

Sunday, November 27, 2022
1st Sunday of Advent

† *Eucharistic Celebrations* †

Mon. Nov. 28 6:30 PM (at Stringtown)
Tue. Nov. 29 5:00 PM (at Lawrenceville)
Wed. Nov. 30 8:05 am Special Intention
Thu. Dec. 1 6:30 PM (at Wendelin)
Fri. Dec. 2 8:00 am For the Parish
Sat. Dec. 3 4:00 PM (at Wendelin)
5:00 PM Joseph & Norman Zwilling;
Lawrence & Bernadine Kocher;
Bernie Seiler
Sun. Dec. 4 8:00 am Loren Ginder;
Deceased members of the Kuenstler & Rohr families
8:00 am (at Stringtown)
10:00 am (at Wendelin)
10:00 am (at Lawrenceville)

OUR MONTHLY SPONSORS

Bulletins: In Memory of Don Fehrenbacher
Missalettes: Blank's Insurance

OUR TITHES FOR NOVEMBER 20

Parish Operating Expense per Week = \$9,847.00
Envelopes: \$6,311.50 (66) Loose: \$94
Guatemala: \$145 (4) C.C.H.D.: \$350 (13)

~ **Kudos** ~

◆ To newly baptized *Olivia Rose McLaughlin*, child of Jonathan and Angela (Kuhn) McLaughlin.

*** AROUND OUR PARISHES ***

Sunday, November 27

- **8 AM, Children's Liturgy.**
- Priest Support Group in Mt. Vernon.

Wednesday, November 30

- **Rosary, after Mass.**
- 12 PM (Noon), East Vicariate Meeting.

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

Friday, December 2

- **8 AM, Mass and First Friday Communion visits.**

Sunday, December 4

- **1 PM, Advent Reconciliation Service at St. Joseph-Olney.**

Wednesday, December 7

VIGIL OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY (Holy Day of Obligation)

- 6:30 PM, Mass at St. Joseph-Stringtown
- 6:30 PM, Mass at Holy Cross-Wendelin (with Family Catechesis)
- 7:15 PM, Family Life Meet & Greet Santa

Thursday, December 8

SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY (Holy Day of Obligation)

- **8 AM, Mass at St. Joseph-Olney (with school children)**
- 5 PM, Mass at St. Lawrence-Lawrenceville

Friday, December 9

- **12 PM (Noon), Finance Council Meeting**

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

CHRISTMAS EVE - Saturday, December 24

- * **4 PM at St. Joseph-Olney**
- * 4 PM at St. Lawrence-Lawrenceville
- * 6 PM at Holy Cross-Wendelin
- * **8 PM at St. Joseph-Olney**

* 10 PM at St. Joseph-Stringtown

CHRISTMAS DAY - Sunday, December 25

- * **8 AM at St. Joseph-Olney**
- * 8 AM at St. Joseph-Stringtown
- * 10 AM at Holy Cross-Wendelin
- * 10 AM at St. Lawrence-Lawrenceville

 **St. Joseph School Notes** 

Tuesday, November 29

- Hearing Screenings

Wednesday, November 30

- School Mass, 8:05 AM (4th).

Saturday, December 3

- Cookies with Santa for children birth - second grade, 10 AM – Noon in the MPR.

Sunday, December 4

- First Reconciliation for 2nd graders.

* 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).

* The 8th grade class will have an ethical trade sale after masses the weekend of December 10-11 in Meeting Room B of the MPR. Beautiful Christmas handicrafts from across the world will be available for purchase. All proceeds from the sale go back to the artisans who created them.

CALENDAR WINNERS - \$25

November 14: Larry Stacey (#785)
November 15: Matt McLaren (#499)
November 16: Bev Dufilho (#838)
November 17: Lori Uhl (#128)
November 18: Crystal Trout (#232)

Let Us Pray For: Janet David, Elizabeth and Frank Ginder; Justin, Ember, Olivia Faith and Sophia Hope Kabbes; Darrell Kuhl, Garry Maris, Cathy McDowell, Emery and Julie Oesch, Debbie Rauch, Janice Rowark, Kay Rowark, Lynden Spieth, Eleanor Steber, Brenda Summers, Jim Wattles, Camden Weston, Clara Wilson, Mary Jo Zuber, and Jim Zwilling.

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:

In the Catholic Church, Advent is a period of preparation extending over the four Sundays before Christmas. The word Advent comes from the Latin *advenio*, "to come to," and refers to the coming of Christ. And the term the coming includes three references: first of all, to our celebration of Christ's birth at Christmas; second, to the coming of Christ in our lives through grace and the Sacrament of

Holy Communion; and finally, to his second coming at the end of time. Our preparations, therefore, should have all three comings in mind. We need to prepare our souls to receive Christ worthily.

First We Fast; Then We Feast. Advent has been called a "little Lent," because it traditionally has included a period of increased prayer, fasting, and good works. Although the Western Church no longer has a set requirement for fasting during Advent, the Eastern Church (both Catholic and Orthodox) continues to observe what is known as Philip's Fast, from November 15 until Christmas. Traditionally, all great feasts have been preceded by a time of fasting, which makes the feast itself more joyful. Unfortunately, Advent today has supplanted by "the Christmas shopping season," so that by the time Christmas Day comes, many people no longer enjoy the feast or even specially mark the next 12 days of the Christmas season, which lasts until Epiphany (or, technically, the Sunday after Epiphany, being that the next season, called ordinary time, starts on the following Monday).

The Symbols of Advent. In its symbolism, the church continues to stress the penitential and preparatory nature of Advent. As during Lent, priests wear purple vestments, and the Gloria ("Glory to God") is omitted during Mass. The only exception is on the Third Sunday of Advent, known as Gaudete Sunday, when priests can wear rose-colored vestments. As on Laetare Sunday during Lent, this exception is designed to encourage us to continue our prayer and fasting, because we can see that Advent is more than halfway over.

The Advent Wreath. Perhaps the best-known of all Advent symbols is the Advent wreath, a custom that originated among German Lutherans but was soon adopted by Catholics. Consisting of four candles (three purple or blue and one pink) arranged in a circle with evergreen boughs, the Advent wreath corresponds to the four Sundays of Advent. The purple or blue candles represent the penitential nature of the season, while the pink candle calls to mind the respite of Gaudete Sunday. The white candle, when used, represents Christmas.

Celebrating Advent. We can better enjoy Christmas—all 12 days of it—if we revive Advent as

a period of preparation. Abstaining from meat on Fridays or not eating at all between meals is a good way to revive the Advent fast. (Not eating Christmas cookies or listening to Christmas music before Christmas is another.) We can incorporate customs such as the Advent wreath, the Saint Andrew Christmas Novena, and the Jesse Tree into our daily ritual, and we can set some time aside for special scripture readings for Advent, which remind us of the threefold coming of Christ. Holding off on putting up the Christmas tree and other decorations is another way to remind ourselves that the feast is not here yet. Traditionally, such decorations were put up on Christmas Eve, and they would not be taken down until after Epiphany, in order to celebrate the Christmas season to its fullest.

Journey Onward Ye Sojourners

Caroline Trimble Pastoral Associate

The Church celebrates Advent as a time of *preparation - anticipation - waiting-* for the birth of Jesus. What are you preparing, anticipating, or waiting on? Does your “to-do and to-buy” list overshadow your thoughts and time? Intentionally take time each day to reflect upon the **Hope - Love - Joy - Peace** of the Advent season. If we took the *preparation - anticipation - waiting-* of Advent more seriously, it would radically transform our experience of Christmas. The word “Christmas” literally means “**Christ**” and “**Mass**” -the celebration of God’s selfless gift of his son to mankind. Live a life of Love seeking to receive the best gift (*JESUS*) this Christmas by keeping Advent!

A great guide for these royal days of journeying is Meditations for Advent by *Bishop Jacques-Bénigne Bossuet*. Keep to the J.O.Y.S.

Volunteer Now! Lectors, servers, cross-bearers, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion (EMHC), greeters, ushers and gift-bearers are needed for the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses. Sign-up sheet is in the vestibule. Please volunteer to help at the Mass you plan to attend.

Giving Tree: This Advent, our parish again has the opportunity to share the real meaning of Christmas with our less fortunate neighbors by supporting our Giving Tree. You may choose one (or more) ornaments from the baskets by the doors, purchase and wrap the requested gift, place the sticker from the ornament on the package for identification, then place the ornament on the tree and the gift under the tree. The gifts will be delivered during Christmas week to the families whose Christmas would be very bleak without your caring. For more information, call Rose Ann Schwartz (395-1151).

The annual Cookie Walk will be held on December 10 from 4 PM – 7 PM and December 11 from 8 AM -10 AM in the multi-purpose room. You can either pick your own homemade cookies or purchase a pre-packaged tray. The cost is \$10 for 1½ dozen (choose your own), \$15 for 3 dozen pre-packaged regular tray, and \$20 for 4 dozen pre-packaged large tray (limited quantity). You can call or text ahead to reserve: (618) 599-5963. We will be requesting cookie donations, and the cookies can be dropped off on December 9 in the multi-purpose room during school hours and on December 10 between 8 AM and 10AM. We will also have bagged noodles for sale (\$6). If you have any questions, please contact Sara Peavler (618) 599-5963.

The Fellowship Committee will have a holiday backdrop set up in the MPR during the annual Cookie Walk where families can have their photo taken after Mass on December 10/11. We will then be able to send the photos to the families via email or text.

Deepest sympathy to the family of Richard J. Hahn. May he rest in the peace of God’s love.

~ **KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS NEWS** ~
Sunday, December 4: Free Olney, Wendelin and Stringtown Council Member and Family Christmas Dinner at St. Joseph-Olney multi-purpose room, 5 PM. Santa is scheduled to arrive after the meal.

St. Joseph Church
 208 South Elliott St.
 Olney, Illinois 62450
 ✚
 ‘Renewing the Vision’
 Sunday, November 27, 2022
 1st Sunday of Advent

~ **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
 E-mail..... mstec88@msn.com
 Reverend Felix Chukwuma Pastor
 Fr. Felix’s Cell618-671-0641
 E-mail..... chibuchuma@yahoo.com
 Caroline Trimble Pastoral Associate
 Caroline’s Cell618-263-7106
 E-mail..... CtrimblePA@gmail.com
 Kim Kocher Administrative Assistant
 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*)