



## BISHOP'S LETTER

---

### LOVE IS THE FULFILLMENT OF THE LAW

Beloved Children of God,

We begin our Advent season in wonder and awe of the Gift of the Christ Child. St. Paul sums up God's purpose simply, "Love is the fulfillment of the law." Throughout salvation history, from the beginning of time, God was, is and will ever be perfect love. He pilgrims with us age to age offering this love as fulfillment of the law, that we might also love one another. He asks each one of us to participate in salvation history by living as His own. He gifts us His only begotten Son, leaves us the nourishment of the Bread Come Down from Heaven that we become Who we believe.

[READ MORE](#)

## CONTENT

Annual Deacon Couple Retreats

Parishes in Need of Deacons

Liturgy Announcements

December San Pedro Calendar

Ministries

Birthdays

Memorial Mass

Liturgical Corner



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

## ANNUAL DEACON COUPLE RETREATS

**Registration for the Annual Deacon Couple Retreats for 2026 has begun. [Click Here.](#)**

### January 23-25, 2026: Developing the Interior Life

*Led by Deacon Matthew Newsome*

Deacon Matthew Newsome serves in campus ministry and the office of catechetical formation in the Diocese of Charlotte. He is the author of **The Devout Life: A Modern Guide to Practical Holiness with St. Francis de Sales** (Sophia Institute Press, 2023), and writes a monthly column for the **Catholic News Herald**. His writings have also appeared in The Deacon, Envoy, This Rock (now Catholic Answers Magazine), and online at Homiletic and Pastoral Review, Dappled Things and Catholic Exchange. He holds a master's degree in Theology from Holy Apostles College & Seminary. His homilies, reflections, and musings on ministry can be found at [teachingandpreaching.substack.com](http://teachingandpreaching.substack.com).

He and his wife Joannie have seven children and live on a little plot of land in the mountains of North Carolina that they share with a small flock of sheep, a smattering of chickens, and an ornery old donkey.

### February 20-22, 2026: Draw Near to God and He Will Draw Near to You

*Led by the religious sisters of the Missionaries of the Holy Family*

This retreat will lead deacons and their wives to deepen their personal and spousal prayer life. Topics will include Encountering the God Who Loves First, The Deacon and His Wife: Praying as One, and Interceding for the People of God. **The Missionary Sisters of the Holy Family** are a religious congregation rooted in the communion of the Holy Trinity and modeled on the unity of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. Three congregation members will lead the talks.





CONTINUED

---

## ANNUAL DEACON COUPLE RETREATS

### **March 20-22, 2026: God Needs Storytellers!**

*Led by Deacon Rick Wagner*

God is constantly tapping us on the shoulder, letting us know He is actively engaged in our lives. Unfortunately, for a variety of reasons, many people do not recognize God's presence.

That is where we come in – God needs storytellers! By virtue of our Baptism, we - all Christians – have an obligation to proclaim the Gospel. “Go into the whole world and proclaim the Gospel to every creature.” (Mark 16:15)

This retreat experience will explore our role as storytellers, answering questions such as:

- What do we mean by storytelling?
- Why is it important – especially now?
- What types of stories should we be telling?
- We must walk the walk and talk the talk.

Retreat includes presentations, small group discussion, and some large group sharing.

### **April 17-19, 2026: Spanish Language Retreat**

*Led by Fr. Carlos Agudelo*

Reverend Carlos A. Agudelo is the Pastor of St. Leon Church in Corona, New York, where he also serves as Area Dean and a member of the Presbyteral Council for Pastoral Practice Affairs. Ordained a priest in 1998 in Medellín, Colombia, he has served in the Diocese of Brooklyn since 2010 and was incardinated in 2016. With 27 years of priestly ministry, he exercises comprehensive pastoral and faith leadership for his parish community. Additionally, he has taught for several years in the Permanent Diaconate Formation Program and for one year at the Josephinum Institute.



## PARISHES STILL IN NEED OF DEACONS

Several pastors have requested additional deacons be assigned to their parishes. If you feel God may be calling you to one of these parishes, or that God may be letting you know it is time to change parishes, please contact **Deacon Dave** to discuss one or more of these opportunities:

### ST. ANDREW PARISH

801 N. Hastings St., Orlando | Needs a bilingual English/Spanish deacon.

**Pastor:** Father Leo Hodges

---

### ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH (WINTER HAVEN)

532 Ave. M, NW, Winter Haven | Needs a bilingual English/Spanish deacon.

**Parochial Administrator:** Father Glenn Lopez

---

### BLESSED TRINITY PARISH

4545 Anderson Rd., Orlando | Needs a bilingual English/Spanish deacon.

**Pastor:** Father Phil 'Skip' Negley

---

### ST. PAUL PARISH AND SCHOOL

1330 Sunshine Ave., Leesburg | Needs a deacon (bilingual Spanish/English preferred).

**Parochial Administrator:** Father Stephen Ogonwa

---

### ST. MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH

1136 Seminole Drive, Rockledge | Needs a bilingual English/Spanish deacon.

**Pastor:** Fr. Joseph Shaute

*As we approach our next Diaconate Ordination, we will begin to review parishes with an abundant number of deacons and thus reassignments will be made. As you can see, several parishes need help. It is our duty to serve the people in need.*





## REMINDERS FOR THE OFFICE OF WORSHIP

### LITURGY ANNOUNCEMENTS

---

- The Dicastery for Divine Worship and Discipline of the Sacraments has approved the English translation of the **Liturgy of the Hours!**
- On November 10, Archbishop Broglio signed a **Decree of Publication** with the expectation that Volume II – Lent and Easter – will be the first volume to go into production and will be available by Ash Wednesday 2027.
- Bishop Steven Lopes, current chair of the BCDW, announced the name of the English liturgical Bible as “**Catholic American Bible**” (to be available Ash Wed 2027). You will recall that this was approved by the Bishops previously as the translation of the Bible which will be used in liturgy, including the *Lectionary for Mass* and the Liturgy of the Hours as well as a printed Bible for the USA. During the translation process it had been referred to by some as the “revised, revised New American Bible.”
- The USCCB Administrative Committee approved the *Biblia de la Iglesia en America* (to be available Ash Wed 2026). This will impact the development of the Leccionario for the USA.

# SAN PEDRO SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT CENTER

## DECEMBER CALENDAR

---

### **The Road to Bethlehem: An Evening of Scripture, Meditation and Song**

*Wednesday, December 10, 2025 | 7:00 PM - 8:30 P.M.*

Join us for an evening of scripture, meditation, and song during the Advent Season.

[View Event](#)

### **San Damiano Senior Day- Alert, quiet, and ready: A History of Music for the Advent Season**

*Thursday, December 11, 2025 | 9:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.*

An exploration of Advent musical traditions, which express the two-fold nature of the season, marked by the remembrance of Christ's first coming and the anticipation of his return at the end of time.

[View Event](#)

### **Christmas Celebration!**

*Wednesday, December 17, 2025 | 6:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.*

Join us for our Annual Live Nativity! Admission is FREE, with food and treats for purchase! Volunteers and St. Joseph Market Vendors Wanted!

[View Event](#)

### **A Journey of Understanding: Nostra Aetate Reflections- The Gift of the Incarnation and Fulfillment of God's Promise**

*Sunday, December 21, 2025 | 3:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.*

As part of the Jubilee Year, Pilgrims of Hope, this series aims to foster a deeper sense of unity and shared humanity. We invite you to join us in this journey of reflection and prayer!

[View Event](#)

### **Stations of the Crib: Advent Prayer Service**

*Monday, December 22, 2025 | 7:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.*

The Stations of the Crib recall the events leading up to and immediately following the birth of Christ.

[View Event](#)





## SAN PEDRO SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT CENTER

# DECEMBER CALENDAR

---

### Christmas Eve Mass

*Wednesday, December 24, 2025 | 5:00 P.M. - 6:00 P.M.*

Please join us at 5:00 pm for our Christmas Eve Mass! There will be no 7:30 A.M. Mass on this day.

[View Event](#)

### Christmas Day Mass

*Thursday, December 25, 2025 | 10:00 A.M. - 11:00 A.M.*

Please join us at 10:00 am for our Christmas Day Mass! There will be no 7:30 A.M. Mass on this day.

[View Event](#)

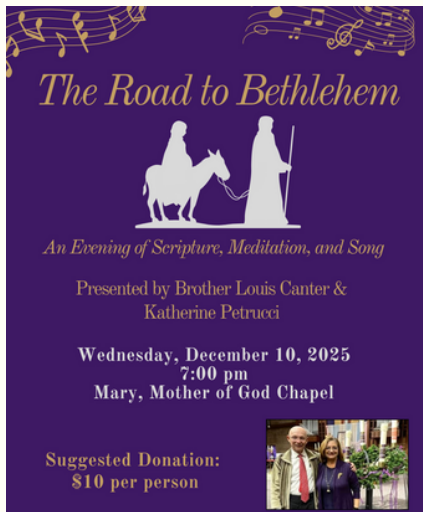
### New Year's Day Mass

*Thursday, January 1, 2026 | 10:00 A.M. - 11:00 A.M.*

Please join us at 10:00 am for our New Year's Day Mass! There will be no 7:30 A.M. Mass on this day.

[View Event](#)

# DECEMBER BULLETIN




*The Road to Bethlehem*

An Evening of Scripture, Meditation, and Song

Presented by Brother Louis Canter & Katherine Petrucci

Wednesday, December 10, 2025  
7:00 pm  
Mary, Mother of God Chapel

Suggested Donation:  
\$10 per person



[Register Here](#)



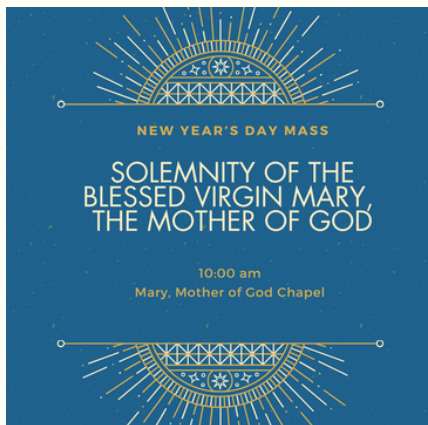
*Christmas Mass Schedule*



Christmas Eve 5:00 pm      Christmas Day 10:00 am

*Rejoice!*

[Register Here](#)



NEW YEAR'S DAY MASS

SOLEMNITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, THE MOTHER OF GOD

10:00 am  
Mary, Mother of God Chapel



**Advent & Christmas Music**  
Alert, quiet, and ready: A History of Music for the Advent Season



Presented by David McIntyre

Thursday, December 11, 2025

9:00 am-2:00 pm

St. John the Apostle Building 300

\$20 per person

[Register Here](#)



SAN PEDRO SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT CENTER INVITES YOU

**CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION**  
DECEMBER 17, 2025  
6:00-8:00 PM



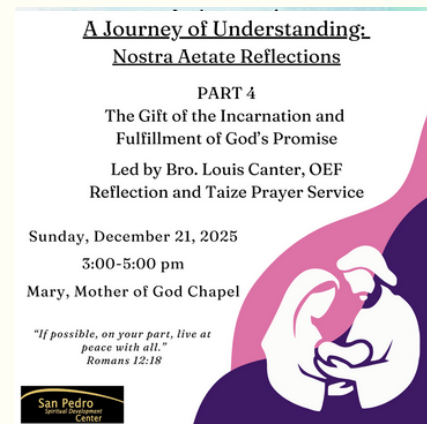
Free admission to the Live Nativity, Hundreds of Lights, Photo Booth, Kids Crafts, Choir Performances, Hot Cocoa & Cookies!

Special Visits from the Three Kings & St. Nicholas!

NEW THIS YEAR! St. Joseph's Craft & Vendor Fair!

Hot Dogs, Burgers, and Popcorn will be Available for Purchase.

[Register Here](#)




**A Journey of Understanding:  
Nostra Aetate Reflections**

PART 4  
The Gift of the Incarnation and Fulfillment of God's Promise

Led by Bro. Louis Canter, OEF  
Reflection and Taizé Prayer Service

Sunday, December 21, 2025  
3:00-5:00 pm  
Mary, Mother of God Chapel

"If possible, on your part, live at peace with all."  
Romans 12:18



[Register Here](#)



San Pedro Center

**St. Joseph's Market** **NEW**  
Craft and Vendor Fair

DECEMBER 17, 2025  
6:00-8:00 PM

The market takes place during the annual San Pedro Christmas Celebration

**Vendors Include**  
Teresa's Treasures: Crochet Items  
Exclusively Crafted: Personalized Gifts  
Knit Bind Chisel LLC: Catholic Clothing and More  
A. Cortes: Sacred Art  
Kadosh Events: Custom Desserts  
PhDuo Coffee Roasters  
More to Come!



[Register Here](#)



**Stations of The Crib** 

ADVENT PRAYER SERVICE

MONDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2024  
7:00 PM  
MARY, MOTHER OF GOD CHAPEL

This beautiful and contemplative event will guide participants through the story of the Nativity, reflecting on the journey of Mary and Joseph, the birth of Jesus, and the adoration of the shepherds and wise men. Each station will include prayers, readings, and hymns, allowing us to deepen our understanding and appreciation of the Christmas story.

TO LEARN MORE VISIT OUR WEBSITE  
WWW.SANPEDROCENTER.ORG



[Register Here](#)





## MINISTRIES

### CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF CENTRAL FLORIDA, PATHWAYS TO CARE

Learn how to volunteer.

## TOURISM

Contact **Deacon Joe Gassman** to learn what is needed to serve at the Basilica of the National Shrine of Mary, Queen of the Universe.

## MINISTRY TO THE INCARCERATED

If you want to learn more about this ministry, reach out to **Deacon Jimmy Avellan**. If you know of prisons or jails that are underserved, please let us know.



# *Happy Birthday*

## — TO OUR SENIOR DEACONS! —

DEACON CHARLES MALLON	88
-----------------------	----

---

DEACON GEORGE MATTISON	88
------------------------	----

---

DEACON MICKEY VESSELS	86
-----------------------	----

---

DEACON ESTEBAN CRUZ	85
---------------------	----

---

DEACON RODOLFO SANTOS	82
-----------------------	----

---

DEACON VINCENT BECKLES	82
------------------------	----

---

DEACON MANNY GARCIA	80
---------------------	----





# IN REMEMBRANCE

## **PRAY FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED**

Eternal rest grant unto them,  
O Lord, and may perpetual  
light shine upon them. May  
their souls and the souls of all  
the faithful departed through  
the mercy of God rest in peace.

**Amen.**



## *Memorial Mass*

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 26, 8:15 A.M.**

Mary, Mother of God Chapel  
San Pedro Spiritual Development Center

# DIOCESAN CALENDAR

Click to view  
Diocesan Calendar



## LITURGICAL CORNER



**DIOCESAN  
LITURGICAL  
CALENDAR**



**DIOCESAN  
BULLETIN  
ANNOUNCEMENTS**



**CONFIRMATION  
SCHEDULE**



**ANUNCIO DEL  
BOLETÍN  
DIOCESANO**



**MARRIAGE  
PREPARATION**



