

Collection Total for November 27, 2022

Envelopes: \$755.00

Loose: \$23.00

Total: \$778.00

Weekly Amount Needed: \$1,400.00

Building Fund Donations: \$30.00 (2)

Human Development: \$5.00 (2)

Christmas Flower Offering: \$30.00 (2)

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 stjoeholycross to 84576 to get connected

BULLETIN NEWS: Deadline Wednesday 2:00PM

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

Christmas Choir Practices:

Will be held from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm on the following dates. Please watch the bulletin and Facebook for updates, we may change a couple of the Sunday times to after Mass instead of 6:30 pm due to other possible parish events. You do not need to attend all the practices to participate. Contact Donna Zwilling if you have any questions. 618-754-3049

Sunday, December 4 Tuesday, December 6

Sunday, December 11 Wednesday, December 14

Tuesday, December 20 Thursday, December 22

PARISH EVENTS:

Monday, December 5, 1:00pm to 5:00pm, Blood

Drive at Holy Cross-Wendelin

Wednesday, December 7, 6:30pm Family

Catechesis/Refreshments with Santa at Holy Cross-Wendelin

Friday, December 9, 12:00pm (Noon), Finance

Council at St. Joseph-Olney

Saturday, December 10, 4:00pm to 6:30pm,

Cookie Walk at St.3 Joseph-Olney

Sunday, December 11, 7:00am to 10:00am, Cookie

Walk at St. Joseph-Olney

Monday, December 12, 6:30pm Mass and

Eucharistic Adoration at St. Joseph-Stringtown

Tuesday, December 13, 8:30am to 11:00am,

Advent Reconciliation at St. Joseph-Olney

Wednesday, December 14, 8:30am to 11:00am,

Advent Reconciliation at St. Joseph-Olney

6:00pm to 8:00pm, Advent Reconciliation at St.

Joseph-Olney

Thursday, December 15, 5:00pm to 6:30pm,

Advent Reconciliation at Holy Cross-Wendelin

Tuesday, December 20, 5:30pm to 7:00pm,

Advent Reconciliation at St. Lawrence-

Lawrenceville

(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 MASSES:

Christmas Eve 4:00pm (with the School Children.)

at St. Joseph-Olney and 4:00pm at St. Lawrence-

Lawrenceville; 6:00pm at Holy Cross-Wendelin;

8:00pm at St. Joseph-Olney and **10:00pm at St.**

Joseph-Stringtown. On **Christmas Day, 8:00am at**

St. Joseph-Stringtown and St. Joseph-Olney as well

as 10:00am at St. Lawrence-Lawrenceville and Holy

Cross-Wendelin.

JOURNEY ONWARD YE SOJOURNERS

CAROLINE TRIMBLE PASTORAL ASSOCIATE

Prepare the way of the Lord! The second week of Advent finds us in the midst of planning, preparing, and purchasing. When we hear the words, Prepare

the way of the Lord, the planning, preparing, and purchasing, must be different from the seasonal festivities. The *Planning* is to set aside time to share conversation with the Lord, to give him time in the day and to keep welcoming him into your life more and more. The *Preparing* begins by spending time with God using his Sacred Word, praying your rosary, novena prayers, and to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The *Purchasing*, that was done for you long ago at Mount Calvary by Jesus' death upon a cross; you only need to open your heart and receive! Life a life of Love this Advent preparing your heart and soul for the Lord! *Prepare the way of the Lord!* Keep to the J.O.Y.S.

FROM FR. MARK

Thursday, December 8, we celebrate the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary. In 1858, a fourteen-year-old miller's daughter from a small Pyrenees town came upon a vision of Mary, who declared, "I am the Immaculate Conception." The apparition, later known as Our Lady of Lourdes, wasn't simply legitimizing a papal declaration from four years before. The event confirmed a belief that had evolved over centuries of prayer and reflection: the Blessed Virgin Mary was conceived and born without sin.

The term is often confused with the Virgin Birth of Jesus, which is quite understandable: the Immaculate Conception has a lot to do with the Virgin Birth, but the two aren't the same thing. The doctrine directly refers to Mary's conception and birth, her purpose and identity. It was God's way of preparing Mary to give birth to Jesus the Son of God and Savior of the world. First, "conception." Straightforward but vitally important. As used doctrinally, the word does literally mean her conception, the moment her parents (traditionally named Joachim and Anna) biologically conceived her as their offspring, exactly the same way every other human being has been conceived—except for Jesus. Mary is fully, truly, naturally human. She's one of us in every possible way.

"Immaculate" is the trickier part, but also the reason why we celebrate her conception at all. That Mary was conceived and born is obvious enough

from scripture, but you can't quote the chapter and verse that spells out plainly that she was conceived without sin, much less a precise description of what that means or entails. The closest we get is the angel Gabriel's "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you" (Luke 1:28) and "Blessed are you among women" from Mary's cousin Elizabeth (Luke 1:42) A good start, but needs a lot more explaining.

Mary of Nazareth was conceived, she was born, just like everyone else. She is one of us in every possible way. This means that the basics of the gospel are true for Mary as much as for anyone else. She needs God to "knit her together in her mother's womb" (Psalm 139:13), to make her life happen and to give it meaning. She also needs God to turn her from going "against God" to going "toward God": she needs her Son's sacrifice and death to destroy sin and His resurrection and ascension to bring her before our Creator. And she needs to be included in that work of salvation for her life to find meaning.

But she's the Mother of God: she has a necessary role in the events that make salvation possible for all, including herself. It's almost a chicken-egg situation: the basics of the gospel are true for everyone because they're true for Mary first, since she quite literally hatched the Divine egg—Jesus, her son! If the gospel proclaims the Word made Flesh, the Messiah who then suffered and rose again, then that gospel began with Mary as the source of that Word's very flesh. Jesus gets His humanity from Mary.

This insight led Christians to find ways of describing her role as the unique bodily recipient of God's saving presence. Their point of departure was her place in the story of the People of God, in Israel's journey with God. They were brought back to the beginning of Israel's story by Mary herself, who thanked God for remembering "his promise of mercy . . . to Abraham and his children forever" (Luke 1:54–55).

ST. JOSEPH OLNEY SCHOOL NEWS:

Please keep our second graders in your prayers as the students from St. Joseph, Olney, will receive their First Reconciliation Sunday, December 4th.

Please note the mass change for school next week - **Thursday, December 8th** - for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception.

Thursday, December 8th - Class Picture Retakes for K-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).

The 8th grade class will have an ethical trade sale after masses the weekend of December 10-11 in Meeting Room B of the MPR. Beautiful Christmas handicrafts from across the world will be available for purchase. All proceeds from the sale go back to the artisans who created them.

St. Joseph Church-Olney

The annual Cookie Walk will be held on December 10 from 4 PM – 7 PM and December 11 from 8 AM -10 AM in the multi-purpose room. You can either pick your own homemade cookies or purchase a pre-packaged tray. The cost is \$10 for 1½ dozen (choose your own), \$15 for 3 dozen pre-packaged regular tray, and \$20 for 4 dozen pre-packaged large tray (limited quantity). You can call or text ahead to reserve: (618) 599-5963. We are requesting cookie donations, and the cookies can be dropped off on December 9 in the multi-purpose room during school hours and on December 10 between 8 AM and 10AM. We will also have bagged noodles for sale (\$6). If you have any questions, please contact Sara Peavler (618) 599-5963.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS:

Sunday, December 4: Free Olney, Wendelin, Stringtown Council 1352 Member and Family Christmas Dinner, Olney St. Joe Multi Center, 5PM. Santa arrives after the meal.

Parishioners and K of C members: Do you know a male Practical (attending Mass) Catholic aged 18 and over interested in joining the Knights of Columbus? The dues are free for the remainder of this year. Contact Hank Ginder for more information at 6188433016 or email at hnginder76@hotmail.com.

Remember in our prayers...

Carolyn Zuber, Ed Ginder, Rick Rennier, Carolyn Elie



Sunday December 4, 2022
Second Sunday of Advent
+Eucharistic Celebrations+

Monday, December 5, 6:30pm, at St. Joseph-Stringtown "Rita Damm+, Anton & Catherine Volk+"

Tuesday, December 6, 5:00pm at St. Lawrence-Lawrenceville

Wednesday, December 7, 6:30pm at Holy Cross-Wendelin

6:30pm at St. Joseph-Stringtown "For the Parish"

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

5:00pm at St. Lawrence-Lawrenceville

Friday, December 9, NO MASS

Saturday, December 10, 4:00pm at Holy Cross-Wendelin

5:00pm at St. Joseph-Olney

Sunday, December 11, 8:00am at St. Joseph-Olney

8:00am at St. Joseph-Stringtown "Merl & Opal Schafer+, George Ochs+"

10:00am at St. Lawrence-Lawrenceville

10:00am at Holy Cross-Wendelin

MINISTERS LIST

12/04/2022

Servers:

Nathaniel Zwilling

Jared Zwilling

Lector:

Anita Seiler

Eucharist Minister:

Mary Ochs

Gifts:

Jim & Thelma Muhs

Ushers:

Harold Boehl

Jared Boehl

Greeters:

Jean, Mona & Gary

Kocher

12/11/2022

Servers:

Ian Kocher

Kaitlin Kocher

Lector:

Laura Sterchi

Eucharist Minister:

Beth Kocher

Gifts:

Elmer & Mary Ochs

Ushers:

Ray Schneider

Gary Kocher

Greeters:

Doug & Lora Kocher

St. Joseph Church
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Very Rev. Fr. Mark Stec, V.F..... Pastor

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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

E-mail.....stjoestringtown@hotmail.com

Parish Office Hours: Tues. & Thur. 9:00am-3:00pm