

ST. JOSEPH - OLNEY

Bulletins

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Sunday, December 14, 2025
Third Sunday of Advent

✠ Eucharistic Celebrations ✠

Mon. Dec. 15	6:30 PM	at Stringtown
Tue. Dec. 16	5:00 PM	at Lawrenceville
Wed. Dec. 17	8:05 am	Paul & Romona Fehrenbacher
Thu. Dec. 18	6:30 PM	at Wendelin
Fri. Dec. 19	8:00 am	For the Parish
Sat. Dec. 20	4:00 PM	at Wendelin
	5:00 PM	Linda Gumble Living & Deceased Hermina & Frances Zuber Family; Kuenstler & Rohr Families
Sun. Dec. 21	8:00 am	Albert, Clara, & Rose Ellen Hahn Tom & Bernice Fehrenbacher Steve & Margaret Fehrenbacher
	8:00 am	at Stringtown
	10:00 am	at Wendelin
	10:00 am	at Lawrenceville

OUR DECEMBER SPONSORS

Bulletins: Illini Builders – Gassmann Family
Missalettes: Kistler-Patterson Funeral Home

OUR TITHES FOR DECEMBER 7th

Parish Operating Expense per Week = \$9,847.00
Envelopes: \$13,007 (118) Outreach: \$182
Guatemala: \$466 (25) Christmas Flowers: \$1,334 (46)

Let Us Pray For: Marilyn McCormick, Elizabeth Ginder, Jim Gassmann, Dolores Hemrich, Clara Rose Wilson, Kenneth Ochs, Valerie Weidner, Julie Oesch, Margaret Burgener, Fr. Joe Erbacher, Jeff Beard, Judy Spitz, Jerry L. Harper, Emery Oesch, Gene Bergbower, Luke G. Kocher, Marlene Harris, Bessie Rossiano, Mary Rowark, Tony Tredway, Anita Shultz, Kenneth Hann, and Ruth Zwilling.

Happy Birthday to **Jeanne Dehlinger** who celebrates her 97th birthday on December 19th!

Happy Birthday to **Helen Zuber** who celebrates her 92nd birthday on December 20th!

~ AROUND OUR PARISHES ~

Saturday, December 13th

- 6:15 am, Candlelight mass at Stringtown.
- Mass for **Nina Burcham, Albert, Clara, & Rose Ellen Hahn**, and **Edmond, Anna, & Linda Volk**.
- **4-6 PM, Annual Cookie Walk** in the MPR.

Sunday, December 14th

- Mass for **Dudley Chamberlin, Henry Weiler**, and **Carl & Una Kocher**.
- Children’s liturgy at 8 am mass. All students in grades K-3 are welcome to attend.
- **8-10 am, Annual Cookie Walk** in the MPR.
- **9-10:30 am, Cookies with Santa**, sponsored by the St. Joseph School enrollment committee, will be held in conjunction with the Cookie Walk this year. Children from birth to kindergarten are invited to have a cookie, make a Christmas craft, and get their picture taken with Santa!

Tuesday, December 16th

- 12:00-3:00 PM, Eucharistic Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Olney. There must always be 2 people in the church.
- 6:30 PM, Bibles and Brews at HV’s Olney.
- 6:30 PM, meeting for OCIA members in the conference room at St. Joseph, Olney. Topic: God the Son: Incarnation and Atonement.

Wednesday, December 17th

- Mass for **Paul & Romona Fehrenbacher**.
- Praying the rosary after mass, Olney.
- 12 noon, Bulletin deadline.
- St. Joseph, Olney at Good Samaritan.

Friday, December 19th

- St. Joseph, Olney at Good Samaritan.
- 1 PM, K-4 Christmas Program in the gym.

🐾 St. Joseph School News 🐾

- **Wednesday, December 17-** 1:50 Dismissal.
- **Friday, December 19-** K-4 Christmas music program at 1:00 in gymnasium; 1:50 Dismissal.
- Christmas break **December 22- January 4**; school resumes on January 5
- **2026 Benefit Calendars are here!** The price is \$25. The total payout is \$8,450. Calendars are for sale at the school office, the parish office, or by calling Jeffrey Rosenberg at 618-302-0391.
- It's the giving season! A **qualified charitable distribution** (QCD) allows people over age 70½ to donate to charities - like our parish and school - directly from a taxable IRA instead of taking their required minimum distributions. The tax savings can be very significant. For additional information, please contact your financial representative or tax preparer.

CALENDAR WINNERS - \$25

Dec. 8: Stacey & Tony Steber (#310)
Dec. 9: Carol Zuber (#021)
Dec. 10: Pam Miller (#573)
Dec. 11: Peyton Peavler (#776)
Dec. 12: Doris Morehouse (#127)

~ PARISH NEWS ~

- **Volunteers Needed!** Lectors, servers, cross-bearers, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion (EMHC), ushers and gift-bearers are needed for the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses. The sign-up sheet is in the vestibule. Please volunteer to help at the Mass you plan to attend.
- **Christmas Flower Memorials:** Please use the envelope labeled 'Christmas Flower Offering' included in your December packet. Proceeds from this collection will be used to purchase the flowers to decorate our church. On the reverse side of the envelope, **please print clearly** the person the memorial is for. A list of the memorials will be published at a later date.
- **Thank you to Kistler-Patterson Funeral Homes** for providing our 2026 calendars. The calendars are available at the doors.

- **Reminder** to please pick up funeral dishes in the hallway by the MPR.
- **Attention Liturgical Ministers:** The deadline is Friday, December 19th to make any changes for the January and February schedules. Please call the Parish Office (392-8181) or send an email, to report any dates you do not wish to be scheduled, or to have your name added or removed from the upcoming schedule. Please prayerfully consider assisting at Mass in the various ministries.
- We are now accepting **mass intentions** through March 30, 2026.
- **Last Call for Directory Photos!!!** December 15th is the last day the photographers will be here. Please call the parish office if you need an appointment.

2 OPPORTUNITIES FOR GIFT GIVING THIS CHRISTMAS

- **Adopt-a-Family:** This year St. Joseph Church will adopt 2 local families. The gift labels reflect the requests from the families. To participate: 1. Select an ornament from one of the baskets by the doors of the church. 2. Purchase and wrap the gift - put the label on the wrapped package. 3. Place your gift under the tree and the ornament on the tree in the church foyer. Household cleaning supplies, toiletries and grooming products, as well as food(staples and Christmas dinner items) are always appreciated. The gifts will be delivered to Trinity Lutheran Church on **Friday, December 19**, by a volunteer from Adopt - a Family to deliver to the families. **Thank you for your kindness and generosity in sharing the spirit of Christmas this season with others in Richland County.**
- **Catholic Relief Services:** One way to support our brothers and sisters around the world is to participate in the CRS gift tag program - providing resources to help those in need build a better life. You can choose an ornament that reflects the resource you want to provide (farm animals, back to school kit, fertilizer, etc.), write out your check to Catholic Relief Services, and place it in the collection at the next mass you attend. Directions are also on the ornaments.

~ KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS NEWS ~

- **Thurs. Dec. 18th:** 4th degree meeting at 7PM.
- **Sun. Dec. 28th:** Knight led Rosary before the 8 am mass at Olney.
- **Kudos** to Steve Kuenstler and family for organizing the Member Christmas Dinner! Approximately 48 in attendance. Thanks Santa!!!

Discernment Day of Recollection

All single young men ages 15–35 are invited to a Discernment Day of Recollection on Saturday, December 20, at St. Nicholas Parish in O’Fallon. The day will focus on the theme of “Spiritual Sonship and Fatherhood” and includes conferences, Holy Mass, Eucharistic Adoration, time for discussion, and lunch. Please email miskorch@diobelle.org if you have any questions.



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! “*We do not have to discover in which of several people Christ is to be found; we must look for Him in them all. And not in an experimental spirit, to discover whether He is in them . . . but with the absolute certainty that He is. . . . Christ does not choose to be known through outward appearances—even the appearance of virtue.*” — Caryl Houselander, The Reed of God

***The 2025 Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal
Hope in the Lord***

The true joy of Christmas is in the everlasting love of Christ. May you find His peace, love and joy now and in the coming new year. With deepest gratitude for your prayers and generosity,
*Ministries and Programs Funded by the CSMA
We have collected \$13,919.10 by our parish so far!*

Diocesan Christmas Collection December 24-25

The 48th Annual Diocesan Christmas Collection will be taken up at all Masses on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Parishes and agencies throughout the diocese will request monies from this collection during 2026 to assist those who are in need with food, clothing, shelter, utility payments, healthcare and medications, funeral and burial expenses, transportation and emergency assistance of all types. Please consider giving as you are able; thank you so much.

Merry Christmas from *The Messenger*! Don’t forget to Subscribe by calling ***The Messenger* at 618-233-8670**. To subscribe online go to www.bellevillemessenger.org. Tax-deductible donations are also appreciatively received.

Respect Life Corner: December 14, 2025

St. Josephine Bakhita, you were sold into slavery as a child and endured untold hardship and suffering. Once liberated from your physical enslavement, you found true redemption in your encounter with Christ and his Church. O St. Bakhita, assist all those who are trapped in a state of slavery; Intercede with God on their behalf so that they will be released from their chains of captivity. Those whom man enslaves, let God set free. Provide comfort to survivors of slavery and let them look to you as an example of hope and faith. Help all survivors find healing from their wounds. We ask for your prayers and intercessions for those enslaved among us. Amen.



Christmas Eve
4:00 pm Olney
4:00 pm Lawrenceville
10:00 pm Stringtown





Christmas Day
12:00 am Wendelin
8:00 am Stringtown
8:00 am Olney
10:00 am Wendelin



St. Joseph Church

208 South Elliott St.
Olney, Illinois 62450

✙

Sunday, December 14, 2025
Third Sunday of Advent



~ St. Joseph Church ~

Websitewww.stjosephchurcholney.com
Very Rev. Steven L. Beatty Pastor
Fr. Steven’s Cell 618-697-2632
E-mail frsteven.beatty@gmail.com
Reverend Levi James Parochial Vicar
Fr. Levi’s Cell 618-240-3638
E-mail levi.jamessiu@gmail.com
Caroline Trimble Pastoral Associate
Caroline’s Cell 618-263-7106
E-mail CtrimblePA@gmail.com
Tyler Timm Youth Minister
Tyler’s Cell 507-530-2911
E-mail ttimm@stjoeolney.com
Casey Hemrich Administrative Assistant
Parish Office 618-392-8181
E-mail stjosephchurch_olney@yahoo.com
Jeffrey Rosenberg Trustee
Elliot Brazil Trustee

~ **Welcome** ~

The St. Joseph Parish family is a community of believers rooted in the teachings of Jesus.

Join us for mass:
Wednesday 8:05 am
Friday 8:00 am
Saturday 5:00 pm
Sunday 8:00 am

Live streaming of the 8 am masses on Sunday and Wednesday are now available! To watch it live, go to stjosephchurcholney.com

New parishioners, please register as soon as you move into our parish. Call the Parish Office (618-392-8181) to receive a new member packet

Office hours: Mon. Wed. Fri. 8:00-3:00 pm

Baptism: Contact the Parish Office.

Reconciliation: Saturdays from 4:30 PM – 4:45 PM or contact the Parish Office.

Marriage: Call 6 months in advance.

Anointing of the Sick: Any time of need.

~ **St. Joseph School** ~

Josy Hart Principal
Carol Potter Assistant Principal
Catherine Fritschle Office Manager
School Office 618-395-3081
E-mail office@stjoeolney.com
Website www.stjoeolney.com
FAX 618-395-8500

School Advisory Council: Angel Padilla (*Chairperson*), Heather Colwell, Samantha Foust, Marissa Graves, Andrea Kuenstler, Lauren McClain, Tyler Ochs, Doug Kocher (*St. Joseph-Stringtown Representative*), Holly Nettleton (*Holy Cross-Wendelin Representative*).

Collection Total for December 7, 2025

Envelopes: \$1,646.00 (39)
Loose: \$53.00
Total: \$1,699.00

Building Fund: \$60.00 (2)

For the Needy: \$75.00 (1)

Christmas Flowers: \$210.00 (11)

Religious Education: \$100.00 (5)

Retirement Fund for Religious: \$25.00 (1)

Weekly Amount Needed: \$1,400.00

December Bulletins: In Memory of Barbara Ann Ochs by Fred Ochs

December Missalettes: In Memory of Lorraine & Lucille Dallmier and Cletus & Marie Zwilling by Raymond & Theresa Zwilling

****Contact Ashley to schedule for 2026!**

PARISH EVENTS:

Saturday, December 13 – Candlelight Mass at Sunrise, St. Joseph-Stringtown, 6:15am with Breakfast to Follow in the Parish Center.

Monday, December 15 – Young Adults Bible Study at Holy Cross-Wendelin Parish House, 7pm.

Tuesday, December 16 – ASAP Prayer Service and Adoration at St. Joseph-Stringtown, 9:30am. Sister’s in Christ at St. Joseph-Stringtown Parish Center, 10am.

Eucharistic Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at St. Joseph-Olney, 12-3pm.

Sister’s in Christ at Saint Joseph-Olney, 5pm.

OCIA at St. Joseph-Olney Conference Room, 6:30pm.

Young Adults Bibles and Brews, 6:30pm Social, 7pm Topic Why Must We Confess to a Priest by Fr. Levi.

Wednesday, December 17 – Sister’s in Christ at Holy Cross-Wendelin Parish Center, 5:30pm.

Thursday, December 18 – Eucharistic Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at Holy Cross-Wendelin, 5:30pm until 6:30pm Mass.

Brother’s in Christ, Holy Cross-Wendelin, 7pm.

Tuesday, December 23 – Parish Office Open 9-11am ONLY. Please note bulletin info must be submitted by 10am to go in weekend bulletin.

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!

“We do not have to discover in which of several people Christ is to be found; we must look for Him in them all. And not in an experimental spirit, to discover whether He is in them . . . but with the absolute certainty that He is. . . . Christ does not choose to be known through outward appearances—even the appearance of virtue.”

— **Caryll Houselander, The Reed of God**

BAPTISM:

The Sacrament of Baptism represents the first step in a lifelong journey of discipleship. To inquire about a Baptism and to schedule a date, contact Caroline Trimble.

PHOTO DIRECTORY SIGNUPS:

Thank you to Janice Zwilling, Anne Crites, and Janette Kocher for working on registration table for photos on Monday, December 8th! If you weren’t able to get your photo taken, you can drop a photo by the parish office or send to our parish email stjoestringtown@hotmail.com.

BLOOD DRIVE:

The next Stringtown Community Blood Drive is scheduled for Sunday, January 4, 2026, from 6:30-12 noon. Mark your calendar and go ahead and pre-scheduled your January 4th appointment by

clicking below.

<https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-results?order=DATE&range=10&zipSponsor=StringtownCC>

CHRISTMAS CHOIR PRACTICE:

Christmas Choir practice will be held Tuesday, December 16; Friday, December 19, and Tuesday, December 23. All practices start at 6:30pm unless otherwise noted.

THANK YOU:

Thank you for those that attended Donut Sunday and enjoyed fellowship as we “Walk Through the Footsteps of Saints” and learn more about our special saints! A special thank you to Fr. Levi and Gary Kocher (St. Nicholas) for teaching us more about St. Nicholas! ***St. Nicholas, pray for us!***



THANK YOU:

Thank you for those that attended Candlelight Mass at Sunrise, those that served ministries, Lucas Rauch and the choir for the music, Fr. Levi for the beautiful Mass, as well as all parishioners that volunteered to bring in food items for the breakfast. You are all appreciated!

CHRISTMAS MASS MINISTRIES:

There is a sign-up sheet in church for Christmas Eve 10pm Mass and Christmas Day 8am Mass. Please sign up.

SISTERS IN CHRIST:

The Reed of God - Tuesday, 10am at St. Joseph Stringtown, 5:00pm at Saint Joseph Olney, Wednesday at 5:30pm at Holy Cross-Wendelin. There will be a pause for the Christmas season and the new study will be shared in the New Year.

LEADING ROSARY:

If anyone is interested in joining the list for leading the Rosary before Sunday Mass, please let me know. I will be making the new schedule for the year 2026. Thank you! - Janette Kocher

STRINGTOWN COMM. CLUB ADOPT-A-FAMILY:

For those that would like to participate, we will need the gifts by December 19th at 3pm at the St. Joseph-Stringtown Parish Center. You can drop off gifts any Tuesday from 9am-2pm or on Thursday from 9am-1pm while Ashley is in the office. For questions, call Kathy Zuber at 618-869-2306.

ST. JOSEPH-OLNEY SCHOOL NEWS:

Cookies with Santa, sponsored by the St. Joe School enrollment committee, will be held in conjunction with the Cookie Walk this year on Sun., Dec. 14 from 9:00-10:30 am. Children from birth to K are invited to have a cookie, make a Christmas craft, and get their picture taken with Santa! **2026 Benefit Calendars are here!** The price is \$25. The total payout is \$8,450. Calendars are for sale at the school office, the parish office, or by calling Jeffrey Rosenberg at 618-302-0391.

Wednesday, December 17- 1:50pm Dismissal

Friday, December 19- K-4 Christmas music program at 1:00pm in gymnasium; 1:50pm Dismissal

Christmas break December 22- January 4; School resumes on January 5.

OLNEY KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS:

Thursday, December 18: 4th Degree meeting, 7PM.

Sunday, December 28: Knight led Rosary before the Olney 8:00 AM Mass.

Kudos to the Steve Kuenstler families for organizing the Member Christmas Dinner! approximately 48 in attendance. Thanks Santa! **Kudos** to Keeping Christ in Christmas Knights of Columbus Poster Contest out of 263 participants! 1st place winners: Remi Miller, Vella Kuenstler, Ryker Sterchi, Tatum Pottorff & Cohen Rennier. 2nd Place: Yzabella Biyok, Meira Cotterell, Brooklyn VanBlaricum, Remi Hancock & Jagger Cecil. 3rd place: Landree Nelson, Amity Zuber, Wakely Miller, Lydia Weidner & Isla Stanley. 4th place: Camden Blank, Delana Sterchi, Joe Cummins, Georgia Kapper, & Clair Gibson. 5th place; Chesney Scheutz, Emmitt Kocher, Kloe Williams, Olivia Han & Chandler Davis. First place winners qualify to advance their posters to the Belleville Chapter Competition with winners published in the Messenger after Christmas. Cash prizes were award to the winners in this order; \$12, \$8, \$5, and two dollar bills for 4th and 5th place. First place winners receive a certificate and everyone receives a participant certificate.

FORMED.ORG SUBSCRIPTION:
Download the app or go to www.formed.org and enter 62448. **The Week of December 14th Recommendations:** Adventus: A Spiritual Pilgrimage, 30 Minutes BC, Is Christmas Pagan? What Catholics Believe About Christmas

CSMA 2025 – HOPE IN THE LORD:
The true joy of Christmas is in the everlasting love of Christ. May you find His peace, love and joy now and in the coming new year. With deepest gratitude for your prayers and generosity, *Ministries and Programs Funded by The Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal*

RESPECT LIFE CORNER:
St. Josephine Bakhita, you were sold into slavery as a child and endured untold hardship and suffering. Once liberated from your physical enslavement, you found true redemption in your encounter with Christ and his Church. O St. Bakhita, assist all those

who are trapped in a state of slavery; Intercede with God on their behalf so that they will be released from their chains of captivity. Those whom man enslaves, let God set free. Provide comfort to survivors of slavery and let them look to you as an example of hope and faith. Help all survivors find healing from their wounds. We ask for your prayers and intercessions for those enslaved among us. Amen. USCCB, “Prayer to St. Josephine Bakhita

VOCATION CORNER:
 **Discernment Day of Recollection**
All single young men ages 15–35 are invited to a Discernment Day of Recollection on Saturday, December 20, at St. Nicholas Parish in O’Fallon from 9:00 am-2:30 pm. The day will focus on the theme of “Spiritual Sonship and Fatherhood” and includes conferences, Holy Mass, Eucharistic Adoration, time for discussion, and lunch. Please email mskorch@diobelle.org if you have any questions.

QUALIFIED CHARITABLE DISTRIBUTION:
It's the giving season! A **qualified charitable distribution** (QCD) allows people over age 70½ to donate to charities - like our parish and school - directly from a taxable IRA instead of taking their required minimum distributions. The tax savings can be very significant. For additional information, please contact your financial representative or tax preparer.

 **REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS:** Rick Rennie, Teresa Zehner, Judy Brown, Brenda Zuber, Valerie Weidner, Steve Zuber, Carolyn Elie, Linda McWhirter



Sunday, December 14, 2025
Third Sunday of Advent
Sunday, December 14, 8:00am at St. Joseph-Stringtown, “Bill & Catherine Zwilling†” “Alberta Zuber & Judy Zuber†”
Monday, December 15, 6:30pm at St. Joseph-Stringtown “Brenda Kocher†” “Lawrence & Bernadine Kocher†”
Tuesday, December 16, 5:00pm at St. Lawrence-Lawrenceville
Wednesday, December 17, 8:00am at St. Joseph-Olney
Thursday, December 18, 6:30pm at Holy Cross-Wendelin
Friday, December 19, 8:00am at St. Joseph-Olney
Saturday, December 20, 4:00pm at Holy Cross-Wendelin, 5:00pm at St. Joseph-Olney
Sunday, December 21, 8:00am at St. Joseph-Stringtown “Norman Kocher†” “Jean, Norman, & Joseph Zwilling†” “Carolyn Zuber†” 8:00am at St. Joseph-Olney, 10:00am at Holy Cross-Wendelin, 10:00am at St. Lawrence-Lawrenceville
12/14/2025
Servers:
Kaitlyn Ginder
Haley Ginder
Nathaniel Zwilling
Lector:
Kylie Kocher
EMHC:
Joselyn Kocher
Janette Kocher
Owen Kocher
Gifts:
John Ochs Family
Ushers:
Gary Kocher
Caden Kocher
Greeters:
Gary & Beth Kocher Family
Children’s Liturgy:
Laura, Dorothy, Delana

12/21/2025
Servers:
Emmitt Kocher
Gavin Kuenstler
Julian Seaman
Lector:
Joselyn Kocher
EMHC:
Harold Boehl
Lisa Boehl
Jenny Hancock
Gifts:
Seaman Family
Ushers:
David Muhs
Werner Kocher
Greeters:
Werner & Janette Kocher
Children’s Liturgy:
Anita & Anna

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

(GPS address: 6342 N. Stringtown Rd, Olney, IL 62450) Phone: 618-754-3676
Email: stjoestringtown@hotmail.com
Website: www.stjosephstringtown.com
Parish Office Hours: Tuesday 9am-2pm & Thursday 9am-1pm

Very Rev. Fr. Steven Beatty_____ **Pastor**
Cell_____ 618-697-2632
E-mail_____ frsteven.beatty@gmail.com

Reverend Levi James_____ **Parochial Vicar**
Cell_____ 618-240-3638
E-mail_____ levi.jamessiu@gmail.com

Caroline Trimble_____ **Pastoral Associate**
Caroline’s Cell_____ 618-263-7106
E-mail_____ ctrimblePA@gmail.com

Tyler Timm_____ **Youth Minister**
Tyler’s Cell_____ 507-530-2911
Tyler’s E-mail_____ ttimm@stjoeolney.com

Ashley Hinterscher_____ **Administrative Assistant**
Ashley’s Cell_____ 618-843-1892
Office Phone_____ 618-754-3676
E-mail_____ stjoestringtown@hotmail.com

December 14, 2025
Third Sunday of Advent
†Eucharistic Celebrations†
Saturday, December 13, 6:15am at Saint Joseph-Stringtown, 4:00pm at Holy Cross-Wendelin
“Harold & Rose Marie Buerster† and Robert N. & Bernadette Kocher†”, 5:00pm at St. Joseph-Olney, 5:00pm at St. Joseph-Olney
Sunday, December 14, “Lowell & Hermina Buerster†” “Paul & Mary Kessler† and Jerry Mix†”
Monday, December 15, 6:30pm at St. Joseph-Stringtown
Tuesday, December 16, 5:00pm at St. Lawrence-Lawrenceville
Wednesday, December 17, 8:05am at St. Joseph-Olney
Thursday, December 18, 6:30pm at Holy Cross-Wendelin “Raymond & Thresa Kessler & Deceased Family†”
Friday, December 19, 8:00 at St. Joseph-Olney
Saturday, December 20, 4:00 at Holy Cross-Wendelin “Wayne Kessler†” “Mike & Eloise Kocher† and Jan & Judy Kocher†”, 5:00pm at St. Joseph-Olney
Sunday, December 21, 10:00am at Holy Cross-Wendelin “Gerald & Linda Blank†” “George & Linda Harper†” “Shirley Kessler†”, 8:00am at St. Joseph-Stringtown; 8:00am at St. Joseph-Olney; 10:00am at St. Lawrence-Lawrenceville

December Bulletins: *In Memory of Harold & Kathryn Fehrenbacher*
December Missalettes:
Kuhl’s Trailer Sales

BULLETIN & MISSALETTE SPONSORS:
To schedule, contact Ashley. **Price to sponsor for a month is \$100 for bulletins and \$100 for missalettes.**

SUNDAY COLLECTION – Sunday, December 7, 2025 (65) Envelope Collection: \$2,941.00

DECEMBER LITURGICAL MINISTERS	
SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Open/Lock/Greet:	Open/Lock/Greet:
Holly Nettleton	Cindy Blank
EMHC:	EMHC:
Jeannie Nix	Jason Warfel
Kathy Kuenstler	Sandi Kessler
Celia Rudolphi	Ginny Zwilling
Sherry Geier	Penni Kuenstler
Lectors:	Lectors:
Jennifer Rudolphi	Marge Kessler
Money Counters:	
Tony & Penni Kuenstler	
Ushers:	Ushers:
Dave Rudolphi	Dusty Smithenry
Mark Rudolphi	Austin Zwilling
Kelly Geier	Eric Sandschafer
Hank Weidner	Jim Rauch
Mass Servers:	
Sat. December 6 – Hank, Clara, & Boyd Weidner	
Sun. December 7 – Alex Street, Cora & Stella Warfel	
Sat. December 13 – Ellee Bare, Kaleb & Kelby Iffert	
Sun. December 14 – Lane Smithenry, Brooke & Braden Weidner	
CRMH Communion:	
December 14 – Ellen Weber	
December 21 – Lynn Weidner	
Children’s Liturgy of the Word:	
December 14 – Nicki Himelick & Kinley Workman	
December 21 – Melissa & Brooke Weidner	
December 28 – Gracey Himelick & Hope Zuber	

Loose: \$226.00 – **Total: \$3,167.00**, (34) Building: \$2,035.00, (6) Christmas Flowers: \$295.00, (1) Cemetery: \$300.00, (1) For the Needy: \$55.00, (1) Christmas Offering: \$25.00, (1) Retirement for Religious: \$55.00

HOLY CROSS REBUILD & IMPROVEMENT UPDATE:
As of Wednesday, December 10th – **\$284,648.57**

has been received from 407 donations – thank you!

REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS:

Mary Beth Scherer, Gerry Carter, Terry Tolliver, Wesley Frohning, Wilmajean Geier, Cindy Henson (Daughter of Dean Klingler), Lee Patridge, Valerie Weidner, Tonya Hall, Virginia Blank, Chase Zumbahlen, Dana Kuhl-Bell, Stacy Kessler, Eleanor Buerster



PARISH EVENTS:

Saturday, December 13 – Candlelight Mass at Sunrise, St. Joseph-Stringtown, 6:15am with Breakfast to Follow in the Parish Center.
Monday, December 15 – **Young Adults Bible Study at Holy Cross-Wendelin Parish House, 7pm.**
Tuesday, December 16 – ASAP Prayer Service and Adoration at St. Joseph-Stringtown, 9:30am.
Sister’s in Christ at St. Joseph-Stringtown Parish Center, 10am.
Eucharistic Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at St. Joseph-Olney, 12-3pm.
Sister’s in Christ at Saint Joseph-Olney, 5pm.
OCIA at St. Joseph-Olney Conference Room, 6:30pm.
Young Adults Bibles and Brews, 6:30pm Social, 7pm Topic Why Must We Confess to a Priest by Fr. Levi.

Wednesday, December 17 – **Sister’s in Christ at Holy Cross-Wendelin Parish Center, 5:30pm.**
Thursday, December 18 – **Eucharistic Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at Holy Cross-Wendelin, 5:30pm until 6:30pm Mass.**
Brother’s in Christ, Holy Cross-Wendelin, 7pm.
Monday, December 22 – **Noon Bulletin Submission Deadline for the week!**
Wednesday, December 24 – **Parish Office Closed!**
Friday, December 26 – **Parish Office Closed!**

WALKING IN PARISH CENTER:

The Holy Cross Parish Center will be open on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 9-11am for walking. Please note, if office is closed for the day, there will **NOT** be walking that date. Keep an eye on bulletin updates. Thank you!

MASS MINISTRIES FOR CHRISTMAS:

Please sign up for Mass Ministries for Midnight Mass and 10am Mass on Christmas Day at Holy Cross. Sign up in the vestibule or by contacting Ashley.

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!
“We do not have to discover in which of several people Christ is to be found; we must look for Him in them all. And not in an experimental spirit, to discover whether He is in them . . . but with the absolute certainty that He is. . . Christ does not choose to be known through outward appearances—even the appearance of virtue.”
— Caryl Houselander, The Reed of God

SISTERS IN CHRIST:

Tuesday, 10am at St. Joseph Stringtown, 5:00pm at Saint Joseph Olney, Wednesday at 5:30pm at Holy Cross-Wendelin. There will be a pause for the Christmas season and the new study will be shared in the New Year.

PEW ENDS:

If you’d like to purchase a pew end, please contact Brian Brummer at 618-783-7103, visit 103 South

Jack Street in Newton, or email info@brummerscc.com. Brian can also be contacted on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/brummerscabinetcusoms>.

LADIES ALTAR SODALITY CAKE/CRAFT DRAWING:

There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in vestibule if you are interested in donating a cake/craft item. You can also contact a Ladies Altar Sodality Member or the Parish Office to sign up.

FORMED.ORG SUBSCRIPTION:

Download the app or go to www.formed.org and enter 62448. **The Week of December 14th**

Recommendations: Adventus: A Spiritual Pilgrimage, 30 Minutes BC, Is Christmas Pagan? What Catholics Believe About Christmas

ST. JOSEPH OLNEY SCHOOL NEWS:

Cookies with Santa, sponsored by the St. Joe School enrollment committee, will be held in conjunction with the Cookie Walk this year on Sun., Dec. 14 from 9:00-10:30 am. Children from birth to K are invited to have a cookie, make a Christmas craft, and get their picture taken with Santa! **2026 Benefit Calendars are here!** The price is \$25. The total payout is \$8,450. Calendars are for sale at the school office, the parish office, or by calling Jeffrey Rosenburg at 618-302-0391.

Wednesday, December 17- 1:50pm Dismissal

Friday, December 19- K-4 Christmas music program at 1:00pm in gymnasium; 1:50pm Dismissal

Christmas break December 22- January 4; School resumes on January 5.

OLNEY KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS:

Thursday, December 18: 4th Degree meeting, 7PM. **Sunday, December 28:** Knight led Rosary before the Olney 8:00 AM Mass.

Kudos to the Steve Kuentler families for organizing the Member Christmas Dinner! approximately 48 in attendance. Thanks Santa!

Kudos to Keeping Christ in Christmas Knights of Columbus Poster Contest out of 263 participants! 1st place winners: Remi Miller, Vella Kuentler, Ryker Sterchi, Tatum Pottorff & Cohen Rennier. 2nd Place: Yzabella Biyok, Meira Cotterell, Brooklyn VanBlaricum, Remi Hancock & Jagger Cecil. 3rd place: Landree Nelson, Amity Zuber, Wakely Miller, Lydia Weidner & Isla Stanley. 4th place: Camden Blank, Delana Sterchi, Joe Cummins, Georgia Kapper, & Clair Gibson. 5th place; Chesney Scheutz, Emmitt Kocher, Kloe Williams, Olivia Han & Chandler Davis. First place winners qualify to advance their posters to the Belleville Chapter Competition with winners published in the Messenger after Christmas. Cash prizes were award to the winners in this order; \$12, \$8, \$5, and two dollar bills for 4th and 5th place. First place winners receive a certificate and everyone receives a participant certificate.

VOCATION CORNER:



Discernment Day of Recollection

All single young men ages 15–35 are invited to a Discernment Day of Recollection on Saturday, December 20, at St. Nicholas Parish in O’Fallon from 9:00 am-2:30 pm. The day will focus on the theme of “Spiritual Sonship and Fatherhood” and includes conferences, Holy Mass, Eucharistic Adoration, time for discussion, and lunch. Please email mskorch@diobelle.org if you have any questions.

PHOTO DIRECTORY SIGNUPS:

There are times available on Tuesday, December 16th. Photos will be from 2pm-8:36pm. Call/text Ashley to sign up!

RESPECT LIFE CORNER:

St. Josephine Bakhita, you were sold into slavery as a child and endured untold hardship and suffering. Once liberated from your physical enslavement, you found true redemption in your encounter with Christ and his Church. O St. Bakhita, assist all those who are trapped in a state

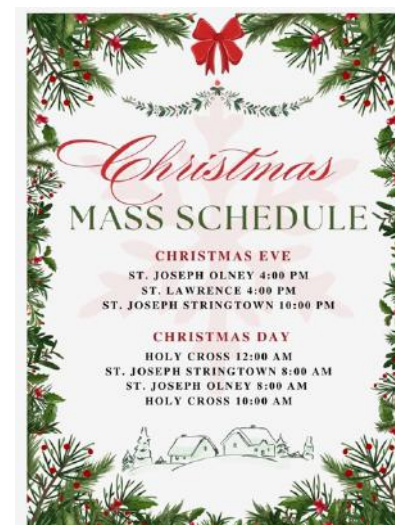
of slavery; Intercede with God on their behalf so that they will be released from their chains of captivity. Those whom man enslaves, let God set free. Provide comfort to survivors of slavery and let them look to you as an example of hope and faith. Help all survivors find healing from their wounds. We ask for your prayers and intercessions for those enslaved among us. Amen.
USCCB, “Prayer to St. Josephine Bakhita

QUALIFIED CHARITABLE DISTRIBUTION:

It's the giving season! A **qualified charitable distribution** (QCD) allows people over age 70½ to donate to charities - like our parish and school - directly from a taxable IRA instead of taking their required minimum distributions. The tax savings can be very significant. For additional information, please contact your financial representative or tax preparer.

CSMA 2025 – HOPE IN THE LORD:

The true joy of Christmas is in the everlasting love of Christ. May you find His peace, love and joy now and in the coming new year. With deepest gratitude for your prayers and generosity, *Ministries and Programs Funded by The Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal*



Sunday, December 14, 2025

Third Sunday of Advent

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say rejoice.
Indeed, the Lord is near.



Holy Cross Parish in Wendelin

5782 Ingraham Lane, Newton, IL 62448

Website - - www.holycrosswendelin.com

Parish E-mail: holycrosswendelin@outlook.com

Parish Phone Number: (618)-752-5671

Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday 10am-3pm,
and Friday 10am-1pm.

Mass Schedule: Thursdays 6:30pm with
Adoration at 5:30pm, Saturday 4:00pm, Sunday
10:00am

****Very Rev. Steven L. Beatty – Pastor**

Fr. Steven’s Cell: 618-697-2632

E-mail: frsteven.beatty@gmail.com

****Reverend Levi James – Parochial Vicar**

Fr. Levi: 618-240-3638, levi.jamessiu@gmail.com

****Caroline Trimble – Pastoral Associate**

Caroline: 618-263-7106, ctrimblePA@gmail.com

****Ashley Hinterscher – Administrative Assistant**

Ashley: 618-843-1892, creholycross@gmail.com

****Tyler Timm – Youth Minister**

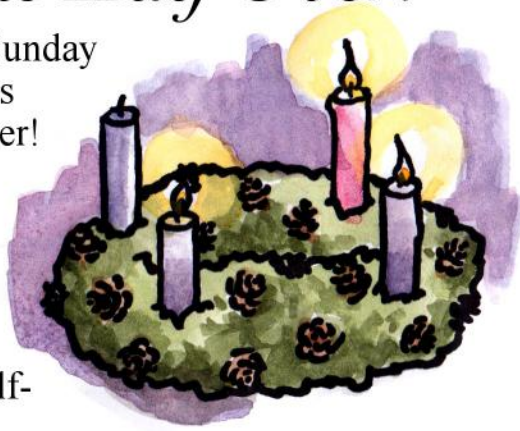
Tyler: 507-530-2911; ttimm@stjoeolney.com

Trustees: Carl Will & Kasey Iffert; **Pastoral**

Council: Tony Kuentler-Chair; Kevin Blank-Vice-Chair; Cindy Blank, Sharon Edwards, Kelly Geier, Tammy Rudolphi, Holly Nettleton, Dusty Smithenry

Advent is Half Over!

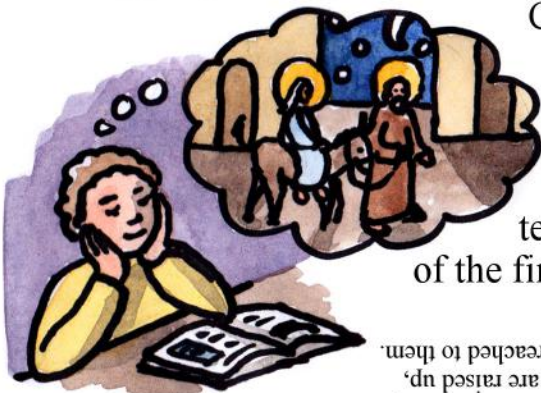
Today is the third Sunday of Advent. That means that half the wait is over! If you have an advent wreath, this is the week to light the pink candle. Pink is a symbol the joy we have because we're half-way to Christmas.



In today's Gospel, Jesus tells the people that John the Baptist was a prophet and messenger. A prophet is someone who tells the truth. In the Old Testament the prophets told God's people the truth about God. Saint John was a prophet because he told the people that the Messiah, or saviour, was coming soon, and that they needed to repent of their sins.

Saint John the Baptist prepared the way for Jesus by calling people to repentance. You can help prepare for

Christmas by thinking and talking about how Jesus came to earth on the first Christmas. Can you tell somebody the story of the first Christmas today?



Answer to front page: St. John was in prison. Answer to match up puzzle: the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them.

The Kids' Bulletin

Third Sunday of Advent
December 14th, 2025

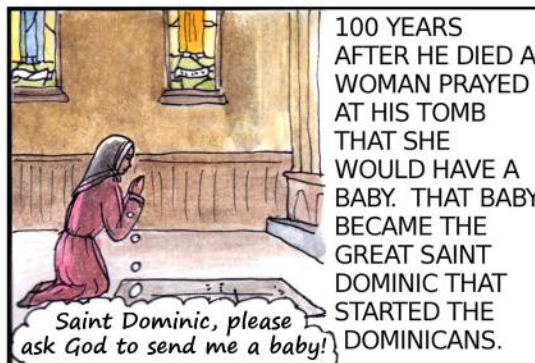
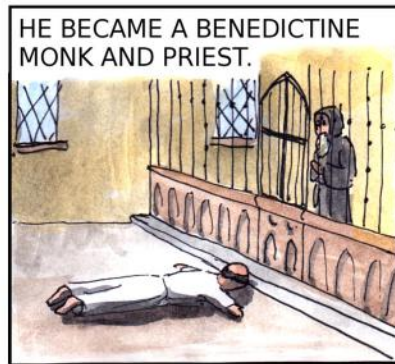


Saint John the Baptist was the messenger who prepared the world for Jesus' coming.

*Where was he in today's Gospel reading?
Connect the dots to find out!
Then you can finish colouring in the picture.*

Saint Dominic of Silos

December 20



SAINT DOMINIC SHOWED HIS LOVE FOR GOD BY PROTECTING WHAT BELONGED TO THE CHURCH. HE ALSO WORKED TO RE-BUILD WHAT HAD BEEN BEAUTIFUL BUT WAS FALLING APART. WE CAN LEARN FROM HIM TO RESPECT WHAT BELONGS TO THE CHURCH AND HELP MAKE THE CHURCH BEAUTIFUL FOR GOD.

What Happens When Jesus Comes?

In today's Gospel reading Jesus tells the disciples to tell John the Baptist what He does.

What happens to whom?

Match up the people with what happens to them.

the blind •

• are raised up

and the lame •

• have good news preached to them

lepers •

• hear

the deaf •

• are cleansed

the dead •

• receive their sight

and the poor •

• walk

