

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

THE ANNUNCIATION, HENRI OSSAWA TANNER, WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

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?

**SAINT JOSEPH
AKRON, CO
phone: 970-345-6996**

Pastor: Rev. Marek Ciesla, S. Chr.
Parochial Vicar: Rev. Maurice Okeke
Deacon: Joe Benjamin ph: 970-554-1154

Masses: Sat. - 7:00 PM Sun - 8:00 AM
 Tues. - 5:30 PM Wed. - 7:30 AM

Sacrament of Reconciliation:
Sat. after 7:00 PM Mass, Sun. - 7:00 AM,
1/2 h before daily Masses or by appointment

Anointing of the Sick - call the Office

Office: open Tuesday and Wednesday.
(970) 345-6996 leave message
Visit our Website www.stmarybrush.org

Sign up at Flocknote.com/stjosephakron
Or from your cell phone text: akron to 84576

We are on Facebook:
Saint Joseph Catholic Church - Akron.
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Enter 80723 / select St. Mary's
Enter your e-mail - and you are in!

If you are interested in being a cantor or
providing music for the Mass, please contact
Marcia Pieper (970)554-1535
or **Julie Green** (970)554-0740

Bulletin: Kathy McFadden 970-301-2306
or kathryndianehall@gmail.com

Mass Intentions

Sat. Dec. 23 Vigil
7:00 p.m. Graces for Koch Family
Sun Dec. 24 Mass/4th Sunday of Advent
8:00 a.m. †Rosemary Dreher - AF
Sun Dec. 24 Mass/Christmas Eve
4:00 p.m. Graces for Parishioners
Mon Dec. 25 Mass/Nativity of the Lord
8:00 a.m. Graces for Parishioners
Tues Dec 26 Mass/St. Stephen
5:30 p.m. Graces for Family
Wed Dec 27 Mass/St. John the Evangelist
7:30 a.m. For our Sick Parishioners
Sat. Dec. 30 Vigil
7:00 p.m. †Rosemary Dreher - AF
Sun Dec. 31 Mass/The Holy Family
8:00 a.m. Graces/Knights of Columbus

In need of prayer support, call

Linda Littleton: 970-630-3267
Kim Krause: 970-554-1459
Peggy Dreher: 970-554-0546


Please Pray For Our Sick:

Kane Schrock, Geneva Aguilar, Mary Ann
Kreutzer, Barbara Wolf, Bobby Dreher, Al
Figueroa, Terry Hart, Pauline Frenzl, Dan
Killip, Ray & Marcella Hottinger, Deacon
Taylor Elder, Bridget Glosson, Ed Basler,
Carol Benjamin, Don Mollendor, Ken Kuntz,
Scott Allen, Randy Kraich, Von Axtell, Art
Aaron, Maria Foy, Beverly Gebauer, Tricia
Dreher, Tracy Basler, Bibiana Camacho

Eucharistic Adoration at St. Joseph

Spend time with our Lord....

Every Tuesday from 5:00 a.m. till 9:00 a.m.

 **to all for the decorating done
for Christmas!**

Christmas Masses

Christmas Eve (December 24th)

Children's Mass

4:00 p.m. - St. Joseph, Akron

6:00 p.m. - St. Mary, Brush

8:00 p.m. - St. John, Stoneham

Christmas Day (December 25th)

8:00 a.m. - St. Joseph, Akron

10:00 a.m. - St. Mary, Brush



New Year's Day Masses

/Not a Holy Day of Obligation/

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

Monday, January 1st

8:00 a.m. - St. Mary, Brush

6:00 p.m. - St. Joseph, Akron

6:00 p.m. - St. Mary, Brush

From Fr. Marek, Fr. Maurice, & Deacon Joe

**Christ is born!
Prince of Peace!**



A Wonderful, Blessed Christmas to all!

REQUEST FOR MASS INTENTIONS PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

There is no charge for Mass; however,
a customary offering of \$10 is appreciated.

Intention Name: _____

_____ Living _____ Deceased

Requested by _____

Phone _____

Date Wanted _____

Lay Minister Schedule

Sierra Mireles

December 31, 2023

Greeters/Gifts: Tracy & Susan Samber

Pianist: Volunteer

Cantor: Volunteer

Lector: Monte Willeke

Altar Servers: A Gross, S Poss, D Etl

Head Usher: Brian Etl

Euch Ministers: Frank & Esther Weis

December 31, 2023

No Breakfast & No Classes

Have you ever seen a priest wear a "maniple"?

A maniple is a short length of cloth that is looped over the left arm of the priest. It was once a normal part of the priest's Mass vestments, and is still used in the Latin Mass, where older styles of vestments are often worn. The maniple goes all the way back to ancient Rome. It was simply a handkerchief used either to wipe away perspiration or as a decorative piece.

It bears profound spiritual meaning. Various interpretations of it developed over time, eventually coalescing into the meaning we glean if we read the beautiful prayer that the priest prays while putting it on, referencing Psalm 125: *May I deserve, O Lord, to bear the maniple of weeping and sorrow in order that I may joyfully reap the reward of my labors.*

The maniple illustrates the priest's role as a laborer in Christ's vineyard, the Holy Mass being his chief work. It's a life that entails a great deal of blood, sweat, toil, and tears, but which has as its reward the salvation of eternal souls.

Email: office@stjosephsakron.org

* Office Hours: 9:00 AM - 2:30 PM (Tuesday, Wednesday)

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). ●



VIRGIN AND CHILD, ASIA (ARTIST UNKNOWN)

Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR / DearPadre.org

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



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