



THE VIRGIN SHALL  
**CONCEIVE.**

— MATTHEW 1:23 —

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

# **The Worshipping Community of**

*Blessed Sacrament – St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church*

Administered by the Josephites, Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament and Sisters of the Holy Family

St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church | 8321 Burthe Street | New Orleans, Louisiana 70118  
1909 - 2009

**Rev. Charles Andrus, S.S.J., Pastor**

**Rev. Linus Abah James, S.S.J., Parochial Vicar**

Mr. Terence Sims, Finance Council Chair

Mr. Kenneth Hayes, Parish Council Chair

Dr. David Delio, D.R.E.

Rectory | Fax: 504.866.7330 | 504.866.1319

Email: [bssjaparish@arch-no.org](mailto:bssjaparish@arch-no.org)

Website: [www.bssjaparish.com](http://www.bssjaparish.com)

*"The Uptown Church with the down home message"*

## **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2025**

# Worship & Meditation

## Readings for the week of December 21, 2025

### Sunday:

Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 (7c, 10b)/  
Rom 1:1-7/Mt 1:18-24

### Monday:

1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd/  
Lk 1:46-56

### Tuesday:

Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and  
14/Lk 1:57-66

### Wednesday:

Morning: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps  
89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29/Lk 1:67-79

### Thursday:

*Vigil:* Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29  
(2a)/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25 or  
1:18-25

*Night:* Is 9:1-6/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13  
(Lk 2:11)/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14

*Dawn:* Is 62:11-12/Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12/Ti 3:4-7/  
Lk 2:15-20

*Day:* Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 (3c)/  
Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

### Friday:

Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and  
8ab, 16bc and 17/Mt 10:17-22

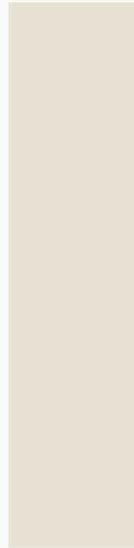
### Saturday:

1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12/Jn 20:1a, 2-8

### Next Sunday:

Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 (see 1)/  
Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Mt 2:13-15, 19-23

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.  
The English translation of Psalm Responses from Lectionary for  
Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in  
the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.



## Gospel Meditation

### Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

A priest friend recently told me a remarkable story. One of his cousins reported having a vivid dream in which an angel told him the family needed to exhume their grandmother's body from a cemetery in New York and return it to her birthplace in Romania. She had been dead nearly ten years. As you might expect, the family thought it was, well, crazy. But astonishingly they exhumed her body. It was incorrupt, showing no signs of decomposition. That experience sparked healing, faith, and reconciliation throughout the family.

In this Sunday's Gospel, Joseph also receives a dream. He's confused, afraid. But in the quiet of sleep, God speaks:

**"Do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home" (Matthew 1:20).** When he wakes, Joseph acts. He doesn't overanalyze or dismiss the message. He trusts, and acts.

God still speaks — not necessarily through literal dreams but through those deeper intuitions of the heart. St. Ignatius of Loyola taught that God's voice draws us into peace, courage, and love. But we have to listen to it. Advent is a time for stillness. As we prepare for Christ's coming, we're invited to enter that quiet space where God's voice can be heard.

When and how do you become most receptive to God? Is it in silence? In prayer? In nature? At Mass? This week, go there. Be still. Listen. And like Joseph, have the courage to act on what God shows you.

— Father John Muir



# SACRAMENTAL CELEBRATIONS

## Weekday Mass

Wednesdays - 8 a.m.

## Sunday Masses

Saturday (Vigil) 4:00 p.m.

Sunday 8:00 a.m.

Sunday (Gospel Mass) 10:00 a.m.

Livestreaming available on our Facebook and YouTube

Baptisms: 4th Sunday of the month except during Lenten Season

Weddings: Contact the rectory six months prior to desired wedding date

Confessions: One-half hour before Sunday Mass

Prayer Line: 508.924.5792 - Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays at Noon

Bible Study: 508.924.5792 - Thursdays at 6pm



**Saturday, December 20, 2025**

**4pm**

**In Memory of:** Our Parish Family and Families

**Sunday, December 21, 2025**

**8 am**

**For:** Our Parish Family and Families

**10 am Gospel Mass**

**For:** Our Parish Family and Families

For the Repose of the Soul of Joseph Preyan

**Wednesday, December 24, 2025**

**For:** The People of the Parish

## REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

The Repose of the soul of the Holy Father and for:

Our Parish Family Sick and Shut In: Leonard Anderson, Evangeline Thompson Antoine, Diane Austin, Joseph Bates, Jr., Barbara Blanchard, Loyce Bradshaw, Charles Braneon, Lorraine Burke, Barbara Butler, Virginia Butler, Augustine Cain, Dominique Carter, Jessie Caston, Sr., Jessie Caston, III, Ginny Clark, Bernadine Coco, Joyce Coleman, Keith Coleman, Santiago Cooper, Myrna Daniels, Lamar Davis, Beverly Dapremont, Souleymane Diop, Mr. & Mrs. Donald Dix, Bonnie Easton, Cameron Fritz, Gilda Griffin, Godfrey Harris, Linda Harris, Wanda Haydel, Tammi Lynn Howard, Hubert Jarrow, Jr., Ruth Jerome, Jaylen Johnson, Tommy Johnson, Anna Jones, Evelyn Johnson, Kaylen Johnson, Ruth Kennedy, Felicia Meyers, Edgries Moon, Keith Newton, Donna Phillips, Omar Phillips, Thomas Phillips, Calvin Preyan, Joyce Randolph, Deja Rawles, Ralph Rhea, Sr., Scott Rivera, Kim Roby, Matilda Romero, Janice Sawyer, Lula Mae Schexnayder, Carrie M. Shedd, Scott Schryver, Jane Silva, Cindy Sims, Enjoli Sims, Kaila Sims, Kira Sims, Alma M. Smith, Bill Starr, Marquerite Stepter, Glenda Stewart, Annie Stoot, Eugene Stoot, Diane Sims Tillman, Perry Tillman, III, Sherman Todd, Betty Williams, Jace Williams, Nedra Wicker and Mandi Young

## FOOD FOR THOUGHT

**What small act of mercy  
can I carry out this fourth  
week of Advent?**

## PROCLAIMER SCHEDULE

**Saturday, December 27, 2025**

4pm L. Coleman

**Sunday, December 28, 2025**

8am J. Salomone

10am T. Luke and A. Luke

Announcer: M. Green

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **PHOTOGRAPHS** If you have any photos of the interior of the Church, the Preservation Group is looking for history of the building from the beginning to the 70s. Please send any photos to Terence Sims.
- **TWELFTH NIGHT BALL** - The 35th Annual Twelfth-Night Ball will be held Saturday, January 10, 2026 from 8:00 PM – 12:00 A.M. in the Church Hall. Please see any committee member if you have any questions or to receive a contestant's form.



## Advent Prayer

Heavenly Father,  
as we light the final Advent candle,  
we thank You for the gift of love—  
a love made perfect in the coming of  
Your Son.  
Fill our hearts with charity, compassion,  
and a deeper love for one another.  
Prepare us to receive Jesus,  
the fullness of Your love on earth.  
Draw our family closer to You  
and to the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary,  
and Joseph.  
Come, Lord Jesus.  
Amen.



**PEW RALLY** Support the continuing restoration effort by adopting a pew. Here is your chance to assist in the restoration of our church and commemorate someone special in your life. Your donation of \$1,500 will cover the cost of refinishing a pew. A memorial plaque will be placed on each adopted pew recognizing your gift. The adoption gift can be made in 1, 2 or 3 payments and can be split by two donors. Begin your adoption gift by scanning the QR code or following the email address listed in the bulletin. Thank you for considering a gift to restore our church to its original luster.



Pew Rally QR Code

**BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Please submit all bulletin entries and announcements to the parish office by close of business (4:00 pm) on Wednesdays of each week.

## PARISH COUNCIL

Chair - Kenneth Hayes | 504.547.1619  
Patrick Anthony | 504.715.4961  
Joshua Bartholomew | 504.906.8312  
Arnel Cosey | 504.915.7024  
Trenice Davis | 281.844.4425  
Carol Dotson | 504.339.8691  
Richard Kelly | 678.994.8681  
Bridget Lassere | 504.650.9913  
Maurice McMorris | 504.388.9546  
Emile Pierre | 504.236.7336  
Twyla Rattler | 504.460.8265  
John Salomone | 504.307.4645  
Jerry Settle | 901.679.4060  
Shannon Sims | 504.228.3656  
Dawn Spears | 504.296.6320  
Troy Thomas | 504.914.4901  
Johnnie Tillman | 504.432.6189

## PARISH CALENDAR

### DECEMBER

8 Immaculate Conception -  
Holy Day of Obligation, Mass 6p  
17 Evening of Advent, 5:30p

## COLLECTION TEAMS

### DECEMBER

7	Team 1	14	Team 2
21	Team 3	28	Team 1

If you are experiencing an emotional crisis,  
are thinking about suicide, or are concerned  
about a friend, call the National Suicide  
Prevention Lifeline Immediately:



1-800-273-8255

This is a 24-hour hotline



<https://bssjaparish.weshareonline.org/>

Text "GIVEBSSJA" to 800-950-9952

QR Code Giving Code

*May God's generosity remain in you!*



Blessed Sacrament Saint Joan of Arc Catholic Church



BSSJA Parish New Orleans



@BSSJAnola



BlessedSacramentSaintJoanofArc