

Sunday, March 19, 2023
4th Sunday of Lent

† *Eucharistic Celebrations* †

Mon. Mar. 20 6:30 PM (at Stringtown)
Tue. Mar. 21 5:00 PM (at Lawrenceville)
Wed. Mar. 22 8:05 am Fr. Gary Gummertsheimer
Thu. Mar. 23 No Mass
Fri. Mar. 24 8:00 am Special Intention
Sat. Mar. 25 4:00 PM (at Wendelin)
5:00 PM Una Kocher;
Linda Gumble
Sun. Mar. 26 8:00 am Jim & Mary Steber;
Jim Kuenstler;
Raymond, Marsclene & Cody Nix
8:00 am (at Stringtown)
10:00 am (at Wendelin)
10:00 am (at Lawrenceville)

OUR MONTHLY SPONSORS

Bulletins: Dr. Herb Brokhof
Missalettes: Mark J. Kuenstler, CPA

OUR TITHES FOR MARCH 12

Parish Operating Expense per Week = \$9,847.00
Envelopes: \$4,453 (80) Loose: \$163
Guatemala: \$64 (5)

*** AROUND OUR PARISHES ***

Sunday, March 19

- **8 AM, Children's Liturgy**
- 9 AM, St. Joseph Day Social at St. Joseph-Stringtown
- 6 PM, Euchre Tournament at Holy Cross-Wendelin

Monday, March 20

- 7 PM, Finance Council Meeting at St. Joseph-Stringtown

Wednesday, March 22

- **Rosary, after Mass.**
- **9:15 AM, THE MASS, facilitated by Deacon Jack**
- **3 PM, Bulletin deadline. Write, type or email all announcements.**

- 6:30 PM, Stations of the Cross/Reconciliation at Holy Cross-Wendelin

Thursday, March 23

- 9 AM, Lenten Prayer for Clergy at St. Clare-O'Fallon

Friday, March 24

- **2 PM, Living Stations of the Cross**
- 6:30 PM, Stations of the Cross/Reconciliation at St. Joseph-Stringtown
- 6:30 PM, Stations of the Cross/Reconciliation at St. Lawrence-Lawrenceville

Sunday, March 26

- **8 AM, Children's Liturgy**
- 9 AM, Stations of the Cross with Children at St. Lawrence-Lawrenceville
- 3 PM, Priest Support Group in Mt. Vernon, Illinois

Tuesday, March 28

- 1:30 PM, Personnel Board Meeting at Chancery Office-Belleville

Wednesday, March 29

- **Rosary, after Mass.**
- **9:15 AM, THE MASS, facilitated by Deacon Jack**
- **3 PM, Bulletin deadline. Write, type or email all announcements.**
- 6:30 PM, CYM led Stations of the Cross/Reconciliation at Holy Cross-Wendelin

Friday, March 31

- **2 PM, Living Stations of the Cross**
- 6:30 PM, Stations of the Cross/Reconciliation at St. Joseph-Stringtown
- 6:30 PM, Stations of the Cross/Reconciliation at St. Lawrence-Lawrenceville

 **St. Joseph School Notes** 

Wednesday, March 22

- School Mass, 8:05 AM (2nd).

Friday, March 24

- Living Stations of the Cross presented by our 8th grade. Join us at 2 PM in the church. Kindergarten, 2nd, 4th, and 6th grades will attend.

* In the bulletin today, we have an Empower IL brochure. This is a great way to support families who want a full-time faith-based education at St. Joseph School. Your gift also provides you with a 75% IL state tax credit, so it is a win-win! If you have questions, please contact the school office (395-3081) or visit empowerillinois.org/donate. St. Joseph School currently has 16 students approved for scholarships with 9 children still unfunded for the 23-24 school year.

* Thanks to everyone who donated, attended, worked, and supported our inaugural bingo night! Special thanks to our committee members: Kevin Bookhout, Lora Kocher, Andrea Kuenstler, Ashley Kuhn, Mary Morris, Amanda Nelson, Amber Ochs, Sara Peavler, Carol Potter, Jennifer Cummins-Zuber, Janice Zwilling! Thank you to St. Joseph-Stringtown for hosting the event for our collective children!

CALENDAR WINNERS - \$25

March 6: Herman Zuber (#393)
March 7: Lynn Tolliver (#165)
March 8: Levi Weidner (#431)
March 9: Robbie Ginder (#402)
March 10: Don Matheny (#202)

Let Us Pray For: Willy Deimel, Julia Eichhorst, Bob Geiger, Deloris Nix, Emery and Julie Oesch, Eleanor Steber, and Tony Tredway.

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: On this Fourth Sunday of Lent, we hear another of those wonderful stories found in John's Gospel. Each story is told to teach us something, to get us to look deeper into life. This is a story of light and sight - about not seeing the light, being afraid to see the light, seeing the light, and tragically refusing to see the light.

Jesus, the light of the world, gives sight to the man who has been blind from birth. The waters of the pool of Siloam wash away the muddy earth from his eyes, and he sees - an obvious reference to the waters of Baptism.

It's hard to believe that the Pharisees could be so obstinate in their refusal to believe what the man reported to them. They are blinder than the man ever was. Even the parents are afraid to believe their own son's story, for fear of being put out of the synagogue.

The Gospel points out that Jesus wasn't only interested in the man's bodily sight. He came to give him "saving sight" - the fullness of faith in him as God's Son and Savior of the world. The man's belief in Jesus cost him his place in the synagogue.

The final scene of the story shows us the tragedy that is unfolding. Those who took great pride in their religious sight are not open to the light that Jesus brings. They are the truly blind.

Each of us from time-to-time shares in the various attitudes displayed in the Gospel story. Sometimes we are like the man born blind and Jesus must give us sight. Sometimes, like the Pharisees, we're reluctant to see his workings in those around us. Like the man's parents, we can be afraid to acknowledge the light of Christ because others may criticize us, or worse, reject us. The Gospel is encouraging us to live faithfully by the light that Jesus gives us.

The conclusion of the Gospel is a warning: there are no privileged people in the community of faith. Jesus is the source of the light by which we all see. If we choose to be our own light, we risk eternal blindness.

May each of us have the courage to examine our own way of seeing and again choose Jesus as our light.

Journey Onward Ye Sojourners
Caroline Trimble Pastoral Associate

*If YOU do not die with Christ,
you will not RISE with HIM!*

God so loved the world that He gave HIS only begotten Son so that ALL who believe in HIM-Follow Him- Love Him- Serve Him- Know Him.... will have Everlasting Life. Are you living a life for eternity or the next best thing? Who are you following? Where are you in your Lenten journey? Have you begun and failed? If so-*Begin Again*- embrace these final weeks of Lent with more Prayer-Fasting-Almsgiving- and allow your heart to be transformed! May that precious-

unblemished- *perfect Love that- Ran Red- on Calvary-* flood your heart with sorrow for your sin and send you in haste to make amends. Journey onward carrying your cross with Love! *God so loved the world that He gave HIS only Son-* St. Joseph pray for us! Our Lady of Fatima, pray for us! J.O.Y.S

Olivewood handcrafted religious items will be for sale on March 25 after the 4 PM mass at Holy Cross and on March 26 after the 8 AM mass at St. Joseph-Olney and 10 AM at Holy Cross; and on April 1 after the 5 PM mass at St. Joseph-Olney and April 2 at the 8 AM mass at St. Joseph-Stringtown and 10 AM at St. Lawrence. "On behalf of our Christian workshops in the city of Bethlehem and the surrounding areas, please accept our great appreciation for the opportunity you are giving us to market our Olivewood Handcrafted religious items."

Volunteer Now! Lectors, EMHCs, servers, cross-bearers, ushers, greeters and gift-bearers are needed for Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday and Easter Sunday. Sign-up sheet is in the church vestibule.

Easter Flower Memorials: Please use the envelope labeled 'Easter Flower Offering' included in your envelope packet. On the reverse side of the envelope, please print clearly the name of the person the memorial is for. For married couples, please list the names together on the same line (for example: John & Jane Doe). A list of the memorials will be published later.

St. Joseph-Stringtown would like to extend an invitation to join us in the Stringtown Parish Center for donuts and pastries after the 8 AM Mass at Stringtown on Sunday, March 19. We will use this time for fellowship and to honor our patron saint, St. Joseph.

Anyone interested in singing in the choir for Easter, please join us in practicing on Sunday mornings at 8:30 AM at Holy Cross-Wendelin. Questions? Please contact Rhonda Kuenstler at 618-689-1106.

High School Youth are planning to attend a mission trip to Montague, Michigan in June. There will be a bake sale to help fundraise money to cover the cost of their trip. A bake sale will be held in Olney on March 18 and 19; and after the Stringtown and Wendelin masses on March 25 and 26. Please consider supporting the youth during this time.

Catholic Relief Services (CRS) is the official international humanitarian agency of the Catholic community in the United States. The agency alleviates suffering and provides assistance to people in need in more than 100 countries, without regard to race, religion or nationality. Today we will take up a collection for CRS so they may continue their important work to help those in need.

~ KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS NEWS ~

Friday, March 24: Fish Fry, 5 PM -7 PM at the Olney City Park Community Building to benefit Full Armor School. Open to the public. Dine in or carry-out. Adults: \$12, children 12 and under: \$6.

Saturday, March 25: State Spelling Bee at Central Catholic High School in Bloomington. Good luck to Miles Tompson, Katelyn Bookhout and Carly Seiler!

Sunday, March 26: K of C led Rosary, 7:40 AM at St. Joseph-Olney.

Sunday, April 16: State K of C Free Throw Competition at St. Anthony High School, Effingham at 1 PM. All receiving medals; 1st place winners at Breese last Sunday and advancing to Effingham: Leah Kuenstler-16/25, Briley Wilson-11, Leo Tompson-13. 3rd place winners were Carter Seaman-16 and Laney Peavler-5. Kudos to the other winning participants: Austin Kuenstler, Carly Kessler, Knox Dorn, Kolton McLaren and Carlie VanBlaricum.

Wednesday, April 20: Deadline for applications for \$250 Scholarships to Olney Seniors whose father is a Council member.

Baby Crib Charity Drive to benefit WIC (Women, Infants & Children) in church during Lent. Needed items are diapers and baby wipes, blankets, quilts, sleepers, onesies, teethers, sippy cups (no baby bottles,) baby lotions, shampoo and diaper cream.

Knigh of the Month: February- Mike Ginder and March- Dan Zwilling.

St. Joseph Church
208 South Elliott St.
Olney, Illinois 62450
✠
'Renewing the Vision'
Sunday, March 19, 2023
4th Sunday of Lent

~ 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.....618-392-8181
E-mail.....stjosephchurch_olney@yahoo.com

Jeffrey Rosenberg Trustee
Elliot Brazil..... Trustee

~ 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 618-395-3081
E-mail..... office@stjoeolney.com
Websitewww.stjoeolney.com
FAX..... 618-395-8500

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*)