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, pjohnson@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.

**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), 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 Niedzieliski

**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
From the Administrator’s Desk….!

“You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.”

This Sunday, God reveals to us the sacrament of baptism with dynamic power. Prophet Isaiah presents the suffering servant as the chosen one filled with the spirit, who will bring forth justice to the nations. Our second reading tells us that God has proclaimed the good news of peace to all nations through Jesus Christ, the anointed one with the Holy Spirit and power. In the gospel, Jesus a faithful and obedient Jew, comes to John the Baptist at the Jordan to be baptized by him. At his baptism, Jesus is proclaimed the beloved Son, God’s chosen one.

Brothers and sisters, do we still remember what we promised during our own baptism? Baptism is a Greek word meaning “to be washed, to be cleansed.” Does Jesus need to be cleansed? Jesus himself gives the answer: he comes to be baptized “…so that we may fulfill the right order.” The main purpose of baptism, as taught by the Church, is to make us adopted children of God, to become members of the community of believers.

Making the sign of the cross is an opportune time to remind us of our own baptismal promises to believe in the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit and to renounce Satan in our life. Let us pray then and thank God for giving us the privilege to become His children through our own baptism. May God grant us the grace to live up to our baptismal promises every day, so that our lives may always reflect the powerful grace of our baptism.

God bless us all.

Fr. Manny
From the Social Concerns Committee

We thank all of the parishioners who donated socks, gloves, hats, scarves and money during the Advent season. There was a very positive response and we were able to share them with four agencies: Mercy Communities, Helping Hands, Kumler Outreach Ministries, and the Warming Center. May God bless you for your generosity.

CHRISTMAS WREATHS

I’d like to thank everyone who bought a wreath and/or gave a donation this year. Your generosity is overwhelming! Thank you again.

Lisa Sabo

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My dear friends in Christ,

Over the past year, the coronavirus pandemic has magnified the importance of communication. Whether it was announcing the closing and then reopening of the public celebration of Mass, updates on Confirmations, how our schools would reopen safely and responsibly, and how we should respond spiritually to the fear and stress of the pandemic, Catholic Times was consistently in your mailbox conveying these critical messages to you and the faithful of our diocese. In fact, I have heard numerous people say that despite all the uncertainty, Catholic Times was a consistent beacon of normalcy, something people deeply appreciated.

Catholic Times has been putting a greater emphasis on feature reporting, highlighting the people, parishes, and schools that are building up the Kingdom of God in our diocese. The magazine is also focusing on educating people about the faith through the “Hey, Father!” series and showcasing inspiring stories that provide a much-needed spiritual boost, especially during this uncertain time. New series in Catholic Times were also launched this past year including “From the Archives” and the cartoon “One Last Thing.”

My column, “Lex Cordis Caritas,” is on page 4 of each issue. It is one of the best ways that I can speak to you about the issues that we face as Catholics in Central Illinois and the nation and update you on important decisions I make that impact the faithful. As your bishop, it is important for me to be an active participant in Catholic media.

Catholic Times strives to report on the people and issues in our diocese and the extraordinary work ahead of us. Whether it is your church, your neighbor, or your school, it is important the magazine highlights the incredible life-giving and spiritually giving work our people are doing. The mission of Catholic Times is to educate readers about our faith, inspire readers about our faith, and equip readers with information to defend our faith.

It is all these reasons why I believe that Catholic Times should be available to every household in our diocese, either online (Catholic-N.org) or by mail. Your $15 annual subscription will help ensure that it remains an inexpensive source of information on the vital issues I have noted. Please renew your subscription in your Catholic Times parish envelope during the weekend of January 9-10.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Thomas John Paprocki
Bishop of Springfield in Illinois
Publisher, Catholic Times

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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.
**SACRIFICIAL GIVING**

**Week 26 of fiscal year**  
12/27/2020  
**Fiscal YTD**

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**Week 27 of fiscal year**  
1/03/2021  
**Fiscal YTD**

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

**Rest in Peace**

Christine Herndon  
Eugene Szerletich  
Beth Cartwright

**CHURCH DECORATING**

I’d like to thank everyone who assisted in decorating the church this year for Christmas. Without many hands, it would not have been done. Thanks goes out to Sr. Mary Ellen, Jane Schmidt, Barb and Gary Schmidt, Linda Renfro, Axel, Pat Townsend, Marianne Stremsterfer and the Mounce family. If there is anyone I have forgotten, please forgive me. Again, thank you!

**Removal of Christmas decorations will be this Sunday, January 10th, after Mass. Please consider helping!**

**BABY BOTTLE BOOMERANG**

During January, in conjunction with Sanctity of Human Life Month, our parish will be partnering with First Step Women’s Center on their Baby Bottle Boomerang campaign. We began distributing baby bottles and envelopes last weekend at each of the Masses. This weekend we will again have bottles and envelopes available near each entrance to the church. For those interested in participating, take a bottle or envelope home and fill it with cash, coins, or checks (made payable to First Step) throughout the month of January. 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](http://www.CultureOfLifeSpringfield.org). Thank you for helping to make a direct impact on the number of lives saved from abortion.
Good News Reflection
Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
January 17, 2021

What are you looking for?

Like Jesus did to Andrew, who became one of his first disciples, in next Sunday's Gospel passage, he says to you and to each of us: "What are you looking for?" When you pray, and when you look at a crucifix, or when you see a picture of Jesus, what exactly are you looking for?

Jesus says: "Come and see!" Come and see what? His love? His healing power? His supernatural ability to answer our prayers? Whatever we're looking for, the reason we're seeking it is because we don't yet have it.

Jesus is the fulfillment of every promise by God the Father. Jesus is the fullness of love, the provider of mercy, the divine healer, the perfect mediator of all our prayers and concerns and everything else we truly need. So, why does it feel like something is still missing? Why do our lives feel incomplete? Why do our prayers seem unanswered?

The answer is revealed in what happened after Andrew began to follow Jesus. We read about it in Samuel's response to God's invitation. We proclaim it in the Responsorial Psalm: "Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will."

Andrew, his brother Simon Peter, and the other disciples were privileged to witness first-hand the wondrous miracles of Jesus. They personally experienced God's love through the gentle eyes of Jesus, the tone of kindness in his voice, and the forgiveness that was visible in his smile.

Yet with all of this, they did not really find all that they were looking for (remember how easily Peter felt afraid or confused or uncertain) until they were on the giving end of it. They didn't discover the fullness of Jesus until Jesus was no longer present in the flesh and they accepted their calling to continue Christ's earthly ministry.

The same is true for us who have never seen Jesus' actual eyes or heard his actual voice. We find what we're seeking when we give it to others. Why? Because then we discover that we really had it all along! This is the miracle of "Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will."

Questions for Personal Reflection:
What do you need from Jesus that he doesn't seem to be providing yet? At the core of your prayer requests, what is it you're really seeking? How can you find it by doing the will of God? Contemplate this question until you figure out something to do. Then do it and see what happens.

Questions for Community Faith Sharing:
Describe a time when you gave away what you thought you didn't have. Perhaps it was money or time. Perhaps it was patience or hope or love itself. How were you doing the will of God? Contemplate this question until you figure out something to do. Then do it and see what happens.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK
Monday: Heb 1:1-6; Ps 97:1, 2b, 6, 7c, 9; Mk 1:14-20
Tuesday: Heb 2:5-12; Ps 8:2ab, 5, 6-9; Mk 1:21-28
Wednesday: Heb 2:14-18; Ps 105:1-4, 6-9; Mk 1:29-39
Thursday: Heb 3:7-14; Ps 95:6-11; Mk 1:40-45
Friday: Heb 4:1-5, 11; Ps 78:3, 4bc, 6c-8; Mk 2:1-12
Saturday: Heb 4:12-16; Ps 19:8-10, 15; Mk 2:13-17
Sunday: 1 Sm 3:3b-10, 19; Ps 40:2, 4, 7-10; 1 Cor 6:13c-15a, 17-20; Jn 1:35-42

Respect Life Rally
Springfield Right to Life’s annual Respect Life Rally will be held at 2pm on Sunday, January 24th at Calvary Church at 1730 West Jefferson in the parking lot. Stay in your vehicle and tune in on your radio to hear our pro-life speakers inspire our community to “let the walls fall” as they did in Jericho!

Annual Signature Ad Campaign
Due to COVID and the subsequent challenges to collecting signatures, we will not be having the annual Signature Ad Campaign this year. Please look for a pro-life ad in the State Journal Register announcing SRTL’s upcoming events and programs.

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.

9 Days for Life (January 21-29, 2020) is a novena for the protection of human life. Participants can receive novena prayers each day by downloading the free 9 Days for Life app, or by subscribing to daily emails or text messages at: https://pro-life-activities.lpages.co/9-days-for-life-2020/. Each day there is an intention accompanied by a short reflection and suggested action to help build a culture of life.

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

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.

Take your FAITH ON A JOURNEY, to the Holy Land Discovery with Jordan - (Israel and Jordan) on this 11 day experience. October 14th, 2021 - October 25th, 2021. Your included destinations while on this Journey: TEL AVIV, ISRAEL – JAFFA- CAESAREA- MEGIDDOR- NAZARETH – BET SHE’AN – MAGDALA – SEA OF GALILEE – CAPERNAUM – MOUNT OF BEATTITUDES – CANA – BETHLEHEM – JERUSALEM – MASADA AND THE DEAD SEA–PETRA, JORDAN–AMMAN-EXCURSION TO JERASH, AJLOUN & ANJARA. Plus, Mass will be offered on your journey. Land prices begin at $2349 per person, based on double occupancy. Deposits of only $500 per person will reserve your space. Space is VERY LIMITED. For further info, contact Brian at 860-399-1785/ Brian@CatholicCruisesandTours.com.

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.

ATTENTION BUSINESS OWNERS and GENEROUS PARISH-IONERS! 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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