

Sunday, January 15, 2023
2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

† *Eucharistic Celebrations* †

Mon. Jan.16 No Mass
Tue. Jan. 17 5:00 PM (at Lawrenceville)
Wed. Jan. 18 8:05 am Bill Troutman
Thu. Jan. 19 6:30 PM (at Wendelin)
Fri. Jan. 20 No Mass
Sat. Jan. 21 4:00 PM (at Wendelin)
5:00 PM Harold & Rose
Marie Buerster
Sun. Jan. 22 8:00 am Helen Hoffman;
Ed Weiler, Mr. &
Mrs. Ves Weiler;
Mr. & Mrs. Wm.
Faller
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 JANUARY 8

Parish Operating Expense per Week = \$9,847.00
Envelopes: \$6,499 (81) Loose: \$77
Guatemala: \$215 (9) Christmas: \$315 (5)
1st Offering: \$115 (23) Solemnity: \$55 (3)

*** AROUND OUR PARISHES ***

Sunday, January 15

- **8 AM, Children's Liturgy.**

Monday, January 16

- **Parish Office closed in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day**

Tuesday, January 17

- 5:30 PM, Adult Faith Formation “The Eucharist” at St. Lawrence-Lawrenceville

Wednesday, January 18

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

Sunday, January 22

- 6 PM, Euchre Tournament at Holy Cross-Wendelin

Tuesday, January 24

- 5:30 PM, Adult Faith Formation “The Eucharist” at St. Lawrence-Lawrenceville

Sunday, February 19

- CYM Spaghetti Lunch, 10:30 AM-12:30 PM, at the Holy Cross Parish Center. Spaghetti, breadsticks, salad and desserts. Donations only. There will also be a basket/dessert raffle. Everyone welcome!

 **St. Joseph School Notes** 

Monday, January 16

- No School in celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Wednesday, January 18

- School Mass, 8:05 AM (1st-Cowman)

Sunday, January 29

- VFW Spaghetti Dinner to benefit our 8th grade activities, serving from 11 AM - 1 PM. Join us!

Catholic Schools Week is quickly approaching. We will celebrate our Alumni mass on Wednesday, February 1. If you graduated from any Catholic School - elementary, high school, or college, please consider attending to be recognized. Call the school office if you want to join us!

CALENDAR WINNERS - \$25

Please turn in all sold and unsold 2023 St. Joseph School Benefit Calendars. The drawing begins Tuesday, January 31, 2023.

Let Us Pray For: Cathy McDowell, Emery and Julie Oesch, Janice Rowark and Kay Rowark.
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: Wednesday, January 18, begins the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. For over 100 years, Christians around the world have taken part in an octave of prayer for visible Christian unity. By annually observing the WPCU, Christians move toward the fulfillment of Jesus' prayer at the Last Supper "that they all may be one." (cf. John 17:21) This unity of the church refers to the union of the people of God, in all their various distinctives and expressions, bound to God and to one another by the gospel.

The unity of the church is to be a reflection of the unity of the one God upon which the church is built. The ideal (unity) and the real (division) do not always match up in the life of the church. A biblical theology of unity reveals a richer and deeper understanding of unity than mere uniformity, but it also holds out the goal of visible unity towards which Christians should aspire. Do we mean merely that all those who profess themselves Christians “get along?” Or do we mean what Christ meant in his “high priestly prayer” before his arrest?

In John 17, which are to me the most precious words of scripture because they are the only time Christ prays explicitly for you and me, Jesus prays to his Father in heaven: “I pray not only for them [the apostles], but also for those who will believe in me through their word.”

What does he ask for? He doesn't ask for the queen of virtues: Charity. Neither does he ask for a civilization of justice and love. Nor does he intercede for any other grace that he undoubtedly wants for us.

He prayed that Christians would be one. He prayed that for a particular reason, which he reveals in his prayer: “that they may all be one, Father... that the world may believe that you sent me.”

In other words, Christian unity is meant to be the sign par excellence by which unbelievers recognize Jesus as Savior. Is it any accident that the world has increasingly lost its faith as Christians have become more and more content

over the centuries to split into a greater number of factions and churches?

Restoring Christian unity is a painstaking and delicate task. Catholics, Orthodox, Anglicans, Evangelicals, Fundamentalists and other Christians have dogmatic disagreements we can't simply gloss over. We can neither crush consciences nor pretend these differences don't matter. Faux unity won't change anything.

The late Pope Benedict XVI taught us that, ultimately, unity isn't something we build at all, but a grace God gives us when we're ready. The task of preparing for unity is a matter of each professing Christian becoming a true man or woman of prayer, as true a disciple of Christ Jesus as possible. As we each grow closer to Christ, he himself will draw us into union with him, doctrinal differences will give way to Truth, and ancient wounds between the Christian churches will be healed.

The theme for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in 2023 was selected by the Minnesota Council of Churches, USA in the aftermath of the extrajudicial killing of George Floyd and the trial of the police officer responsible for his death. These events brought anguish, but also time for the Christian communities to contemplate ways in which they may be complicit in racial injustice. Christian unity is needed as a source of reconciliation and unity.

The theme, taken from the first chapter of the Book of Isaiah 1:12-18 “Learn to do good; seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan; plead for the widow,” reflects his concern for the oppressed who suffer from injustice and inequality fed by hypocrisy that leads to disunity. He teaches that God requires righteousness and justice from all of us, to create the peace and unity that God desires. These virtues originate in God's love for all, and racism runs counter to this vision. Isaiah's challenge to do good and seek justice together applies equally to us today.

Journey Onward Ye Sojourners

Caroline Trimble Pastoral Associate

Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! We hear these words at every Mass, but do we truly understand what they mean? The word *Behold*, is quite a profound word that intends for us to take notice and listen. The next few words are quite profound too, the *Lamb of God*, this tell us that a sacrifice is about to occur (lambs were offered as sacrifice to God for sins.) This sacrificial lamb is the second person of the Holy Trinity – Jesus - who is the True Lamb who offers himself for ALL humanity. This Holy Sacrifice truly takes away *the sin of the world!* Stop here and let that sink in ... *the sin of the world - the sins that are yours...* Those sins that are - materialistic – worldly – prideful - rude - selfish – etc. When did you last receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation? Live a life to receive worthily... *the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!* Keep to the J.O.Y.S.

The Parish and Family Life Committee is sponsoring a “Valentine’s Day Card and Cake” project for ALL the residents of our local Long Term Care Facilities. We will be collecting Valentine’s cards, homemade hearts or posters along with boxes of Little Debbie snack cakes from parish members and St. Joseph School students from now until Friday, February 10. Cards, posters and snack cakes will be delivered to all the facilities prior to Valentine’s Day. Donations can be dropped off at the front doors of St. Joseph Church in Olney or to Sondra Geiger at Blank’s Insurance Agency at 515 S. Whittle Ave. If you have questions or would prefer your items to be picked up, please call Sondra Geiger (618-843-8532).

Let us remember; 1 Corinthians 13:13 “And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.”

“**Thank you** to all the parishioners who donated to the Giving Tree. Our families are very appreciative for your gifts, saying their

Christmas would have been very meager without your generosity! The joy on the children’s faces was heartwarming. Also thank you to all who helped transport the gifts to my car.”

- *Sincerely, Rose Ann Schwartz*

Can you help? We are in need of someone to assist at the upcoming American Red Cross blood drives. You would be responsible in helping the Red Cross workers to enter the building and also lock up the building when finished, help to check in people at the door, and help pass out the snacks. Thanks to Stacey Steber, who will still be responsible for arranging the blood drive dates and times. The next blood drive dates are on February 16 and May 25. If we do not find someone to assist, we will not be able to hold blood drives here any longer. Please contact Stacey Steber (618-843-6780) to volunteer or for more information.

Respect Life Corner: 9 Days for Life (January 19-27) is a novena for the protection of human life. Each day’s intention is accompanied by a short reflection and suggested actions to help build a culture of life. Participants can receive the novena by subscribing to daily emails or text messages. Visit: 9DAYSFORLIFE.COM (A printable version is also available online.)

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

Deepest sympathy to the family of Dorothy Helen Behrman. She is the mother of Gary Behrman, who served here as Parochial Vicar.

~ KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS NEWS ~

Thursday, January 19: 4th Degree meeting, 7:30PM.

Sunday, January 29: K of C led Rosary, 7:40AM before Mass.

* Volunteer Ministry at 8 AM Mass at St. Joseph-Olney, followed by a fellowship family breakfast at a local restaurant.

Upcoming Events: K of C Free Throw Competition with Regionals and State Competition for the winners in Effingham. Also Spelling Bee tentatively in February.

St. Joseph Church
208 South Elliott St.
Olney, Illinois 62450



‘Renewing the Vision’
Sunday, January 15, 2023
2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

~ 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
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Jeffrey Rosenberg Trustee
Elliot Brazil..... Trustee

Pastoral Council: Kurt Ginder, Jane Kocher, Wayne Kocher, Cathy McDowell, Vicki Stuckey, Matthew Zuber

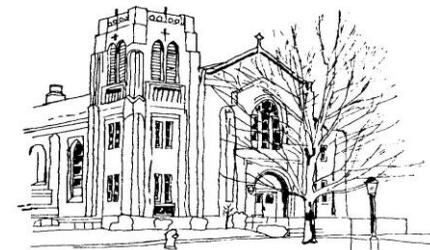
~ Sacraments ~

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
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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*)