

Collection Total for December 3, 2023

Envelopes: \$3,375.00 (39)
Loose: \$24.00
Total: \$3,399.00

Weekly Amount Needed: \$1,400.00

Building Fund: \$70.00 (2)
Religious Education: \$370.00 (5)
Christmas Flower: \$392.00 (16)
Collection for Needy: \$50.00 (1)
Christmas Offering: \$100.00 (1)
Immaculate Conception Offering: \$25.00 (1)

December Bulletins: Bartley C. Zuber, Attorney at Law

December Missalettes: For the Parish

DONUTS WITH SANTA:

Please join us following 8am Mass on Sunday, December 10th in the Parish Center for Donuts with Santa.

SIGN-UP FOR CHRISTMAS MINISTRIES:

There is a sign-up sheet in church for anyone willing to sign up for ministries for Midnight Mass on December 25th. Thank you!

CONGRATULATIONS:

Congratulations to the 2nd graders that received the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time this week!

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE:

Christmas Eve: Sunday, December 24, 2023
4pm at St. Joseph-Olney
4pm at Holy Cross Wendelin
Christmas Day: Monday, December 25, 2023
12am at St. Joseph-Stringtown
8am at St. Joseph Olney
8am at St Lawrence-Lawrenceville

PARISH EVENTS:

Sunday, December 10 – Family Catechesis Gifts of Love at ALL Masses

Donuts with Santa at St. Joseph-Stringtown Following Mass

Tuesday, December 12 – ASAP Prayer Service and Adoration at St. Joseph-Stringtown, 9:30am and Stringtown Study, 10am

Wednesday, December 13 – Sister’s in Christ at Holy Cross-Wendelin, 5:30pm

Thursday, December 14 – Parish Office will close at 11am

Brothers in Christ at Holy Cross-Wendelin, 7pm

SISTERS IN CHRIST/STRINGTOWN STUDY:

The True Meaning of Christmas by Michael Barber
Wednesday evenings at 5:30pm at Holy Cross-Wendelin or Tuesday mornings at 10:00am after Rosary at St. Joseph-Stringtown If interested in joining, contact Kristi Sandschafer, Janette Kocher, or Caroline Trimble Pastoral Associate.

BROTHERS IN CHRIST:

Thursday, December 14 at 7:00pm at Holy Cross-Wendelin

“The future of the world and of the Church passes through the family.” St. John Paul II

Come and join this 5 part study on "The Mission of the Family"

Men of the Church join your fellow Brothers in Christ and together let us strengthen our families and marriages. *St. Michael please help us to be defenders of our family, faith, and life!*

CAROLINE TRIMBLE PASTORAL ASSOCIATE:

The journey of Advent longs to bring us into a deepening awareness; an awareness that our lives are being drawn closer to the babe in the womb of Mary. This babe is Jesus, but before we come to know Him, we must come to know the Mother. Yes, Mary is the Mother of God, and she carries the King of Kings in her womb. Mary wants us, we who are also her children, to walk with her during these days of waiting and longing. A waiting for the best gift to

be given; a longing for the breath of God to envelope our heart, mind, and soul. Mary leads us to life! Take time this season to truly come to know Jesus! After all, He is still the reason for the season. Light your second purple candle of **Peace** and journey to Bethlehem with Joseph and Mary! Keep to the J.O.Y.S.

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION AT ST. JOSEPH-OLNEY:

Spend time with Jesus this Advent! Eucharistic Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at St. Joseph Olney on Tuesday afternoons beginning in December. The hours will be from 12:00 pm to 3:00 pm. There must always be 2 people in the church, so a sign-up sheet will be available in the vestibule of the church. Feel free to just stop in for a few minutes, most importantly, just come and *Adore our Lord.*

FAMILY CATECHESIS:

December 6 Feast of Saint Nicholas

On December 6, at 6:30pm at Holy Cross-Wendelin, join us for a beautiful chant of Advent Vespers, a visit from St. Nicholas, music from the Holy Cross Choir, and more. Reminder there will be a Confirmation Check-In and a First Reconciliation Check-In and practice afterwards.

Live Your Catholic Faith – Light the candles each week on your Advent wreath.

Pray the Advent prayers at meal time and live Advent.

Let Hope, Peace, Joy and Love be present before the presents!

Family Prayer – Ave Maris Stella Prayer

Hail, you Star of Ocean! Portal of the sky, Ever Virgin Mother, Of the Lord most high. O! by Gabriel's Ave, Uttered long ago, Eva's name reversing, Establish peace below. Break the captive's fetters; Light on blindness pour; All our ills expelling, Every bliss implore. Show yourself a mother; Offer him our sighs, Who for us Incarnate Did not you despise. Virgin of all virgins! To your shelter take us; Gentlest of the gentle! Chaste and gentle make us.

Still as on we journey, Help our weak endeavor, Till with you and Jesus We rejoice forever.

Through the highest heaven, To the Almighty Three, Father, Son, and Spirit, One same glory be.

Confirmation: April 12th at 5:00pm at St. Joseph-Olney

First Eucharist: April 27-28th at All Masses



The season of giving is upon us and in remembrance of our parishioners who have lost a loved one this year,

the Family Catechesis families are going to be giving a **“Gift of Love”**. Our hope is that this token of Love will bring comfort knowing that your loved one is remembered during this Advent and Christmas season. On Sunday, **December 10**, these **Gifts of Love** will be presented to the family of: **Lelia Volk, Carolyn Zuber, Herman Zwilling, Eloise “Ellie” Kocher, Joseph Schneider, and Ed Ginder**. In this Season of Glad Tidings and what a JOY it is to SHARE GIFTS OF LOVE!

CYM YOUTH GROUP:

CYM Youth Group gathering on Wednesdays at Holy Cross Rectory basement from 7-8:30pm. All high school youth invited. Questions? Please contact Tyler Timm (507)-530-2911.

OCIA-ORDER OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS - (PREVIOUSLY KNOWN AS RCIA):

Interested in joining the Catholic Church or just want more information? We are always excited to welcome new members/families. For more information, contact Fr. Steven Beatty or Caroline Trimble.

ST. JOSEPH OLNEY SCHOOL NEWS:

Thanks to Deacon Steve Andrews and Mr. Jim Gibson for speaking with our 5th - 8th grade students about Jim's prison ministry. His commitment and faith in working with individuals incarcerated is inspirational.

Saturday, December 9 – Santa Event in the MPR 5:45-7:30pm

Tuesday, December 12 – Girls 8th grade night
Wednesday, December 13 and Thursday, December 14 – Santa's Workshop MPR
Any parishioner interested in 2024-25 enrollment must contact the school office prior to the Christmas break.

Mark your calendars: March 9th - Bingo Bash - St. Joseph, Stringtown, Parish Center

Table reservations begin January 3rd by calling the school office. If you want to donate an item to be auctioned, please contact Carol Potter, Lora Kocher, Andrea Kuenstler, Lauren Tibbs, Megan Brinkley, or Sara Peavler.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS:

Thursday, December 14: 3rd Degree meeting, 7pm.

Thursday, December 21: 4th Degree meeting, 7pm.

Sunday, December 31: Volunteer Ministry at 8AM Mass, Olney-St. Joe. Fellowship breakfast to follow at a local restaurant. K of C led Rosary at 7:40AM.

Kudos to 67 in attendance at the Christmas Appreciation Dinner! Thanks to Steve Kuenstler and Family for the dinner preparation.

CHRISTMAS CHOIR PRACTICES:

Christmas Choir Practices will be held on the following dates. All are welcome to join! Practices will be held from 7-8:30pm unless another time is specified. You do not have to attend all the practices to participate, just attend as often as you can.

Thurs, Dec 14; Tues, Dec 19; Thurs, Dec 21; Sun, Dec 24 after 8am Mass

STRINGTOWN BLOOD DRIVE:

Upcoming Blood Drives in 2024: January 7, 2024, March 10, 2024, May 19, 2024, August 18, 2024

SPIRITUAL DIRECTION/CATHOLIC CONVERSION:

Do you have questions about the Catholic faith? Are you interested in learning more about how to grow

closer to our Lord? Do you want to learn how to pray better? Interested in reading more about a certain topic of our faith, but don't know where to start? Possibly even have a hurt or a misunderstanding, that you want to talk to someone about. Contact Caroline Trimble Pastoral Associate to set up an appointment.

REPRESENTATIVE NEEDED:

Our area still needs representatives from Holy Cross, Wendelin, and St. Joseph, Stringtown for Catholic Relief Services. If you want to serve your parish in this role, please contact Carol Potter (rep from St. Joseph, Olney) at school (618-395-3081).

Remember in our prayers...

Rick Rennier, Carolyn Elie, Eugene Zuber

Happy 2nd week of Advent!



Sunday, December 10, 2023

Second Sunday of Advent

+Eucharistic Celebrations+

Monday, December 11, 6:30pm at St. Joseph-Stringtown "For the Parish"

Tuesday, December 12, 5:00pm at St. Lawrence-Lawrenceville

Wednesday, December 13, 8:05am at St. Joseph-Olney

Thursday, December 14, 6:30pm at Holy Cross-Wendelin

Friday, December 15, 8:00am at St. Joseph-Olney

Saturday, December 16, 4:00pm at Holy Cross-Wendelin

5:00pm at St. Joseph-Olney

Sunday, December 17, 8:00am at St. Joseph-Stringtown "Norman Kocher+" "Barbara Ann Ochs+" "Nadine Zwilling and Bill and Catherine Zwilling+"

8:00am at St. Joseph-Olney

10:00am at Holy Cross-Wendelin

10:00am at St. Lawrence-Lawrenceville

MINISTERS LIST

12/10/2023

Servers:

Jared Weidner
 Levi Weidner

Lector:

Anita Seiler

EMHC:

Mary Ochs
 Gary Zwilling
 Josie Kocher

Gifts:

John Ochs
 Family

Ushers:

Brian Ochs
 Elmer Ochs

Greeters:

Werner & Janette
 Kocher

12/17/2023

Servers:

Anna Seiler
 Natalie Ochs

Lector:

Owen Kocher

EMHC:

Beth Kocher
 Lisa Boehl
 Harold Boehl

Gifts:

Chad & Jenny
 Hancock Family

Ushers:

Ian Kocher
 Lester Zuber

Greeters:

Caden Kocher

**St. Joseph Church
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 E-mail _____ frsteven.beatty@gmail.com

Reverend Felix Chukwuma _____ **Pastor**
 Fr. Felix's Cell _____ 618-671-0641
 E-mail _____ chibuchuma@yahoo.com

Caroline Trimble _____ **Pastoral Associate**
 Caroline's Cell _____ 618-263-7106
 E-mail _____ ctrimblePA@gmail.com

Tyler Timm _____ **Youth Minister**
 Tyler's Cell _____ 507-530-2911
 Tyler's E-mail _____ ttimm@stjoeolney.com

Ashley Hinterscher _____ **Administrative Assistant**
 Ashley's Cell _____ 618-843-1892
 Office Phone _____ 618-754-3676
 E-mail _____ stjoestringtown@hotmail.com
Parish Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday 9am-2pm