

**Collection Total for April 9, 2023**

Envelopes: \$3812.00  
Loose: \$122.00  
**Total: \$3934.00**

Weekly Amount Needed: \$1,400.00

Holy Land: \$185.00 (11)

\*\*\*\*\*

**April Bulletins:** Bartley C. Zuber, Attorney at Law

**April Missalettes:** In Memory of Norman Kocher

\*\*\*\*\*

**-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

**DEACON STEVE ANDREWS** celebrated his birthday this weekend (Saturday, April 15). If you see him at mass, wish him a Happy Birthday

Choir practices in preparation for Confirmation (which will be Saturday, April 29th at 10am) will be held on Sunday, April 16, Thursday, April 20, and Wednesday, April 26. All practices will be at 7 pm.

**Thank you to the CYM youth** that volunteered to be a part of the Living Stations on Good Friday at Wendelin. It was very touching to witness! Thanks to: Isaac Street, Isaac Zwilling, Peter Rudolphi, Ben

Street, Luke Seiler, Caden Kocher, Owen Kocher, Victoria Rudolphi, Kylie Kocher, Grace Warfel, Jocelyn Kocher, Natalie Zwilling, Morgan Buerster, Claire Steber, and Natalie Kistner.

The Easter Egg Hunt was a success! Thanks to the CYM youth that helped with this.

**PARISH EVENTS:**

**Saturday, April 15,** 5:00pm, First Communion at St. Joseph-Olney

**Sunday, April 16, 8:00am, First Communion at St. Joseph-Stringtown**

10:00am, First Communion at St. Lawrence-Lawrenceville

10:00am, First Communion at Holy Cross-Wendelin

1:00pm, Baptism at St. Joseph-Olney

**Monday, April 17,** 7:00pm, School Board Meeting at St. Joseph-Olney

**Tuesday, April 18, 9:30am at St. Joseph-Stringtown, ASAP Prayer Group**

6:00pm, Finance Council Meeting at St. Lawrence-Lawrenceville

**Wednesday, April 19,** 9:00am THE MASS, facilitated by Deacon Jack at St. Joseph-Olney

11:00am, Personnel Board Meeting at Chancery Office-Belleville

**Friday, April 21,** 6:00pm-10:30pm Wendelin Wine Tasting at the Holy Cross Parish Center Admission \$10.00 (includes glass and tasting). Domestic beer available for purchase. Food trucks and Live music by Corey Evitts! Wineries include Alto Vineyards, The Pour Vineyard, West of Wise Winery and Wyldewood Winery Illinois. (No admittance to anyone under the age of 21)

**Saturday, April 22,** 4:00pm, Baptism at Holy Cross-Wendelin

**Monday, April 24,** 1:30pm, Personal Board meeting at Chancery Office-Belleville

**Thursday, April 27,** 7:00pm, Finance Council at Holy Cross-Wendelin

**Saturday, April 29,** 10:00am, Confirmation at St. Joseph-Olney

**St. Joseph Stringtown Parish invites you** to join us on April 16 at 1:00pm in the church as we celebrate The Feast of Divine Mercy. We will start with an introduction about The Divine Mercy Message & Devotion followed by reciting The Divine Mercy Chaplet. This is a good opportunity to learn more about the Mercy of God, learn to trust in Jesus and live your life as merciful to others as Christ is merciful to you.

**STRINGTOWN COMMUNITY CLUB:**

is having their Mother Daughter Banquet on Monday May 8th at 6pm in the St. Joseph Church Parish Center. If you are a member and would like to attend, please call by Apr. 24th and let us know how many will be coming. Contact persons are Mary Zwilling 618-562-8433 or Mary Ochs 618-837-0111.

**PICNIC NEWS:**

We are looking for donations to buy meat and other meal related items. Please contact Carli, Ross, or Paige Ginder with any questions

**CAROLINE TRIMBLE PASTORAL ASSOCIATE:**

Divine Mercy Sunday

The Chaplet of Divine Mercy is a very simple but a powerful prayer. All of us are in constant need of God's unfathomable mercy. St. Faustina received these words from our Lord:

I am love and mercy itself. ... Let no soul fear to draw near to Me, even though its sins be as scarlet. ... My mercy is greater than your sins, and those of the entire world. ... I let My Sacred Heart be pierced with a lance, thus opening wide the source of mercy for you. Come then with trust to draw graces from this fountain. ... The graces of My mercy are drawn by the means of one vessel only, and that is trust. The more a soul trusts, the more it will receive.

Pray the Chaplet of Divine Mercy daily and say throughout the day, Jesus, I trust in You- Jesus, I trust in You -Jesus, I trust in You! Conclude your chaplet with this prayer! Eternal God, in whom mercy is endless and the treasury of compassion —

inexhaustible, look kindly upon us and increase Your mercy in us, that in difficult moments we might not despair nor become despondent, but with great confidence submit ourselves to Your holy will, which is Love and Mercy itself. Journey onward in Love and Mercy!

**FROM FR. MARK:**

As Catholics, we know that the Holy Eucharist is the source and summit of our faith: it is the Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Pope Francis has called it the "Sacrament of Love":

"The Eucharist is at the heart of 'Christian initiation', together with Baptism and Confirmation, and it constitutes the source of the Church's life itself. From this Sacrament of love, in fact, flows every authentic journey of faith, of communion, and of witness."

Today, as our children receive receive their First Holy Communion, this is a big deal. And for all of us, no matter how many times we have received Our Lord in the Holy Eucharist, it should always be a big deal. What makes it so special the first time is the same thing that makes it special every time!

Why a Child's First Communion is a Big Deal? Jesus comes to us in a unique way in the Eucharist. When He comes, we receive Him into our body and our soul. This is very beautiful, personal, and intimate. We should not take it for granted!

This is why the first time a family member makes their Holy Communion; it is an exciting event for the whole family. The boy or girl preparing for this sacrament is going to be profoundly united with Jesus in a way that they never have before! Relatives are invited. Parents take pictures. We celebrate. And the very act of celebrating reveals our belief in the True Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist.

What makes one's first Communion a truly blessed event is not the adjective but the substantive: not the 'first' but the 'communion.' Because of whom we receive, the second, third, next, and last Communion should always be as special.

Why a Child's First Communion is a Big Deal? First Holy Communion is, without question, a time of great joy. The saints in heaven, who are delighted to intercede for us, are celebrating along with your family.

"You come to me," says Saint Maximilian Kolbe to Jesus, speaking for all of us, "and unite Yourself intimately to me under the form of nourishment. . . . What miracles! Who would have ever imagined such!"

St. Mother Teresa also has words for you and your family: "Jesus has made Himself the Bread of Life to give us life. Night and day, He is there. If you really want to grow in love, come back to the Eucharist..."

Yes, the celebration of a child's First Holy Communion IS a big deal. Don't let anyone tell you otherwise!

**ST. JOSEPH OLNEY SCHOOL NEWS:**

The school welcomes Carl Sager as our new head of maintenance. We are grateful to Carl for his commitment.

Congratulations to our second graders who receive their First Communion this weekend!

Thursday, April 20th - The Olney Arts Council presents Robert Ridgeway for our K-8 students.

Thanks to our many families who helped with Triduum and Easter mass ministries!

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS:**

Good luck to Briley Wilson, Leah Kuentler and Leo Tompson at the State Finals K of C Free Throw in Effingham St. Anthony High School!

Thursday, April 20: 4<sup>th</sup> Degree meeting, 7:30PM.  
+ Deadline for the Olney Council Knights of Columbus Senior \$250 scholarships at K of C, Post Office Box 172, Olney Il. 62450.

Saturday, April 29: 4<sup>th</sup> Degree Honor Guard at Olney Confirmation.

Sunday, April 30: K of C Mass Ministry at Olney, 8AM Mass followed by a fellowship breakfast at a local restaurant.

+ K of C led Rosary at 7:40AM.

Stringtown Baby Crib donations were: 380 diapers, 526 baby wipes, 5 onesies, 6 blankets, 14 sleepers, 21 infant outfits, 1 pillow, 4 receiving blankets, 6 shirts, 1 sippy cup, 4 pacifiers, diaper rash ointment, baby formula and \$20 cash.

**Remember in our prayers...**

Ed Ginder, Rick Rennier, Carolyn Elie, Louise Weber



**Sunday April 16, 2023**  
**Second Sunday of Easter/Sunday of Divine Mercy**  
**+Eucharistic Celebrations+**

**Sunday, April 16, 8:00am** at St. Joseph-Olney

**8:00am at St. Joseph-Stringtown**

10:00am at St. Lawrence-Lawrenceville

10:00am at Holy Cross-Wendelin

**Monday, April 17, 6:30pm at St. Joseph-Stringtown**  
**"George Ochs+, Neil Ochs+"**

**Tuesday, April 18, 5:00pm** at St. Lawrence-Lawrenceville

**Wednesday, April 19, 8:00am** at St. Joseph-Olney

**Thursday, April 20, 6:30pm** at Holy Cross-Wendelin

**Friday, April 21, 8:00am** at St. Joseph-Olney

**Saturday, April 22, 4:00pm** at Holy Cross-Wendelin  
5:00pm at St. Joseph-Olney

**Sunday, April 23, 8:00am** at St. Joseph-Olney

**8:00am at St. Joseph-Stringtown "Neil, Dorothy & Norman Kocher+"**

10:00am at St. Lawrence-Lawrenceville

10:00am at Holy Cross-Wendelin

**MINISTERS LIST**

**04/16/2023**

**Servers:**

Mallory Kocher

Owen Kocher

**Lector:**

Beth Kocher

**Eucharist Minister:**

Gary Kocher

**Gifts:**

Brian & Amy Ochs

**Ushers:**

Scott Seiler

Colby Steber

**Greeters:**

Werner & Janette Kocher

**04/23/2023**

**Servers:**

Natalie Ochs

Mitchell Ochs

**Lector:**

Kylie Kocher

**Eucharist Minister:**

Elmer Ochs

**Gifts:**

Werner & Janette Kocher

**Ushers:**

Owen Kocher

Natalie Zwilling

**Greeters:**

Doug & Lora Kocher

**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](mailto:stjoestringtown@hotmail.com)

Web site: [www.stjosephstringtown.com](http://www.stjosephstringtown.com)

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

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

E-mail..... [mstec88@msn.com](mailto:mstec88@msn.com)

**Reverend Felix Chukwuma..... Pastor**

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

E-mail..... [chibuchuma@yahoo.com](mailto:chibuchuma@yahoo.com)

**Caroline Trimble..... Pastoral Associate**

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

E-mail..... [CtrimblePA@gmail.com](mailto:CtrimblePA@gmail.com)

**Savannah Lenear.....Administrative Assistant**

Office phone .....618-754-3676

E-mail.....[stjoestringtown@hotmail.com](mailto:stjoestringtown@hotmail.com)

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