

**Collection Total for December 25, 2022**

Envelopes: \$210.00  
Loose: \$441.00  
**Total: \$651.00**

Weekly Amount Needed: \$1,400.00

Retired Religious: \$75.00 (3)  
Christmas Offering: \$5230.00 (37)  
For the Needy: \$125.00 (7)

**Total deposit: \$6081.00**

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**January Bulletins:** Bartley C. Zuber Attorney at Law

**January Missalettes:** For the Parish

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**-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 stjoholycross 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.

**ASAP Prayer Group will continue** meeting every Tuesday at 9:30am to say the rosary and have fellowship. Everyone is invited to participate. Questions call Janette Kocher 843-1650

**PARISH EVENTS:**

**Monday, January 2, PARISH OFFICES CLOSED**

**Thursday, January 5, 11:00pm** Gary Butler Funeral Service at Holy Cross-Wendelin

**Friday, January 6, 8:00am,** First Friday Mass and Communion Visitations

1:30pm, Personnel Board at Chancery Office-Belleville

**Monday, January 9, 10:00am,** College of Consultor Meeting in Belleville

11:00am, Presbyterial Council Meeting-Belleville

**Tuesday, January 10, 5:30pm,** Finance Meeting at St. Lawrence-Lawrenceville

6:00pm, Adult Faith Formation at St. Lawrence-Lawrenceville

**Wednesday, January 11, 6:30pm,** Family Catechesis at Holy Cross-Wendelin

**Thursday, January 12, 7:15pm,** Finance Meeting at Holy Cross-Wendelin

**Friday, January 13, 12:00pm (Noon),** Finance Meeting at St. Joseph-Olney

7:00pm, Euchre Tournament at Holy Cross-Wendelin

**ADULT FAITH FORMATION AT ST. LAWRENCE-LAWRENCEVILLE**

starting on Tuesday, January 10 following the 5:00pm mass: For many Catholics today, the Eucharist is merely a symbol of Christ, and the Mass is merely a collectivity of like-minded individuals gathering to remember his life. But the truth of what is made present on the altar, and what the faithful dare to receive into their bodies and souls, is far more strange and beautiful.

We will spend the next 6 weeks viewing and discussing Bishop Robert Barron reintroduction to the ancient meaning and power of the Eucharist. Through a threefold analysis of the Eucharist as sacred meal, sacrifice, and Real Presence—distinct but tightly interwoven motifs grounded in Scripture—Bishop

Barron draws readers into the profound truth flowing out of Jesus’ words at the Last Supper: “Take, eat; this is my body. . . . Drink from it, all of you; for this is my blood of the covenant.” We are not merely invited to remember Jesus or imitate his moral example; we are invited to the grace of

communion—and ultimately, to the realm of God—by eating and drinking the very self that he offers in sacrifice.

**JOURNEY ONWARD YE SOJOURNERS**  
**CAROLINE TRIMBLE PASTORAL ASSOCIATE**

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, pray for us! There is no place like home, and there is nothing like family. Those that are part of a family may not always be of the same last name, DNA, faith, or the same culture. There is family that is given and family that is chosen! The Holy Family is a perfect example- Mary was Immaculately Conceived, Joseph is the foster Father, and Jesus was of a Divine Conception. Make no mistake, they were family, they loved each other, laughed, cried, supported, and shared the journey no matter the obstacles. What a family shares - in season or out of season - is the priceless gift of Holy Love. Family is a precious and priceless gift, spend time loving your family and bring that Holy Love of the Holy Family into yours. Call it a clan, call it a network, call it a tribe, call it a family: Whatever you call it, whoever you are, you need one. Journey onward this New Year with the Holy Love of Family. A Joyous New Year to you and all your loves!  
Keep to the J.O.Y.S.

**FROM FR. MARK**

Today, January 1, we gather to remember the Blessed Virgin, on this Solemnity of Mary, The Mother of God, we learn in Genesis that man and woman are commanded to multiply and fill the Earth (see 1:28). We also know that the fall of man brings about pain and suffering in childbirth (see Gen 3:16). The Bible’s first book reveals to us two facts here: that childbearing is part of God’s original plan, but that the fall has twisted this plan, and has had an effect on how childbearing takes place. The fathers of the Church talk about how procreation, while still a good, takes on a different reality because of the fall. It is clear from the biblical evidence that something changed in light of the fall, for the fall affected all of creation, including the body.

The virginity of Mary, then — because Mary is without sin — reveals something to us in her

motherhood about what procreation and childbearing would have been like prior to the fall. This is still mysterious, and, looking at this through our own fallenness, we can struggle to see the reality clearly. But the perpetual virginity of Mary is meant to reveal something about why we were originally created. Since Mary is without sin, the effects of the fall do not affect her in the bearing of Jesus. Since her Immaculate Conception brings about her salvation, she is bearing in herself the effects of the Cross in time prior to its historical enacting. Mary is already redeemed in her conception, and so the effect of sin that affects all generations does not affect her. Her perpetual virginity is a sign of the victory of her Son and is a witness to the salvific efficacy of the Cross and Resurrection. Her virginity is the sign of the new creation, which is a fulfillment of the old represented in Adam and Eve. Thus, a new form of love is possible through Christ and embodied in Mary.

The doctrine of Mary’s perpetual virginity extends to her role and mission as regards the universal Church. By being the perpetual virgin — which is a sign of a universal love that is not exclusive but rather inclusive, Mary embraces the whole Church as her children just as she embraces her Son, of whose body we are members. The whole point of virginal love is to love with a full vision, to say that Christ’s way is the exclusive way by which life is to be lived. Mary’s perpetual virginity is a sign of our destiny where we are neither married nor given in marriage (cf Mt 22:30). Mary’s exclusivity makes her love universal, and is a sign of the universal love of Jesus to which she always says “yes.” By embracing her Son, she embraces the members of his Body, the Church. This perpetual virginity, therefore, points to her motherhood of the Church, as well as is a sign that she is always “giving birth” to Christ who is to be formed in us (see Gal 4:19). Her virginity is a constant openness to God in the Holy Spirit, a constant giving birth, and a constant love that cares for each one of us. Mary’s perpetual virginity is not a reduction of her sexuality, then, but is rather the fullest expression of love whereby she can love all people with an openness that has no limits.

**On behalf of Fr. Felix and myself as well as the parish Staff, We wish you a HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

**ST. JOSEPH OLNEY SCHOOL NEWS:**

Tuesday, January 3rd - Staff and students return  
 Friday, January 6th - Sunday, January 8th - Girls Diocesan Basketball Tournament

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS:**

Thursday January 12: 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree meeting, 7PM.  
 Thursday, January 19: 4<sup>th</sup> Degree meeting, 7:30PM.

Kudos to our Sister Parishes for all donations and volunteer hours for the 2022 Tootsie Roll Charity Drive for Intellectual Disabilities with total donations of \$4, 283. 84!

No local winners in the Belleville Keeping Christ in Christmas Poster contest. See this week's Messenger for the poster winners. This year there were approximately 800 entries in the five age divisions. Belleville winners will now advance to be judged at the State level.

**Parishioners and K of C members:** Do you know a male Practical Catholic aged 18 and over interested in joining as a Knights of Columbus member? The membership video is 26 minutes. Contact Hank Ginder for more information; 6188433016 or email hnginder76@hotmail.com

**Remember in our prayers...**

Carolyn Zuber, Ed Ginder, Rick Rennier, Carolyn Elie

**Sunday January 1, 2023  
 Solemnity of Mary, The Holy  
 Mother of God**

**+Eucharistic Celebrations+**

**Monday, January 2, NO MASS**  
**Tuesday, January 3, NO MASS**  
**Wednesday, January 4, 8:00am at St. Joseph-Olney**  
**Thursday, January 5, 6:30pm, at Holy Cross-Wendelin**  
**Friday, January 6, 8:00am at St. Joseph-Olney**  
**Saturday, January 7, 4:00pm, at Holy Cross-Wendelin**  
 5:00pm, at St. Joseph-Olney  
**Sunday January 8, 8:00am at St. Joseph-Olney**  
**8:00am at St. Joseph-Stringtown "Elmer & Elfreida Zwilling+, Kathy Zuber"**  
 10:00am at St. Lawrence-Lawrenceville  
 10:00am at Holy Cross-Wendelin  
**Monday, January 9, NO MASS**

**MINISTERS LIST**

<b><u>01/01/2023</u></b>	<b><u>01/08/2023</u></b>
<b><u>Servers:</u></b> Carter Seamen Julian Seamen	<b><u>Servers:</u></b> Annabelle Seiler Sadie Seiler
<b><u>Lector:</u></b> Owen Kocher	<b><u>Lector:</u></b> Hank Ginder
<b><u>Eucharist Minister:</u></b> Elmer Ochs	<b><u>Eucharist Minister:</u></b> Scott Seiler
<b><u>Gifts:</u></b> Jean & Gary Kocher	<b><u>Gifts:</u></b> Tom & Kathy Kocher
<b><u>Ushers:</u></b> Harold Boehl Jared Boehl	<b><u>Ushers:</u></b> Gary Kocher Tom Kocher
<b><u>Greeters:</u></b> Gary & Beth Kocher Family	<b><u>Greeters:</u></b> Werner & Janette Kocher

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



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 E-mail..... [mstec88@msn.com](mailto:mstec88@msn.com)

**Reverend Felix Chukwuma..... Pastor**  
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**Savannah Lenear.....Administrative Assistant**  
 Office phone .....618-754-3676  
 E-mail.....[stjoestringtown@hotmail.com](mailto:stjoestringtown@hotmail.com)  
 Parish Office Hours: Tues. & Thur. 9:00am-3:00pm