

December 18, 2016 4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT



St. Joseph

Catholic Church

*A community
of faith
growing in
God's love*

91 Stillhouse Rd., Millstone Twp., NJ 08510 732-792-2270

FAITH TRUST HOPE
PEACE KING
GOD
CHRIST
LIGHT
MESSIAH
NEW LIFE
ANointed
FAITH
PEACE
KING
TRUST
HOPE
GRACE
JOY
BIRTH
LIVING
FAITH
BORN
LIFE
HOPE
GRACE
JOY
CROSS
GIVEN
JESUS
SON
TRUST
COMING
GRACE
JOY
FREEDOM
LIGHT
JOY
JESUS
GOD
FATHER
PEACE
TRUST
PRAY
SAVIOUR

MASS

Sat. 5:00PM

Sun. 9:00AM & 11:00AM

Mon. 9:00AM

Tues. 9:00AM

Wed. 9:00AM

Fri. 9:00AM

Holy Days—check bulletin

SERVED BY

Rev. Michael P. Lang, Pastor

frmkstjoseph@optonline.net

Robert Follnus, Deacon

robstjoseph@optonline.net

Chris Chandonnet, Deacon

chrisstjoseph@optonline.net

Carol Schulz

cschulzstjoseph@optonline.net

Genevieve Semanchick

jeanstjoseph@optonline.net

CONNECT

Fax: 732-792-2271

Online:

www.stjosephmillstone.org

Facebook:

@stjosephchurchmillstone

Twitter:

@frmkstjoseph

Some thoughts from Fr. Mike...

Dear Friends,

Just about everyone has, at times during life, experienced moments of doubt, confusion and anxiety. In the Gospel for this final Sunday of Advent, we find Joseph in a state of embarrassment and confusion because Mary, his betrothed, is with child. Being a man of honor, Joseph felt the right thing to do was to break his ties with her and divorce her informally and as quietly as possible. At the last moment, an angel appears to Joseph in a dream explaining that the child was the work of the Holy Spirit. Joseph was told not to be afraid to take Mary home as his wife and to accept the child as his own. There was a divine plan which Mary and Joseph were meant to share and help put in motion. With great patience and trust Joseph accepted the work for which God had chosen him. Joseph played a major role in the events of the first Christmas in Bethlehem. Joseph was a true and loyal servant who, with a husband's love, cherished his wife and accepted the responsibility of watching over the child Jesus.

The most striking thing about Joseph is the manner in which he opened himself whole-heartedly to God in quiet faith. Not one spoken word of Joseph is recorded in the Gospels but the facts of his life point to a person utterly obedient to the word of God. He demonstrated great humility in agreeing to take on the responsibilities of husband and father. He was at peace even though there would be a number of things that would unfold that he did know about and perhaps, did not even fully understand. His obedience to God was not without its difficulties or uncertainties but Joseph simply demonstrated trust that God's way would work out.

As far as we know, Joseph gave everything in the service of God. His example gives us courage to face problems in similar spirit and to keep believing, even when situations seem difficult or even hopeless.

During this final week of advent preparation, perhaps we can ponder and think about the example of Joseph because we too are asked to receive the gift of the Messiah into our hearts as freely and as fully as Joseph did. In doing so, we are assured of a very blessed Christmas.

Have a wonderful week,

Fr. Mike

Mass Schedule + Readings

p3-604

Saturday December- 17 **Advent Weekday**

(Gn 49:2, 8-10 Mt 1:1-17)

5:00pm *Dec'd Mbrs of the Reilly & Semanchick Families* r/b Jean & John

Sunday December- 18 **4th Sunday of Advent**

(Is 7:10-14 Rom 1:1-7 Mt 1:18-24)

9:00am *Dec'd Mbrs of the Lancia & Gilch Families*
r/b The Family

11:00am *Betty Fama* r/b The Family

Monday December- 19 **Advent Weekday**

(Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a Lk 1:5-25)

9:00am *Maria Teresa Triscari* r/b Her Family

Tuesday December- 20 **Advent Weekday**

(Is 7:10-14 Lk 1:26-38)

9:00am *Dec'd Mbrs of the Fiorino-Onorato & Laucik-Michel Families*

r/b Fiorino & Laucik Families

Wednesday December- 21 **St Peter Canisius**

(Is 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a Lk 1:46-56)

9:00am *Karol Durek* r/b The Family

Thursday December- 22 **Advent Weekday**

(1 Sm 1:24-28 Lk 1:46-56) **No Mass**

Friday December- 23 **St John of Kanty**

(Mal 3:1-4, 23-24 Lk 1:57-66) **No Mass**

Saturday December- 24 **Christmas Eve**

(Is 62:1-5/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25 Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25)

4:00pm *Dec'd Mbrs of the Reilly & Semanchick Families* r/b John & Genevieve

6:30pm *Anna Morin* r/b Her Family

Midnight (Is 9:1-6/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14)
Joan Hurley Groves r/b Her Family

Sunday December- 25 **The Nativity of the Lord**

(Is 52:7-10/Heb 1:1-6 Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14)

9:00am *Bernadette Lang* r/b Her Family

11:00am *Jason Sawicz* r/b His Family



Sanctuary Candle... this week

Richard Semanchick r/b John & Jean

To dedicate a Sanctuary Candle in memory of or for the intention of a loved one, Please call the office @ 732-792-2270. The donation is \$10.00.

Prayer Chain Contacts:

Patty Hileman 732-446-7651 Mary Costagliola 732-446-4255

Please Keep in your prayers:

The sick and the lonely, the safe return of our service men & women and for vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

STEWARDSHIP CORNER...

When we learn to cooperate with God's plan we come to realize that God wants the best for us.

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE REPORT

December 11th – \$6,962.00

Debt Reduction - \$ 195.00

*Thank you for your generosity and
may God bless you for your support!*

LECTORS & EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS AND ALTAR SERVERS

**Please be sure to sign up to serve at the Christmas Masses. The signup lists are on the bulletin board outside the library.
THANKS**

PARISH CHRISTMAS PARTY

Thank you to everyone who helped to make the Parish Christmas Party such a huge success. About 300 people had a great time. Thanks to our Men's Guild for hosting the event!

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24

4:00 PM *(Children's Mass)*

6:30PM

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25

12:00AM *(Midnight Mass)*

9:00AM

11:00AM

*Let us come together as Children of God
and offer praise for the gift of our
Messiah!*

*(please remember that the 4:00PM Christmas Eve
Mass is generally the most crowded. Please plan to
arrive early. There will be music prior to the
Midnight Mass, so come and join us a little early.)*

MORNING MASS

There will not be morning Mass on Friday,
December 23.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

Anyone who would like to contribute toward the decorations/flowers for Christmas in memory or in honor of a loved one will find envelopes on the table at the entrance of the church. Please be sure to list the names of those you wish to have remembered. All those listed on the envelopes will be remembered at our Christmas Masses.

*Lord, may our hearts be ready for
all that you will pour into them on
Christmas.*

PARISH GIVING TREE

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Giving Tree Program this year. Thanks to your generosity and support, many children will be receiving gifts this Christmas. Let's pray that those gifts become signs of hope and show that others care. Thank you again for your generous support!

FOOD COLLECTION



Please remember that our food collections are held on the 1st and 3rd weekends of each month. The next food collection will be on December 31 and January 1. Food items *including frozen foods*, paper goods and toiletries are very much appreciated.

Thanks for your generosity and support.

50-50 RAFFLE

The winner of the 50-50 Raffle was parishioners, Michael and Gina Tempera. Congratulations! The prize was \$5,730.00. Thank you to everyone who supported the 50-50 Raffle. Proceeds from the 50-50 are used by the Men's Guild to support the Parish (most recently, the Men's Guild paid for the replacement of the sound system that suddenly died) and to help people in need. Thank you again for your support of these efforts!

*If you are traveling for Christmas,
Have a very blessed Christmas and
know that we will pray for the
safety of all travelers.*

HELP WITH HOMELESS PROGRAM

Thank you to everyone who has signed up to help with the Homeless Program. We are still in need of volunteers to help with the Homeless Program in conjunction with the Freehold Clergy Association. On Sunday nights we will provide food and shelter for up to 12 homeless men through the end of March. Sign up lists for volunteers are on the large bulletin board in the vestibule of the Church. You can volunteer to drive some of the participants on Sunday evening at 6:30PM from Freehold to our Parish. Or, you can volunteer to drive some of the participants from our parish back to Freehold at 6:30AM on Monday morning. Or, you can volunteer to stay with the homeless in the parish either from 6:30PM to Midnight or Midnight to 6:30AM on Sunday evening. Or you can volunteer to provide the food for the evening meal on Sunday night. The signup lists are for specific days, so please sign up for the days you would like to help either with driving or hosting. Thanks for volunteering for this ministry.

BAPTISM PREPARATION SESSIONS



Parents who will have a child baptized must attend a Baptism Preparation session. Sponsors (Godparents) are invited to attend. The next session will take place on Friday, January 6th at 7:00pm. If you will be participating in the preparation session or for questions about Baptismal Preparation, please contact the Parish Office.

SHOP AT AMAZON - SUPPORT THE PARISH

If you shop on Amazon, you can help support the parish by designating St. Joseph Church as the charity you wish to support. Eligible purchases will result in Amazon donating a portion to the parish. You do have to designate St. Joseph Church, Millstone Twp. as your charity. You also have to use the Amazon Smile site instead of the normal Amazon site. It is the same merchandise and account as Amazon but it allows you to be connected by the Amazon Smile Program. To check it out go to

<http://smile.amazon.com/ch/22-6103657>

(a new direct link) or go to our website and click the link. Thanks for your support!

CHOIRS

Come and join Choir. You don't have to be able to read music or think that you have the best voice in the world, there is room for you in choir.

Children ages 6½ and up are invited to join the Children's Choir. Rehearsal for the Children's Choir takes place on Thursdays at 5:00PM.

Teens and adults are invited to join the Contemporary Choir. Rehearsals for the Contemporary Choir takes place on Thursdays at 6:00PM. For more information about any part of the Music Ministry contact Kristine at Kris0373@aol.com or 973-768-4184.

ST. JOSEPH READERS' CLUB

The next book choice for the Readers' Club is ***Killing the Rising Sun*** by Bill O'Reilly. This book is an account of the bloody battles, huge decisions, and historic personalities that culminated in the decision to drop the atomic bomb and brought the war in the Pacific to its climactic end. The book captures the barbarity of the war waged by those who swore allegiance to the Japanese Emperor – *and* by those who crushed the military might of the Rising Sun.

The next gathering of the Readers' Club will be **Thursday, January 12 at 7:30 in the Parish Hall.** The theme for dinner is Japanese. Newcomers are welcome to join for an evening of great food and discussion. Don't forget to RSVP your attendance to Fran at ambiofran@gmail.com.

SEPARATED AND DIVORCED MINISTRY

We will not be meeting in December. But if you are you coping with the challenges of separation or divorce? Looking for spiritual assistance in journeying through the transition? Come participate in the Separated and Divorced Ministry. It is open to all adults who are separated or divorced, or in the process of journeying through either of these transitions. Join us for mutual sharing and support in a spiritual, caring, and *confidential* setting. Our next session is on Tuesday, January 24 at 7:30PM. We meet in the small meeting room which is located at the rear of the Parish Hall on the lower level. For more information, please contact Deacon Chris at chrisstjoseph@optonline.net.

If healing or just some friendly support is an important need in your life, join us.

FAITH TO MOVE MOUNTAINS

The Diocese of Trenton has been conducting an endowment campaign to secure the future of the Diocese. The campaign is designed to set up endowments for various aspects of ministry within the Diocese. These components include:

Catechesis and Evangelization (\$5 million) – this includes training of Catechists, Adult Faith Formation and outreach to proclaim the Good News. *Ordained Ministry (\$20 million)* – this includes the education of Seminarians, care of retired priests and education for the Permanent Diaconate Program. *Social Services (\$5 million)* – which includes care and assistance to individuals and families in need, Diocesan Parish Counseling and Community Services. *Diocesan Parish Assistance Fund (\$7.5 million)* to help the poorest of the parishes in the Diocese to continue ministry in the poor areas. *Catholic Schools (\$15 million)* to help those Catholic Schools that are in financial trouble, provide tuition assistance to families in need, offer scholarships to those in need and provide for the financial needs of Mission Schools. *Parishes (\$22.5 million)* Parishes receive 30% of the funds collected for use in the parish. Our parish goal for the campaign is \$650,000 which means that our parish could receive \$195,000 if we reach the goal (or more if we surpass the goal), which we can use to pay down debt and continue to take care of parish needs. The funds will come in handy as we have faced a number of expenses recently – sound system replacement, parking lot repairs and lighting upgrades. As we go forward, we have to think about replacing the HVAC, resurfacing the parking lot, and all those little and big things that constantly wear out in a building this size.

Would you consider making a pledge to the campaign – your help is needed. Pledges can be made for up to 5 years. Any amount helps us to reach our goal of \$650,000. Pledges can be made over the course of up to 5 years. For example, A \$2,000 pledge paid over 5 years would be \$33.33 a month. Pledge cards are available at Church anytime. Thank you to those who have already made a pledge and thank you for any help you can give to this important endeavor. The care of the Church is a big job, but working together it can be easier.

STAY CONNECTED – “like us” on Facebook at St. Joseph Catholic Church Millstone Twp, NJ, visit our website at www.stjosephmillstone.org, or follow us on twitter @frmikestjoseph.



A convenient way to donate is through online Parish Giving. This is offered free of charge to you so that you may make donations by credit card or transfer from your checking account. Check it out at WWW.stjosephmillstone.org and click on “Contribute/Donate” then click on the link for **Electronic Giving**. You can then set up an account or choose a onetime donation without an account. If you have any questions about this, please feel free to contact the Parish Office.

→ Calendar of Events ←

Dec 18	Children’s Liturgy of the Word Parish Food Collection
Dec 23	No Morning Mass
Dec 24	4:00PM – Christmas Children’s Mass 6:30PM – Christmas Mass
Dec 25	12:00AM – Midnight Mass 9:00AM – Christmas Mass 11:00AM – Christmas Mass
Dec 26	Parish Office Closed No Morning Mass No Religious Education Classes
Dec 27	No Morning Mass No Religious Education Classes
Dec 31	5:00PM – Mass
Jan 1	Parish Food Collection 9:00AM – Mass 11:00AM – Mass
Jan 2	No Religious Education Classes
Jan 3	No Religious Education Classes 7:30PM – Ladies of St. Joseph Meeting
Jan 6	7:00PM – Baptism Preparation Session
Jan 9	Religious Education Classes Resume 7:00PM – Building and Grounds Committee
Jan 10	7:30PM – Men’s Guild Meeting
Jan 11	10:00AM – Prayer Shawl Ministry
Jan 12	7:30PM – Reader’s Club Meeting
Jan 15	Parish Food Collection Children’s Liturgy of the Word 12:30PM - Baptisms

Let us praise God in all we do.

PARISH INFORMATION

Parish Office: 732-792-2270

Office Hours: Mon-Fri 9:30AM - 2:30PM

Mailing Address: 91 Stillhouse Road

Millstone Twp, NJ 08510

WWW.STJOSEPHMILLSTONE.ORG

PARISH STAFF	MASS TIMES
<i>Rev. Michael P. Lang - Pastor</i> frmikestjoseph@optonline.net	Saturday Evening - 5:00 PM
<i>Rob Folinus - Permanent Deacon</i> Robstjoseph@optonline.net	Sunday Morning - 9:00 AM & 11:00 AM
<i>Chris Chandonnet, Permanent Deacon</i> Chrisstjoseph@optonline.net	Mon, Tues, Wed & Fri - 9:00AM
<i>Carol Schulz, Pastoral Associate</i> CSchulzstjoseph@optonline.net	Holy Days: as listed in the bulletin
<i>Jean Semanchick, Parish Secretary & Coordinator of Religious Education</i> Jeanstjoseph@optonline.net	Confessions: After the 5:00 PM Mass on Saturday or by appointment.
<i>Kristine Reide, Music Ministry Leader</i> Kris0373@aol.com	

BAPTISM – The Sacrament of Baptism is normally celebrated on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month at 12:30 PM. Parents are asked to register for a Baptism Preparation Session prior to the Baptism. Baptisms must be scheduled in advance by calling the Parish Office. Sponsors must obtain Sponsor forms from their home parish – Sponsors must be active practicing Catholics. The Sacrament of Baptism is not celebrated during the Season of Lent.

Marriage – Diocesan policy requires that arrangements for Marriage be made one (1) year in advance of the wedding. Refer any questions to the Pastor.

Sick Calls – Please contact the Parish Office when someone is seriously ill requiring a visit by a Priest. If someone is unable to attend Mass on a regular basis and would like to receive Communion please call the Parish Office

Registration – We are glad you are here and want you to feel like a full member of the parish. Registering as a parishioner helps us to know who you are and to stay in touch. Registration is required for sponsor forms.

Sponsor Certificates – This is a form required to be a Godparent or Sponsor for Confirmation. To receive a form, the following is required: -Be a registered, active (attends Mass) member of the parish (for at least 6 months); be at least 16 years of age; must have completed the Sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation; If married, have a valid marriage within the Church.