St. JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 6, 2020

A VOICE CRIES OUT:
IN THE DESERT PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD!
MAKE STRAIGHT IN THE WASTELAND A HIGHWAY FOR OUR GOD!
EVERY VALLEY SHALL BE FILLED IN,
EVERY MOUNTAIN AND HILL SHALL BE MADE LOW.
ISAIAS 40:3-4

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 Evangelization
mebackes@stjoseph.dio.org

Paul Johnson, tbmusic35@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.

1345 North 6th Street • Springfield, Illinois 62702 •
**Vision Statement**

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

**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.

**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.

**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

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**Diocesan Child Abuse Reporting and Investigation Number:** 217-321-1155.
Worship Schedule & Mass Intentions

Mass Intentions
Dec. 5 - Dec. 6, 2020
Sat. 4:30 pm †Margaret Parker
Sun. 9:30 am †Don Workman
†Francesco Porrovecchio

Masses for this Week
Dec. 7 - Dec. 13, 2020
Mon. 7:00 am †Lawrence Romang
Tue. 7:00 am People of St. Joseph
12:10 pm †St. Joseph Society
Wed. 5:30 pm People of St. Joseph
Thu. 7:00 am †Carl Burg
Sat. 4:30 pm †Mary Gietl
†Margaret Parker
Sun. 9:30 am †Lawrence Romang

From the Administrator’s Desk....!

“Prepare the way of the Lord,
level his paths.”

The readings for this second Sunday of Advent proclaim God’s gracious answer to Israel’s prayer for mercy last Sunday. Prophet Isaiah speaks of an end to the pain of the exiled people of God, that God has “repented of his anger” and is now about to reveal his mercy. In the fulness of time the Savior will come.

The Lord, who will come at the end of time, expects from his people to prepare the way for his return as Lord and judge. Fortunately, the Lord sends prophets like John the Baptist, to prepare us for “The Day of the Lord.” For those of us who are prepared that day will be a day of joy; for those of us who are not prepared it will be a fearful day. St. Peter reminds us to conduct ourselves in holiness and devotion eager to be bound without spot or blemish before him when he comes.

Brothers and sisters, I believe that every one of us always seeks the mercy of God. And I truly believe, our God is full of compassion and mercy. But he desires us to repent as we heed the prophets the Lord always sends our way - John the Baptist, then, our Church and her pastors today.

God is always ready to forgive us, but often times we are the ones who are very hesitant in seeking his mercy and forgiveness especially in the sacrament of reconciliation. Also let us be aware that one day we will be called to judgment. Now is the time for us to prepare for that day by following the preaching of John the Baptist.

God bless us all.

Fr. Manny

This Week in Our Parish

Monday, Dec. 7
6:30 pm CFF

Tuesday, Dec. 8
Parish Office Closed

Wednesday, Dec. 9
11:30 am PEP Club

Thursday, Dec. 10
5:15 pm Holy Hour of Adoration

Saturday, Dec. 12
3:15-4:00 pm Sacrament of Reconciliation
Christmas Wreath Sales in the GYM

Sunday, Dec. 13
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).
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

Advent Reconciliation
The Cathedral will be offering extended hours for the Sacrament of Reconciliation during Advent on Friday, December 11th from noon-8:00PM and Saturday, December 12 from 7:30AM – 6:00PM. Please take advantage of this opportunity to deepen your relationship with God and to receive the gift of grace which God desires to bestow upon his children through the Sacraments.

St. Joseph Society
Winter

Dick & Dorothy Atteberry
Bob Binetsch
Simon R. Cory
Simon S. & Helen Cory
Wes & Ellen Dahlkamp
Wayne & Ada Davenport
Patricia Evanich
Ike & Evelyn Fanale
Gillard & Schmidt Families
Malcolm & Mary Grant
Hubert & Dorothy Iocca
George Jirgal, Jr.
George & Lucille Jirgal
Keefner Family
Earl & Theresa Kern
Kevin Knowski
John Don Kolaz
Mary Fran Lavin
David & Mary Lazzeri
Gary Leming
John & Hazel Madonia
Brenda Milleville
Pieper Family
Paul Puckel
Jerry Sams
Eva Schmidt
Richard Schuchmann
Joseph & Lois Shaughnessy
Nel & Joop Spierings
Don Staten
Eleanore Sturm
Timoney & Carter Families
Virginia Vose
Fred & Alvera Wiessing

Thanksgiving Basket preparation - Matt Power & Jill Cooper

HOMELESS WARRIORS
God bless all in giving of your time, provisions, and donations to support the homeless: Gusta Schuchmann, Matt Power, Pat Derhake, Melissa Fry, David Cooper, Mary Bonner, Kathy Cory, Tish Winhold, Gary Schmidt, Sue Bangert, Diane Best, Chad Cooper and Helping Hands Team. If you would like to assist in this service, call Jill (725-6757) for details. Donations for The Warming Center Shelter can be sent to St. Joseph Church in care of Pam.

St. Joseph Society Winter
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.

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.

2021 LECTOR WORKBOOKS should be available for all lectors. Please see Deacon Larry after Mass.

SACRIFICIAL GIVING

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or click on the Give Central link on our website: stjoseph.dio.org

“Rest in Peace”

Shirley Oldani

Annual Christmas Socks, Gloves, Hats & Scarves Collection
The Social Concerns Committee began our annual Advent collection of Socks, Gloves, Hats and Scarves for the poor and homeless in Springfield last weekend. Baskets are available in the back of the church in which to place your donations at all weekend Masses during the Advent season (November 29-December 20). The items collected will be distributed at Christmas time to those in need. Thank you for your generosity.

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.

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. This will be a reservation type luncheon for food preparation. Please contact Gary at 217-971-6624 or email pswgls0809@yahoo.com with reservation.

BREADLINE SUNDAY
On behalf of the Social Concerns Committee, we want to extend to the Parish Community our sincere “Thank You” for your generosity on Breadline Sunday. Despite the challenges this year due to COVID-19 and this being the first breadless fundraiser, a total of $623 was raised by our parish. These funds will help support the daily work of St. John’s Breadline as they feed the needy in Springfield this winter and throughout the upcoming year. May you know the love of God in your life in return for all the love and goodness you gave to others.

“I Heard God Laugh” by Matthew Kelly is available on tables in the church. There is no charge for this resource. Please take one to use as your Advent resource.

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Diocese of Springfield in Illinois
Catholic Pastoral Center • 1615 West Washington Street • Springfield, Illinois 62702-4757
www.dio.org 217-698-8500 FAX 217-698-0802

Office of the Bishop

December, 2020

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In his letter to the Galatians, St. Paul urges us to remain steadfast in helping others: “Let us not grow tired of doing good, for in due time we shall reap our harvest. if we do not give up” (Gal 6:9). During these unprecedented times, many are hurting and need our assistance, including elderly religious. As we approach the annual Retirement Fund for Religious collection, I encourage your continued support.

As you may know, senior religious were instrumental in establishing Catholic schools, hospitals, and charitable agencies. Often this progress came at great sacrifice, and many older sisters, brothers, and religious order priests served for little to no pay.

Today, hundreds of religious communities do not have enough retirement savings and struggle to provide for a growing number of elder members. Covid-19 has only increased the challenge to provide adequate care.

Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious provides vital funding for medications, nursing care, and more.

In these difficult days, you may feel as though your generosity has been exhausted. I ask just two things. First, please join me in praying for God’s protection for all our elderly religious. Second, please support the Retirement Fund for Religious collection as you are able—and know that women and men religious across the country hold you and your loved ones in grateful prayer.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Thomas John Paprocki
Bishop of Springfield in Illinois
READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday:  Is 35:1-10; Ps 85:9ab, 10-14; Lk 5:17-26  
Tuesday:  Gn 3:9-15, 20; Ps 98:1-4; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38  
Wednesday:  Is 40:25-31; Ps 103:1-4, 8, 10; Mt 11:28-30  
Thursday:  Is 41:13-20; Ps 145:1, 9, 10-13ab; Mt 11:11-15  
Friday:  Is 48:17-19; Ps 1:1-4; Mt 11:16-19  
Saturday:  Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; Jdt 13:18bcde, 19; Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47, or any readings from the Common of the Blessed Virgin Mary, nos. 707-712  
Sunday:  Is 61:1-2a, 10-11; Lk 1:46-50, 53-54; 1 Thes 5:16-24; Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

CHRISTMAS MEMORIAL FLOWERS
Parishioners are invited to contribute to the “Christmas Decoration Fund” in honor or memory of a loved one. The monies collected will be used to purchase plants and other decorations for the worship space. An envelope for this purpose was included in the monthly packet OR you can use any envelope. Simply include the name of the individual or family you’d like remembered and put in the collection basket or return to the parish office on or before December 21st. Because a specific number of live plants has been ordered by the liturgical environment committee, we are asking that parishioners not donate poinsettias or other living plants. Thank you for your cooperation.

Questions for Personal Reflection:
How has your life been changed by your faith in Jesus? What evil has been conquered, what darkness has been overcome? This is your testimony! Write a couple of pages about it to become more familiar with it. This will prepare you so that you can explain it to others when they ask you why you have faith. Even if our vocal chords do not utter a single word, the way we live in the light is how we speak the truth of the light. The more love that we give, the louder is our cry. Even if our faith is not present to us when we need him, what has opened our eyes to his presence? Whose voice has turned you back to God? It's time to do the same for others, to bring glad tidings to the poor (as it says in the reading from Isaiah), to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to those who are held captive in their sins, and to announce how to be blessed by a close friendship with the Lord.

Questions for Community Faith Sharing:
How has the Spirit of the Lord anointed you? What gifts do you have that enable you to give to the poor (i.e., the financially poor or the emotionally starving or the spiritually hungry) or to heal the brokenhearted? How has God used you to provide liberty to captives and release to prisoners? How are these a testimony that teaches others about Jesus?

Testifying to the Light
Next Sunday's Gospel reading tells us that John the Baptist came to “testify to the light.” What does this mean?
We know that Jesus is the Light of Truth that shines in the darkness to draw us to eternal life. And we know that his Spirit enlightens us in the truth so that we can be saved from the destructive forces of our sins and follow our Savior to heaven. But what was the testimony given by John? How did he testify to the light? And how does this affect our lives today?
John's testimony was: "I am not the Christ. I am a voice. A voice in the wilderness. A voice in the desert." And his testimony brings us to the Light of Christ by challenging us with: "Where is your life arid and dry? Listen! Christ is coming to meet you there! Make a bee-line to him! Stop wandering around! Repent, change, do whatever is necessary to look for Jesus so that you can find him. He is coming to you!"

We’ve all experienced times when Jesus seems distant, unavailable, not present to us when we need him. What has opened your eyes to his presence? Whose voice has turned you back to God? It's time to do the same for others, to bring glad tidings to the poor (as it says in the reading from Isaiah), to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to those who are held captive in their sins, and to announce how to be blessed by a close friendship with the Lord.

We all have the same testimony and the same calling as John had: We are all supposed to be voices crying out loud enough to be heard above the din of the world. Many souls are lost in the wilderness of confusion, hopelessness, pain, heartache, and despair, not to mention sinfulness. Can we rightfully ignore their needs? Is it loving to be so quiet that they cannot hear the truth? Certainly not! Someday we will have to explain to Jesus why we ignored our baptismal calling to be the voice that could have helped others find him.

What kind of a voice do you have? Because we have Christ within us, our very lives are the voice. How we handle trials, revealing our faith in Jesus, is a voice that's audible to those who are lost in the wilderness. The more peace we have and the more love that we give, the louder is our cry.

Even if our vocal chords do not utter a single word, the way we live in the light is how we speak the truth of the light. The better we live the truth, the louder and clearer is our message.

What people choose to do with our message is up to them, but it's up to us to speak it so that they're given that choice.

GOOD NEWS REFLECTION

Third Sunday of Advent
December 13, 2020

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Consider Remembering Your Parish in Your Will. For further information, please call the Parish Office.

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