



THE CRADLE OF AFRICAN AMERICAN CATHOLICISM IN DELAWARE

1012 French Street,
Wilmington, DE
19801
302-658-4535 (Tel)
302-658-2006 (Fax)



PASTOR
Rev. Paul M. Williams, OFM
pw4ofm@aol.com

DEACON
Deacon Robert J. Cousar

Office Hours: Tuesday - Thursday, 10 am - 3 pm
Friday, 10am - 1pm
Parish Secretary: parishsecretary@stjosephfrenchst.org
Bulletin News: stjosephsbulletin@yahoo.com
Website: www.stjosephfrenchst.org

MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday — 10:00 am Tuesday to Friday — 12:10 pm
Saturday Vigil — 5:00 pm Holy days — As announced

*The Church is open for Prayer & Meditation Tuesday—Friday from 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM.
Confessions are heard on Saturday at 4:30 pm and by appointment.*

Notary Services
Available
Upon Request
See Loretta Young

MARRIAGE:

All couples contemplating marriage are asked to give the Pastor at least one year prior notice in order to satisfy all diocesan requirements for marriage. All couples must attend either Pre-Cana Classes or make an Engaged Encounter.

BAPTISM:

Before a child is Baptized, the parents and Godparents must participate in a Pre-Baptismal program. Please call the Pastoral Center to make arrangements.

NEW PARISHIONERS:

***Welcome!** We encourage new families moving into the area to stop in or call the Pastoral Center and complete a parish registration form.*

CARE OF THE SICK AND

HOMEBOUND:** The Pastor, Deacon, and special ministers of Holy Communion will gladly bring Communion to anyone who is ill or otherwise unable to get to Mass. The Pastor and Deacon make regular visits to local hospitals. **Please notify the Parish Office if any parishioner is ill or hospitalized.

***CHANGE OF ADDRESS, EMAIL, TELEPHONE NUMBER:** Contact the Parish Office if your personal contact information changes.*

DECEMBER 25, 2016 NATIVITY OF THE LORD MERRY CHRISTMAS

- ▶ **CCD** — Will resume on Sunday, Jan 8, 2017
- ▶ **Adult Catechism** — Will resume on Sunday, Jan 8, 2017
- ▶ **December 28 ~** Kwanzaa, Ujima, St. Joseph's Fellowship Hall
- ▶ **New Year's Eve ~** Mass 5:00 pm
- ▶ **New Year's Day ~** Mass 10:00 am
- ▶ **Christmas Break ~** Parish Office Closed, Dec 26 thru Jan 2
No weekday mass, Dec 26 thru Dec 30
Weekday mass and regular office hours will resume on Tuesday, January 3, 2017

Weekly Collections

The parish requires a weekly collection of \$4,901 to cover expenses.
Amounts below represent last week's collection and the collection for the same week in 2015.

December 18, 2016 - \$3,301 December 20, 2015 - \$

Thank you for your generosity!!!

Mass Intentions
December 24, 2016 — January 1, 2017

Saturday, 12/24	5:00 PM	People of the Parish
Sunday, 12/25	10:00 AM	
Monday, 12/26	———	NO MASS
Tuesday, 12/27	———	NO MASS
Wednesday, 12/28	———	NO MASS
Thursday, 12/29	———	NO MASS
Friday, 12/30	———	NO MASS
Saturday, 12/31	5:00 PM	People of the Parish
Sunday, 1/01	10:00 AM	



Introduction to the Liturgy

During the Advent season we have contemplated the three “comings” of Christ: in history, at the end-times, and into our hearts. Today we celebrate the Nativity of the Lord—his coming in history—as fully as we can. In celebrating the Nativity, we fervently pray that our dear Lord will also be born in our hearts. Then we, like the Blessed Mother, can share his presence with the world around us.

Fr. Paul

PARISH STAFF

Pastor:	Rev. Paul M. Williams, OFM
Deacon:	Robert J. Cousar
Parish Secretary:	Loretta L. Young
St. Vincent dePaul Society:	Fayette Jackson
Director Religious Education:	Mary Polk
Bookkeeper:	Jane Putscher



Question of the Week

For whom and how can I “prepare a manager,” by offering Christ’s own welcoming and nourishing love this Christmas season?

Thank You!!!

A very special thank you to parishioners who patiently decorated the church for Christmas. The decorations have been perfectly placed and the entire church is beautiful. I am so very grateful to all who contributed.

Fr. Paul



Christmas Break

*We will not have weekday mass during the Christmas break, December 23, December 26 thru December 30 and the parish office will be closed. The office will reopen and weekday mass will resume on Tuesday, January 3, 2017.
 Voice mail messages will be checked frequently during this time.*



**Parish Bus
December Schedule**

DATE	DRIVER
Sunday, December 4	Vanel Fleury
Sunday, December 11	Daniel Mims
Sunday, December 18	Yolanda Mohammed
Sunday, December 25	Daniel Mims

God Bless Our Bus Drivers! We are grateful to our bus drivers who make personal sacrifices each week to transport our parishioners to and from mass each Sunday. Your crowns will be heavy!

Special thanks to everyone who contributed to the Christmas flower fund, thus far.
The church is beautifully decorated because of your generosity.
There is still time for additional contributions.

Patrick Abili

In memory of John, Clara, James Knott

Lonnie Ashe

In memory of deceased family members

Brenda Burns

In memory of her mother Mary E. Ryder, Fred E. Ryder, Sr., Fred E. Ryder, Jr., Lawrence Burns

Gwen Cavin

In memory of Flora Harris, Willie Dale, Viola Grigs, Revater Wells

Dana Crumety

In memory of Hortense Crumety, Arlene Wilson, In honor of Francis & Emma Crumety, and Stewart, Battafargno and Ford Families

Marie & Anthony Dash

Herman & Marian Evans, Betty Poindexter, James Evans, Jr., Kenneth & Rozina Dash

Sandra & Jed Donahue

In memory of deceased family members

Joan Drakes

In memory of Joseph & Elsie Alleyne, Sister Theresa Alleyne

Vanel Fleury

In memory of deceased family members

Rose Henderson

In memory of McKinley Family

Yvonne Hill

In memory of Anna E. Napier, Vincent dePaul Napier, Bernard D. Napier, and Bernadette Y. Napier

Rob & Adrienne Hopson

In memory of Talmadge Hopson, Carroll Belton

Irmira Hudson

In honor of Quinlan Family

Fayette Jackson

In memory of Elmer Hudson, Eureka Hudson, William E. Jackson, Sr.

John Manning

In memory of Marian Manning, Andrew Manning

Earl & Damita MacFarlane

In memory of deceased family members

Doris Matthews

In memory of LaTaya Lopez, Roy H. McIntyre, IV Mr. & Mrs. Howard Perrigan, Mr. & Mrs. Herbert Berry

Elizabeth McGeever

In memory of Francis & Nancy McGeever

Denise McIntyre

In memory of Roy McIntyre, IV LaTaya Lopez

Shirley Murray

In memory of Parents and Son

Rafter & O'Connell Families

In memory of Jean O'Connell Brynes, Daniel E. O'Connell, Sr., George C. Burns, and Charles Kobsko

John & Mary Polk

In memory of Bernice Wilson, Edward Wilson, John & Josephine Polk

Pat Rafter

In memory of Daniel E. O'Connell, Sr., Jean O'Connell Brynes, George C. Brynes, Joseph W. Faustman

LaVon Robinson

In memory of Lois Robinson and in honor of Barbara Willis, St. Joseph Church Family

Marie Reed

In memory of the Reed & Robertson Families

Gorden & Gwen Sanders

In memory of Darrell F. Sanders & L. Sanders-Smith, Rochelle Famsey

Jacqueline Smith

In memory of deceased members of Smith, Fearon, Sammons and Gould Families

Chuck Tarver

In Memory of Rupert J. Tarver, Jr., Stanley J. Tarver, Daisey Nero, Darryl Simms

John & Mary Joan Thompson

In memory of Scott Thompson, L. Sanders-Smith, Rochelle Famsey

Dora Williams

In memory of all who have gone before me in the name of our Lord & Savior, Jesus Christ.

Barbara Willis

In Thanksgiving!

Loretta & Leonard Young

in memory of deceased members of the Coleman, Reynolds, and Young Families

Happy Birthday!

December

Michelle Granger	01
Ryan Small	02
Vanel Fleury	03
Josephine Griffin	03
August Hazeur	03
William Cavin	04
Percy Ponder	04
Marie Corbitt	05
John Klepacki	05
Rosetta Henderson	08
Iona Johnson	08
Irina Hudson	10
Paula Dugas	12
Yvonne Flagg	12
Willa Seth	12
Blythe Shine	12
Dana Jackson	13
Tristan Thompson	14
Xavier Wycliffe	14
Kenneth Cunningham	15
Donald Cory Towles	15
Olivia Frances Clark	16
Michala Dash	17
Gwendolyn Sanders	17
Alan Walter Lloyd	18
Calvin Mintz	19
Margaret Dorsey	21
Carlvin Joseph	21
Patrick Abili	22
Fred Johnson	
Corriam Jolly	24
Lisa Mims	25
Mary Pearce	25
Gabriel Elijah Towles	28
Barbara Willis Johnson	28
Leatitia Bedminster	29
Desiree Blackwell	29
Christopher Sterling	29
Tracy Purnell	30
James Forrest	31
Janice Jolly	31
Tyrone Steele, Sr.	31
Paula Willis	31

*Note: Apologies if your name does not appear on the birthday list.
If this is the case, please call the parish office at 302.658.4535 or
email the parish secretary at parishsecretary@stjosephfrenchst.org
Please include your name, birth month, day and year.*

Liturgy Schedule ~ December 2016

Saturday, December 3, 5:00 p.m.

Herb Sterling ~ Lector

Debbie Sterling ~ Eucharistic Minister

Sunday, December 4, 10:00 am

Xavier Wycliff ~ Altar Server

Sheris Owens ~ Greeter

Geraldine Cochran ~ 1st Lector

Judy Gallagher ~ 2nd Lector

Marie Cousar ~ 1st Eucharistic Minister

Denise McIntyre ~ 2nd Eucharistic Minister



Saturday, December 10, 5:00 p.m.

Herbert Sterling ~ Lector

Debbie Sterling ~ Eucharistic Minister

Sunday, December 11, 10:00 a.m.

Ava Wycliff ~ Altar Server

Fayette Jackson ~ Greeter

Lisa Mims ~ 1st Lector

Judy Gallagher ~ 2nd Lector

Delores Spencer ~ 1st Eucharistic Minister

Stacey Lowery ~ 2nd Eucharistic Minister

Saturday, December 17, 5:00 pm

Vernon Taylor ~ Lector

Loretta Young ~ Eucharistic Minister

Sunday, December 18, 10:00 am

Kali Watkins ~ Altar Server

Sheris Owens ~ Greeter

Gail Rando ~ 1st Lector

Kevin O'Connell ~ 2nd Lector

John Rando ~ 1st Eucharistic Minister

Pat Rafter ~ 2nd Eucharistic Minister

Saturday, December 24, 5:00 pm

Herbert Sterling ~ Lector

Debbie Sterling ~ Eucharistic Minister

Sunday, December 25, 10:00 a.m.

Joaquin Ledesma ~ Altar Server

Marissa Ledesma ~ Greeter

Herbert Sterling ~ Lector 1

William Ray ~ Lector 2

Denise McIntyre ~ 1st Eucharistic Minister

Debbie Sterling ~ 2nd Eucharistic Minister

Saturday, December 31, 5:00 pm

Herbert Sterling ~ Lector

Debbie Sterling ~ Eucharistic Minister

Sunday, January 1, 2017 New Year's Day, 10:00 a.m.

Tia Pulliam ~ Altar Server

Deirdre Ann Robinson ~ Greeter

Herbert Sterling ~ Lector 1

William Ray ~ Lector 2

Debbie Sterling ~ 1st Eucharistic Minister

Marie Cousar ~ 2nd Eucharistic Minister

Parish Leadership

Parish Council is advisory to the pastor on matters of the church such as the mass schedule, improvements to the building, parish social life, etc. The Council meets on the third Wednesday of each month at 6:30 pm and all parishioners are invited. **The next meeting is scheduled for January 18.** The members are:

Fr. Paul Williams, President	
Deacon Cousar, Ex Officio	
Linda Abili	Sheila Cavin
Vincent Caesar	Kathy Hodges
Chantal Jackson	Derrick Johnson
Deirdre Robinson	Damita MacFarlane
Doris Matthews	John Rando
Laura Wharton	Loretta Young

The **Finance Committee** is responsible for helping the pastor with creating and managing the budget and to ensure the parish is fiscally sound. Members are appointed by the pastor and meet quarterly. Current committee members are:

Deacon Bob Cousar, Chair
Dana Crumety
Judy Gallagher
Herb Sterling
Bertley Wharton

Parking Lot

During the weekdays, the parking spaces are not available. In addition, please do not park in the pastors' or volunteer parking slots. These slots are available on Sunday, but never during the weekday. If you have a special request, please call the office. Thank you.

Sunday Morning Fellowship

We've been blessed to have the coffee and pastries donated on each Sunday of the month as indicated below.

- ♦ 1st Sunday - Ladies Sodality
- ♦ 2nd Sunday - Knights of Peter Claver and Ladies Auxiliary
- ♦ 3rd Sunday - Krispy Kreme donuts hosted by Kathy Hodges
- ♦ **4th Sunday - Loretta & Leonard Young**
- ♦ 5th Sunday - Sandra & Jed Donahue and Kathy & Paul Fahey



Thank You!
Thank You!

THANKS FOR BEING HERE!

If you would like to become an **ACTIVE** member of Saint Joseph's Parish we invite you to complete the Parish Registration form below and place the completed form in the Offertory basket or send to the Parish Office. Someone from the Parish Office will contact you.

Saint Joseph Catholic Church Parish Registration Form

Last Name: _____

Full Name: _____

List all resident family members you wish to register at Saint Joseph's and the relationship of all.

Email Address: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Cellular Phone: _____

Home Telephone: _____

TRIP TO THE BATHROOM

Little people sometimes find it necessary to make a bathroom visit during mass to relieve boredom if nothing else. Fellowship hall and the bathrooms are unsupervised and accessible to outsiders. For the safety of our little ones, their grown-up should accompany them when they take a break. Nothing has happened and we want to be sure it doesn't.

ST. JOSEPH'S PARISH LIFE AND NEWS

The Sodality honors the Blessed Mother



through prayer. These ladies faithfully pray the rosary each Sunday before mass and they pray continuously for the parish, the city and for individuals in need of the intercession of the Blessed Mother. If you would like to join this ministry, please contact Denise

Scates on 302.368.9881.

JUNIOR SODALITY

The Jr. Sodality mission statement includes:

having a deeper appreciation and understanding of others by enriching values of respect, responsibility and sharing with the guidance and example of St. Joseph Senior Sodality. Making a difference by bringing joy, love and refreshments to brighten the lives of others including St. Joseph community and the shut-in, hosting a luncheon for those less fortunate, sharing in the ministries of the church and participating in the Angel Tree Adopt A Child Program. ALL YOUNG LADIES, 6 TO 14, IN THE DIOCESE ARE INVITED TO ATTEND.

PLEASE CONTACT JEAN TOY, 302-658-2218 FOR INFORMATION. THANK YOU.

Buy gift/ pre-paid cards for a good cause.

Please consider buying gift/ pre-paid cards for everyday items & gifts. Proceeds are used to support the mission of the Knights of Peter Claver, such as service to the Church, assistance to the needy and youth scholarship. Order forms are in the back of the church or online. For information, phone 302 598 0448; Email: kpc.scrip@stjosephfrenchst.org
Web: http://kpc.stjosephfrenchst.org.KPC_ScripFundRaisingInfo.pdf

BAYLOR PRISON MINISTRY: Every Friday morning, parishioners and friends brighten the lives of women who are incarcerated. On the first and third Friday, Fr. Paul celebrates mass. For additional information, please contact Rose Henderson, 302-762-9044.

The **Saint Vincent dePaul Thrift Store Boutique** is in need of shopping bags. PLEASE give bags from department Stores such as MACY, BOSCOV, NORSTROM and any specialty boutiques. Saint Vincent de Paul has a Boutique Store in Eastern Maryland and use these type of shopping bags for customers. Please provide Barbara E. Willis with all bags.

St. Joseph's Book Club Meets in the Parish Center. Bring your book, a friend, snack, and your insights to this lively Discussion. The next session will take place on Monday, January 23, 2017. The book is **Black Indians** by William Loren Katz. Please see Geraldine



Knights of Peter Claver and Ladies' Auxiliary is comprised of over 18,000 Catholic family members. We continue our expansion efforts welcoming all Catholics to join. Our purpose is to render service to God and His Holy Church. If you would like to join our organization please see Grand Knight Vincent Robinson or Grand Lady Brenda Burns.

Emergency contact == To contact the pastor after hours, call the parish number. The messages are checked every few hours, the first thing in the morning and the last thing at night. When the pastor is away, the parish secretary checks the phone frequently and will notify the pastor if there is a grave situation.

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults)

The journey of faith is a process that takes time. Please contact the pastor about taking steps leading to initiation as a Catholic Christian. If you know someone who needs special invitation, please inform the pastor. The whole church is built up when an adult embraces the faith. We need to embrace those called by Christ.

The St. Joseph Choir is Recruiting



If you would like to help us celebrate the Mass and get extra credit, (because you know when you sing you are praying twice), please come and join the St. Joseph Choir.

We rehearse and sing every Sunday, except 4th Sunday, in the Parish Center Conference Room at 9:15 AM. If you are interested, please see DeAnna Cardenas after Mass or call the Parish Center and leave a message. Thank you!

WILMINGTON DIOCESE GOSPEL CHOIR

WDGC sings at St. Joseph on the fourth Sunday and throughout the Diocese during the year. For information, call Brenda Burns at 302-322-6899.

Stock the Pantry - Catholic Charities Non-Perishable Food Donations

A barrel for non-perishable foods is located in the vestibule of the church. Please help to replenish their food closets by contributing non-perishable food items as well as personal hygiene items such as soap, toothpaste, tooth brushes, etc. To make a cash donation online, visit <https://www.cdow.org/ccdonation.html>.

THROUGHOUT THE DIOCESE

Good News!

Listen to Catholic Forum every Sunday morning at 10:05 a.m. on WDEL 101.7 FM, 1150 AM and www.wdel.com. Next Sunday, December 25th, tune in for the annual Christmas show featuring Bishop Malooly's Christmas message, some great Christmas music and more. For photos, information regarding upcoming guests, podcasts and more, "Like" Catholic Forum on Facebook at www.facebook.com/catholicforum. Listen to past episodes of Catholic Forum online at catholicforumradio.libsyn.com or search "Catholic Forum Radio" on iTunes or iHeartRadio podcasts.

Vocations Reflection

The prophecy of Isaiah, from which today's first reading is taken, speaks of the Lord giving marvelous signs. Sometimes God gives us signs to help us discern His plan for our lives. They might be dramatic; more often they are subtle. If you'd like to discuss the signs God seems to be using in your relationship with Him, please call or write Father Norm Carroll, Diocesan Director of Priestly and Religious Vocations (302-573-3113, vocations@cdow.org). And don't forget to visit our website: www.cdow.org/vocations!



In one week we will be celebrating the birth of our Lord and Savior. Once again I ask you to focus on keeping Christ in Christmas and as you rush to get those last minute gifts you do so with peace in your heart. How are you spreading peace during this hectic time? This week I am sure you will witness stress and frustration amongst the clerks and sale people so I encourage you to spread this peace to them. A simple "peace be with you," as you complete your purchase can accomplish this goal.

Office for Marriage and Family Life

by Susan Vogt, www.SusanVogt.net

MARRIAGE MOMENTS

Think of one trait or talent that your mother-in-law or father-in-law passed on to your spouse for which you are grateful.

PARENTING POINTERS

The calendar year is almost over. Ask yourself and your child what you liked most and least about 2016? What are you looking forward to in 2017? What is one thing you'd like to improve about yourself?

A Reflection on our Catholic Burial Traditions

In today's gospel reading we hear a request from one of the two men crucified with Jesus in the words, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." We are delighted to hear Jesus respond, "Amen I say to you today you will be with me in paradise." It reminds us that the promise of eternal life is available to anyone who places their trust in the Lord and asks for His mercy. As Catholics, we are laid to rest together to await the fulfillment of the general resurrection at the end of time when Christ will return and open the graves of all those who placed their hope in Him. Burial in a Catholic cemetery is an expression of our faith in Jesus and hope in eternal life. Our Catholic burial traditions remind us that with earthly death, life is not ended but changed.

IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

PLEASE REMEMBER AND PRAY FOR OUR SICK AND SHUT-IN, AND THOSE WHO SERVE IN THE MILITARY

Adia Bracy	Donald Evans	Margaret Dorsey	Nellie Lawrence	Rose Henderson
Ronald Toy	Joanna Warren	Delores Tuller	Kendra Denhardt	Jessica Fullman
Leta Johnson	Frances Reed	Roberta Howell	Bernard Paskins	Donna Scott May
Tanya Wilson	Mark Gallagher	Arlene Watson	Barbara Stacey	Jemison Asante
Jeffrey Britton	Tony Dash	Jane McDonald	Giuseppina Fazzone	Mary Joan Thompson
Barbara Willis	Doris Gallagher	Terry McDonald	Bernice T. Ashe	Gordon Sanders
Ethel Barrett	Gerry Reybold	Charlie Anderson	James Collins	Leonard J. Young, Jr.
Sean Willis	Jean Toy	London Louise Simmonds	John Thompson	

Grade School Open House:



The National Black Catholic Congress
Hyatt Regency Orlando, Florida

E-mail: nbcc@nbccongress.org / tel: 410.547.8496

Congress XII in Orlando, Florida is coming July 6-9, 2017!
 Never been to a Congress? Find out what all the fuss is about -
 watch the Congress XI video (from 2012) here!

FOR THE SAKE OF GOD'S CHILDREN

Reporting Allegations of Child Abuse to Authorities

1. Division of Family Services at 1-800-292-9582
2. State Attorney General's Office 302-577-8310
3. Report to Fr. Paul, Deacon Cousar or Loretta Young
4. Report to Diocese: Vicar General 302-573-3118

St. Anthony of Padua Grade School's Open House will be on January 22, 2017, from noon to 3:00 p.m. Please stop by to take a tour and meet our teachers from Preschool through 8th Grade who will be on hand to answer questions about our academic and extracurricular programs. We especially invite you to talk with us about our Special Education Program! Please feel free to inquire about our family-friendly single-rate tuition program. Enrollment for the 2017-2018 school year will begin at the Open House! For additional information please contact our office at 302-421-3743, or visit our website: sagps.org.

You Can Help Your Marriage – Do you feel alone? Are you frustrated or angry with each other? Do you argue ... or have you just stopped talking to each other? Does talking about it only make it worse? Retrouvaille helps couples through difficult times in their marriages. The Retrouvaille Program is endorsed by the Diocese of Wilmington. This program has helped 10's of 1000's of couples experiencing difficulties in their marriage. For confidential information about or to register for the February 10-12, 2017 program, call 1-800-966-7981 or visit the web site at www.HelpOurMarriage.com