



## ST. GEORGE ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH

300 E. 16th Avenue

Apache Junction, AZ. 85119

Phone: 480-982-2929 Fax: 480-982-0036

Office email: [office@stgeorgeaj.com](mailto:office@stgeorgeaj.com)

Website: [stgeorgeaj.com](http://stgeorgeaj.com)



Parish Office open Monday through Thursday:

8:00 a.m. to 12:00 and 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Friday: 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon ONLY

*Adoration Chapel  
(across from the office)  
Monday through Thursday:  
8:00 a.m. to 11:45 & 1:00 to 2:45 p.m.  
Friday: 8:00 to 11:45 a.m. only*

### LITURGY SCHEDULE

#### Current Mass Schedule

Saturday: Confessions: 10:00 a.m. Masses: 11:30 a.m., 1:15, 3:00 & 4:30 p.m.

Sunday: Masses: 6:30, 8:15, 10:00 a.m. & 4:00 p.m.

Daily Mass: 8:00 a.m. Rosary before Mass

Adoration after Daily Mass for 10 minutes. Followed by Divine Mercy

Holy Days: Special Schedule

Video Masses available online for Sundays and Holy Days for the Homebound

[www.stgeorgeaj.com](http://www.stgeorgeaj.com)

## December 24, 2023

#### COMMUNION TO THE SICK

If you or someone you know is sick or homebound, please call for the assistance of a Minister of Care. Ministers of Care bring communion to those who cannot come to Mass. Please call the office at 480-982-2929 for more information.

#### INSTRUCTIONS FOR EMERGENCY

If you or someone you know is in critical condition or near death call 480-982-2929 weekdays from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. After hours and on weekends call 480-303-1253. Please do not use this service for any other reason.

#### INFANT BAPTISM

Parents requesting baptism for their children under 7 years old must attend a mandatory preparation class along with the Godparents. Please call the Parish Office for current requirements and to register for the class and the baptism. Class and baptisms are in English only.

#### MARRIAGES/MARRIAGE PREPARATION

Couples seeking the sacrament of marriage must be registered parishioners who are actively participating in the life of St. George Roman Catholic Parish. Notification of intent to marry must be provided nine months in advance. For more information on the marriage preparation process, please call the Parish Office.



#### PASTORAL STAFF

Reverend Monsignor Domenico Pinti, Pastor	
Caroline Hodges, Bookkeeper	Ext. 103
Grace Vozel, Parish Secretary	Ext. 101
Christine Ollive, Director of Religious Ed	Ext. 102
Debbie Wohlforth, Receptionist	Ext. 100
Denis McDonald, Maintenance	

#### WINTER & ASSISTING PRIESTS

Fr. Vince Lieser	Fr. Eamonn Boland
Fr. Rodney Farke	Fr. Charlie Flynn

#### PARISH DEACONS

Deacon Paul Rokosz	Deacon Ralph Huber
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#### Finance Council

Susan Insalaco	Caroline Hodges
Arlene Showers	Ray Kimble

**Our Sunday Visitor  
(for ON-LINE giving questions)  
800-348-2886**

# Christmas Eve

## THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

Monday	December 25, 2023
<b>PARISH OFFICE CLOSED</b>	
Tuesday	December 26, 2023
<b>PARISH OFFICE CLOSED</b>	
Wednesday	December 27, 2023
9:00 a.m.	Rosary Makers (Social Hall)
Thursday	December 28, 2023
8:30 a.m.	Quilters (Social Hall)
Friday	December 29, 2023
Saturday	December 30, 2023
Sunday	December 31, 2023

## VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION!

Monday, January 8, 2024  
"Take home dinner & a gift"  
Stop in from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Heartfelt   
**THANKS**  
**TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!**

**Our Lady of the Desert Guild  
GIFT SHOP HOURS  
Will be **CLOSED**  
December 23 & 24  
&  
December 30 & 31**

## KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

The Knights of Columbus will be handing out candy canes after Masses this weekend, December 23rd and 24th at the east & west doors. A small thank you to the parishioners of St. George for supporting your Knights of Columbus.

*Merry Christmas  
& Happy New Year*



*From Rev. Msgr. Pinti,  
all the visiting priests & deacons  
and the staff of  
St. George Roman Catholic Parish*

## SUNDAY'S READINGS

First Reading:

"Your house and your kingdom shall endure forever before me; your throne shall stand firm forever." (2 Sm 28:16)

Psalm:

For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord. (Ps 89)

Second Reading:

The revelation of the mystery kept secret for long ages but now manifested through the prophetic writings and, according to the command of the eternal God, made known to all nations to bring about the obedience of faith. (Rom 16:25-26)

Gospel:

"Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus." (Lk 1:31)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

*January 1 & 2—Parish office CLOSED  
January 3—Our Lady of the Desert Guild Meeting  
January 8—Volunteer Appreciation  
January 15—Parish Office CLOSED  
January 17—Ladies Guild Get Acquainted Party  
February 2—Spaghetti Dinner  
February 7—Our Lady of the Desert Guild  
February 12—Ladies Guild Tea*

## Our Lady of the Desert Guild

Make it your New Year's Resolution not to miss our first "Our Lady of the Desert Guild" meeting of the New Year on January 3rd @ 9:00 a.m. Lunch will be served after the meeting.

Also, get your tickets (while they last) for our popular Annual Tea Party! Be sure to bring a friend or 2 and join Alice & the Madd Hatter for a magical lunch. Tickets will also be on sale while they last after the January Masses.



### Readings for the week

Sunday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29/Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:26-38

Monday: Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29/ 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/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/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

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

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

Thursday: 1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7cd-8/Mt 2:13-18

Friday: 1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6/Lk 2:22-35

Saturday: 1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10/Lk 2:36-40

### Homebound Ministers Needed

Interested in bringing Communion to Homebound parishioners? We need you! Call the parish office if you are interested.



## MASS INTENTIONS

### Monday December 25, 2023

- 8:00 a.m. Charles & Mildred Angell Sr.  
+Myrna Feneis  
+Florian & Helen Pfiefer
- 10:00 a.m. +Eugene & Mary Farrell  
+Sharon Jochum  
+Hope Crowley Roberts  
+Maria Crowley Spaeth

### Tuesday December 26, 2023

- 8:00 a.m. Souls in Purgatory  
+Gertrude & Michael Gartner

### Wednesday December 27, 2023

- 8:00 a.m. +Jennie L. Carrasco  
+Marilyn Hazel  
+Alice M. Paquin

### Thursday December 28, 2023

- 8:00 a.m. Troy Aiden  
+Myrna Feneis  
+John Gasper

### Friday December 29, 2023

- 8:00 a.m. Jim & Misa Hennessey  
+Thomas Russell  
+James Tiller

### Saturday December 30, 2023

- 11:30 a.m. Rose Ann Kerzman  
+Lynda Neuman
- 1:15 p.m. +Connie Munding  
+Doris Schunk  
+Ethan Stadler  
+Francis Stadler
- 3:00 p.m. Sheryl Amatucci  
Deceased members of the  
Gertrude & Michael Gartner  
Family
- 4:30 p.m. +Judy Masching

### Sunday December 31, 2023

- 6:30 a.m. The Wegrzyn Family  
+Matthew Salmon  
+Bill Weier
- 8:15 a.m. Deacon Ralph Huber  
Jarrod Seim
- 10:00 a.m. Sherry Rokosz  
Jason Erik Serrano  
+John Mohan  
+Cecilia Vargas
- 4:00 p.m. Souls in Purgatory  
+Vincent Lardner

## December Holy Days & Special Mass Schedule

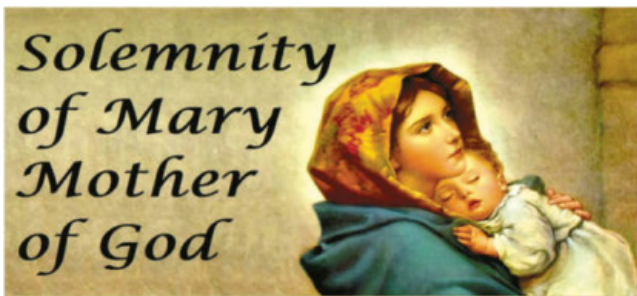


December 23, 2023 (Saturday)  
11:30 a.m., 1:15, 3:00 & 4:30 p.m.  
(counts for Sunday)

December 24, 2023 (Sunday)  
6:30 a.m. (counts for Sunday)

December 24, 2023 (Sunday)  
Christmas Eve Readings  
8:00 & 10:00 a.m., 12:00, 2:00, 4:00 & 6:00 p.m.

December 25, 2023 (Monday)  
Christmas Day  
8:00 & 10:00 a.m.



December 30, 2023 (Saturday)  
11:30 a.m., 1:15, 3:00, & 4:30 p.m.  
Count for Sunday

December 31, 2023 (Sunday)  
6:30, 8:15 & 10:00 a.m.  
Count for Sunday

December 31, 2023 (Sunday)  
Solemnity of Mary  
4:00 p.m.

January 1, 2024 (Monday)  
8:00 & 10:00 a.m.

## CHRISTMAS DAY December 25



More than nineteen hundred years ago, a decree went forth from the Roman Emperor, Caesar Augustus, commanding a general census in which all the people of the empire should be enrolled, "each in his own city," that is, in the place to which his tribe and family belonged.

Joseph and Mary went from Nazareth to Bethlehem, the city of David, because they were of the family of that king. Bethlehem is situated about five or six miles south of Jerusalem, and nearly seventy-five miles south of Nazareth. There, in a stable, Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the Redeemer of the world, was born, according to tradition, at midnight, or soon after, on December 25. And it came to pass that, when they were there, Mary "brought forth her first-born Son, and wrapped Him up in swaddling clothes, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn."

The history of the first Christmas is made familiar to Catholics by the devotion of the "Christmas Crib." In the year 1226, St. Francis of Assisi, with the permission of the Pope, set up the first of these cribs for the purpose of instructing the people and increasing in their hearts love and devotion for the Infant Savior.

Christmas takes its name from the central and supreme act of Christian worship. Christmas means "Christ's Mass," the Mass offered in honor of the birth of Christ. Nearly all European languages, except English, use a word signifying nativity or birthday of Christ to designate the feast of Christmas: in Latin, *Dies Natalis*; in Italian, *il Natale*; in French the Latin form is softened into *Noel*.

In all lands and languages the great fact commemorated is the birth of Christ, and the great action by which that fact is commemorated and renewed is the Mass. On Christmas priests may celebrate three Masses to honor the threefold birth of the Son of God: His birth in time and in our humanity in the stable of Bethlehem; His spiritual birth by faith and charity in the souls of the shepherds, and in our souls, and in the souls of all who earnestly seek Him; and lastly, His eternal generation in the bosom of the Father.



LIFE TEEN

Sunday, December 24, 2023

Wishing our Life Teen students and their families a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Classes will resume Sunday, January 7, 2024

For more information:  
Christine Ollive, Director of Religious Education  
[collive@stgeorgeaj.com](mailto:collive@stgeorgeaj.com)  
Or call the parish office: 480-982-2929



Tuesday, December 26 2023

Wishing our EDGE students and their families a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Classes will resume Tuesday, January 9, 2024

For more information:  
Christine Ollive, Director of Religious Education  
[collive@stgeorgeaj.com](mailto:collive@stgeorgeaj.com)  
Or call the parish office: 480-982-2929



**Looking for a few good people  
to join our CORE Team!**

**Do you like working  
with high school aged students?  
Do you like sharing your faith?  
We have a need for you!**

**Requirements:**

**A CORE team member is responding  
to their baptismal call to serve.**

**If this sounds like something  
you would be interested in,  
please contact Christine in the parish office  
at 480-982-2929.**

**We would love to hear from you!**

***Wishing You a Blessed Christmas  
and a Joyous New Year  
From the St. George  
Religious Education Department***

Please join us for our Christmas Eve Family Mass  
Sunday, December 24, 2023  
6:00 p.m.

Religious Education Classes resume:  
Life Teen, Sunday, January 7, 2024  
EDGE, SPC 6+ Tuesday, January 9, 2024  
Wednesday K-5, SPC 3-5, January 10, 2024



### Miraculous Medal

The Annual Promotion of the Miraculous Medal will be extended until December 26th.

Miraculous Medals, Annual Membership cards and brochures are located at Our Lady of Guadalupe Image and at the table in the back of church.



### Help for the Needy

Since the Holiday food drive has ended, we need to restock the pantry with the food that we give out in the boxes again. We are currently in need of cereal, soup, canned chili beans, tuna, canned meat, pasta sauce, canned tomatoes, rice, and shampoo.

Thank you again for all the wonderful donations during the Holiday food drive and your continued support of the pantry.

## Observances for the week

Monday: The Nativity of the Lord  
Tuesday: St. Stephen, First Martyr  
Wednesday: St. John, Apostle and Evangelist  
Thursday: The Holy Innocents, Martyrs  
Friday: St. Thomas Becket, Bishop and Martyr

### *Merry Christmas from Heaven*

*I still hear the songs  
I still see the lights  
I still feel your love  
On cold wintry nights*

*I still share your hopes  
And all of your cares  
I'll even remind you  
To please say your prayers*

*I just want to tell you  
You still make me proud  
You stand head and shoulders  
Above all the crowd*

*Keep trying each moment  
To stay in His grace  
I came here before you  
To help set your place  
You don't have to be  
Perfect all of the time  
He forgives you the slip  
If you continue the climb*

*To my family and friends  
Please be thankful today  
I'm still close beside you  
In a new special way*

*I love you all dearly  
Now don't shed a tear  
Cause I'm spending my  
Christmas with Jesus this year*

*Written by:  
John Mooney*

## **St. Thomas Becket Bishop and Martyr**

December 29

Patron Saint of Secular Clergy  
(priests & deacons who serve pastorally in parishes)

St. Thomas was born in London in 1117, eight years after the death of St. Anselm, whose successor he was destined to become. He embraced the ecclesiastical state and attached himself to Theobald, Archbishop of Canterbury, by whose leave he went to Italy to study canon law at Bologna. On his return home he was ordained deacon and made archdeacon of Canterbury. In 1154, at the recommendation of Theobald, Henry II appointed him Lord Chancellor of England, a post which he filled with distinction.

On the death of Theobald, in 1160, the King forced upon him the dignity of Archbishop of Canterbury; but when St. Thomas refused to tolerate the existence of certain abuses, the King felt himself offended and finally matters came to an open rupture between Archbishop and King. After much persecution, to which he was subject, Thomas secretly left the kingdom and went to Pope Alexander III who was then in France and who received him kindly. Later he was able to return to England, but he went with the presentiment that he was going to his death. He was received with the greatest demonstrations of joy by his people, but the end was near. Henry, in a fit of passion, let slip some unguarded words which, however they may have been intended, were construed so as to place weapons in the hands of the Saint's assassins. The result was that St. Thomas was murdered in his church, at the foot of the altar, in 1170. Within three years after his death, he was canonized as a Martyr by Pope Alexander III.



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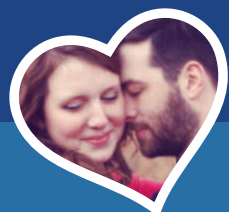
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