

December 19, 2021

4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT

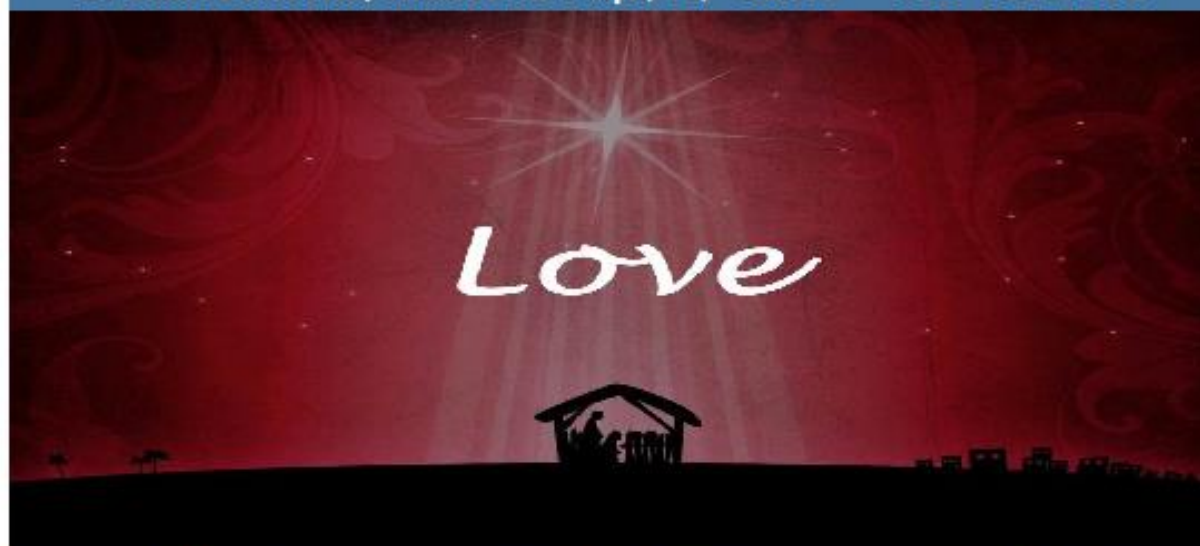


# St. Joseph

## Catholic Church

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

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



### MASS

Saturday

5:00 PM

SUNDAY

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM  
Mon. Tues. Wed. Fri.

9:00 AM

Masses are also  
live streamed

### SERVED BY

Rev. Michael P. Lang, Pastor  
[frmlkestjoseph@optonline.net](mailto:frmlkestjoseph@optonline.net)

Chris Chandonnet, Deacon  
[chrisstjoseph@optonline.net](mailto:chrisstjoseph@optonline.net)

Genevieve Semanchick  
Parish Secretary & CRE  
[jeanstjoseph@optonline.net](mailto:jeanstjoseph@optonline.net)

### CONNECT

Fax: 732-792-2271

Website:

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Some thoughts from Fr. Mike...

Dear Friends,

The days of Advent waiting are almost over and Christmas is just around the corner. On this fourth Sunday of Advent the Scripture readings are alive with excitement about the Savior. As we travel through the final days until Christmas, perhaps the Readings call us to really reflect on what we are called to do in order to allow the gift of Jesus to be present to us at all times so that we can allow others to experience the presence of Jesus.

In the first reading from the prophet Micah, we hear that small and insignificant Bethlehem is to come the one who is to shepherd God's people. At times we may feel insignificant. At times we may throw up our hands with the question, "what can I possibly do to change the hearts and minds of others?" The reading reminds us that God is not limited to how great or small one is according to the thoughts of this world. In the grand scheme of things, none of us can cause the world to change but when we allow God to be God, great things are possible.

The second reading today from the Letter to the Hebrews reminds us that we have been consecrated through the saving actions of Jesus. God is not looking for mighty deeds, huge offerings or grand displays of sacrifice. All God asks is that we do God's will so that the wounds of the world may be healed.

The Gospel presents the scene of Mary and Elizabeth rejoicing together because God has touched their lives in dramatic fashion. They are filled with joy that stems from a willingness to allow God to act because of complete trust.

All of this reveals to us that God wants us to know the kind of peace that God offers to us. It is a peace that can only come when we have that trust that God gives us everything we need to make God present to others and to the world.

I pray that as we continue to face many uncertainties and challenges we may all be blessed with the kind faith that allows us to know that we never face them alone – God is indeed with us.

I hope that you have a very blessed Christmas and that the peace of Christ may allow you to feel the joy that comes from the gift of salvation that has been given to us by God. May God's love fill you with comfort at Christmas and throughout the entire year ahead.

Peace, prayers and love to all of you,

*Fr Mike*

## Mass Schedule + Readings

<b>Saturday</b>	December- 18 <b>Advent Weekday</b> (Jer 23:5-8 Mt 1:18-25)
5:00pm	<i>Richard John Bautista</i> r/b His Wife
<b>Sunday</b>	December- 19 <b>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent</b> (Min 5:1-4a Heb 10:5-10 Lk 1:39-45)
9:00am	<i>Dec'd Mbrs of the Lancia &amp; Gilch Families</i> r/b The Gilch Family
11:00am	<i>Edward J. Mailhot</i> r/b Sherry Barrett & Peter Barrett
<b>Monday</b>	December- 20 <b>Advent Weekday</b> (Is 7:10-14 Lk 1:26-38)
9:00am	<i>Special Healing Intentions of</i> <i>Jim Kronenthal</i> r/b Bill & Marie Schubel
<b>Tuesday</b>	December- 21 <b>St Peter Canisius</b> (Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a Lk 1:46-56)
9:00am	<i>Justin Mazon</i> r/b Mom's Club
<b>Wednesday</b>	December- 22 <b>Advent Weekday</b> (1 Sm 1:24-28 Lk 1:46-56)
9:00am	No Mass
<b>Thursday</b>	December- 23 <b>St John of Kanty</b> (Mal 3:1-4, 23-24 Lk 1:57-66) No Mass
<b>Friday</b>	December- 24 <b>Christmas Eve</b> (Is 62:1-5 Acts 13:16-17, 22-25 Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25)
9:00am	No Mass
4:00pm	<i>Anna Morin</i> r/b Her Family
6:30pm	<i>Shirley McCawley</i> r/b Kathleen Lockwood
12:00 midnight	<i>Theresa Lawlor</i> r/b The Costagliola Family
<b>Saturday</b>	December- 25 <b>The Nativity of the Lord</b> (Is 52:7-10 Heb 1:1-6 Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14)
9:00am	<i>Jason Sawicz</i> r/b His Family
11:00am	<i>Nick Costagliola</i> r/b His Family
<b>Sunday</b>	December- 26 <b>The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph</b> (1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28 1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24 Lk 2:41-52)
9:00am	<i>Margaret Sykes</i> r/b Dan, Jill & Thomas Sykes
11:00am	<i>Jerry Ryan</i> r/b His Family



## **Sanctuary Candle... this week**

***Dec'd Mbrs of the Reilly & Semanchick Families***

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

## **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION SCHEDULE**

MONDAY – December 20 **Session B** grades 1-7 in class. **All of grade 8 in class.**  
Session A grades 1-7– Home Study

TUESDAY – December 21 **Session B** grades 1-7 in class. **All of grade 8 in class.**  
Session A grades 1-7– Home Study

MONDAY – December 28 **NO CLASSES**

TUESDAY – December 29 **NO CLASSES**

MONDAY – January 3 **Session A** grades 1-7 in class. **All of grade 8 in class.**  
Session B grades 1-7– Home Study

TUESDAY – January 4 **Session A** grades 1-7 in class. **All of grade 8 in class.**  
Session B grades 1-7– Home Study

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## **MORNING MASS**

There will not be a 9:00AM morning Mass on Wednesday, December 22 or Friday, December 24.

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## **PARISH OFFICE**

The Parish office will close at 12:00 NOON on Friday, December 24.  
The Parish Office will be closed on Monday, December 27.

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## **CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE**

The Mass schedule for Christmas is:

**Christmas Eve – December 24 - 4:00PM 6:30PM 12:00 Midnight**

**Christmas Morning – December 25 - 9:00AM and 11:00AM**

**Sunday December 26 – 9:00AM and 11:00AM**

**(there will not be a 5:00PM Mass on Saturday, December 25)**

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## **OPLATEK**

For those who use it during your celebrations, Oplatek – the Christmas Wafer – is available in the Parish Office.

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## **GIVING TREE**

*Thank you for your generous and loving support of the Giving Tree Program! Let us pray that all who receive a gift will know that they are in our thoughts.*

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## **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. List the names of those you wish to have remembered. All those listed on the envelopes will be remembered at our Christmas Masses.

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## **JANUARY 1**

January 1<sup>st</sup> is New Year day but is also the Feast of Mary, Mother of God and is a Holy Day. Mass will be celebrated at 10:00AM on Saturday, January 1. There really is no better way to begin the New Year than gathering around the table of the Lord to be nourished by the heavenly gift of the Eucharist.

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*May God bless you at Christmas and give you peace!*

### **FOOD COLLECTION**



Thank you for your continued generosity with the food donations. There will always be a need for assistance with food for many people so we will continue to collect food, paper goods and toiletries in the bins inside the church entrances. After the first and third Sundays of the month volunteers will deliver the donated items to the Millstone Community Center where they are greatly appreciated and will reach those in need. Thank you again for your generosity.

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### **50-50 RAFFLE**

Congratulations to the Teixeira Family who were the winners in the 55-50 raffle drawing. The prize amount was \$5,375.00. Thank you to everyone who supported the efforts of the Men's Guild by participating in the raffle. The proceeds will allow us to help the parish and reach out to those in need.

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### **EMERGENCY HOUSING PROGRAM**

Our Parish is participating in the Emergency Housing Program where on Sunday nights up to 12 homeless men will stay at the parish to sleep and be given a meal. There are 7 Houses of Worship that participate in the program. Each House of Worship takes a night to have the men stay. Our night is Sunday. The participants arrive at about 6:30PM on Sunday and leave at 6:30AM on Monday. There are a few volunteer opportunities:

**Hosts** – 2 hosts from the parish are needed from 6:00PM until about 11:00PM on each Sunday night. Hosts help the participants get settled, hand out air mattresses, sheets, etc., may be needed to help dish out food, help with meal clean-up and are present to help with anything else that may come up.

**Wash linens** – each week the sheets and towels have to be washed. Once the program is in full swing, we would like to have two people each week to divide the linens, take them home to be washed and return them to the parish. Linens can be picked up any time after 6:30AM on Monday and should be returned by Friday of that week.

**Meal preparation** – each Sunday the participants are provided with a hot meal. Volunteers are needed to provide the food to be served to the participants. The sign-up list divides the meal into different items. You may sign up for one item or take the entire meal or as much as you wish to do.

Sign-up sheets for each of the areas requiring volunteers are located on the large bulletin board in the entryway of the church. Thank you for your consideration in helping with this program and allowing our parish to reach out to those in need. If you have any questions, please contact Fr. Mike.

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### **READER'S CLUB**



The next book chosen for the Reader's Club is "***The Last Thing He Told Me***" by Laura Dave. *The Last Thing He Told Me* is a gripping mystery about a woman who thinks she's found the love of her life—until he disappears. The meeting will take place on Wednesday, January 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:30PM in the parish hall. The theme for food is Sausalito. To RSVP or for more information about the Readers' Club or to receive emails about meetings, etc. contact Fran - [ambiofran@gmail.com](mailto:ambiofran@gmail.com).

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## **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CATECHISTS**

We are very much in need of several people willing to serve as substitutes in our Parish Religious Education Program when a Catechist is unable to be present. If you are willing to serve as a substitute teacher in the Religious Education Program, please contact Jean at the Parish Office at [Jeanstjoseph@optonline.net](mailto:Jeanstjoseph@optonline.net) 732-792-2270.

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## **SHOP AT AMAZON - SUPPORT THE PARISH**

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.

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

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

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## **BAPTISMS**

Baptisms are celebrated on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of the month at 12:30 PM. Up to four families will be scheduled for each celebration of Baptism. If you would like to schedule Baptism for your child, please call the parish office 732-792-2270.

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## **BAPTISM BIBS**

While the practice of giving out Baptism bibs has been suspended during the pandemic, we will soon begin using Baptism bibs again at our celebrations of the Sacrament of Baptism. If any of those who have so lovingly made the Baptism bibs can continue, that would be very much appreciated. New people who would like to make the bibs are also welcome. If you would like to see a sample, please see Fr. Mike. The Baptism bib is a symbol of the newly Baptized child putting on Christ. The purpose of having parishioners make the bibs instead of using prepackaged felt bibs, is to demonstrate that we are all connected in faith and as community. While making the bibs, many have prayed for the child who will receive it. If you have questions or just want some more information, give Fr. Mike or see him after Mass. Thanks!

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## **EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS**

Please sign up to serve at Mass. Now that everyone will be coming forward to receive the Eucharist again, Eucharistic Ministers will be needed at each Mass. If Deacon Chris is present, we will need 2 Eucharistic Ministers. If Deacon Chris is not present, we will need 3 Eucharistic Ministers. The sign-up sheet is located on the bulletin board outside of the library. Thanks

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## **ALTAR SERVERS**

While we are still not at the point of being able to have Altar Servers serve as normal, we are safe to allow one Altar Server to carry the Cross in procession at Mass at the start and end of Mass. The Altar Server would carry in the Cross and then sit with his/her family and then then carry the Cross for the recessional at the end of Mass. If your child is an Altar Server and willing to do this, you may simply let Fr. Mike know when you arrive at Mass – if no one else is already doing it, then your child may do be the Cross bearer. Please note that you will have to arrive at Church early enough to give your child enough time to put on the Alb. Thanks!

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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](http://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 email or leave a message for Fr. Mike

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### **RCIA - Rite of Initiation of Adults**

The RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) is a wonderful faith journey for those who wish to be Baptized, those who are Baptized and are now interested in joining the Catholic Church and those who have not completed the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation). The RCIA is a journey of faith where people are encouraged to discern God's call in their lives. It is not a typical classroom setting. Our Catholic beliefs are introduced and explained and participants in the RCIA are encouraged to see how our beliefs, practices, Liturgies and Sacraments can have an impact in everyday situations. Anyone and everyone is invited to "come and see" to find out if the RCIA process is what you are being drawn to in your life. RCIA sessions are ready to resume, although at this time the meetings will be held outdoors or via Zoom. If you are interested or would like more information, contact Fr. Mike – [frmikestjoseph@optonline.net](mailto:frmikestjoseph@optonline.net) or 732-792-2270.

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### **COVID19 RESTRICTIONS** **MASS RELATED POLICIES**

- Masks are optional, but are strongly encouraged at this point because of the Delta variant. Those who are not vaccinated and children under 12 are more strongly advised to wear a mask indoors for both their safety and the safety of others.
- The cry room and the loft will remain closed at the present time.
- Out of an abundance of caution, the Presentation of the gifts of Bread and Wine will still be omitted.
- We will continue to use a basket at the back of the church for offertory donations.
- The Sign of Peace will continue to be exchanged by a wave or nod.
- At the time of Communion, everyone will come forward to receive.
- Communion will be offered only in the hand.
- Priest/Deacon/Eucharistic Ministers will sanitize hands and wear a mask for the distribution of Communion.

Masses will continue to be live streamed

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### **LIVE STREAM OF MASS –**

Masses continue to be live streamed at <https://vimeo.com/event/106444>, on our parish website at [www.stjosephmillstone.org/live-stream](http://www.stjosephmillstone.org/live-stream) on our Facebook Page [www.facebook.com/stjosephchurchmillstone](https://www.facebook.com/stjosephchurchmillstone) and on the Parish YouTube channel [www.youtube.com/c/StJosephChurchMillstoneTwp](https://www.youtube.com/c/StJosephChurchMillstoneTwp)

### **STAY CONNECTED – FIND THE LATEST NEWS**

Don't forget to stay in touch with parish events through social media. Find out what is going on at our website at [www.stjosephmillstone.org](http://www.stjosephmillstone.org). Connect with the parish on Facebook. Give our page a like to keep informed about events. You can find the parish page on Facebook at St. Joseph Catholic Church Millstone Twp. NJ or @stjosephchurchmillstone. Stay informed – stay connected!

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## **HELP US TO BE IN TOUCH WITH YOU**

The Parish uses Flocknotes which is a program to send out email and text messages to parishioners. This will allow us to stay in touch about parish events, emergency closings and important information. To benefit from this, you must sign up with your cell phone number and/or email address. In the present time, it is important that we have a way to get news out to everyone. We will use Flocknotes to let parents know if Religious Education classes are canceled and we send out reminders about scheduled closings for holidays, etc. It is easy to be on the notification list – just text the code sjmill to 84576 and follow the prompts. You may also go to our website to be included – [stjosephmillstone.org/flocknotes](http://stjosephmillstone.org/flocknotes). Just enter your information and follow the prompts. You can then select the groups that you want information from. All information is confidential. Others are not able to view your information. Please remember that email and text message will be sent from Flocknotes. Thanks!

## 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](http://WWW.STJOSEPHMILLSTONE.ORG)

PARISH STAFF	MASS TIMES
<i>Rev. Michael P. Lang - Pastor</i> <a href="mailto:frmikestjoseph@optonline.net">frmikestjoseph@optonline.net</a>	<b>Saturday Evening - 5:00 PM</b>
<i>Chris Chandonnet, Permanent Deacon</i> <a href="mailto:Chrisstjoseph@optonline.net">Chrisstjoseph@optonline.net</a>	<b>Sunday Morning - 9:00 AM &amp; 11:00 AM</b>
<i>Jean Semanchick, Parish Secretary &amp; Coordinator of Religious Education</i> <a href="mailto:Jeanstjoseph@optonline.net">Jeanstjoseph@optonline.net</a>	<b>Mon, Tues, Wed &amp; Fri - 9:00AM</b>
<i>Kristine Reide, Music Ministry Leader</i> <a href="mailto:Kris0373@aol.com">Kris0373@aol.com</a>	<b>Holy Days: as listed in the bulletin</b>
	<b>Confessions: At this time, Confessions are Offered by appointment only.</b>

**BAPTISM** – The Sacrament of Baptism is normally celebrated on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.



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