St. JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH

Parochial Administrator
Rev. Manuel P. Cuizon, C.R.S.
m_cuizon@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.
**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.

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**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.

**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

Jan. 2 - Jan. 3, 2021
Sat.   4:30 pm   People of St. Joseph
Sun.   9:30 am †Dorothy Atteberry
        †Justine Claunch

Masses for this Week
Jan. 4 - Jan. 10, 2020
Mon.  7:00 am   People of St. Joseph
Tue.  7:00 am   People of St. Joseph
Wed.  5:30 pm   People of St. Joseph
Thu.  7:00 am †J. Mike Geist
        †Jerry Sams
Sat.  4:30 pm †Joseph Pachlhofer
Sun.  9:30 am   People of St. Joseph

This Week in Our Parish

Monday, Jan. 4
6:30 pm    CFF

Thursday, Jan. 7
5:15 pm    Adoration
7:00 pm    Knights of Columbus

Saturday, Jan. 9
3:15-4:00 pm Sacrament of Reconciliation

Sunday, Jan. 10
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....!

“They saw the child with
Mary, his mother.”

Prophet Isaiah joyfully prophesies about the dawn of Light of the nations. St. Paul, in the second reading, speaks of the great revelation of the Mystery that offers redemption to all Jews and Gentiles alike. Matthew, in our Gospel for this Epiphany Sunday, narrates the visit of the Magi, guided by the Star, to the babe of Bethlehem, the Light and Desire of the nations. This reminds us that Christ - our Light, has come to dispel the darkness of sin and death and he to remain with us forever.

Maybe some of us are wondering, why did the Star in the East lead the Magi via Herod’s Palace? Could not have the Star guided them straight all the way to Bethlehem? The closer explanation is, it was part of God’s grand design that the way of the Magi should include a stopover at Herod’s, announcing the Good News to his household as well, like the sower who lets the seed fall on the rocky and thorny bushes.

Brothers and sisters, today we are beginning a year-long journey. If ever we find our journey does not go like a straight arrow, but involves detours, do not panic and do not be afraid – God has a reason to take you through such terrain. Just do not lose sight of the Star. And do not forget also to sow the seed of God’s Good News whichever terrain the Star takes you through.

As we begin journeying together with faith and hope, let us ask God for the grace to keep our eyes fixed on the Star throughout this year 2021 and walk the path that leads us through.

God blessed us all.

Fr. Manny

A PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR 2021!
EPIPHANY HOUSE BLESSING
(January 6th)

Using blessed chalk (available near the baptismal font), mark the current year and the initials of the Magi above the outside doorways to your home. Place a cross in between each of the letters. It should look something like this:

20+C+M+B+21

After completing the above markings, pray the following prayer:

May all who come to our home this year rejoice to find Christ living among us; and may we seek and serve, in everyone we meet, the same Jesus who is Lord of all people forever and ever. Amen.

The legendary names of the three Magi are: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar. The initials C-M-B also stand for the Latin words "Christus Mansionem Benedict" which means: “May Christ bless this dwelling.”

The markings over the door should be left all year as a sign that yours is a Christian home.

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

While at Prayer, please remember the people who are in the hospitals and nursing homes. Also the people who are shut-ins and those who live alone.

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.

Jean Moody
Good News Reflection
Feast of the Baptism of the Lord
January 10, 2021

Celebrating Baptism

Why was Jesus baptized? He wasn’t in need of repentance. Why, for that matter, did Jesus do anything at all? Not just to save us from our sins by dying on the cross! There is so much more to Jesus than that.

Jesus united himself to sinners. First he humbled himself to become one of us, a human living with the same needs we have every day. Then he surrendered himself to the baptismal water so that when we are baptized, he is there in the water with us, raising us up to a new life, the holy life, everlasting life.

Everything that Jesus did shows us by example who we are: what the Father created us to be like and how we are to live as children of God. When Jesus was baptized and the Holy Spirit descended upon him and the Father said, “You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased,” he showed us by example what happens at every person’s baptism.

The Holy Spirit descended upon YOU and the Father said about YOU: “You are my beloved son/daughter; with him/her I am well pleased!”

Baptismal water is the womb of God from which we are reborn into his family and his ministry. When we bless ourselves with drops from holy water fonts, making the sign of the cross, we renew our baptisms.

In the Jordan River, Jesus was reborn from ordinary life to a life of ministry. Baptism does that for us, too. Is there some repentance you need to do so that you can be reborn more fully into what the Father created you to do - your divine purpose, the ministry he has called you to do?

Let us begin the Church Season of Ordinary Time with a renewal of our baptismal purification and commitment, so that we may be renewed as followers of Christ in holiness and in ministry:

Do you reject Satan? And all his works? And all his empty promises?

Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth?

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was born of the Virgin Mary, was crucified, died, and was buried, rose from the dead, and is now seated at the right hand of the Father?

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting?

Next, use the following prayer (or one of your own):

"Dear God, I am a sinner. I sometimes fail to put You first in my life. Forgive me. Change me. Renew me. To demonstrate that I mean it, that I truly want You to be Lord of my life completely, I will do a special act, just as Jesus put his life fully into the Father's hands by surrendering to John's baptism and allowing his own re-birth. The act that I choose to do is ________. Amen!"

And God the Father says of you:

"This is my beloved son/daughter; with him/her I am well pleased!"

Questions for Personal Reflection:

What do you know about your baptism? When was it? Where? Who was there? Was there a party? Think beyond the obvious: Who of the saints and angels were there? What kind of party did they celebrate over your baptism - and why?

Questions for Community Faith Sharing:

Share with your group what you know about the people and place and celebration of your baptism. How did this Sacrament affect your life as the years went by? Why does this mean that the Father is pleased with you?

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: 1 Jn 3:22 — 4:6; Ps 2:7bc-8, 10-12a; Mt 4:12-17, 23-25

Tuesday: 1 Jn 4:7-10; Ps 72:1-4, 7-8; Mk 6:34-44

Wednesday: 1 Jn 4:11-18; Ps 72:1-2, 10, 12-13; Mk 6:45-52

Thursday: 1 Jn 4:19 — 5:4; Ps 72: 1-2, 14, 15bc, 17; Lk 4:14-22a

Friday: 1 Jn 5:5-13; Ps 147:12-15, 19-20; Lk 5:12-16

Saturday: 1 Jn 5:14-21; Ps 149:1-6a, 9b; Jn 3:22-30

Sunday: Is 42:1-4, 6-7 or Is 55:1-11; Ps 29:1-4, 3, 9-10 or Is 12:2-3, 4bcd-6; Acts 10:34-38 or 1 Jn 5:1-9; Mk 1:7-11
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 benotafraid.dio.org/experience to learn more and to register.

The Knights of Columbus is seeking an intelligent, motivated, professional catholic man for a career opportunity representing their financial program in the area. We offer a complete benefits package and training with this full-time position. In order to qualify, one must be eligible for membership in the Knights of Columbus. For more information, and/or an initial interview, please contact Jeff Niemeyer, FICF, LUTCF, General Agent, at 618-526-7991 ext. 301, or via email at Jeff.Niemeyer@kofc.org. Website: www.NiemeyerAgency.org.

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 benotafraid.dio.org to explore and experience your fears and find resources, answers, and help to some of life’s biggest fears as a Catholic.

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

Your questions answered on dying and death – Why pre-plan your funeral? What should you do when your loved one is dying? Why should you insist upon the Catholic funeral rites? What about cremation and where you should be buried? Whether it is yourself or a loved one, understanding what the Catholic Church teaches on these end of life questions can be critical for one’s soul. Go to dio.org/funeral for easy to understand answers to several questions about dying, death, funerals, and burials.

Dive Deep - Why the church is wrong on marriage. There are many Catholic Church teachings surrounding preparing for and entering into marriage. Many of these teachings our culture would say, “The church is wrong on marriage.” But is the church wrong? Go to dio.org/podcast to listen. Make sure to subscribe to the podcast so you never miss an episode.

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.