

Collection Total for December 4, 2022

Envelopes: \$1361.00
Loose: \$21.00
Total: \$1382.00

Weekly Amount Needed: \$1,400.00

Building Fund Donations: \$75.00 (3)
Human Development: \$10.00 (1)
Christmas Flower Offering: \$148.00 (12)
Immaculate Conception: \$65.00 (4)
Collection for the Needy: \$80.00 (2)
Christmas Offering: \$130.00 (2)
Religious Education: \$112.00 (8)

December Bulletins: Bill & Kathy Zuber

December Missalettes: Bartley C. Zuber Attorney at Law

-CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE PARISH-

If you are attending Sunday Mass in any of Four Partnership Churches: St. Joseph-Olney, St. Joseph-Stringtown, Holy Cross-Wendelin, or St. Lawrence, please use your contribution envelopes. Your contribution will be credited to the parish stated on the envelope.

PARISH NEWS:

KEEP CONNECTED with the church and receive important messages and updates via text and email. Sign up for Flocknote by texting stjoeholycross to 84576 to get connected

BULLETIN NEWS: Deadline Wednesday 2:00PM

St. Joseph Stringtown Mass Intention book for 2023, January through June, will be open beginning Thursday, Dec. 22. (Requests for mass intentions will be accepted for first 6 months). A Mass may be offered for the repose of the soul of someone who has died, on the occasion of an anniversary, or some special need.

ASAP Prayer Group will continue meeting every Tuesday at 9:30am to say the rosary and have

fellowship. Everyone is invited to participate. Questions call Janette Kocher 843-1650

PARISH EVENTS:

Monday, December 12, 6:30pm Mass and Eucharistic Adoration at St. Joseph-Stringtown
Tuesday, December 13, 8:30am to 11:00am, Advent Reconciliation at St. Joseph-Olney 6:00pm, Finance Meeting at St. Lawrence-Lawrenceville

Wednesday, December 14, 8:30am to 11:00am, Advent Reconciliation at St. Joseph-Olney 6:00pm to 8:00pm, Advent Reconciliation at St. Joseph-Olney

Thursday, December 15, 5:00pm to 6:30pm, Advent Reconciliation at Holy Cross-Wendelin 6:00pm, advent Reconciliation at St. Edward-Fairfield

Sunday, December 18, 1:00pm to 4:00pm, Stained Glass Window Tour, showcasing 12 Lawrence County Churches including St. Lawrence.

Monday, December 19, 6:00pm, Advent Reconciliation at St. Stephen-Flora

Tuesday, December 20, 5:30pm to 7:00pm, Advent Reconciliation at St. Lawrence-Lawrenceville

7:00pm, Advent Reconciliation at St. Mary-Mt. Carmel

(Reconciliation is available every Saturday prior to mass: 3:15 to 3:45pm at Holy Cross-Wendelin and 4:15 to 4:45pm at St. Joseph-Olney)

Christmas Choir Practices:

Will be held from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm on the following dates. Please watch the bulletin and Facebook for updates, we may change a couple of the Sunday times to after Mass instead of 6:30 pm due to other possible parish events. You do not need to attend all the practices to participate. Contact Donna Zwilling if you have any questions. 618-754-3049

Wednesday, December 14, Tuesday, December 20 Thursday, December 22

CHRISTMAS MASSES:

Christmas Eve 4:00pm (with the School Children.) at St. Joseph-Olney and 4:00pm at St. Lawrence-Lawrenceville; 6:00pm at Holy Cross-Wendelin; 8:00pm at St. Joseph-Olney and **10:00pm at St. Joseph-Stringtown.** On **Christmas Day, 8:00am at St. Joseph-Stringtown** and St. Joseph-Olney as well as 10:00am at St. Lawrence-Lawrenceville and Holy Cross-Wendelin.

JOURNEY ONWARD YE SOJOURNERS

CAROLINE TRIMBLE PASTORAL ASSOCIATE

Choose Joy! Are you choosing Joy this Advent season? Do you have Joy in your Heart? Your Home? The way we respond and treat others is the first indicator. A joyful person is welcoming, loving and kind! Take extra care this week and be joyful to one another. There is a JOY in the journey, and it is only found when the stable of your heart reflects the one that is soon to come. Come Lord, Jesus, Come Quickly, the whole word awaits! Live a life of Joy!

FROM FR. MARK

During the Advent our attention I drawn to the Virgin Mary. We honor her as the one who gave birth to our Lord on Christmas Days, there are several other Marion Fest Days during this time, The Presentation of Mary in the Temple, The Feast of the Immaculate Conception, and the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Advent is also an invitation to pondering the life and witness of St. Joseph. Although there are no spoken words of St. Joseph recorded in Scripture, there is an abundance of wisdom to glean from his life.

There are three themes from the life of St. Joseph that carry us into the new liturgical year as we begin Advent. These themes are: Waiting, invitation, and accompaniment.

Waiting: Waiting is a daily aspect of life. We wait for the red light to turn green. We wait for crops to grow. We wait for an answer or reply from a friend. There are many ways we wait every day. Waiting can be a source of frustration but waiting can also be formative to aid patience. Waiting is particularly formative when we are waiting on the

Lord. In prayer, many petitions, questions, and requests are offered. Sometimes these prayers are expressed calmly and sometimes with a pleading heart. We believe the Lord hears AND answers all of our prayers, but most often we are led to wait for the answer.

Scripture frequently calls us to wait. “Wait for the Lord, take courage; be stouthearted, wait for the Lord!” (Psalm 27:14). St. Joseph waited for the Lord to reveal His plan multiple times. After learning Mary was with child and later when the Holy Family was in Egypt, Joseph waited for the Lord’s instructions. Joseph’s life shows that waiting requires patience and humility. He also shows that waiting brings joy. Joseph’s life witnesses to the words of the Psalmist, “I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and I hope for his word” (130:5).

Invitation: Much of our waiting in life is done waiting for an invitation to join an event, a group of people, a team, or a social outing. We wait for another person to extend an invitation to us. An invitation tells us we are valued, important, or included. Our Lord also works through invitations. He extends invitations to us on a daily basis. Beautiful aspects of nature — a sunrise or sunset, leaves changing colors, the first snowfall of the season — are invitations to contemplate God’s creativity and design in the world. Reminders to attend Sunday Mass and frequent the Sacrament of Confession are also invitations from the Lord that speak of his desire to draw close to us and heal us. St. Joseph received many invitations from the Lord. Some of these were to take Mary and Jesus to a certain town. Some invitations did not reveal all that would unfold. In responding to the Lord’s invitations, Joseph needed what Pope Francis called “creative courage” (Patris Corde, 5). Joseph acted promptly in response to the Lord’s invitations, but he also had to make decisions to provide or bring a solution as he led the Holy Family. In the final verses of Scripture we read, “The Spirit and the bride say ‘Come.’ Let the hearer say, ‘Come.’” (Revelation 22:17). When the Lord invites us to come to him, our response is the same: Come, Lord Jesus! This exchange of invitation and openness allows for the creative courage of St. Joseph to flourish in each of us.

Accompaniment: Throughout life, various people journey alongside us to help us along the way. Parents, siblings, friends, a spouse, a teacher or mentor, a priest or spiritual director. Reflection helps us identify the growth in our lives that took place as someone accompanied us for a time. To accompany another person requires an investment of time, courage, and oftentimes patience. Walking alongside another and witnessing their growth is one of life's most rewarding experiences — well worth every effort or sacrifice that is required. During Advent, we often reflect on Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem. By that point, Joseph has chosen to accompany Mary as they together follow the Lord's invitation. Joseph is present to respond to the needs of Mary and Jesus. He courageously fulfills his vocation as the husband of Mary and earthly father of Jesus. He accepts them both with his whole heart and trusts in the Lord. He walks with them as long as the Lord allowed him to. We, too, are called to accompany others — to invest in other people and to build relationships with them. "Joseph's attitude encourages us to accept and welcome others as they are, without exception, and to show special concern for the weak" (Patris Corde, 4). Welcoming another person and accepting them where they are at provides the foundation for an open and trusting relationship. To do this, one must listen without preconceived judgments. Over time, the relationship grows allowing for deeper conversations and room for the Lord to work in both people.

This Advent, taking some time to reflect on these themes — waiting, invitation, and accompaniment — may reveal opportunities for prayer, invitations to respond to or invitations to extend, or people God is calling you to accompany more intentionally.

ST. JOSEPH OLNEY SCHOOL NEWS:

The Pension Protection Act allows IRA (Traditional or Roth) owners (age 70 ½ or older) to make a direct transfer gift to a qualified charity through a QCD (qualified charitable distribution). The gift qualifies for all or part of the IRA owner's annual required minimum distribution. As with non-

charitable IRA rollovers, a distribution to charity will not be included in the donor's federal taxable income. Tax advisors will provide guidance in the process. St. Joseph School is an eligible organization to receive gifts under this act. We appreciate those grandparents and parishioners who are choosing the school for their distribution! To make a gift to the school, please contact Carol Potter (395-3081).

Reconciliation Services for our students Tuesday, December 13th, and Wednesday, December 14th.

Santa's Workshop - Tuesday and Wednesday, December 13th and 14th. We are accepting gently used gift bags and tissue paper to help "wrap" gifts. We will also accept new wrapping paper!

Wednesday, December 14th - 5th Grade Band Concert in the gymnasium at 11 am

Thursday, December 15th - 8th grade band students perform at the hospital and assisted living facilities

Thursday, December 15th - 8th Grade Family Recognition - Boys' Home Game

Friday, December 16th 8th Grade Family Recognition - Girls' Home Game

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS:

Thursday, December 15: 4th Degree meeting, 7:30PM.

Sunday, December 25: K of C led Rosary, 7:40AM before the Olney St. Joe, Mass.

Good luck to the first and second place Keeping in Christmas Posters winners being judged this week in Belleville. Winners in Belleville will be published in the Messenger Christmas Issue.

Kudos to the immediate family Kuentler members for preparation and organization of the Christmas Family Dinner with special thanks to Santa Claus and 61 adults and 19 children in attendance.

Parishioners and K of C members: Do you know a male Practical Catholic aged 18 and over interested in joining as a Knights of Columbus member? The membership video is 26 minutes. Contact Hank Ginder for more information; 6188433016 or email hnginder76@hotmail.com

Remember in our prayers...

Carolyn Zuber, Ed Ginder, Rick Rennie,
Carolyn Elie

Sunday December 11, 2022

Third Sunday of Advent

+Eucharistic Celebrations+

Monday, December 12, 6:30pm, at St. Joseph-Stringtown "Catherine Zwilling+, Brenda Kocher+"

Tuesday, December 13, 5:00pm at St. Lawrence-Lawrenceville

Wednesday, December 14, 8:00am at St. Joseph-Olney

Thursday, December 15, 6:30pm at Holy Cross-Wendelin

Friday, December 16, NO MASS

Saturday, December 17, 4:00pm at Holy Cross-Wendelin

5:00pm at St. Joseph-Olney

Sunday, December 18, 8:00am at St. Joseph-Olney

8:00am at St. Joseph-Stringtown "Norman Kocher+ Barbara Ochs+"

10:00am at St. Lawrence-Lawrenceville

10:00am at Holy Cross-Wendelin

MINISTERS LIST

12/11/2022

Servers:

Ian Kocher

Kaitlin Kocher

Lector:

Laura Sterchi

Eucharist Minister:

Beth Kocher

Gifts:

Elmer & Mary Ochs

Ushers:

Ray Schneider

Gary Kocher

Greeters:

Doug & Lora Kocher

12/18/2022

Servers:

Julian Seaman

Carter Seaman

Lector:

Gary Zwilling

Eucharist Minister:

Harold Boehl

Gifts:

Werner & Janette Kocher

Ushers:

Brian Ochs

Doug Kocher

Greeters:

Owen Kocher

Natalie Zwilling

**St. Joseph Church
In Stringtown Illinois
P.O. Box 10, Dundas, IL 62425**



(GPS address: 6342 N. Stringtown Rd, Olney, IL 62450)

Phone: 618-754-3676

Fax: 618-988-7099

Email: stjoestringtown@hotmail.com

Web site: www.stjosephstringtown.com

Very Rev. Fr. Mark Stec, V.F..... Pastor

Fr. Mark's Cell..... 618-841-7324

E-mail..... mstec88@msn.com

Reverend Felix Chukwuma..... Pastor

Fr. Felix's Cell..... 618-671-0641

E-mail..... chibuchuma@yahoo.com

Caroline Trimble..... Pastoral Associate

Caroline's Cell..... 618-263-7106

E-mail..... CtrimblePA@gmail.com

Savannah Lenear.....Administrative Assistant

Office phone618-754-3676

E-mail.....stjoestringtown@hotmail.com

Parish Office Hours: Tues. & Thur. 9:00am-3:00pm