

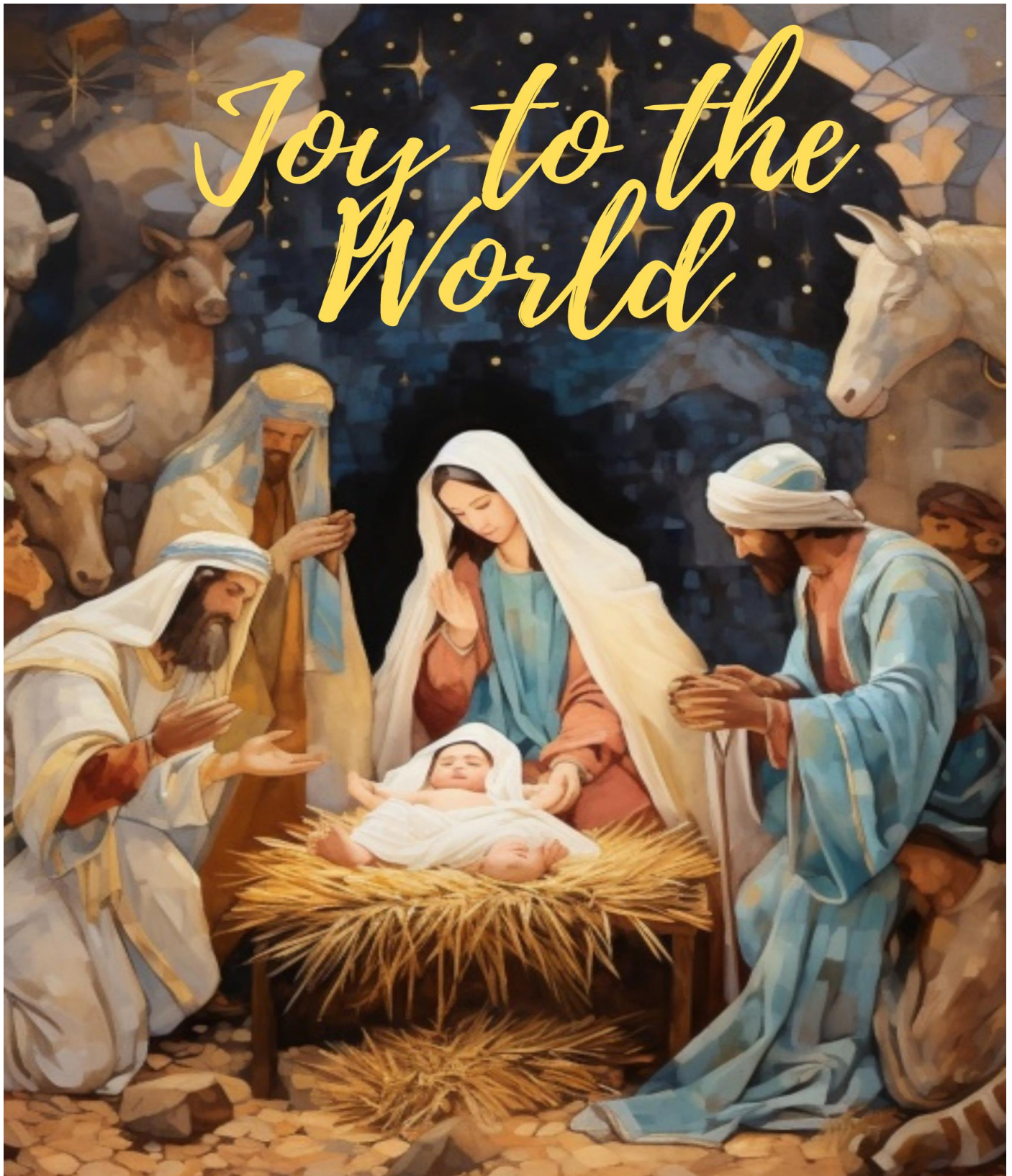
# *St. Joseph's Catholic Church*

392 Palace Road, Kingston, Ontario K7L 4T3 Tel. 613-547-5004

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Parish Website: [www.stjosephskingston.ca](http://www.stjosephskingston.ca)

Rev. Cosmas Ajawara, Pastor ~ Rev. Mr. Robert Wojcik, Deacon ~ In Residence: Rev. Charles Ogbuagu



## Christmas - December 25, 2023

**MASS SCHEDULE IN JANUARY** On January 10, 17, 18, 24, 25 the time of Mass for these days will be at 4:00 p.m. instead of 9:00 a.m.

**2023 DONATIONS** St. Joseph's Parish Year-End occurs on 31 December; therefore, we ask that all 2023 donations to the parish be received by the parish office by 31 December 2023. Donations received after this date will be recorded in 2024. If you wish to have a donation appear on your 2023 Tax Receipt, please ensure that the office has received it prior to 1 January. All extra envelope donations have been remitted to the Archdiocese to be forwarded to the various organizations.

**2024 CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES** are available at the main entrance. Please pick up your package before or after Mass. Once the New Year arrives, please do not use the previous year's envelopes as the number may be different. Thank you.

**2024 CALENDARS** Our church calendars sponsored by Gordon Tompkins Funeral Home are available at the entrances this weekend. This year there is a limited supply, please only take one.

### **PRAYERS FOR THE DECEASED**

You are asked to remember in prayer those recently deceased.

### **PRAYERS FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL**

Please remember in your prayers the following: Marcus Hacault; Brenda Camp; Joanne Senlon; Donna and Joe V.; Mary Jackson; Raymond Doyle.

*If there are members of your family or friends who are ill or recently died, and for whom you wish prayers, please contact Susan at the parish office at 613-547-5004.*

### **MASSES FOR THIS WEEK**

#### **Monday, 25 December**

9:00 a.m. People of the Parish  
11:00 a.m. People of the Parish

#### **Tuesday, 26 December**

9:00 a.m. Kevin Mulrooney – Joe Corrigan

#### **Wednesday, 27 December**

9:00 a.m. Sam Cadamuro – Shawn Hopkins

#### **Thursday, 28 December**

9:00 a.m. Mass of Thanksgiving for Amado Marcial – Marietta Marcial

#### **Friday, 29 December**

5:15 p.m. Bill Bruder (7<sup>th</sup> Anniversary) – Karen Bruder

#### **Saturday, 30 December**

5:15 p.m. Herminio Medeiros – Lisetta Medeiros

#### **Sunday, 31 December**

9:00 a.m. Anne Garrett – Leon Garrett  
11:00 a.m. People of the Parish  
5:15 p.m. Antonio Agostinelli – Maria Agostinelli

*Sunday, December 31 at 11:00 a.m. will be live streamed.*

## OUR PARISH

### **NEW YEARS MASSES**

Sunday, December 31 – 5:15 p.m.

Monday, January 1 – 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

**ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BASKETS COLLECTION** Each year, St. Joseph's provides for over fifty individuals and families in need with a Christmas hamper. I would like to express my gratitude to the many volunteers who contribute to the success of this program for those in need. Thank you to the parishioners who continue to amaze me with your generosity.

**O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL!** Round-out your celebrations of the Christmas season by singing your favourite sacred carols! Enjoy an **Epiphany Christmas Carol-Sing** led by the Trinitas Singers and Youth Singers under the direction of Jeffrey Moellman. **Saturday, January 6, 2:00-3:30pm, St. Joseph Catholic Church, 392 Palace Road, Kingston.** Monetary and non-perishable/canned food donations will be collected in support of a local charitable organization, and **a festive reception will follow.** [www.stjosephskingston.ca](http://www.stjosephskingston.ca), 613.547.5004.

**JUNIOR LITURGY** will not be held on December 24 & 31, and January 7. Junior Liturgy will resume on Sunday, January 14, 2024.

**FATHER COSMAS AJAWARA'S VACATION** Father Cosmas will be away from December 26, 2023 to January 26, 2024. He will be going home to celebrate his parents 60<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary. Please keep Father and his family in your prayers.

### **CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE MEMBERSHIP DRIVE**

The Catholic Women's League of Canada is a national organization rooted in Gospel values, calling its members to grow in faith, and to witness to the love of God through ministry and service. The Annual Membership Drive will take place January 6-7 and January 13 & 14 here at St. Joseph's. CWL members will be at each of the church entrances. New members, women from age 16 and up, are always welcome! St. Joseph's Parish is very fortunate to have such an active and vibrant Catholic Women's League serving our parish community.

**CONSECRATION TO THE HOLY FAMILY** Sign-up sheets are at each entrance. Booklets outlining the 7-day Preparation for Family Consecration will be available after masses on December 30/31<sup>st</sup> (Feast of the Holy Family) for those who have registered. For more information contact the parish office.





## Embracing the True Spirit of Christmas



At Christmas, we gather to celebrate the birth of a child—a humble beginning that sparked a journey of hope, love, and redemption. The story of this child, born in a manger amidst simple surroundings, holds within it profound lessons that continue to resonate through the ages.

Christmas invites us to embrace the essence of humility and simplicity. In a world often tangled in the pursuit of grandeur and materialism, the nativity scene whispers a different truth—that greatness can emerge from the most unassuming places. It reminds us that the richness of life lies not in opulence but in the simplicity of love, compassion, and connection. Furthermore, the true spirit of Christmas encompasses empathy and compassion toward others.

It encourages us to look beyond our own concerns and reach out to those who may be struggling—offering support, comfort, and a sense of belonging.

The birth of Jesus heralds the dawn of hope—a light that pierces through the darkness of despair and illuminates a path forward. It's a reminder that in our darkest moments, hope perseveres; it's the beacon that guides us through trials and tribulations, inspiring us to believe in better days ahead.

Moreover, Christmas embodies the spirit of giving—a time when generosity knows no bounds. The act of giving mirrors the greatest gift of all. As we exchange presents, let us remember that the most valuable gifts are not wrapped in paper but bestowed through gestures of kindness, understanding, and empathy. Christmas embodies the spirit of giving without expecting anything in return—a reflection of the unconditional love that connects us all. It's about finding joy in the act of giving, whether it's a kind gesture, a heartfelt word, or a helping hand extended to someone in need.

The Christmas story invites us to ponder the significance of family and community. Just as Mary and Joseph found shelter amidst strangers, it teaches us the importance of extending hospitality and care to those around us, especially to those who may feel marginalized or overlooked.

Ultimately, Christmas is an invitation—to embrace simplicity, to nurture hope, to embody generosity, and to foster connections with our fellow beings. It's a time to reflect on the blessings in our lives and to extend gratitude for the gift of each day, each relationship, and each opportunity to make a positive impact. Christmas isn't confined to a single day on the calendar—it's a spirit to be carried throughout the year. It's about embodying kindness, spreading warmth, and making a positive difference in the lives of others.

Embracing the true spirit of Christmas means not only celebrating its festivities but also embodying its values—love, compassion, generosity, and goodwill. It's about creating a world where these virtues thrive, where every day becomes an opportunity to spread joy and make a meaningful impact in the lives of others.

As we celebrate amidst the twinkling lights and festive cheer, may the true essence of Christmas resonate within us, guiding our actions and interactions not just during this season, but throughout the year. May the spirit of Christmas fill our hearts with joy, our souls with peace, and our lives with an enduring commitment to love and kindness. Amen.

Merry Christmas to you and your families.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Cosmas Ajawara

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