

Collection Total for December 11, 2022

Envelopes: \$1095.00
Loose: \$57.00
Total: \$1152.00

Weekly Amount Needed: \$1,400.00

Building Fund Donations: \$20.00 (1)
Retired Religious: \$120.00 (7)
Christmas Flower Offering: \$100.00 (4)
Immaculate Conception: \$95.00 (6)
Christmas Offering: \$100.00 (4)

December Bulletins: Bill & Kathy Zuber
December Missalettes: Bartley C. Zuber Attorney at Law

-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:

Sunday, December 18, 1:00pm to 4:00pm, Stained Glass Window Tour, showcasing 12 Lawrence County Churches including St. Lawrence.

Monday, December 19, 6:00pm, Advent Reconciliation at St. Stephen-Flora

Tuesday, December 20, 5:30pm to 7:00pm, Advent Reconciliation at St. Lawrence-Lawrenceville

7:00pm, Advent Reconciliation at St. Mary-Mt. Carmel

Thursday, December 22, 12:00pm (Noon), PARISH OFFICES CLOSED FOR CHRISTMAS

Friday, December 23, PARISH OFFICES CLOSED

Saturday, December 24, CHRISTMAS EVE

Sunday, December 25, CHRISTMAS DAY

Monday, December 26, PARISH OFFICES CLOSED

Friday, December 30, PARISH OFFICES CLOSED

Saturday, December 31, Vigil of Mary the Mother of God (New Year's Eve)

4:00pm, Mass at Holy Cross-Wendelin

5:00pm, Mass at St. Joseph-Olney

Sunday, January 1, SOLEMNITY OF MARY THE MOTHER OF GOD (New Year's Day)

8:00am, Mass at St. Joseph-Stringtown

8:00am, Mass at St. Joseph-Olney

10:00am, Mass at St. Lawrence-Lawrenceville

10:00am, Mass at Holy Cross-Wendelin

Monday, January 2, PARISH OFFICES CLOSED

(Reconciliation is available every Saturday prior to mass: 3:15 to 3:45pm at Holy Cross-Wendelin and 4:15 to 4:45pm at St. Joseph-Olney)

Christmas Choir Practices:

Tuesday, December 20 and Thursday, December 22

Dear Friends in Christ,

As we celebrate the Nativity of our Lord, I think of the words St. John wrote in one of his epistles: "we have come to know and believe in the love God has for us." My sincere prayer for the people of our diocese is that as we celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus, each of us comes to know and believe more deeply in the love God has for us. May this Christmas be filled with a spirit of kindness and

compassion and may you, your families and loved ones be filled with the peace of Christ in the New Year.

**Sincerely yours in Christ,
Bishop Michael McGovern**

JOURNEY ONWARD YE SOJOURNERS

CAROLINE TRIMBLE PASTORAL ASSOCIATE

The Advent season of waiting and anticipating brings us to the last purple candle of Peace. May these remaining days of journeying towards the babe in the manger be one of *Hope, Love, Joy and Peace* in your heart and homes. Our Blessed Mother shows us the way to Jesus in every season, so let her show you what Peace on Earth really looks like. Join, our Mother and say "*Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.*" There is a Joy in the journey and Mary leads the way... Keep to the J.O.Y.S

FROM FR. MARK

The "O" Antiphons

There are seven short verses sung before the Magnificat during Evening Prayer of the Church on the seven days before the vigil of Christmas. They each begin with the exclamation "O". Each of them ends with a plea for the Messiah to come. As Christmas approaches the cry becomes more urgent.

The antiphons were composed in the seventh or eighth century when monks put together texts from the Old Testament which looked forward to the coming of our salvation. They form a rich mosaic of scriptural images. These seven verses, or antiphons as they are called, appear to be the originals although from time to time other texts were used. They became very popular in the Middle Ages. While the monastic choirs sang the antiphons the great bells of the church were rung.

A curious feature of these antiphons is that the first letter of each invocation may be taken from the Latin to form an acrostic in reverse.

So the first letters of Sapientia, Adonai, Radix, Clavis, Oriens, Rex, and Emmanuel, provide the Latin words: ERO CRAS, The phrase spells out the

response of Christ himself to the heartfelt prayer of his people: "Tomorrow I will be there".

Why not join with the Prayer of the Church each evening and reflect on these words preparing for Christmas day by day:

O Sapientia - December 17th: O Wisdom, you come forth from the mouth of the Most High. You fill the universe and hold all things together in a strong yet gentle manner. O come to teach us the way of truth.

O Adonai - December 18th: O Adonai and leader of Israel, you appeared to Moses in a burning bush and you gave him the Law on Sinai. O come and save us with your mighty power.

O Radix Jesse - December 19th: O stock of Jesse, you stand as a signal for the nations; kings fall silent before you whom the peoples acclaim. O come to deliver us, and do not delay.

O Clavis David - December 20th: O key of David and scepter of Israel, what you open no one else can close again; what you close no one can open. O come to lead the captive from prison; free those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death.

O Oriens - December 21st: O Rising Sun, you are the splendor of eternal light and the sun of justice. O come and enlighten those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death.

O Rex Gentium - December 22nd: O King whom all the peoples desire, you are the cornerstone which makes all one. O come and save man whom you made from clay.

O Emmanuel - December 23rd: O Emmanuel, you are our king and judge, the One whom the peoples await and their Savior. O come and save us, Lord, our God.

ST. JOSEPH OLNEY SCHOOL NEWS:

Thanks to Mischelle and Riley Doll for organizing and running Santa's Workshop again this year! Thanks to the many helpers who made the shopping days a tremendous success.

During our Annual Giving Campaign, we occasionally miss donors on our final list. The school wants to recognize Tom and Susan Murray and Paul and Carole Wirth for their gifts to our annual giving campaign. We apologize for missing their names in our final report.

Wednesday, December 21st - K-4 Christmas

Program in the Gymnasium at 1 pm

Early dismissal 1:50 pm

No School for St. Joseph School Students from

December 22nd - January 2nd

The Children's Liturgy Committee will not offer 8 am Children's Liturgy Christmas Morning (December 25th) or New Year's Day (January 1st). We will see your children again on January 8th.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS:

Sunday, December 25: K of C Led Rosary, 7:40AM, before the Olney St. Joe Mass.

There were no local winners to the Vocational Raffle. Kudos to our local parishes with 88 books sold! Local monies will be presented to our local Seminarian, Ben Baker.

Family of the Month – Steve and Donna Kuenstler-Christmas Dinner hosts!

Knight of the Month – Mike Ginder – Vocation Raffle Chairman.

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

CHRISTMAS DAY, December 25th Ministers List

Servers: Natalie & Mitchell Ochs

Lector: Laura Sterchi

Eucharist Minister: Beth Kocher

Gifts: Gary & Dorothy Zwilling

Ushers: Lester Zuber, Luke Seiler

Greeters: Gary & Beth Kocher Family

Sunday December 18, 2022

Fourth Sunday of Advent

+Eucharistic Celebrations+

Monday, December 19, 6:30pm, at St. Joseph-Stringtown "Fr. Roger Scheonhofen, OMI+, Kathy Zuber+"

Tuesday, December 20, 5:00pm at St. Lawrence-Lawrenceville

Wednesday, December 21, 8:00am at St. Joseph-Olney

Thursday, December 22, NO MASS

Friday, December 23, NO MASS

Saturday, December 24, CHRISTMAS EVE

4:00pm at St. Joseph-Olney

4:00pm at St. Lawrence-Lawrenceville

6:00pm at Holy Cross-Wendelin

8:00pm at St. Joseph-Olney

10:00pm at St. Joseph-Stringtown "For the Parish"

Sunday, December 25, CHRISTMAS DAY

8:00am at St. Joseph-Olney

8:00am at St. Joseph-Stringtown "For the Parish"

10:00am at St. Lawrence-Lawrenceville

10:00am at Holy Cross-Wendelin

MINISTERS LIST

12/18/2022

Servers:

Julian Seaman

Carter Seaman

Lector:

Gary Zwilling

Eucharist Minister:

Harold Boehl

Gifts:

Werner & Janette Kocher

Ushers:

Brian Ochs

Doug Kocher

Greeters:

Owen Kocher

Natalie Zwilling

12/24/2022

Servers:

Natalie Zwilling

Nathaniel Zwilling

Jared Zwilling

Lector:

Hank Ginder

Eucharist Minister:

Jamie Kocher

Gifts:

Jim & Thelma Muhs

Ushers:

Ray Schneider

Brian Ochs

Greeters:

Elmer & Mary Ochs

**St. Joseph Church
In Stringtown Illinois
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Fr. Mark's Cell..... 618-841-7324
E-mail..... mstec88@msn.com

Reverend Felix Chukwuma..... Pastor
Fr. Felix's Cell..... 618-671-0641
E-mail..... chibuchuma@yahoo.com

Caroline Trimble..... Pastoral Associate
Caroline's Cell..... 618-263-7106
E-mail..... CtrimblePA@gmail.com

Savannah Lenear.....Administrative Assistant
Office phone618-754-3676
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Parish Office Hours: Tues. & Thur. 9:00am-3:00pm

