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
tbjmusic35@aol.com

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

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.

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.

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.

Diocesan Child Abuse Reporting and Investigation Number: 217-321-1155.

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

Dec. 19 - Dec. 20, 2020
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
†Justine Claunch

Masses for this Week
Dec. 21 - Dec. 27, 2020
Mon. 7:00 am †Pati Sgro
Tue. 7:00 am †Dorothy Atteberry
Wed. 5:30 pm †Stella LaFata
Thu. 5:00 pm People of St. Joseph
9:30 pm People of St. Joseph
Fri. 9:30 am †St. Joseph Society
Sat. 4:30 pm †Ronald & Louis Haynes
†Mr. Mrs. Albanese
†Holly Adams
Sun. 9:30 am †Don Workman
†Justine Claunch

This Week in Our Parish

Monday, Dec. 21
6:30 pm CFF

Wednesday, Dec. 23
9:00 am Bulletin articles due for Jan. 2 bulletin
5:15 am Helping Hands

Thursday, Dec. 24 & Friday, Dec. 25
Parish Office Closed

Saturday, Dec. 26
3:15-4:00 pm Sacrament of Reconciliation

Sunday, Dec. 27
8:45 am Music Practice

Please refer to the calendar on our website for updates & future events (www.stjoseph.dio.org).

From the Administrator’s Desk....!

“I am the handmaid of the Lord,
let it be done to me according to your word.”

The focus of our readings for this 4th Sunday of Advent is on the “dwelling place of God.” In the first reading David expresses his desire to build a Temple for God that would house the precious Ark of the Covenant, but God told him it would be his son who would build the temple. But the real temple of God though, will be Mary - the Mother of Jesus who is honored as the “Ark of the Covenant!” The Archangel Gabriel announced to Mary the good news: “Hail full of grace, the Lord is with you... for you shall conceive the Son of God.”

Tradition tells us that the Ark of the Covenant of the Old Testament was kept in the place called the Holy of Holies. It contained the Ten Commandments – the covenant terms between God and Israel, the rod of Moses, the staff of Aaron, and bread. Thus, Mary was chosen by God from eternity, who will carry in her womb the most Holy Son of God. Thus, the promise of God in the Old Testament is fulfilled in the New Testament with the participation and cooperation of Mary, the true “Ark of the Covenant.” And she is the first Temple of God.

Brothers and sisters, God is not bound by human constraints, and yet he asks us to participate with him, and cooperate with his grace, that the ark of the covenant – and the arc of salvation history – may be made available to all. As we continue with our preparation for the coming of the Messiah, let us ask God’s grace of courage to imitate Mary who did not hesitate to allow the ark of God to dwell within her.

God bless us all.

Fr. Manny
Thanks for giving! “We are conscious of the great generosity of the many benefactors who support the Retirement Fund for Religious each year,” says a Catholic sister. “Support from the fund has been a tremendous blessing to our retired sisters.” Thank you for donating to last week’s second collection.
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 this final weekend. The items collected will be distributed at Christmas time to those in need. Thank you for your generosity.

ADVENT RESOURCE
“I Heard God Laugh” by Matthew Kelly is available on tables in the church. There is no charge for this resource. Please take one!

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.

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

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 GREETINGS FROM ST. JOSEPH
“Why & How Much Should I Be GIVING To The Church, To The Poor”, A Pathway to Peacefulness, A Gateway to Heaven by Ben Scott is available on the tables in church at all entrances for all parishioners. Please take one!

Received by Baptism into our community:

Garret Ryan Schafer
Son of Nick & Erin (Hovey)

DECORATE THE CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS
Saturday, December 19th at 11:00 a.m.
Sunday, December 20th after 9:30 Mass

Upcoming early BULLETIN deadline:
Articles for the January 2, 2021 bulletin are due Wednesday, December 23rd by 9 a.m.
Good News Reflection
Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph
December 27, 2020

Trust Jesus despite not understanding

"Joy mixed with drama marks the fifth [joyful] mystery, the finding of the twelve-year-old Jesus in the Temple." Saint John Paul the Great wrote this in *Rosarium Virginis Mariae*, his interesting encyclical about the Rosary.

He continued: "Here he appears in his divine wisdom as he listens and raises questions, already in effect one who 'teaches'. The revelation of his mystery as the Son wholly dedicated to his Father's affairs proclaims the radical nature of the Gospel, in which even the closest of human relationships are challenged by the absolute demands of the Kingdom. Mary and Joseph, fearful and anxious, 'did not understand' his words."

We, too, often fail to understand the words of Jesus. His teachings challenge us to accept a more difficult life, a life of doing good to our enemies, turning the cheek and going the extra mile, a life of courageously standing up for the truth and adhering to high moral standards that are counter-cultural.

Our preference, when living this way is inconvenient or unpleasant, is to rationalize and make excuses for our worldly behavior. But once we truly understand the demands of the Kingdom of God, we see their benefits and we obey gladly.

Without this understanding, we have to simply trust that the words of Jesus are right and true. Like Mary and Joseph, we need to ponder in our hearts what we don't understand, while moving forward and doing what Jesus wants us to do.

As challenging as this is, that's when we discover how amazing God can be.

Questions for Personal Reflection:
What teaching of the Church have you rationalized away so that you don't have to obey it? Or what teaching of Christ in the Sermon on the Mount (see Matt. 5,6,7) or elsewhere in the Gospels do you excuse yourself from? How much is your disobedience due to not understanding what is really being taught? What will you do to seek and gain a better understanding?

Questions for Community Faith Sharing:
How meaningful is the Holy Family to you? What is it about the relationships between Jesus, Mary and Joseph that appeals to you? What has this taught you about God's Kingdom?

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

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 benotaafraid.dio.org/experience to learn more and to register.

What are you afraid of? – Going to confession, failing as a parent, to become Catholic, quitting a porn addiction, dying, getting an annulment, to have a child, talking to your adult child who has left the faith – all things you might be fearful of. Visit benotaafraid.dio.org to explore and experience your fears and find resources, answers, and help to some of life’s biggest fears as a Catholic.

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

Annual MCA National Christmas Artwork Contest - Announcing the 2020-2021 Missionary Childhood Association (MCA) National Christmas Artwork Contest! Twenty-two winners will be selected in this national competition; their artwork will be displayed at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. during Advent and Christmas 2021. Two grand-prize winners will also be selected, and their artwork will appear as the official Christmas card of the National Director of the Pontifical Mission Societies, Father Andrew Small, OMI. Artwork must be received by January 31, 2021. National contest winners will be notified in late spring 2021 and announced to Catholic media in fall 2021. To enter, please see go to https://info.missio.org/2020entryform. Past winners may not enter this year’s contest.

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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.
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