

**Collection Total for December 10, 2023**

Envelopes: \$1,675.00 (31)  
Loose: \$107.00  
**Total: \$1,782.00**

Weekly Amount Needed: \$1,400.00

**Building Fund: \$20.00 (1)**  
**Religious Education: \$20.00 (1)**  
**Christmas Flower: \$40.00 (2)**  
**Immaculate Conception Offering: \$145.00 (7)**  
**Retired Priests: \$232.00 (10)**

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**December Bulletins: Bartley C. Zuber, Attorney at Law**

**December Missalettes: For the Parish**

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**SIGN-UP FOR CHRISTMAS MINISTRIES:**

There is a sign-up sheet in church for anyone willing to sign up for ministries for Midnight Mass on December 25<sup>th</sup>. Thank you!

**CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE:**

**Christmas Eve: Sunday, December 24, 2023**

4pm at St. Joseph-Olney  
4pm at Holy Cross Wendelin  
8pm at St. Lawrence-Lawrenceville

**Christmas Day: Monday, December 25, 2023**

12am at St. Joseph-Stringtown  
8am at St. Joseph Olney  
8am at St Lawrence-Lawrenceville

**PARISH EVENTS:**

**Tuesday, December 19 – ASAP Prayer Service and Adoration at St. Joseph-Stringtown, 9:30am and Stringtown Study, 10am**

**Wednesday, December 20 – Sister’s in Christ at Holy Cross-Wendelin, 5:30pm**

**Thursday, December 21 – Brothers in Christ at Holy Cross-Wendelin, 7pm**

**Friday, December 22 – Parish Offices Closed**

**SISTERS IN CHRIST/STRINGTOWN STUDY:**

The True Meaning of Christmas by Michael Barber  
**Wednesday evenings at 5:30pm at Holy Cross-Wendelin or Tuesday mornings at 10:00am after Rosary at St. Joseph-Stringtown** If interested in joining, contact Kristi Sandschafer, Janette Kocher, or Caroline Trimble Pastoral Associate.

**BROTHERS IN CHRIST:**

**Thursday, December 21 at 7:00pm at Holy Cross-Wendelin**

*“The future of the world and of the Church passes through the family.” St. John Paul II*

Come and join this 5 part study on "The Mission of the Family"

Men of the Church join your fellow Brothers in Christ and together let us strengthen our families and marriages. *St. Michael please help us to be defenders of our family, faith, and life!*

**CAROLINE TRIMBLE PASTORAL ASSOCIATE:**

Choose Joy! Are you choosing Joy this Advent season? Do you have Joy in your Heart? Your Home? The way we respond and treat others is the first indicator. A joyful person is welcoming, loving and kind! Take extra care this week and be joyful to one another. There is a JOY in the journey, and it is only found when the “*stable of your heart*” reflects the one that is soon to come. Light your pink candle of **Joy** and journey to Bethlehem with Joseph and Mary! Come Lord, Jesus, Come Quickly, the whole word awaits! Live a life of Joy!

**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION AT ST. JOSEPH-OLNEY:**

**Spend time with Jesus this Advent!** Eucharistic Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at St. Joseph Olney on Tuesday afternoons beginning in December. The hours will be from 12:00 pm to 3:00 pm. There must always be 2 people in the church, so a sign-up sheet will be available in the vestibule of the church. Feel free to just stop in for a few minutes, most importantly, just come and *Adore our Lord.*

**FAMILY CATECHESIS:**

**Thank you to Fr. Steven, Caroline Trimble, Ashley Hinterscher, Kelly and Sherry Geier, Ladies Altar Sodality, Family Life Committee, Sister’s in Christ, Phyllis Eggers, Jason Warfel, Amy Sandschafer, Donna Zwilling, the Holy Cross Choir, and everyone that helped make December Family Catechesis such a success!**

**Also thank you to all of our Family Catechesis families for providing gift baskets, Caroline Trimble, Ashley Hinterscher, Donna Zwilling, and Kelly Richardson for helping facilitate our Gifts of Love, and all the families receiving this “Gift of Love” for attending Mass on Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup>. You are all so appreciated!**

**Live Your Catholic Faith –** Light the candles each week on your Advent wreath.

Pray the Advent prayers at meal time and live Advent.

Let Hope, Peace, Joy and Love be present before the presents!

**Family Prayer – Ave Maris Stella Prayer**

*Hail, you Star of Ocean! Portal of the sky, Ever Virgin Mother, Of the Lord most high.*

*O! by Gabriel's Ave, Uttered long ago, Eva's name reversing, Establish peace below.*

*Break the captive's fetters; Light on blindness pour; All our ills expelling, Every bliss implore.*

*Show yourself a mother; Offer him our sighs, Who for us Incarnate Did not you despise.*

*Virgin of all virgins! To your shelter take us; Gentlest of the gentle! Chaste and gentle make us.*

*Still as on we journey, Help our weak endeavor, Till with you and Jesus We rejoice forever.*

*Through the highest heaven, To the Almighty Three, Father, Son, and Spirit, One same glory be.*

**Confirmation:** April 12<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm at St. Joseph-Olney

**First Eucharist:** April 27-28<sup>th</sup> at All Masses

**ST. JOSEPH OLNEY SCHOOL NEWS:**

**Thanks to Michelle Doll** for organizing another fantastic Santa's Workshop for our collective children!

**Reconciliation for grades 3 -8 -** Tuesday, December 19th.

**Thursday, December 21st -** K-4 Christmas Music Program in the gymnasium 1:00pm

Early Dismissal 1:50 pm

**Christmas Break Friday, December 22nd - Tuesday, January 2nd**

**Students return Wednesday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>.**

**Any parishioner interested in 2024-25 enrollment must contact the school office prior to the Christmas break.**

**Mark your calendars:** March 9th - Bingo Bash - St. Joseph, Stringtown, Parish Center

Table reservations begin January 3rd by calling the school office. If you want to donate an item to be auctioned, please contact Carol Potter, Lora Kocher, Andrea Kuentler, Lauren Tibbs, Megan Brinkley, or Sara Peavler.

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**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS:**

**Thursday, December 21:** 4<sup>th</sup> Degree meeting, 7PM.

**Sunday, December 31:** Volunteer Ministry at 8AM Mass, Olney St. Joseph. Fellowship breakfast to follow at a local restaurant after mass. Knights of Columbus led Rosary at 7:40AM.

**Kudos to St. Joseph School students and staff! There were 162 entries for the Christ in Christmas Poster Contest.** 27 cash winners of \$10, \$5, \$3, and \$2. First place winners advancing to Belleville in categories:

**Pre-K- 2nd Grade** Ryker Sterchi,  
**3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>** Mabel Stout  
**6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>** Carly Kessler.

**Olney Council winners in the following categories:**

**Pre-K & K:** Ellison Pitts, Halle Rennie, Parker Stanley, Macy Cunningham, Jayden Gallagher  
**1<sup>st</sup> & 2nd Grades:** Ryker Sterchi, Brooklyn VanBlaricum, Jenna Cummins, Olivia Rude, Averie Ochs.

**3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Grades:** Mabel Stout, Delana Sterchi, David Fleming, Claire Abell, Parker Womack.

**5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Grades:** Katelyn Ochs, Kadence Kocher, Landree Nelson, Remi Miller, Kyla Matthews.

**7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grades:** Carly Kessler, Nora McClain, Natalie Ochs, Brooke Weidner, Andrew Lambird, Jared Weidner.

**CHRISTMAS CHOIR PRACTICES:**

Christmas Choir Practices will be held on the following dates. All are welcome to join! Practices will be held from 7-8:30pm unless another time is specified. You do not have to attend all the practices to participate, just attend as often as you can.

Tues, Dec 19; Thurs, Dec 21; Sun, Dec 24 after 8am Mass

**STRINGTOWN BLOOD DRIVE:**

**Upcoming Blood Drives in 2024:**

January 7, 2024  
March 10, 2024  
May 19, 2024  
August 18, 2024

**SPIRITUAL DIRECTION/CATHOLIC CONVERSION:**

Do you have questions about the Catholic faith? Are you interested in learning more about how to grow closer to our Lord? Do you want to learn how to pray better? Interested in reading more about a certain topic of our faith, but don't know where to start? Possibly even have a hurt or a misunderstanding, that you want to talk to someone about. Contact Caroline Trimble Pastoral Associate to set up an appointment.

**DIOCESAN CHRISTMAS COLLECTION:**

The 46<sup>th</sup> Annual Diocesan Christmas Collection will be taken up at all Masses on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Parishes and agencies throughout the diocese will request monies from this collection during 2024 to assist those who are in need with food, clothing, shelter, utility payments, healthcare and medications, funeral and burial expenses, transportation and emergency assistance of all types. Please consider giving as you are able; thank you so much!

***Remember in our prayers...***

Rick Rennier, Carolyn Elie, Eugene Zuber



**Sunday, December 17, 2023**

**Third Sunday of Advent**

**+Eucharistic Celebrations+**

**Monday, December 18, 6:30pm** at St. Joseph-Stringtown "Ed and Janel Ginder+"

**Tuesday, December 19, 5:00pm** at St. Lawrence-Lawrenceville

**Wednesday, December 20, 8:05am** at St. Joseph-Olney

**Thursday, December 21, 6:30pm** at Holy Cross-Wendelin

**Friday, December 22, 8:00am** at St. Joseph-Olney

**Saturday, December 23, 4:00pm** at Holy Cross-Wendelin

5:00pm at St. Joseph-Olney

**Sunday, December 24, 8:00am** at St. Joseph-Stringtown "For The Parish"

8:00am at St. Joseph-Olney

10:00am at Holy Cross-Wendelin

10:00am at St. Lawrence-Lawrenceville

4:00pm St. Joseph-Olney

4:00pm Holy Cross-Wendelin

8:00pm St. Lawrence-Lawrenceville

**MINISTERS LIST**

**12/17/2023**

**Servers:**

Anna Seiler  
Natalie Ochs

**Lector:**

Owen Kocher

**EMHC:**

Beth Kocher  
Lisa Boehl  
Harold Boehl

**Gifts:**

Chad & Jenny  
Hancock Family

**Ushers:**

Ian Kocher  
Lester Zuber

**Greeters:**

Caden Kocher

**12/24/2023**

**Servers:**

Grayson Sterchi  
Ian Kocher

**Lector:**

Shelly Seaman

**EMHC:**

Jamie Kocher  
Elmer Ochs  
John Ochs

**Gifts:**

Werner &  
Janette Kocher

**Ushers:**

Isaac Zwilling  
Byron Zwilling

**Greeters:**

Elmer & Mary  
Ochs

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



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Email: [stjoestringtown@hotmail.com](mailto:stjoestringtown@hotmail.com)

Web site: [www.stjosephstringtown.com](http://www.stjosephstringtown.com)

**Very Rev. Fr. Steven Beatty, V.G. \_\_\_\_\_ Pastor**  
Cell \_\_\_\_\_ 618-697-2632  
E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ frsteven.beatty@gmail.com

**Reverend Felix Chukwuma \_\_\_\_\_ Pastor**  
Fr. Felix's Cell \_\_\_\_\_ 812-899-2415  
E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ [chibuchuma@yahoo.com](mailto:chibuchuma@yahoo.com)

**Caroline Trimble \_\_\_\_\_ Pastoral Associate**  
Caroline's Cell \_\_\_\_\_ 618-263-7106  
E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ [ctrimblePA@gmail.com](mailto:ctrimblePA@gmail.com)

**Tyler Timm \_\_\_\_\_ Youth Minister**  
Tyler's Cell \_\_\_\_\_ 507-530-2911  
Tyler's E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ [ttimm@stjoeolney.com](mailto:ttimm@stjoeolney.com)

**Ashley Hinterscher \_\_\_\_\_ Administrative Assistant**  
Ashley's Cell \_\_\_\_\_ 618-843-1892  
Office Phone \_\_\_\_\_ 618-754-3676  
E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ [stjoestringtown@hotmail.com](mailto:stjoestringtown@hotmail.com)  
Parish Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday 9am-2pm