Dear Padre,

I haven’t been to Mass in a long time, but lately I feel drawn to come again. Can you help me better understand the Mass?

Welcome home! To learn more about the Mass, you might consider participating in your parish’s program for those who are thinking about joining the Catholic Church. Meanwhile, we can offer five principles that form the foundation for what happens at Mass.

Participation rather than passive attendance: Mass is a time of prayerful activity—listening intently, praying fervently, reflecting quietly, singing and worshiping joyfully.

Gratitude for God’s mercy as we acknowledge our sinfulness: There are several occasions during Mass when we are called to acknowledge that we sin, but also that mercy and forgiveness are offered freely to all who acknowledge their imperfections and sinful behavior.

Word and sacrament: The Liturgy comprises the Liturgy of the Word (penitential act, Scripture readings, homily, and prayers of the faithful) and the Liturgy of the Eucharist (presentation of gifts, eucharistic prayer, and Communion rite). Both are important.

Christ’s Real Presence: Under the forms of bread and wine (the Eucharist), the Real Presence of Christ retains a prominent place in the Mass. Christ is also present—in different ways—in the words of Scripture, in the presence of the priest, and in the assembly gathered in his name.

A celebration of family and community: Jesus fostered a sense of family among his disciples. Parish Liturgies should be a time when young and old, rich and poor, families and single people join together to experience unity in Christ Jesus.

The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org

Our Parish Community

December 25, 2022

Joy of the Lord (Christmas) (A)


The Jesus Stories of Christmas Time

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

Every year, pundits lament the glitter of our commercialized Christmases. Beneath all the trappings, however, our cultural Christmas is really the story of a Santa-type God who slips into our lives with great generosity, though we seldom notice as we go through life half asleep.

“Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer” is about a misfit reindeer with a “wrong-colored” nose who is rejected by the other reindeer and not welcomed into their games. But then he becomes the means of saving a foggy Christmas Eve with his shining light of a nose. Rudolph is like the stone rejected by the builders that becomes the cornerstone—Jesus, who saves us not only at Christmas but all year long. Frothy the Snowman brings happiness to boys and girls for a time, but then he begins to melt, only to promise he’ll come again another day—all a hint of the hope offered by Jesus, who continues to come in resurrection and life. And Ebenezer Scrooge, whose withered and crusty spirit is transformed into generosity and love in A Christmas Carol, all without his ever realizing what is taking place until, of course, it happens. Then he proclaims he will honor Christmas in his heart the whole year long—a transformation that God brings about in each of us. Christmas celebrates God-made-flesh in Jesus, something that took place then and echoes now for all of time and in all of life.

How do you experience God-made-flesh during these Christmas days?
St. Joseph Church & St. Aloysius Church
Edina & Baring, MO
Pastor: Fr. Simeon Etonu – Deacon: Rev. Mr. Ken Berry
509 North Main Street, Edina, Missouri 63537
stjoeal@marktwain.net
sasj.diojecity.org
Office Hours: Mon-Tues, Thurs-Fri. 1-4 PM

Mass Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Intention</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tues. 1-3</td>
<td>Chapel (Edina)</td>
<td>5:30 PM</td>
<td>Maria Berry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed. 1-4</td>
<td>Chapel (Edina)</td>
<td>8:00 AM</td>
<td>Madelyn O’Brien family</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurs. 1-5</td>
<td>St. John (Memphis)</td>
<td>5:30 PM</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 1-6</td>
<td>Chapel (Edina)</td>
<td>8:00 AM</td>
<td>Debra Dick</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat. 1-8</td>
<td>St. John (Memphis)</td>
<td>5:30 PM</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun. 1-9</td>
<td>St. Joseph (Edina)</td>
<td>9:00 AM</td>
<td>Bill and Mary Agnes Early</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

We ask your prayers for those from our parishes & community who are ill or suffering:
Tom Mongrel, Linda Early, Larry Hayes, Ken and Marianne Berry, Mark and Joetta Krueger, Cheryl Mayes, Larry and Kay Sykes, Nancy Platz, Walker Clary, Betty Smith, Tina Lonberger, John Pipta, Rosemarie Pipta, Christine Pipta Sliwana, Laura Pipta, LaMayra Hicks, Beth Frye, Rosalie Kole Caldwell, Amy Coram, Brooke Pinson, Harold Lentz, Kaitlyn Early Taylor, Eric DeRosear, Bill and Dorothy Killiday, Lacey Woods, Keith Payne, Judi Bishop, Dan Bishop, Mary Beth Bruegenhemke Renaud, Judy Sharp, Barb Adams and Irene Kaswara

We ask your prayers for the following Military Personnel:
Quinton Windoffer, Michael Head, Skee Ferguson, Michael Stansberry, Ryan Kriegshauser, Lauren Hudson, Jennifer Schnermund, Jack Franklin, Denis Seigle, Jude Pipta, Matthew Moore and Brady Johnson.

PARISH HAPPENINGS:
Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God, January 1, 2023
PeoplePassword for Formed.org FB7B4M Winter is a great time to check out the information.
Holy Hour: New time: Thursdays from 4:00 - 5:00 PM in Chapel.
Rosary: We have a recitation of the Rosary at 8:30 AM before Mass in the Church.
Cleaning the Chapel: There is a signup page on the bulletin board in back of the church. If you have questions, contact Nena Palmer 660-342-2744.

Pope Francis’s prayer for December: VOLUNTEER AND NOT-FOR-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS
We pray that volunteer non-profit organizations committed to human development find people dedicated to the common good and ceaselessly seek out new paths to international cooperation.

Weekly Gifts to God & Parish
St. Joseph January 1, 2023

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Deficit/Surplus</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>December 25, 2022</td>
<td>$6404.00</td>
<td>+ $4094.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount needed weekly</td>
<td>$2,310.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fiscal year to date</td>
<td>$87,942.78</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Needed Fiscal year to date</td>
<td>$80,060.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deficit/Surplus</td>
<td>+ 7,882.78</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Liturgical Ministry Assignments for Sunday, January 8, 2023
Music Ministry: Jim and Kyle Clark
Servers: Walter Lay, Kayden Moore and Bryce Cameron
Lector: Karisha Devlin
Communion Minister (if needed) David Palmer
Ushers: Matt Kriegshauser, Dan Devlin, Alan Morgret and Tim Penn
Gift Bearers: Dan Devlin family
Collection Counters: Carol Fox and Margaret Gibson

We have a Recitation of the Rosary at 8:30 AM before Mass in the Church.

Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God, January 1, 2023
“God has sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts.” If the Spirit of Jesus is prompting you to love and serve Him as a priest, deacon or in the consecrated life, Contact the Vocation Office at 573-635-9127 ext. 260