

ST. JOSEPH - STRINGTOWN

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St. Joseph-Stringtown Ministries January-March 2026

JANUARY		FEBRUARY		MARCH	
Servers		Servers		Servers	
Sun. Jan. 4	Izzy, Will, & Gabriel Volk	Sun. Feb. 1	Kaitlyn & Haley Ginder, Nathaniel Zwilling	Sun. Mar. 1	Izzy, Will, & Gabriel Volk
Sun. Jan. 11	CYM	Sun. Feb. 8	Amity Zuber, Julian Seaman, Gus Kocher	Sun. Mar. 8	Kaitlyn & Haley Ginder, Julian Seaman
Sun. Jan. 18	Kerigan Kocher, Levi Weidner, Brady Ochs	Sun. Feb. 15	Delana & Grayson Sterchi, Gavin Kuenstler	Sun. Mar. 15	Amity Zuber, Emmitt Kocher, Gus Kocher
Sun. Jan. 25	St. Joseph School	Sun. Feb. 22	Don Seiler, Sadie Seiler, Hallie Ochs	Sun. Mar. 22	Roland & Silas Sager, Hallie Ochs
		Sun. Feb. 25	Roland & Silas Sager, Brady Ochs	Sun. Mar. 29	Kerigan Kocher, Don Seiler, Nathaniel Zwilling
Lector		Lector		Lector	
Sun. Jan. 4	Owen Kocher	Sun. Feb. 1	Natalie Zwilling	Sun. Mar. 1	Joselyn Kocher
Sun. Jan. 11	CYM	Sun. Feb. 8	Hank Ginder	Sun. Mar. 8	Kathy Kocher
Sun. Jan. 18	Wayne Kocher	Sun. Feb. 15	Laura Sterchi	Sun. Mar. 15	Beth Kocher
Sun. Jan. 25	St. Joseph School	Sun. Feb. 22	Anita Seiler	Sun. Mar. 22	Kylie Kocher
		Sun. Feb. 25	Gary Zwilling	Sun. Mar. 29	Shelly Seaman
Eucharistic Ministers		Eucharistic Ministers		Eucharistic Ministers	
Sun. Jan. 4	Scott Seiler, Janette Kocher, Gary Zwilling	Sun. Feb. 1	Gary Zwilling, Jenny Hancock, Janette Kocher	Sun. Mar. 1	Harold & Lisa Boehl, Joselyn Kocher
Sun. Jan. 11	Jenny Hancock, Joselyn Kocher, Owen Kocher	Sun. Feb. 8	Harold & Lisa Boehl, Jamie Kocher	Sun. Mar. 8	Jenny Hancock, Owen Kocher, Gary Zwilling
Sun. Jan. 18	Elmer, Mary, & John Ochs	Sun. Feb. 15	Elmer, Mary, & John Ochs	Sun. Mar. 15	Gary, Beth, & Ian Kocher
Sun. Jan. 25	Gary, Beth, & Ian Kocher	Sun. Feb. 22	Scott Seiler, Joselyn Kocher, Jamie Kocher	Sun. Mar. 22	Elmer, Mary, & John Ochs
		Sun. Feb. 25	Jamie Kocher, Janette Kocher, Owen Kocher	Sun. Mar. 29	Gary Zwilling, Scott Seiler, Janette Kocher
Gifts		Gifts		Gifts	
Sun. Jan. 4	Ellen Steber Family	Sun. Feb. 1	Chad & Jenny Hancock Family	Sun. Mar. 1	Gary & Dorothy Zwilling
Sun. Jan. 11	CYM	Sun. Feb. 8	Ellen Steber Family	Sun. Mar. 8	Tom Kocher Family
Sun. Jan. 18	David Muhs Family	Sun. Feb. 15	Bill Zuber	Sun. Mar. 15	Jack Weidner Family
Sun. Jan. 25	St. Joseph School	Sun. Feb. 22	John Ochs Family	Sun. Mar. 22	Elmer & Mary Ochs
		Sun. Feb. 25	Ray Schneider Family	Sun. Mar. 29	Harold & Lisa Boehl
Ushers		Ushers		Ushers	
Sun. Jan. 4	Evelyn Volk, Elmer Ochs	Sun. Feb. 1	Byron & Isaac Zwilling	Sun. Mar. 1	Harold Boehl, David Muhs
Sun. Jan. 11	CYM	Sun. Feb. 8	Ray & Alex Schneider	Sun. Mar. 8	Tom Kocher, Elmer Ochs
Sun. Jan. 18	Jack & Jared Weidner	Sun. Feb. 15	Austin Kuenstler, Mallory Kocher	Sun. Mar. 15	Gary & Owen Kocher
Sun. Jan. 25	James Schneider, Ian Kocher	Sun. Feb. 22	Scott & Luke Seiler	Sun. Mar. 22	Doug Kocher, James Schneider
		Sun. Feb. 25	Brian & Mitchell Ochs	Sun. Mar. 29	Werner Kocher, Carter Seaman
Greeters		Greeters		Greeters	
Sun. Jan. 4	Caden Kocher	Sun. Feb. 1	Werner & Janette Kocher	Sun. Mar. 1	Bill Zuber
Sun. Jan. 11	CYM	Sun. Feb. 8	Jean Kocher Family	Sun. Mar. 8	Elmer & Mary Ochs
Sun. Jan. 18	Ralph & Sue McIntire	Sun. Feb. 15	Sam & Mary Zwilling	Sun. Mar. 15	Gary & Beth Kocher Family
Sun. Jan. 25	Doug & Lora Kocher Family	Sun. Feb. 22	Natalie Ochs	Sun. Mar. 22	Mallory Kocher
		Sun. Feb. 25	Seaman Family	Sun. Mar. 29	Caden Kocher
Children's Liturgy of the Word:		Children's Liturgy of the Word:		Children's Liturgy of the Word:	
Sun. Jan. 4	Joselyn & Mallory	Sun. Feb. 1	Laura, Dorothy, & Delana	Sun. Mar. 1	TBD
Sun. Jan. 11	Madison & Natalie	Sun. Feb. 8	Anita & Anna	Sun. Mar. 8	TBD
Sun. Jan. 18	Donna & Natalie	Sun. Feb. 15	Anne & Kaitlin	Sun. Mar. 15	TBD
Sun. Jan. 25	Jenny & Kylie	Sun. Feb. 22	Joselyn & Mallory	Sun. Mar. 22	TBD
		Sun. Feb. 25	TBD	Sun. Mar. 29	TBD

Please Find A Substitute If You Cannot Attend As Scheduled

TRI PARISH NEWS

ST. JOSEPH, OLNEY

Mass times

Wed. & Fri 8:00 am
Sat. 5:00 pm
Sun. 8:00 am

HOLY CROSS, WENDELIN

Mass times

Thurs. 6:30 pm
Sat. 4:00 pm
Sun. 10:00 am

ST. JOSEPH, STRINGTOWN

Mass times

Mon. 6:30 pm
Sun. 8:00 am



✚
ST. JOSEPH
OLNEY



✚
HOLY CROSS
WENDELIN



✚
ST. JOSEPH
STRINGTOWN

AROUND OUR PARISHES

Sunday, February 1st

- Candlemas! Bring your candles to mass for a special blessing.

Monday Feb. 2nd - Friday Feb. 6th

- Parish office is closed in Olney.

Wednesday, February 4th

- 6:30 pm, Family Catechesis meets at Holy Cross. Adult presentation and youth CYM activity.

Saturday, February 7th

- 5:00 pm, Married Catholics for Christ & Engaged Couples Valentine's Dinner and Dance. CYM child care provided. Catered meal by Ochs Smoked Meat. RSVP to Sandi Kessler at 618-676-5080.

- 5-7 pm, Booster's Pasta Dinner and PTO Carnival at St. Joseph School.

Sunday, February 8th

- Donut and coffee social after the 8 am mass in Olney.

Wednesday, February 18th

- Ash Wednesday: please bring in any old palms before Ash Wednesday to be burned for this year's ashes.

Sunday, February 22nd


- Rite of Election of OCIA at St. Peter's Cathedral, Belleville.

Thursday, February 26th

- 8:00 am, Confirmation retreat at Stringtown.
- 6:30 pm, PreK program at St. Joseph School in the gym.



Bring in
your palms
before
Feb. 18th













LENT 2026

Ash Wednesday

February 18, 2026

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Season of Lent. It is a season of penance, reflection, and fasting which prepares us for Christ's Resurrection on Easter Sunday, through which we attain redemption.

 1st Sunday of Lent February 22, 2026	 Palm Sunday March 29, 2026
 2nd Sunday of Lent March 01, 2026	 Maundy Thursday April 02, 2026
 3rd Sunday of Lent March 08, 2026	 Good Friday April 03, 2026
 Laetere Sunday March 15, 2026	 Holy Saturday April 04, 2026
 5th Sunday of Lent March 22, 2026	 Easter Sunday April 05, 2026

Sisters in Christ

Sisters in Christ will resume and continue through the month of April. The book we will be reading is, *Introduction to the Spiritual Life*.

Tuesdays 10:00 am - Stringtown

Tuesdays 5:00 pm - Olney

Wednesdays 5:30 pm - Holy Cross

Following in the Footsteps of the Saints Library



Be sure to check out the library and take home a book to read! The libraries are located in the vestibules of the tri-parishes.



The Knights of Columbus Council 1352, will be hosting Friday fish fry's beginning February 20th. A meal will be served from 5-7 pm at the Olney City Park Community Building. All are welcome!

ADORATION

There must always be at least 2 people in the church

St. Joseph, Stringtown

Prayer service & adoration every
Tuesday at 9:30 am.

Holy Cross, Wendelin

Thursdays at 5:30 pm until mass
time at 6:30 pm.

St. Joseph, Olney

Every Tuesday from 12-3 pm

Contact Us

Parish Offices

St. Joseph, Olney
618-392-8181

Holy Cross, Wendelin
618-752-5671

St. Joseph, Stringtown
618-754-3676

School office: 618-395-3081



St. Joseph School Bingo Bash & Auction
Saturday, March 14th
Join us for food, fun, many chances to win
and purchase items to support the school!
Tables: \$280 or \$35/person
Bingo and a catered meal by the Smokin'
Pig included in the price.
Call the school office to reserve your table.

If you cannot attend but want to help,
reach out to Carol Potter at
cpotter@stjoeolney.com.



St. Joseph School News

Feb. 5: Middle School Band Festival
Feb. 7: Booster's Past Dinner & PTO Carnival
Feb. 11: Early Dismissal at 11:50 am
P/T conferences 1-7 pm
Feb. 12-13: No School
Feb. 18: 5 pm, ROE Spelling Bee at OCC
Feb. 21: Middle School Youth Group
Feb. 26: Confirmation retreat at Stringtown.
Early Dismissal at 1:50 pm.
Preschool Program at 6:30 pm.

DONUTS & COFFEE

**Sunday
February 8th
after 8:00 am mass**

Enjoy donuts and coffee on
Sunday morning with your
families and fellow parishioners

**FEB.
8**

**St. Joseph, Olney
Multipurpose Room**

CANDLEMAS

BRING YOUR CANDLES TO MASS
JANUARY 31 & FEBRUARY 1
FOR A BLESSING

IT IS TRADITION ON THE FEAST OF
CANDLEMAS [PRESENTATION OF THE LORD]
TO BLESS AND LIGHT CANDLES, WHICH
REMIND US THAT THE DARKNESS SHALL NOT
OVERCOME THE LIGHT OF CHRIST.
AS CATHOLICS, WE ARE CALLED TO BE
LIGHT IN A WORLD THAT IS
OVERSHADOWED BY DARKNESS.





Please Join Us For An Evening Of Fun & Relaxation

Enjoy a delightful night featuring
WINES FROM AROUND THE WORLD & SPECIALTY BEERS,
along with a **DELICIOUS SPREAD OF APPETIZERS AND HORS D'OEUVRES.**

The evening will also include **DOOR PRIZES** and a **LIVE AUCTION** featuring:
Adult Drink-Themed, Flip-Top, Wood-Crafted Tables,
Two All-Inclusive St. Louis Blues Hockey Tickets,
Handcrafted Porch Swing and Custom Centerpieces.

Great Tastes, Great Company, And A Great Time Await!

SPECIAL THANKS & APPRECIATION TO
Wood-Iron-Stone Design, Schmid Auction, J&J Gaming,
Brummer's Cabinets & Customs and friends of St. Thomas!

Sponsors:

Donnewald Distributing Company, Newton Knights of Columbus and St. Thomas Angels



Sunday, February 15, 2026

Holy Cross Parish Center in Wendelin, IL

1:00p.m.-4:00p.m.

4 games
for \$1.00

CASH Prizes

Refreshments provided by
the Ladies Altar Sodality
for donation

Public is WELCOME
Doors open at 12:00

Sponsored by Family Life Committee

SAVE THE DATE

HOLY CROSS WINE TASTING

MARCH 21, 2026



formedTM

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Register for a free **Formed** account at signup.formed.org Use Zip Code: 62448

Family Catechesis Schedule of Events

"Following in the Footsteps of Saints"

2025 August

27 Wed. Opening Mass
Holy Cross 6:30 p.m.



Families: You will receive the Family Tote with Family Catechesis Saint Binder, and "Following in the Footsteps of the Saints" items, and Special Blessing for the year.

September

3 Wed. Family Gathering
Holy Cross 6:30 p.m. Parish Center



Families: Parent meeting, youth activity, Saint presentation and Birthday party for Mary with The Word of Life Workbook, and other "Following in the Footsteps of the Saints" items.

Sacrament Meeting for:
Reconciliation/Confirmation

13-14- Red Plate Blessing for 1st graders

*Reminder to bring Family Tote with Saint Binder for updates.

October

1 Wed. Family Gathering
Holy Cross 6:30 p.m. Parish Center



Adults: Presentation

Youth: Activity
Saint presentations and "Following in the Footsteps of the Saints" items.

4-5 Confirmation Commitment Weekend

11-12 Cup Blessing for 2nd graders

30-All Saint-Family Rosary-Trunk n'Treat after Mass

*Reminder to bring Family Tote with Saint Binder and Sacrament book for check-in.

November

5 Wed. Family Gathering
Holy Cross 6:30 p.m. Parish Center



Families: All Saint Maze and special Saint presentations, with bonfire and s/mores. Gift of Love information and "Following in the Footsteps of the Saints" items.

8-9 Candle Blessing for 3rd graders
29-30 -Gift of Love Mass Weekend

*Reminder to bring Family Tote with Saint Binder and Sacrament book for check-in.

December

3 Wed. Family Gathering
Holy Cross 6:30 p.m. Parish Center



Adults: Presentation

Youth: Activity
Saint presentations, Advent party, and "Following in the Footsteps of the Saints" items.

7 -Advent tradition of "Evensong" at Holy Cross
8 & 11- First Reconciliation

*Reminder to bring Family Tote with Saint Binder and Sacrament book for check-in.

Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year



2026 January

7 Wed. Family Gathering
Holy Cross 6:30 p.m. Parish Center



Families: Saint presentations, Three Kings and 12th Night Dinner Party and "Following in the Footsteps of the Saints" items.

*Reminder to bring Family Tote with Saint Binder and Sacrament book for check-in.

February

4 Wed. Family Gathering
Holy Cross 6:30 p.m. Parish Center



Adults: Presentation

Youth: Activity
Saint presentations and "Following in the Footsteps of the Saints" items.

7-M.C.4.C. Valentine Dinner/Dance at Holy Cross

*Reminder to bring Family Tote with Saint Binder and Sacrament book for check-in.

March

4 Wed. Ash Wednesday
15- Divine Mercy Book begins



19 -Families: St. Joseph Table tradition with Mass and Dinner at St. Joseph Stringtown Saint presentations and "Following in the Footsteps of the Saints" items.

*Reminder to bring Family Tote with Saint Binder and Sacrament book for check-in.

April

1 Wed. Family Gathering
Holy Cross 6:30 p.m. Parish Center



Adults: Presentation

Youth: Activity

Saint presentations and "Following in the Footsteps of the Saints" items.

5 -Easter

12 -Divine Mercy Sunday

(17,18,19)Confirmation at St. Joseph Olney

*Reminder to bring Family Tote with Saint Binder and Sacrament book for check-in.

May

3 Sun. Holy Cross May Crowning
2-3 First Communion
6 Wed. Closing Family Gathering
Holy Cross 6:30 p.m. Parish Center



Families: Final Saint presentations, catered meal, and year end video presentation, and "Following in the Footsteps of the Saints" items.

*Reminder to bring Family Tote with Saint Binder

**"Let us become saints so that
after having been together on
earth, we may be together in
Heaven."**

St. Pio Pietrelcina (Padre Pio)



Following in the Footsteps of the Saints

The **Catholic Extension Grant** contributed:
Silver Star, Three King ensemble and
Twelfth Night Epiphany Dinner.
Let us continue to stay
"Following in the Footsteps of the Saints."

JANUARY formed™

CYM provided the mealtime entertainment,
with a skit on the life of St. John Bosco,
the patron saint of youth.

The Three Kings
(Eric Sandschafer, Victor Sandschafer and
Isaac Street) arrived and shared with us
to always follow the True Light-
the Bright Shining Star -which is Jesus!

*"The people who walked in darkness
have seen a Great Light!"*

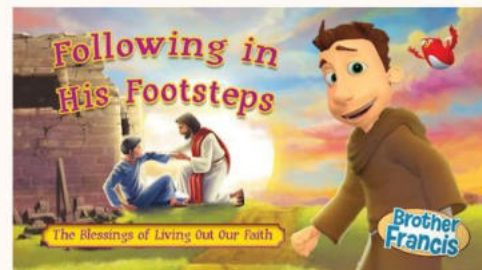
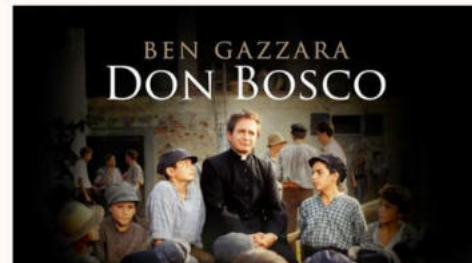
January the month of the Holy Name of Jesus

- Jan 1: Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
- Jan 2: Saints Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen
- Jan 4: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton (first American-born saint)
- Jan 5: St. John Neumann (first American male saint)
- Jan 7: St. Raymond of Penyafort (Dominican priest, canon lawyer)
- Jan 13: St. Hilary of Poitiers (Bishop, Doctor of the Church)
- Jan 17: St. Anthony the Abbot (Father of Monasticism)
- Jan 20: Saints Fabian (Pope) & Sebastian (Martyr)
- Jan 21: St. Agnes (Virgin & Martyr)
- Jan 24: St. Francis de Sales (Bishop, Doctor of the Church)
- Jan 25: The Conversion of St. Paul the Apostle (Feast)
- Jan 27: St. Angela Merici (Founder of the Ursulines)
- Jan 28: St. Thomas Aquinas (Priest, Doctor of the Church)
- Jan 31: St. John Bosco (Founder of the Salesians, patron of youth)



Prayer for the New Year

*"Come, Holy Spirit, be our Light and Guide
in this new year. Renew our minds and
hearts, strengthen us in virtue, and help us
grow closer to You and one another.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen."*



Upcoming February Events

Holy Cross Wendelin

4 Wed. Family Catechesis Gathering 6:30 pm
Join us for an eye opening Adult presentation, a
CYM Candlemas service, and a "Saint"
presentation for all ages.

7 M.C.4.C. Valentine Dinner/Dance- CYM
babysitting in parish house, R.S.V.P.

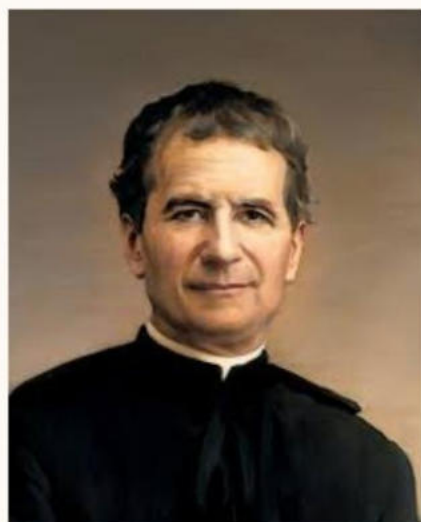
*Reminder to bring your Family Catechesis Tote
and Binder and Sacrament books for check-in.

FOLLOWING IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE SAINTS

January 2026



Our January Saints



Saint John Bosco

(Don Bosco) 1815-1888)

was an Italian Catholic priest, educator, and writer who dedicated his life to disadvantaged youth, developing the Salesian Preventive System (reason, religion, loving-kindness) to educate poor, orphaned, and delinquent children through vocational training and spiritual guidance, becoming the "Father and Teacher of Youth" and patron of apprentices, editors, publishers, and young people, with his work continuing through the Salesians worldwide.



Mother of God

Mary the mother of Jesus, holds a unique and highly venerated position within Christianity, particularly in Catholicism and Orthodox Christianity, where she is honored as the Mother of God (or Theotokos, a Greek term meaning "God-bearer"). She is considered the greatest of all saints.



St. Francis de Sales

(1567-1622) was a French bishop, theologian, and writer known for his gentle approach to faith, authoring Introduction to the Devout Life, co-founding the Sisters of the Visitation, and becoming a Doctor of the Church, serving as patron for writers, journalists, and educators for making holiness accessible to all. He famously used "a spoonful of honey" over "vinegar" to win back Calvinists, slipping pamphlets under doors, and emphasized "Humility, Humility, Humility" before his death.

Saints, Eucharist and the Catholic Faith



*Stringtown Study
The Four Terezas*

**TUESDAY
ST. JOSEPH
STRINGTOWN
10:00AM**

*Sisters in Christ
The Devil in the Castle*

**WEDNESDAY
HOLY CROSS
5:30 PM**

OCIA
*Order of Christian
Initiation of Adults*

INTERESTED IN JOINING THE
CATHOLIC CHURCH OR JUST
WANT MORE INFORMATION?

WE ARE ALWAYS EXCITED TO
WELCOME NEW
MEMBERS/FAMILIES.

MEETINGS WILL BE
STARTING SOON.

CONTACT
FR. STEVEN OR CAROLINE
FOR MORE INFORMATION.



*Olney Study
The Eucharist*

**WEDNESDAY
ST. JOSEPH OLNEY
9:15 AM & 7:00 PM**

*Brother's in Christ
Into the Breach*

**THURSDAY
HOLY CROSS
7:00PM**