

ST. JOSEPH - STRINGTOWN

Bulletins

St. Joseph - Stringtown Pages 2-3

St. Joseph - Olney Pages 4-5

Holy Cross – Wendelin Pages 6-7

Kids Bulletin Pages 8-9

Collection Total for December 14, 2025

Envelopes: \$535.00	(16)
Loose: \$21.00	
Total: \$556.00	
Building Fund: \$20.00 (1)	
Christmas Flowers: \$100.00 (1)	
Retirement Fund for Religious: \$180.00 (6)	
Christmas Offering: \$100.00 (1)	
Immaculate Conception: \$160.00 (8)	
Weekly Amount Needed: <u>\$1,400.00</u>	

December Bulletins: In Memory of Barbara Ann Ochs by Fred Ochs

December Missalettes: In Memory of Lorraine & Lucille Dallmier and Cletus & Marie Zwilling by Raymond & Theresa Zwilling

**Contact Ashley to schedule for 2026!

PARISH EVENTS:

Monday, December 22 – There will not be Young Adults Bible Study this week!

Tuesday, December 23 – Parish Office Open 9-11am ONLY. **Please note bulletin info must be submitted by 10am to go in weekend bulletin.**

ASAP Prayer Service and Adoration at St. Joseph-Stringtown, 9:30am.

Eucharistic Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at St. Joseph-Olney, 12-3pm.

There will not be OCIA. Next meeting January 6th at 6:30pm – God the Holy Spirit: Conversion, Call, and Ecclesia

Sister's in Christ will resume in new year!

Wednesday, December 24 – Parish Offices Closed! Mass at St. Joseph-Stringtown 10pm. Mass at St. Joseph-Olney and St. Lawrence-Lawrenceville, 4pm.

Thursday, December 25 – Merry Christmas! Parish Offices Closed! Mass at St. Joseph-Stringtown, 8:00am.

Midnight Mass at Holy Cross-Wendelin 12am, Mass at 10am at Holy Cross-Wendelin, 8:00am at St. Joseph-Olney.

There will not be Brother's in Christ this week!

Tuesday, December 29 – Stringtown Parish Office open 9am-2pm. **Please note bulletin info must be submitted by NOON to go in weekend bulletin.**

Wednesday, December 31-Friday, January 2 – Parish Offices Closed!
Sunday, January 4 – Stringtown Community Club Blood Drive, 6:30am-12pm Noon!

CAROLINE TRIMBLE - PASTORAL ASSOCIATE:

The Advent season of waiting and anticipating brings us to the last purple candle of Peace. May these remaining days of journeying towards the babe in the manger be one of Hope, Love, Joy and Peace in your heart and homes. Our Blessed Mother shows us the way to Jesus in every season, so let her show you what Peace on Earth really looks like. Join, our Mother and say *"Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word."* There is a Joy in the journey and Mary leads the way...

"The light is shining in the darkness, but the darkness does not comprehend it. To a soul in such a condition, peace will come as soon as it turns to Our Lady and imitates her. In her the Word of God chose to be silent for the season measured by God. She, too, was silent; in her the light of the world shone in darkness. To-day, in many souls, Christ asks that He may grow secretly, that He may be the light shining in the darkness."

— Caryll Houselander, The Reed of God

BAPTISM:

The Sacrament of Baptism represents the first step in a lifelong journey of discipleship. To inquire about a Baptism and to schedule a date, contact Caroline Trimble.

PHOTO DIRECTORY SIGNUPS:

If you weren't able to get your photo taken, you can drop a photo by the parish office, send to our parish email sjjoestringtown@hotmail.com, or text to Ashley.

BLOOD DRIVE:

The next Stringtown Community Blood Drive is scheduled for Sunday, January 4, 2026, from 6:30-12 noon. Mark your calendar and go ahead and pre-scheduled your January 4th appointment by clicking below.

<https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-results?order=DATE&range=10&zipSponsor=StringtownCC>

CHRISTMAS CHOIR PRACTICE:

Final Christmas Choir practice will be held Tuesday, December 23 at 6:30pm.

DECEMBER FAMILY CATECHESIS THANK YOU:

Thank you to our Family Catechesis Team, Tyler and CYM, Fr. Steven (St. Francis Xavier), St. Nicholas (Kelly Geier) for making an appearance for our youth and Fr. Levi for leading the talk about Reconciliation for adults! What a wonderful night!

CHRISTMAS MASS MINISTRIES:

There is a sign-up sheet in church for Christmas Eve 10pm Mass and Christmas Day 8am Mass. Please sign up.

MASS MINISTRY LIST JANUARY-MARCH:

This list will be made available next weekend! Be on the out and thanks to those that serve these ministries!

SISTERS IN CHRIST:

There will be a pause for the Christmas season and the new study will be shared in the New Year.

LEADING ROSARY:

If anyone is interested in joining the list for leading the Rosary before Sunday Mass, please let me know. I will be making the new schedule for the year 2026. Thank you!

- Janette Kocher

THANK YOU:

To Fr. Steven, Fr. Robert, and Fr. Levi for the beautiful Candlelight Mass.

**THANK YOU:**

Thank you to the Stringtown Carolers for visiting various homes of parishioners on Wednesday, December 17th and spreading Christmas joy! You are appreciated!

**ST. JOSEPH-OLNEY SCHOOL NEWS:**

2026 Benefit Calendars are here! The price is \$25. The total payout is \$8,450. Calendars are for sale at the school office, the parish office, or by calling Jeffrey Rosenburg at 618-302-0391.

The school will be closed for Christmas break from December 22-January 4. Students return January 5.

All of us at St. Joseph School wish our parish communities a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We are deeply grateful for your prayers, kindness, presence, and continued investment in Catholic education.

OLNEY KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS:

Sunday, December 28: Knight led Rosary before the Olney 8:00 AM Mass.

Knight of the Month: Bart Zuber - Family Christmas Dinner

FORMED.ORG SUBSCRIPTION:

Download the app or go to www.formed.org and enter 62448. **The Week of December 21st**

Recommendations: The Story of Christmas: Benjamin Cello Christmas Special, Christmas: Sacred Art, What Catholics Believe About Christmas: Traditions, Santa Claus

CSMA 2025 – HOPE IN THE LORD:

The true joy of Christmas is in the everlasting love of Christ. May you find His peace, love and joy now and in the coming new year. With deepest gratitude for your prayers and generosity, *Ministries and Programs Funded by The Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal*

RESPECT LIFE CORNER:

"O Blessed Mother, at the angel's word you went in haste to the aid of your cousin Elizabeth. Although pregnant yourself, you placed her needs before your own. By your example of radical solidarity, teach us to reverence and protect those in need, without conditions or expectations... Obtain for us the grace to bring Christ to any expectant mother who is alone and afraid."

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities Prayer for Radical Solidarity (www.respectlife.org/prayer-for-radical-solidarity)

VOCATION CORNER:

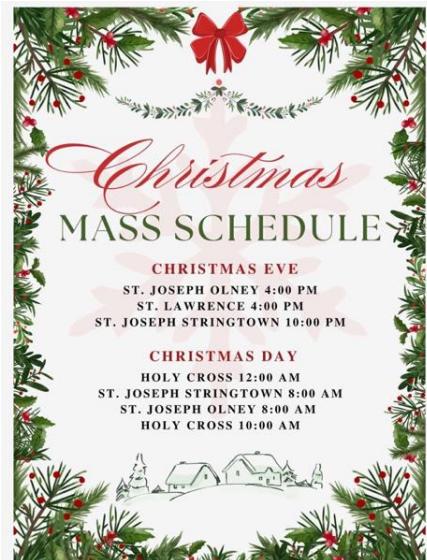
Today we hear of Joseph's call to be the Head of the Holy Family. What a wonderful act of selflessness - turning his whole life over to the will of God, even under some really stressful circumstances. This is the call for each one of us – to be "righteous". This should be our daily goal. Encourage everyone to follow their unique vocation to follow the Lord.

QUALIFIED CHARITABLE DISTRIBUTION:

It's the giving season! A **qualified charitable distribution** (QCD) allows people over age 70½ to donate to charities - like our parish and school - directly from a taxable IRA instead of taking their required minimum distributions. The tax savings can be very significant. For additional information, please contact your financial representative or tax preparer.



REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS: Rick Rennier, Teresa Zehner, Judy Brown, Brenda Zuber, Valerie Weidner, Steve Zuber, Carolyn Elie, Linda McWhirter, Jim & Norma Kocher



Merry Christmas on behalf of Fr. Steven, Fr. Levi, staff, and all of us at St. Joseph-Stringtown!

Sunday, December 21, 2025

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 21, 8:00am at St. Joseph-Stringtown, "Norman Kocher†" "Jean, Norman, & Joseph Zwilling†" "Carolyn Zuber†"

Monday, December 22, 6:30pm at St. Joseph-Stringtown "Barbara Ann Ochs† and Gus & Lorena Ochs†"

Tuesday, December 23, 5:00pm at St. Lawrence-Lawrenceville

Wednesday, December 24, 10:00pm at St. Joseph-Stringtown "For The Parish", 4:00pm at St. Joseph-Olney, 4:00pm at St. Lawrence-Lawrenceville

Thursday, December 25, 8:00am at St. Joseph-Stringtown "For The Parish", 12:00am at Holy Cross-Wendelin, 10:00am at Holy Cross-Wendelin, 8:00am at St. Joseph-Olney,

Friday, December 26, NO MASS

Saturday, December 27, 4:00pm at Holy Cross-Wendelin, 5:00pm at St. Joseph-Olney

Sunday, December 28, 8:00am at St. Joseph-Stringtown "Barbara Ann Ochs†" Joseph Schneider†" "Carl & Una Kocher†" 8:00am at St. Joseph-Olney, 10:00am at Holy Cross-Wendelin, 10:00am at St. Lawrence-Lawrenceville

12/21/2025

Servers:

Emmitt Kocher

Gavin Kuenstler

Julian Seaman

Lector:

Joselyn Kocher

EMHC:

Harold & Lisa Boehl

Jenny Hancock

Gifts:

Seaman Family

Ushers:

David Muhs

Werner Kocher

Greeters:

Werner & Janette Kocher

Children's Liturgy:

Anita & Anna

12/28/2025

Servers:

Delana Sterchi

Hallie Ochs

Gus Kocher

Lector:

Gary Zwilling

EMHC:

Elmer & Mary Ochs

Joh Ochs

Gifts:

Jack Weidner Family

Ushers:

Ian Kocher

Mallory Kocher

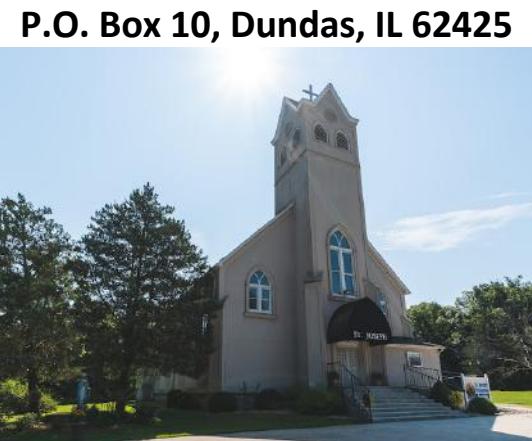
Greeters:

Elmer & Mary Ochs

Children's Liturgy:

Anne & Kaitlin

**St. Joseph Church
Stringtown, Illinois**



(GPS address: 6342 N. Stringtown Rd, Olney, IL 62450) Phone: 618-754-3676

Email: stjoestringtown@hotmail.com

Website: www.stjosephstringtown.com

Parish Office Hours: Tuesday 9am-2pm & Thursday 9am-1pm

Very Rev. Fr. Steven Beatty _____ Pastor

Cell _____ 618-697-2632

E-mail frsteven.beatty@gmail.com

Reverend Levi James _____ Parochial Vicar

Cell _____ 618-240-3638

E-mail levi.jamessiu@gmail.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@stjoelney.com

Ashley Hinterscher _____ Administrative Assistant

Ashley's Cell _____ 618-843-1892

Office Phone _____ 618-754-3676

E-mail stjoestringtown@hotmail.com

Sunday, December 21, 2025

Fourth Sunday of Advent

† Eucharistic Celebrations †

Mon. Dec. 22 6:30 PM at Stringtown

Tue. Dec. 23 5:00 PM at Lawrenceville

Wed. Dec. 24 4:00 PM Christmas Eve

4:00 PM at Lawrenceville

10:00 PM at Stringtown

Thu. Dec. 25 Christmas Day

12:00 am at Wendelin

8:00 am at Olney

8:00 am at Stringtown

10:00 am at Wendelin

Fri. Dec. 26 No mass

Sat. Dec. 27

4:00 PM at Wendelin

5:00 PM Jim & Mary Steber

Maren Zuber

Larry & Donna Kirts

Sun. Dec. 28

8:00 am Carl & Una Kocher
Deacon Jack Shuster

at Stringtown

10:00 am at Wendelin

10:00 am at Lawrenceville

OUR DECEMBER SPONSORS

Bulletins: Illini Builders – Gassmann Family
Missalettes: Kistler-Patterson Funeral Home

OUR TITHES FOR DECEMBER 14th

Parish Operating Expense per Week = \$9,847.00

Envelopes: \$11,940 (111) Loose: \$302

Guatemala: \$185 (5) Christmas Flowers: \$605

(16) Retirement Fund for Religious: \$785 (18)

Let Us Pray For: Kevin Bookhout, Marilyn McCormick, Elizabeth Ginder, Jim Gassmann, Dolores Hemrich, Clara Rose Wilson, Kenneth Ochs, Valerie Weidner, Julie Oesch, Margaret Burgener, Fr. Joe Erbacher, Jeff Beard, Judy Spitz, Jerry L. Harper, Emery Oesch, Gene Bergbower, Luke G. Kocher, Marlene Harris, Bessie Rossiano, Mary Rowark, Tony Tredway, Anita Shultz, Kenneth Hann, and Ruth Zwilling.

~ AROUND OUR PARISHES ~

Saturday, December 20th

- Mass for **Linda Gumble, Living & Deceased Hermina & Frances Zuber Family, and Kuenstler & Rohr Families.**

Sunday, December 21st

- Mass for **Albert, Clara, & Rose Ellen Hahn, Tom & Bernice Fehrenbacher, and Steve & Margaret Fehrenbacher.**
- Children's liturgy at 8 am mass. All students in grades K-3 are welcome to attend.

Tuesday, December 23rd

- 12:00-3:00 PM, Eucharistic Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Olney. There must always be 2 people in the church.
- No meeting for OCIA members today. Next meeting is on January 6th at 6:30 PM.

Thursday, December 25th – Christmas Day 

- **Merry Christmas** from all of us at St. Joseph Church. May your Christmas be filled with love, joy, and all of God's blessings.

St. Joseph School News

- The school will be closed for Christmas break from Dec. 22 - Jan. 4. Students return Jan. 5th.
- All of us at St. Joseph School wish our parish communities a very **Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year**. We are deeply grateful for your prayers, kindness, presence, and continued investment in Catholic education.
- **2026 Benefit Calendars are here!** The price is \$25. The total payout is \$8,450. Calendars are for sale at the school office, the parish office, or by calling Jeffrey Rosenburg at 618-302-0391.
- It's the giving season! A **qualified charitable distribution** (QCD) allows people over age 70½ to donate to charities - like our parish and school - directly from a taxable IRA instead of taking their required minimum distributions. The tax savings can be very significant. For additional information, please contact your financial representative or tax preparer.

CALENDAR WINNERS - \$25

- Dec. 15: Norma Fletcher (#684)
- Dec. 16: Bruce Stout (#027)
- Dec. 17: Rylan Ochs (#758)
- Dec. 18: Reina Volk (#093)
- Dec. 19: Collins Peavler (#774)

~ PARISH NEWS ~

- **Volunteers Needed!** Lectors, servers, cross-bearers, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion (EMHC), ushers and gift-bearers are needed for the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses. The sign-up sheet is in the vestibule. Please volunteer to help at the Mass you plan to attend.

- **Christmas Flower Memorials:** Please use the envelope labeled 'Christmas Flower Offering' included in your December packet. Proceeds from this collection will be used to purchase the flowers to decorate our church. On the reverse side of the envelope, **please print clearly** the person the memorial is for. A list of the memorials will be published at a later date.

- **Thank you to Kistler-Patterson Funeral Homes** for providing our 2026 calendars. The calendars are available at the doors.

- **Outreach Christmas Eve meals** are available to those in need. Free meal for Wednesday, December 24th. Call 618-395-8618 at Olney Immanuel Church to order a meal. Deliveries must be within Richland County.

- **Catholic Relief Services:** One way to support our brothers and sisters around the world is to participate in the CRS gift tag program - providing resources to help those in need build a better life. You can choose an ornament that reflects the resource you want to provide (farm animals, back to school kit, fertilizer, etc.), write out your check to Catholic Relief Services, and place it in the collection at the next mass you attend. Directions are also on the ornaments.

- We would like to **thank everyone** for such a successful parish cookie walk! Thank you to all the bakers and cookie buyers. Total sales were \$1,705.

- **Meals for Moms** would like to welcome **Lucia Evelyn Brazil**, born on December 8, 2025. Daughter of Samantha (Herman) & Elliot Brazil. If you would like to sign up to provide a meal and dessert to this family, or other families who welcome little ones, please contact Laura Matthews at 618-924-5901 or lmatthews@stjoeolney.com.

~ KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS NEWS ~

- **Sun. Dec. 28th:** Knight led Rosary before the 8 am mass at Olney.
- **Knight of the Month:** Bart Zuber

Journey Onward Ye Sojourners

Caroline Trimble Pastoral Associate

The Advent season of waiting and anticipating brings us to the last purple candle of Peace. May these remaining days of journeying towards the babe in the manger be one of Hope, Love, Joy and Peace in your heart and homes. Our Blessed Mother shows us the way to Jesus in every season, so let her show you what Peace on Earth really looks like. Join, our Mother and say "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." There is a Joy in the journey and Mary leads the way...

"The light is shining in the darkness, but the darkness does not comprehend it. To a soul in such a condition, peace will come as soon as it turns to Our Lady and imitates her. In her the Word of God chose to be silent for the season measured by God. She, too, was silent; in her the light of the world shone in darkness. To-day, in many souls, Christ asks that He may grow secretly, that He may be the light shining in the darkness."

— **Caryll Houselander, The Reed of God**

The 2025 Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal

Hope in the Lord

The true joy of Christmas is in the everlasting love of Christ. May you find His peace, love and joy now and in the coming new year. With deepest gratitude for your prayers and generosity,

Ministries and Programs Funded by the CSMA

We have collected \$13,919.10 by our parish so far!

Diocesan Christmas Collection December 24-25

The 48th Annual Diocesan Christmas Collection will be taken up at all Masses on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Parishes and agencies throughout the diocese will request monies from this collection during 2026 to assist those who are in need with food, clothing, shelter, utility payments, healthcare and medications, funeral and burial expenses, transportation and emergency assistance of all types. Please consider giving as you are able; thank you so much.

Merry Christmas from *The Messenger*! Don't forget to Subscribe by calling ***The Messenger* at 618-233-8670**. To subscribe online go to www.bellevillemessenger.org. Tax-deductible donations are also appreciatively received.

Respect Life Corner: December 21, 2025

"O Blessed Mother, at the angel's word you went in haste to the aid of your cousin Elizabeth. Although pregnant yourself, you placed her needs before your own. By your example of radical solidarity, teach us to reverence and protect those in need, without conditions or expectations... Obtain for us the grace to bring Christ to any expectant mother who is alone and afraid."

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities Prayer for Radical Solidarity
(www.respectlife.org/prayer-for-radical-solidarity)

Vocation Corner: December 21, 2025

Today we hear of Joseph's call to be the Head of the Holy Family. What a wonderful act of selflessness - turning his whole life over to the will of God, even under some really stressful circumstances. This is the call for each one of us - to be "righteous". This should be our daily goal. Encourage everyone to follow their unique vocation to follow the Lord.

Sister Parish Trip to Guatemala

A group reservation has been made for 30 seats for the **sister parish trip to Guatemala** for June 2026. If still interested contact Shelly Sands at Missions International (618) 654-9254. Deadline to commit is February 1, 2026.

Parish office hours will vary over the holidays.

The office will be open:

Mon. Dec. 22nd 8am-3pm
Tues. Dec. 23rd 8am-3pm
Fri. Dec. 26th 8am-noon

St. Joseph Church

208 South Elliott St.
Olney, Illinois 62450



Sunday, December 21, 2025

Fourth Sunday of Advent



~ St. Joseph Church ~

Website www.stjosephchurcholney.com

Very Rev. Steven L. Beatty Pastor

Fr. Steven's Cell 618-697-2632

E-mail frsteven.beatty@gmail.com

Reverend Levi James Parochial Vicar

Fr. Levi's Cell 618-240-3638

E-mail levi.jamessiu@gmail.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

E-mail ttimm@stjoeolney.com

Casey Hemrich Administrative Assistant

Parish Office 618-392-8181

E-mail stjosephchurch_olney@yahoo.com

Jeffrey Rosenberg Trustee

Elliot Brazil Trustee

~ Welcome ~

The St. Joseph Parish family is a community of believers rooted in the teachings of Jesus.

Join us for mass:

Wednesday 8:05 am
Friday 8:00 am
Saturday 5:00 pm
Sunday 8:00 am

Live streaming of the 8 am masses on Sunday and Wednesday are now available! To watch it live, go to stjosephchurcholney.com

New parishioners, please register as soon as you move into our parish. Call the Parish Office (618-392-8181) to receive a new member packet

Office hours: Mon. Wed. Fri. 8:00-3:00 pm

Baptism: Contact the Parish Office.

Reconciliation: Saturdays from 4:30 PM - 4:45 PM or contact the Parish Office.

Marriage: Call 6 months in advance.

Anointing of the Sick: Any time of need.

~ St. Joseph School ~

Josy Hart Principal
Carol Potter Assistant Principal
Catherine Fritschle Office Manager
School Office 618-395-3081
E-mail office@stjoeolney.com
Website www.stjoeolney.com
FAX 618-395-8500

School Advisory Council: Angel Padilla (Chairperson), Heather Colwell, Samantha Foust, Marissa Graves, Andrea Kuenstler, Lauren McClain, Tyler Ochs, Doug Kocher (St. Joseph-Stringtown Representative), Holly Nettleton (Holy Cross-Wendelin Representative).

December 21, 2025

Fourth Sunday of Advent
†Eucharistic Celebrations†

Saturday, December 20, 4:00pm at Holy Cross-

Wendelin "Wayne Kessler†" "Mike & Eloise

Kocher† and Jan & Judy Kocher†", 5:00pm at St. Joseph-Olney, 5:00pm at St. Joseph-Olney

Sunday, December 21, 10:00am at Holy Cross-

Wendelin "Gerald & Linda Blank†" "George & Linda Harper†" "Shirley Kessler†"

Monday, December 22, 6:30pm at St. Joseph-Stringtown

Tuesday, December 23, 5:00pm at St. Lawrence-Lawrenceville

Wednesday, December 24, 4:00pm at St. Joseph-Olney, 4:00pm at St. Lawrence-Lawrenceville, 10:00pm at St. Joseph-Stringtown

Thursday, December 25, 12:00am at Holy Cross-Wendelin "For the Parish", 10:00am at Holy Cross-Wendelin "For the Parish"

8:00am at St. Joseph-Olney, 8:00am at St. Joseph-Stringtown

Friday, December 26, NO MASS

Saturday, December 27, 4:00pm at Holy Cross-Wendelin "Melvin & Helen Rudolphi†" "Louis & Lelia Volk†", 5:00pm at St. Joseph-Olney

Sunday, December 28, 10:00am at Holy Cross-Wendelin "Fred Uebinger†" "Barbara Fetch†"

"Fred Kessler†", 8:00am at St. Joseph-Stringtown; 8:00am at St. Joseph-Olney; 10:00am at St. Lawrence-Lawrenceville

December Bulletins: In Memory of Harold & Kathryn Fehrenbacher
December Missalettes: Kuhl's Trailer Sales

BULLETIN & MISSALETTE SPONSORS:

To schedule, contact Ashley. Price to sponsor for a month is \$100 for bulletins and \$100 for missalettes.

SUNDAY COLLECTION – Sunday, December 14, 2025 (64) Envelope Collection: \$2,176.00

DECEMBER LITURGICAL MINISTERS

SATURDAY SUNDAY

Open/Lock/Greet: Open/Lock/Greet:

Holly Nettleton Cindy Blank

EMHC: EMHC:

Jeannie Nix Jason Warfel

Kathy Kuenstler Sandi Kessler

Celia Rudolphi Ginny Zwilling

Sherry Geier Penni Kuenstler

Lectors: Lectors:

Jennifer Rudolphi Marge Kessler

Money Counters:

Tony & Penni Kuenstler

Ushers: Ushers:

Dave Rudolphi Dusty Smithenry

Mark Rudolphi Austin Zwilling

Kelly Geier Eric Sandschafer

Hank Weidner Jim Rauch

Mass Servers:

Sat. December 20 – Hank, Clara, & Boyd

Weidner

Sun. December 21 – Nora & Alex Street, Cora

Warfel

Sat. December 27 – Kaleb & Kelby Iffert, Ian Kessler

Sun. December 28 – Brooke & Blaine

Bergbower, Stella Warfel

CRMH Communion:

December 21 – Lynn Weidner

Children's Liturgy of the Word:

December 21 – Melissa & Brooke Weidner

December 28 – Gracey Himelick & Hope Zuber

Loose: \$134.00 – Total: \$2,310.00, (14) Building: \$590.00, (4) Christmas Flowers: \$140.00, (1) For the Needy: \$25.00, (1) Christmas Offering: \$50.00, (26) Retirement for Religious: \$970.00

HOLY CROSS REBUILD & IMPROVEMENT UPDATE:

As of Wednesday, December 17th – \$284,648.57 has been received from 407 donations – thank you!

REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS:



Mary Beth Scherer, Gerry

Carter, Terry Tolliver, Wesley

Frohning, Wilmajean Geier, Cindy Henson

(Daughter of Dean Klingler), Lee Patridge, Valerie

Weidner, Tonya Hall, Virginia Blank, Chase

Zumbahlen, Dana Kuhl-Bell, Stacy Kessler, Eleanor

Buerster, Jim & Norma Kocher

PARISH EVENTS:

Monday, December 22 – Please note bulletin info must be submitted by 10am to go in weekend bulletin.

There will not be Young Adults Bible Study this week.

Tuesday, December 23 – ASAP Prayer Service and Adoration at St. Joseph-Stringtown, 9:30am. Eucharistic Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at St. Joseph-Olney, 12-3pm.

There will not be OCIA. Next meeting January 6th at 6:30pm – God the Holy Spirit: Conversion, Call, and Ecclesia.

Sister's in Christ will resume in the new year!

Wednesday, December 24 – Parish Office Closed!
Mass at St. Joseph-Olney and St. Lawrence-Lawrenceville, 4pm. Mass at St. Joseph-Stringtown 10pm.

Thursday, December 25 – Merry Christmas!
Parish Offices Closed!

Midnight Mass at Holy Cross-Wendelin 12am, Mass at 10am at Holy Cross-Wendelin, 8:00am at St. Joseph-Olney and St. Joseph-Stringtown.

There will not be Brother's in Christ this week!

Friday, December 26 – Parish Office Closed!

Wednesday, December 31-Friday, January 2 – Parish Office Closed!

about Reconciliation for adults! What a wonderful night!

CONGRATULATIONS BREANNE & JORDAN:

On behalf of your parish family, we extend congratulations to Breanne Buerster, daughter of Tony & Missy Buerster, & Jordan Jones as they were united in Holy Matrimony on Saturday, December 13th at Holy Cross-Wendelin. Your wedding will be remembered as the beginning of many joyous moments in your life together, the moment two people's lives become one; where love between a man and a woman is joined, by the Holy Church, in Sacrament. Almighty Father, we ask you to bless Breanne & Jordan with love, happiness and guidance during their married life. Amen!

THANK YOU:

Our heartfelt thanks to Clinton Rauch, the gifted and wonderful Kloepfen Singers (Breanne (Buerster Jones), Missy Buerster, Lauren Few, Lee Geier, Kristen Kennedy, Brad Kessler, Kaila Kistner, Jill Kocher, Rhonda Kuenstler, Elizabeth Lybarger, Clinton Rauch, Michelle Rauch, Valerie Rodriguez, Isaac & Marcia Street, and Lee Volk), St. Lucy (Brooke Weidner), our organists Kylie Rauch and Linda Schnepper, lector Marge Kessler, Fr. Steven and Fr. Levi, the Family Catechesis Team, Family Life Committee for making the Glühwein and helping serve refreshments, Ladies Altar Sodality for purchasing the nuts and chocolate, all of those that contributed cookies and snacks especially Sabina's Plätzchen, and all those that attended Advent Evensong!

WALKING IN PARISH CENTER:

The Holy Cross Parish Center will only be open Monday, December 22nd and Monday, December 29th from 9am-1pm. *Note time change due to limited availability over the next couple weeks.

MASS MINISTRIES FOR CHRISTMAS:

Please sign up for Mass Ministries for Midnight Mass and 10am Mass on Christmas Day at Holy Cross. Sign up in the vestibule or by contacting Ashley.

CHOIR FOR CHRISTMAS MASS:

The choir will begin singing at 11:15pm for Midnight Mass and 9:15am for Christmas Day Mass.

MASS MINISTRIES JANUARY-MARCH:

This list will be made available next weekend! Be on the out and thanks to those that serve these ministries!

CAROLINE TRIMBLE, PASTORAL ASSOCIATE:

The Advent season of waiting and anticipating brings us to the last purple candle of Peace. May these remaining days of journeying towards the babe in the manger be one of Hope, Love, Joy and Peace in your heart and homes. Our Blessed Mother shows us the way to Jesus in every season, so let her show you what Peace on Earth really looks like. Join, our Mother and say *"Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word."* There is a Joy in the journey and Mary leads the way... *"The light is shining in the darkness, but the darkness does not comprehend it. To a soul in such a condition, peace will come as soon as it turns to Our Lady and imitates her. In her the Word of God chose to be silent for the season measured by God. She, too, was silent; in her the light of the world shone in darkness. To-day, in many souls, Christ asks that He may grow secretly, that He may be the light shining in the darkness."* — Caryll Houselander, *The Reed of God*

SISTERS IN CHRIST:

There will be a pause for the Christmas season and the new study will be shared in the New Year.

LADIES ALTAR SODALITY CAKE/CRAFT DRAWING:

There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in vestibule if you are interested in donating a cake/craft item. You can also contact a Ladies Altar Sodality Member or the Parish Office to sign up.

FORMED.ORG SUBSCRIPTION:

Download the app or go to www.formed.org and enter 62448. **The Week of December 21st**

Recommendations: The Story of Christmas: Benjamin Cello Christmas Special, Christmas: Sacred Art, What Catholics Believe About Christmas: Traditions, Santa Claus

ST. JOSEPH OLNEY SCHOOL NEWS:

2026 Benefit Calendars are here! The price is \$25. The total payout is \$8,450. Calendars are for sale at the school office, the parish office, or by calling Jeffrey Rosenburg at 618-302-0391. **The school** will be closed for Christmas break from December 22-January 4. Students return January 5. **All of us at St. Joseph School** wish our parish communities a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We are deeply grateful for your prayers, kindness, presence, and continued investment in Catholic education.

OLNEY KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS:

Sunday, December 28: Knight led Rosary before the Olney 8:00 AM Mass. **Knight of the Month:** Bart Zuber - Family Christmas Dinner

VOCATION CORNER:

Today we hear of Joseph's call to be the Head of the Holy Family. What a wonderful act of selflessness - turning his whole life over to the will of God, even under some really stressful circumstances. This is the call for each one of us - to be "righteous". This should be our daily goal. Encourage everyone to follow their unique vocation to follow the Lord.

PHOTO DIRECTORY:

Thank you to everyone that participated in our parish directory photos or worked the registration table. You can submit photos if you were unable to make a date by sending to parish email or texting to Ashley!

RESPECT LIFE CORNER:

"O Blessed Mother, at the angel's word you went in haste to the aid of your cousin Elizabeth. Although pregnant yourself, you placed her needs before your own. By your example of radical solidarity, teach us to reverence and protect those in need, without conditions or expectations... Obtain for us the grace to bring Christ to any expectant mother who is alone and afraid." USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities Prayer for Radical Solidarity (www.respectlife.org/prayer-for-radical-solidarity)

QUALIFIED CHARITABLE DISTRIBUTION:

It's the giving season! A **qualified charitable distribution** (QCD) allows people over age 70½ to donate to charities - like our parish and school - directly from a taxable IRA instead of taking their required minimum distributions. The tax savings can be very significant. For additional information, please contact your financial representative or tax preparer.

CSMA 2025 – HOPE IN THE LORD:

The true joy of Christmas is in the everlasting love of Christ. May you find His peace, love and joy now and in the coming new year. With deepest gratitude for your prayers and generosity, *Ministries and Programs Funded by The Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal*



Merry Christmas on behalf of Fr. Steven, Fr. Levi, staff, and all of us at Holy Cross Church!

Sunday, December 21, 2025
Fourth Sunday of Advent

Drop down dew from above, you heavens, and let the clouds rain down the Just One; let the earth be opened and bring forth a Savior.



Holy Cross Parish in Wendelin
5782 Ingraham Lane, Newton, IL 62448
Website - - www.holycrosswendelin.com
Parish E-mail: holycrosswendelin@outlook.com
Parish Phone Number: (618)-752-5671
Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday 10am-3pm, and Friday 10am-1pm.
Mass Schedule: Thursdays 6:30pm with
Adoration at 5:30pm, Saturday 4:00pm, Sunday 10:00am

****Very Rev. Steven L. Beatty – Pastor**
Fr. Steven's Cell: 618-697-2632
E-mail: frsteven.beatty@gmail.com
****Reverend Levi James – Parochial Vicar**
Fr. Levi: 618-240-3638, levi.james@outlook.com
****Caroline Trimble – Pastoral Associate**
Caroline: 618-263-7106, trimblePA@gmail.com
****Ashley Hinterscher – Administrative Assistant**
Ashley: 618-843-1892, creholycross@gmail.com
****Tyler Timm – Youth Minister**
Tyler: 507-530-2911; ttimm@stjoeolney.com
Trustees: Carl Will & Kasey Iffert; **Pastoral Council:** Tony Kuenstler-Chair; Kevin Blank-Vice-Chair; Cindy Blank, Sharon Edwards, Kelly Geier, Tammy Rudolphi, Holly Nettleton, Dusty Smithenry

Jesus' Birthday is almost here!



Now there is less than a week left until Christmas!

In today's Gospel reading God gave St. Joseph a special job. He told him to take care of Mary and the baby Jesus. St. Joseph thought he was just an ordinary person and didn't expect to have such an important responsibility, but he did what God asked.



God has given us a responsibility too. We have to love Jesus as much as we can. How can you love and honour Jesus at Christmas time? If your family has a nativity scene you can pray to Jesus while you look at it. Right now you have a few days left to get ready for Jesus' birthday. Ask St. Joseph to help you prepare for Jesus' coming.

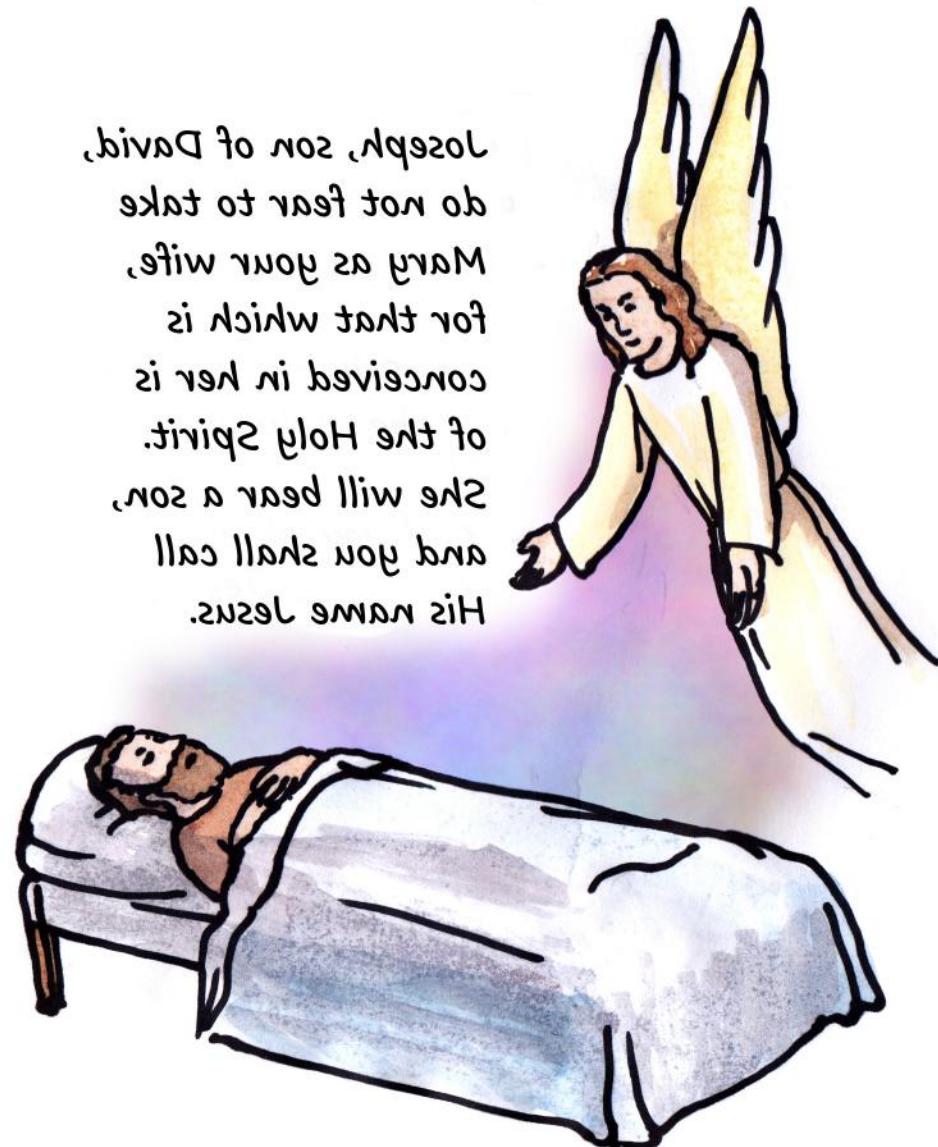


Answers to Cross-Word: Across: 2. Sheep 6. Emmanuel 7. Deep 8. The 10. Virgin 12. Child. Down: 1. Name 3. House 4. Man 5. Heaven 7. David 9. High 11. God

The Kids' Bulletin

Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 21st, 2025

Joseph, son of David
do not fear to take
Mary as your wife,
for that which is
conceived in her is
of the Holy Spirit.
She will bear a son
and your shall call
His name Jesus.



*An angel appeared to Joseph in a dream and told him what God wanted him to do. What did the angel say?
Look in a mirror to find out!*

Saint John of Kenty

December 23

SAINT JOHN OF KANTY WAS A POLISH COUNTRY BOY, BORN AROUND THE YEAR 1390. HE WENT TO THE CITY OF KRAKOW WHERE HE DID VERY WELL IN HIS STUDIES.

Well, well! Off to the big city!

HE WAS ORDAINED A PRIEST AND BECAME A PROFESSOR OF THEOLOGY. (THE STUDY OF GOD)

Today we will talk about the Holy Trinity.

BUT OTHER PROFESSORS WERE ENVIOUS SO HE WAS SENT AWAY TO A SMALL PARISH.

Who is this Fr. John? Let's get him fired.

He's probably no good.

FR. JOHN WAS NERVOUS AND THE PEOPLE DIDN'T LIKE HIM, BUT HE WAS KIND TO THEM ANYWAY.

BY THE TIME HE WAS CALLED BACK TO TEACH, THE PEOPLE WANTED HIM TO STAY!

Please don't leave us, Father!

Oh! A beggar! How can I eat this while another man starves?

SAINT JOHN WAS SO GENEROUS THAT HE HARDLY HAD ENOUGH TO EAT OR TO WEAR. HE EVEN SLEPT ON THE FLOOR.

The city where Our Lord was crucified...

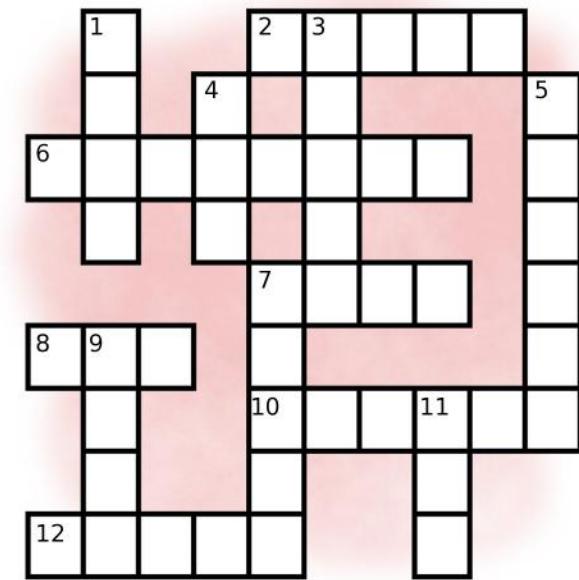
SEVERAL TIMES HE WENT TO JERUSALEM, HOPING THAT HE WOULD BE MARTYRED BY THE TURKS. HE DIED WHEN HE WAS AN OLD MAN, IN HIS 80'S.

SAINT JOHN TOLD PEOPLE TO FIGHT AGAINST ERROR WITH LOVE. WE CAN LEARN FROM HIS LIFE THAT WE SHOULD BE GENEROUS AND KIND TO DRAW PEOPLE TO JESUS. SOMETIMES THE PEOPLE WON'T LISTEN RIGHT AWAY, BUT IF WE PERSEVERE IN BEING KIND TO THEM, THEY WILL EVENTUALLY CHANGE.

Isaiah 7 Cross-Word

Find the words that fit into the spaces in today's first reading, and then fit them into the puzzle. A=Across and D=Down.

HOUSE
VIRGIN
HIGH
SHEOL
CHILD
THE
DAVID
HEAVEN
NAME
DEEP
IMMANUEL
GOD
MAN



8A LORD spoke to Ahaz, "Ask a sign of the LORD your 11D; let it be 7A as 2A or 9D as 5D." But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test." And he said, "Hear then, O 3D of 7D! Is it too little for you to weary 4D, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you this sign: the 10A shall be with 12A, and bear a son, and shall 1D him 6A.



A Little Story for Christmas



Before Emmanuel was born, his brother and sister felt that they were enough - and they certainly kept things busy at home. There was a lot of noise in the house after school when they were fighting for the couch, the TV, or the favorite snack. One time, even as Christmas drew near, there were a lot of loud temper tantrums: she had ruined his video game and he had thrown her doll and taken her favorite snack. For these two, it was almost like Emmanuel would never come.

They weren't really expecting him, but Mom and Dad knew that he would arrive. They tried to remind the kids but it wasn't easy. However, on December 25th, all was quiet in the house. And that was the day Emmanuel came too, very quietly. He could have been the centre of attention, but he was the kind of baby that could not be heard unless you were very quiet. His brother and sister began to understand that. Actually it was like that even when he was older. It was because you didn't expect him, they said.

Emmanuel was Jesus, and we are his brothers and sisters. A little noisy at times, a little selfish, and sometimes we just don't expect him. We feel that we are enough. Even today, unless we stop to visit him, and come up quietly to the crib to talk to him in our hearts, we might never realize that God has come.



Answer to Word-Find: Jesus was born!

The Kids' Bulletin



Christmas Day
December 25, 2025



Help the shepherds find their way to Bethlehem to see Baby Jesus.



www.thekidsbulletin.com

The First Christmas

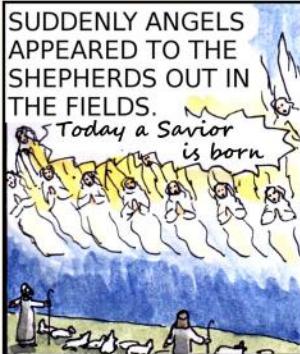
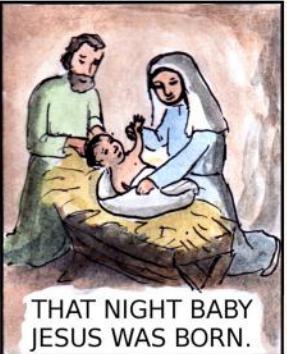
AT THAT TIME THE ROMAN EMPEROR, WHO WAS THE RULER OF ALL THAT AREA, MADE EVERYONE REGISTER IN THEIR HOMETOWNS.

The emperor declares that everyone must register in their hometown!

MARY AND JOSEPH WENT TO BETHLEHEM. MARY WAS GOING TO HAVE A BABY VERY SOON.

I'm sorry this is such a long journey for you!

BECAUSE NOBODY HAD ROOM FOR THEM THEY FOUND A STABLE FOR SHELTER.



THE SHEPHERDS CAME TO SEE AND WORSHIP THE NEWBORN SAVIOUR.



EVERYONE WAS AMAZED AT WHAT THE SHEPHERDS SAID. MARY KEPT ALL THESE THINGS IN HER HEART AND ALWAYS REMEMBERED THEM.

WHY DO YOU THINK GOD CAME INTO THE WORLD AS A POOR AND TINY BABY WHEN HE COULD HAVE COME AS A POWERFUL KING? JESUS BECAME LITTLE SO THAT HE COULD SUFFER WITH US AND SO WE COULD LOVE HIM AS SOMEONE LIKE OURSELVES. HOW CAN YOU SHOW YOU LOVE JESUS TODAY ON HIS BIRTHDAY?

Christmas Word-Find

BETHLEHEMD
MNJESPOORO
OIMCJESUSN
TGAHOXENTK
HHNRSCUMAE
ETGIEOBABY
RSESPLDRLW
BIRTHDAYEA
ONNAZARETH
RNSTAYKSBO
NWRAPPEDRN



BABY
BETHLEHEM
BIRTHDAY
BORN
CHRIST
COLD
DARK

DONKEY
INN
JESUS
JOSEPH
MANGER
MARY
MOTHER

NAZARETH
NIGHT
OXEN
POOR
STABLE
STAY
WRAPPED

Why is Christmas so special? Because

