

# St. Joseph the Worker Catholic Church

842 US Highway 158 W Business  
P.O. Box 934  
Warrenton, NC 27589  
252-257-5605  
Fax Number: 252-257-5588  
Email Address: stjoseph@embarqmail.com  
Web Site: www.st-joseph-church.com

January 13, 2019

The Baptism of the Lord

“The Lord will bless his people with peace.”



## Mission Statement of Saint Joseph the Worker Parish

We seek to provide opportunities for personal and communal worship and prayer; encourage spiritual growth and faith development; build our Catholic faith community through evangelization; reach out to the materially and spiritually poor and needy in our parish and community.

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A Welcoming Faith Community

We are led in our faith by Bishop Luis Rafael Zarama

Saint Joseph the Worker Catholic Church

Pastor: Rev. Rafael A. Leon-Valencia  
St. James Parish: 252-438-3124  
Web Site: [www.st-joseph-church.com](http://www.st-joseph-church.com)

Organist: Sallye Duncan  
Cantor: Bridget Marlin

**MASS CARD**

For the Repose of the Soul of Catherine Aiken who passed away this past Monday

Offered By: Charles and Linda Dean

**WELCOME BACK**

Welcome back to Rev. Alexander Gonzalez, who is celebrating Mass this week in the absence of Fr. Rafael. Fr. Rafael will be back next Sunday.

**NATIVITY SCENE**

Many of you may be asking, "Why is the Nativity Scene still up". Many of us thought it should be taken down after the Feast of the Epiphany. The correct time is after The Baptism of the Lord., which is today, January 13. This week we will be removing it from the Church until next year.

**LITURGICAL MINISTER TRAINING**

Some training has been scheduled for the month of January for the following—includes new and veteran—after Mass.

January 13—Lectors

January 27—Eucharistic Ministers

Also this month we are recruiting for the ministries. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex if you are interested in becoming a member of one of our lay ministries.

**MORNINGSTAR MINISTRY MEETING**

There will be a meeting of the Morning Star Ministry at the home of Sue Peterson on Tuesday, January 15 at 9:30AM. If you have any questions, you may contact Sue at 252-257-3209.

**RECTORY PROJECT—HENDERSON**

Fr. Rafael is requesting old bricks to be used to redo the rectory driveway at St. James. If you would like to donate used bricks, please drop them off at the rectory, or call the office to make arrangements for pick-up.

**SCRIP PROGRAM**

Don't forget to purchase your Scrip Cards from Ron or Holly Whitt after Mass. Cards are available for a wide variety of stores, including grocery stores, home improvement stores, and department stores. St. Joseph the Worker receives a small percentage of the cost of the card. Thank you.

**OFFICE HOURS**

Office hours this week will be Monday, Thursday and Friday from 9:00AM -Noon.

**LITURGICAL MINISTER SCHEDULE**

**HOSPITALITY**

01/13 J. SABO. P. SABO  
01/20 D. VANDEGRIFT, R. WHITT

**LECTOR**

01/13 B. MCWHINNEY  
01/20 H. HOGAN

**EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS**

01/13 B. MCWHINNEY, A. VANDEGRIFT,  
R. WHITT  
01/20 H. HOGAN, D. VANDEGRIFT,  
A. WHITING

**COLLECTION**

01/13 D. VANDEGRIFT  
01/20 R. HOPKINS

**ALTAR SERVERS**

01/13 M. ENSOR  
01/20 B. MASON

**JANUARY LINENS:** D. MUNSCH

**JANUARY CLEANING:** RIGGAN FAMILY

**JANUARY SACRISTAN:** B. MASON

**2019 ENVELOPES/CALENDARS**

Envelopes are available on the table in front of the Lady of Guadalupe picture at the back of Church. The 2019 calendars are on the table in the Narthex.

**Welcome Visitors**

We welcome all visitors, new and returning, to St. Joseph the Worker's new Church. We continue with finishing touches and to pay the mortgage on our beautiful Church. Anyone interested in helping us defray the mortgage, you will find envelopes at the end of each pew for contributions.

OFFERTORY: -- 01/06/19	\$	1,043	BUILDING FUND PHASE 2—01/06/19	\$	358
OFFERTORY YTD:	\$	32,762	PHASE 2 COLLECTION YTD:	\$	10,409
WEEKLY GOAL	\$	1,000	GOAL:	\$	100,000
SHARE YTD :	\$	1,085	CHRISTMAS FLOWER OFFERING	\$	318
SHARE ANNUAL GOAL	\$	2,000			

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

#### JANUARY

- 13 Youth Faith Formation  
Liturgical Minister Training
- 15 Morning Star Ministry Meeting  
Home of Sue Peterson 9:30AM
- 20 BAA Kickoff
- 21 Youth Faith Formation
- 27 Youth Faith Formation  
Eucharistic Minister Training

### PEOPLE TO KNOW

- Pastor: Rev. Rafael Leon 252-438-3124
- Pastoral Council Chair: Mark Ensor 919/673-4361
- Finance Council Chair: Alicia Whiting 804/360-4521
- Liturgy Committee Chair: Bridget Marlin 252/879-0029
- Morning Star Ministry Co-Chair: Peg McWhinney 252-257-1151  
Co-Chair: Sue Peterson 252-257-3209
- Grounds & Maintenance: Rob Love 252-2574446
- Faith Development: Heidi Hogan 252-586-6828
- Parish Office Manager Linda Dean 252-257-5605
- (Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday & Friday 9:00AM to Noon, unless otherwise stated in the bulletin)



### PRAYER REQUESTS

The lower right hand section of this page contains names of those we have been asked to keep in our prayers. **Mark Ensor, Pastoral Council Chair, has asked that we start over since many of these names have been on here "forever".** Please contact Linda Dean, the Office Manager, via email by the end of January of names that you have on the list that should remain on the list. All other names will be removed.

### Spiritual Resources for Homilies

The following are excellent resources to preview each Sunday gospel. These Catholic websites often provide the homily on the Wednesday prior to coming to Church on Sunday. By previewing the gospel and different approaches to homilies, you can deepen your understanding of the Word of God. Saint Vincent Arch Abbey is a Benedictine Monastery in Pennsylvania - [www.saintvincentarchabbey.org](http://www.saintvincentarchabbey.org). Father Robert Barron is a seminary professor - [www.wordonfire.org](http://www.wordonfire.org). Creighton University (also has daily reflections) Creighton University Daily Reflections - [OnlineMinistries](http://OnlineMinistries) St. Louis University Center for Liturgy - [to link for Sunday](http://to link for Sunday)

**BAPTISM:** Parents or guardians should contact the Parish House at least one month in advance to schedule preparation classes.

**RECONCILIATION:** Communal reconciliation is scheduled during Advent and Lent. For other times, please contact Father Rafael at St. James 252-438-3124.

**MARRIAGE:** Registered parishioners should make an appointment with the Pastor 6 months prior to the scheduled date.

**ANOINTING OF THE SICK:** Anyone seriously ill, anticipating surgery or weakened due to illness or age is encouraged to receive the Anointing of the Sick. Please call the Parish House or St. James 252-438-3124.. If this is a priest emergency, you may contact Fr. Rafael direct at 910/228-1858.

Please keep the following in your prayers:

Sue Appel, Donna Apple, Cassie Bottoms, Jordan Butler, Casey Carrick, Steven Cayton, Tommy Costello, Sarah Daniel, Margie Farley, Lisa Fitchett, N. Joseph Foit, Jr., Bill Frenzel, Mary Ann G Gasko, Ethan Glass, Kim Harris, Will Hawkins, Lexi Jarman, Francis Kelley, Kurt Kreider, Kathleen LaMonica, Tammy Mannon, Vinnie Martinez, Ashley Miller, Michele Miller, Joan Moffett, Brianna Moore, Sue Moret, Carol Oliver, Greg Pullen, Danny Ransford, Tony Reekie, Nancy Riggan, Mary Rowlands, Harold Salmon, Lynne Scharf, C. S. Scott IV, William Scott, Charles & Judy Siter, George Snediker, Martha Squier, Bernadette Standowsky, Mary Lib Taylor, Chris Thomas, Savanna Tortorella, Phillip Vandegrift, and Christopher Young.

**Please pray for the soul of Catherine Aiken, who passed away on Monday, January 9. May she rest in peace.**

NOTE: If you have additions or deletions to this list, please contact Linda, the office manager, at 252-257-5605 or send an email to [stjoseph@embarqmail.com](mailto:stjoseph@embarqmail.com).

.A central message in the whole book of Isaiah is that God keeps God's word. God does not go back on the promises God has made, even when the people have broken their covenant with God. And that's what they did time after time.

List your favorite and most comforting scriptural passages. On the top of my list would be the one we hear from Isaiah today. It has the tone of a gentle and loving parent speaking to an injured or, in this case, a disloyal child. The prophet is delivering the message to the people who are in Babylonian exile. How did they get there? They were faithfulness to the covenant with God. Therefore, they interpreted their exile as a punishment for their disloyalty to God's covenant with them. The prophets made it quite clear that they deserved their punishment. But prophets, like Isaiah, also had words of encouragement for those in exile waiting for God to come to help them.

The setting for the passage is the heavenly court. God's messengers are assembled before God's throne waiting to receive a message for the people. If we were those messengers what would we expect God to say to the recalcitrant Israelites? Would we have to tell them on God's behalf, "You're getting just what you deserve!" Or, "Didn't I warn you not to betray me with your false gods and alliances with pagan nations?" We tend to say such things to people who have offended, or let us down. And don't we feel justified when we do? But, if we were among God's messengers awaiting a word for the people we would be taken aback by what God has to say to them. "Comfort, give comfort to my people....Speak tenderly to Jerusalem and proclaim to her that her service is at an end, her guilt is expiated." Wait a minute! Where is the justice in that! Well, it certainly isn't human justice, which expects and waits for signs of repentance and promises to make up what debt we are owe, or are owed. No, it's God's justice. To put another word on it, it's God's mercy – given freely and unearned.

That is the word the messengers are to deliver to the exiles. God's servants also have physical work to do. They are to make a straight road, fill in every valley and level every mountain. Why? Because God is swiftly coming to help the people and there are to be no obstacles in God's way. What will God do when God arrives? God will lead the people home from exile, back to their own country.

Thus, Isaiah is restating the central theme: God's word can be relied on. God will not leave us in exile, or on our own, but is coming to help us. What is God's disposition toward us? God is a loving, caring and protective shepherd who will carry us in loving arms and lead us home. Bottom line... God has a powerful, mighty arm with which to help the people. It is raised in victory and then lowered in tenderness. The passage does not even emphasize the people's worthiness, or their sincere prayers. But what is clear is that, in whatever exile we find ourselves, God will see our need, take the initiative and will come to help us.

God did keep the promise God made to Israel through Isaiah: the nation was freed, they returned to their homeland, rebuilt their nation and their Temple. And what else? God is making the same promise to any of us who find ourselves held captive in any way by habit, indifference, discouragement, ignorance, or addiction. As God acted for Israel, God will act for us with a strong arm to deliver us from whatever holds us captive and will then lead us home, like a gentle shepherd.

Isn't it good news to know how God favors us? We think people favor us because of our talents, looks, intelligence, or hard work. That's true for how we evaluate one another. But God is infinitely different from us. Doesn't it cause us surprise and wonder when we hear that, despite what we have done, or deserve, God looks kindly on us and is ready to come to our aid.

In our Isaiah reading we are reminded how much God cares and is concerned for each of us. But not just for us. At our baptism we were called to be prophets. What kind of prophets and what will our message be? Prophets announce God's justice and, it is plain from today's reading, when God proclaims justice God is turning a favorable eye towards us.

In our second reading Peter, who held a special place among Jesus' disciples, has stubbornly come to realize that God is showering favor on the Gentiles. He has arrived at the house of Cornelius, a Roman centurion, described in Acts as "religious and God-fearing" (10:1). Peter is there as a messenger of God to confirm God's welcome of non-Jews into the Christian community. He has been sent to confirm God's love for Cornelius and his household. Peter shares the vision he has received (10:9 ff) with Cornelius. "In truth, I see that God shows no partiality. Rather in every nation whoever fears God and acts uprightly is acceptable to God." There you have it! The message of God in Isaiah and the confirmation of that word through Jesus' life, death and resurrection – God has shown favor and invited all into God's household.

Jesus fulfills Isaiah's prophecy: he is the "strong right hand of the Lord," that has overcome the sin that has caused our exile. He is also the gentle shepherd who welcomes us into this community – a people he is leading safely home to our God.

How shall we messengers of God's word convey that to our neighbors, classmates, coworkers and the world? We have been baptized with the same Spirit that descended on Jesus at his baptism. We know the favor God has shown us. How shall we, empowered by that same Spirit, shed the light of love, acceptance and compassion on others?