

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.

Lent

Ash Wednesday



7:00 a.m. St. Lawrence Lawrenceville

8:05 a.m. St. Joseph Olney

1:30 p.m. 3rd floor Carle Hospital

6:30 p.m. St. Joseph Stringtown & Holy Cross Wendelin

Stations of the Cross

Holy Cross- St. Lawrence- Lawrenceville

St. Joseph Olney - St. Joseph Stringtown

Friday evenings 6:30 p.m.



Prayer, Fasting, and Almsgiving

Key Regulations:

Fasting (Ages 18-59)

Obligatory on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.

Means one full meal and two smaller meals (not equaling a full meal).

No snacking between meals.

Abstinence (Ages 14+):

Obligatory on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday, and all Fridays in Lent.

Means refraining from eating meat (beef, pork, poultry).

Fish, eggs, milk products, and condiments are permitted.

Exemptions:

Those who are ill, pregnant, nursing, or elderly (over 59 for fasting) are generally excused.

Those in physically demanding jobs are also often exempt.

Broader Practices:

Beyond the Minimum: Catholics are encouraged to go beyond the basic rules through increased prayer (reading Scripture, attending Mass), almsgiving (charity), and other acts of self-discipline.

Spiritual Focus:

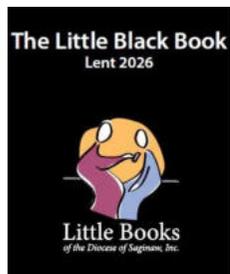
The goal is spiritual renewal, focusing on deeper intimacy with God, not just giving up food.

Duration:

Lent starts on Ash Wednesday and concludes on the evening of Holy Thursday.



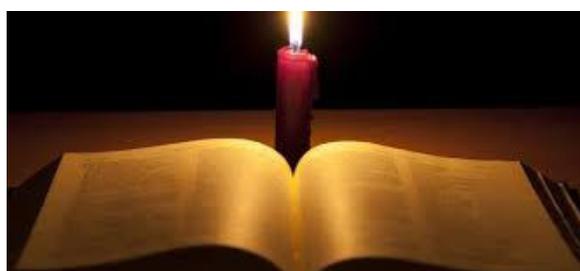
Lenten Resources



The Little Black Book
a Lenten daily devotional,
in the vestibule of the parish.

Lenten Vespers (Evening Prayer)

Wednesday Evenings 6:30 p.m. beginning after Ash Wednesday.



Evening Vespers, or Evening Prayer, is a Catholic liturgical service part of the Liturgy of the Hours that sanctifies the end of the day through prayer, praise, and thanksgiving. Typically held at dusk, its primary purpose is to offer an "evening sacrifice" to God, reflect on the day's events, thank Him for graces received, and seek forgiveness for sins.

February 25th Holy Cross Wendelin
March 4th St. Lawrence Lawrenceville
March 11th St. Joseph Stringtown
March 18th St. Joseph Olney



Augustine Institute
A Free Lenten Pilgrimage

Join Dr. Barber, Dr. Pitre,
and Dr. Adams on a Biblical
Lenten spirit filled journey.



Pray with The Tears of
Christ this Lent- Free

Sign up for daily
Lenten meditations
from St. John Henry
Newman.



Hallow FREE during Lent
Join Chris Pratt, Mark
Wahlberg, Jonathan Roumie,
Sr. Miriam, Fr. Mike Schmitz,
and more alongside millions
of others.

COME AND PRAY

Vespers

FOR LENT

Wednesday evenings at 6:30

Holy Cross - February 25

St. Lawrence - March 4

St. Joseph (Stringtown) - March 11

St. Joseph (Olney) - March 18

**OLNEY
COUNCIL
#1352**

Open to the public.
Dine in or carry out.

OLNEY KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

FISH FRY Fridays during Lent

OLNEY CITY PARK

Community Building

Serving from
5:00 - 7:00 pm
(or until sold out)

Dinner: \$14
(Refills available)

Menu: Fried fish, hash brown patty, baked beans, corn,
green beans, salad, and a beverage.
Dessert by donation.

Dates - Proceeds to Benefit:

February 20: Mentor Richland County

February 27: Richland County Hope

March 6: St. Joseph School

March 13: Senior Citizens Center

March 20: Fall Kids Mall

March 27: Olney Valor Quilters





NEWTON KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS FISH FRY

2026 LENTEN FRY-DAYS



February 20
CYO

Catholic Youth Organization



February 27
Columbian Home
"KC HALL"



March 6
Columbian Home
"KC HALL"



March 13
Shop with a Cop



March 20
Columbian Home
"KC HALL"



March 27
St. Thomas Church

All FRY-DAYS raise monies to benefit a local organization or charitable group.

MENU

MEAL INCLUDES:
FRIED FISH,
CHEESY HASHBROWNS,
AND COLESLAW

\$15 – Adult Meal

\$7 – Kid’s Meal

\$20 – All Fish Order

DINE-IN or

CARRY OUT

4:30 – 7:00 PM

or until sold out

NEWTON KC HALL

Tri-Parish CYM

Spaghetti

Lunch Fundraiser
& Basket Raffle



**Gluten Free
Available!**

Sunday February 22nd

10:30am to 12:30pm

Holy Cross Parish Hall

Lunch is free-will Donation!

Proceeds go towards supporting CYM and Mission Trip!

Come Support the Youth!

ST. MARY'S BRUNCH

Sunday, March 1, 2026

8 a.m. till 11:30 a.m.

St. Mary's Parish Center

Sainte Marie, IL

ADULTS: \$10

CHILDREN (4-10): \$5

3 & UNDER: FREE

*Bake sale sponsored by
the Youth Group*

Menu:

Sausage Links & Ham

Scrambled Eggs

Biscuits & Gravy

Breads & Fruits

Juice, Milk & Coffee



HOLY CROSS
WENDELIN

Wine

Tasting

\$10

Admission

(Includes Glass
& Tastings!)

MARCH 21, 2026

HOLY CROSS PARISH CENTER

WENDELIN, IL

6:00-10:30PM

BERRYVILLE VINEYARDS - CASTLE FINN VINEYARD
IRENE'S VINEYARD - THE POUR VINEYARD

*Food Trucks and Live Music by
Dakota Danielle!*

**Domestic beer available for
purchase. Wineries will serve
until 9pm.**

***No admittance to anyone under 21 years
of age.**



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Family Catechesis Revised Schedule of Events

“Following in the Footsteps of the Saints”

March	April	May
<p>4 Wed: Stay at Home Family Night 8th Grade Confirmation Retreat 6:30 p.m. Holy Cross Parish House 19- Family Catechesis will be held at St. Joseph Stringtown for the feast day of St. Joseph. There will be Mass and Dinner with the “Following in the Footsteps of the Saints” items.</p> <p>*Reminder to bring Family Tote with Saint Binder and Sacrament book for check-in.</p>	<p>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 18-Confirmation at St. Joseph Olney 26- First Communion Practice after Mass</p> <p>*Reminder to bring Family Tote with Saint Binder and Sacrament book for check-in.</p>	<p>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, meal, and year end presentation, and “Following in the Footsteps of the Saints” items.</p> <p>*Reminder to bring Family Tote with Saint Binder</p>





Following in the Footsteps of the Saints

The **Catholic Extension Grant** contributed:
Lourdes Healing Water, St. Bernadette Holy Card,
Lenten materials, and St. Valentine gifts.

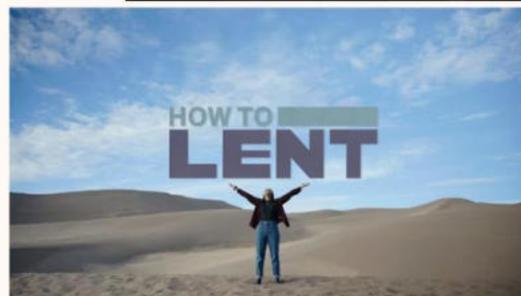
Let us continue to stay
"Following in the Footsteps of the Saints."

Lenten Family Ideas

Key Activities and Traditions

- **Prayer:** Create a Lenten prayer space with a cross and candle. Pray the Sorrowful Mysteries, or the Divine Mercy Chaplet. Attend Stations of the Cross.
- **Fasting:** Eat simple meatless meals on Fridays and have children help prepare them. Give up screens or candy as a family.
- **Almsgiving:** Use a "Sacrifice Jar" to fill with beans for every good deed, or fill a jar with coins for charity. Participate in "40 Bags in 40 Days" by donating one bag of items to charity each day.
- **Activities:** Make soft pretzels (symbolizing arms crossed in prayer). Read a Lenten devotional or children's book.
- **Visuals:** Use a Lenten calendar to track the 40 days. Make a Lenten Sacrifice paperchain.

February formed™



Upcoming March Events

Holy Cross Wendelin

4 -Wed. Stay-at- Home Family Night

19- Family Catechesis will be held at St. Joseph Stringtown for the feast day of St. Joseph. There will be Mass and Dinner with the "Following in the Footsteps of the Saints."

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



FOLLOWING IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE SAINTS

February 2026

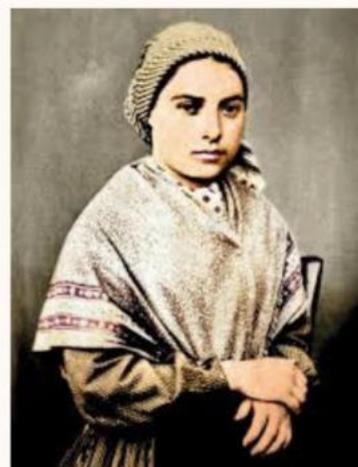


Our February Saints



Our Lady of Lourdes, is a title for the Blessed Virgin Mary, honoring her 1858 apparitions to 14-year-old peasant girl St. Bernadette Soubirous in a grotto at Lourdes, France. Over 18 visits, Mary identified as the "Immaculate Conception," urging prayer and repentance, and directed Bernadette to a spring with lasting healing properties. While many seek cures for illnesses, the spiritual message focuses on repentance, faith, and prayer for the conversion of sinners

St. Bernadette Soubirous, was a poor French girl from Lourdes, France, who, at age 14, experienced 18 visions of the Virgin Mary in a cave (Grotto of Massabielle) from February to July 1858, leading to the discovery of a miraculous spring and the famous Lourdes pilgrimage site; despite skepticism and hardship, she remained faithful, later joining the Sisters of Charity of Nevers, living a humble life, and dying at 35, eventually becoming a saint known for humility and faith in the face of illness. Bernadette's body is recognized by the Church as incorrupt.



"My Jesus, fill my heart with so much love that one day it will break just to be with you." St. Bernadette.

Pray for ME

C O N F I R M A N D I

Adrienne Weidner: St. Veronica

Aubrey Patridge: St. Cecilia

Beau Stevens: St. Philip Neri

Braden Weidner: St. Hubert of Liege

Bria Waggoner: St. Anne

Brilyn Brinkley: St. Elizabeth of Portugal

Camden Blank: St. Phocas

Cora Warfel: St. Anne

Diesel Myers: St. Christopher

Gavin Kuentler: St. Isidore the Laborer

Haley Ginder: St. Gianna Beretta Molla

Hayden Womack: St. Joseph

Hazel Durmas: St. Rose of Lima

Jett Thomas: St. Francis de Sales

Julian Seaman: St. Sebastian

Koltyn Hinterscher: St. John Paul

Korbyn Hinterscher: St. Carlo Acutis

Kylah Matthews: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

Landree Nelson: St. Catherine of Siena

Laney Peavler: St. Elizabeth of Hungary

Lauren French: St. Therese of Lisieux

Leo Seitzinger: St. Joan of Arc

Lucca Trupiano: St. Padre Pio

Makai Steele: St. Michael the Archangel

Max Crouch: St. Michael the Archangel

Nicole Kuhl: St. Monica

Parker Lewis: St. Juan Diego

Paxton Gher: St. Sebastian

Peyton Peavler: St. Michael the Archangel

Quinn Trout: St. Patrick

Riley Kraus: St. Therese of Lisieux

Sadie Seiler: St. Mary, Mother of God

Sarah Ruppel: St. Therese of Lisieux

Yzabella Biyok: St. Philip Neri



Pray for Me

**O
C
I
A**

Isaac Beal

Dalyn Brach

Stephen Brach

Eli Brown

Hilary Cecil

Abby Garrison

Luke Hahn

Kristen Kocher

Jillian Peavler

Sallie VanBlaricum



New Resources For Children

Children's Missalettes

These missalettes are recommended for ages 5-12 and are a great resource for helping our school age children follow along with the mass. It includes a description of the sanctuary and all the prayers during mass. These can be picked up at each mass by all of the entrances to the church. Please return them at the end of mass.

Mass Bags

These bags are recommended for ages 0-4 and include religious toys and books. We currently have 3 bags available for children to use during mass. These can be found by the main entrance to church on the book shelf. Please return the bag and all of its contents at the end of mass. If you would like to purchase one of these for your family to keep, you can purchase one at the parish office for \$54.



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**