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.

St. JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH
1345 North 6th Street • SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62702 •
**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**

**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
Dec. 12 - Dec. 13, 2020
Sat. 4:30 pm †Mary Gietl
†Margaret Parker
Sun. 9:30 am †Lawrence Romang

Masses for this Week
Dec. 14 - Dec. 20, 2020
Mon. 7:00 am †Allen Miller
Tue. 7:00 am †Marsha Miller
Wed. 5:30 pm †Russ Lofland
Thu. 7:00 am †Mary Lazzeri
Sat. 4:30 pm †Earl Kern
†Theresa Kern
†Dorothy Iocca
†Hubert Iocca
Sun. 9:30 am †Ronald Haynes
†Carl & Catherine Burg
†Joseph Pachlhofer
†Michael Hammitt

From the Administrator’s Desk....!

“I am the voice of one
crying out in the wilderness:
Make straight the way of the Lord.”

Gaudete Sunday (Rejoice Sunday) is the day of great joy in the Advent, a season of joyful expectation for the birth of the Messiah. The purple vestment of Advent is replaced with the Old Rose Vestment to express the spirit of Gaudete Sunday. Our first reading brings us to the joyful celebration of the Jubilee in the Old Testament, a day of liberation.

The second reading invites us all to “Rejoice always!” The reason for this great rejoicing is the announcement of John the Baptist that the God of mercy is already in town! For us who commemorate the Nativity of Jesus we can already feel the spirit of Christmas just around the corner.

The old rose symbolized the color of faithful and persevering love. Just as red rose is the color of a passionate and young love. With the old rose color we are happily reminded that the love of God is from eternity as His mercy is from eternity. The God who is gracious and merciful is “so eager to be with us”. The “Emmanuel” – God is with us, is close at hand.

Brothers and sisters, advent is a season of waiting in joyful hope for the coming of the Lord in our lives. As we celebrate the Gaudete Sunday, may we be eager to have God with us as we sing “O come, O come, Emmanuel...!” And may the Blessed Virgin Mother teach us how to anticipate the birth of our Lord and Savior. The Magnificat would be a beautiful prayer for us to contemplate as we wait in joyful hope for the coming of the Lord.

God bless us all.

Fr. Manny

This Week in Our Parish

Monday, Dec. 14
NO CFF

Wednesday, Dec. 16
5:15 am Helping Hands

Thursday, Dec. 17
5:15 pm Holy Hour of Adoration

Saturday, Dec. 19
11:00 am Church Christmas Decorating
3:15-4:00 pm Sacrament of Reconciliation

Sunday, Dec. 20
8:45 am Music Practice
10:30 am Church Christmas Decorating

Please refer to the calendar on our website for updates & future events (www.stjoseph.dio.org).
Make a difference. “Every dollar makes a difference in covering our expenses,” says a Trappist abbot. Hundreds of US religious communities struggle to provide for aging members because most senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests served for little pay. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious helps these communities bridge the gap, offering support for medications, nursing care, and other necessities. Please be generous.

“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.

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

Holy Hour of Adoration Prayer Request

Please pray for:

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

Please return this form in the collection basket. We are honored to pray for your specific needs.
UPCOMING HOLY DAY MASSES

December 24th Christmas Eve 5:00 pm & 9:30 pm (reservations required - please call or email the parish office)

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

Annual Christmas Socks, Gloves, Hats & Scarves Collection

The Social Concerns Committee continues its Advent collection of Socks, Gloves, Hats and Scarves for the poor and homeless in Springfield. 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.

Upcoming early BULLETIN deadlines:

Thursday, Dec. 17 bulletin for December 27th due;

Wednesday, Dec. 23 bulletin for January 2nd due.

All articles are due by 9 a.m.

DECORATE THE CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS

Saturday, December 19th at 11:00 a.m.

Sunday, December 20th after 9:30 Mass

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.

CHRISTMAS WREATHS will be for sale in the GYM after all Masses this weekend, 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.

We need Greeters and Sanitizers for all Christmas Masses. Please contact Gary at 217-971-6624 or email pswgls0809@yahoo.com if you can help.

Linda Dunlevy

Received by Baptism into our community:

Kwain L. Karrick, Jr.
Ezekiel F. Karrick
Zuri Rose Karrick
(children of Kwain & Hollie (Bracco) Karrick)
Our personal connection to Mary

Next Sunday's Gospel shows us how the mission of Christ affected the Virgin Mary even before Jesus was conceived in her womb.

Three decades later, Jesus would become the Savior of the world. However, that is not when his salvation plan began. Jesus is God; he has always existed. He is the un-created Divine Son, the Person of the Holy Trinity who, as we proclaim in the Nicene Creed, was "born of the Father before all ages, God from God...."

His salvation plan could -- and did -- impact Mary since the moment of her own conception.

In order for God to come into our world in the flesh, his Spirit totally bathed Mary in his pure, holy presence. Therefore, even though she could not understand how the promised Messiah could be conceived within her, since she'd had no sexual relations, by the grace of God's Spirit she could know that God was the one who was asking for it and God was the one who was doing it. That's all she needed.

All of us are called by God to carry the presence of Christ and birth him more fully into the world. What are you doing about it? How much are you fulfilling your divine destiny? Remember, he always empowers us to accomplish whatever he asks us to do. God knows what he's doing when he calls us to continue what Mary began, and he is always trustworthy and dependable. There is nothing to fear, no reason to hold back from fulfilling our true destiny.

With this in mind, when he asks us to do something for his kingdom, of course our answer is yes, right? Why wouldn't it be? Of course we want to cooperate with his plan, and we say yes to his plan even when we don't understand it nor see how God could possibly do what he says he'll do.

Often, we feel inadequate, because we know we are weak, sinful, and unqualified. Don't trust your feelings about it; trust God.

Questions for Personal Reflection:
When was the last time you said to God, "But how can this be? You want me to do WHAT? I don't understand why!" What were you afraid of? How strong was your trust in God?

Questions for Community Faith Sharing:
When God chooses you for a task or responsibility, what helps you move from uncertainty or confusion or reluctance into saying "yes"? When the plans of God don't make sense or they seem unpleasant, how do you overcome your reluctance?
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.

OTHER PARISHES AND EVENTS ELSEWHERE

On Saturday, December 19th, 2020, from 12 noon to 1 p.m. the Springfield Right to Life Civic Committee will again be sponsoring the local “Peace in the Womb Christmas Caroling” event which will take place in front of the Springfield Planned Parenthood abortion mill at 601 N. Bruns Lane, Springfield, Illinois.

This is part of the Nation-wide event being organized by the Pro-Life Action League and has been done for several years in many Cities and States across the Country.

The purpose of this event is to bring hope and joy to one of the world’s darkest places, the abortion mills, in hopes that the familiar sounds of Christmas carols might save a life.

Song sheets will be provided and coffee will be served to all who participate. Parking is available in the Springfield Right to Life parking lot.

We hope you will join us for this event, pass the word, announce it in your bulletins and from the Pulpit if possible. For more information, call Kathy at 217-691-4230 or Terri at 217-602-9177 or email terrieverett1prolife@gmail.com.

March for Life - Due to Covid-19, the March for Life pilgrimage will look a little different this year. Tony Cerveny (Director of Youth and Sports Ministry) and Sister M. Veritas Wilks, FSGM (Director of Youth and Women’s Ministry) from the Office of Ministry and Evangelization will be heading to Washington, D.C. for the March for Life. Teens accompanied by parents/guardians and other family members are invited to join us. We will be there to greet you, feed you, organize prayer and programming, and provide a place for the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois to gather. Sister M. Karolyn, FSGM (Vocations Director for the Sisters of St. Francis of the Martyr St. George, in Alton, IL) will be there to speak and lead us in games, prayer, and music. Father Michael Berndt from Christ the King in Springfield will be there to march, and to celebrate Mass with us. Please visit benotafr aid.dio.org/experience to learn more and to register.

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!

Dive Deep - The 11 things Catholics need to stop doing. No, this isn’t a list to condemn you, but a friendly reminder to stop doing these 11 things and do the opposite because we want you to grow in your relationship with Christ! Go to dio.org/podcast to listen. Make sure to subscribe to the podcast so you never miss an episode!

The pain and sorrow of a past abortion need not endure for a lifetime. Call Project Rachel for a confidential, non-judgmental referral to those who can help: 1-877-RACHEL-5

RESTORE, REKINDLE, RENEW ENRICHMENT (3RE)
7-Session Virtual Enrichment Experience
Mon/ Thur Evenings: January 18-February 8, 2021
Starting at 7:00 p.m.
Apply online: https://stl-wwme.org
Facebook: https://facebook.com/events/s/restore-rekindle-renew-enrichment/289517819094470/
More Info Call: 314-649-7317

Take your FAITH ON A JOURNEY, to Fátima, Lourdes & Shrines of Spain - (Portugal, Spain and France) on this 12 day experience. July 22nd, 2021 - August 3rd, 2021. Your included destinations while on this Journey: LISBON-SANTARÉM-FÁTIMA-BRAGA–SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA, SPAIN, BURGOS–SAN IGNACIO DE LOYOLA–LOURDES, FRANCE, CARCASSONNE–MONTSERRAT - BARCELONA, SPAIN. Plus, Mass and Rosary will be offered throughout your journey. Land prices begin at $1709 per person, based on double occupancy. Deposits of only $500 per person will reserve your space. Space is VERY LIMITED. For further info or to register, contact Luke or Eileen at 860-399-1785/ Eileen@CatholicCruisesandTours.com

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