

## A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

Dear St. Joseph Parish Family,

Things are getting hectic as we approach the end of Advent and come to Christmas! I want to share some news items with you here and attach a letter that looks at what's happening at St. Joseph parish more broadly. That letter is below.

- Jessie Vaccaro, our **parish secretary**, has accepted a new job. She has done great work, and I'm sorry to see her leave. Her new job is a good move career-wise, and so I wish her all the best. Please pray for our parish as we seek a new parish secretary, and if you know of anyone who may be interested have them send in their resumes.

- **Ember Days** are upon us again! Wednesday the 19th, Friday the 21st, and Saturday the 22nd are the next Ember Days. The friars will be fasting on those days for reform and renewal in the Church, and we invite you to join us.

- Christmas is coming, and we invite you to help us **decorate the Church for Christmas**. It is always a lot of fun!

- We haven't forgotten about training our **lay liturgical ministers**. Things are too hectic now for new training, but we'll get to it in late January or February.

- This January we're going to assemble the **Finance Council**. Please nominate people you think would be good at this position, or pray about nominating yourself. We're looking especially for people with experience with building and contracting, law, accounting, and real estate. We will be looking for new **Parish Council** members later in 2019. Currently all the Parish Council terms will expire on the same date, so I want to delay the start time of new members to prevent the whole Parish Council from disappearing.

Below is a letter that discusses a broader view of what's happening at the parish.

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I hope that everyone is having a wonderful Advent so far! The Holy Spirit certainly has been at work at St. Joseph's church. I want to share a broad vision of St. Joseph and what the Holy Spirit has been preparing for this great parish. I've been very happy to see all the possibilities God has opened up for our parish.

When I first arrived at St. Joseph Church, I outlined a plan for the parish in light of the need for reform and renewal within the Church (the plan was in my second pastor's letter, on 9/2/18). Reform always springs from holiness, and so the plan centered around seeking holiness together. Most of what I outlined has already been achieved: Fr. Scordo is currently giving his talks explaining the faith (every Tuesday night), we currently pray the prayer to St. Michael after the daily Masses, the confessional has been completed before Advent and confession is available before all the Sunday Masses, we currently offer adoration after every Friday 12:10pm Mass, and we currently practice the Ember days. The only item left from the initial plan is the renovation of Casserly Hall, which we have been working on and should be complete within a year. The Holy Spirit has been active in leading us to the forefront of reform and renewal in the Church, and we need to keep at the forefront. Here I want to outline what is happening in the parish more broadly than my weekly letters.

I'm still quite excited about the **new confessional**. It was a goal of mine from the moment I took office to have a confessional in place by Advent- and we got it done! One reason I wanted to see a confessional in place is because I'm a Missionary of Mercy. Pope Francis invited priests to become Missionaries of Mercy during his first year as pope. I applied to the Vatican office in charge and was accepted. This past May, Pope Francis held a conference for Missionaries of Mercy in Rome that I attended. During the workshops Pope Francis consistently pressed the need for confession- God's mercy is encountered most powerfully through the sacrament of reconciliation. Having regular confession times here, times that people can easily attend (before every Sunday Mass), and having a private place to hear confessions, is a part of realizing Pope Francis's vision for the Church. So as a Missionary of Mercy I'm very

## A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR (CONT.)

happy to have a new confessional at St. Joseph's that achieves those goals. Already there has been an increase in confessions here, meaning that God's mercy is flowing through this parish.

Another part of the vision for this parish is building up **ministries and communities** in the parish. St. Joseph already has effective and growing ministries, such as our large and dedicated RCIA community, the vibrant young professionals' ministry, the growing men's group, the large religious education ministry, and the various lay liturgical ministries. We are working to better support and lead existing ministries. But there is room for much more growth. Our hope is to start a youth group next year, because right now we have no ministry for children after they have received confirmation. There are many more possible ministries that the Holy Spirit may raise up! Community is key to living the Christian life, no one is saved alone, so this is a key element for growing this parish. St. Joseph can be a place where the Gospel is lived together, where people can come to find God's grace transforming our community into saints.

Much of my time is spent with projects that are necessary to realizing the goals of community and ministry. There is much delayed maintenance. The Church needs a new **HVAC** system, which will go in this spring. The **roof and facade** are rotting away, and a new roof and facade repair will take place this summer. Also, **Cassery Hall** needs to be improved and updated so that ministries have a place to flourish. I hope that this renovation will take place this summer. All of these projects will ensure that we have the physical resources to achieve the spiritual and communal goals of the parish.

We've also been working to improve the **policies and procedures** of the parish. We have introduced a new Marriage Preparation Handbook, regularizing and updating our wedding preparation program here (you can see it on our webpage). We will also improve our budgeting procedures, and many other behind-the-scenes policies. The goal is more efficiency and transparency. We are working to introduce best practices for parishes so that this parish can better use the resources with which the people of God have entrusted St. Joseph Church.

There is one other exciting part of the vision. Currently there is nowhere in Manhattan that offers **Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration**. The Cardinal has wanted perpetual adoration in Manhattan for years now, and the Young Adult Outreach office of the Archdiocese reached out to me about the possibility of hosting it at St. Joseph. I was excited about the possibility. It would bring enormous spiritual fruit to our parish. It has transformed other parishes and would help us grow in the graces Christ wants for us. We can make the Cardinal's desire a reality. A chapel where at least two people are adoring the Blessed Sacrament every hour of every day would be a spiritual game-changer. The Archdiocese would help us fill the slots— bringing many new people into our parish to worship. St. Joseph has a tradition of being on the cutting edge, and here we would certainly continue to be a unique parish in the city! As a Missionary of Mercy, I would love to see the chapel dedicated to Divine Mercy— a place where people can encounter God's mercy directly.

Great things are underway at St. Joseph Church! Please keep our parish in your prayers, and continue to support the great things the Holy Spirit has planned for us. Most important are your prayers, but please also consider financially supporting these projects. If you give specifically to the project that most resonates with you, then 100% your donation will go to that project. Please know of my prayers for you.

May God abundantly bless you this Advent and Christmas Season,

*Fr. Boniface Endorf, O.P.*

Fr. Boniface Endorf, O.P.  
Pastor

## Weekly Collection

December 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup>, 2018

Masses Totals-----	\$8,051
WeShare -----	\$1,144
Faith Street -----	\$680
Second Collection -----	\$2,187
Immaculate Conception -----	\$815
<b>Grand Total-----</b>	<b>\$12,877</b>

### RECTORY OFFICE

#### Office Hours:

Monday-Friday  
9:00am - 5:00pm  
(212)741-1274

[Office@stjosephgv.nyc](mailto:Office@stjosephgv.nyc)

### CATHOLIC CENTER @ NYU

238 Thompson Street  
New York, NY 10012  
[contact@catholiccenternyu.org](mailto:contact@catholiccenternyu.org)

### PRAYER REQUESTS



#### *Please pray for:*

Barbara Parazzo  
Zoila Vallo  
Eileen Fleming  
Anne Darrow  
Paul Gallagher

If you would like to include someone on our prayer list, please call the church office to submit their names.

Names on the prayer list will be on for four (4) weeks. If you wish to leave them on longer, please call the church office, Weekdays 9AM - 5PM.

# Mass Intentions

## SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15

- 12:10 pm Daniel Thomas Eck (Living)  
5:30 pm Dora Everett & Mary Rizzo

## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16

- 9:00 am William Panke  
11:30 am John Kurtz  
6:00 pm People of the Parish

## MONDAY, DECEMBER 17

- 12:10 am Special Intention (Living)

## TUESDAY, DECEMBER 18

- 12:10 pm Raymond DeFilippo

## WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 19

- 12:10 pm Frances DeBiase

## THURSDAY, DECEMBER 20

- 12:10 pm Francis J. Kelly

## FRIDAY, DECEMBER 21

*Saint Peter Canisius, Priest and Doctor of the Church*

- 12:10 pm Michael & Emil Ferfoggia (Father & Son)

**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
SUNDAY READINGS**

**First Reading: Zephaniah 3:14-18a**

Zephaniah urges the people of Jerusalem to rejoice because the Lord is in their midst. He conveys the message that God will love and protect those who have remained faithful to him.

**Second Reading: Philippians 4:4-7**

Paul encourages the Philippians to be ready for Christ. He tells them not to worry about their concerns, but to instead ask God's help and allow his peace to fill their hearts and minds.

**Gospel: Luke 3:10-18**

John the Baptist answers people who ask him what they should do, leading some to believe he was the Messiah. John clearly states that he will be followed by one so powerful that "I am not fit to loosen his sandal strap."



**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
DAILY READINGS**

**Sunday**

Zep 3:14-18a; Phil 4:4-7; Lk 3:10-18

**Monday**

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

**Tuesday**

Jer 23:5-8; Mt 1:18-25

**Wednesday**

Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Lk 1:5-25

**Thursday**

Is 7:10-14; Lk 1:26-38

**Friday**

Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Lk 1:39-45

**Saturday**

1 Sm 1:24-28; Lk 1:46-56

**CHRISTMAS EVE & DAY MASS SCHEDULE**

Please note that this year's Christmas Eve and Day Mass times will be as follows:

**Christmas Eve -**

12:10 pm  
5:00 pm (Children's Pageant)  
10:00 pm

**Christmas Day -**

9:00 am  
11:30 am

**HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION MASS SCHEDULE**

Please note that this year's Holy Day of Obligation Mass times will be as follows:

**New Year's Eve -**

12:10 pm (Daily Mass)  
7:00 pm (Vigil Mass)

**New Year's Day -**

12:10 pm (Daily Mass)  
7:00 pm

**HELP WANTED**

We are in need of volunteers that are interested and willing to help us decorate the church for Christmas! Dates for decorating are Thursday, December 20<sup>th</sup> at 1 pm to 5 pm, Friday, December 21<sup>st</sup> at 2 pm to 5 pm and Saturday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> at 10:00 am to 11:30 am. Please contact the parish office with your name and contact information through email or phone!

**ADVENT LECTIO DIVINA & CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER**

**December 19 @ 7:00-8:30pm**

**Music Room of Parish House**

The traditional method of Lectio Divina, of reading, reflecting, praying the Word of God leads us to deeper understanding of the Scripture, growing relationship with Christ and culminates in Contemplative Prayer, the silent communion with God.

**THE GIVING TREE 2018**

Again this year, a simple version of the Jesse Tree is placed in the Narhax, as a focal point for the donation of the Christmas gifts, for homebound women and men, for families in need from the surrounding community, and the residents at the Gift of Love, who are cared for by the Missionary Sisters of Charity. Our Jesse Tree, is a symbol of the expectation of new birth and life during Advent.

Please return your brightly wrapped gift, with the Ornament attached on the following weekends, and place it in the designated box under the tree. **12/15 & 12/16**

PLEASE REMEMBER - PEACE ON EARTH - GOODWILL TO ALL CREATURES. Items Needed for Abandoned & Injured Cats & Dogs cared for by the Humane Society of NY, on 59<sup>th</sup> Street. Also, thank you children & parents of St. Joseph's who created the beautiful tree and package ornaments.