

December 24, 2023

4th Sunday of Advent



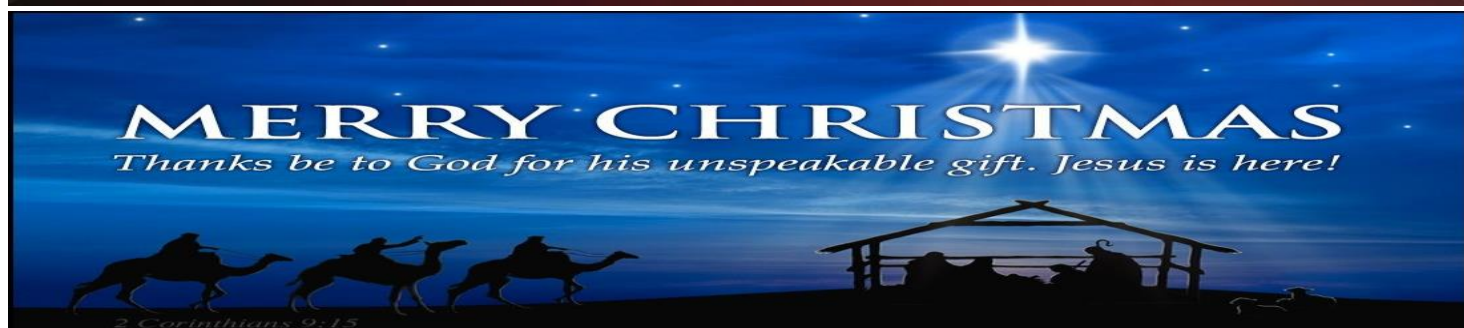
St. Joseph

Catholic Church

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

91 Stillhouse Road, Millstone Twp., N.J. 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
frmikestjoseph@optonline.net

Chris Chandonnet, Deacon
chrisstjoseph@optonline.net

Vicki Craig, Pastoral Associate
VickicStjoseph@gmail.com

Genevieve Semanchick
Parish Secretary & CRE
jeanstjoseph@optonline.net

CONNECT

Phone:

732-792-2270

Fax:

732-792-2271

Website:

www.stjosephmillstone.org

Facebook:

[stjosephchurchmillstone](https://www.facebook.com/stjosephchurchmillstone)



Saturday – December 23

5:00PM - Mass

Sunday – December 24

10:00AM – Mass (4th Sunday of Advent)

4:00PM – Christmas Eve Mass

6:30PM – Christmas Eve Mass

12:00 Midnight – Christmas Mass

Monday – December 25

9:00AM – Christmas Mass

11:00AM – Christmas Mass

Tuesday, December 26

No Morning Mass

Parish Office Closed

No Religious Education Classes

Wednesday, December 27

No Morning Mass

10:00AM – Legion of Mary

Friday, December 29

No Morning Mass

Sunday, December 31

9:00AM – Mass

11:00AM - Mass

Monday, January 1

10:00AM - Mass

Parish Office Closed

No Religious Education Classes

Tuesday, January 2

No Religious Education Classes

7:00PM – Ladies of St. Joseph Meeting

Wednesday – January 3

9:00AM – Mass

10:00AM – Legion of Mary

Friday – January 4

9:00AM – Mass

Sunday, January 7

Children's Liturgy of the Word

Hospitality Sunday

Coat Drive

10:00AM - RCIA

Monday – January 8

9:00AM – Mass

Religious Education Classes

Religious Education Classes

7:30PM – Readers Club Meeting

Mass Schedule + Readings

Saturday December- 23 **Advent Weekday**

Saint John of Kanty

(Is 30:19-21, 23-26 Mt 9:35—10th 1, 5a, 6-8)

5:00pm

Richard John Bautista r/b Mickie Bautista

Sunday December- 24 **4th Sunday of Advent**

(2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16 Rom 16:25-27 Lk 1:26-38)

10:00am

Shirley McCauley r/b Kathleen Lockwood

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 Panariello & Raimondi

Families

r/b Anthony & Rosemarie Raimondi

6:30pm

John Brady r/b The Gellman Family

Midnight

Anna Morin r/b Her Family

Monday

December – 25 **The Nativity of our Lord**

(Is 52:7-10/ Heb 1: 1-6 Jn 1:1-18 or 1: 1-5, 9-4)

9:00am

Jason Sawicz r/b His Family

11:00am

Al DeRosa r/b Frances DeRosa

Tuesday

December- 26 **Saint Srephen**

(Acrs 6:8-10; 7:54-59 Mt 10:17-22)

9:00am

No Mass

Wednesday

December- 27 **Saint John**

(1 Jn 1:1-4 Jn 20:1a, 2-8)

9:00am

No Mass

Thursday

December- 28 **The Holy Innocents**

(1 Jn 1:1-4 Jn 20:1a, 2-8) **No Mass**

Friday

December- 29 **Saint Thomas Becket**

(1 Jn 2:3-11 Lk 2:22-35)

9:00am

No Mass

Saturday

December- 30

Sixth Day within the Octave of the Nativity

(1 Jn 2:12-17 Lk 2:36-40)

5:00pm

Kathleen McGuire-Beamer

r/b Ellen & Frank Marotta

Sunday

December- 31

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

(Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40)

9:00am

Jack MacPhee r/b The Hill Family

11:00am

Donna Palmerio r/b Mickey Napolitano



Sanctuary Candle... this week

Dec'd Mbrs of the Reilly & Semanchick

Families

r/b John & Jean

Some thoughts from Fr. Mike...

Dear Friends,

This time of year, *It's a Wonderful Life* often is on television. It is the quintessential Christmas story with a hero and a villain and we all know that the good guy wins in the end. That Christmas Eve in Bedford Falls reminds us all of Christmases past as we look to the coming of the baby Jesus this year, and Christ who is to come in the future.

Like George Bailey, we sometimes focus on the negative. Our world today can present us with many reasons to lose hope with opportunities, attractions, and distractions that make it easy to miss the true meaning of the Christmas season. But in fact, this is the season of light, whether from the lights of the Christmas tree, the glow of the Advent wreath candles, the flame in a fireplace, or perhaps simply the sky on a day of sunshine. All of these can remind us of the presence of God and the promise of hope that is fulfilled in this holy season.

Remember that behind the packages and the lights is the radiance that is our God. See the hope in the faces of the people around you. See it in the faces of your family and friends and co-workers. See it in your own face when you look in the mirror. Doing this will allow each of us to welcome that little baby on Christmas, the way that Mary and Joseph so willingly welcomed him into their lives. And know that God so lovingly welcomes us into God's own life.

May the peace of God rule in your dreams. May your joys be fulfilled and your prayers answered. May you have healing, health, happiness, and prosperity in the new year.

May God bless you and fill you with peace this Christmas.

Merry Christmas!

Peace, prayers and love to all of you,

Fr. Mike

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

Please note that because Christmas eve is on a Sunday, there will be only one morning Mass on Sunday for the 4th Sunday of Advent – that Mass will be celebrated at 10:00AM. So for the 4th Sunday of Advent, Mass will be celebrated on Saturday, December 23 at 5:00PM and on Sunday, December 24 at 10:00AM.

MORNING MASS

There will not be morning Mass on Tuesday - December 26, Wednesday - December 27, Thursday – December 28 or Friday – December 29. (*Fr. Mike is hibernating after Christmas*)

PARISH OFFICE

The Parish Office will be closed on Monday, December 25 and Tuesday, December 26.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES

There are no Religious Education Classes on Monday – December 25, Tuesday – December 26, Monday - January 1 or Tuesday – January 2. Classes resume on Monday January 8.

COAT DRIVE



We will be collecting winter coats to distribute to agencies that will get them to people who are in need of coats. The Drive will be held on the weekends of January 6/7 and January 13/14. Coats for children, women and men will be accepted. Coats must be clean and in good condition. Coats are the only items being collected. So it is time to clean out the closets and donate those coats you no longer wear or no longer fit so that others may have warmth. Please, only bring the coats on the designated weekends because we do not have storage space. Thanks!

MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP



The next gathering for the Middle School Youth Group is on Wednesday, January 10 at 7:00PM. There will be fun, food, friendship & faith. The Middle School Youth Group is open to all those in grades 6, 7 & 8.

LEGO COLLECTION FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP



Do you have Legos that no one is using anymore? Wondering what to do with them? Hate to throw them out but don't know what else to do? Well, the Middle School youth group would like to take them off your hands to use for some youth group projects. If you have Legos that you would like to donate (they do not have to be complete sets – miscellaneous pieces are good) the Middle School Youth Group will be collecting them from January 6 – January 28. Just bring them to church and place in the collection bin. Thanks!

LADIES OF ST. JOSEPH



The Ladies of St. Joseph (our Parish Women's Group) will meeting on Tuesday, January 2 at 7:00PM at The Rectory. Food will be provided. All women of the parish are welcome to be part of the Women's Group. If you have any questions, please contact JoAnn - jannkronenthal@gmail.com. For dates and times of meetings and events visit the website at <https://www.stjosephmillstone.org/ladies-of-st-joseph>.

50-50 RAFFLE

Congratulations to the winner of the 50-50 Raffle – Louise Tracy. The winner's share was \$5,720.00. Thank you to everyone who supported the raffle. Your generosity and support help's the Men's Guild continue to offer assistance to both the parish and the community.

LECTORS

The new Lector workbooks are now available. Please pick up your copy in the Sacristy. Thanks!

OPLATEK



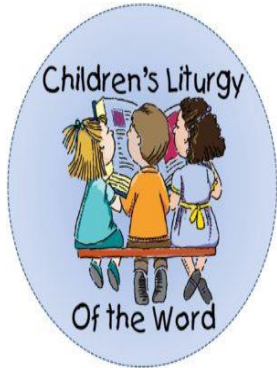
For those who use it during your celebrations, Oplatek – the Christmas Wafer – is available in the Parish Office.

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.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD



Children's Liturgy of the Word takes place on Sunday, January 7 at the 9:00AM and 11:00AM Masses. Children's Liturgy of the word is for children in grades K – 6. Children's Liturgy of the Word is offered on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month at the 9:00AM Mass and the 11:00AM Mass. After the Opening Prayer (Collect), children will be invited to come forward for a blessing and then will be sent to the Parish Hall where they will hear one of the Scripture Readings for the day, be given a message that is appropriate for them and have an activity to help reinforce the teaching. They will return to their families during the Offertory. If you would like to help out as a teacher or an aide, or want some more information, contact the Parish Office – 732-792-2270.

MEN'S GUILD



The Men's Guild, the Parish Men's Group, will meet on Tuesday, January 9 at 7:00PM at the Rectory – food will be provided. We welcome all men of the Parish. Come and meet the other guys and find out about the activities for the coming year. If you are not able to make every meeting – no worries – come when you are able and lend a hand with our activities. If you are coming to the December meeting, [lease let Dave know so that a head

count can be given to the restaurant. If you have questions, please contact Dave -

dcerulosr@gmail.com. For Meeting dates and events check the website at

<https://www.stjosephmillstone.org/mens-guild>

RCIA – RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS



The RCIA meets on Sundays at 10:00AM in the Parish Hall. The RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) is a faith journey for those who wish to be Baptized, those who are Baptized and are 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. If you are interested or would like more information, contact Fr. Mike –

fmikestjoseph@optonline.net or 732-792-2270.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY



The Prayer Shawl Ministry gathers to knit or crochet shawls that are given to those who are sick or going through difficulties in life. The purpose of the shawl is to offer encouragement and to allow the individual to be wrapped in the prayers of those who made the shawl. Especially in challenging times, it is good to know that we are not alone and can wrap ourselves in the prayers of others. If you knit or crochet

you are welcome to join us. We meet every Tuesday at 10:00AM. You can make shawls from home as well. If you are in need of some comfort and would like a prayer shawl, just let us know. We will pray for you and do our best to get a shawl to you. For more information, or to request a shawl, please contact Pat - 314PMCD@gmail.com.

READERS' CLUB



The Readers' Club has chosen is *The Thread Collectors* by Alyson Richman and Shaunna J. Edwards. In *The Thread Collectors*, The authors offer a vibrant tapestry of characters whose lives have been shattered by slavery and Civil War, yet find a tenuous connection in scraps of fabric that symbolize hope, love, even escape. It is both heartbreaking and thrilling.

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, January 31st at 7:30PM in the Parish Hall. For more information about the Reader's Club or to RSVP contact Fran -

ambiofran@gmail.com.

BAPTISMS

Baptisms are celebrated on the 1st and 3rd 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.

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Please sign up to serve at 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

CHOIRS, CANTORS AND MUSIC MINISTRY



Do you like to sing? Do you use your voice to praise God? The parish choirs would love to have you join either the St. Choir or the Children's Choir. You do not need to be a professional singer. If you have a good voice and feel comfortable in leading singing, why not use your talent to be a Cantor at Mass? Can you play an instrument and willing to put your talent to use as we gather to celebrate Mass? Perhaps you would like to join the contemporary group. These opportunities do not demand a lot of time – just a commitment and willingness. If you would like to become part of a choir, serve as a Cantor or lend your musical abilities, you can email Kristine at kris0373@aol.com or sign up by visiting our parish website <https://www.stjosephmillstone.org/music-ministry>

Let us always be willing to praise our loving God.

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. **PLEASE NOTE → Please check food for expiration dates or "best by" dates – items past the date cannot be given to those who need help so please do not bring food that is past the expiration date.** Thank you again for your generosity.

BAPTISM BIBS

At the Sacrament of Baptism for infants, a white Baptismal bib is given to each child as a symbol that they have been clothed with Christ. We have been blessed with parishioners who have lovingly made the bibs. This gives it a special meaning since they come from members of the community. 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!

LEGION OF MARY

The Legion of Mary meets on Wednesday mornings after the 9:00AM Mass. The Legion of Mary is an international association of members of the Catholic Church. Anyone in the parish is invited to come to find out more about the Legion of Mary. If anyone is interested in participating in the Visiting Pilgrim statue of Mary contact Claire – 732-995-0869.

ALS PRAYER GROUP

Lou Gehrig's Disease (ALS) is a neurological disease with no known cure. For those impacted with ALS, the Holy Innocents Society of the Diocese of Trenton is sponsoring a weekly virtual prayer group. It is an opportunity to pray for strength with others impacted by ALS. If you have ALS or are a caregiver or family member of someone with ALS, you are invited to participate every week or just when you can. The group will meet via Zoom every Monday at 10:00AM. For more information or to register, please send email to holyinnocentsociety@dioceseoftrenton.org with the subject line "ALS". Please include your name and telephone number. Let us pray together.

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. Just enter your information and follow the prompts. You can then select the groups that you want information from. All information is confidential.

TRANSPORT PEOPLE FROM MILLSTONE MANOR TO CHURCH

On Sunday mornings, some of our parishioners transport residents of Millstone Manor to our Church for Mass. There is a need for some additional drivers to fill in the schedule. If you are willing to help, or want to find out more information, please contact Mickey at brunonap@AOL.com. THANKS

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 on our Facebook Page www.facebook.com/stjosephchurchmillstone and on the Parish YouTube channel 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. 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!



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 email or leave a message for Fr. Mike



The Diocese of Trenton is committed to the initiatives outlined in the U.S. Bishop's Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People in regard to the reporting and investigation of sexual abuse allegations involving minors. If you have been sexually abused as a minor by a member of the clergy or anyone representing the Catholic Church, or if you know of someone who was, you can report that abuse through the diocesan Abuse Hotline: 1-888-296-2965 or via e-mail at abuseline@dioceseoftrenton.org. The Diocese of Trenton reports any allegations of sexual abuse to the appropriate law enforcement agencies. Anyone with an allegation is also encouraged to provide that information to local law enforcement authorities.

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>Chris Chandonnet, Permanent Deacon</i> Chrisstjoseph@optonline.net	Sunday Morning - 9:00 AM & 11:00 AM
<i>Vicki Craig, Pastoral Associate</i> vickicstjoseph@gmail.com	Mon, Tues, Wed & Fri - 9:00AM
<i>Jean Semanchick, Parish Secretary & Coordinator of Religious Education</i> Jeanstjoseph@optonline.net	Holy Days: as listed in the bulletin
<i>Kristine Reide, Music Ministry Leader</i> Kris0373@aol.com	Confessions: Confessions take place on Saturdays after the 5:00PM Mass or anytime by appointment.

BAPTISM – The Sacrament of Baptism is normally celebrated on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month at 12:30 PM. 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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To advertise in our bulletin please contact Fr. Mike - 732-792-2270 or
frmikestjoseph@optonline.net Very reasonable rates.