

ST. JOSEPH - STRINGTOWN

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Stringtown Ministries Jan-March 2026.....Page 2

Tri-Parish Newsletter January..... Pages 3-4

Donuts & Coffee Social January 11Page 5

Formed Flyer for Parish.....Page 6

Family Catechesis 2025-2026 Schedule.....Page 7

January Catechesis Newsletter Pages 8-9

Study & Group Session InformationPage 11

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

Wednesday, January 7th

- 6:30 pm, Family Catechesis at Holy Cross. Twelfth Nigh Epiphany Dinner. Join us for a family dinner, CYM saint skit, and special guests.

Sunday, January 11th

- Donuts after 8am mass at Olney.

Monday, January 19th

- Martin Luther King Jr. Day, No school

Saturday, January 24th

- 4:00 pm, Catholic Schools Week Kickoff mass at Holy Cross.
- 5:00 pm, Catholic Schools Week Kickoff mass at St. Joseph, Olney.

Sunday, January 25th

- 8:00 am, Catholic Schools Week Kickoff mass at St. Joseph, Stringtown
- 11 am - 1 pm, VFW Pasta Dinner in Olney.

Catholic Schools Week Activities

- **Monday, January 26th**
 - Soup-er Bowl Food Drive and Saving change to save hearts Kickoff.
 - Athletic Appeal Day!
- **Tuesday, January 27th**
 - 5th grade saints wax museum.

- PBS watch party
- Classroom door decorating.
- Dress head to toe in one color!
- **Wednesday, January 28th**
 - 8:00 am, Alumni mass.
 - Sweet treats for students.
 - 8th grade vs. staff competition.
 - School Spirit Day!
- **Thursday, January 29th**
 - Movie and PJ day.
 - Cozy dress day!
- **Friday, January 30th**
 - PBS Assembly
 - Staff lunch
 - Living Rosary
 - Dream job dress up day!

Family Catechesis

- **Jan. 7th:** Twelve Night Epiphany Dinner beginning at 6:30 pm at Holy Cross. Family dinner, CYM saint skit, and special guests.
- **Feb. 4th:** Family Catechesis meets at 6:30 pm at Holy Cross.
- **Feb. 7th:** Married Catholics for Christ and Engaged Couples Valentine Dinner and Dance begins at 5:00 pm at Holy Cross. CYM babysitting is available.

Sisters in Christ

Sisters in Christ will resume January 20th for Olney and Stringtown, and on January 21st for Holy Cross. More information will be in next week's bulletin. We will be continuing our book, The Reed of God.



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.

VOCATIONS GROUP FOR YOUNG MEN

For young men from high school through age 35. This group will be meeting every 4th Saturday of the month.

The first meeting will be on January 24th at 6 pm in the MPR at St. Joseph in Olney.

If interested please contact Fr. Levi at 618-240-3638.

Epiphany Home Blessing Kits

Epiphany blessing kits will be available by the doors for you and your family to take home.

20+C+M+B+26

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**
Olney, Illinois

**WE ARE A PROUD
CATHOLIC SCHOOL**

Share why you love Catholic Schools on
social media using #CSW2026



St. Joseph School News

Jan. 5: School resumes for students
Jan. 8: Picture retakes, basketball, & band
Jan. 9: Girl's Diocesan Basketball Tourney
Jan. 14: Freshman orientation
Jan. 16: Boy's Diocesan Basketball Tourney
Jan. 19: No School
Jan. 21: RC spelling bee
Jan. 24-30: Catholic Schools Week!

"He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?" -Micah 6:8 ESV

DONUTS & COFFEE

**Sunday
January 11th
after 8:00 am mass**

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

**JAN.
11**

**St. Joseph, Olney
Multipurpose Room**

formedTM

Forming Catholics for *Life*.



Diving into the beauty of the Faith has never been easier! Discover small group Bible studies, inspiring children's shows, sacramental preparation resources, family-friendly movies, and more! There is something for every member of the family and your Catholic community to help them grow closer to Jesus Christ and his Church.



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™

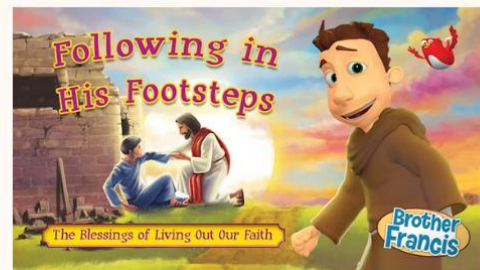
CYM provided the mealtime entertainment,
with a skit on the life of St. John Bosco,
the patron saint of youth.

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)



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.



Prayer for the New Year

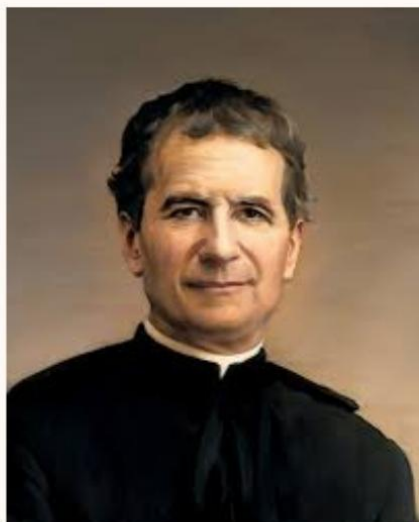
*"Come, Holy Spirit, be our Light and Guide
in this new year. Renew our minds and
hearts, strengthen us in virtue, and help us
grow closer to You and one another.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen."*

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**