Parochial Administrator
Rev. Manuel P. Cuizon, C.R.S.
mcuizon@dio.org

Deacon
Lawrence H. Day, lday@dio.org

Pastoral Associates
Sr. Mary Ellen Backes, OSU
mebackes@stjoseph.dio.org
Evangelization

Paul Johnson, tbusic35@aol.com
Music Ministry

Bereavement Minister
Mary-Jo Gardiner, maryjogard@aol.com

Secretary/Bookkeeper
Pamela L. Johnson, pljohnson@stjoseph.dio.org

Facilities/Maintenance
Devin Dudas, ddudas@stjoseph.dio.org

Parish Office
Web: http://stjoseph.dio.org
Email: parish@stjoseph.dio.org
Telephone: (217) 544-7426
Hours:
Monday - Thursday
8:30 am - Noon & 1:00 - 4:30 pm
Friday 8:30 am - Noon

Mass Schedule
SATURDAY at 4:30 p.m.
SUNDAY at 9:30 a.m.
MONDAY, TUESDAY, THURSDAY at 7:00 am*
WEDNESDAY at 5:30 p.m.*
(*If there is a Funeral, Daily Mass is Cancelled.)
RECONCILIATION - SATURDAY from 3:15-4:00 p.m.
HOLY DAYS will be announced in the bulletin and on the website.
**SACRAMENTS**

**Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults:** Contact Sr. Mary Ellen Backes, O.S.U., for information on Inquiry Sessions and RCIA process.

**Baptism of Children under eight years old:** Contact Deacon Larry to attend a pre-baptismal class. Baptisms are usually celebrated during the weekend Masses, except for Advent and Lent.

**Reconciliation:** Saturday 3:15-4:00 pm or by appointment.

**Marriage:** Arrangements are to be made six months in advance. Call the Parish Office to schedule an appointment.

**Sacrament of the Sick:** Call the Parish Office for Fr. Manny.

**Communion for the Homebound:** Notify the parish office to arrange for Communion to the sick and elderly.

**New Parishioners**
St. Joseph welcomes all visitors to our Church. If you would like to register, please request a Parish Registration Form from the Parish Office.

**Assisted Listening System**
Personal listening instruments are available to complement our audio system. These are located in the Vesting Sacristy.

**Bulletin Announcements**
Announcements are due, by email, at the Parish Office by 9:00 am on Tuesdays. The bulletin is published weekly on our parish website: [http://stjoseph.dio.org](http://stjoseph.dio.org).

**Catholic Faith Formation**
The Catholic Faith Formation program provides religious instruction for St. Joseph Parishioners who do not attend Catholic schools for grades K-8. Classes meet Monday evenings from 6:30 pm-7:30 pm September - May.

**Hospitalized Parishioners**
Families and friends are asked to please keep the parish staff informed regarding parishioners who are hospitalized.

**Prayer Requests**
St. Joseph Prayer Chain is composed of members of the parish who pray for the needs of fellow parishioners and their families and friends. Please call or email Linda at 481-4320, linda.medlock@comcast.net or the Parish Office. All requests are confidential.

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**Vision Statement**
St. Joseph Parish is a diverse, welcoming, Catholic Community committed to discipleship and stewardship.

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**Mission Statement**
The Mission of St. Joseph Church is to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ by word and deed, to build a Christian community of faith within and beyond the parish, to serve the people of God both near and far, and to celebrate the presence of the Risen Lord among us.

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**Pastoral Council**
The St. Joseph Parish Pastoral Council is called by the parish to serve as consultant to the Pastor in assuring that all aspects of parish life reflect the mission and ministry of Jesus in accordance with norms determined by the diocesan Bishop.

**Members**
Joe Rolens (Chair), Gary Schmidt (Vice Chair), Tim Kennedy (Secretary), Beth Cartwright, Linda Medlock, David Cooper

**Standing Committees**
Community Builders
Faith Formation/Evangelization
Health and Wellness
Liturgy
Social Concerns
Stewardship

**Finance Council**
The Parish Finance Council is an advisory body to assist the Pastor in the administration and management of the temporal goods of the parish.

**Members**
Tom Hyde (Chair), Deacon Larry Day, Rita Havrilka, Tom Niedzielski

**Choir**
Director: Deanna Kettelkamp

**P.E.P. (People Enjoying People) Club**
The PEP Club is a social group for “seniors” that meets monthly for lunch and fellowship.

**Chair:** Gary Schmidt
Worship Schedule & Mass Intentions

Mass Intentions
Nov. 28 - Nov. 29, 2020
Sat.  4:30 pm  †Bob Brown
      †Carl Burg
      †Joseph Pachlhofer
Sun.  9:30 am  †J. Mike Geist

Mass for this Week
Nov. 30 - Dec. 6, 2020
Mon.  7:00 am  †David Lazzeri
Tue.  7:00 am  †J. Mike Geist
Wed.  5:30 pm  People of St. Joseph
Thu.  7:00 am  †Dorothy Atteberry
Sat.  4:30 pm  †Margaret Parker
Sun.  9:30 am  †Don Workman
             †Francesco Porrovecchio

From the Administrator’s Desk....!

“Be alert and watch,
for you don’t know
when the time will come....”

Our readings for this first Sunday of Advent invite us to confess our sins and beg for Divine Mercy. In the first reading, Israel beat their breast in contrition from their situation of exile in Babylon. They recognized that they had been unfaithful to their covenant with God. So, with sincere hearts they beg for God’s mercy. The Psalmist expresses our plea that God’s anger may end and that his mercy may once again be experienced by us.

Our gospel reminds us that judgment day will be upon us though we do not know when. The present time is a time and opportunity for us to prepare for it. And the best preparation is to repent and beg for mercy.

Brothers and sisters, Advent is the beginning of a new liturgical year. The celebration of liturgy reminds us of the “end time” when the Lord Jesus, who came the first time to reveal God’s mercy to us all will come a second time to judge us all. Now, we are encouraged to better be prepared for that time. As an “advent people,” – people who wait the return of our Lord and Master, let us be ever watchful for our God.

The liturgical color is purple which reminds us of the need to confess our sins and at the same time beg for Divine mercy. The time given us before judgment day is a time for us to be ready for the second coming of Christ. The popular prayer of Advent is “Maranatha” which means “Come Lord Jesus”, a prayer of joyful hope. Let us be prayerful with hope and be watchful for we do not know when the Lord is coming.

God bless us all.

Fr. Manny

This Week in Our Parish

Monday, Nov. 30
6:30 pm  CFF

Thursday, Dec. 3
5:15 pm  Holy Hour of Adoration
7:00 pm  Knights of Columbus

Saturday, Dec. 5
3:15-4:00 pm  Sacrament of Reconciliation
Christmas Wreath Sales in the GYM

Sunday, Dec. 6
8:45 am  Music Practice
Christmas Wreath Sales in the GYM

Please refer to the calendar on our website for updates & future events (www.stjoseph.dio.org).
The WINTER enrollment (Dec.-Feb.) will begin next month. If you would like to enroll someone, please complete the enrollment form to the right and return it to the parish office by November 30th. Forms are also available on the website.

The Annual Collection for the Diocesan Campaign for Justice and Hope (DCJH) was last weekend, November 21-22. It was held in all parish churches in the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois. This is our opportunity to help our neighbors in our own communities. 100% of the money collected stays LOCALLY! Approximately 159,000 people live below the poverty line in our diocese. The collection is one way we can be a good Samaritan to those among us that are hungry, lack proper shelter, require clothing and/or need assistance finding employment. There is a DCJH envelope in your November packet. If you missed the opportunity to help through your parish collection, you can still contribute in several ways: By mail: Catholic Pastoral Center, Pro-Life Activities & Special Ministries, attn. DCJH, 1615 W. Washington St., Springfield, IL, 62702. Online: with a credit card by visiting www.dio.org/dcjh.

UPCOMING HOLY DAY MASSES

December 8th Immaculate Conception
7 am and 12:10 pm

December 24th Christmas Eve 5:00 pm
& 9:30 pm

December 25th Christmas Day 9:30 am

December 31st New Year’s Eve 5:30 pm

January 1st New Year’s Day 9:30 am

The St. Joseph Society was established to remember loved ones for a specific period of the year when Mass intentions are not available. A number of Masses will be offered in each period. The names of the enrolled will be listed in the bulletin the weeks of the holidays listed below.

The suggested donation for each period is $20 per person, couple or family. To enroll your loved one, complete the form below and forward to the parish office.

St. Joseph Society Enrollment— 201__

Please enroll ____________________________ for the following period:

Spring: ____________________________ Summer: ____________________________ Fall: ____________________________ Winter: ____________________________

March-May June-August September-November December-February

New Year’s Day Assumption Fourth of July Ash Wednesday Easter Sunday Mother’s Day Fourth of July

Immaculate Conception Assumption Labor Day All Saints Day Father’s Day

by: ____________________________ Date: ____________________________

Please return this form in the collection basket. We are honored to pray for your specific needs.
Upcoming early BULLETIN deadlines:

Friday, Dec. 11 bulletin for December 20th due;
Thursday, Dec. 17 bulletin for December 27th due;
Wednesday, Dec. 23 bulletin for January 2nd due.

All articles are due by 9 a.m.

We are taking orders for the St. Joseph Catholic Church Memorial Bricks. Please contact the parish office for a form.

Dive Deep – A voice from a grave! Father James Kurzynski, a priest from Wisconsin, joins Dive Deep, the official podcast of the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois, to share an incredible story about an experience he’ll never forget while praying at a cemetery. Go to dio.org/podcast to listen and while you are there, make sure to subscribe so you never miss an episode.

Be Not Afraid to PRAY BIG! We currently have 16 seminarians, which is great! But wouldn’t 40 be better?? YES!!! We invite you to pray a Hail Mary EVERY DAY at 4:40 for our diocese to have 40 seminarians. 4:40 for 40 Seminarians!

Rest in Peace

Mary Jo Seiz
Harold Pettinger

CHRISTMAS WREATHS will be for sale in the GYM after all Masses December 5-6 and December 12-13. They are made by Lisa Sabo, are 22-24” and are $25.00 each. All proceeds go to St. Joseph Church altar decorations.

Annual Christmas Socks, Gloves, Hats & Scarves Collection
Starting the first weekend of Advent (November 28-29), the Social Concerns Committee will begin our annual Advent collection of Socks, Gloves, Hats and Scarves for the poor and homeless in Springfield. Baskets will be available in the back of the church in which to place your donations at all weekend Masses during the Advent season. The items collected will be distributed at Christmas time to those in need. Thank you for your generosity.

“I Heard God Laugh” by Matthew Kelly should be available beginning this weekend. There is no charge for this resource. Please take one to use as your Advent resource.

PEP Club meeting for November, due to holidays, has been combined with December, which was moved to an earlier date because of Christmas. Combined meeting will be on December 9th at 11:30 a.m. with a lunch and hospitality as always. More to come before date, but this will be a reservation type luncheon for food preparation. Please contact Gary at 217-971-6624 or email pswgls0809@yahoo.com with reservation.

2021 LECTOR WORKBOOKS should be available for all lectors. Please see Deacon Larry after Mass.
You have a fruitful future

Next Sunday’s readings tell us to prepare for the Lord - for whatever he wants to give us, do for us, and ask of us. He has a plan for our lives; he has a divine purpose that will bring us to our full potential as children of our loving Father and as partners with Christ the Savior of the world.

We can only fulfill our wonderful potential if we unite ourselves to Christ by joining him on the straight path, the holy path.

How do we know when we are on the right path? By the fruits of the journey. The way of holiness always produces good fruits.

Isaiah says: A voice cries out in the desert! What is barren in your life, and dry, hot, or empty? Sins dry up what would otherwise be fruitful.

Advent is a good preparation for Christmas - and meeting the Lord anew - if we use it to face our sins, reconcile with God, and follow Jesus back onto the holy path. If we neglect this opportunity, Christmas will be only a secular holiday. Our lives will be too barren to give Jesus to others, and we will feel just as empty next year as we do right now.

Prepare the way of the Lord! He has more love to give you, more healing, more joy! Make straight in the wasteland of your sins a highway for our God. Go to the Sacrament of Reconciliation and create a wider road into your heart that's easy for Jesus to travel, a through-way upon which he can arrive in great speed and glory.

All humankind is as frail as grass, and all our glory is like the flower of the field that withers and wilts. Only the glory of God stands forever.

What are your troubles and struggles this Advent? Here is where Jesus wants to minister to you, and here is where you are most vulnerable to sin.

What in your life is going well? What activities are you doing that seem good and productive? Are any of them grassy glories that can wither away in a drought? A hundred years from now, will what you're doing today still have an impact - a beneficial impact?

God has given you talents and a vocation - a calling, a special purpose - that requires those talents. Yes, you! We are all called to have fruitful lives that make an eternal difference. We are all called to be like Mary giving birth to Jesus so that the world becomes a better place. Jesus wants to come straight to us to produce the fruits of his eternal kingdom in our lives and in others.

Are you wasting time? If so, take this to the Sacrament of Reconciliation and prepare yourself for the way of the Lord. He wants to make an eternal difference through you!

Questions for Personal Reflection:
What are you going to do this week to straighten a crooked path? What are you spending time on that is only going to wither up and wilt away?

Questions for Community Faith Sharing:
What good do you see in each other that will make an eternal difference? How does thinking about eternity straighten the path that you're walking on today? What changes because of this perspective?
Way of Lights A Family Tradition
Friday, November 20, 2020 – Thursday, December 31, 2020
For over 50 years, the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate have invited one and all to make the Way of Lights a part of their family tradition. This breathtaking display focuses on the birth of Christ - the one true light of the world. Wintertime sparkles at the Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows as the Annual Way of Lights Christmas display illuminates the grounds.

Indoor Activities 10 am – 9 pm (Due to COVID 19 Restrictions please wear a mask indoors & follow social distancing)
• Shrine Gift Shop Open 10 am – 9 pm; • Queen Size Christmas Quilt Raffle; • Christmas Trees through the Decades in the Visitor Center Lobby; • Wreaths line the Visitor Center hallway.
Participate in wreath auction; • Lego Nativity inside the Visitor Center Lobby. • Carry-Out Menu Available
Closed on Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve and Christmas.
(Outdoor light display will remain open.)

Outdoor Activities 5 – 9 pm
Journey through Bethlehem and experience the beauty of over one million white lights, Camel Rides & Petting Zoo
Carriage Rides – call 314-621-3334 for reservations
Kettle Corn
Lights on Nightly 5 – 9 pm
Donations Accepted
For a donation of $15 or more get a Build-A-Bear Plush Fox

What are you afraid of? - Most people would agree we are living in fearful times. We invite you to not ignore the fear or succumb to it, but rather to invite Jesus into your fears so that they can be overcome. Visit benotafraid.dio.org to explore and experience your fears and find resources so you can have peace, hope, and courage.

Novena in Honor of the Immaculate Conception
Beginning November 30th thru December 8th, the Cathedral will host the annual diocesan novena in honor of the Immaculate Conception, patroness of the United States, our diocese, and the Cathedral Parish. Each night a different preacher will offer a homily on a different aspect of Marian theology and devotion.
November 30th thru December 7th - 7:00pm; Last Night and Closing Mass, December 8th – 5:15pm

Sacrament of Confirmation
What is the Sacrament of Confirmation? Having listened to many responses over the years, the general consensus is that it is something we do when we confirm that we want to remain Catholic. While that might be the popular opinion, it’s not what the Church teaches us about this sacrament. So what does the Church teach? Come and join Father Alford to find out, and see how a more authentic understanding of this sacrament will help you not only to know this sacrament better, but draw from the abundant graces it offers to us in aiding us to live as missionary disciples.
Cathedral Cafeteria, Sunday, December 6, 6:15-7:00pm

The Women of The Genealogy of Jesus in Matthew’s Gospel
The Gospel according to St. Matthew begins with a rather confusing list of names that lays out the genealogy of Jesus beginning with Abraham. While most of the names are those of men, there are five women mentioned. During this series, we will look at the story of these women and learn some important lessons about how to prepare to welcome Christ into our lives more fully in preparation for the celebration of His Nativity at Christmas. With Father Brian Alford
Cathedral Atrium, Wednesdays December 9th, 16th & 23rd at 7:00pm

Rorate Caeli Mass
Join us for a Rorate Caeli candlelit Mass in honor of Our Lady during Advent. The Rorate Mass is lit only by candlelight. In the dimly lit setting, priests and faithful prepare to honor the light of the world who is soon to be born and offer praise to God for the gift of Our Lady. As the Mass proceeds and sunrise approaches, the church becomes progressively brighter, illuminated by the sun as our Faith is illuminated by Christ. All are welcome to join us for this special Mass!
Saturday, December 12th - 7:00pm @ Cathedral

Hey, Father! - Confession, Purgatory, praying to saints, the Eucharist, papal infallibility – the Catholic Church has a lot of teachings that can be hard to understand. Luckily, our priests are here to answer them and help you better know and appreciate our rich faith. Go to dio.org/videos/hey-father.html where there are 40 questions about our faith answered by our priests. Make sure to keep coming back to that website as we add more answers to questions in our “Hey, Father!” series.

ATTENTION BUSINESS OWNERS and GENEROUS PARISHIONERS! Mary Ottenberg from J. S. Paluch works on setting up the advertising sponsorships for our bulletin. Advertisements can be purchased for a business, family or a sponsor ad. Please support our sponsors! Their generosity helps us to enjoy our FREE bulletin publication every week throughout the year! If you would like to have your business card handed out on a weekly basis and can help this effort, please call Mary Ottenberg at 314-757-7598, or email ottenbergm@jspaluch.com.
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