

December 31, 2023

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY



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)



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

9:00AM - Mass

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

7:00PM – Building & Grounds Committee

Tuesday – January 9

9:00AM - Mass

10:00AM – Prayer Shawl Meeting

Religious Education Classes

7:00PM – Men's Guild Meeting

Wednesday – January 10

9:00AM - Mass

10:00AM – Legion of Mary

7:00PM – Middle School Youth Group

Friday - January 12

9:00AM - Mass

Saturday – January 13

5:00PM - Mass

Sunday – January 14

Coat Drive

10:00AM - RCIA

Monday – January 15

9:00AM – Mass

Mass Schedule + Readings

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

Monday January- 1

The Octave Day of the Nativity of the Lord

Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

(Nm 6:22-27/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21)

10:00am *Margaret Sykes* r/b Dan, Jill & Thomas Sykes

Tuesday January- 2

Saints Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen

(1 Jn 2:22-28 Jn 1:19-28)

9:00am *People of the Parish*

Wednesday January- 3 **The Most Holy Name of Jesus**

(1 Jn 2:29-36 Jn 1:29-34)

9:00am *Joseph Diesso* r/b Kimberly King

Thursday January- 4 **Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton**

(1 Jn 3:7-10 Jn 1:35-42) **No Mass**

Friday January- 5 **Saint John Newmann**

(1 Jn 3:11-21 Jn 1:43-51)

9:00am *Joseph Diesso* r/b Jim & Francine King

Saturday January- 6 **Saint Andre Bessette**

(1 Jn 5:5-13 Mk 1:7-11 or Lk 3:33-38)

5:00pm *Jaimie Rose Hamaid* r/b The Pellegrino Family

Sunday January- 7 **The Epiphany of the Lord**

(Is 60:1-6 Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6 Mt 2:1-12)

9:00am *Antonia Munoz* r/b The Tkachuk Family

11:00am *Michelina Cappello* r/b The Giffen Family

Sanctuary Candle... this week

Margaret Sykes

r/b Dan, Jill & Thomas Sykes



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, for vocations to the priesthood and religious life and for the hungry and the homeless.

Some thoughts from Fr. Mike...

Dear Friends,

Today is the Feast of the Holy Family. When the Holy Family is put before us as a model to imitate, we may feel that it is impossible. They are so far beyond us in holiness that imitating them would be like trying to compete with professional sports figures in any given sport. Well, we may not be part of a holy family, but we are a holy family when we accept God's grace. The greatest danger to our status of being part of God's holy family is becoming spiritually complacent and lazy. We must always do our best to move forward in our spiritual life. When we become satisfied with where we are spiritually, it is very easy to begin to slip backwards. As we heard in the second Reading today, there are no secrets to living and growing in grace. It is just a matter of practicing the ordinary virtues we learned when we were young: kindness, patience, humility, gentleness and compassion. Jesus summed them all up in his famous answer about the greatest commandment: loving God with everything we have and loving others as we love ourselves. If we become lax in our spiritual journey it is to take both God and others for granted. The nourishment required for our relationship with God and others are those virtues that we heard in the second Reading.

In spite of difficulties, challenges and being asked to do unusual things, the Holy Family remained Holy because they were willing to cooperate with God's plans. We can never be holy and ignore the things God asks of us.

A holy family is not a family without problems or heartaches. It is how we deal with the problems that really matters. We must strive to be faithful to God at all times and deal with each with the virtues that God offers us.

May God's blessings be with you and your families today and throughout the coming year.

A happy and blessed New Year to you and your families!

Peace, prayers and love to all of you,

Fr. Mike

PARISH OFFICE

The Parish Office will be closed on Monday, January 1.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES

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

NEW YEAR DAY MASS

On Monday, January 1, Mass will be celebrated at 10:00AM. Let us start the New Year gathered around the Table of the Lord.

*HAPPY NEW YEAR to all of you. May God bless the year ahead
and may peace reign in our hearts.*

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



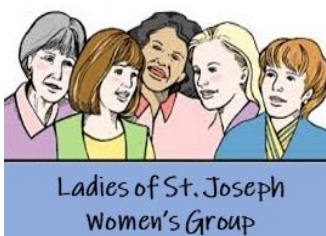
The next gathering for the Middle School Youth Group is on Wednesday, January 10 at 7:00PM. There will be fun, food, friendship & faith. The Middle School Youth Group is open to all those in grades 6, 7 & 8.

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>.

HOSPITALITY SUNDAY

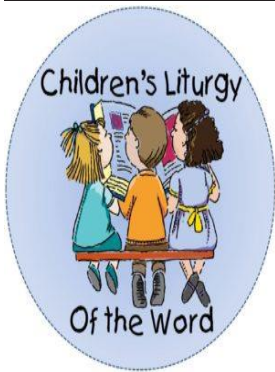
This month Hospitality Sunday will take place on Sunday, January 7. You are invited to the Parish Hall after the 9:00AM and 11:00AM Masses for some refreshments and time to socialize. Come and join us.

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE



The Buildings and Grounds Committee will meet on Monday, January 8 at 7:00PM at the Rectory. Any member of the parish who like to be a member of the Buildings and Grounds Committee or find out more information is welcome to attend the meeting. For more information about the Buildings and Grounds Committee contact Tom tbaber@moneymailer.com.

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 – frmikestjoseph@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.

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.

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!

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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frmikestjoseph@optonline.net Very reasonable rates.