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

Pam 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.
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.

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
Worship Schedule & Mass Intentions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mass Intentions</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 26 - Dec. 27, 2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat. 4:30 pm †Ronald &amp; Louis Haynes</td>
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<tr>
<td>†Mr. Mrs. Albanese</td>
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<tr>
<td>†Holly Adams</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun. 9:30 am †Don Workman</td>
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<td>†Justine Claunch</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Masss for this Week</th>
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<tr>
<td>Dec. 28 - Jan. 3, 2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon. 7:00 am People of St. Joseph</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tue. 7:00 am People of St. Joseph</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed. 5:30 pm †Eva Schmidt</td>
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<td>Thu. 5:30 pm People of St. Joseph</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri. 9:30 am †St. Joseph Society</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat. 4:30 pm People of St. Joseph</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun. 9:30 am †Dorothy Atteberry</td>
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<tr>
<td>†Justine Claunch</td>
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From the Administrator's Desk....!

"Know this: your son is a sign established for the falling and rising of many in Israel."

On this Feast of the Holy Family, we celebrate God’s Incarnation into a human family who loved, protected, and taught the Lord Jesus. For us Christians, we believe that the family is an institution designed by God from the very beginning of mankind.

Going back to the Old Testament, couples considered having children a blessing from God. Thus, Abraham felt frustrated that he was childless. But God intervened and promised a progeny to him. The author to the Hebrews tells us the story of Abraham as an example of true faith in God. In the Gospel, Mary and Joseph go to the temple to consecrate Jesus. Simeon and Anna bless Jesus, Mary and Joseph, the Holy Family.

Brothers and sisters, we know that Jesus grew up in an ordinary family – the family of Mary and Joseph. In this sense, the family is a temple of God. It is in the temple of the family that children learn Christian values. Parents have a solemn obligation to raise their children in the faith, hope, and love of God. Every child they have is not only theirs, but also for God. Parents “procreate,” that is, they allow the Creator to bring new life through their cooperation.

Today we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family. It is also called a parent day. Parents should give thanks to God for making them God’s partners in giving life for their children. Children pray for your parents and be obedient to them as Jesus was obedient to Mary and Joseph. Blessed are those children who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.

God bless us all.

Fr. Manny

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!
During January, in conjunction with Sanctity of Human Life Month, our parish will again be partnering with First Step Women’s Center on their Baby Bottle Boomerang campaign. In 2019, at First Step Women’s Center, 179 mothers who were facing an unintended pregnancy, struggling with the decision between life and death, chose life! Last year our parish contributions, along with others in the community, helped raise enough funds to support the purchase of a new building and expand their operations. This year their goal is to raise $35,000 to assist with daily operating costs.

Our parish will be distributing baby bottles and envelopes after each of the Masses on January 2nd and January 3rd. We ask each family to consider taking a bottle or envelope home and throughout the month of January fill it with cash, coins, or checks. Family, friends, co-workers or anyone who wishes to help can contribute! Return the bottle or envelope at one of the Masses on Saturday, January 30th or Sunday, January 31st.

For further details about First Step Women’s Center and this campaign, visit www.CultureOfLifeSpringfield.org. Thank you for helping to make a direct impact on the number of lives saved from abortion.

PARISH REGISTRATION FORMS can be found on our website or in the parish office...

Why register in a parish?
Parish membership through registration, or a parish census, is a longstanding practice. Over the years, registration by parishioners has become increasingly important, even a practical necessity; The parish census becomes a tool by which the pastoral staff is aided to serve the parishioners; Registration in the parish enables the parishioners to apply for sponsorship forms for the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation; Registration in the parish helps foster a sense of belonging and contributes to the growth of a parish as a community with characteristics of a family; Expressed membership in a parish commits a person to the parish, but also entitles the parishioner to pastoral service and care; Membership enables the pastoral staff to reach out for assistance according to the time, talent and treasure of the parishioners. Volunteer service by parishioners is indispensable for a vital, thriving parish.

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 31st New Year’s Eve 5:30 pm
January 1st New Year’s Day 9:30 am

HOMELESS WARRIORS THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING!

This month was challenging due to sickness and last minute changes. Instead of 55 homeless, the number increased to 70. Your time and contributions are invaluable to this cause: Gary Schmidt, Suzy Knowski, Pat Towner, Sharon & Charlie Starling, Sue Brock, Beverly Burmeister, Diane Best, Melissa Fry, Lois Jirgal, Mary Bonner, Marilyn Tisckos, Mary Jo Rappe, Judy Reeves, Mike Doer, Frank Ramirez, Chad Cooper, Eileen Ku- char and Matt Power.

Special Thanks to Matt Power, Suzy Knowski, Pat Towner and Sue Brock for their double duty work.

MANY THANKS:

To Lisa Sabo, Sr. Mary Ellen and the hard-working crew in preparing our worship space for the celebration of the Christmas Season;

To all those who donated in memory of loved ones so that decorations could be purchased; and

To everyone for all of the cards, gifts & goodies sent to the parish office. They were very much appreciated.

We are taking orders for the St. Joseph Catholic Church Memorial Bricks. Forms are available on the website or in the parish office.

St. Joseph Society
Winter

Dick & Dorothy Atteberry
Bartolomucci & Kuchar Families
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
John & Eleanor Yuskavich
Gifts of new birth

Epiphany is a celebration of the adoration of magi from the East who sought and found Christ the newborn king.

The Greek word "magi" meant oriental scientists. Also called astrologers, their worship of Jesus does not validate astrology, which assigns power over us to stars and planets; rather, it validates that Jesus was born to bring salvation to all, Gentiles as well as Jews. Their arrival at the manger demonstrates that Jesus was born for the sake of all who recognize that only God should have power over us. Jesus was born to free us from sin and all other forces that control us.

The magi also demonstrate that gift-giving is a normal part of worship. Their gift of gold honored Jesus as king. Their gift of incense honored Jesus as God. And their gift of myrrh honored the gift that Jesus would eventually give to us: his death. He was born to sacrifice his life for us. He took to the cross our sins, and then his resurrection destroyed the power of sin and the power of demons who tempt us to sin.

The gifts of the magi become gifts that we all give to Jesus: Gold represents our righteousness, which Christ's kingship over our lives makes possible so that we become more and more saintly each day. Incense represents our prayers going up to God - prayers that involve giving God the gift of our trust. And myrrh is the gift of suffering for Christ: the sacrifices we make for the sake of his ongoing mission of transforming our world.

The word "epiphany" means a moment of discovery, a revelation that changes our lives. Did the magi have an epiphany about Jesus when they came into his presence? Did they realize that they were looking at the Savior of the world? Did they want this little baby to save them from their own sins?

We can safely assume that they never forgot about their trip to Bethlehem. Surely they kept their ears open for news about him as the years went by. Probably they heard about the King of the Jews who was crucified.

We know that they in fact became very saintly Christians; their relics still exist and have been venerated since very early times.

What about you and me? Will we remember Jesus in some new way this year? Will our worship of him transform us? Will the power of sin be defeated by our faith in Christ when we face temptations?

Hopefully, we have been changed this Advent and Christmas Season by a new rebirth of Jesus into our lives and - through our lives - out into the world.

Questions for Personal Reflection:
What's the gold you're giving to Jesus? What is your incense? What is your myrrh?

Questions for Community Faith Sharing:
Describe an epiphany you have had during this past Advent and the Season of Christmas. How will you take this out to others so that they, too, experience Christ more completely?
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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