

**Collection Total for March 12, 2023**

Envelopes: \$1476.00  
Loose: \$140.00  
**Total: \$1616.00**

Weekly Amount Needed: \$1,400.00

Religious Education: \$15.00 (2)  
Building Fund: \$20.00 (1)

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**March Bulletins:** Bartley C. Zuber, Attorney at Law  
**March Missalettes:** In Memory of Janice, Albert & Geneva Zuber

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**-CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE PARISH-**

If you are attending Sunday Mass in any of Four Partnership Churches: St. Joseph-Olney, St. Joseph-Stringtown, Holy Cross-Wendelin, or St. Lawrence, please use your contribution envelopes. Your contribution will be credited to the parish stated on the envelope.

**PARISH NEWS:**

**KEEP CONNECTED** with the church and receive important messages and updates via text and email. Sign up for Flocknote by texting stjeholycross to 84576 to get connected

**BULLETIN NEWS:** Deadline Wednesday 2:00PM

**Join us for donuts and pastries in the Parish Center after Mass on Sunday, March 19th. We will take this time for fellowship and to honor our patron Saint, St. Joseph.**

**PARISH EVENTS:**

**Sunday, March 19, 9:00am, St. Joseph Day Social at St. Joseph-Stringtown**  
6:00PM, Euchre Tournament at Holy Cross-Wendelin

**Monday, March 20, 9:30am, ASAP Prayer group at St. Joseph-Stringtown**

**7:00pm, Finance Council Meeting at St. Joseph-Stringtown**

**Wednesday, March 22, 9:00am, THE MASS, facilitated by Deacon Jack at St. Joseph-Olney 6:30pm, Stations of the Cross/Reconciliation at Holy Cross-Wendelin**

**Thursday, March 23, 9:00am, Lenten Prayer for Clergy at St. Clare-O'Fallon**

**Friday, March 24, 2:00pm, Living Stations of the Cross at St. Joseph-Olney**

**6:30pm, Stations of the Cross/Reconciliation at St. Joseph-Stringtown**

6:30pm, Stations of the Cross/Reconciliation at St. Lawrence-Lawrenceville

**Sunday, March 26, 9:00am, Stations of the Cross with Childre3n at St. Lawrence-Lawrenceville**

3:00pm, Priest Support Group in Mt. Vernon, Illinois

**Tuesday, March 28, 1:30pm, Personnel Board Meeting at Chancery Office-Belleville**

**Wednesday, March 29, 9:00am, THE MASS, facilitated by Deacon Jack at St. Joseph-Olney 9:00am, Reconciliation for parish and students at St. Joseph-Olney**

6:30pm, CYM led Stations of the Cross/Reconciliation at Holy Cross-Wendelin

**Friday, March 30, 2:00pm, Living Stations of the Cross-at St. Joseph-Olney**

**6:30pm, Stations of the Cross/Reconciliation at St. Joseph-Stringtown**

6:30pm, Stations of the Cross/Reconciliation at St. Lawrence-Lawrenceville

**Choir practices for Easter** will be held at 7 pm on the following dates: Monday, March 20; Thursday, March 23; Monday, March 27; Monday, April 3; Wednesday, April 5. All are welcome to join us. You do not have to attend all the practices.

**High School Youth** are planning to attend a mission trip this summer to Montague, Michigan in June. There will be a bake sale to help fundraise money to cover the cost of their trip. A bake sale

will be held after the masses in Olney on March 18th and 19th. They will also be hosting a bake sale after Stringtown and Wendelin masses on March 25th and 26th. Please consider supporting the youth during this time.

**OLIVEWOOD HANDCRAFTED religious items will be for sale** on March 25 after the 4:00pm mass at Holy Cross and on March 26 after the 8:00am mass at St. Joseph-Olney and 10:00am at Holy Cross Wendelin. Then the following week, On April 1, at the 5:00pm mass at St. Joseph-Olney **and April 2 at the 8:00am mass at St. Joseph-Stringtown** and 10:00am at St. Lawrence. On behalf of our Christian workshops in the city of Bethlehem and the surrounding areas, please accept our great appreciation for the opportunity you are giving us to market our Olivewood Handcrafted religious items.

**SENIOR CITIZENS BREAKFAST** will be April 2 after Mass. Anyone who will be 65 or older by the end of 2023 can attend, including spouses. Please RSVP to Jamie Kocher,812-699-1300 or Mary Ochs, 618-837-0111 by March 28th if you would like to enjoy breakfast with us.

**PICNIC NEWS:**

This year's Picnic Committee consists of Paige Ginder 618-843-0324, Ross Ginder 618-843-4314, and Carli Ginder 618-843-6704 and we're needing another couple or two to join our committee this year. Contact one of us three if you're interested in joining. Also we are now accepting donations towards picnic expenses as well as raffle prizes.

**JOURNEY ONWARD YE SOJOURNERS**

**CAROLINE TRIMBLE PASTORAL ASSOCIATE**

If YOU do not die with Christ, you will not RISE with HIM! God so loved the world that He gave HIS only begotten Son so that ALL who believe in HIM-Follow Him- Love Him- Serve Him- Know Him.... will have Everlasting Life. Are you living a life for eternity or the next best thing? Who are you

following? Where are you in your Lenten journey? Have you begun and failed? If so-Begin Again-embrace these final weeks of Lent with more Prayer-Fasting-Almsgiving- and allow your heart to be transformed! May that precious- unblemished-perfect Love that- Ran Red- on Calvary- flood your heart with sorrow for your sin and send you in haste to make amends. Journey onward carrying your cross with Love! God so loved the world that He gave HIS only Son- St. Joseph pray for us! Our Lady of Fatima, pray for us! J.O.Y.S

**FROM FR. MARK**

On this Fourth Sunday of Lent, we hear another of those wonderful stories found in John's Gospel. Each story is told to teach us something, to get us to look deeper into life. This is a story of light and sight - about not seeing the light, being afraid to see the light, seeing the light, and tragically refusing to see the light. Jesus, the light of the world, gives sight to the man who has been blind from birth. The waters of the pool of Siloam wash away the muddy earth from his eyes, and he sees - an obvious reference to the waters of Baptism. It's hard to believe that the Pharisees could be so obstinate in their refusal to believe what the man reported to them. They are blinder than the man ever was Even the parents are afraid to believe their own son's story, for fear of being put out of the synagogue. The Gospel points out that Jesus wasn't only interested in the man's bodily sight. He came to give him "saving sight" - the fullness of faith in him as God's Son and Savior of the world. The man's belief in Jesus cost him his place in the synagogue. The final scene of the story shows us the tragedy that is unfolding. Those who took great pride in their religious sight are not open to the light that Jesus brings. They are the truly blind. Each of us from time-to-time shares in the various attitudes displayed in the Gospel story. Sometimes we are like the man born blind and Jesus must give us sight. Sometimes, like the Pharisees, we're reluctant to see his workings in those around us. Like the man's

parents, we can be afraid to acknowledge the light of Christ because others may criticize us, or worse, reject us. The Gospel is encouraging us to live faithfully by the light that Jesus gives us. The conclusion of the Gospel is a warning: there are no privileged people in the community of faith. Jesus is the source of the light by which we all see. If we choose to be our own light, we risk eternal blindness. May each of us have the courage to examine our own way of seeing and again choose Jesus as our light.

**ST. JOSEPH OLNEY SCHOOL NEWS:**

In the bulletin today, we have an Empower IL brochure. This is a great way to support families who want a full-time faith-based education at St. Joseph School. Your gift also provides you with a 75% IL state tax credit, so it is a win-win! If you have questions, please contact the school office (395-3081) or visit [empowerillinois.org/donate](http://empowerillinois.org/donate) St. Joseph School currently has 16 students approved for scholarships with 9 children still unfunded for the 23-24 school year.

**Thanks to everyone who donated, attended, worked, and supported our inaugural bingo night!** Special thanks to our committee members: Kevin Bookhout, Lora Kocher, Andrea Kuenstler, Ashley Kuhn, Mary Morris, Amanda Nelson, Amber Ochs, Sara Peavler, Carol Potter, Jennifer Cummins-Zuber, Janice Zwilling! Thank you to St. Joseph, Stringtown, for hosting the event for our collective children!

**Friday, March 24th** - Living Stations of the Cross presented by our 8th grade. Join us at 2 pm in the church. Kindergarten, 2nd, 4th, and 6th grades will attend.

**THE 2023 CATHOLIC SERVICE AND MINISTRY APPEAL**

*The one who does justice will live in the presence of the Lord* -Psalm 15  
On behalf of Bishop Michael McGovern and diocesan ministries and programs, a most heartfelt thanks to all those who have already responded

with a gift to The 2023 Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal. If you have not done so as yet, there's still plenty of time. One-time donations or pledges – in any amount – are needed and can be made through your parish or at [www.diobelle.org](http://www.diobelle.org) (click on “Giving to the Diocese”). Your generosity supports 17 agencies and programs that daily serve thousands of people. Please consider making your gift today or at any time you are able in the coming months. We also ask for your prayers for the success of this year's appeal and all those we serve. Thank you and may God bless you always.

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS:**

**Friday, March 24:** Fish Fry, serving from 5-7PM at the Olney City Park Community Building. Open to the public. Dine in or carry out. Adults \$12, children 12 and under \$6. **Saturday, March 25:** State Spelling Bee at Bloomington Catholic Central High School, 1PM. Good Luck to Miles Tompson, Katelyn Bookhout and Carly Seiler! **Sunday, March 26:** K of C led Rosary at 7:40AM before the Olney St. Joe Mass. **Sunday, April 16:** State K of C Free Throw Competition at Effingham 1PM. Winners were Leah Kuenstler, Briley Wilson, Leo Tompson, Carter Seaman and Laney Peavler. Kudos to the other winning St. Joe participants; Austin Kuenstler, Carly Kessler, Knox Dorn, Kolton McLaren and Carlie VanBlaricum. **Knights of the months:** February- Mike Ginder and March- Dan Zwilling.

**Remember in our prayers...**  
Ed Ginder, Rick Rennier, Carolyn Elie, Louise Weber



**Sunday March 19, 2023  
Fourth Sunday of Lent**

**+Eucharistic Celebrations+**

**Sunday, March 19,** 8:00am at St. Joseph-Olney  
**8:00am at St. Joseph-Stringtown “Bob & Francella Dohm+, Mary & Holly Kocher+”**  
10:00am at St. Lawrence-Lawrenceville  
10:00am at Holy Cross-Wendelin  
**Monday, March 20, 6:30pm at St. Joseph-Stringtown “Elmer & Elfrieda Zwilling+”**  
**Tuesday, March 21,** 5:00pm at St. Lawrence-Lawrenceville  
**Wednesday, March 22,** 8:00am at St. Joseph-Olney  
**Thursday, March 23, NO MASS**  
**Friday, March 24,** 8:00am at St. Joseph-Olney  
**Saturday, March 25,** 4:00pm, at Holy Cross-Wendelin  
5:00pm, at St. Joseph-Olney  
**Sunday, March 26,** 8:00am at St. Joseph-Olney  
**8:00am at St. Joseph-Stringtown “Sr. Loretta & Sr. Antoinette Volk, PHJC +”**  
10:00am at St. Lawrence-Lawrenceville  
10:00am at Holy Cross-Wendelin

**MINISTERS LIST**

<b>03/19/2023</b>	<b>03/26/2023</b>
<b>Servers:</b> Grayson Sterchi Jared Weidner	<b>Servers:</b> Natalie Zwilling Jared Weidner
<b>Lector:</b> Laura Sterchi	<b>Lector:</b> Owen Kocher
<b>Eucharist Minister:</b> Jenny Hancock	<b>Eucharist Minister:</b> Harold Boehl
<b>Gifts:</b> Rick & Robbie Ginder	<b>Gifts:</b> Paul & Ellen Steber Family
<b>Ushers:</b> Harold Boehl Jared Boehl	<b>Ushers:</b> Doug Kocher Elmer Ochs
<b>Greeters:</b> Werner & Janette Kocher	<b>Greeters:</b> Jean, Mona, & Gary Kocher

**St. Joseph Church  
In Stringtown Illinois  
P.O. Box 10, Dundas, IL 62425**



(GPS address: 6342 N. Stringtown Rd, Olney, IL 62450)  
Phone: 618-754-3676  
Fax: 618-988-7099  
Email: [stjoestringtown@hotmail.com](mailto:stjoestringtown@hotmail.com)  
Web site: [www.stjosephstringtown.com](http://www.stjosephstringtown.com)

**Very Rev. Fr. Mark Stec, V.F..... Pastor**  
Fr. Mark's Cell..... 618-841-7324  
E-mail..... [mstec88@msn.com](mailto:mstec88@msn.com)

**Reverend Felix Chukwuma..... Pastor**  
Fr. Felix's Cell..... 618-671-0641  
E-mail..... [chibuchuma@yahoo.com](mailto:chibuchuma@yahoo.com)

**Caroline Trimble..... Pastoral Associate**  
Caroline's Cell..... 618-263-7106  
E-mail..... [CtrimblePA@gmail.com](mailto:CtrimblePA@gmail.com)

**Savannah Lenear.....Administrative Assistant**  
Office phone .....618-754-3676  
E-mail.....[stjoestringtown@hotmail.com](mailto:stjoestringtown@hotmail.com)  
Parish Office Hours: Tues. & Thur. 9:00am-3:00pm