



**St. John's Parish**  
Roman Catholic Church

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## **GOD LIGHTS A NEW LIGHT**

### FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT - DECEMBER 21, 2025

Today, the fourth and final Sunday of Advent, the liturgy presents the figure of Saint Joseph to us (cf. Mt 1:18-24). He is a just man who is about to get married. We can imagine what his dreams for the future are — a beautiful family, with an affectionate wife and many wonderful children, and a dignified job — simple and good dreams, the dreams of simple and good people. Suddenly however, these dreams shatter against a disconcerting discovery. Mary, his betrothed, is expecting a child, and the child is not his! What would Joseph have felt? Shock, pain, confusion, perhaps even irritation and disappointment.... He experienced his world was falling apart all around him! And what could he do?

The Law gives him two options. The first is to accuse Mary and make her pay the price for her alleged infidelity. The second is to secretly annul their engagement without exposing Mary to scandal and to harsh consequences, taking upon himself, however, the burden of shame. So, Joseph chooses this second option, the way of mercy. And behold, at the height of his crisis, right when he is thinking and evaluating all this, God lights a new light in his heart — he declares to him in a dream that Mary's motherhood did not come about because of a betrayal, but was the work of the Holy Spirit, and that the baby to be born will be the Saviour (cf. vv. 20-21). Mary will be the Mother of the Messiah, and he will be His guardian. On waking up, Joseph understands that the greatest dream of every devout Israelite — to be the father of the Messiah — is being fulfilled for him in a completely unexpected way.

Indeed, in order to fulfil this, it would not be enough to belong to David's lineage and be a faithful observer of the law, but he will have to entrust himself above and beyond all else to God, welcome Mary and her son in a completely different way than he had expected, different from the way things had always been done. In other words, Joseph will have to renounce all reassuring certainties, his perfect plans, his legitimate expectations, and open himself to a future that was completely to be discovered. And before God, who disrupts his plans and asks that he trust Him, Joseph says "yes". Joseph's courage is heroic and is exercised in silence — his courage is to trust, he welcomes, he is willing, he asks for no further guarantees.

Brothers and sisters, what does Joseph say to us today? We too have our dreams, and perhaps we think of them more, we talk about them together at Christmas. Perhaps we long for some dreams that were shattered and we see that our best expectations have to face with the unexpected, disconcerting situations. And when this happens, Joseph shows us the way. We should not give in to negative feelings, like anger or isolation — this is the wrong way! Instead, we have to attentively welcome surprises, life's surprises, even the crises. When we find ourselves in crisis, we should not make decisions quickly and instinctively, but rather sift through them like Joseph did, who "considered everything" (cf. v. 20), and base ourselves on the underlying criterium: God's mercy.

When one experiences a crisis without giving in to isolation, anger, and fear, but keeping the door open to God, He can intervene. He is an expert in transforming crises into dreams — yes, God opens crises into new horizons we never would have imagined before, perhaps not as we would expect, but in the way he knows how. And these, brothers and sisters, are God's horizons — surprising — but infinitely broader and more beautiful than ours! May the Virgin Mary help us live open to God's surprises.

*POPE FRANCIS — December 18, 2022*

## Tiempo de Confesiones en Adviento

El martes 23 de diciembre de 5 a 8 pm habrá sacerdotes que hablan español e inglés disponibles para escuchar confesiones.

## Advent Confessions

Tuesday, December 23rd from 5 to 8 pm there will be priests available to hear Confessions both in English and Spanish.

**Parish office will be closed** until Tuesday, January 6, 2026. The parish answering machine will be monitored during this time.

**La Oficina Parroquial estará cerrada** hasta el martes 6 de enero, 2026. Si no le responden al teléfono, por favor deje mensaje de voz.

### ENGLISH MASS SCHEDULE

#### Fourth Sunday of Advent

Saturday, December 20 **5:00 PM**  
+Deceased members of the Scarfone Family  
Sunday, December 21 **9:00 AM**  
For All Parishioners Living & Deceased  
Tuesday, December 23 **11:00 AM**

### CHRISTMAS MASSES SCHEDULE

Wednesday, December 24 **5:00 PM**  
The Nativity of the Lord—Christmas Eve  
Thursday, December 25 **9:00 AM**  
The Nativity of the Lord—Christmas Day  
For the Sick & Shut-ins of our Parish  
Friday, December 26 **11:00 AM**  
Saint Stephen  
+Mike Simms +Stella Dombrowski

#### The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

Saturday, December 27 **5:00 PM**  
+Deceased members of the Morabito Family  
Sunday, December 28 **9:00 AM**  
For All Parishioners Living & Deceased

May God give us all a peaceful season of Christmas and a happy New Year! Thank you for sharing your life and talents in our parish family.

*Fr. Francisco Cruz*

### MISAS EN ESPAÑOL

#### IV Domingo de Adviento

Sabado 20 de Diciembre **7:00 PM**  
Domingo 21 de Diciembre **11:00 AM & 1:00 PM**  
Por la Comunidad Parroquial  
Martes 23 de Diciembre **12:00 PM**  
+Libardo Cuellar

### HORARIO DE MISAS DE NAVIDAD

Miercoles 24 de Diciembre **7:00 PM**  
Natividad del Señor Misa de la Noche  
Jueves 25 de Diciembre **11:00 AM & 1:00 PM**  
Natividad del Señor Misa del Día  
Viernes 26 de Diciembre **12:00 PM**  
San Esteban

#### La Sagrada Familia de Jesús, María & José

Sabado 27 de Diciembre **7:00 PM**  
Domingo 28 de Diciembre **11:00 AM & 1:00 PM**  
Por la Comunidad Parroquial

Que el Señor llene de bendiciones y de paz a toda la familia espiritual de la Parroquia de Guadalupe.  
¡Feliz Navidad y Año Nuevo!

*Fr. Francisco Cruz*