

February 18, 2024

1st Sunday Of Lent



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 – February 18

Parish Food Collection
Children's Liturgy of the Word
10:00AM - RCIA

Monday – February 19

President's Day
No Morning Mass
NO Religious Education Classes
Parish Office is closed

Tuesday – February 20

9:00AM – Mass
10:00AM – Prayer Shawl Ministry
Religious Education Classes
1st Reconciliation 2nd grade (*Monday*
4:30 Class)

Wednesday – February 21

9:00AM – Mass
10:00AM – Legion of Mary

Thursday – February 22

7:00PM – The Way, The Truth, The Life

Friday – February 23

9:00AM – Mass
10:00AM - The Way, The Truth, The Life
6:00PM – Lenten Soup Night

Saturday – February 24

5:00PM - Mass

Sunday – February 25

10:00AM – RCIA

Monday – February 26

9:00AM - Mass
Religious Education Classes
1st Reconciliation 2nd grade (*Tuesday*
4:30 Class)

Tuesday, February 27

9:00AM - Mass
10:00AM – Prayer Shawl Meeting
Religious Education Classes

Mass Schedule + Readings

Saturday	February- 17 The Seven Holy Founders of the Servite Order (Is 58:9b-14 Lk 5:27-32)
5:00pm	<i>Rosalia Dimaio</i> r/b The Family
Sunday	February- 18 1st Sunday of Lent (Gn 9:8-15 1 Pt 3:18-22 Mk 1:12-15)
9:00am	<i>Evelyn Bodnar</i> r/b Bo & Stella Smith
11:00am	<i>Gloria Garganta</i> r/b The Family
Monday	February- 19 Lenten Weekday Presidents' Day (Lv 19:1-2, 11-18 Mt 25:31-46)
9:00am	<i>No Mass</i>
Tuesday	February- 20 Lenten Weekday (Is 55:10-11 Mt 6:7-15)
9:00am	<i>Jack MacPhee</i> r/b The Costagliola Family
Wednesday	February- 21 Lenten Weekday St Peter Damian (Jon 3:1-10 Lk 11:29-32)
9:00am	<i>Marian Tesmer</i> r/b Bill & Marie Schubel
Thursday	February- 22 The Chair of St Peter the Apostle (1 Pt 5:1-4 Mt 16:13-19) No Mass
Friday	February- 23 Lenten Weekday Saint Polycarp (Ez 18:21-28 Mt 5:20-26)
9:00am	<i>Jason Greenberg</i> r/b Deb Smarth
Saturday	February- 24 Lenten Weekday (Dt 26:16-19 Mt 5:43-48)
5:00pm	<i>Giuseppe Tantillo</i> r/b His Family
Sunday	February- 25 2nd Sunday of Lent (Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18 Rom 8:31b-34 Mk 8:2-10)
9:00am	<i>Rose, Rae & Marie</i> r/b The Sawicz Family
11:00am	<i>Pauline Zaleski</i> r/b The Giffen Family

Sanctuary Candle... this week
Healing Intentions of Sandy Cole
r/b The Hileman Family



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,

At the start of his public ministry, Jesus went into the desert for forty days. We imitate this action by going into the desert of Lent. We remember Jesus' experience in an attempt to establish a deeper bond and a closer friendship between God and ourselves. The journey we make is an inward one, into the wilderness of our inmost self, to stand before God in all sincerity and truth. This helps us to see ourselves as we really are and as we take stock of what we are doing with our time, talent and energy, we become more aware of those things that really do need to change. The need to change and renew the struggle against evil by prayer, fasting and penance may become painfully obvious. The actions that we undertake should help us to realize that the spiritual things of life are much more important than the material things of the world. It is only by becoming conscious of our own faults that we become aware that changes need to be made. The key is allowing ourselves to do a very truthful and sincere evaluation of our lives without making excuses, justifying our actions or simply believing that things cannot change.

If we happen to be one of those people whose specialty is always to assume the worst in everyone, perhaps it is time to take a hard look at our gossiping, backbiting and scandalmongering. A sincere attempt to hold our tongue might prove to be useful medicine. Whether it be this or something else, the way to receive the assistance we need is through daily prayer. Prayer is the vital life-line in our relationship with God. Our invitation to a personal relationship with Christ cannot be achieved without prayer. Especially during the time of Lenten renewal we must be willing to give top priority to prayer so that our faith and our trust in Christ may be strengthened and renewed.

Lent is a time of soul searching. It is a season when we are challenged to measure up to the call of God in various aspects of life and to take practical steps to face the evil of sin and selfishness within us. It is a call to a change in behavior so that our growth in the love of God is not stunted or spoiled. But let us not forget that Lent is also a season of grace that we must take seriously if we desire results. Jesus went into the desert to confront temptation and the evil one. Let us be willing to do the same during this time of renewal.

Peace, prayers and love to all of you,

Fr. Mike

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES

There are no Religious Education Classes on Monday, February 19. (There are classes Tuesday, February 20 for those who attend Tuesday classes.)

PARISH OFFICE

The Parish office will be closed on Monday, February 19 in observance of President's Day.

MORNING MASS

There will not be morning Mass on Monday, February 19.

HELP NEEDED IN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

One of the Religious Education teachers is moving. We are in need of someone to teach the 3rd grade class on Mondays at 4:30PM as soon as possible. If you can help with this, please contact Jean at the parish office – 732-792-2270 or jeanstjoseph@optonline.net. Thank you!

LENTEN SOUP SUPPER & STATIONS OF THE CROSS



Join us on Friday evenings during Lent for Soup & Stations of the Cross beginning February 16th. This is an opportunity to come together for a simple meal as a reminder of how we are called to practice a simpler lifestyle during our Lenten journey. There is no cost to participate but if you choose you may make a free will offering. These donations will be used to help those in need.

The meal begins at 6:00 PM followed by Stations of the Cross

at 7:00 PM. Sign-up sheets to make soup are located on the bulletin board at the entrance to the church. Please arrive with your soup by 5:45PM.

We will also need help cleaning up after supper. If you would like to help, please sign up on the sign up sheet, or contact Vicki Craig at the parish office (732) 792-2270 or email

vickicstjoseph@gmail.com

WOMEN'S RETREAT



A Women's Retreat sponsored by the Ladies of St. Joseph will be held on Saturday, February 24, 2024, 12 noon to 4 pm in the Parish Hall with Sr. Marcy Springer, S.S.J., from the Francis House of Prayer. Lunch will be served. Free admission. Sign-up by Friday, February 16th...contact Jo Ann at jannkronenthal@gmail.com. There is also a sign-up sheet on the table at the entrance of the church. The theme is "Without Change, There Would Be No Butterflies". This retreat provides a message that instead of giving up ice cream, chocolates, desserts, etc., consider giving up bad acts, behaviors, attitudes or habits such as anger, envy, gossip, judging others or ourselves, self-pity, complaining, negativity. Make this year a Spiritual Discipline. Identify IT and make up your mind to change or let go of IT. Then we replace the "dark with light" with the help of God and prayer.

"JARED BOX" MAKING EVENT



The Middle School Youth Group will be making "Jared Boxes" to lift the spirits of chronically ill children of local hospitals for their Winter Service Project. A "Jared Box" is a small plastic storage box filled with toys, games, and activities. The group is seeking donations of the materials and items needed for making these boxes such as: small toys, crayons, markers, coloring books, books, puzzles, stuffed animals, card games, etc. A complete list of needed material and items will be posted on the Middle School Youth Group's web site:

<https://stjosephmillstone.org/middle-school-youth-group>

A donation bin will be placed at the church and donations will be accepted – there is also a donation box in the Religious Education building so that students may bring in donations). Gift card donations for use in

purchasing materials and items from stores such as Wal-Mart, Target, Amazon, etc, will also be greatly appreciated. To learn more about the "Jared Box Project" please visit: <https://thejaredbox.org/>

STATIONS OF THE RESURRECTION

Please mark your calendars to celebrate the Stations of the Resurrection on **Friday April 19th at 7:00PM**. We know that the cross is not the final destination. Jesus is risen! Stations of the Resurrection (also known as the Stations of Light) follows Jesus from the resurrection to Pentecost. Come and celebrate more of our salvation story.

LENTEN ADULT FAITH ENRICHMENT PROGRAM

Jesus: The Way, The Truth, and The Life

Begin your Lenten journey immersed in the life of Jesus. Take a fresh look at who he is, what he taught, and what he did for our salvation in this 5 week video study program filmed in the Holy Land. Experience the extraordinary world in which Jesus lived and taught—the historical context, the politics, the clashing cultures, the history, and the ancient land—and see where the most significant events of his life took place, from his infancy to his ascension.

Format: Video presentations 1 hour, followed question/discussion period. Background material, bible references, and discussion questions will be provided to participants before each session.

When: Choose either Thursday evening session starting 2/15/24 at 7:00-8:30PM or Friday morning session starting 2/16/24 10:00-11:30AM. There is no cost for this program. The program will take place over 5 sessions and all sessions will take place in the parish hall.

*****Please note the specific dates that we will meet below:**

Session 2 2/22 and 2/23

Session 3 2/29 and 3/1

***NO SESSION** 3/7 and 3/8

Session 4 3/14 and 3/15

Session 5 3/21 and 3/22

A sign-up sheet is available at the back of the church, online at the parish website, or email Vicki Craig, Pastoral Associate at: vickicstjoseph@gmail.com or sign up on our Website at <https://www.stjosephmillstone.org/adult-program>. All adult members of the parish are invited.

BAKE SALE

Thank you to everyone who supported the bake sale last week. The Ladies of St. Joseph appreciate your support

CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS

If you would like a statement of contributions for tax purposes, please send a self-addressed envelope to the parish office.

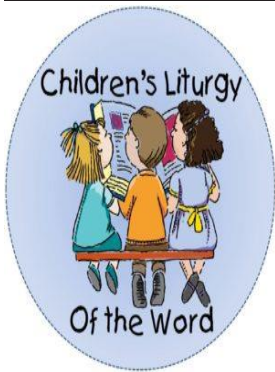
MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP



The Middle School Youth Group will be making Jared Boxes for child patients of local hospitals on Sunday, February 25th from 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall for their Winter Service Event. The event is open to all 6th, 7th & 8th Graders. Lunch will be served at this event. Middle School Youth Group members, their families and

friends are invited to join together in the celebration of Mass at 11:00 a.m. before this event. There will be some reserved pews for the group to sit together. The next monthly gathering for the Middle School Youth Group is on Wednesday, March 20 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.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD



Children's Liturgy of the Word takes place on Sunday, February 18 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.

HELP NEEDED WITH CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD

We are in need of additional people to serve as leader for the Children's Liturgy of the Word on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month. All materials are provided. We can also use some additional aides especially on those Sundays when there are many children (often at the 11:00AM Mass). If you are interested in learning more and finding out how you can help, please contact our Pastoral Associate Vicki (vickicstjoseph@gmail.com) or Fr. Mike (frmikestjoseph@optonline.net) or reach either one at 732-792-2270. Thanks

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. **BAPTISMS ARE NOT CELEBRATED DURING LENT,**

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.

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.

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

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 "Yellowface" by R. F. Kuang for the next book selection. With its totally immersive first-person voice, *Yellowface* grapples with questions of diversity, racism, and cultural appropriation, as well as the terrifying alienation of social media. R.F. Kuang's novel is timely, razor-sharp, and eminently readable." The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, March 6th at 7:30PM in the Parish Hall. For more information about the Reader's Club or to RSVP contact Fran - ambiofran@gmail.com.

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.

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.

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!

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

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.

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

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.



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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