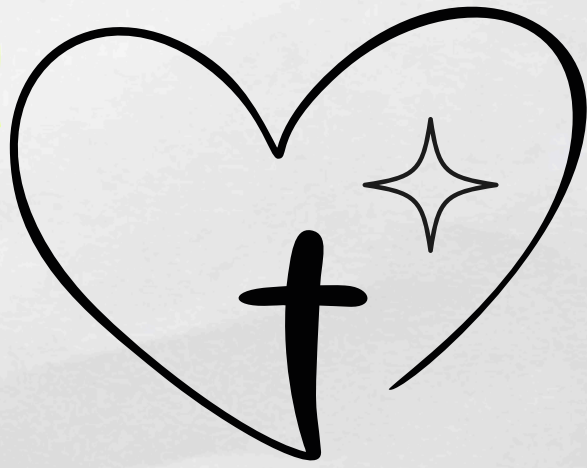


CFF DECEMBER NEWSLETTER



Did You Know About Our Catholic Faith?

Advent is the first season of the liturgical year, a time of joyful anticipation and spiritual preparation for the birth of Jesus. The word "Advent" comes from the Latin word *adventus*, meaning "coming."

During Advent, Catholics are invited to reflect on the coming of Christ in three ways: His birth in Bethlehem, His presence in our lives today, and His return in glory. The Advent wreath, with its four candles, symbolizes the light of Christ breaking into the darkness. Each candle represents one of the four weeks of Advent, helping us mark the time until Christmas.

Advent reminds us to slow down, prepare our hearts, and embrace the hope, peace, joy, and love that the season brings.

Mandatory Reconciliation for Grades 3rd-7th

If you haven't signed up for one of our Reconciliation services yet, please do so as soon as possible. This is an important part of your child's faith journey, as Catholics are called to participate in this sacrament at least once a year.

Reconciliation is a beautiful way to start with a clean slate, especially during Advent, as we prepare our hearts for the coming of Jesus. Families are also invited to join us and experience this sacrament together.

Remaining Dates:

- Saturday, December 14, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, December 17, 5:30-7:30 p.m. (Tuesday students will be dismissed from class and escorted to the church.)

Sign-Up Link: [Reconciliation Sign-Up](#)

Please include your child's first and last name when registering.

Thank you for supporting your child's spiritual growth!

Christmas at St. Joe's

We have two great opportunities coming up for your family this Christmas!

First, on Sunday, December 15, join us for our Christmas Joy Jamboree at 2 PM. Enjoy Christmas carols, photos with St. Nick, crafts and games for kids, free hot cocoa and treats, and so much more!

Then, for Christmas this year we have a brand-new special Family-Focused Mass on Christmas Eve at 4 PM. This Mass will include activities for children, a special children's homily, an opportunity for kids to bring gifts to the altar, a family photo area, and a fun celebration after Mass where we'll sing 'Happy Birthday' to Jesus and enjoy mini cupcakes.

For more details, scan the QR code on the pew in front of you or visit our parish website. We look forward to celebrating with you!



Sign Up to Light the Advent Wreath!

Help make our Advent celebrations special by lighting the Advent wreath at an Advent Mass! All are welcome—individuals, couples, or families. Simply arrive 15 minutes early and check in with the Welcome Minister Captain in the Narthex.

Sign up here: [Light the Advent Wreath](#)

We look forward to celebrating with you!

Holiday Treasures Gift Shop

We're excited to bring the **Holiday Treasures Gift Shop** to our church! This special program allows children to experience the joy of choosing their own holiday gifts for family and friends.

The shop will be **open on Sunday, December 8, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** in the church. Parent volunteers will be there to help children pick out the perfect gifts at affordable prices.

Payment Options: Cash, Check, Venmo, or Zelle

This is a wonderful opportunity for children to create lasting memories while learning to budget and make their own purchasing decisions.

If you have any questions, please contact Amanda Riley at ariley814@gmail.com.

Happy Holidays!



7TH & 8TH GRADERS

Service Opportunities: Christmas Joy Jamboree

Help bring holiday cheer by leading games, activities, or crafts at the St. Joe's Christmas Joy Jamboree on December 15, from 1:30–4:00 PM, at the Koenig Center. Wear festive Christmas attire and a Santa hat to join the fun! Sign up here:

<https://forms.gle/63QVsRYigFDGuWN6A>

Service Opportunities: Mission Trip 2025!

Registration for our Youth Summer 2025 Mission Trip to Britt, Iowa is now open! Our Mission Trip is open to all current 7th graders through high school seniors. Registration closes on January 15. Visit our website to learn more: <https://stjoseph-libertyville.org/summer-mission-trip>

8th GRADE

Reminder for 8th Graders: Confirmation forms Due

A reminder to all 8th graders preparing for Confirmation! The Confirmation Name Form, Sponsor Form, and Bishop Letter are due on December 11. You can submit these forms to your Catechist or drop them off at the parish front office. Please make sure to complete these requirements on time as part of your Confirmation preparation.

Confirmation Retreat Reminder

Date and Time: January 18, 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Location: Koenig Center

This is a reminder that attendance at the Confirmation Retreat is a mandatory requirement set by the Archdiocese of Chicago for receiving Confirmation. Pizza will be provided for students during the retreat.

If your candidate cannot attend, they must complete the requirement at another parish. A list of alternative retreats and contact information is available here: [Alternative Confirmation Retreats](#).

Action Required:

Please fill out the Confirmation Retreat Attendance Form by January 3, even if your child cannot attend. The form includes instructions for arranging attendance at another parish's retreat if needed. Complete the form here: [Confirmation Retreat Attendance Form](#).

Thank you for ensuring your candidate meets this important requirement!

7th Grade Class at Feed My Starving Children

We are proud of Mr. Krietsch and Mrs. Sugrue's 7th-grade class for their service at Feed My Starving Children! This incredible experience allowed the students to make a difference by packing meals for children in need around the world.

Thank you to the students and teachers for representing our parish and living out the call to serve others!



Sharing the Gift of Giving: Supporting the Bed Ministry

On November 17, just before Thanksgiving break, Mrs. Sano's class collected pillows for **St. Joseph's Bed Ministry**, embodying the spirit of gratitude and generosity. The Bed Ministry, established in 2018, provides high-quality, durable beds to children in need, ensuring they have a safe and comfortable place to sleep.

As we now journey through the Advent season, we are reminded that acts of kindness, like those of Mrs. Sano's class, prepare our hearts for the joy of Christ's birth. The Bed Ministry continues to be a powerful way for our parish to share hope, love, and comfort with those in need.

Here's how you can support this ministry:

- **Sponsor a Bed:** A \$250 donation provides and delivers a bed to a child.
- **Donate Bedding:** New twin comforters, sheets, and pillows (e.g., "Bed in a Bag" sets) are accepted. Drop off at 130 N. Milwaukee Ave. or ship to 121 E. Maple Ave., Libertyville.
- **Volunteer:** Join Build Days or Delivery Teams (Virtus compliance required).
- **Learn More:** Visit [St. Joseph Bed Ministry](#) for details.

Thank you to Mrs. Sano's class for their thoughtful contribution, and to everyone who continues to support this vital ministry. Together, we can make a meaningful difference in the lives of children in our community.

