

St Joseph Priests

Mission Years

1918 - 1922	Fr. John Mullaly
1922 - 1925	Fr. Philip Cullen
1925 - 1941	Fr. Thomas Massey
1941 - 1942	Fr. James C. Howard
1942 - 1943	Fr. Andrew McGovern
1943 - 1950	Fr. Alban O'Hara
1950 - 1957	Fr. Robert O'Sullivan
1957 - 1959	Fr. John Colreavy

Parish Years

1959 - 1968	Fr. Paul Hogarty
1968 - 1970	Fr. (Msgr) William G. Crowe
1970 - 1977	Fr. David T. O'Shea
1977 - 1978	Fr. Peter Lemaire
1978 - 1981	Fr. Fausto S. Stampiglia
	Fr. Benny Milletelli (assistant)
	Fr. Jack Kowalik (assistant)
1981 - 1983	Fr. Paul Stewart
1983 - 1984	Fr. Richard E. Dawson
1984 - 1985	Fr. Henry Kosakowski
1985 - 1997	Fr. Thomas Crandall
1998	Fr. Roger Latosynski
1999	Fr. Antoni Bury, S. Ch.
2000	Fr. John P. Selleck
2000 - 2007	Fr. Thomas Guido
2007 - 2016	Fr. Phil Fortin
2016 - 2020	Fr. Chris Winkeljohn
2020 -	Fr. Mathew K. Abraham ALCP

St. Joseph

St Joseph Catholic Church 100th Anniversary Celebration

1925



Welcome
St Joseph Prayer
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History
Thank You
St Joseph Priests

October 19, 2025

2025



Welcome from Fr. Mathew K. Abraham

"What thanks can we give to God for all the joy and blessings we received from God "(1Thes 3:9). Yes, how can we thank God enough for all of His blessings?

It's by His grace that we celebrate this 100th anniversary of God's blessings for our St. Joseph parish here in Port St. Joe. On this wonderful day, with a heart filled with gratitude to God and to each of you, I extend a warm welcome to you all on behalf of our parish family.

May God bless you all abundantly through the intercession of St. Joseph, our Patron saint.

St Joseph Prayer

Blessed Joseph, husband of Mary,
be with us this day.
You protected
and cherished the Virgin;
loving the Child Jesus as your Son,
you rescued Him from the danger of death.
Defend the Church, the household of God,
purchased by the blood of Christ.

Guardian of the Holy Family,
be with us in our trials.
May your prayers obtain for us the
strength to flee from error and
wrestle with the powers of corruption
so that in life we may grow in holiness
and in death rejoice in the crown of victory.

Amen.

*Thank
you!*

We Thank God Almighty and owe a deep sense of gratitude to all who helped to make this 100 Year Celebration successful. Thank you all!

To the priest who served St. Joseph throughout the years.

To all who worked on the many projects and celebration committees.

To all who made generous contributions for the Anniversary Celebration.

To our musicians who provided beautiful music for our liturgy.

To our personal Chef for preparing a wonderful meal.

In loving memory of the Founding Families of our church: Buzzetts, Comforters, Eells, Nedleys, and Tappers.

To our Bishop, Priest and all our parishioners, we look forward to hundreds of years to come!

Celebration Liturgy

Entrance Hymn: Praise to the Lord

First Reading: Exodus 17:8–13

Responsorial: Psalm #121: Our help is from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

Second Reading: Second letter of Saint Paul to Timothy 3:14 – 4:2

Gospel Acclamation: The word of God is living effective, discerning reflections and thoughts of the heart.

Gospel: Luke 18: 1–8

Homily: Most Reverend William A. Wack. CSC

Offertory Hymn: Cherubic Hymn

Communion Hymn: Jesus, My Lord, My God, My All

Hymn after Communion: Salve Regina

Recessional: O God Beyond all Praising

History

Sixty years after the city of Saint Joseph was devastated by many storms in the 1830s, a yellow fever epidemic and fire in 1841, and a monstrous hurricane in 1844, new settlers returned to the area in 1903, and the city of Port St. Joe was established and thriving with the railroad in 1909, and was incorporated in 1913.

The first Catholic masses were celebrated irregularly to the small Catholic community in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Sullivan. Between 1920 and 1925 Mass was celebrated once a month in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Tapper by itinerant priests who came by way of a Cadillac automobile that ran on the railroad tracks from Apalachicola. In 1918 the Saint Joe Company sold land for the construction of a church, which was completed in 1925.

Byron Eells, Nicholas Comforter, and Ivey Nedley, three prominent members of the Catholic community, led the fundraising and oversaw the construction of the church which was named Saint Joseph in honor of the patron saint of the city. Father Thomas Massey served as the mission priest from 1925 until 1943. Charles Brown and Ida Ethel Kilbourne were the first couple to be married in the new church in the late 1920's.

In 1959 the parish moved to a newly constructed building built on seven acres of land on the corner of Monument Avenue and 20th Street. This building was dedicated by His Excellency the Archbishop Thomas J. Toolen, of the Diocese of Mobile on April 12, 1959, and remains the active church for the Saint Joseph Catholic community today. The original church building on 216 8th street was deeded to the Port St. Joe Garden Club in 1969. It is the oldest church building in the city and is in the National Register of Historic Places.

The statues of Saint Joseph and Blessed Mother Mary were moved from the original church building to the new church when it was completed. Father David T O'Shea was the pastor from 1970 until 1977. Father O'Shea and the congregation redesigned the sanctuary and added the stained glass windows which depict the events in the life of Jesus and his earthly father Saint Joseph.

The current altar was moved from Our Lady of Guadalupe Mission Church in Mexico Beach in 2006. Our Lady of Guadalupe was reopened in 2011 and subsequently destroyed by Hurricane Michael.

In October of 2018, the entire town of Port St. Joe suffered major damage from Hurricane Michael. Saint Joe has witnessed an influx of new residents and an increase in tourism after recovery from Hurricane Michael. There has been a parallel growth in attendance at Saint Joseph's, led by Father Mathew's committed encouragement of the parish's spiritual renewal.