

Collection Total for January 8, 2023

Envelopes: \$1790.00
Loose: \$46.00
Total: \$1836.00

Weekly Amount Needed: \$1,400.00

Religious Edu: \$90.00 (3)
First Offering: \$40.00 (8)
Christmas Offering: \$75.00 (2)
Building Fund: \$100.00 (3)

January Bulletins: Bartley C. Zuber Attorney at Law

January Missalettes: For the Parish

-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

St. Joseph Stringtown Mass Intention book for 2023, January through June, will be open beginning Thursday, Dec. 22. (Requests for mass intentions will be accepted for first 6 months). A Mass may be offered for the repose of the soul of someone who has died, on the occasion of an anniversary, or some special need.

St. Joseph church in Stringtown will be saying the Rosary every Sunday morning before Mass starting at 7:35am. Everyone is invited to come early and participate. Prayers are powerful and much needed in our world today. Also, If you

would like to help by leading the Rosary please sign up in the back of the church.

A big thank you to all CYM members, their families and other parishioners who helped decorate the church for the Christmas Season. You did a beautiful job! Thanks also to all who helped clean up and put decorations away. Your help was greatly appreciated.

PARISH EVENTS:

Sunday, January 15, 10:00am, CYM assisting at Holy Cross-Wendelin Mass

10:00am, Baptism at Mass, Holy Cross-Wendelin

11:00am, Baptism at Holy Cross-Wendelin

Monday, January 16, PARISH OFFICES CLOSED in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Tuesday, January 17, 5:30pm, Adult Faith Formation "The Eucharist" at St. Lawrence-Lawrenceville

Sunday, January 22, 6:00pm, Euchre Tournament at Holy Cross-Wendelin

Tuesday, January 25, 5:30pm, Adult Faith Formation "The Eucharist" at St. Lawrence-Lawrenceville

CYM SPAGHETTI LUNCH

Sunday, February 19th from 10:30-12:30 at the Holy Cross Parish Center. Spaghetti, breadsticks, salad and desserts. Donations only. Also will have a basket/ dessert raffle. EVERYONE WELCOME!

New Year- New Book Study begins...

Come and join the Sisters in Christ group as we begin a new book study:

The Heart of Perfection: How the Saints Taught Me to Trade My Dream of Perfect for God's by Colleen Carroll Campbell.

This is a well-written book for any—and this is no small number today—whose lives feel too pressured, who feel that no matter how hard they try, they can never measure up to what God expects. Mrs. Campbell, with a rich blend of personal experience and the witness of the saints, real saints, with real lives and struggles like our own, points the way to freedom from a burden that God never wanted us to carry. If you feel that you

work hard . . . but always come up short in God's eyes, this is the book for you.
-- Timothy M. Gallagher, OMV, author of *The Discernment of Spirits: An Ignatian Guide to Everyday Living*

If you are interested contact Kristi Sandschafer, or Caroline Trimble.

We will meet on Wed. Jan 18, at 5:30 p.m. -this is an 8 week study.

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 (lamb was 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.

FROM FR. MARK

Wednesday, January 18, begins the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. For over 100 years, in which 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.

ST. JOSEPH OLNEY SCHOOL NEWS:

Mark your calendars: VFW Spaghetti Dinner to benefit our 8th grade activities - Sunday, January 29th serving from 11 am - 1 pm. Join us!

Catholic Schools Week is quickly approaching. We will celebrate our Alumni mass on Wednesday, February 1st. 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!

Monday, January 16th - No School in celebration of Dr. Martin Luther, King, Jr. Day

THE STATE OF ILLINOIS PROGRAMS ARE AVAILABLE FOR ALL RESIDENTS OF ILLINOIS AND YOU CAN SPECIFY WHICH NON-PUBLIC SCHOOL YOU WOULD LIKE TO DESIGNATE. (i.e St. Joseph School in Olney, or St. Thomas the Apostle School in Newton)

If you want to reduce your IL state tax burden and support the school, you can learn more about Empower IL to provide much-needed scholarships.

Tax credits for 2023 can be reserved today by following these easy steps:

1. Log on to mytax.illinois.gov.
2. Click on “View More Account Options.”
3. Click on “Contribute to Invest in Kids” under Account Options.
4. Click the checkbox to certify you are taking a state tax credit and click “Next.”
5. Check "Invest in Kids Region" and click the blue “Next” button in the bottom right corner.
6. Complete the requested information, including selecting Empower Illinois as your Scholarship Granting Organization, and click “Submit”
7. Check your inbox for an email from the Illinois Department of Revenue with a PDF of your tax credit.
8. Visit the Empower Illinois website where our donation wizard will help you through the remaining steps.

Families who want to apply for Empower IL scholarships to attend St. Joseph School or St. Thomas the Apostle School in Newton can go to empowerillinois.org to reserve a scholarship - starting January 18th at 7 pm.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS:

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

Sunday, January 29: Volunteer Ministry at 8AM Mass, St. Joe, Olney. A fellowship family breakfast to follow at a local restaurant.

K of C Led Rosary at 7:40AM, before the 8AM Mass. K of C Free throw Competition with Regionals and State Competition for the winners in Effingham. Also Spelling Bee tentatively in February.

Remember in our prayers...

Carolyn Zuber, Ed Ginder, Rick Rennier, Carolyn Elie

**Sunday January 15, 2023
Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
+Eucharistic Celebrations+**

- Monday, January 16, NO MASS**
- Tuesday, January 17, 5:00pm** at St. Lawrence-Lawrenceville
- Wednesday, January 18, 8:00am** at St. Joseph-Olney
- Thursday, January 19, 6:30pm**, at Holy Cross-Wendelin
- Friday, January 20, NO MASS**
- Saturday, January 21, 4:00pm**, at Holy Cross-Wendelin
- 5:00pm**, at St. Joseph-Olney
- Sunday January 22, 8:00am** at St. Joseph-Olney
- 8:00am at St. Joseph-Stringtown “Pike, Mary & Janel Ginder+, Nadine Zwilling+”**
- 10:00am** at St. Lawrence-Lawrenceville
- 10:00am** at Holy Cross-Wendelin

MINISTERS LIST

<u>01/15/2023</u>	<u>01/22/2023</u>
<u>Servers:</u> Grayson Sterchi Jared Weidner	<u>Servers:</u> Natalie Zwilling Nathaniel Zwilling
<u>Lector:</u> Beth Kocher	<u>Lector:</u> Gary Zwilling
<u>Eucharist Minister:</u> Lisa Boehl	<u>Eucharist Minister:</u> Jenny Hancock
<u>Gifts:</u> Paul & Ellen Steber Family	<u>Gifts:</u> Kerrie Zwilling
<u>Ushers:</u> Werner Kocher Brian Ochs	<u>Ushers:</u> Elmer Ochs Lester Zuber
<u>Greeters:</u> Jean, Mona, & Gary Kocher	<u>Greeters:</u> Doug & Lora Kocher

**St. Joseph Church
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Savannah Lenear.....Administrative Assistant
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Parish Office Hours: Tues. & Thur. 9:00am-3:00pm