

ISSUE 394 ■ DECEMBER 2019  
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# ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH

# *Newsletter*

SHANNON MORGAN ~ EDITOR

## THE SYMBOLS OF CHRISTMAS



### HISTORY

The Germans believed that the world was held in the branches of a tree called "god Odin." Each winter solstice, they worshipped the tree by decorating it with torches.

### CHRISTIAN ORIGINS



It is said that St. Boniface knocked down the tree and planted a pine, symbol of God's everlasting love. He decorated it with apples (sin) and candles (the light of Christ).

## THE CHRISTMAS TREE



### EXPANSION

This tradition spread throughout Europe in the Middle Ages and, with the conquests and migration, arrived to America. Gradually, this tradition evolved.

### NOWADAYS



Apples were replaced by spheres and the candles by lights, which represent the joy and light that Jesus brought to the world.

INFORMATION FROM CATHOLIC.NET



CatholicLink

# ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH

## Financial Report

OCTOBER 2019

### RECEIPTS:

Collections	19,509.00
Second Collections	985.00
Fund Raisers	(30.16)
Cemeteries Funds	1,572.77
Other Income	4,551.59
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>\$26,588.20</b>

### DISBURSEMENTS:

Salaries & Benefits	18,729.71
Rectory, Church & Offices	7,293.59
Budgeted Committees	101.26
Contributions/Aid	1,650.00
Scholarships	- 0 -
Second Collections	610.00
Cemeteries Expenses	4,390.00
Other Expenses	287.33
Diocesan Assessment	2,014.33
Parish Support-Seminarians	431.84
Capital Expenditures	- 0 -
<b>TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES:</b>	<b>\$35,508.06</b>

**EXCESS RECEIPTS OVER DISBURSEMENTS:** (\$8,919.86)

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FullerFunerals.com

Cranford  
Funeral Home  
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cranfordfh.com



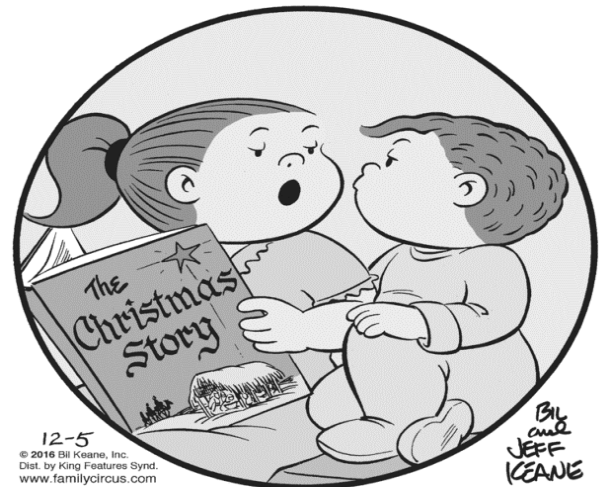
### PINE BLUFF HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING

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12-5  
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**"Putting Baby Jesus in swaddling clothes was the first Christmas present wrapping."**

**ADVENTUS** (Latin) = **COMING** (English)  
**ADVENT** = Coming of Christ

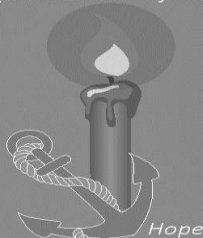
1st Sunday  
(nearest 30th of Nov)

2nd Sunday

3rd Sunday

4th Sunday

Christmas Eve  
or Christmas Day



Prophecy  
Candle



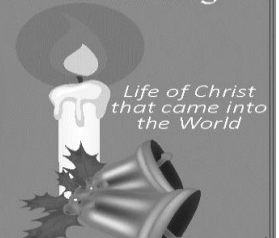
Bethlehem  
Candle



Shepherd's  
Candle



Angel's  
Candle



Christ  
Candle

Dear Parishioners,



**Father Joseph Marconi**

I remember going night fishing many years ago. It was pitch black and my friends were already out in the lake and when we arrived, we couldn't see them. I got on my cell phone and called wondering where on the lake could they be? They immediately answered with the clearest sound and not only did I hear them on the phone but on the lake as well. I told them the sound is amazing on the water, but I don't see them. They affirmed water is a good conduit for sound and that they would throw some light up to show where they were.

I know you're probably wondering why the boat didn't have any lights on it and I have to admit we're not the best fishermen in the world. He turned on a flashlight and they could easily be seen. I told him you guys are closer than I thought, and he came back saying no we're not because we're a mile offshore. "A mile", I exclaimed! They looked so close as if we could just row out to them in a few minutes.

We proceeded to row to them and it was a lot farther than I thought. When we arrived at the spot where they were, I was amazed how something so small like that little flashlight could put out so much light, it lit up the whole lake and we could see enough to get around.

I know it's Christmas and many of you are enjoying the beautiful holidays but let's not forget what this is all about, the light of Christ.

The wise men saw that light from a distance with and using their own resources began to proceed to the source of this light. A light that lit up the sky and produced enough light that enabled them to get around and enough light to follow. When they arrived, they discovered the source of this new light and it was seen wrapped in swaddling clothes with his parents, Mary and Joseph. A light so small but yet shown all around them. A light that emanated so much peace and love. A light that they carried with them as they traveled back another way for that is what the light of Christ does to all who experiences it, it changes their direction in life.

Christ is the light for us today shining in our world. A light which is the source of love and peace that can change our view of the world from something dark and scary to something loving and good. Not only does this light reveal all that is good in ourselves and the world, but it also reveals the tools necessary within each of us to create it. The wise men overcame all their hurdles in the night to find the truth and today God's gives us that same light through Christ to create peace and love. Nothing is hopeless but I know it might seem so sometimes but the changes due to faith creates hope, love and faith. This light reveals a path to follow and the end of this path is the resurrection for that is what He is. I profoundly wish everyone a very peaceful and loving Christmas season.



## DECEMBER

02 Vincent Smith	14 Bill Bryant	26 Laney Moore
04 Eric Edwards	14 Miller Lafitte	26 Don Wall
05 Liz Rinchuso	15 Brenda Menotti	28 Gabriella Camarillo
05 Charles Stahr	16 Ronny Ford	28 Scott Fratesi
05 Louis Turchi	17 Angelique Ford	28 Michael Lambert
05 Vickie Turchi	18 Greg Gustek	29 Tai Pham
07 Christopher Edwards	18 Joseph "Dub" Koenig	29 John Wood
07 Paula Massanelli	20 Emily Brickey	30 Jeff Browning
08 Pat McKinney	23 Tony Echlin	30 Sharon Dallari
10 Eileen Badovick	23 Harvey Jacks	30 Fiona Luna
10 Lyle Blake	24 Joe Thornton	30 Jeff Roberts
10 Carol Hastings	25 Eleonore Dennis	31 Gunner Parker
11 Bobby Garner	26 Johnna Barfield	

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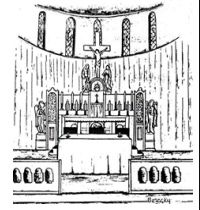
02 Jimmy Don & Louise Duck	19 Michael & Evelyn Cash
06 Chris & Leonila Giblin	24 Roger & Grace Luna
08 Christopher & Mary Ernst	26 Tim & Connie Boutwell
12 Greg & Rhonda Gustek	26 Antonio & Maria Herrera
12 Shawn & Bridget Noriega	28 Ronald & Sharon Dallari
14 Don & Jackie Lain	29 Michael & Darlena Roberts
17 Michael & Jodi Dennis	31 Garry & Lisa Boccarossa







# ALTAR SOCIETY NEWS



The meeting was called to order by Angelique Ford, Treasurer. Officers absence were Trudy Pascale, President; Judy Reese, Vice President and Pam Thornton, Secretary. Connie Boutwell was appointed to take the minutes of the meeting. Opening prayer was Hail Mary led by Angelique Ford. September, 2019 minutes were not available for reading. No correspondence was read and a card report was not given. Angelique gave the Treasurers report.

**Unfinished Business:** New books have been placed in the church pews. Dates to remember:

- The Altar Society/Catholic Daughters Christmas Party will be December 7, 2019. RSVP is due no later than December 2, 2019. Mary Ann Kizer is the CDA Chair. Duties for food, etc. are as follows:
  - Appetizers: Mary Miskell  
Mary Shannon Fikes  
Angelique Ford
  - Punch (Saints & Sinners): Champagne (5 bottles): Wendy Ruggeri  
Ginger Ale (4 bottles): Gretchen Zell  
Cranberry Juice (9 bottles): Connie Boutwell
  - Deserts will be furnished by Helen Pascale.
  - Meat and washing dishes costs will be shared between Altar Society and Catholic Daughters. Members of both December committees will set up, decorate and clean up.
  - Trudy Pascale or Kathryn Brickey will contact Barbara Boyd for washing dishes.
  - Altar Society members are to bring toiletries for the women and toys for the children at CASA. (Trudy will wrap 2-3 boxes for the CASA items. And we will need someone to deliver them.)
  - CDA members are bringing money to buy items for shut-ins at the nursing home.
  - Pine Bluff High School Orchestra led by Robin Campbell will provide entertainment.
- Bingo will be held Saturday, April 25, 2020 after 5:00 Mass. The menu will be Pulled Pork Sandwiches with pickle, chips, slaw, a limited number of hot dogs and ice cream sundaes.
- The June Picnic will be June 6, 2020.
- Advent will begin December 1, 2019. If necessary, Gail Bryant will order additional candles and give Angelique the bill.
- We will clean the church the evening of December 2 at 6:00 PM. For additional information or to volunteer, contact Wendy Ruggeri.
- The Altar Society/CDA Halloween Package was taken to Seminarian Quinn Thomas. No decision has been made yet concerning new tables for Gallagher Hall.

**New Business:** The 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Potlucks will begin again after the first of the year.

- Altar Society, CDA and Knight of Columbus have been asked to donate items from the “approved for distribution list” for Tucker Unit. And various blank cards be given to the inmate population at the Cummins Unit. Items must be delivered no later than December 13, 2019.
- Altar Society presented a special gift to Gretchen and Leonard Zell for all the work they do for Altar Society and our church.

Thank you to the November Social Chair, Gretchen Zell and Co-Chair Pat Elmore and their committee for the Thanksgiving theme meal. At the next meeting in February, 2020 the Chair will be Tim Boutwell and Co-Chair Raymond Pascale. The Pot of Gold was won by Lauren Zell. The Door Prize was won by Connie Boutwell. Closing prayer was “A Prayer for November” provided by Pam Thornton and was led by Angelique.

Connie Boutwell, For Pam Thornton



**Catholic Daughters of the Americas**  
**Court Our Lady of Victory #564**  
**November 24, 2019**



Meeting was called to order by Regent, Kathryn Brickey. Rose Mary Smith presided for absent Vice Regent, Mary Ann Kizer and Gretchen Zell presided for absent Treasurer, Joanne Landron. Meeting was opened by the Hail Mary and pledge to our flag.

Minutes from the previous two meetings were read and approved along with correspondences.

**Circle of Love:** Deb York gave the Legislation report and alerted us to several bills coming up. As Catholic Daughters we should keep up with the current issues in our country. Mollie Boeving, Spiritual, issued prayers for the Advent season for each week. Prayers for families and also a prayer for children. Also, a prayer for Thanksgiving was prayed by the Court.

**Unfinished Business:**

- 143 dozen tamales were made are being sold.
- Boxes for the items and cards requested by Tucker and Cummins prisons have been place around the church. Deadline for these items and cards is December 6, 2019.

**New Business:**

- It was brought up about collecting coats for the needy. Judy Erstine moved we collect coats if the other organizations are not doing this and possibly helping them if they are, motion was second and carried.
- Please remember to collect your spare change as a State fund raiser. It is split 60/40.
- Deadline for the Circle of Love reports is postmarked March 1, 2020.

Financial Secretary report was given and will be on file.

Trudy Pascale, State Regent said thank you for all the help with the State Workshop. It was very well attended and a lot was accomplished.

**Announcements:**

- Our Court will man the Lights at the Enchanted Lights and Legends on Tuesday, December 10 at 5:45.
- Christmas Party with Altar Society will be Saturday December 7 after 5:00 Mass. We are responsible for side dishes.

Meeting was adjourned and next meeting will be January 26, 2020 after 11:00 Mass.

Angelique Ford, Recording Secretary

# St. Joseph Parish Council Meeting Minutes

## November 13, 2019



Acting President Elizabeth Rinchuso called the meeting to order.

Fr Joe opened the meeting with a prayer. Present at meeting were, Elizabeth Rinchuso, Lisa Boccarossa, James Ruggeri, Sandra Taylor, Gordon Reese, and Angelique Ford, with guest Gail Bryant.

### Committee Reports

#### Building and Grounds

- North sidewalk and drive thru has been completed. Total cost, \$9,150.00.
- Deacon Bud has worked out the final details for the transfer of the University street property to St. Joseph/Diocese of LR. We have mailed a check for \$1,200.00 to DOT and the deed will be mailed to Jefferson County Circuit Clerk to be recorded and then the deed will be mailed to Deacon Bud to finalized the sale to the Diocese. On November 5, 2019 the ownership of the city owned land has been transferred to the Diocese of LR/Bishop Taylor for the purchase price of \$1.00.
- Cemetery fence replacement, Jimmy is getting new or updated bids on the fence. After discussion by the Council, Angelique Ford moved and was seconded by Lisa Boccarossa to start over with new bids for the fence. Motion was carried. It was also discovered the newly purchased area has an old road bed underneath. If we are planning to make this into burial places, we should think about different fence options in case we have to remove the old road.
- On October 27<sup>th</sup> a person stole two security cameras at the East and West ends of the church entrances. To replace the stolen cameras the approximate cost is \$100.00
- Our old camera system is getting obsolete and the parts are getting harder to find. A new system with HD Technology would require new wiring. Harris Electronics/ Carl Patterson estimated the cost to be around \$1,800.00 with us running the new cable. Lisa Boccarossa moved we should put in a new High Def system, Sandra Taylor second the motion. Discussion was held and motion was passed.
- Discussion about the purchase of 19 new tables for Gallagher Hall was held. The size tables and quality needed may be purchased at the Virco Corp in Conway at a price of \$105.00 each. Gordon Reese moved we purchase these tables, James Ruggeri second. Discussion followed, and motions carried.
- The Rectory privacy fence has been replaced by Quality Fence Co. Final cost to St. Joseph is \$1,734.00.
- Another hit and run to the fence behind Gallagher Hall was done on October 5, 2019. this will be replaced in-house. A check from Catholic Mutual Ins. Co. was received for \$510.00.
- For safety reasons, a doorbell has been placed at Gallagher Hall on the west parking lot door entrance.

**Old Business:** Fr. Joe will get in contact with Msgr. Malone regarding the damaged tombstones. At this time there is no fund for repairing these stones from the Diocese.

No new business to be discussed. Meeting adjourned and closed with a prayer. Next meeting will be January 15, 2020 at 6:15.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Angelique Ford, Secretary

## A Christmas Prayer

*Loving Father, help us remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and worship of the wise men.*

*Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world. Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting. Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clear hearts.*

*May the Christmas morning make us happy to be thy children, and the Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake. Amen.*

*- Robert Louis Stevenson*



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

THIS  
MONTH IN

## Mass

### December 01

#### FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Is 2:1-5  
Rom 13:11-14  
Matt 24:37-44

### December 08

#### SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Is 11:1-10  
Rom 15:4-9  
Matt 3:1-12

### December 15

#### THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Is 35:1-6, 10  
Jas 5:7-10  
Matt 11:2-11

### December 22

#### FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Is 7:10-14  
Rom 1:1-7  
Matt 1:18-24

### December 29

#### THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH

Sir 3:2-6, 12-14  
Col 3:12-21  
Matt 2:13-15, 19-23



## St. Joseph Catholic Church

412 WEST 6<sup>TH</sup> AVENUE  
P. O. BOX 7434  
PINE BLUFF, AR 71611-7434