

# St. Joseph Church

December 25, 2013

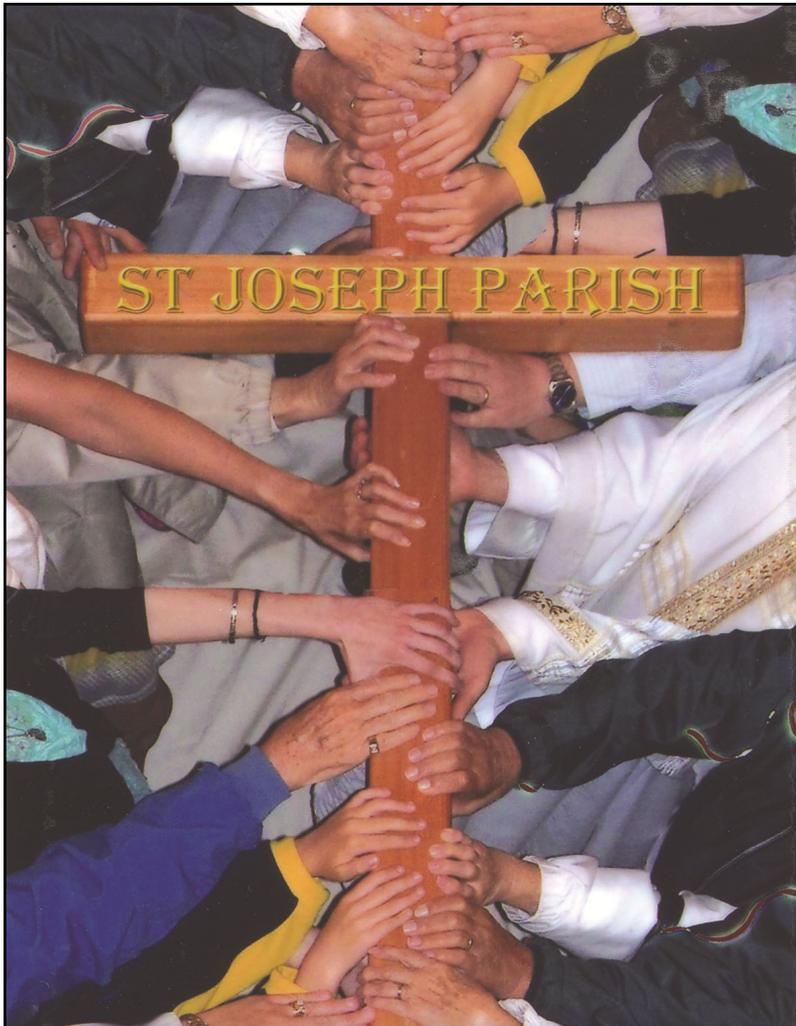
The Nativity of the Lord

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

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-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*.



**Tuesday, December 24, Vigil: The Nativity of the Lord.**

4:30 PM The People of the Parish  
10:30 PM The People of the Parish

**Wednesday, December 25, The Nativity of the Lord**

8:00 AM The People of the Parish  
10:00 AM The People of the Parish  
**No 6:00 PM Mass**

**PASTORAL COUNCIL MEMBERS**

- Allan Burgos—864-8974
- Noel Cusick—865-6255
- Tamara Fredrickson—322-6911
- John Hearne—864-8929
- Gladys Heffernan—708-672-3456
- Steve Kline—864-9326
- Lillian Smith—864-8285
- Barb Yamich—322-7219
- Recording Secretary—Rita D’Arcy—365-9274

The names listed above are the Pastoral Council of St. Joseph Parish. The Pastoral Council is a consultative group. They enter into a dialogue with the pastor visioning and planning together in order to create the overall parish policy that will carry out the Mission of Christ in the Church.

If you have any concerns, please call any member from the Pastoral Council and they will bring your concern to their next meeting

**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.

**Please Note!**

The parish office will be closed Tuesday, December 24th thru Thursday, December 26th.

*Let us set things right,  
says the Lord:*

*Though your sins be like scarlet,  
they may become white as snow:  
Though they be crimson red,  
They may become white as wool.*

*Isaiah 1:18*

As Pope Francis so famously confessed of himself, we are all sinners. We are all sinners but St. Francis de Sales asks us so powerfully, “Where is the foolish person who would think it in his power to commit more than God could forgive?” God’s forgiveness is within our reach, God’s forgiveness and reconciliation with the Church, in the Sacrament of Penance. All the parishes of the Catholic Diocese of Gary are presenting a wonderful opportunity for this healing sacrament, particularly offered for those who have not availed themselves of its life-giving benefits for some time: **THE LIGHT IS ON FOR YOU.** On Wednesday, March 12, 2014, all churches in the Diocese of Gary will be open from 6 to 8 p.m. and offering to all the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Experience the healing power of the Holy Spirit ...the Light is truly on for you.



Dear Parishioner:

We keep celebrating Christmas every year and keep giving and receiving gifts. Some years we might comment that we did well at the gifts we gave and received. If we made a list of all the Christmas gifts that we have given and received, depending on our age, we may end up listing hundreds of gifts. The amount of wrapping paper can be many rolls after a few decades of gifting and receiving.

In recent months I have realized that the greatest gift that God gives us at Christmas is the “freedom of the children of God”. It flows out of a single-hearted commitment to Jesus the Savior born into our humanity. Gift-giving/receiving becomes less stressful and more freeing as we remember that the Kingdom of God is for the childlike; those who admit their utter dependence on God.

As your pastor, I realize more and more that my call to be your Spiritual Leader is contingent on my own willingness to be lead in the “freedom of God’s children” direction by the beloved Jesus. The Holy Communion I proclaim at Mass is not only with Jesus but also with you, the Community of Faith at St. Joseph’s. Together in Christ we celebrate at Eucharist the greatest Christmas gift of all: “the freedom of being God’s children”.

Hopefully, with a New Year embarking soon, we will see our Christmas gift giving and receiving as eternally enhanced by Jesus born of Mary.

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Loving you as children of God,

Fr. Terry Steffens

P.S. Please visit St. Joseph Parishes’ new Website <[www.stjosephdyer.org](http://www.stjosephdyer.org)>

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### Holyday of Obligation

Mass Times:

**Tuesday, December 31**

4:30pm Vigil

**Wednesday, January 1**

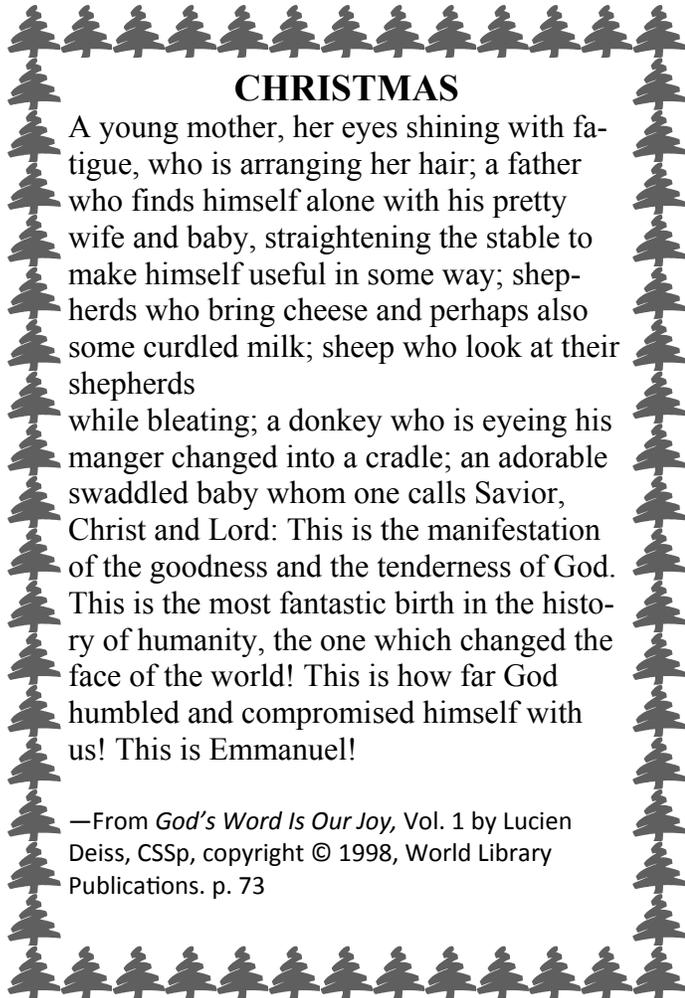
8:00am & 10:00am

**No 6:00pm Mass**

**CHRISTMAS**

A young mother, her eyes shining with fatigue, who is arranging her hair; a father who finds himself alone with his pretty wife and baby, straightening the stable to make himself useful in some way; shepherds who bring cheese and perhaps also some curdled milk; sheep who look at their shepherds while bleating; a donkey who is eyeing his manger changed into a cradle; an adorable swaddled baby whom one calls Savior, Christ and Lord: This is the manifestation of the goodness and the tenderness of God. This is the most fantastic birth in the history of humanity, the one which changed the face of the world! This is how far God humbled and compromised himself with us! This is Emmanuel!

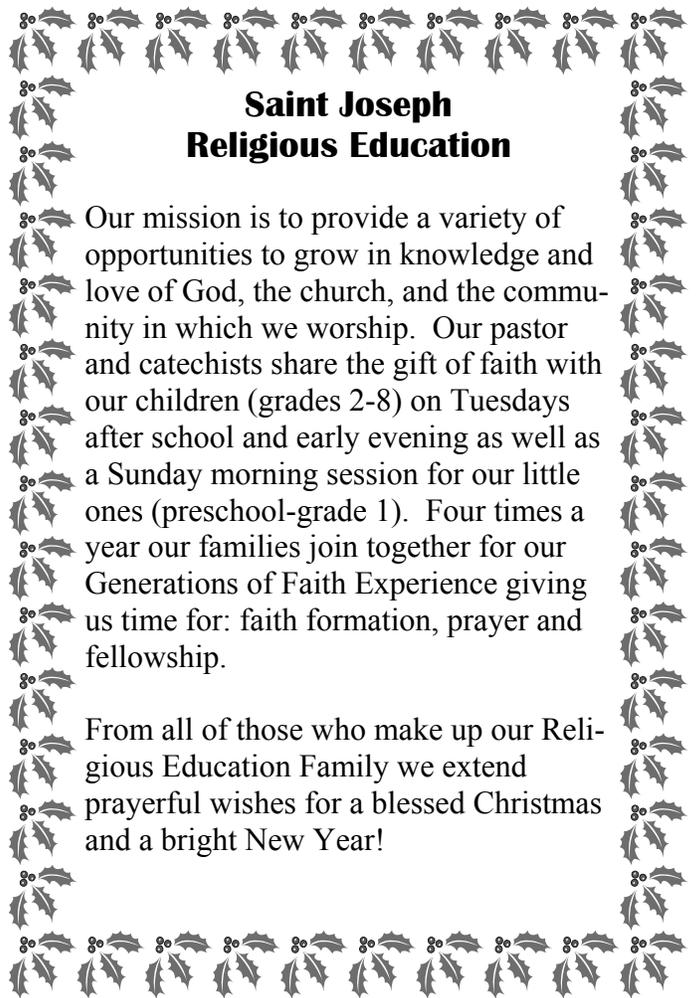
—From *God's Word Is Our Joy*, Vol. 1 by Lucien Deiss, CSSp, copyright © 1998, World Library Publications. p. 73



**Saint Joseph  
Religious Education**

Our mission is to provide a variety of opportunities to grow in knowledge and love of God, the church, and the community in which we worship. Our pastor and catechists share the gift of faith with our children (grades 2-8) on Tuesdays after school and early evening as well as a Sunday morning session for our little ones (preschool-grade 1). Four times a year our families join together for our Generations of Faith Experience giving us time for: faith formation, prayer and fellowship.

From all of those who make up our Religious Education Family we extend prayerful wishes for a blessed Christmas and a bright New Year!



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**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.

—St. Augustine

**Weekly 50/50 Raffle**

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 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.



**MERRY  
CHRISTMAS!**



CHURCH NAME AND ADDRESS

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440 Joliet Street  
Dyer, IN 46311

TELEPHONE

219 865-2271

CONTACT PERSON

Patty Jarzembowski

SOFTWARE

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1 THROUGH 6

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

This is an extra bulletin that Father would like for Christmas Day. This is an extra bulletin.