



The angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph...and the virgin's name was Mary.

LUKE 1:26–27

Wondering Why

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

The old axiom goes: if you want to make God laugh, tell God your plans. All too often the vision God has for us takes us in quite varying directions. The stories of King David and of Mary echo such realities. David, who wanted to build a temple for the Ark of the Covenant so God would not need to live in a tent, had his plans nixed, only to be reminded that it is *God* who does the building in life and not David. And Mary, who found herself confused over how she might conceive, was asked to simply trust and place her life in the hands of God. Both said “yes.”

There are always times when the unfolding path of God for us may unsettle us: the complexities of immigrants at our doorstep, the changing demographics of our cities, the need to close or merge parishes, the upheavals of our personal lives. We find ourselves asking why without receiving any answers. Each time there is no answer, consider it an invitation to trust in a power greater than ourselves.

Not all rhythms of life are necessarily caused by the hand of God, but then one can never be sure. Who is to say where and how and through whom God works? Christmas comes as a reminder that God’s love and presence still unfolds in varied and new ways, always giving birth again and again to the divine made flesh in our lives. The mystery of the Incarnation points to this truth: God is present in all of life. ●

Reflect

Have you ever had your plans unsettled in a way that turned out, in the end, to be a gift from God?

Dear Padre,

The Bible talks about Jesus’ brothers and sisters. Is there scriptural proof that Jesus was Mary’s only child?

The Catholic Church’s position is that Mary had only one child; her son called Jesus. Yet there are at least ten scriptural references to “the brothers of Jesus” or to his “sisters” (see Matthew 13:55–56, Mark 6:3, and Luke 8:19–21).

The difficulty is that the meaning of the term “brothers” (translated from the Greek *adelphos*) isn’t restricted to the sharing of a parent. On the contrary, it may not only refer to other relatives, including cousins, but also to close relationships, such as disciples. This is not unlike how we might refer to “brothers in arms” as those who fought in a war together, or a religious order of brothers or sisters.

Recall, too, that Jesus and his disciples spoke Aramaic, and there is no equivalent for the meaning of “cousins” as we know it in that language. Instead, the word for brother or sister was used when referring to cousins. Thus, when St. Jerome (*circa* 340–420) translated the Bible from Hebrew into Church Latin, he considered “the brothers of Jesus” as cousins, not siblings. After all, it would have been the rightful responsibility of these male relatives of Jesus to take care of Mary when Jesus died. Yet Jesus entrusts his mother to the care of his beloved disciple John (John 19:26). ●

Fr. Byron Miller, CSSR / DearPadre.org



VIRGIN AND CHILD, ASIA (ARTIST UNKNOWN)

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
December 25 <i>Nativity of the Lord</i> Is 52:7–10 Heb 1:1–6 Jn 1:1–18 or 1:1–5, 9–14	December 26 <i>St. Stephen, the First Martyr</i> Acts 6:8–10; 7:54–59 Mt 10:17–22	December 27 <i>St. John, Apostle and Evangelist</i> 1 Jn 1:1–4 Jn 20:1a, 2–8	December 28 <i>Holy Innocents, Martyrs</i> 1 Jn 1:5–2:2 Mt 2:13–18	December 29 <i>Christmas Weekday</i> 1 Jn 2:3–11 Lk 2:22–35	December 30 <i>Christmas Weekday</i> 1 Jn 2:12–17 Lk 2:36–40	December 31 <i>Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph</i> Sir 3:2–6, 12–14 Col 3:12–21 or 3:12–17 Lk 2:22–40 or 2:22, 39–40

Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to DearPadre.org to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.



A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

Let us ask our Lady for a grace...that she kindle our enthusiasm for the ideal of holiness which is not a matter of holy cards and images, but is about living what happens each day, humbly and joyfully...with our eyes fixed on God and the neighbor we meet.

ANGELUS, ROME, DECEMBER 8, 2021



St. James Parish Family

201 N. Missouri Street
Potosi, MO 63664



December 2023

Mass Schedule

St. Joachim	Mon:	8:00 AM
St. James	Tues:	8:15 AM
St. Joachim	Wed:	8:15 AM
St. James	Thurs:	8:00 AM
St. Joachim	Fri:	8:00 AM
St. James	First Sat:	8:00 AM
St. James 1st & 3rd	Sat:	4:00 PM
St. Joachim 2nd/4th	Sat:	4:00 PM
St. James	Sun	8:00 AM
St. Joachim	Sun	10:00 AM

*HOLY DAY SCHEDULE:

Please check the Bulletin for Mass Times.

E-MAIL:

stjameschurch@centurylink.net
WEBSITE: *****

www.stjames-potosi.org

FACEBOOK: St. James Catholic Church @stjamespotosi

Office Hours:

8:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Tuesday thru Thursday
Phone: 573-438-4686

Parish Hall or Parish School of Religion

Phone: 573-436-0144

Confessions:

Saturday: 3:15 - 3:45 PM;
prior to Sat evening Mass
Or by appointment

Staff

Rev. Anthony Dattilo—Pastor
AnthonyDattilo@archstl.org
Rev. Vince Nyman - Part-time Senior Associate Pastor
Susan Broombaugh—Admin Asst
stjameschurch@centurylink.net
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stjamespsr@gmail.com
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*****Our website is back! Please note a slight change in the web address:
www.stjames-potosi.org. (There is a dash “-” between stjames & Potosi)



MASS INTENTIONS FOR WEEK OF: December 25th, 2023

Dec 24	SUN	4:00 pm	Buckshot East
Dec 25	MON	8:00 AM	Bishop Morgan Casey
Dec 26	TUE	8:15 AM	NO MASS
Dec 27	WED	8:15 AM	*(Mass at St. Joachim)
Dec 28	THU	8:00 AM	Ronnie Politte
Dec 29	FRI	8:00 AM	*(Mass at St. Joachim)
Dec 30	SAT	4:00 PM	Parish Family
Dec 31	SUN	10:00 AM	*(Mass at St. Joachim)
Dec 31	SUN	8:00 AM	Craig Warden
Jan 01	MON	10:00 AM	Ellis Coleman



Week of: December 17th, 2023

Envelope.....\$	3375.00	Seminary.....\$	
Loose	1621.00	Immaculate Conception....\$	60.00
SVDP	257.00	Christmas Offering.....\$	
Votive Lights.....\$	18.00	Christmas Flowers.....\$	15.00
Light House.....\$			
Main & Repairs.....\$	65.00		
On-Line donations.....\$	100.90		

Special Ministers December 30th & 31st, 2023 Lectors:

Saturday 4:00 pm	Sunday 8:00 am
Bob Mills	Jamie Warden

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:	
Saturday 4:00 pm	Sunday 8:00 am
C: Paul Villmer	Dave Woodland
L: Annette Portell	Jim Politte
R: Vikki Neier	Nikki Warden

Sat: 4:00 p.m	Volunteers Please
Sun: 8:00 a.m	Ava & Garryn West
Sun: 10:00 am	(celebrated at St. Joachim)

Music:

Sat: 4:00 p.m.	Chala Short
Sun: 8:00 a.m.	Rebecca Richards
Sun: 10:00 am	Anita Govero or The Little Way Band

Food of the Month of December: SVDP still needs the canned meats please: spam, canned chicken, canned ham, Tuna
THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR AMAZING VOLUNTEERS.
~We couldn't do it without you~

Heavenly Duster: 12/29: Sharon Forrester
Altar Linens: 01/08: Sharon Forrester

*****FORMED*****

(Movie Night), Ignatius of Loyola: this modern and very human take on the story of St. Ignatius of Loyola, the founder of the Jesuits, often called “The Saint of Second Chances,” is an incisive and thrilling look at the life of the real man behind the legend. In his lifelong quest to become the heroic knight of his fantasies, Ignatius stares death in the face again and again, having his leg shattered by a cannonball in battle, driven to near suicide by his inner demons, finding himself imprisoned, accused of being an illuminati, and finally finding his life in the hands of the inquisition. Through it all, he would come to see the hand of God working in his life, shaping the self-obsessed sinner into the loyal and passionate soldier-saint.

Adventus: A Spiritual Pilgrimage: On behalf of the Augustine Institute, we are offering Adventus: A Spiritual Pilgrimage to everyone this Advent & Christmas Season. In light of the separation we face as communities, this special documentary allows Catholics all around the world to unite and make a spiritual pilgrimage to the Holy Land to see the places associated with Christ's Birth.

To sign up for “Formed”
Go to: <https://signup.formed.org/>
Enter our parish's zip code

Word of Life

“O Blessed Mother, at the angel's word you went in haste to the aid of your cousin Elizabeth. Although pregnant yourself, you placed her needs before your own. By your example of radical solidarity, teach us to reverence and protect those in need, without conditions or expectations... Obtain for us the grace to bring Christ to any expectant mother who is alone and afraid.” USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities Prayer for Radical Solidarity (www.respectlife.org/prayer-for-radical-solidarity)

Inspired by the example of the Blessed Mother, may we, like Mary, have the courage to say “yes” to God's gift of human life;

For all Christians: May the birth of Our Lord Jesus Christ awaken in our hearts wonder at the precious gift of every child;
We pray to the Lord

What's on the Calendar???



Christmas Mass Schedule:

Dec 24: 4:00 pm Christmas Eve both Parishes
10:00 pm Christmas Eve St. Joachim
Dec 25: 8:00 am Christmas Day St. James Parish
10:00 am Christmas Day St. Joachim Parish
Dec 26: NO DAILY Mass today.
Jan 01: 10:00 am Mass - Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God

Caring Hearts Pregnancy Resource Center Baby Bottle Campaign 2023

Please, return your filled baby bottle by this Sunday, **4th Sunday of Advent, December 24th.** Life is the most precious Gift of all.

Christmas Flower donations In Memory of:	John & Lucy Politte Grady & Helen Walker Paul J. Ney Jr. Michael & Mary Pratt Cyrilla Boyer
Ruth and Shorty Jarvis Laymen & Allie Hollinsworth Wesley Forrester	

Fourth Sunday of Advent (Year B) True Servants of God

“Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.” Luke 1:38a (Year B)
What does it mean to be a “handmaid of the Lord?” The word “handmaid” means “servant.” And Mary identifies herself as a servant. Specifically, a servant of the Lord. Throughout history, some “handmaids” were slaves without any rights whatsoever. They were property of their owners and were required to do what they were told. In other times and cultures, a handmaid was a servant more by choice, enjoying certain rights. However, all handmaids are inferiors serving a superior.

Our Blessed Mother, however, is a brand new type of handmaid. Why? Because the one she was called to serve was the Most Holy Trinity. She was certainly an inferior serving one who is superior. But when the one you perfectly serve has perfect love for you, and directs you in ways that edify you, elevate your dignity, and transform you in holiness, then it is wise beyond description to not only serve this superior but to freely become a slave, lowering yourself as deeply as possible before such a superior. There should be no hesitation in this depth of servitude!

Our Blessed Mother's servitude, therefore, is new in that it is the most radical form of servitude, but it is also freely chosen. And the reciprocal effect upon her from the Most Holy Trinity was to direct all her thoughts and actions, all her passions and desires and every single part of her life to glory, fulfillment and holiness of life.

We must learn from the wisdom and actions of our Blessed Mother. She submitted her life completely to the Most Holy Trinity, not only for her own good but also to set an example for each one of us. Our deepest and daily prayer must become that of hers: “I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.” Following her example will not only deeply unite us with our Triune God, but it will also have a similar effect upon us by making us instruments of the Savior of the World. We will become His “mother” in the sense that we will bring Jesus into our world for others. What a glorious calling we have been given to imitate this most holy Mother of God. Reflect, today, upon your call to pray this prayer of our Blessed Mother. Reflect upon the words, consider the meaning of this prayer, and strive to make it your own prayer today and every day. Imitate her, and you will begin to more fully share in her glorious life of grace.

“Dearest Mother Mary, pray for me that I may imitate your perfect “Yes” to the Most Holy Trinity. May your prayer become my prayer, and may the effects of your surrender as a handmaid of the Lord also affect my life profoundly. Lord, Jesus, may Your perfect will, in union with the will of the Father and the Holy Spirit, be done in my life today and always. Jesus, I trust in You.”



The Legend of the Poinsettia

This story tells the Mexican legend of the poinsettia which has been handed down through the generations. A little girl named Lucida lives with her family in a small village in the mountains of Mexico. As Christmas approaches, Padre Alvarez from San Gabriel comes to Lucida's mother and asks her to weave a new blanket to cover the Baby Jesus in the Christmas procession. Her mother is honored and asks for Lucida's help picking out and dyeing the finest yarn they can find. One day, as the children in the village are practicing for the procession, Senora Gomez comes to get Lucida and tells her that her mother is sick and has been taken to the doctor. She will not be well before Christmas and Lucida's father will stay with her so Lucida and her siblings will need to stay with Senora Gomez. Lucida is heartbroken because she knows the blanket won't be finished in time for the procession. Her family won't have a gift to place at the manger of the Baby Jesus. When it comes time to walk in the procession to San Gabriel, Lucida realizes that any gift is beautiful because it is given. She picks up an armful of green weeds and places them around the stable. Then she lowers her head and prays. Suddenly, a flaming red start appears at the tip of each weed and the manger began to glow and shimmer. When the villagers left the church they found that all the clumps of tall green weeds had been transformed into beautiful poinsettias. Every Christmas to this day, the poinsettia appears on top of green branches in Mexico and the people call these plants the Flower of the Holy Night.

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Dear St. James Parish Family,

As we once again gather with our loved ones, family and friends in celebration of God's immeasurable love for us, made known through the birth of His only Son Jesus Christ, I wish to offer my prayers and very best wishes for a holy and blessed Christmas.

Despite the severe challenges we are confronted with in our daily lives, we know that our faith is ultimately in the Lord Jesus who gives meaning and purpose to our lives, to our every activity and even to those things we do not understand. Despite our humanness, we are entrusted with the responsibility of living out the Gospel of Jesus Christ – offering comfort, compassion, forgiveness, and, most especially, hope through simple gestures of care and concern to family, friends and strangers alike.

In this season of new beginnings, I pray for peace in our homes, unconditional Love of our Family and friends, and a growing and unwavering Faith in our Lord, Jesus Christ.

*May God's Holy Spirit guard us and guide us in everything we say and do, and may His blessings of good health, happiness and peace be overflowing. Merry Christmas Everyone!
And God's Peace be with you all,*

Parish Office staff

Missionary Discipleship

Surrender to God

Ecce ancilla Domini. Fiat mihi secundum verbum tuum. “Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word” (Luke 1:38). This is one of the most beautiful lines in Scripture. It conveys to us the total surrender and power of obedience to God's will in our lives. Because of Mary's fiat, the Savior entered the world to save us from our sins and to bring us back to God.

As we celebrate Christmas tomorrow, let us do so in the spirit of joy, welcoming the humble Christ-child into our hearts once more and asking Him to conform our hearts to His most sacred heart. In this joyful time, let us show love, kindness, and mercy to our loved ones who have fallen away and never lose hope in their return home. The angel Gabriel tells us, “For nothing will be impossible for God” (Luke 1:37). May God bless you and your family this Christmas! Venite adoremus Dominum!

St. James PSR NEWS

**** Next in-person class:** Wednesday, **Jan17th** @ 6:00 pm. Dinner will start approximately 5:15. Unit 5 will be due.

Confirmation Class will be assisting with several service projects this year. So please watch the bulletin for updates.

Join our Facebook page for all the latest and greatest information.

