

# St. Joseph Church

December 6, 2015

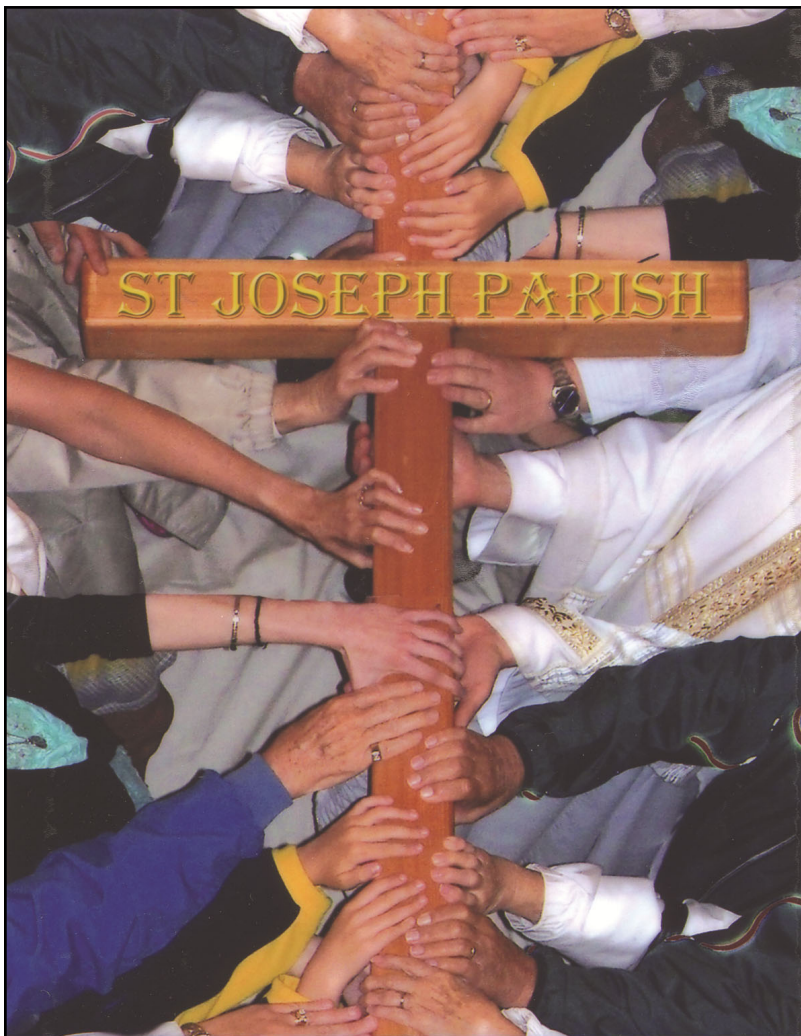
Second Sunday of Advent

440 Joliet St., Dyer, IN 46311

(219) 865-2271

[www.stjosephdyer.org](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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, December 7, St. Ambrose**

9:00 AM Poor Souls

**Monday, December 7, Vigil: The Immaculate Conception**

7:00 PM Poor Souls

**Tuesday, December 8, The Immaculate Conception**

9:00 AM Norma Beiriger

7:00 PM Poor Souls

**Wednesday, December 9, Advent Weekday**

No 9:00 AM Mass

**Thursday, December 10, Advent Weekday**

9:00 AM The Deceased Members of the Zarlenga & Kaczocha Families

**Friday, December 11, Advent Weekday**

9:00 AM Poor Souls

**Weekend Mass Intentions**

**Saturday, December 12, Vigil: 3rd Sunday of Advent**

4:30 PM Kevin Andrew Garza

**Sunday, December 13, 3rd Sunday of Advent**

8:00 AM Walter Burczak

10:00 AM Joseph Skvarek

6:00 PM The People of the Parish

**Holyday of Immaculate Conception**

Tuesday, December 8th is the celebration of the Holyday of The Immaculate Conception. There will be a Vigil Mass on Monday, December 7th and on Tuesday, December 8th, 9:00am & 7:00pm.

**Helping Hands Food Pantry**

There will be a second collection next weekend, December 12th & 13th for our Food Pantry. You are also invited to bring groceries to help restock our shelves.

**Sunday Readings Reflections of 12/13/2015**

**Reading 1 Zephaniah 3:14-18a**

We could really get into the spirit of this reading if we could sing it and accompany ourselves with musical instruments. Our song would celebrate a renewed relationship between God and God's people. The time of exile, or separation from God, is over. Now the people can once again feel good about themselves because they are living according to God's will. They sing out their joy, and God sings with them.

**Reading 2 Philippians 4:4-7**

This Third Sunday of Advent is sometimes called "Gaudete" Sunday. This is Latin for "Rejoice!" It comes from the first word of Saint Paul's letter for this Sunday. Paul reminds the Philippians that they should not merely rejoice that the Lord is near, and then go about their everyday business. They must also pray, be grateful, place their trust in God, and be unselfish in their relationships with others. Then they will experience "the peace of God."

**Gospel Luke 3:10-18**

Imagine that you are there, listening to John the Baptist in today's gospel. You hear him advising the people who have already expressed their sorrow for their sins. They are about to be baptized as a sign of their repentance. But they realize that they must also change their lives and avoid sin in the future.

Then the people wonder whether John might be the promised Messiah of God. John tells them that they must look for someone greater than he. We know that he was directing them to Jesus.

We can be like John the Baptist when we help others to find Jesus Christ in their lives. Pray today that your joy in knowing Christ will help lead others to him.

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**Pastor's Column**

Dear Parishioners:

One of the mysterious aspects of the conversion faith journey in Christ is facing our need for repentance, namely, admitting our sin and our need for God's mercy. In Christ the Savior we are given the overwhelming mercy of God with emphasis on overwhelming. God's mercy is mysterious because it is always within us and amidst our sin we are continually inundated with God's mercy such that, in God's constant presence we are overwhelmed by God's mercy because our sin makes us sad and God's mercy makes us joy-filled.

Hopefully, we prefer to be joy-filled people and not sad folks because Jesus saves us from the sadness of sin and death. The mystery of God's mercy in Christ is how it so permeates our humanity that we are overwhelmed with this lavish gift of mercy and we succumb to it by being more alert to our need for God's mercy. In particular, the more God's mercy rings true within us, the easier it is for us to share God's mercy with one another. After all, one of our biggest sins is not treating people with mercy; that is, we are too quick to harshly judge some of our neighbors.

The mystery of how God's mercy is constantly working within us is another way to reflect on Holy Communion because oneness in the Body and Blood of Christ is constant. To be one with Christ is to be overwhelmed by God's mercy to the point of more faithfully repenting of our sins and being more deeply healed and freed up to overwhelm one another with mercy. The conversion faith journey in Christ is mysterious in how it stirs us to repentance, but the overwhelming mercy of God constantly calls us to deeper oneness with God and neighbor and we are unwise to minimize its saving impact in our every moment.

In God's Mercy,

Fr. Terry

**Stewardship of Treasure Report**

November 21st & 22nd

- Weekly Budget Amount Needed: \$5825.00**
- Weekly Sunday Treasure Envelope Amount Collected: \$4107.05**
- Charity: \$127.00**
- Religious Education: \$10.00**
- Christmas: \$175.00**
- Weekly Treasure Support Deficit: (\$1405.95)**
- Fiscal Year Operating Budget Amount Needed: \$122,325.00**
- Fiscal Year Deficit: (\$8618.18)**
- Campaign for Human Development: \$671.60**
- Food Pantry: \$20.00**
- 50/50 Raffle: \$205.00**

**Stewardship of Treasure Report**

November 28th & 29th

- Weekly Budget Amount Needed: \$5825.00**
- Weekly Sunday Treasure Envelope Amount Collected: \$4284.75**
- Charity: \$15.00**
- Religious Education: \$0**
- Weekly Treasure Support Deficit: (\$1525.25)**
- Fiscal Year Operating Budget Amount Needed: \$128,150.00**
- Fiscal Year Deficit: (\$10,143.43)**
- Campaign for Human Development:**
- Food Pantry: \$0**
- 50/50 Raffle: \$205.00**

**St. Joseph Parish  
Advent Communal  
Penance Service**

Please join our parish on Wednesday, December 16, 2015 at 7:00pm for our annual Advent Penance Service.

There will be 4 priests to hear your individual confessions.

**THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH**

**Monday, December 7**

7:00pm—Vigil Mass for Immaculate Conception

**Tuesday, December 8**

9:00am—Holyday Mass—Immaculate Conception

7:00pm—Holyday Mass—Immaculate Conception

Parish Office closed

No RE classes

**Thursday, December 10**

9:45am—50/50 Raffle drawing

7:00pm—Choir Practice

**Sunday, December 13**

9:15am-9:45am—Ministry of Care meeting in Gathering Room

***Seeking the Light Retreat***

Bishop Don Hying invites college students and young adults (20's & 30's) to join him for "Seeking the Light," a retreat January 2-3, 2016 at the beautiful Lindenwood Retreat Center in Donaldson, IN. Bishop Hying will serve as the retreat director as he leads participants through a variety of faith experiences centered around the Epiphany. Retreat begins 2pmE/1pmC Saturday, January 2 and ends NoonE/11aC Sunday, January 3. Cost: \$55 person (double occupancy) or \$85 (single) includes meals and room. To register and for more info, visit [seekingthelightretreat.org](http://seekingthelightretreat.org). Online registration deadline is Dec. 18.

**Christmas Decorating**

The Environment & Art Committee needs your help with the Christmas decorations again this year. We are very thankful of your stewardship response in the past and hope to see more participants this year. Please say you will invest God's gifts of your time and talents by coming to church on **Saturday, December 19th at 9:00am**. We especially need some **strong young adults to help with the heavier lifting**. There are jobs for the young and for our seniors too! Bring your tools and your ladders if you have them. Come and help prepare our church and your hearts for our Savior's birth!

**Weekly 50/50 Raffle**

The Number Drawn on November 24th Was # 258

The Winner Would Have Won \$630.00 (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.

**Polish Advent & Christmas Customs**

Presented by Fr. Walter Rakoczy on Sunday, December 13 at 1pm & Wednesday, December 16 at 6pm at St. Mary School in Michigan City. Limited Seating—Call 219-873-1320 For reservations before December 11th.

**Ministry Schedule  
December 12th & 13th**

**Extraordinary Ministers**

4:30pm—Paul Jarzembowski, Patty Jarzembowski, Isabelle Skurka  
8:00am—Kathy Cusick, Carol Jablonski, Pauline Rybicki  
10:00am—Dennis Bork, Tina Bork, Mike Klausman  
6:00pm—Pat Bergstrom, Bonnie Gruver, Ernie Leicht

**Lectors**

4:30pm—Sandy O’Drobinak  
8:00am—Karen Ziolkowski  
10:00am— Tim & Sheila Huffman  
6:00pm—Yvonne Weaver

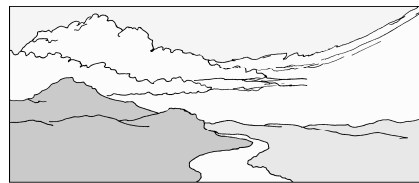
**FORGIVENESS**

God forgives like a mother who kisses the offense into everlasting forgiveness. --Henry Ward Beecher

**Ministry Schedule  
December 12th & 13th**

**Altar Servers**

4:30pm—Lillian Smith, Andrew Yuratis  
8:00am—Joe Stankovich  
10:00am—Gian Abangan, Jim Morris  
6:00pm—Ian Gruver



**Second Sunday of Advent**

December 6, 2015

God has commanded  
that every lofty mountain be made low.  
-- Baruch 5:7

CHURCH NAME AND ADDRESS

St. Joseph #512161  
440 Joliet Street  
Dyer, IN 46311

TELEPHONE

219 865-2271

CONTACT PERSON

Patty Jarzembowski

SOFTWARE

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SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS