

PARISH BULLETIN 512

Sunday, December 21, 2025.

4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT IN YEAR „A“



Gospel: Matthew 1:18–24.

This is how Jesus Christ was born. His mother's name was Mary. She had promised to marry a man called Joseph. Then she discovered that she was pregnant. This happened before they started to live together. It was the Holy Spirit that caused this to happen to her. Joseph was a good man. He wanted to do what was right. He did not want her to become ashamed in front of people. So he decided to stop their marriage secretly. He thought about what he should do. Then an angel came from the Lord God to see him. The angel came to Joseph while he was dreaming. The angel said, "Joseph, you who are from the family of King David, take Mary home as your wife. Do not be afraid to do that. The baby that is growing inside her is from the Holy Spirit. Mary's baby will be a boy. He will save his people from their sins. Because of that, you must give him the name Jesus." The Lord God had given a message about this to one of his prophets long ago. Now that message would become true. The prophet had said, "...A young woman who has never had sex will have a baby boy. People will call her son Immanuel." This name means "God is with us". Then Joseph woke up from his sleep. He did what God's angel had said to him. He married Mary and he took her to his home.

Commentary by the Pastor:

Why did St. Joseph believe in the conception by the Holy Spirit? The birth of Jesus in Bethlehem, which we celebrate at Christmas, is a wondrous event of our salvation, of God's love, and of the incarnation of the Son of God. Yet God did not wish to accomplish all this without human cooperation. Mary's "Yes" to the angel Gabriel was needed, and Joseph's consent to take her as his wife was also required. It was a shocking event for St. Joseph, but because he was honest and righteous, he did not want to react "at first impulse". He did not want, without reflection-impulsively-to pour out his suffering and distress upon his betrothed. He discerned how to act without hurting the one he loved. And it is precisely in this discernment, in restless dreams and in the turmoil of his soul, that he receives God's revelation and the consoling words of the angel of the Lord. The revelation about the birth of a child conceived by the Holy Spirit was new to him and very difficult to accept. What proved decisive for his acceptance was the Child's mission: "He will save his people from their sins." Joseph knew that only God frees from sin, cleanses the soul, and grants peace of conscience; and if the Child were to do this, then God Himself was at work—He Himself is God. At the same time, this is the way He would be "with us" Emmanuel - the Messiah. Joseph accepted this, because it was in fact what he had desired throughout his entire life, just as the whole people had desired it while awaiting the Anointed One of the Lord. Joseph became aware that this was the long-awaited, saving moment in history, and he accepted his role as a collaborator in it.

Let us reflect on St. Joseph! May he be a model for us in our everyday situations. May Jesus come to us through him, into this world. Let us become especially aware of this in the Sacrament of Confession. And for this very reason, may Jesus be for us today-Emmanuel-God with us, the Newborn Savior, the Liberator from sin.

Holy Masses

MON & TUE	WEDNESDAY	25.12. & 26.12.	SATURDAY
6:00 KOČIŠ	6:00 KOČIŠ	08:00: ŠESTAK	7:00 PETRIČEVIĆ
7:00 PETRIČEVIĆ	7:00 PETRIČEVIĆ	09.30: BALATINAC	8:00 SKELIN
8:00 SKELIN	8:00 SKELIN	11.00: KOČIŠ	9:00 VLAH
9:00 VLAH	9:00 VLAH	12.15: PETRIČEVIĆ	12:00 ŠESTAK
12:00 ŠESTAK	12:00 ŠESTAK	17.00: VLAH	19:00 BILIĆ
19:00 BILIĆ	20:00 BALATINAC	19.00: SKELIN	
		24:00 ŠUJEVIĆ	

Confession

MON & TUE	WEDNESDAY
05:30-13:00	05:30-13:00
14:30- 20:00	14:30- 21:30
25.12 & 26.12.	STURDAY
There is no confession	06:30-09:30 11:00-12:30 18:30-20:00

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Wednesday, 24.	Christmas Eve
Thursday, 25.12.	SOLEMNITY: THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD – CHRISTMAS
Friday, 26.12.	FEAST: ST. STEPHEN, the first martyr
Saturday, 27.12.	FEAST: ST. JOHN, apostle and evangelist
Sunday, 28.12.	FEAST: THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH

SUNDAY OF CARITAS: We thank you for your contributions on Caritas Sunday, totaling €1,125. Thanks also to everyone who donated for the poor in the parish. You can still contribute until tomorrow, when collection ends and distribution begins.

DAWN MASSES (ZORNICE): The Dawn Masses conclude on Christmas Eve. We thank everyone for organizing, helping, and sharing in prayerful vigilance.

PARISH FAMILY COMMUNITY: On Thursday at 8:00 PM, the second meeting of the Parish Family Community was held, with the theme of marital love. The next meeting will be in January, on Thursday at 8:00 PM, in the Blessed Ivan Merz hall, on the theme of prayer in the family. You will be able to hear and share personal examples, and perhaps find a saving solution. Welcome!

BLESSING OF FAMILIES AND HOMES: The blessing of families and homes concluded on Friday. We thank you for your shared prayers and gifts. We apologize for any misunderstandings or if anyone was missed. After December 27, we will gladly visit those who still wish to be blessed, including those outside our parish-just contact us directly.

PARISH REGISTRY: We continue to encourage parishioners to register their information via the e-parish website, and we ask that this be done online or in writing as soon as possible.

MASS FOR RENOVATION DONORS: On Tuesday, December 23, at 7:00 PM, we will offer a Mass for the donors of the Basilica renovation and pray for our parishioner Anamarija Carević, the only victim of the Zagreb earthquake.

ORCHESTRA: The general rehearsal for children is on Christmas Eve at 10:30 AM.

CHRISTMAS EVE, CHRISTMAS, AND HOLY DAYS: On Christmas Eve, the family Midnight Mass is at 8:00 p.m., and the regular Midnight Mass, led by Provincial HPDI Fr. Sebastijan Šujević, is at midnight. On Christmas Day and St. Stephen's Day, Masses follow the Sunday schedule-there will be no confessions. On Saturday, Masses follow the weekday schedule, and the parish office is open only on Monday and Tuesday. Religious education holidays follow the school schedule. For now, Masses will not be held inside the Basilica, but on Christmas you will be able to enter, look around, and pray.

ORATORY: Our parish will organize a CHILDREN'S ORATORY from January 9–11, 2026. To participate, you need to register with Sr. Marijela or Fr. Marko Petričević.

PRESS: Glas Koncila, Glasnik Srca Isusova i Marijina, and our Parish Bulletin.

CHRISTMAS GREETING

To all parishioners, devotees of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, pilgrims of Blessed Ivan Merz, and all Christians who experience the warmth of God's love in Palma, we sincerely wish a Merry and Blessed Christmas, and a New Year filled with God's grace. Our first wish is to return to the Basilica next year, and although we eagerly await that moment and are filled with great joy at the thought, Jesus rejoices most in a pure heart, a converted soul, and love shown according to His example.

May such a spirit touch us this Christmas; may peace reign in our consciences, and may the joy of faith fill our lives. With these thoughts, your parish priest, Fr. Stipo Balatinac, together with all his collaborators, wishes you a Merry Christmas.

The Obedience of St. Joseph

We hear very little about Joseph in the Bible. He has almost no recorded words. And yet, he is rightly considered the patron of families, fathers, and workers. In the silence of his life lies a strength that still has an effect today. What makes him such a powerful symbol? I believe the answer lies precisely in his obedience, decisiveness, and humility. If we put ourselves in his shoes, I think most of us would not react so calmly and obediently. To accept the fact that his fiancée is pregnant, that she will give birth to the Son of God, to take Mary as his wife even though the child is not his own? We might say he had plenty of good reasons not to believe and to walk away from it all. But Joseph has another great gift. He listens. And not only does he listen, he hears the Lord. In moments of confusion and fear, he does not close himself off in his own thoughts but allows God to guide him. He accepts God's plan without raising doubts. I truly believe he can be a great model for us. We too have dreams that do not come true, plans that fall apart, and situations we did not choose. And in those moments, God quietly calls us not to run away or question, but to trust that even in what we do not understand, He is present.

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