

St. Joseph Church

December 13, 2015

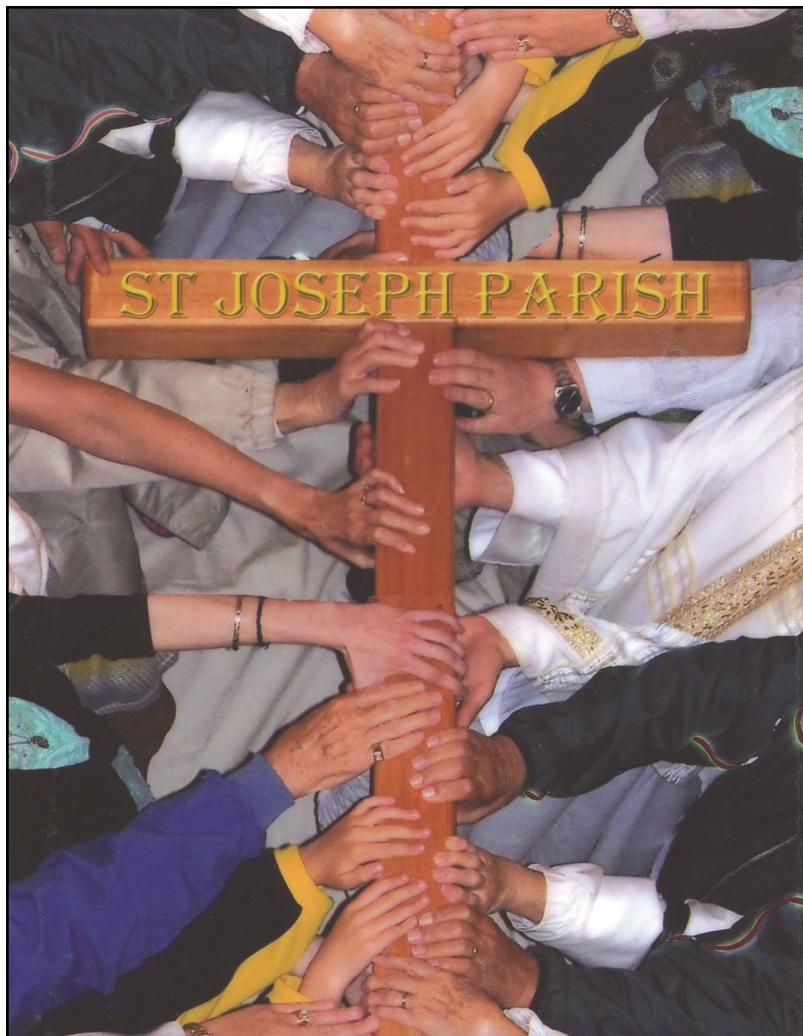
Third Sunday of Advent

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 Office865-2271

Parish Fax865-2350

Emaildyerstjoe@sbcglobal.net

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

PASTOR: Rev. Terry J. Steffens

Religious Education Office:865-2355

Religious Education Fax865-3740

Emailyseweaver@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 14, St. John of the Cross**

9:00 AM George Steffens

Tuesday, December 15, Advent Weekday

9:00 AM Walter Burczak

Wednesday, December 16, Advent Weekday

No 9:00 AM Mass

Thursday, December 17, Late Advent Weekday

9:00 AM Earl & Marie Reitz

Friday, December 18, Late Advent Weekday9:00 AM The Deceased Members of the
Zarlenga & Kaczocha Families**Weekend Mass Intentions****Saturday, December 19, Vigil: 4th Sunday of Advent**

4:30 PM Kevin Andrew Garza

Sunday, December 20, 4th Sunday of Advent

8:00 AM The People of the Parish

10:00 AM Joseph R. Pacholski

6:00 PM Poor Souls

Confession Schedule for Christmas**Wednesday, December 16****7:00pm Parish Advent Penance Service**Friday, December 18—11:00amMonday, December 21—7:00pmTuesday, December 22—7:00pmWednesday, December 23—7:00pm**Mass Schedule for Christmas**Thursday, December 24

4:30pm & 10:30pm

Friday, December 25

8:00am & 10:00am

No 6:00pm Mass**Sunday Readings Reflections
of 12/20/2015****Reading 1 Micah 5:1-4a**

When the prophet Micah proclaimed the coming of a shepherd-king, the Israelites in Jerusalem were under attack. Their enemies, the Assyrians, were ready to "wipe them out." So the good news that God would send them a strong and just ruler was music to their ears. Their king would be born in Bethlehem—a small, unimportant town—of the royal family of David. And he would bring lasting peace.

After the resurrection of Jesus, the early Christian community recognized that these words of Micah were a wonderful description of Jesus, the Prince of Peace.

Reading 2 Hebrews 10:5-10

One of the messages in today's second reading is that we should recognize how the perfect sacrifice of Jesus differs from the sacrifices of the Old Testament. Those sacrifices were often offerings of animals. Jesus' sacrifice was the offering of himself.

Giving yourself—your time, talents, and love—is the greatest gift you can offer to others. Reflect for a moment on how willing you are to give this gift. Ask Jesus to help you to follow his example.

Gospel Luke 1:39-45

Many artists have painted this moving scene described by Luke in today's gospel. Mary has made a difficult journey through the hill country to be with her relative Elizabeth, who is several months pregnant. The young woman, bearing in her body the Savior, and the older woman, carrying John the Baptist, embrace each other with tears and laughter. Elizabeth recognizes Mary's true identity as "the mother of my Lord." She calls Mary "blessed" three times. Mary is blessed because she trusted that the Lord's words to her would come true.

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Pastor's Column

Dear Parishioners:

There may be times when we might think that God is punishing us especially in those times of accidents, health problems and difficulties with people. However, the Good News of Jesus to the world is that God is not out to punish us but is out to save us. In particular, to save us from our many morbid scenarios we project onto God thinking that God is out to make our lives miserable. Let's get this straight, God is joy in our lives as revealed in Jesus the savior of the world. Any misery we conjure up is our doing, our sin, our lack of faith in God.

We hurt ourselves but it is not God's fault. Lord have mercy on us for thinking otherwise! Through faith in God all is well, period! Any problems or difficulties are our construct because with faith in the Beloved Jesus, we can face all of life with Joy now! Any excuses we think up for not being joyful are a symptom of a lack of faith. The question is whether we have genuine faith. Fleeting faith varies with life's circumstances whereas genuine faith is constant in Christ's faithfulness.

In our desire for Holy Communion with Jesus comes the faith obligation to let go of making God into a punishing God. St. Paul points out to us that God is for us and not against us. Do we have faith in God being for us at all times? If we do, then it is time to be more joyful people in Christ all the time, especially when external circumstances such as accidents, health problems and difficulties with people arise. Our desire to be morbid about live/death is our idea, not God's; it is a symptom of a lack of faith. To dare to be joyful all the time might seem absurd but Jesus' saving love is here now which means there is new life in our midst always and, thus, all is well!

In the Joy of Christ,

Fr. Terry

Stewardship of Treasure Report

December 5th & 6th
Due to Vacation Schedule

The Treasure Report

**WILL BE PUBLISHED
NEXT WEEKEND**

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, bringing to life its meaning in our lives today. Retreat begins 2pmE/1pmC Saturday, January 2 and ends NoonE/11aC Sunday, January 3. Cost: \$55 per person (double occupancy) or \$85 (single) includes meals and room. To register and for more info, visit 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!

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

Monday, December 14

7:00 pm—150th Anniversary Planning
Meeting in Gathering Room

Tuesday, December 15

9:45am—50/50 Raffle drawing
4:30-5:45pm—Session A—Religious
Education classes in school

Wednesday, December 16

10am-Noon—Food Pantry pickup
6-7pm—Food Pantry pickup
7:00pm—Parish Advent Penance Service

Thursday, December 17

7:00pm—Choir Practice

Friday, December 18

11:00am—Confessions

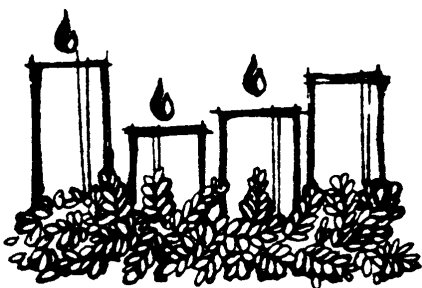
Saturday, December 19

9:00am—Decorating of church for
Christmas

St. Joseph Parish Advent Communal Penance Service

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

There will be 4 priests to hear your individ-
ual confessions.



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Weekly 50/50 Raffle

The Number Drawn on December 1st
Was # 43

The Winner Won \$732.50

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.

Prayers for the Sick

If someone is in the hospital or ill and they need prayers, please let us know so that we can publish their names for our parish members to keep them in their prayers. Please call the office, 865-2271, to let us know.

Ministry Schedule
December 19th & 20th

Extraordinary Ministers

4:30pm—Florence Andrzejewski, Joseph
Nowacki, Judy Nowacki
8:00am—Carol Jablonski, Patti Pawl,
Tim Pawl
10:00am—John Hearne, Tom Heffernan,
Tamara Fredrickson
6:00pm—Irene Magana, Isabelle Skurka,
Frances Vasuez

Lectors

4:30pm—Volunteer
8:00am—Rita D'Arcy
10:00am—Religious Education
6:00pm—Gary Blue

STRENGTH AND COURAGE

Prayer infuses the weak with strength and the fainthearted with courage. —Anonymous

Ministry Schedule
December 19th & 20th

Altar Servers

4:30pm—Mary Shutoski
8:00am—Christopher Kline
10:00am—Abigail Holmes, Jim Morris
6:00pm—Jack & Orla Fingar, Lanie Taylor



Third Sunday of Advent

December 13, 2015

With joy you will draw water
at the fountain of salvation.

-- Isaiah 12:3

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