

Sunday, December 25, 2022
The Nativity of the Lord

† *Eucharistic Celebrations* †

- Mon. Dec. 26 No Mass
Tue. Dec. 27 5:00 PM (at Lawrenceville)
Wed. Dec. 28 8:05 am For the Parish
Thu. Dec. 29 6:30 PM (at Wendelin)
Fri. Dec. 30 No Mass
Sat. Dec. 31 4:00 PM (at Lawrenceville)
5:00 PM Jim & Mary Steber,
Norman & Joseph
Zwilling
Sun. Jan. 1 8:00 am For the Parish
8:00 am (at Stringtown)
10:00 am (at Wendelin)
10:00 am (at Lawrenceville)

OUR MONTHLY SPONSORS

Bulletins: Illini Builders
Missalettes: Kistler-Patterson Funeral Homes

OUR TITHES FOR DECEMBER 18

Parish Operating Expense per Week = \$9,847.00
Envelopes: \$18,799 (89) Loose: \$187
Guatemala: 90 (4) Flowers: \$285 (9)
Retired Religious: \$210 (5)

*** AROUND OUR PARISHES ***

Monday, December 26

- **The Parish Office is closed.**

Tuesday, December 27

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

Wednesday, December 28

- **Rosary after Mass.**
- **9 AM- 11AM, Good Samaritan.**

Thursday, December 29

- **12 PM (Noon), Parish Office is closed.**

Friday, December 30

- **The Parish Office is closed.**
- **9 AM- 11AM, Good Samaritan.**

Saturday, December 31 - New Year's Eve

- Vigil of Mary, the Mother of God

Sunday, January 1 - New Year's Day

- Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God

Monday, January 2

- **The Parish Office is closed.**

Friday, January 6

- **8 AM, First Friday Mass and Communion Visitations**
- 1:30 PM, Personnel Board at Chancery Office-Belleville

 **St. Joseph School Notes** 

December 26 - January 2

- No School.

Tuesday, January 3

- Teachers and students return.

* Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the Faculty at St. Joseph School!

* Congratulations to our alumni who were named IL State Scholars: Abigail Atwood, Chloe McKinney, Mallory Miller, Sophia Ranes, and Cody Fulk! We are proud of you.

* The Children's Liturgy Committee will not offer 8AM Children's Liturgy on New Year's Day (January 1). We will see your children again on January 8.

* 2023 Benefit Calendars are here. The price is \$20. Total payout is \$8,500. Calendars are for sale at the School Office, the Parish Office or by calling Jeffrey Rosenberg (618-302-0391).

CALENDAR WINNERS - \$25

December 12: Robin West (#198)
December 13: Michael Zwilling (#139)
December 14: Dennis Carlton (#644)
December 15: Karise Roberson (#802)
December 16: Cameron Ballard (#115)

Let Us Pray For: Janet David, Angela Geltz, Elizabeth and Frank Ginder; Justin, Ember, Olivia Faith and Sophia Hope Kabbes; Sarah Kocher, Darrell Kuhl, Garry Maris, Cathy McDowell, Avery McKinney, Emery and Julie Oesch, Debbie Rauch, Janice Rowark, Kay Rowark, Lynden Spieth, Eleanor Steber, Brenda Summers, Jim Wattles, Camden Weston, Clara Wilson and Jim Zwilling.

FROM FR. MARK:

“The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light” (Isa. 9:1). In the darkness of the night or the darkness that many face due to suffering both human made, and nature made, which engulfs us Christ is our light. It’s time for us to pause and see this Light and feel its warmth. As we celebrate Christmas Masses as one big parish family, may the light of Christ illumine your ways and fill your homes.

All the readings for all the various Christmas liturgies proclaim the same mystery: The Incarnation. God not only authors life and sustains it, He chooses to become one of us. Whatever the circumstances of your life right now; grief or joy, struggle or success, faith or doubt, love or betrayal, Jesus has lived it himself, and he longs to live it with you. Allow Him to enter into your moments and give you the life for which you were created.

I would like to thank each and every one of you for your commitment to our parish this past year. The giving of your time, talent and treasure to the Lord continues to reflect God’s presence in our community. I would also like

to extend my gratitude to all the volunteers who have worked so hard to make our Christmas celebrations truly wonderful. Additionally, a special thank you to our staff and the devoted members of the various ministries in our parishes and especially to those few who work quietly, behind the scenes all the time to make our parish vibrant.

My Christmas message this year is to challenge all of us to become more involved. It is not so much a question of giving more; it is a question of giving more of ourselves. Moreover, that’s what God did when he entered our world at the first Christmas. God will fill us with His peace if there is room for Him in our lives.

In closing, my only prayer today, that you, your family and homes be filled with the Blessings of Peace, Joy and Love. At the same time, I thank you all, most sincerely for your thoughtful prayers, inspiring Christmas greetings and priceless gifts. May all my dear parishioners be over shadowed with the mighty and powerful blessings of the Baby Jesus...the Emmanuel.

Merry Christmas! On behalf of Fr. Felix and myself as well as the parish staff, I sincerely hope that the remembrance of Christ’s birth brings you much peace and hope.

Journey Onward Ye Sojourners
Caroline Trimble Pastoral Associate

Merry Christmas to you and yours!
May the love of the Holy Family
Jesus+Mary+Joseph-
fill your hearts and homes.

A Blessed New Year to you and keep to the
journey- the Kingdom awaits!
Keep to the J.O.Y.S

The family of Ed Weiler would like to thank everyone for all the prayers and many acts of kindness during this difficult time. All are appreciated more than words can express. Thank you to the ladies of the parish who prepared and served the delicious meal. May God bless all of you!

We are now accepting mass intentions through June 30, 2023. Up to three first names with the same last name (i.e., John, Paul and Mary Smith) or two last names only (i.e., Scott and Smith Families) will be allowed per intention. We can accept up to three Mass offerings per mass.

“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*

**2022 Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal
Go and do likewise... - Luke 10:37**

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. – *From Bishop Michael McGovern and Ministries and Programs Funded by The Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal*

Respect Life Corner: “The infant Christ ‘came into our world in a state of great vulnerability. He needed to be defended, protected, cared for and raised by Joseph’ (PC 5). The humble and often hidden carpenter of Nazareth accompanied Mary in her pregnancy, assisted at the birth of the Messiah in a stable, presented Jesus in the Temple, fled with his family far from their homeland to protect them, and lovingly raised Jesus as his own son in the years to come... Joseph’s devotion helps reveal to us our own call to show special care for the lives of those whom God has entrusted to us.”

*- USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities
Respect Life Reflection: St. Joseph,
Defender of Life*

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



‘Renewing the Vision’
Sunday, December 25, 2022
The Nativity of the Lord

~ 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
Fr. Mark’s Cell618-841-7324
E-mail..... mstec88@msn.com

Reverend Felix Chukwuma Pastor
Fr. Felix’s Cell618-671-0641
E-mail..... chibuchuma@yahoo.com

Caroline Trimble Pastoral Associate
Caroline’s Cell618-263-7106
E-mail..... CtrimblePA@gmail.com

Kim Kocher Administrative Assistant
Parish Office..... 392-8181
E-mail..... stjosephchurch_olney@yahoo.com

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

E-mail..... office@stjoeolney.com

Websitewww.stjoeolney.com

FAX..... 395-8500

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*)