirm Parish Members**

Friday, December 20, 2019—

12:15 p.m. **Gaynell Robin; Shirley Markey**

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, Dec 15, One in Faith #960

Mon.: Nm 24:2-7, 15-17; Ps 25; Mt 21:23-27

Tuesday: Gn 49:2, 8-10; Ps 72; Mt 1:1-17

Wed.: Jer 23:5-8; Ps. 72; Mt 1:18-25

Thurs: Jds 13:2-7, 24,25; Ps. 71; Lk 1:5-25

Friday: Is 7:10-14; Ps 24; Lk 1:26-38

Sat.: Zep 3:14-18; Ps. 33; Lk 1:39-45

Sunday: Is 7:10-14; Psalm 24:1-6;
 Rom 1:1-7; Mt 1:18-24

YOUR PRAYERS ARE ASKED FOR THE FOLLOWING PARISHIONERS , WHO ARE IN NEED OF HEALING:

Dorothy Alexander, Beatrice Augustin, Anthony Blaise, Clarke Bordelo, Lawrence & Mamie Brown, Angelle Campbell; John Caron, Julianna Chevalier; John & Kathleen Gebbia, Sylvia Daily-Powell, Joseph Delay, Terry Eggleston, Linda Elwood, Heather Faircloth, Frances Fiegler, Darrell & Ramona Ford, Donald Frazier, Mark Eiserloh, Shirley Gaither, Roselyn Hansen, Sarah Hollier-Watkins, Marvin Johnston, Jim Karam, Bill Kroetz, Ken Kussman, Nowell Lacking, Landy Lanza, James Leung, Andrew Marino, Sara Marino, Priscilla Martin, Karen McCoy, Hazel McMiller, Donna Moore, Maura O'Donovan, CHF, Tina Roderfeld, Irelia Robinson; Bernie Saul; Pippy Sanders, Louise Sonnier, Mel & Gaspar Schiro; Theard Simms, Fr. Tom Stehlik, CM, Malcolm Taylor, Jane Tonglet, Fritz & George Tripkovich, Georgiana Prevost, Marion Vaughn, Juanita Ware, Cathleen Ward, Warren Webster, Helen Wilson, Mary Willis, Lynn Williams, C & JA Slocum.

SANCTUARY CANDLE AND MASS INTENTIONS

The Sanctuary Candle is burning this week to pray for the eternal rest of **Mr/Mrs. Paul Reynolds & Joseph Morales, Jr.** To reserve a date to burn the Sanctuary Candle in memory of someone or for a special intention, please call the church office (522-3186). The Sanctuary Candle offering is \$15 for one week. The offering for Mass intentions is \$5.00 per Mass.

The Origins of the Christmas Tree

In one of the earliest stories relating to the Christmas tree, the eighth-century Catholic missionary, Saint Boniface, is said to have cut down an oak tree sacred to the pagan god Thor. An evergreen, fir tree grew in its place, which Boniface said symbolized the everlasting nature of Jesus Christ. The tradition of trees indoors can be traced to the Romans who decorated their homes with evergreen branches in celebration of the winter festival. The evergreen tree was an ancient symbol of life in the midst of winter. Not until the Renaissance are there clear records of trees being used as a symbol of Christmas - beginning in Latvia in 1510 and Strasbourg in 1521. Tradition holds Martin Luther with first adding decorations to a tree. Walking toward his home one winter evening he was awed by the brilliance of stars twinkling amidst evergreens. To recapture the scene for his family, he erected a tree in the main room and wired its branches with lighted candles. Most likely theory is that Christmas trees started with dramas depicting biblical stories, imaginative performances by laypeople in the open air. The plays celebrating the Nativity were linked to the story of creation—in part because Christmas Eve was also considered the feast day of Adam and Eve. As part of the play for that day, the Garden of Eden was symbolized by a "paradise tree" with fruit. These plays were banned in many places in the 16th century, and people began to set up "paradise trees" in their homes instead. They were hung with round pastry wafers symbolizing the Eucharistic host, which developed into the edible ornaments decorating German Christmas trees today. During the mid-1850s US President Franklin Pierce set up the first Christmas tree in the White House.

PARISH CALENDAR

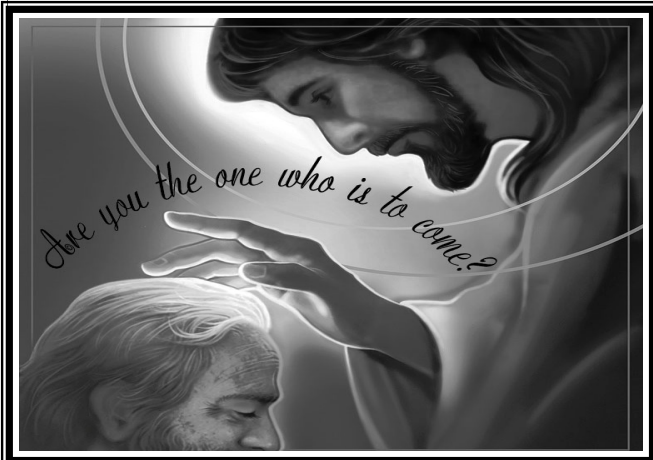
15 Dec. **Sunday** Children’s Liturgy of the Word (10 am / 8:30 pm)
23 Dec. **Monday** Church Decorating and Dinner

TREASURE & STEWARDSHIP

Sunday, Dec. 8\$ 4,133.00
Retired Religious..... 1,016.00
Thank you for your generosity!

Decorating Church for Christmas Sign up after Mass to decorate on Monday, Dec 22 at 5 pm, and bring a side dish along with the meal that will be prepared and served after decorating. Come get in the Advent-Christmas spirit at SJC!

Did St. Francis of Assisi invent the Christmas crib? Not exactly, but his devotion to the Incarnation and his love for the poverty of the Christ Child certainly popularized this beloved custom. Long before Francis, it was a custom at the Basilica of St. Mary Major in Rome to enshrine a rich image of Mary, gilded and bejewelled, embracing the child Jesus. This church was founded as a kind of home for the feast of Christmas dating back to the 4th century. In 1223, Francis was ready to celebrate this feast in the tiny city of Greccio. He invited friends to prepare a place where they could experience the poverty and suffering of Christ in his birth. It was a living scene: an ox from the barn, an ass from the stable, and peasants representing shepherds and kings. The nighttime celebration was beautiful, the weather was warm, and people came in crowds, bearing candles and singing hymns that echoed through the forest. Francis himself chanted the Gospel and preached. The custom spread quickly, and by the 16th century cribs were seasonal features not only in church, but in homes.



TODAY’S READINGS

First Reading — The barren deserts will rejoice and flower. Tired bodies will receive strength. Aching hearts will be made glad (Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10).

Psalm — Lord, come and save us (Psalm 146).

Second Reading — Be patient, for the coming of the Lord is as sure as the rain (James 5:7-10).

Gospel — Tell of what you hear and see: The blind regain their vision, the crippled their movement, the deaf their hearing (Matthew 11:2-11).

A SEASON OF HOPE

Today we can bask in the imagery that the Mass readings offer us. In particular, Isaiah’s vision of a parched land that blooms with abundant flowers holds a message for each of us. Too often we are just like that parched land. We can allow ourselves to become absorbed in the waves of consumerism that grip so many. We look for fulfillment in the things that money can buy. Unfortunately, this leaves us like parched land, thirsting for something that money can’t buy. This holy season has much to offer to quench our thirsts. In a word, this season offers hope. We are told that those who are ransomed by God will know joy and gladness. For them, sorrow and mourning will be no more. Let us place our hope in these promises.

Pope Francis’ December Intention

That every country take the measures necessary to prioritize the future of the very young, especially those who are suffering.

Christmas Mass Schedule

December 24th 4 pm & Midnight (11:30 pm)
December 25th 10 am

CHARTER FOR THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

In response to the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, the Archdiocese of New Orleans continues to make the Hot Line available for anyone who has been hurt or sexually abused by anyone who works for the Church. The Hot Line continues to be available; the number is (504) 522-5019. In continuing our commitment to support and to heal, we invite and encourage individuals who have been hurt or sexually abused recently or in the past by clergy, religious or other employees of the Archdiocese to call our Hot Line and your message will be received confidentially by a mental health professional. Anyone can make a direct call during regular business hours to the Victims’ Assistance Coordinator at (504) 861-6253.

INFORMATION PAGE

CHURCH NAME: St. Joseph

BULLETIN NO. 460100

CONTACT: Fr. Tom Stehlik
(504) 522-3186 x142

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