**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  
mebackes@stjoseph.dio.org  
Evangelization

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.

**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.

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

**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), Tim Kennedy (Secretary), Beth Cartwright, Linda Medlock, Gary Schmidt

**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

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**Diocesan Child Abuse Reporting and Investigation Number:** 217-321-1155.
From the Administrator’s Desk....!

“So it will be: the last will be first and the first will be last.”

The readings for this Sunday show that God invites us to embrace His ways, not the ways of this world. They (readings) also portrayed God as a father who does not measure his love according to human standards.

God’s wealth is not a limited capital that requires proper labor to justly get good returns, but His wealth is an unlimited resource. It is not diminished even if given away. We can translate this to a family situation. A parent’s love is not wasted even if his or her children have different degrees of loving in return. Some children make parents proud and some test their patience, still others need years to finally see it. God’s love then is not a salary waiting for us to work. It is an embrace openly waiting for everyone to come in.

Brothers and sisters, Isaiah advises us to seek the Lord, an activity we might think of as being complete as soon as we come to believe in him. But it is truly an invitation to grace – a grace that is constant, always available, and generous in its forgiveness. It is a promise of deep and perpetual care by a God who is completely different from us in his thoughts and ways, and yet never-ending in his love and mercy.

We are challenged now not to stop showing our love and care to our young people, especially to our children, friends, and other significant people even if we are the only one loving them.

God bless us all.

Fr. Manny
or click on the Give Central link on our website: stjoseph.dio.org

Week 11 of fiscal year: 9/13/2020

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<th>Service Type</th>
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St. Joseph will continue with the current Mass schedule (one Mass on Saturday at 4:30 p.m. and one Mass on Sunday at 9:30 a.m.). Returning to Mass is optional. The dispensation from Sunday obligation remains in effect. Anyone feeling sick should stay home and anyone who has been in close contact with COVID-19 individuals should self-quarantine for 14 days. We are allowed to be at 25% capacity, which is 206 people per Mass. Thanks to the many volunteers who have stepped up to sanitize the church after each gathering.

Please sanitize your hands upon entering. Social distancing always requires everyone to be six-feet apart in all directions. Please refrain from close discussions or gatherings of any kind in the vestibule or pews. Masks must be worn and can be removed once you are in the pew/seat. They are also to be removed when coming forward for Holy Communion. You may remain in the pew if you feel more comfortable and make a Spiritual Communion. The Precious Blood is not to be distributed to the faithful. The Sign of Peace is to be exchanged without physical contact. We will dispense with congregational singing until it is safe to do so. Hymnals – as well as bulletins and other items that may be handed out – will be removed. This will help remove a possible source of contagion, as well as ease the cleaning efforts before and after liturgies. The bulletin is posted on our website (www.stjoseph.dio.org) every Friday. Baskets will be out to collect your offertory envelopes. If you are interested in contributing online, safe and secure online giving is available on our website. Please use the Gift Central link.

Parishioners and guests should understand that they assume the risk of contracting COVID-19 anytime they enter a public space since such precautions do not eliminate the risk of infection.
PEP Club will meet in the parish hall on Wednesday, September 23rd at 11:30 a.m. for a light lunch.

Questions? Contact Gary Schmidt at 217-971-6624.

From the Social Concerns Committee:

The committee is looking forward to kicking off our fall community outreach efforts over the next couple of months. Please check the bulletin each week for further details on those efforts. Despite the challenges of COVID-19, there will be various opportunities in the coming months that you can support which will be conducted while following recommended safety guidelines. In the meantime, please do not forget our ongoing ability to assist the Holy Family Food Pantry through collection of non-perishable food items. Those items can be dropped off in one of the baskets located near each entrance to the church. The pantry comes weekly to pick up the donated food items to help restock their shelves throughout the year. Thank you for all that you do to help support those in need. It is greatly appreciated.

CATHOLIC FAITH FORMATION PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN
BEGINS October 5, 2020

St. Joseph Parish partners families in passing on a lively Catholic faith to their children. October 5th begins the Monday 2020-2021 program of Catholic Faith Formation K-8. It is necessary that children who do not attend Catholic schools be enrolled. Our diocese is presently implementing the reordering of the Initiation Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist. Families and children need to be prepared and ready to consciously receive the abundant graces of these foundational sacraments of Catholic Faith Life. Please contact Sr. Mary Ellen Backes, OSU, 217-801-7922 or the parish office.
The correct answer isn't always right

Next Sunday's Gospel story was meant to shock people who think they're okay spiritually but do not honestly examine how well they do the Father's will. Jesus said that tax collectors and prostitutes (professions considered to be the most contemptible and unholy) were entering the kingdom of God ahead of religious experts!

These so-called "experts" knew the correct answer to the question that Jesus posed -- they knew to say yes to God -- but knowing the right answer and actually DOing the right answer is the dividing line between heaven and hell.

God doesn't want right answers; he wants righteous actions. God doesn't want dutiful compliance to Church teachings; he wants obedience motivated by love and an enthusiastic attitude of serving in the mission of the Church.

What's the value of going to Mass every Sunday, for example, if it doesn't result in deeds of holiness outside the Mass? Do you know someone who's saying "no" to coming to Mass? If they're doing good works because they genuinely love God, who's to say they won't reach full unity with him sooner than people who attend every Mass but do little to help others?

God wants us to do both: Know the right answers and be righteous. Go to Mass faithfully and be changed by it. Say yes to his calling to make the world a better place by uniting ourselves to Christ in church and following him out the door, taking him to everyone we meet.

Questions for Personal Reflection:
What opportunities to serve God in your parish or out in the community have you said "no" to? Spend some time praying to understand whether or not that was an invitation from Christ himself. What can you say "yes" to now?

Questions for Community Faith Sharing:
What types of people today are despised the most? Who seems least likely to get into heaven? (A terrorist perhaps? An ex-spouse?) How is it possible (to our surprise) that we might be greeted by them when we arrive in heaven? How would you feel about it?
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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