

*Sunday, December 29, 2019*  
*The Holy Family of Jesus,*  
*Mary and Joseph*

✠ *Eucharistic Celebrations* ✠

**Mon. Dec. 30** No Mass  
**Tue. Dec. 31** **VIGIL OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD (New Year's Eve)**  
**5:00PM For the Parish**  
*5:00PM (at Wendelin)*  
*Wed. Jan. 1* **MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD (New Year's Day)**  
*9:00am (at Stringtown)*  
*9:00am (at Lawrenceville)*  
*Thu. Jan. 2* No Mass  
**Fri. Jan. 3** **8:00am Special Intention**  
*8:00am (at Lawrenceville)*  
**Sat. Jan. 4** **4:00PM (at Lawrenceville)**  
**5:00PM Bernadette M. Kocher;**  
**Bernie Seiler**  
**Sun. Jan. 5** *7:30am (at Stringtown)*  
*8:30am (at Wendelin)*  
*10:00am (at Lawrenceville)*  
**10:30am Christina Ginder**

**OUR MONTHLY SPONSORS**

Bulletins: Family Hair Care- Betty Slover  
 Missalettes: Kistler-Patterson Funeral Homes

**OUR TITHES FOR DECEMBER 22**

Parish Operating Expense per Week = \$9,847.00  
 Envelopes: \$8,804.75 (109) Loose: \$221  
 Guatemala: \$80 (1) Flower Fund: \$85 (4)  
 Retirement Fund for Religious: \$40 (2)

**\* AROUND OUR PARISHES \***

**Sunday, December 29**

- **10:30 AM, Liturgy of the Word**

**Tuesday, December 31 - NEW YEAR'S EVE**

- **12:00 PM (Noon), Office closed**

**Wednesday, January 1- NEW YEAR'S DAY**

- **Office closed**

**Thursday, January 2**

- **Office closed**

**Friday, January 3**

- **EMHCs to the Sick will meet after Mass in Room B for 1st Friday visits**

**Monday, January 6 - Friday, January 10**

- Fr. Mark- Personal time

**Tuesday, January 7**

- **7:00 PM, Tuesday Night Theology presented by Fr. Brett, in the multi-purpose room. The subject will be "Will the Church Ever Allow Married Priests?" Refreshments will be provided. All are welcome! Questions? Email Fr. Brett: fatherbrettjudkins@ gmail.com**

**Thursday, January 9**

- **6:30 PM, Parish and Family Life Committee meeting**

**Sunday, January 12**

- **2:00 PM-4:00 PM, Family Movie Day, in the multi-purpose room. The movie will be 'Breakthrough' based on the true miracle story of a local St. Charles, MO family. Refreshments will be served including cookies, popcorn and drinks. Hosted by the Parish and Family Life Committee. All are welcome!**

 St. Joseph School Notes 

**Monday, December 30 - Friday, January 3**

- No School

**Monday, January 6**

- School Resumes

**Wednesday, January 8**

- Initial Child Protection Class, 6:15 PM, in the MPR

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 2020 Benefit Calendars are here. The price is \$20.

Total payout is \$8,450. Calendars are for sale at the School Office, Parish Office, from parishioners, or call Rob McClain (843-8171).  
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Congrats to our educators who continue their faith development! The Diocese of Belleville requires and encourages educators in our Catholic School to engage in personal catechesis. Educators work their way through a tier system, earning credits, and gaining knowledge and understanding.

Recently advancing: Sam Sterchi, Tier II Completed, 66 Hours Completed/Required; Casey Hemrich and Samantha Herdes, Tier III Completed, 96 Hours Completed/Required; Darla Cummins and Cally Mitchell, Tier IV Completed, 126 Hours Completed/Required; Beth Kocher and Carol Potter, Tier V Completed, 156 Hours Completed/Required.

**CALENDAR WINNERS - \$25**

Dec. 23: Maddy Dunn (#736)  
 Dec. 24: Erin Gallagher (#810)  
 Dec. 25: Pam Page (#007) **\$500**  
 Dec. 26: Eli Singer (#567)  
 Dec. 27: Jeremy Volk (#447)

**Let Us Pray For:** Margaret Blank, Rose Ellen Hahn, George Herman, Don Kapper, June Kuenstler, Cathy McDowell, Deloris Nix, Gerald Ochs, Emery Oesch, Bessie Rossiano, Anita D. Scott-Hataway, John "Bill" Schwartz, Landon Voyles, Derek Weidner and Rose (Blank) Wilkinson.

**FROM FR. MARK:** January 1, the calendar states New Year's Day. The liturgical calendar says it is the octave of Christmas, the SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD.

"And Mary said to the angel, "How shall this be, since I have no husband?" And the angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore, the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. And

behold, your kinswoman Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. For with God nothing will be impossible." And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her (The Gospel of Luke 2:34-38).

How "impractical" the spiritual life seems to some. Maybe this is because we have become what we call "practical" - meaning that we have lost the ability to hear and see God? This loss of the sense of the sacred is why the Way of Mary is so vital in this age which has lost its path to peace. In the words of one of the great, holy Bishops of our own age, Alvaro del Portillo: "The so called "practical people" are not really the most useful in the service of Christ's Church, nor are those who merely expound theories. Rather it is the true contemplatives who best serve her; those with the steady generous and passionate desire of transfiguring and divinizing all creation with Christ and in Christ. It may sound paradoxical, but in the Church of Jesus Christ, the mystic is the only practical person".

Perhaps we have followed the "pied pipers" of some schools of self-improvement that neither improve nor help us truly find the self we seek to improve?

Perhaps we have followed modern simplistic formulas packaged as remedies for our emptiness and despair, only to find them even more meaningless at the end of all that effort? Mary's Way invites us to learn to listen for the voice of God, to change the way we live. It is the way of surrender to the One whom she bore and who was her Redeemer and Son. We need to learn to listen to the One who seeks a relationship of communion. When we learn to listen, to stop our incessant flurry of activity, we will begin to hear His wooing, His loving invitation as Mary did and enter into an authentic

relationship with the God who created us and knows both who we are and who we can become. He calls, we hear and say "FIAT", "Yes." That is Mary's way. The path to a fruitful spiritual life is surrender to God.

**Journey Onward Ye Sojourners**  
+ J.O.Y.S.+  
**Caroline Trimble Pastoral Associate**

*The Holy Family of Jesus,  
Mary and Joseph, pray for us!*

There is no place like home, and there is nothing like family. Those that are part of a family may not always be of the same last name, DNA, faith, or the same culture. There is family that is given and family that is chosen! The Holy Family is a perfect example- Mary was Immaculately Conceived, Joseph is the foster Father, and Jesus was of a Divine Conception. Make no mistake, they were family, they loved each other, laughed, cried, supported, and shared the journey no matter the obstacles. What a family shares - *in season or out of season* - is the priceless gift of Holy Love. Family is a precious and priceless gift, spend time loving your family and bring that Holy Love of the Holy Family into yours. Call it a clan, call it a network, call it a tribe, call it a family: Whatever you call it, whoever you are, you need one. Journey onward this New Year with a Holy Love of Family. A Joyous New Year to you and all your loves! Keep to the J.O.Y.S.

**Thank you and congratulations** to Karen Winkels and Matthew Zuber for completing a recent diocesan training program, *The Ministry of Presiding at Prayer for Deacons and Lay Leaders*. They are now trained to preside at a Liturgy of the Word Service with the Communion Rite, in the case of an emergency when a priest is unavailable.

**Deepest sympathy** to the family of Patricia Gassmann. May she rest in the peace of God's love.

**Thank you** to Joyce Brokhof for her 25 years of dedication for coordinating the St. Joseph Annual Salad Bar Luncheon. Because this event has been a vital part of our parish and community activities, the church hopes to find a replacement for Joyce. Her organization over the years will provide our next chairperson with the foundation for an easy transition. Please consider this important ministry as part of your stewardship. The luncheon is scheduled for Friday, February 14. Please contact the church office (392-8181) for more information or to volunteer.

**In case of inclement weather**, mass will be canceled when school has been canceled due to the weather.

**Every Family Is Holy.** Pope Francis was not the first to urge us to see and be holy people. Saint Paul, in Colossians 3:12-17, calls us holy and beloved – and lists holy behaviors. It recalls the Old Testament covenants and the very peak of creation told in Genesis – human life.

\* How will I, in phone call or letter, speak words of love to my siblings and parents? \* How will I be ever more holy this day? \* How will I help families who grieve or hunger or want?

**~ KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS NEWS ~**

**Congratulations** to the Olney Council Knights of Columbus (parishes of Wendelin, Stringtown and Olney) Christ in Christmas Posters winners from 98 participants in the Wendelin and Olney PSR classes and the students at St. Joseph School! 1st Place and \$15 each: Bella Seesengood, Landree Nelson, Briley Wilson and Jacey Reppert. 2nd Place winners and \$10 each: Victoria Rudolphi (Holy Cross PSR), Mabel Stout, Kylah Matthews, and Logan Prosser. 3rd Place winners and \$5 each: Mallory Richardson (Olney PSR), Amity Zuber, Gavin Kuenstler, Evelyn Volk and Ava Gayer.

St. Joseph Church  
208 South Elliott St.  
Olney, Illinois 62450  
✠  
'Renewing the Vision'  
December 29, 2019  
The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

**~ 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](http://www.stjosephchurcholney.com)

Very Rev. Fr. Mark Stec, V.F. \_\_\_\_\_ Pastor  
Fr. Mark's Cell \_\_\_\_\_ 618- 841-7324  
E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ mstec88@msn.com

Fr. Brett Judkins \_\_\_\_\_ Parochial Vicar  
Fr. Brett's Cell \_\_\_\_\_ 618- 514-3820  
E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ fatherbrettjudkins@gmail.com

Caroline Trimble \_\_\_\_\_ Pastoral Associate  
Caroline's Cell \_\_\_\_\_ 618- 263-7106  
E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ CtrimblePA@gmail.com

Kim Kocher \_\_\_\_\_ Administrative Assistant  
Parish Office \_\_\_\_\_ 392-8181  
E-mail \_\_\_\_ [stjosephchurch\\_olney@yahoo.com](mailto:stjosephchurch_olney@yahoo.com)

Kelly Richardson (C.R.E.) \_\_\_\_\_ 838-5244

Jeffrey Rosenberg \_\_\_\_\_ Trustee

Pastoral Council: Kurt Ginder, Jane Kocher, Wayne Kocher, Cathy McDowell, Vicki Stuckey, Matthew Zuber

**~ Sacraments ~**

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

Reconciliation: Saturdays from 4:00 PM – 4:30 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.)

**~ St. Joseph School ~**

Carol Potter \_\_\_\_\_ Principal

Kristen Eagleson \_\_\_\_\_ Administrative Assistant  
School Office \_\_\_\_\_ 395-3081

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ [office@stjoeolney.com](mailto:office@stjoeolney.com)

Website \_\_\_\_\_ [www.stjoeolney.com](http://www.stjoeolney.com)

FAX \_\_\_\_\_ 395-8500

School Board: Lora Kocher (*Chairperson - Stringtown Representative*), Christy Blank, Kathy Davis, Shanna Ginder, Carrie Hallam, Mark Lambird, Sara Peavler, Erin Ranes, Mike Stevens (*Holy Cross Representative*)