

Sunday, December 4, 2022
2nd Sunday of Advent

✠ *Eucharistic Celebrations* ✠

Mon. Dec. 5	6:30 PM	(at Stringtown)
Tue. Dec. 6	5:00 PM	(at Lawrenceville)
Wed. Dec. 7	6:30 PM	(at Wendelin)
	6:30 PM	(at Stringtown)
Thu. Dec. 8	8:05 am	Patricia Gassmann, Brenda Kocher
	5:00 PM	(at Lawrenceville)
Fri. Dec. 9	No Mass	
Sat. Dec. 10	4:00 PM	(at Wendelin)
	5:00 PM	Deceased members Raymond & Christina Kocher family; Dewey & Marcella Poland
Sun. Dec. 11	8:00 am	Helen Hoffman, James Mark Weiler
	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 NOVEMBER 27

Parish Operating Expense per Week = \$9,847.00
 Envelopes: \$5,940.50 (78) Loose: \$221
 Guatemala: \$25 (3) C.C.H.D.: \$20 (1)

*** AROUND OUR PARISHES ***

Sunday, December 4

- **8 AM, Children's Liturgy.**
- **1 PM, Advent Reconciliation Service at St. Joseph-Olney.**

Monday, December 5

- **1 PM - 5 PM, Blood Drive at Holy Cross-Wendelin**

Wednesday, December 7

VIGIL OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY (Holy Day of Obligation)

- **3 PM, Bulletin deadline. Write, type or email all announcements.**
- **6:30 PM, Family Catechesis/Refreshments with Santa at Holy Cross-Wendelin**

Thursday, December 8

SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY (Holy Day of Obligation)

- **8:05 AM, Mass at St. Joseph-Olney**
- **Rosary after Mass**

Friday, December 9

- **12 PM (Noon), Finance Council Meeting**

Monday, December 12

- **6:30 PM, Mass and Eucharistic Adoration at St. Joseph-Stringtown**

Tuesday, December 13

- **8:30 AM -11 AM, Advent Reconciliation at St. Joseph-Olney**

Wednesday, December 14

- **8:30 AM -11 AM, Advent Reconciliation at St. Joseph-Olney**
- **6 PM - 8 PM, Advent Reconciliation at St. Joseph-Olney**

(Reconciliation is available every Saturday prior to mass: 4:15 PM - 4:45 PM at St. Joseph-Olney)

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

CHRISTMAS EVE - Saturday, December 24

- * **4 PM at St. Joseph-Olney**
- * **4 PM at St. Lawrence-Lawrenceville**
- * **6 PM at Holy Cross-Wendelin**
- * **8 PM at St. Joseph-Olney**
- * **10 PM at St. Joseph-Stringtown**

CHRISTMAS DAY - Sunday, December 25

- * **8 AM at St. Joseph-Olney**
- * **8 AM at St. Joseph-Stringtown**
- * **10 AM at Holy Cross-Wendelin**
- * **10 AM at St. Lawrence-Lawrenceville**

 **St. Joseph School Notes** 

Thursday, December 8

- **School Mass, 8:05 AM (3rd). Please note date change.**
- **Class Picture re-takes for K-8.**

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

* 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.

CALENDAR WINNERS - \$25

- November 21: Darla Cummins (#001)
- November 22: Katie Kirk (#417)
- November 23: Mike Zuber (#738)
- November 24: Levi Weidner (#655)
- November 25: Joan Lomas (#155)

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, Mary Jo Zuber, and Jim Zwilling.

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).

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.

Volunteer Now! Lectors, servers, cross-bearers, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion (EMHC), greeters, ushers and gift-bearers are needed for the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses. Sign-up sheet is in the vestibule. Please volunteer to help at the Mass you plan to attend.

Christmas Flower Memorials: Please use the envelope labeled 'Christmas Flower Offering' included in your December packet. Proceeds from this collection will be used to purchase the flowers to decorate our church. On the reverse side of the envelope, please print clearly the person the memorial is for. A list of the memorials will be published at a later date.

Giving Tree: This Advent, our parish again has the opportunity to share the real meaning of Christmas with our less fortunate neighbors by supporting our Giving Tree. You may choose one (or more) ornaments from the baskets by the doors, purchase and wrap the requested gift, place the sticker from the ornament on the package for identification, then place the ornament on the tree and the gift under the tree. The gifts will be delivered during Christmas week to the families whose Christmas

would be very bleak without your caring. For more information, call Rose Ann Schwartz (395-1151).

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.

The Fellowship Committee will have a holiday backdrop set up in the MPR during the annual Cookie Walk where families can have their photo taken after Mass on December 10/11. We will then be able to send the photos to the families via email or text.

“Thank you for all your support, prayers and cards sent my way during my hospital and nursing home stay. I am doing much, much better, thanks to each of you. May you enjoy a peaceful Advent. Thanks again from the bottom of my heart.” - *from Janet David*

~ KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS NEWS ~

Sunday, December 4: Free Olney, Wendelin and Stringtown Council Member and Family Christmas Dinner at St. Joseph-Olney multi-purpose room, 5PM. Santa is scheduled to arrive after the meal.
Thursday, December 8: 3rd Degree meeting, 7PM.
Thursday, December 15: 4th Degree meeting, 7:30PM.

Olney Council winners of Keeping Christ in Christmas Poster Contest with 241 participants! First Place \$15 winners: Emma Hefferman, Landree Nelson, Remi Miller, Wakely Miller and Khloe Williams. Second place \$7 winners: Briley Wilson, Kylah Matthews, Ruby Jennings, Gracie Colwell, and Ellyson Laughlin. Third place \$2 winners: Jared Weidner, Leah Kuenstler, Livee Meyers, Brooklyn VanBlaricum and Arlo Beyers.

St. Joseph Church
208 South Elliott St.
Olney, Illinois 62450
✚
'Renewing the Vision'
Sunday, December 4, 2022
2nd Sunday of Advent

~ 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*)