

# ST JOSEPH

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

Know, Love, and Serve the Lord

Fourth Sunday  
of Advent

December 22, 2024



WWW.STJOSEPHWACONIA.ORG • 41 EAST FIRST STREET WACONIA, MINNESOTA 55387 • 952-442-2384 • FR. STAN MADER, PASTOR



"The Visitation" by Philippe de Champaigne, 1643-1648



Fr. Stan Mader

There will be a special Christmas Bulletin, so I will save my heartiest Christmas greetings for that bulletin. If you will be traveling during these days, please do so safely, and we will see you later in the Christmas season. The Christmas Season this year ends on January 12.

On December 17, the daily Advent readings flipped to tell of events shortly before the nativity to help us prepare more directly for the Lord's birth. This provides for an octave before Christmas as well as an octave after it. In addition, at evening prayer, we introduce the canticle of Mary, the Magnificat, with the "O Antiphons" concluding the night of December 23 with Emmanuel, which you will recognize as the verses of O Come, O Come Emmanuel. These are very ancient. The hymn is from the 8th or 9th century, but they are referred to in liturgical books around the end of the 5<sup>th</sup> century. They are in order: Wisdom, Lord, Root of Jesse, Key of David, Rising Sun, King of the Nations, and God with Us. If the names (*in Latin*) are put in reverse order, it spells out "ero cras", which means "tomorrow I come."

You may be noticing two things about the pews this weekend: one, the spray bottles may have been removed. They served a significant role for some time, but many of us have moved on from that, much like we have been able to move on from the dispensers on the large white plywood stands we had in 2020-21. Some people still use them, so we will keep some bottles in the back of the church for you to take to your pew. Please return them there after Mass or begin relying on bringing your own in a pocket or purse. We have found recently that children are just using them as spray toys. The second thing you will notice is the areas in the pews with the missing varnish from spraying during COVID-19 have been refinished! Thanks to Dale Willenbring and any helpers he had in finding a product that did that quickly and inexpensively. It was all done by volunteers in a matter of a few hours and a few cans of spray.

We will be decorating for Christmas at 9:00 am on Monday, December 23. We would appreciate your help. We decorate not only the main church but also the narthex and chapel and in the parish center. Many people are there

Fr. Stan's article continued on page 2...

Know and celebrate our Catholic Faith Love God and our neighbor Serve as disciples of Jesus

**MASS TIMES**  
Mon: 6:30 pm | Tues, Wed, Fri: 8:15 am  
Sat: 5:15 pm | Sun: 8:30 am & 10:30 am

**RECONCILIATION**  
Mon: 5:30 pm | Sat: 4:00 pm  
or by appointment

**ADORATION**  
Mon & Thur: 5:00pm - 9:00 pm  
Tues: 9:00 am - 9:00 pm  
Wed: 5:00 pm - 10:00 pm

**ROSARY**  
Half hour before every daily Mass  
Sat: 4:45 pm  
Sun: 8:00 am

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*New to the Parish? WELCOME!*

Contact Cheryl Salz  
952-442-3712  
csalz@stjosephwaconia.org

**PARISH OFFICE**

www.stjosephwaconia.org  
(Located in the Education Center)  
Mon - Fri, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Sheila Wald, Parish Office Coordinator  
952-442-2384  
churchoffice@stjosephwaconia.org

Fr. Stan Mader, Pastor  
952-442-3700  
frstan@stjosephwaconia.org

Deacon Greg Miller  
952-442-3701  
gmiller@stjosephwaconia.org

Chris Parker, Administrator & Cemetery  
952-442-3702  
cparker@stjosephwaconia.org

**FAITH FORMATION**

Julie Loscheider • 952-442-3703  
jloscheider@stjosephwaconia.org  
Kirstin Bularzik • 952-442-3705  
kbularzik@stjosephwaconia.org

Peg Schmaltz, Pastoral Care  
952-442-3706  
pschmaltz@stjosephwaconia.org

**LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULES**  
www.stjosephwaconia.org

**PRAYER CHAIN**  
952-442-3718  
prayerchain@stjosephwaconia.org

Sarah Richards, Communications &  
Safe Environment Coordinator (VIRTUS)  
952-442-3715  
srichards@stjosephwaconia.org

**SCHOOL OFFICE**  
952-442-4500  
schooloffice@stjosephwaconia.org  
school.stjosephwaconia.org

Amy Gallus, Principal  
agallus@stjosephwaconia.org

Deacon Bruce Richards, Head of School  
brichards@stjosephwaconia.org

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**  
Chuck Waleries • 952-270-4706

(Fr. Stan's message continued...)

on Christmas Eve, especially, and we want something to look like Christmas for them.

Are you home from college? Or want to see your classmates who are back in town? Come to the parish center at 10:00 am on Friday, December 27. We have various kinds of coffee for you, some snacks, and perhaps other non-alcoholic beverage options. Talk to each other about what your last months have been like, etc. For those who want to visit the school, we offer a tour around 11:00 am.

In the next few weeks, we will be rolling out a new website for St. Joseph Parish and School. It will have similar content but a fresh style and should reduce clicks to find what you want. The pages are being reviewed, pictures updated, and other style points assessed. It should be coming to you soon!

You may be considering year-end giving to the parish. We are grateful for that thought. You might want to check with an advisor on the best way to do that: from required IRA distributions, by bunching giving (*i.e. waiting until January and then giving again next December to accumulate a total that will help you in itemizing deductions one year and using the standard deduction this year*), giving stock that has appreciated to avoid capital gains taxes, etc. We are a bit behind in collections, and it would be nice to be on track again.



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## NEWS & EVENTS

### SYMPATHY

The sympathy of the parish is extended to the family and friends of Howard Lake and Rosemary Braun. *Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord.*

**PARISH RECONCILIATION SERVICE**  
This Sunday, December 22 is our Parish Reconciliation Service from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm. Multiple priests will be present to hear confessions.

### HELP DECORATE *the* CHURCH!

Help us decorate the church for Christmas on Monday, December 23 at 9:00 am. Please share this invitation with others. Thank you for helping make our church a welcoming space for the season!

### PARISH OFFICE HOURS

The Parish Office will be closed on December 24-25. Regular hours will resume on Thursday, December 26. The Parish Office will also be closed on Jan 1.

### CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Please join us in celebrating the Nativity of Our Lord this Christmas! Mass will be celebrated on Christmas Eve at 3:00 pm,

5:30 pm, and 10:00 pm. (*Mass celebrated at 10:00 pm will be with candlelight!*) The Mass times on Christmas Day are 8:30 am and 10:30 am. (*Mass on December 25 at 8:30 am will be live-streamed.*) To participate virtually, please go to our parish website at [stjosephwaconia.org/watch-mass](http://stjosephwaconia.org/watch-mass).

**CHRISTMAS ADORATION HOURS**  
Adoration will not be available on December 24 - 25. Regular hours will resume on Thursday, December 26 at 5:00 pm.

### MARY, MOTHER of GOD

Mass for the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God will be celebrated on Monday, January 1 at 9:00 am & 5:15 pm. *This day is a Holy Day of Obligation!*

### NEW YEAR ADORATION HOURS

Adoration will not be available on December 31 - January 1. Regular hours will resume on Thursday, January 2 at 5:00 pm.

### SCRIPTURE STUDY

The Scripture Study is canceled for this week. Typically it meets on Tuesdays after Daily Mass at 9:00 am. It will resume on December 31. *All are welcome!*

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## MASS INTENTIONS

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MON	DEC 23	6:30 pm	Mark Buesgens †
TUE	DEC 24	3:00 pm	Living & Deceased Members of the Gerry Bailey Family
		5:30 pm	Al Cannon †
		10:00 pm	*Neil Kirsch †
WED	DEC 25	8:30 am	St. Joseph Parishioners
		10:30 am	Collective: Georgiana Johnson † *Dennis Buesgens †, and Jean † & Gerald Laumann † Living & Deceased Members of the Francis & Catherine Hauwiler Family
THU	DEC 26		No Mass
FRI	DEC 27	8:15 am	Barb Ahlers †
SAT	DEC 28	5:15 pm	St. Joseph Parishioners
SUN	DEC 29	8:30 am	Collective: *Scott Schmaltz † Lori Storms † Living & Deceased Members of the Jerome & Phyllis Wagener Family
		10:30 am	Collective: Germain Buesgens † Yolanda Sanchez Altamirano †

\* Indicates the family has requested to take up the Gifts.

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## LOOKING AHEAD

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JAN 1	Mary, Mother of God – Holy Day of Obligation Mass at 9:00 am & 5:15 pm
JAN 11	Rosary & Speaker - 9:00 am in the Church All are invited to this Free Event!
JAN 11-12	Confirmation Retreat Please pray for our youth on retreat!
JAN 18	First Reconciliation Please pray for all our Second Graders preparing to receive this Sacrament for the first time!
JAN 19	KC Respect Life Breakfast 8:00 am-12:00 pm at Trinity Lutheran
JAN 26	KC Free Throw Contest 4:00 pm-6:00 pm in the School Gym
FEB 1	Saints Gala
FEB 7	Family Valentine Dance 6:00 pm-7:30 pm in the School Gym

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## THIS WEEK

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### MONDAY, DECEMBER 23

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7:00 am: Morning Prayer (Chapel)  
9:00 am: Decorate the Church for Christmas!  
5:00 pm-9:00 pm: Adoration (Chapel)  
5:30 pm-6:15 pm: Confession  
6:00 pm: Parish Rosary (Church)  
6:30 pm: Mass  
7:00 pm-8:00 pm: Confession

### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24 Christmas Eve

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7:00 am: Morning Prayer (Chapel)  
7:45 am: Parish Rosary (Church)  
3:00 pm: Mass  
5:30 pm: Mass  
10:00 pm: Mass (Candlelight)

### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25 Christmas Day

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8:30 am: Mass  
10:30 am: Mass

### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 26

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No Mass | Fr. Stan's Day Off  
4:00 pm: Holy Hour (Chapel)  
5:00 pm - 9:00 pm: Adoration (Chapel)

### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 27

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7:45 am: Parish Rosary (Church)  
8:15 am: Mass  
9:00 am: Grief Share Group (St. Paul Conference Room)  
10:00 am: College Freshman Meet-Up (Parish Center)

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28

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4:00 pm-5:00 pm: Confession  
4:45 pm: Parish Rosary (Church)  
5:15 pm: Mass

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29

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8:00 am: Parish Rosary (Church)  
8:30 am: Mass  
10:30 am: Mass

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## PRAY

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Please pray for the following: Mia G, Joyce J, Shawn S, Julie W, Art W, Paul T, Joan H, Rene F, Jeff E, Chuck P, Nathan D, Stella W, Jeremy P, Marilynn P, Marilyn B, Diane V, Rick S, Barbara S, Jake W, Theresa L, Sandy M, Brian N, Sarah R, and Ryan P. **And for St. Joseph loved ones in the Military:** Airman Riley M, Sergeant Ryan H, Sergeant Allyna S, PFC Dalton W, Sergeant Robin L, Staff Sergeant Weston H, Staff Sergeant Sean W, Tech Sergeant Michael S, Major Leah M, First Lieutenant Samuel M, Col. Mitch D, Lieutenant Commander Philip L, and SPC Justin S. **And for those in Law Enforcement:** Logan H, Adam M, Alex W, Andy F, Dennis F, Fred R, Tyler S, Eric W, Adam H, and Cory W. **And for those Discerning a Religious Vocation:** Seminarian: Mónico H.

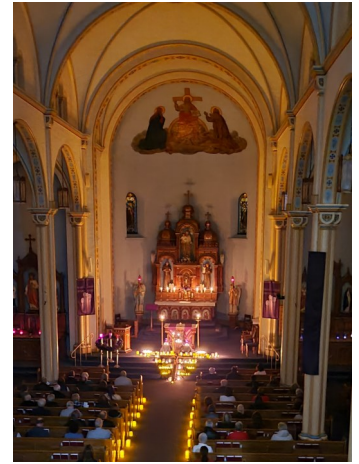




## TAIZE PRAYER

Advent 2024

Taizé Prayer services have been well received and attended throughout Advent. It is a peaceful, meditative prayer service with music that invites participants into a deeper connection with God. It is a beautiful way to take a quiet moment during Advent to prepare our hearts for the coming of our Savior at Christmas! Thank you to all those who helped to set up for these beautiful evenings, and to the musicians and singers who shared their time and talents, creating an atmosphere of reverence and prayerful reflection.



## ROSARY & SPEAKER EVENT

Hosted by the Women of Joy

All are invited to pray the rosary on January 11 at 9:00 am in the church. Coffee and muffins will follow in the Parish Center with Speaker Barb Ernster from Our Lady's Blue Army; World Apostolate of Fatima. Our Lady's Blue Army "is a public Association of the Faithful with the mission to help people learn, live, and spread the message of Our Lady of Fatima"!



## GIVING

Christmas & Year-End Giving

As you consider your year-end charitable contributions, we hope that St. Joseph will be at the top of your list. Your contributions directly support the various ministries and liturgical life at our parish. A reminder that all 2024 contributions must be postmarked by December 31, received in the collection on December 29, or received at the parish office before December 30. Any donations post-marked or received on January 1, 2025, or thereafter will be considered 2025 donations. *Thank you for your continued generosity to our parish community!*

### Questions? Contact:

Chris Parker at [952-442-3702](tel:952-442-3702)  
or [cparker@stjosephwaconia.org](mailto:cparker@stjosephwaconia.org).

## OFFERTORY CONTRIBUTIONS

For November 2024

### WEEKEND OFFERTORY:

November 2024, 378 Donors, 887 Contributions \$ 75,204

November 2023, 398 Donors, 749 Contributions \$70,559

### Contributions to Special Funds

Capital Repairs & Maintenance \$ 1393

2nd Collection - Catholic Campaign for Human Development \$ 2460

### Year to Date (July 2024 - November 2024)

Total Offertory Contributions \$ 368,420

Last year, same period \$ 361,224



### ELECTRONIC GIVING

Scan the QR Code to sign up today for electronic giving! Thank you for your prayerful support of St. Joseph Catholic Community! **Questions?** Contact Chris Parker at [952-442-3702](tel:952-442-3702) or [cparker@stjosephwaconia.org](mailto:cparker@stjosephwaconia.org).

Know

Love

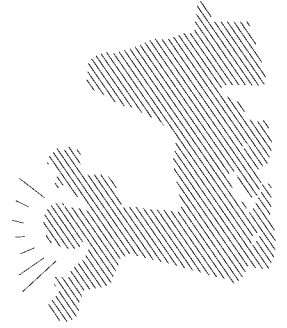
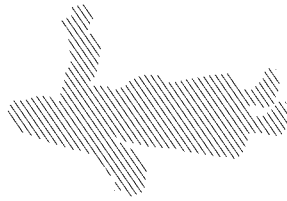
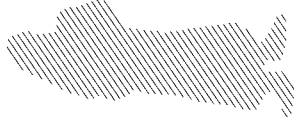
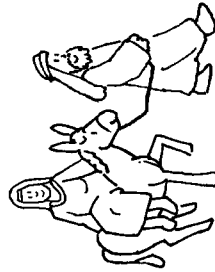
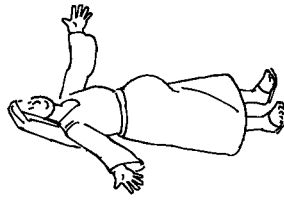
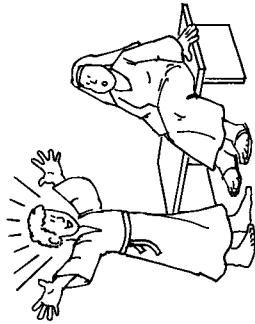
Serve

Ages 3+

December 22, 2024 • Luke 1:39-45

Mary was blessed.

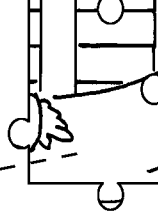
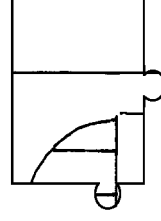
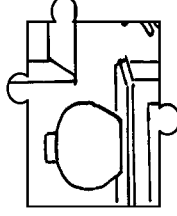
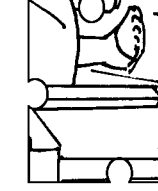
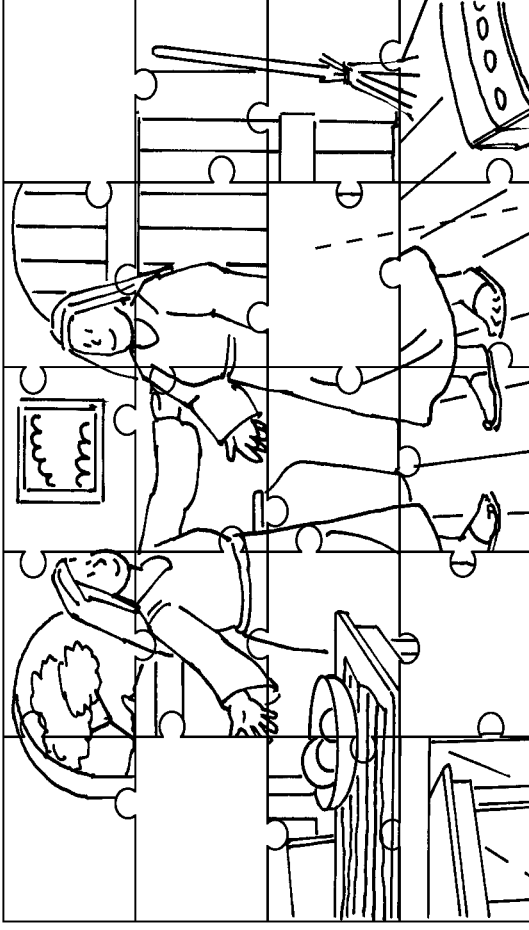
Match the shadows.



Mary Visits Elizabeth

Mary went to visit Elizabeth.

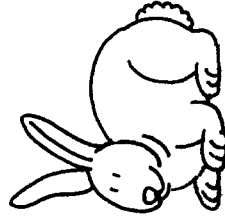
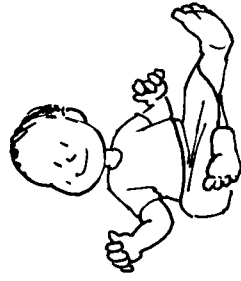
Match the puzzle pieces.



**st**JOSEPH  
CATHOLIC COMMUNITY  
Know, Love, and Serve the Lord

When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting,  
the baby leaped in her womb.

What leaped inside of Elizabeth?  Circle it.



Elizabeth said... "Blessed are you among  
women. Blessed is the child you will bear."

Trace the letters.

Use the picture code to fill in the letters.

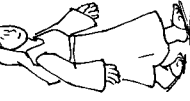


b a b y



w o m a n

b l e s s e d



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b l e s s e d



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