

St. Joseph Church

December 15, 2013

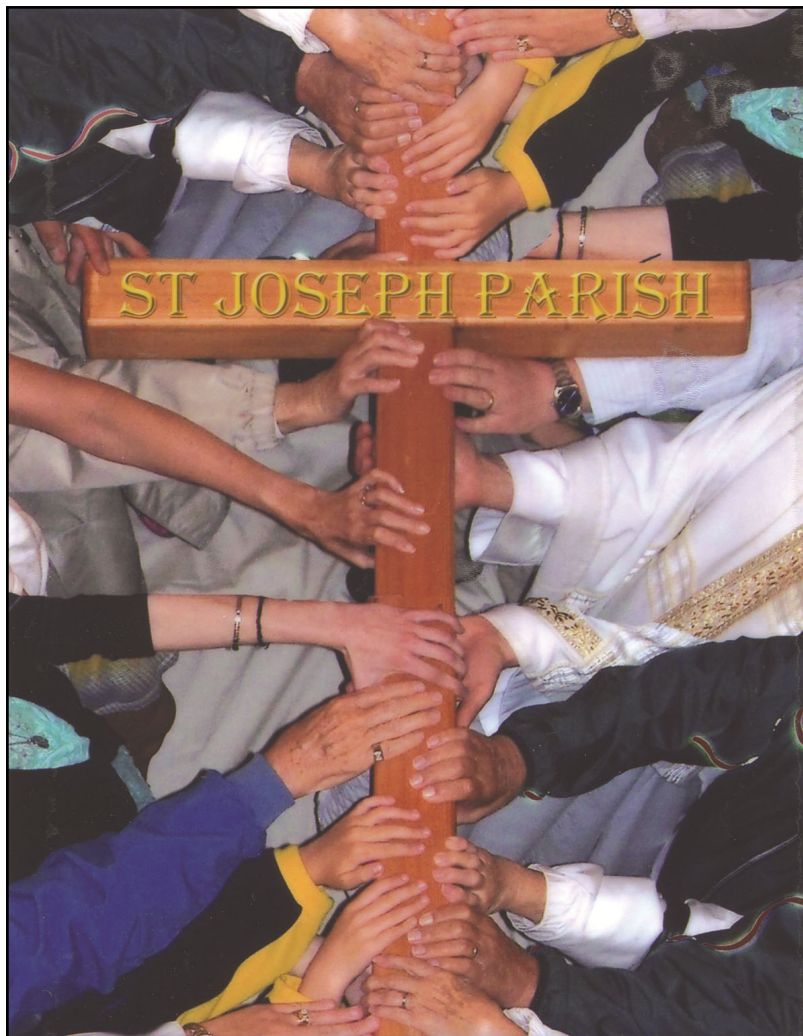
Third Sunday of Advent

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

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-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: Mike Kulik 708-906-6652

Bulletin Deadline

Monday 12:00 Noon, *in writing*.

**Monday, December 16, Advent Weekday**

9:00 AM Poor Souls

Tuesday, December 17, Late Advent Weekday

9:00 AM Frank Kaczocha

Wednesday, December 18, Late Advent Weekday

No 9:00 AM Mass

Thursday, December 19, Late Advent Weekday

9:00 AM Marie Reitz

6:30 PM Family Rosary

Friday, December 20, Late Advent Weekday

9:00 AM Poor Souls

Weekend Mass Intentions**Saturday, December 21, Vigil: 4th Sunday of Advent**

4:30 PM The People of the Parish

Sunday, December 22, 4th Sunday of Advent

8:00 AM Poor Souls

10:00 AM Rose & Fevci Ilgin & Family

6:00 PM Kevin Andrew Garza



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Confession Schedule

Thursday, December 19—7:00pm

Friday, December 20—11:00am

Monday, December 23—7:00pm

Christmas Masses**Tuesday, December 24**

4:30pm

10:00pm Christmas Choir Concert

10:30pm

Wednesday, December 25

8:00am

10:00am

NO 6:00PM MASS**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 the church on **Saturday, December 21st at 9:00am** and again on **Sunday, December 22nd after the 6:00pm Mass**. 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!

THE LOOK OF LOVE

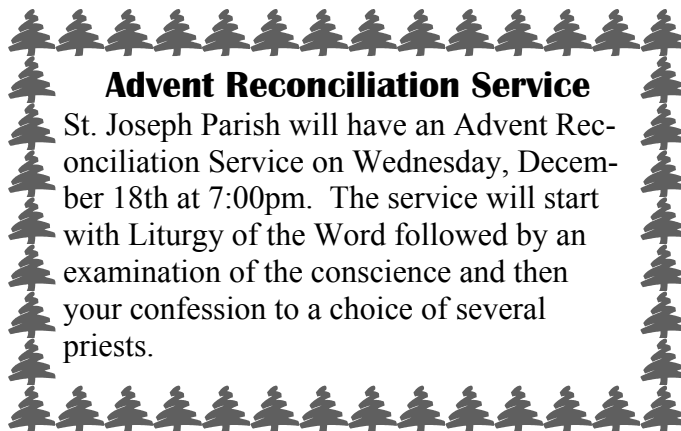
What does love look like?

It has feet to go to the poor and needy.

It has eyes to see misery and want.

It has ears to hear

the sighs and sorrows of others.

**Advent Reconciliation Service**

St. Joseph Parish will have an Advent Reconciliation Service on Wednesday, December 18th at 7:00pm. The service will start with Liturgy of the Word followed by an examination of the conscience and then your confession to a choice of several priests.

Hospital & Nursing Home Visits

In this day and age, privacy within the Hospital and Nursing Home industry is a high priority. As a result, notification of churches about parishioners who are in a Hospital or Nursing Home is left up to the family or friend of the patient. Please call 219-865-2271 to let us know here at the Parish Office if you or your loved one is in a Hospital or Nursing Home.

Thank You.

Pastor's Column

Dear Parishioners:

The rule of the road for following cars in traffic is to not tail-gate. Keeping a safe following distance helps us avoid crashing into somebody's car trunk. The rule of the discipleship "road" in following Jesus is to "tail-gate" Jesus into Holy Communion with Our Lord. No need to be concerned about "crashing" into Jesus because he is born into our humanity to "crash" through sin and death and reestablish oneness between the divine and the human.

To further explicate: it is no "accident" that God is always with us in Christ via the Holy Spirit. God freely chose to love us humans first, to death and into new life. We are wise not to keep a safe "following distance" from Jesus but rather to revel in our daily "crashes into" the depth of God's Love.

God's rules are not our rules including when it comes to following God's call to discipleship in Christ. The last thing God wants from us is to keep our distance from Jesus the Savior. For Our Lord will not "accidentally" injure us. Rather, Jesus is the constant divine presence made flesh within humans all the way into eternal life.

Loving you in Christ,

Fr. Terry

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a; Ps 25:4-5ab, 6, 7bc-9; Mt 21:23-27

Tuesday: Gn 49:2, 8-10; Ps 72:1-4ab, 7-8, 17; Mt 1:1-17

Wednesday: Jer 23:5-8; Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19; Mt 1:18-25

Thursday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17; Lk 1:5-25

Friday: Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-4ab, 5-6; Lk 1:26-38

Saturday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21; Lk 1:39-45

Sunday: Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-6; Rom 1:1-7; Mt 1:18-24

Stewardship of Treasure Report

November 30th & December 1st

Sunday Ordinary Collection: \$5846.89

Children's Collection: \$28.10

Religious Education: \$11.00

Campaign for Human Development: \$28.00

Philippines Relief: \$1226.21

Christmas: \$25.00

50/50 Raffle: \$375.00

Weekly 50/50 Raffle

**The Number Drawn on December 3rd
Was # 383**

The Winner Would Have Won \$3665.50
(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.**

You must use your current weekly treasure envelope with your sacrificial amount and the pre-printed 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.



THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

Tuesday, December 17

9:45am—50/50 Raffle drawing

4:30-5:45pm—Session A—Religious

Education classes in school

6:15-7:30pm—Session B—Religious

Education classes in school

Wednesday, December 18

No morning mass

10:00am-Noon—Food Pantry pickup

6:00-7:30pm—Food Pantry pickup

7:00pm—Parish Penance Service

Thursday, December 19

6:30pm—Family Rosary

7:00pm—Confession

7:30 pm—Choir Practice

Friday, December 20

11:00am—Confessions

Saturday, December 21

9:00am—Christmas Decorating in church

Sunday, December 22

Mass Reflections after 10am Mass in
Gathering Room

PROMISE FULFILLED

Today's readings address the faithful one, the one who waits on God but may not feel God's presence. Every person who seeks God has at one time or another experienced the absence of God. Jesus himself cried out during his dark night of the soul.

The Epistle of James speaks to this. The author says that we must be as patient as the silent, fallow earth that awaits the slow, soaking rains of winter and the hard, necessary rains of spring. As the farmer is sure of the precious yield of the land, we can be sure of the precious yield of our patient waiting. God is never far away.

The messengers from John the Baptizer asked Jesus if he was the one whose coming John had announced. The messengers wanted to hear the answer that the imprisoned John already knew. Everything that John said was finally happening: because of Jesus, light shines in eyes; words of promise are received; people leap and dance.

The promise of Isaiah is fulfilled in Jesus. Wobbly knees and feeble hands are strong, the desert blooms, the savanna and steppe flower, the darkness is chased away. Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

We make transitions along life's journey, and search for meaning. Watch an infant take those first wobbly steps. Inevitably they are toward the arms of a dear one, and the gleeful smile and wordless laughter let us know that the baby understands that the whole world is renewed in an instant. Parents may see that wide-eyed smile again some years later as they flip car keys in the teenager's direction, and by God's grace at in-between moments of forgiveness and affirmation.

Sacraments open a window to the blessings of everyday life and help us claim their deep meaning. A voice from a fiery bush warned Moses to take off his shoes because he stood on "holy ground." Your first steps, your first word, taking your place at the family table, stirring to new love, forgiving and being forgiven: all of this is holy, laden with meaning, full of possibilities. Sacraments are not escape pods from the realities of the everyday; rather they invest us ever more deeply in life and recruit us for the kingdom inaugurated by Jesus. We take baby steps all our life long. In the world of sacrament, they are always directed toward the arms of a loving God, and always on the common holy ground of a community's life.

—Rev. James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

Offertory Envelopes

Your parish envelopes are ready for pickup in the main vestibule. Your names are on the boxes and in alphabetical order. Please pick yours up.

Reflections on Holy Mass

This Advent we will be offering a series of DVD Reflections on Holy Mass immediately following the 10:00am Mass beginning December 1st in the Gathering Room. Abbot Marcel Rooney, O.S.B. will guide us in understanding Holy Mass better, and then in celebrating Mass with a true spirit of prayer. These DVDs are intended to foster a deeper faith formation and appreciation for the gift of Holy Mass. If you have any questions, please call 219-865-2355.

Ministry Schedule
December 21st & 22nd

Extraordinary Ministers

4:30pm—Lorraine Golon, Bonnie Gruver,
Lee Kobza
8:00am—Perla Garcia, Judy Kline,
Steve Kline
10:00am—Gary Blue, Sue Blue,
Barb Graegin, Connie Peschel (choir)
6:00pm—Allan Burgos, Ernie Leicht,
Constance Peschel

Lectors

4:30pm—Mary Flanagan
8:00am—Marianne Trembacki
10:00am—Tom Heffernan & Bridget Cavanaugh
6:00pm—Brian Blue

Perspective

A mountain shames a molehill until they both are
humbled by the stars. —Old adage

Ministry Schedule
December 21st & 22nd

Altar Servers

4:30pm—Need Servers
8:00am—Norbert Brown
10:00am—Jim Morris
6:00pm—Need Servers



Third Sunday of Advent
December 15, 2013

Those whom the LORD has ransomed will return
and enter Zion singing,
crowned with everlasting joy.
— *Isaiah 35:10a*

CHURCH NAME AND ADDRESS

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TELEPHONE

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CONTACT PERSON

Patty Jarzembowski

SOFTWARE

MSPublisher 2010
Adobe Acrobat X
Windows 2007

PRINTER

HP Lasejet 4200

SUNDAY DATE OF PUBLICATION

December 15, 2013

NUMBER OF PAGES SENT

1 THROUGH 6

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS