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December 8, 2024

2nd Sunday of Advent

To my Family of Sacred Heart (St. Paul) and St. Joseph/BOL Parishes,

OUR LADY'S IMMACULATE CONCEPTION: The Book of Revelation speaks of “*a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars (Rev. 12:1).*” It goes on to say that this woman was “*with child (v. 2).*” That description certainly seems to describe the Blessed Virgin Mary, doesn't it? The preceding verse - in Revelation 11:19 – says this: “*Then God's temple in heaven was opened, and the ark of his covenant could be seen in the temple.*” This would have been a stunning image to the Christians (many of them former Jews) of the 1st Century A.D. After all, the ark had not been seen for generations. A new covenant had been established, though. Jesus Christ had taken on human flesh, suffered and died, and rose again. His mother, the Blessed Virgin Mary, thus became the “new” Ark of the Covenant! She was to carry the unblemished Lamb, the Savior of the World, in her womb. It was necessary, therefore, that she also be free of any blemish. And so in his marvelous plan of human salvation, God deemed that Mary be free of sin from the very first moment of her conception. What a marvel of grace! This is the feast that we celebrate each December 8 (liturgically, we actually celebrate tomorrow, this year, because the 2nd Sunday of Advent takes precedence). Please remember that the Immaculate Conception is a Holy Day of Obligation. Please recall as well, that Mary, under the title of the Immaculate Conception, is the patroness of the United States. Blessed Mother Mary, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE: Please join us this Thursday, December 12, for a Eucharistic Holy Hour on the feast day of Our Lady of Guadalupe. We will adore, worship, sing and praise from 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm at St. Joseph Bread of Life. What a great opportunity to honor Mother Mary! I hope to see many of you there!

BURY OR BURN: Folks, I know that you receive a lot of mail from religious organizations wishing to hit you up for a few dollars. I receive that mail, too. To jab our guilt, they often enclose a saint medal or a holy card or something similar. First of all, please be assured that you do not have to donate to every group that asks. Second, please do not bring all those medals and holy cards to be dropped off at church. We don't want them anymore than you do! If you fear that something you have received is blessed, you can either bury it or burn it. Most paper items can simply be torn up and thrown away. We also do not want any books or pamphlets randomly dropped off on the church tables or benches. Maybe the teaching of those books is fine, but sometimes it's not. Again, it's better to discard those items. Thank you for your understanding!

SOUND AND FURY: Finally, we are only a couple of months away from the beginning of the 2025 Catholic Services Appeal. You may remember that all the monies donated that go beyond our diocesan assessments are free to be used as we wish. How about we upgrade our sound systems with those funds? “*Faith comes through hearing (Rom 10:17),*” and we want you to hear God's word! The sound systems at all three of our churches are either outdated or in need of an upgrade. At the very least, we want to have someone come in to do an evaluation. I'll keep you informed, but for now, that is our plan!

Sacred Heart of Jesus – Have mercy on us!

Mary, Mother of God – Pray for us!

Our Lady of Guadalupe – Pray for us!

St. Joseph – Pray for us!

St. Paul – Pray for us!

Fr. Steve

Mass Intentions
Monday, December 9 /7:00 am, St. Joseph Immaculate conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
+Chuck Faytak (Dianne Faytak) +Living & Deceased Members of the Parishes
Tuesday, December 10 /7:00 am, St. Joseph Our Lady of Loreto
+Marilyn Pongratz
Wednesday, December 11 /6:00 pm, St. Joseph Saint Damasus I
+Chet Walkiewicz (TA Walkiewicz) -Intentions of Rose Heid (Mom & Dad)
Thursday, December 12 /9:00 am, Sacred Heart Our Lady of Guadalupe
+Joyce Adler (Frank & Sara Snidarich) +Karen Miehl (Nick & Karan Surkala)
Friday, December 13 / 7:00 am, St. Joseph St Lucy
+Ron Snippert (Nancy Murray) +Ryan Barstow (Gerry Ryan)
Saturday, December 14 / 4:00 pm at St. Paul Saint John of the Cross
+Living & Deceased Members of the Parishes
Sunday, December 15/ 8:45 am Sacred Heart +Edvige Giammario (Family) +John Antoinette Colao (Dawn DiPalo-Romeo)
Sunday, Dec15 / 10:45 am St Joseph BOL +Rachael Metz (Paul Morabito)

CANCELLATIONS

- Light Up for Christ for tonight is cancelled.
- Knights of Columbus meeting and Christmas party are cancelled.
- Love Lights mass at St. Paul is cancelled. You may still turn in any Love Lights intentions.
- Fellowship at St. Joseph/BOL is cancelled today but will return December 15th.
- Christmas Concert at St. Andrew Church on Sunday December 8th has been cancelled.

Ministry Schedule: We will no longer publish ministry schedules in the bulletin. Please follow the schedule sent to you and mark your calendars. If you need a schedule, pick one up in the sacristy or please call Jean at the Church Office at 814-245-2982 or email at triparish.secretary816@gmail.com.

Church Sanctuary Candle will burn in memory of:

Week of December 8:

(SH) Ron Spero *from Sacred Heart Choir*

(SP) Intentions of Love Lights

(SJ) Nicholas & Joan Konzel *from Michael Tarasovitch*

Christmas Collections for the needy TO Sacred Heart, Saint Joseph/BOL and St Paul parishioners:

SISTERS OF ST JOSEPH NEIGHBORHOOD NETWORK SOUP KITCHEN is still accepting donations.

The wish list of items is in this bulletin. Please bring gifts in unwrapped and by December 10th. If you have any questions, please call Jean in the Church office.

St. Joseph/BOL: We thank all who brought in gifts for Operation Assisting Santa VA program. That collection has finished.

Sacred Heart Christmas Angels are still collecting gift cards as explained in the bulletin. Donations will continue today or dropped off at the Church Office at St Joseph, 147 W 24th on **Monday**.

St. Paul is still collecting gifts for the Christmas Wish Tree as explained in the bulletin. If you have questions, please call Deacon Tony at 814-452-2982.

ADORATION HOLY HOUR at St. Joseph Bread of Life Community is **STILL ON**. Please join us on December 12th, 7-8pm at St. Joseph Church (check the bulletin ad)