

Sunday, January 1, 2023
Mary, the Holy Mother of God

† *Eucharistic Celebrations* †

- Mon. Jan. 2 No Mass
- Tue. Jan. 3 No Mass
- Wed. Jan. 4 8:05 am Eulalia Kocher**
- Thu. Jan. 5 6:30 PM (at Wendelin)
- Fri. Jan. 6 8:00 am For the Parish**
- Sat. Jan. 7 4:00 PM (at Lawrenceville)**
5:00 PM Richard Hahn
- Sun. Jan. 8 8:00 am Special Intention,**
Christina Ginder
 8:00 am (at Stringtown)
 10:00 am (at Wendelin)
 10:00 am (at Lawrenceville)

OUR MONTHLY SPONSORS

Bulletins: Dale and Mary Jane Tibbs
 Missalettes: Mike and Lori Uhl

OUR TITHES FOR DECEMBER 25

Parish Operating Expense per Week = \$9,847.00
 Envelopes: \$9,103.48 (15) Loose: \$758
 Christmas: \$15,910 (117) Guatemala: \$10 (1)
 Flowers: \$110 (6) Retired Religious: \$50 (1)
 Collection for Needy: \$1,005 (32)

*** AROUND OUR PARISHES ***

Monday, January 2

- **The Parish Office is closed.**

Wednesday, January 4

- **Rosary after Mass.**
- **3 PM, Bulletin deadline. Write, type or email all announcements.**

Thursday, January 5

- 11 AM, Gary Butler Funeral Service at Holy Cross-Wendelin

Friday, January 6

- **8 AM, First Friday Mass and Communion Visitations**
- 1:30 PM, Personnel Board at Chancery Office-Belleville

Monday, January 9

- 10 AM, College of Consultor Meeting in Belleville
- 11 AM, Presbyterial Council Meeting-Belleville

Tuesday, January 10

- 5:30 PM, Finance Meeting at St. Lawrence-Lawrenceville
- 6 PM, Adult Faith Formation at St. Lawrence-Lawrenceville

Wednesday, January 11

- 6:30 PM, Family Catechesis at Holy Cross-Wendelin

Thursday, January 12

- 7:15 PM, Finance Meeting at Holy Cross-Wendelin

Friday, January 13

- **12 PM (Noon), Finance Council**
- 7 PM, Euchre Tournament at Holy Cross-Wendelin

🔔 **St. Joseph School Notes** 🔔

Tuesday, January 3

- Teachers and students return.

Wednesday, January 4

- School Mass, 8:05 AM.

Friday, January 6 - Sunday, January 8

- Girls Diocesan Basketball Tournament

 2023 Benefit Calendars are here. The price is \$20. Total payout is \$8,500. Calendars are for sale at the School Office, the Parish Office or by calling Jeffrey Rosenberg (618-302-0391).

CALENDAR WINNERS - \$25

December 19: Amy Eubank (#597)
 December 20: Michael Tegeler (#327)
 December 21: Camden Nuss (#449)
 December 22: Julie Oesch (#566)
 December 23: Kamdyn Kilpatrick (#348)

Prayer List: All the names have been removed from the Prayer List. Please call or email the Parish Office to add your name to the Prayer List. Unless notified to extend, the listing in the bulletin will be for four weeks.

FROM FR. MARK:

Today, January 1, we gather to remember the Blessed Virgin, on this Solemnity of Mary, The Mother of God, we learn in Genesis that man and woman are commanded to multiply and fill the Earth (see 1:28). We also know that the fall of man brings about pain and suffering in childbirth (see Gen 3:16). The Bible's first book reveals to us two facts here: that childbearing is part of God's original plan, but that the fall has twisted this plan, and has had an effect on how childbearing takes place. The fathers of the Church talk about how procreation, while still a good, takes on a different reality because of the fall. It is clear from the biblical evidence that something changed in light of the fall, for the fall affected all of creation, including the body.

The virginity of Mary, then — because Mary is without sin — reveals something to us in her motherhood about what procreation and childbearing would have been like prior to the fall. This is still mysterious, and, looking at this through our own fallenness, we can struggle to see the reality clearly. But the perpetual virginity of Mary is meant to reveal something about why we were originally created. Since Mary is without sin, the effects of the fall do not affect her in the bearing of Jesus. Since her Immaculate Conception brings about her salvation, she is bearing in herself the effects of the Cross in time prior to its historical enacting. Mary is already redeemed in her conception, and so the effect of sin that affects all generations does not affect her. Her perpetual virginity is a sign of the victory of her Son and

is a witness to the salvific efficacy of the Cross and Resurrection. Her virginity is the sign of the new creation, which is a fulfillment of the old represented in Adam and Eve. Thus, a new form of love is possible through Christ and embodied in Mary.

The doctrine of Mary's perpetual virginity extends to her role and mission as regards the universal Church. By being the perpetual virgin — which is a sign of a universal love that is not exclusive but rather inclusive, Mary embraces the whole Church as her children just as she embraces her Son, of whose body we are members. The whole point of virginal love is to love with a full vision, to say that Christ's way is the exclusive way by which life is to be lived. Mary's perpetual virginity is a sign of our destiny where we are neither married nor given in marriage (cf Mt 22:30). Mary's exclusivity makes her love universal, and is a sign of the universal love of Jesus to which she always says "yes." By embracing her Son, she embraces the members of his Body, the Church. This perpetual virginity, therefore, points to her motherhood of the Church, as well as is a sign that she is always "giving birth" to Christ who is to be formed in us (see Gal 4:19). Her virginity is a constant openness to God in the Holy Spirit, a constant giving birth, and a constant love that cares for each one of us. Mary's perpetual virginity is not a reduction of her sexuality, then, but is rather the fullest expression of love whereby she can love all people with an openness that has no limits.

On behalf of Fr. Felix and myself as well as the parish staff, we wish you a HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Journey Onward Ye Sojourners
Caroline Trimble Pastoral Associate
The Holy Family of Jesus,
Mary and Joseph, pray for us!

There is no place like home, and there is nothing like family. Those that are part of a family may not always be of the same last name, DNA, faith, or the same culture. There is family that is given and family that is chosen! The Holy Family is a perfect example- Mary was Immaculately Conceived, Joseph is the foster Father, and Jesus was of a Divine Conception. Make no mistake, they were family, they loved each other, laughed, cried, supported, and shared the journey no matter the obstacles. What a family shares - *in season or out of season* - is the priceless gift of Holy Love. Family is a precious and priceless gift, spend time loving your family and bring that Holy Love of the Holy Family into yours. Call it a clan, call it a network, call it a tribe, call it a family: Whatever you call it, whoever you are, you need one. Journey onward this New Year with the Holy Love of Family. A Joyous New Year to you and all your loves! Keep to the J.O.Y.S.

Adult Faith Formation at St. Lawrence-Lawrenceville starting on Tuesday, January 10 following the 5 PM mass: For many Catholics today, the Eucharist is merely a symbol of Christ, and the Mass is merely a collectivity of like-minded individuals gathering to remember his life. But the truth of what is made present on the altar, and what the faithful dare to receive into their bodies and souls, is far more strange and beautiful.

We will spend the next 6 weeks viewing and discussing Bishop Robert Barron reintroduction to the ancient meaning and

power of the Eucharist. Through a threefold analysis of the Eucharist as sacred meal, sacrifice, and Real Presence—distinct but tightly interwoven motifs grounded in Scripture—Bishop Barron draws readers into the profound truth flowing out of Jesus’ words at the Last Supper: “Take, eat; this is my body. . . Drink from it, all of you; for this is my blood of the covenant.” We are not merely invited to remember Jesus or imitate his moral example; we are invited to the grace of communion—and ultimately, to the realm of God—by eating and drinking the very self that he offers in sacrifice.

~ **KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS NEWS** ~
Thursday January 12: 3rd Degree meeting, 7PM.
Thursday, January 19: 4th Degree meeting, 7:30PM.

Kudos to our Sister Parishes for all donations and volunteer hours for the 2022 Tootsie Roll Charity Drive for Intellectual Disabilities with total donations of \$4,283. 84!

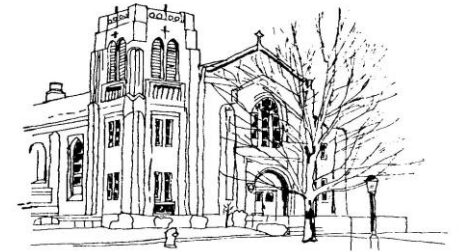
No local winners in the Belleville Keeping Christ in Christmas Poster contest. See this week’s Messenger for the poster winners. This year there were approximately 800 entries in the five age divisions. Belleville winners will now advance to be judged at the State level.

St. Joseph Church
 208 South Elliott St.
 Olney, Illinois 62450
 ✚
 ‘Renewing the Vision’
 Sunday, January 1, 2023
 Mary, the Holy Mother of God

~ **Mission Statement** ~
 St. Joseph Parish family is a community of believers rooted in the teachings of Jesus Christ. Using the individual gifts, we have been given by God, we minister to ourselves and others through prayer, support, and service. We nurture our inherited faith life and through the power of the Spirit pass it to future generations.

Websitewww.stjosephchurcholney.com
 Very Rev. Fr. Mark Stec, V.F..... Pastor
 Fr. Mark’s Cell618-841-7324
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 Reverend Felix Chukwuma Pastor
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 Parish Office..... 392-8181
 E-mail..... stjosephchurch_olney@yahoo.com
 Jeffrey Rosenberg Trustee
 Elliot Brazil..... Trustee
 Pastoral Council: Kurt Ginder, Jane Kocher,
 Wayne Kocher, Cathy McDowell, Vicki Stuckey, Matthew Zuber

~ **Sacraments** ~
 Baptism: Infant or adult, please contact the Parish Office.
 Reconciliation: Saturdays from 4:15 PM – 4:30 PM or contact the Parish Office.
 Marriage: Call no later than 6 months in advance.
 Anointing of the Sick: Any time of need.



~ **Welcome, New Parishioners** ~
 Please register as soon as you move into our parish. Call the Parish Office (392-8181) to receive a new member packet.
 (If you are not receiving church offering envelopes, you are not properly registered.)

~ **St. Joseph School** ~
 Carol PotterPrincipal
 Kristen Eagleson.....Administrative Assistant
 School Office 395-3081
 E-mail..... office@stjoeolney.com
 Websitewww.stjoeolney.com
 FAX..... 395-8500
 School Board: Angel Padilla (*Chairperson*),
 Christy Blank, Heather Colwell, Kathy Davis,
 Andrea Kuenstler, Lauren McClain, Sara Peavler,
 Doug Kocher (*Stringtown Representative*),
 Tammy Rudolphi (*Holy Cross-Wendelin Representative*)