Weekend Masses: Saturday Vigil: 4:00pm - Sunday Morning: 8:00am and 11:00am
Daily Masses: Tuesday and Wednesday at 5:30pm, Thursday and Friday at 9:00am
Confessions: 30 minutes before Masses or anytime at the Rectory

Pastor: Father Patrick S. Healy, S.S.J.

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CHURCH ENVIRONMENT
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ST. PETER CLAVER
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KPC JUNIOR KNIGHTS
Ernest LeMay
KPC JUNIOR DAUGHTERS
Tabitha Ransom
MAINTENANCE &
BEAUTIFICATION
Roger Joseph
What’s Amazing About Christmas?

Consider this: God loved the world so much that He came visiting. God slipped into the world as a helpless baby, without fanfare or heraldry.

Think of it: The baby, born in a humble family, the man a carpenter, the woman still very young, scholars say. Jesus was born in a backwater town called Bethlehem, in a stable reeking with animal smells.

It took years before people fully comprehended God’s self-revelation. Even John the Baptist, sitting in Herod’s prison, sent a message to Jesus asking, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” (Matt 11:3). Jesus then explained that he was working miracles and bringing good news to the poor. That became even more clear when Peter concluded that Jesus was “the Messiah, the Son of the living God” (Matt 16:16).

What’s amazing about Christmas is that it began in a manger. And today more than 2 1/2 billion people around the world celebrate Jesus’ birth.

Christmas Is Proof

Christmas is a time to be happy, a time for celebrating and sharing. For God stoops down to be one of us, born as a poor baby so that we can be rich. He does not leave us to get along as best we can. He joins us where we are. God is committed to us. Christmas is proof that God cares. That is why we celebrate and show our care in turn to those who need it.

Christmas Poinsettias

A special Thank You to all who supported our Poinsettia Memorial project for our Christmas celebrations. All of our 100 plants have been reserved and should make a beautiful display for Christmas.

Happy "Rejoice Sunday"!
Last Wednesday our new Carillon System was installed and programmed. Thanks to the Stella Roman Foundation who donated the Carillon, we will be able to hear the bells calling us to Mass, striking the hour, playing the Angelus, and a variety of seasonal religious hymns throughout the year. This is a wonderful addition to our Church and it came just in time for Christmas!

Merry Christmas!

I Have Learned...
that the Spirit of Christmas is annual; the Spirit of Christ is eternal.

“Then the three wise men came to baby-sit while Mary and Joseph went caroling.”

You may purchase your 2013 St. Joseph Sunday Missal from the Ushers for an offering of $3 each. These Missals contain all the Mass prayers and Scripture readings for each Sunday during Cycle C which begins on December 2nd.

Christmas Ornaments
You are invited to bring a “Family Ornament” to hang on our Parish Christmas Tree - anytime during Advent!

Christmas Light

Christmas occurred when God came to Earth in a strange and marvelous way. A special child was born to improbable parents in an unlikely place at an inconvenient time and in an unwelcoming world. Yet heaven’s light pierced the darkness and shone through the life of that unique baby. That light was and is an eternal light. God’s light in Christ is a saving light that can keep the world from total destruction, from the ultimate darkness. The message is always true: “The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it” (John 1:5). And it never will.

Annual Pledge

St. Augustine’s Pledge Drive is the biggest fundraiser of the year and makes possible many of our ministries, services and improvements. Please make your pledge or one-time gift as soon as possible for our 2012 drive.
4. Join our trip to Memphis and Tunica! Price $320.00 for 5 days 4 nights, includes 8 meals. If interested in going, please call Rena Caldwell at 627-6305 or Geraldine Turner at 638-6924 as soon as possible.

Want to get into the Spirit of Christmas? Then join us in the Church at 10:00am each Saturday of Advent as we continue the decoration of our Church for the celebration of Our Lord’s Birthday. You may also bring a personal or family ornament to hang on our Christmas Tree. And don’t forget your Angel Gift which you can place under our Tree anytime during Advent.

Jesus, the true light, who comes into the world and into our lives.

Parishioners are welcomed and encouraged to submit articles, stories, and pictures for the bulletin. Send them by e-mail (mphm@josephite.com) or drop them by the Rectory. The deadline for announcements is Thursday by noon.

TZYON RAYBON WILLIAMS
4 year old son of Robyn Williams and Grandson of Velta Williams will present his 1st Piano Recital this Sunday, December 16th, at Trinity Episcopal Day Care, at 2:00pm. All are Invited.

Join our trip to Memphis and Tunica! Price $320.00 for 5 days 4 nights, includes 8 meals. If interested in going, please call Rena Caldwell at 627-6305 or Geraldine Turner at 638-6924 as soon as possible.
So now we enter the season of giving that stirs anxiety in the hearts of many. Feeling overwhelmed with holiday angst is accepted as the norm, but it doesn't have to be that way, even if you have ten children and 55 other relatives who are all expecting something special from you. If you've always been frenzied to the point that just hearing “Deck the Halls” make you want to pull out your hair, then make a new plan this year. Just because every bus, every storefront and every jingle has a bell in it doesn’t mean you have to succumb to the hype. You can choose to go deeper and fuller, and give only from the place that is most meaningful and fulfilling to you.

A gifted pianist and comedian once said the shortest distance between two people is laughter. He was right. Laughter does indeed quickly break down barriers.

During this Christmas Season, collect a few stories that make you laugh and have them ready when an occasion calls for more.

For example: A woman and six children were walking toward a park. An elderly man who was also headed there stopped the woman and said with a smile, “My, what a nice group of children! Are they all yours … or is this a picnic?”

The woman’s response was immediate. “Yes! They’re all my children, and it ain’t no picnic!”

I am not what I ought to be. I am not what I want to be. I am not what I hope to be. But still, I am not what I used to be. And by the grace of God, I am what I am.

Rest In Peace

The Gift of Humor

May They Rest in Peace

How Far Is It To Christmas?

Last Sunday, December 9th, Mr. Jeffrey John Butler, was called home to his heavenly reward. We celebrated his Mass of Resurrection on Saturday, December 15th, and his burial followed the Mass in our cemetery.

On Tuesday, December 11th, Mrs. Myrtle Jones passed to new life. Her funeral will be celebrated on Monday, December 17th, with a visitation from 9:00am and the Mass of Resurrection at 11:00am. Her burial will follow the Mass in our Church Cemetery.

Please keep them and their families in your prayers and Masses.
Please Pray for our Sick & Shut-In Parishioners:

You are Remembered in our Prayers

Couples reaching their 25th, 50th or 65th Anniversary at any time during the year of 2012 are invited to attend the Anniversary Mass and reception on February 24, 2013. Couples should contact the Parish Office and let us know if they wish to attend. Registration deadline is Friday, February 15, 2013.

Liturgical Ministers for December 22nd – 25th

Saturday, 4:00pm
Lectors: (c) Walter W., John W. & Eucharistic Ministers: Louella J. & Rena C.
Servers: TaMyra R. & Ava M.
Music: Good News Choir

Sunday, 8:00am
Lectors: (c) Amelia P., Brenda Z. & Kevin Z.
Eucharistic Ministers: Hazrl M. & Angela P.
Servers: Skylar H. & Cydney P.
Music: Rose Ann M.

Sunday, 11:00am
Lectors: (c) Gothalin R., Alecia B. & Anelcia R.
Eucharistic Ministers: Mary Ann B. & Tonia S.
Servers: Paige B. & Jaisha V.
Music: Male Chorus

Monday, 8:00pm Christmas Eve
Lectors: (c) Debra J., Anthony D. & George L.
Eucharistic Ministers: Mary Lou L., Charles L. & Rena C.
Servers: Talana B. Mary S.
Music: Combined Choir

Tuesday, 10:00am Christmas Day
Lectors: (c) Gerry B., Walter W. & Paula J.
Eucharistic Ministers: Cean G., Terry & Marion G
Servers: Skylar H. & Cydney P.
Music: Rose Ann M.

Thank You For Your Stewardship

There are various levels of Church Membership. Anyone living within the boundaries of our Parish for at least 6 months is automatically a member. Those who live outside our boundaries and choose to “register” are members. “Contributing Members” are those who choose to use church envelopes on a regular basis and are entitled to regular financial reports from the Rectory.

Any member who wishes to arrange a Wedding must contact the priest at least 6 months prior to the desired wedding date. The actual Wedding date cannot be confirmed until the Pre-Cana process has begun. Wedding Consultants are not permitted.

Parents desiring Baptism for their children are encouraged to contact the Rectory during the pregnancy to arrange for the required preparation class for parents and godparents. At least one practicing Catholic must be a godparent. Contact the priest if you wish to have a non-Catholic Christian Witness as a Baptism witness.

If you or a family member is Sick or Shut-In, please inform the Rectory so that we may arrange to bring the Sacraments to your home, hospital or nursing home.

When a Funeral is to be celebrated, please contact the priest even before contacting the Funeral Home. Funerals are not permitted on Sundays or Holy Days.

Last Weekend

Our weekend attendance was 352. The Regular Offering was $5,187.00, the Retire Religious offering was $466.25, Cemetery fees were $900.00, Pledges were $1,290.00, the extra items were $491.89, and the deposit was $8,335.14.

Liturgical Ministers for December 22nd – 25th
An 8-year-old girl was showing her 4-year-old sister some pictures from her Bible. The younger sister was fascinated by a picture of Mary and baby Jesus. After examining it intently, she asked, “But where’s Joseph?” The older sister thought for a moment and replied, “He’s taking the picture.”