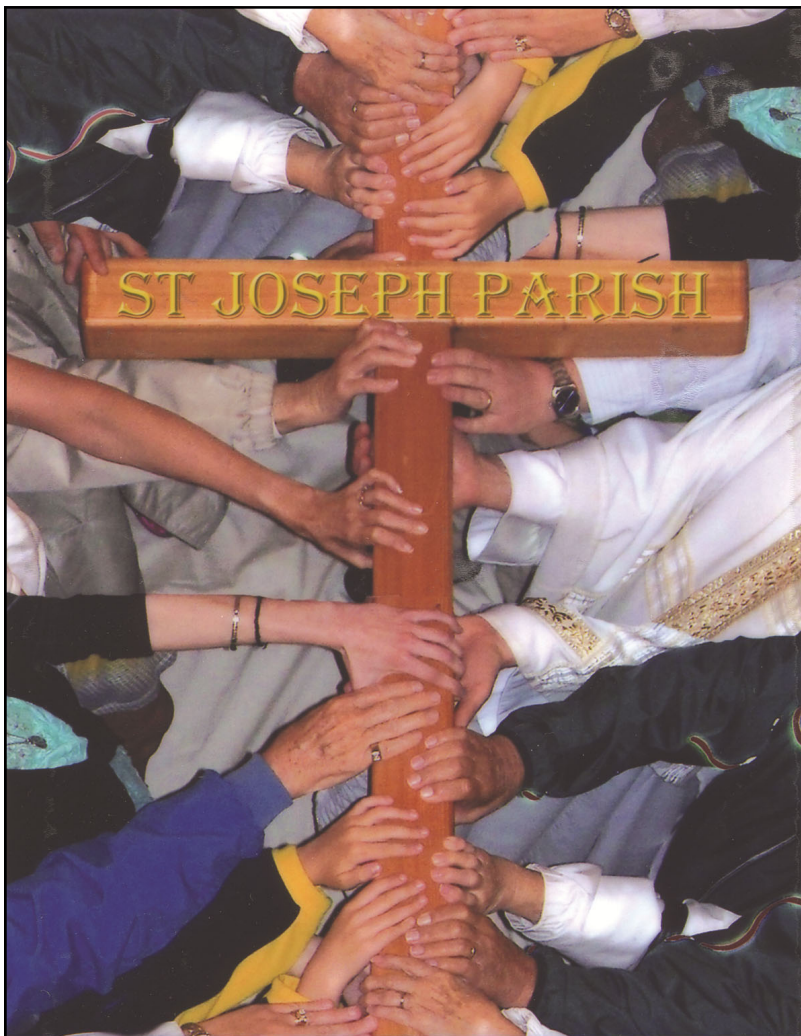


# St. Joseph Church

November 29, 2015  
First Sunday of Advent

440 Joliet St., Dyer, IN 46311  
(219) 865-2271  
www.stjosephdyer.org  
Rev. Terry J. Steffens, Pastor



GATHERING IN FAITH,  
DISCOVERING COMMUNITY

## Vision

Enthusiasm and Love of God and Neighbor to inspire and encourage interpersonal relationships in the St. Joseph Faith Community in order that an atmosphere of sharing our faith, time, talent, treasure and hospitality will expand the Kingdom of God.

## Prayer

God of all peoples, how blessed we are to gather in faith at Eucharist, for it is in Your Word and Sacrament that we discover that we are the Community called the Body of Christ.

Our St. Joseph Parish Vision is filled with enthusiasm for loving God and neighbor because Your Kingdom expands, Creator Father, in an atmosphere of interpersonal relationships.

May we the members of St. Joseph Parish continue to grow in faith during our Pastoral Planning Process, so that our Parish Vision will be fulfilled as we discover that as parish we are Community in Christ.

Amen.

## Welcome, New Parishioners

Please register with Father Terry in person. Please call the parish office, 865-2271 for an appointment.

## Parish Telephones

**Parish Office** .....865-2271

Parish Fax .....865-2350

Email .....dyerstjoe@sbcglobal.net

Monday-Friday, 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM

PASTOR: Rev. Terry J. Steffens

**Religious Education Office:** .....865-2355

Religious Education Fax .....865-3740

Email .....yseweaver@yahoo.com

**DIRECTOR:** Yvonne Weaver

## Mass Schedule

### Weekend Masses

Saturday: 4:30 PM

Sunday: 8:00AM, 10:00AM, 6:00PM

### Weekday Masses

Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri: 9:00 AM

### Holy Day Masses

Please see schedule inside bulletin.

## Sacramental Life

### Sacrament of Reconciliation (*Confession*)

Saturday 3:30 to 4:00 PM

### Sacrament of Baptism

12:00 Noon.

Arrangements must be made previously.

Instruction class for parents required.

### Sacrament of Marriage

Arrangements must be made at least six months in advance.

### Sacrament of the Sick

Call the office any time.

## Knights of Columbus

**Grand Knight:** Ed Hebda 219-865-6922

## Bulletin Deadline

**Monday 12:00 Noon, in writing.**



**Monday, November 30, St. Andrew**  
 9:00 AM Bernard & Myrtle Thiel

**Tuesday, December 1, Advent Weekday**  
 9:00 AM Poor Souls

**Wednesday, December 2, Advent Weekday**  
 No 9:00 AM Mass

**Thursday, December 3, St. Francis Xavier**  
 9:00 AM Walter Burczak

**Friday, December 4, Advent Weekday**  
 9:00 AM Poor Souls

**Weekend Mass Intentions**

**Saturday, December 5, Vigil: 2nd Sunday of Advent**  
 4:30 PM Leonard & Marie Gallenberger

**Sunday, December 6, 2nd Sunday of Advent**  
 8:00 AM George Steffens  
 10:00 AM Kevin Andrew Garza  
 6:00 PM The People of the Parish

**An Advent Visual Arts Meditation**

Presented through:  
**54 magnificent works of art that image the Gift of our Savior Jesus the Christ**

Wednesday, December 2, 2015  
 6:30—8:30pm  
 Gathering Room (lower level of the Church)

Plan to spend a reflective evening of: Scripture touched with a DVD presentation paintings of Christ powerfully portrayed through wide cultural and ethnic diversity.

Time will be given to respond, expand, and ponder the Mystery of Jesus of Nazareth as together we discover the Lord's unique beauty within these works of art.

Bring a Bible; bring a friend, ready to explore Faith through Christian Art.

**Sunday Readings Reflections  
 of 12/6/2015**

**Reading 1 Baruch 5:1-9**

Perhaps you noticed right away that the author of this reading is a poet. He is filled with hope and joy as he assures the Israelites in exile that God will bring them back to the holy city of Jerusalem. They are suffering very much because they are far from their homeland. But their return will be such a joyful event that even the mountains, the valleys, and the forests will do what they can to make the journey easier! In this beautiful vision of the future, the people have God's "mercy and justice for company."

Advent is a time for making progress on our faith journey. Take time to give thanks for God's mercy and justice in your life.

**Reading 2 Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11**

In his letter to the Christians at Philippi, a city in Macedonia, Paul makes two things clear. The first is his great love and affection for the Philippians, who have helped him in his ministry. The second is his hope that they will continue to become more and more like Christ. Paul is looking forward to the second coming of Christ. And he wants to make sure that all Christ's followers will be ready to receive him when he comes. What will you do during this second week of Advent to show that you, too, are becoming more like Christ?

**Gospel Luke 3:1-6**

Why do you suppose Luke makes such an effort to pin down the historical timing of the preaching of John the Baptist? He gives us a complete run-down of Roman and Jewish leaders who were in power. Luke wants us to realize that John, a "common man" chosen by God, is much more important than any worldly ruler, because he is the herald who announces the Lord's coming. John urges the people to be baptized as a sign of their repentance for their sins. When they do this, they will make the path clear for Christ to come into their lives. Then all people "shall see the salvation of God."

### Pastor's Column

Dear Parishioners:

We get confused about how to love God with our whole heart, soul, mind and strength because we really don't understand what constitutes our whole heart, soul, mind and strength. Since we are limited in our humanness we can't comprehend this fullness of love approach except on the faith level. Yes, on the level of faith we become consumed with how God loves us with God's whole being which includes our human hearts, souls, minds and strengths and then also the mystery of the divine encompassing our entire humanity as revealed in Christ. We can't explain God's fullness of Love but through faith we can be in God's fullness of Love whose mystery impacts our whole heart, soul, mind and strength.

Faith reveals the all-pervasive presence of God's Love given to us in Holy Communion with Christ the Savior. It is gift from God; it is not earned. Once we are convinced via faith that God's full love permeates our very being as humans, then we find ourselves simply and easily loving our neighbors. Talk about a mystery! The possibilities of the different ways we can love our neighbors are endless in the eternal love of God within us in Christ. Some people we may declare are too difficult to love. However, in our Holy Communion with Christ Jesus, we will find ourselves being love to our most challenging neighbors. How can this be? To us who have faith in God's depth of love within us, let's observe how God transforms our hearts, souls, minds and strengths in the midst of our confusion about how to love God with our total person. Faith is the great unifier of love of God and neighbor. Let us bask in the gift of faith within us and rejoice every day in how God's Love is the constant possibility for us to love our neighbors.

In the Mystery of Faith,

Fr. Terry

### Stewardship of Treasure Report

November 21st & 22nd

**Due to the printing schedule  
Of our Bulletin Publisher**

**The Stewardship of Treasure Report  
Will be published in next week's bulletin.**

### Update on 150th Anniversary

The committees met in September to give preliminary reports on what they will be working on through the months until May 21, 2017.

We are looking for artifacts from St. Joseph Parish to display at the museum that will be housed in the Gathering Room. We are also looking for photos to be put into the history/directory book that will be created.

We will be contacting all the parishioners to have their photos taken for this photo directory. More info to come.

There will be an ethnic pot luck luncheon on May 21, 2017. We are asking you to start thinking on what ethnic dishes you would like to bring. There will be sign-up sheets at church and on the web-site.

We are also looking into having a German band for entertainment since this parish started out as a German parish.

If you have any artifacts or photos, please call the parish office, 865-2271.

### Angel Tree 2015

Christmas Angel Trees are set up in the church foyer this weekend. Please return gift wishes to St. Joseph Church no later than December 12/13. Gifts must be wrapped, with the original card firmly affixed. Please wrap any gift card substantially to eliminate loss.

**THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH**

**Monday, November 30**  
7:00pm—Stewardship Meeting in Gathering Room

**Tuesday, December 1**  
9:45am—50/50 Raffle drawing  
4:45pm RE Advent Penance Service in church

**Thursday, December 3**  
7:00pm—Choir Practice

***Seeking the Light Retreat***

Bishop Hying invites college students and young adults to join him for “Seeking the Light,” a retreat Jan. 2-3 at Lindenwood Retreat Ctr. in Donaldson, IN. Bishop Hying will lead participants through a variety of faith experiences centered around the Epiphany, bringing to life its meaning in our lives today. Retreat begins 2pmE/1pmC Jan. 2 and ends NoonE/11aC Jan. 3. Cost: \$55 or \$85 (single or dbl occ), includes meals and room. Consider giving this retreat as a Christmas gift! Register/info: [seekingthelightretreat.org](http://seekingthelightretreat.org). Deadline: Dec. 18.

**THE COMING KINGDOM**

Jeremiah could see it coming--the kingship of Jesus and the restoration of Jerusalem. But was anybody listening? Is anybody listening now? It must have been tough being a prophet, but Jeremiah was persistent in his message because he knew that it needed to be heard. Also persistent in his message is Paul as he encourages the Thessalonians--and all of us--to live in accordance with the kingship that Jeremiah foretold. He encourages us to conduct ourselves in ways of holiness so that we may be well prepared for the king's coming. Finally, Jesus himself tells us to be ever diligent so that we may gain favor before our God and King. Jeremiah could see the kingship of Jesus coming. As we begin the season of Advent, Paul and Jesus tell us not only how to prepare for the Kingdom, but how to live it day to day.

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**Weekly 50/50 Raffle**

The Number Drawn on November 17th  
Was # 263

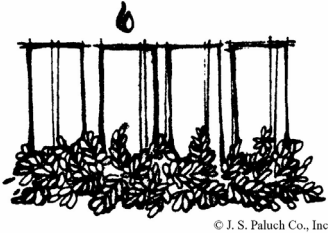
The Winner Would Have Won \$527.50  
(This amount will be added to next week)

Drawings will be held every  
Tuesday at 9:45am  
in the Gathering Room

All registered members of St. Joseph Parish are eligible for the 50/50 raffle. **YOU MUST USE 2 SEPARATE ENVELOPES FOR THE CURRENT WEEK EVEN IF YOU ARE A MONTHLY, ELECTRONIC, HOMEBOUND OR WEEKLY CONTRIBUTOR. ALL CONTRIBUTORS MENTIONED PREVIOUSLY MUST MAKE THEIR SACRIFICIAL CONTRIBUTION BY THE FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH AND INDICATING ON EACH SUBSEQUENT WEEKLY ENVELOPE THAT IS PLACED IN THE COLLECTION BASKET THAT YOU ARE EITHER A MONTHLY, ELECTRONIC OR HOMEBOUND CONTRIBUTOR.**

You must use your current weekly treasure envelope with your sacrificial amount and the preprinted 50/50 envelope found in the pews with EXACTLY \$5.00. If you are paying by check, you must use **2 checks**, one for the weekly treasure made out to St. Joseph Church and the other check for \$5.00 for the 50/50 raffle made out to St. Joseph Church—50/50 Raffle.

The 50/50 raffle envelope is to be put in the collection along with your sacrificial weekly treasure envelope.



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**Ministry Schedule**  
**December 5th & 6th**

**Extraordinary Ministers**

4:30pm—Florence Andrzejewski, Emma  
Gallenberger, Kathy Lebryk  
8:00am—Rick Dernulc, Frank Ziolkowski,  
Karen Ziolkowski  
10:00am—Edwin Abangan, Jessica Abangan,  
Laura Hays  
6:00pm—Pat Bergstrom, Brad or Paula Zielke,  
Yvonne Weaver

**Lectors**

4:30pm—Wayne Gallenberger  
8:00am—Noel & Kathy Cusick  
10:00am— Tom Heffernan  
6:00pm—Emma Weissbeck

**Blessed**

If you have sight, you are blessed. If you have in-  
sight, you are a thousand times blessed. —Anonymous

**Ministry Schedule**  
**December 5th & 6th**

**Altar Servers**

4:30pm—Joe Nowacki  
8:00am—Joe Nowacki  
10:00am—Andrew Huffman, Kevin Huffman  
6:00pm—Mary Shutoski



**First Sunday of Advent**

November 29, 2015

I will raise up for David a just shoot;  
he shall do what is right and just in the land.

-- Jeremiah 33:15

CHURCH NAME AND ADDRESS

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CONTACT PERSON

Patty Jarzembowski

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SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS