

Sunday, December 22, 2024  
Fourth Sunday of Advent

✠ Eucharistic Celebrations ✠

- Mon. Dec. 23 6:30 PM at Stringtown  
**Tue. Dec. 24 Christmas Eve**  
**4:00 PM For the Parish**  
4:00 PM at Wendelin  
**Wed. Dec. 25 Christmas**  
12:00 am at Stringtown  
**8:00 am For the Parish**  
8:00 am at Lawrenceville  
Thu. Dec. 26 6:30 PM at Wendelin  
**Fri. Dec. 27 8:00 am Special Intention**  
**Sat. Dec. 28**  
4:00 PM at Wendelin  
**5:00 PM Herman, Ethel, & Kathy Zwilling**  
*Albert, Clara, & RoseEllen Hahn*  
*Jim & Mary Steber*  
**Sun. Dec. 29**  
**8:00 am Richard & Glenda Dallmier**  
*Debbie Rauch*  
8:00 am at Stringtown  
10:00 am at Wendelin  
10:00 am at Lawrenceville

**OUR DECEMBER SPONSORS**

Bulletins: Illini Builders  
Missalettes: Kistler-Patterson Funeral Home

**OUR TITHES FOR DEC. 15<sup>th</sup>**

Parish Operating Expense per Week = \$9,847.00  
Envelopes: \$9,558.25 (105) Loose: \$272  
Christmas Flowers: \$495 (16) Retirement for Religious \$55 (2)

**Let Us Pray For:** Kevin Bookhout, Ashley Hinterscher, Jerry L. Harper, Margaret Fehrenbacher, Emery Oesch, Gene Bergbower, Luke G. Kocher, David Fehrenbacher, Marlene Harris, Don Kocher, Bessie Rossiano, Mary Rowark, Eleanor Steber, Tony Tredway, Anita Shultz, Kenneth Hann, and Ruth Zwilling. *Please call or email the Parish Office to add any new names to the Prayer List.*

~ AROUND OUR PARISHES ~

**Sunday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>**

- Children's liturgy at 8 am mass.

**Tuesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>**

- There will be no Eucharistic Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament today.
- OCIA will not meet today or next Tuesday. Meetings resume on Tuesday, January 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Wednesday, December 25<sup>th</sup>**

- **Merry Christmas!** Sending you love, peace and joy this Christmas season.
- Bible Study falls on Christmas Day so we won't be meeting as usual. Be sure to attend Mass because it is a Holy Day of Obligation. Deacon Jack wishes you all a blessed Nativity of the Lord.

- Parish office closed.

**Sunday, December 29<sup>th</sup>**

- Mass ministries and rosary led by the K of C.

**Monday, December 30<sup>th</sup>**

- There will be no Stringtown evening mass.

**\* The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God\***

**New Year's Eve - Tuesday, December 31**

- \* 5 PM at Lawrenceville
- \* 6 PM at Holy Cross-Wendelin

**New Year's Day - Wednesday, January 1**

- \* 8 AM at St. Joseph-Stringtown
- \* **8 AM at St. Joseph-Olney**

 **St. Joseph School News** 

- Thank you to Mischelle Doll for her many years of hard work coordinating Santa's Workshop! We are so grateful for her service and dedication that has brought joy to so many students and families over the years.
- School resumes for students January 7.
- Have a very Merry Christmas from the students and staff at St. Joseph School!

**CALENDAR WINNERS - \$25**

- Dec. 9: Erik Jensen (#180)
- Dec. 10: Brad & Mischelle Doll (#848)
- Dec. 11: Rick Bussard (#370)
- Dec. 12: Lean Shan (#259)
- Dec. 13: John Gilbert (#330)

~ PARISH NEWS ~

- **The Cookie Walk** was a great success! Thank you to all of our bakers, volunteers, and parishioners for the support in another successful Cookie Walk. The total earnings were \$1,520.
- **Friday mass** will be held on December 27<sup>th</sup>. After the 27<sup>th</sup> there will only be First Friday masses at Olney until further notice.
- **Qualified Charitable Distributions:** A qualified charitable distribution (QCD) is a distribution of funds from your IRA (other than a SEP or SIMPLE IRA) directly to a qualified charitable organization, such as St. Joseph Church or St. Joseph school. Because the gift goes directly to the charity without passing through your hands, the dollar amount of the gift may be excluded from your taxable income up to a maximum of **\$100,000** annually, with some exceptions. Please consult your tax advisor for information regarding your specific exceptions.
- **Healing Blankets** are intended to comfort the recipients by knowing that they are being prayed for, for whatever the case: illness, grief, loss or loneliness. The blanket is a reminder of the love and prayers of our parish community. Our prayer that is ironed on to the blanket says it all: "This blanket was sewn with love and blessed. Know that you are covered by the prayers and love of St. Joseph's members. In Jesus' name we pray that you will be healed." With each blanket, a person receives a booklet called "You are Covered in Prayer" and a letter that explains what the blanket is all about. To request a blanket, come to the Parish Office. There is no cost, but a donation would be accepted to help offset the expense of this ministry.
- **Thank you** to Kistler-Patterson Funeral Homes for providing our 2025 calendars. The calendars are available at the doors.
- **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.

- **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 in the back of church.

~ KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS NEWS ~

- **Sunday, December 29<sup>th</sup>:** The Knights lead the Rosary at 7:40 am.
- **Sunday, December 29<sup>th</sup>:** Mass ministries led by the K of C 4<sup>th</sup> degree members, and a fellowship breakfast after mass.
- **Knight of the month:** Steve Kuenstler Family

**Journey Onward Ye Sojourners**  
**Caroline Trimble Pastoral Associate**

The gift that surpasses all understanding is drawing nearer! Do you know this gift? Do you know where to find it? This precious gift is more than an heirloom. This gift is timeless, and it is always in the right size, color, and quantity. This gift is Love- the Love that is being carried in the womb of Mary. This same Love wants to live within each and every one of us! When this Love truly lives within you - it radiates and illuminates your journey! This joyous time of waiting and longing is about receiving the Gift above all gifts. Take time to pause, stop, pray, and receive the Love that is being poured out... let Love be the gift that is received and given! Like Mary, we're waiting for Jesus, we're waiting for Jesus, the Lord. Light your fourth purple candle of Love and journey to Bethlehem with Joseph and Mary! Come, Lord Jesus! Come quickly, Lord Jesus! The whole world is waiting for Love! Live a Jubilee year as a "Pilgrim of Hope." Our Lady of Fatima, pray for us!

~ DIOCESE OF BELLEVILLE NEWS ~

The 2024 Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal

Serve the Lord with gladness -Psalm 100

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.

-Bishop Michael McGovern and Ministries and Programs Funded by the CSMA

Respect Life Corner: Sunday, December 22nd

Lord Jesus Christ, you chose to share our human nature and redeem all people. We ask for help for our brothers and sisters who are ill. Support them with your power and shelter them from sadness. Keep them firm in faith and serene in hope. Also help those who assist the sick and care for them in their time of illness. Inspire our society to resist the temptation of assisted suicide for the elderly, the sick, the vulnerable and all your people. May life's beauty and sanctity be respected among all our brothers and sisters. All this we ask in your holy name. Amen.

https://www.ilcatholic.org/stop-assisted-suicide/

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.

11 Day Majestic Germany Pilgrimage!

April 21-May 1, 2025

Hosted by Fr. R Dean Probst

For more information, please contact Fr. R Dean Probst at (217) 494-6326 or by email at rdprobst@gmail.com



JUBILEE YEAR 2025

Pope Francis will open the Jubilee Year 2025 by opening the Holy Door in St. Peter's Basilica in Rome on Christmas Eve. Join Bishop Michael McGovern in opening the celebration of the Jubilee Year in our diocese at the 10:30am Mass at the Cathedral of St. Peter (200 W. Harrison, Belleville) on Sunday December 29. Our theme for the Jubilee Year is Pilgrims of Hope. For more information visit www.diobelle.org.



St. Joseph Church
208 South Elliott St.
Olney, Illinois 62450



'Renewing the Vision'
Sunday, December 22, 2024
Fourth Sunday of Advent

~ Mission Statement ~

St. Joseph Parish family is a community of believers rooted in the teachings of Jesus Christ. Using the individual gifts we have been given by God, we minister to ourselves and others through prayer, support, and service.

We nurture our inherited faith life and through the power of the Spirit pass it to future generations.

Website .....www.stjosephchurcholney.com

Very Rev. Steven L. Beatty..... Pastor
Fr. Steven's Cell .....618-697-2632
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Reverend Felix Chukwuma..... Pastor
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Tyler Timm ..... Youth Minister
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Casey Hemrich ..... Administrative Assistant
Parish Office.....618-392-8181
E-mail.....stjosephchurch\_olney@yahoo.com

Jeffrey Rosenberg ..... Trustee
Elliot Brazil..... Trustee

~ Sacraments ~

Baptism: Infant or adult, please contact the Parish Office.

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

Marriage: Call no later than 6 months in advance.

Anointing of the Sick: Any time of need.



~ Welcome, New Parishioners ~

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

(If you are not receiving church offering envelopes, you are not properly registered.)

Office hours: Mon. Wed. Fri. 7:30-3:00 pm

~ 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
Kristen Eagleson.....Financial Manager

School Board: Angel Padilla (Chairperson), Heather Colwell, Samantha Foust, Marissa Graves, Andrea Kuentler, Lauren McClain, Sara Peavler, Doug Kocher (St. Joseph-Stringtown Representative), Holly Nettleton (Holy Cross-Wendelin Representative)