

Dear Padre,

Was Jesus born in a stable or a cave? The Christmas scene in our church has Jesus born in a little shed, but in my friend's church it looks more like a cave. The Bible says Jesus was born in a manger, so just where was Jesus born?

The Christmas scenes, sometimes called Nativity scenes or crèches, vary from church to church. In Scripture, we find more details about the Nativity in Luke's Gospel, but even he simply says that Mary wrapped Jesus in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger because the inn was full (Luke 2:7).

In none of the Scriptures do we have any details about what the place looked like, but since a manger is a place where caregivers feed livestock, we can assume that Jesus was born in a stable of some kind. At that time, small caves sometimes were used as stables.

Nativity scenes, though, are not an attempt to present a historically accurate picture of where Jesus was born. Rather, scenes of the birth of Jesus remind us of the special love that God shows for us in sending the Son to us. We do not care so much about creating an exact picture of what took place as we do of beholding the beauty and wonder of God born among us. ●



THE OFFICE OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, ATTRIBUTED TO JACOBUS COEN

[The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org](http://TheRedemptorists/DearPadre.org)

Our Parish COMMUNITY

December 17, 2023

Third Sunday of Advent (B)

Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11 / 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 / John 1:6-8, 19-28



Making Room for God

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

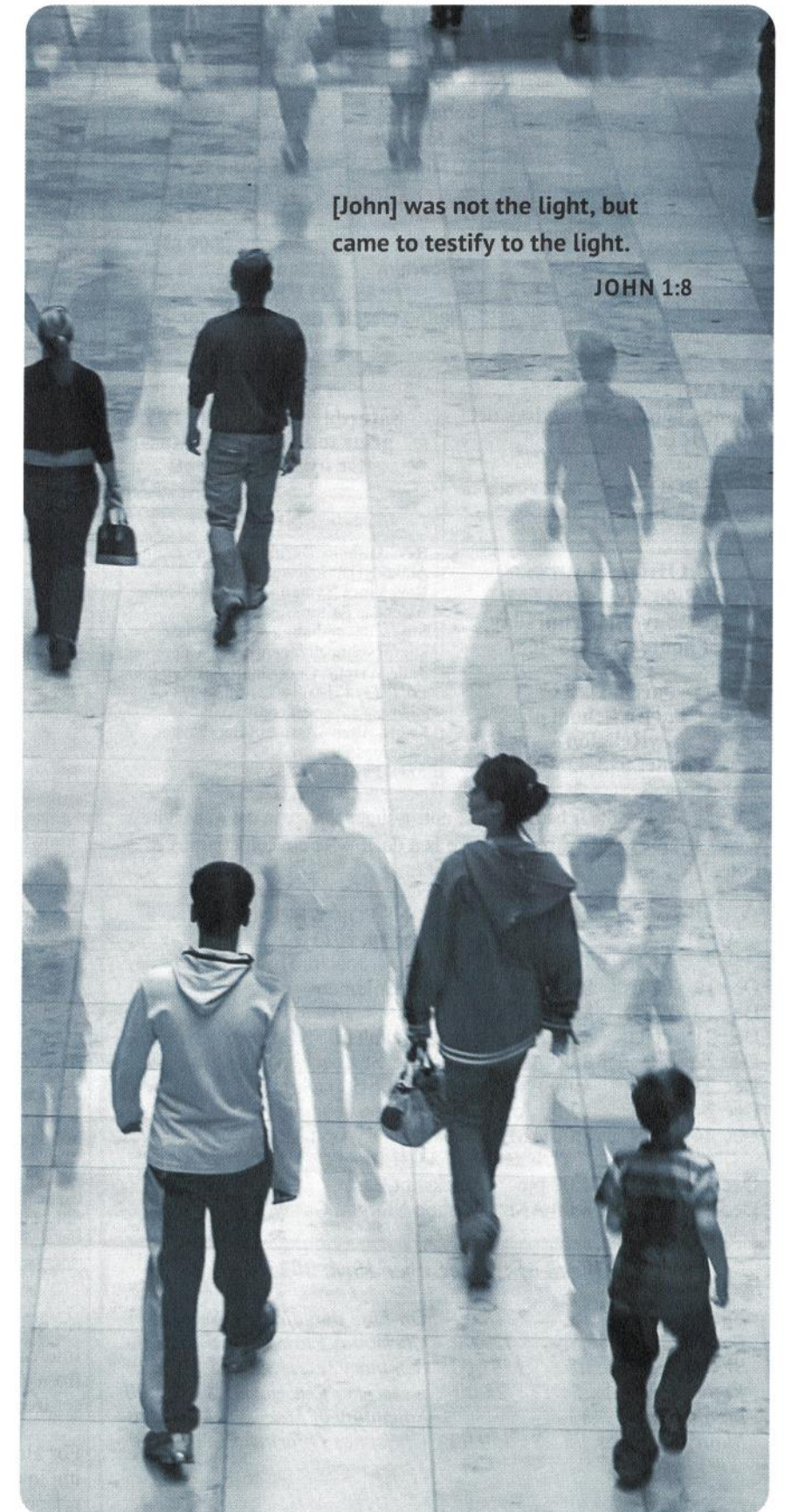
The story of John the Baptist is the story of taking a back seat to Jesus, of fading into the background so that Jesus might be the light. Fading out of the picture is something we may find ourselves doing more than once in our lives. Sometimes it's also a choice we have to make, even when it's painful.

Actor Nick Nolte talked about what it was like for him when he turned seventy; how his body would hurt and how painful it was to get out of bed some mornings. He told of how he cried when a longtime friend passed away and of the sadness death brings. But the worst part, he said, is coming to the realization that your children have grown up, are on their own, and don't need you the way they once did. His son has a family, and for him the family comes first, as it should be. That's the painful part, Nolte says, the letting go of your children because they are no longer yours; in reality, they never were.

From the perspective of faith, why do we need to fade into the background? To leave room for the hand of God in life, that's why. So that God can do what God does best, and so that we don't get in the way of it all. That is a task not only at the end of life but for all of life. ●

Reflect

When has it been difficult for you to fade into the background?



A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

The Baptist is a model for those in the Church who are called to proclaim Christ to others: they are able to do so only by detaching from themselves and from worldliness, by not attracting people to themselves but directing them toward Jesus. This is joy: directing toward Jesus. And joy must be the characteristic of our faith.

ANGELUS, ROME, DECEMBER 13, 2020

MONDAY

December 18
Advent Weekday
Jer 23:5-8
Mt 1:18-25

TUESDAY

December 19
Advent Weekday
Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a
Lk 1:5-25

WEDNESDAY

December 20
Advent Weekday
Is 7:10-14
Lk 1:26-38

THURSDAY

December 21
Advent Weekday
Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a
Lk 1:39-45

FRIDAY

December 22
Advent Weekday
1 Sm 1:24-28
Lk 1:46-56

SATURDAY

December 23
Advent Weekday
Mal 3:1-4, 23-24
Lk 1:57-66

SUNDAY

December 24
Fourth Sunday of Advent
2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16
Rom 16:25-27 Lk 1:26-38

Timely topics viewed with a Catholic perspective

Catholic Update explores contemporary issues through the lens of Catholic teaching and traditions. Print and digital subscriptions! For more information, visit Liguori.org or call 800-325-9521.



St. James Parish Family

201 N. Missouri Street
Potosi, MO 63664



December 2023 Mass Schedule

St. Joachim	Mon:	8:00 AM
St. James	Tues:	8:15 AM
St. Joachim	Wed:	8:15 AM
St. James	Thurs:	8:00 AM
St. Joachim	Fri:	8:00 AM
St. James	First Sat:	8:00 AM
St. James 1st & 3rd	Sat:	4:00 PM
St. Joachim 2nd/4th	Sat:	4:00 PM
St. James	Sun	8:00 AM
St. Joachim	Sun	10:00 AM

*HOLYDAY SCHEDULE:

Please check the Bulletin for Mass Times.

E-MAIL:
stjameschurch@centurylink.net
WEBSITE: *****

www.stjames-potosi.org

FACEBOOK: St. James Catholic Church @stjamespotosi

Confessions:
Saturday: 3:15 - 3:45 PM;
prior to Sat evening Mass
Or by appointment

Staff

Rev. Anthony Dattilo—Pastor
AnthonyDattilo@archstl.org
Rev. Vince Nyman - Part-time Senior Associate Pastor
Susan Broombaugh—Admin Asst
stjameschurch@centurylink.net
Julie Wright: Coordinator of Religious Ed. (573) 436-0144/727-808-9273
stjamespr@gmail.com
Laura Allen—Assistant Coordinator, Religious Ed.
573-436-0144/573-366-5235

Office Hours:
8:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Tuesday thru Thursday
Phone: 573-438-4686

Parish Hall or
Parish School of
Religion
Phone: 573-436-0144

*****Our website is back! Please note a slight change in the web address:
www.stjames-potosi.org. (There is a dash “-” between stjames & Potosi.)

MASS INTENTIONS FOR WEEK OF:			
December 10, 2023			
Dec 19	TUE	8:00 AM	*(Mass at St. Joachim)
Dec 20	TUE	8:15 AM	Vincent Coleman
Dec 21	WED	8:15 AM	*(Mass at St. Joachim)
Dec 22	THU	8:00 AM	James Callahan
Dec 23	FRI	8:00 AM	*(Mass at St. Joachim)
Dec 24	SAT	4:00 PM	*(Mass at St. Joachim)
Dec 24	SUN	10:00 AM	*(Mass at St. Joachim)
Dec 24	SUN	8:00 AM	Jack & Mary Lou Malloy (Christmas Masses)
Dec 24	Sun	4:00 pm	Buckshot East
Dec 25	Mon	8:00 AM	Bishop Morgan Casey

Week of: December 10rd, 2023

Envelope.....\$	2248.00	On-Line donations.....\$	75.90
Loose.....\$	429.00	Christmas Flowers.....\$	222.00
SVDP.....\$	1561.00	Seminary.....\$	50.00
Votive Lights.....\$	25.00	Immaculate Conception...\$	277.00
Light House.....\$		Solemnity of Mary.....\$	75.00
Main & Repairs.....\$	150.00	Christmas Offering.....\$	100.00

Special Ministers December 24th, 2023 (4th Sunday of Advent)

Lectors:
Sunday 8:00 am
Charlie Schloemer

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion: Sunday 8:00 am

C: For the Christmas Schedule, Please see sign-up sheets.
L: Donna Kennon
R: Paul Villmer

Sat: 4:00 p.m (celebrated at St. Joachim)
Sun: 8:00 a.m volunteers please
Sun: 10:00 am (celebrated at St. Joachim)

Music:

Sat: 4:00 p.m. Chala Short
Sun: 8:00 a.m. Rebecca Richards
Sun: 10:00 am Anita Govero or The Little Way Band

Food of the Month of December: SVDP still needs the canned meats please: spam, canned chicken, canned ham, Tuna

THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR AMAZING VOLUNTEERS.

~We couldn't do it without you~

Heavenly Duster: 12/22: Nedra Villmer
Altar Linens: 12/26: Barb Cocos

Church Decorating!!!!!!

Christmas will be here before we can blink an eye! We will be decorating the Church for Christmas on **December 22, 9:30 am**. We are looking for a few more able bodies to help with this. Anyone who is willing and able is very much appreciated. Wont you please come help us?

Missionary Discipleship

Gaudete Sunday

Rejoice! On Gaudete Sunday we remember the joy that is coming soon to the world: Jesus Christ. Where do we find joy in life? If we seek it in anything but Christ, we are missing out because true joy comes from the knowledge that God loves us and has come to save us from sin and death. As John the Baptist preached, true joy comes by way of repentance. Our desire for holiness and pursuit of genuine freedom from sin and death inspire us to renounce evil and to open a place for Christ to enter our hearts, minds, and souls. When we are open to experiencing the grace of Christ, we can receive mercy, forgiveness, healing, consolation, and peace along with joy. (CCC 523-524, 719-720)

*****FORMED*****

O Holy Night - Christmas with the Annie Moses Band: Experience the beauty of the Christmas season with the Annie Moses Band as the acclaimed classical crossover ensemble performs stunning arrangements of holiday favorites. Fantastic concert!!!

To sign up for "Formed"

Go to: <https://signup.formed.org/>
Enter our parish's zip code
Enter your name and your email address. That's it, you're in.

Word of Life

"O St. Bakhita, assist all those who are trapped in a state of slavery; Intercede with God on their behalf so that they will be released from their chains of captivity. Those whom man enslaves, let God set free." USCCB, "Prayer to St. Josephine Bakhita"

For all victims of human trafficking: May they find hope and healing in the Lord who proclaims liberty to captives and release to prisoners; We pray to the Lord:

What's on the Calendar???

Dec 19: St. James Penance Service, 6:30 pm
Dec 20: Parish Advent Program, 7:00 pm in Church
Dec 20: Do you Believe in Miracles Presentation, St. Joseph's, Bonne Terre, 6:30 pm
Dec 21: Do You Believe in Miracles Presentation, St. Rose of Lima, DeSoto 6:30 pm
Dec 22: Decorate Church, 9:30 am



Christmas Mass Schedule:

Dec 24: 4:00 pm Christmas Eve both Parishes
10:00 pm Christmas Eve St. Joachim
Dec 25: 8:00 am Christmas Day St. James Parish
10:00 am Christmas Day St. Joachim Parish

" Beautiful Eucharist"

Thank you to our Parish Council for the "Beautiful Eucharist" book. Please take a copy as you leave and let us prepare ourselves this advent to be sent out to share Christ's love with a world that so desperately needs it.

Books are still available in back of church.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of **Irvin A. Haislar** father of Barb Cocos. Mr. Haislar passed away November 12th, funeral was December 12th. Please, pray for the family as they grieve their loss.



Caring Hearts Pregnancy Resource Center Baby Bottle Campaign 2023

Please, return your filled baby bottle by the **4th Sunday of Advent, December 24th** (next weekend!) Life is the most precious Gift of all.

Third Sunday of Advent (Year B) Recognizing the Almighty

"I baptize with water; but there is one among you whom you do not recognize, the one who is coming after me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie." John 1:26-27

These are words of true humility and wisdom. John the Baptist had quite a following. Many were coming to him to be baptized, and he was gaining much notoriety. But his notoriety did not go to his head. Instead, he understood his role of preparing the way for "the one who is coming." He understood that he needed to decrease as Jesus began His public ministry. And, thus, he humbly points others to Jesus.

In this passage, John was speaking to the Pharisees. They were clearly envious of John's popularity and questioned him about who he was. Was he the Christ? Or Elijah? Or the Prophet? John denied all of that and identified himself as one who is not worthy to even untie the sandal straps of the one who is coming after him. Thus, John sees himself as the "unworthy one."

But it is this humility that makes John truly great. Greatness does not come by self-elevation, or self-promotion. Greatness comes solely by fulfilling the will of God. And, for John, the will of God was to baptize and to point others to Him Who was coming after him.

It's also important to note that John said to the Pharisees that they "do not recognize" the one who is coming after him. In other words, those who are filled with pride and self-righteousness are blind to the truth. They cannot see beyond themselves, which is an incredible lack of wisdom.

Reflect, today, upon your calling to imitate these virtues of St. John the Baptist. Do you see your duty in life as one that is singularly focused upon putting your eyes on Christ and pointing others to Him? Do you humbly recognize that it is Jesus Who must increase and that you are nothing more than His unworthy servant? If you can seek to serve the will of God with complete humility, you also will be truly wise. And like through John, many will come to know Christ because of your holy service.

"Lord, fill me with true humility. May I know and believe with all my heart that I am unworthy of the incredible life of grace You have given to me. But in that humble realization, give me the grace I need to serve You with all my heart so that others may come to know You through me. Jesus, I trust in You."



Thank you to those parishioners who donated candy, supplies and their time to our PSR for the float in the Christmas Parade!!! We got 3rd place in the religious division! Thank you all for your support.

St. James Penance Service December 19, 6:30 pm

The sacrament of Penance, also known as the sacrament of Reconciliation, is Jesus' gift to his Church to assure us of his forgiveness of our sins and to lighten our hearts. Unless we confess our sins, they will continue to eat away at us. Sacramental confession is **medicine to the soul**. Three good reasons to go to confession include having a conversation with God, asking and receiving penance for your sins, and continuing to live in His light and grace. Confession is important because it allows you to progress in your faith and grow as a person in and out of church.

Just a few more great reasons to go to confession:

1. Cleanse Our Soul
2. Grow Our Relationship With the Lord
3. Experience Divine Forgiveness
4. Relinquish Our Guilt
5. Acknowledge Our Sinful Ways

Do you believe in Miracles?

~ SEEING IS BELIEVING ~

"Hello, this is Fr. Rodger Fleming from St. Rose of Lima, St. Joseph, and St. Anne Parishes. I want to PERSONALLY invite you to an AMAZING night. We are hosting an extraordinary event on MIRACLES caught on film and "Tested by Science". It's the same presentation two nights in a row, so just choose one night, **6:30 PM - 9 PM, Wednesday, December 20th at St. Joseph in Bonne Terre** or **6:30 PM - 9 PM Thursday, December 21st at St. Rose of Lima in DeSoto**. Arrive 15 minutes early for good seating. Some things you will HEAR and SEE at the presentation:
* Several Eucharistic Miracles where the bread transformed into living heart tissue to show that Jesus Christ is ALIVE in the Holy Eucharist.
* A lady living today who receives the Wounds of Christ while receiving messages from Jesus and Mary. You will witness her Stigmata.
* Why do bad things happen to good people? The meaning of Suffering.
* The meaning, purpose, and POWER of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.
So many of you have kids and grandkids away from the Church. Even if they can't come, you will be provided tools and resources to get them back in Mass."

Music Advent program

St. James Church
201 N. Missouri St.

O Come O Come Emanuel!

If you missed our Advent Program last year, come join us this year. A wonderful evening of prayer, music and fellowship.

Save the date:

December 20th, 7:00 pm.

Of course, it will be in church with refreshments following in the Hall.

ALL are invited, Parishioners, non-parishioners, Catholic, non-Catholic, ALL are welcome. Come, slow down for an evening of music, prayer and fellowship. We'd love to see you there!

May God's Blessings be abundant this Christmas Season!

St. James PSR NEWS

** Next in-person class: Wednesday, **January 17th**, @ 6:00 pm. Dinner will start approximately 5:15. Unit 5 will be due.

Confirmation Class will be assisting with several service projects this year. So please watch the bulletin for updates.

Join our Facebook page for all the latest and greatest information.

