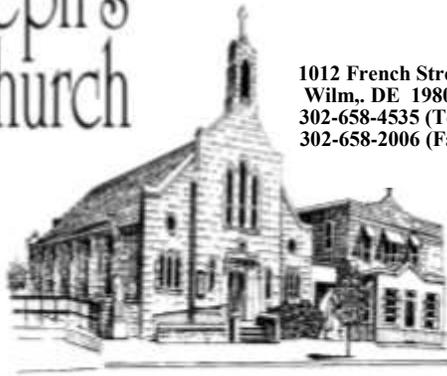


St. Joseph's Church

THE CRADLE OF AFRICAN AMERICAN CATHOLICISM IN DELAWARE



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

ADMINISTRATOR
Rev. John C. McVoy
frmac@stjosephfrenchst.org

DEACON
Deacon Robert J. Cousar

Office Hours During Pandemic: Wednesday 10am - 2 pm

Parish Secretary: parishsecretary@stjosephfrenchst.org

Website: www.stjosephfrenchst.org

YouTube Channel: St Josephs Downtown Wilmington
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC9-ljIa9-IU0OS9jPbe2ddQ>

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday Vigil — 5:00 pm Sunday — 10:00 am
Weekday Mass — Wednesday and Friday 12:10 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 Parish Office and complete a registration form.

CARE OF THE SICK AND

HOMEBOUND: This ministry is restricted due to the COVID-19 pandemic. 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 20, 2020 Fourth Sunday of Advent



- ▶ Monday Rosary Prayer ~ @ 12:15 pm via Conference Call
▶ 1-515-603-4906, access code 178602
- ▶ Friday Bible Study 1:00 pm will resume on January 8, 2021
- ▶ Dec 24 ~ Christmas Eve — 5:00 pm Mass
Vigil of The Nativity of the Lord
- ▶ Dec 25 ~ Nativity of the Lord: Christmas — 10:00 am Mass
- ▶ Dec 26 ~ Vigil of Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph — 5:00 pm Mass
- ▶ Dec 27 ~ Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph — 10:00 am Mass
- ▶ Dec 31 ~ New Year's Eve — 5:00 pm Vigil Mass
Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
- ▶ January 1, 2021 ~ New Years Day — 10:00 am Mass
Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
- ▶ Jan 2 ~ Saturday Vigil mass — 5:00 pm
- ▶ Jan 3 ~ Epiphany of the Lord — 10:00 am
- ▶ Jan 25 ~ St. Joseph's Book Club, 7:00 PM via ZOOM
Down the River Into the Sea by Walter Mosley



Weekly Collections

The parish requires a weekly collection of \$4,901 to cover expenses. The numbers below compares 2020 with the same week in 2019. Thank you for being consistent with your donations. Please be prayerful about your contributions to the parish.

Dec 13, 2020 - \$2,295

Dec 15, 2019 — \$4,139

Pandemic & Flu Season: Please take **precautionary measures** such as wearing a face mask, washing hands often and thoroughly. If you are under the weather please stay at home and take care not to share your misery with others. We all will bless you for it.

**Mass Intentions
December 19 — December 27**

| | | |
|------------------|----------|----------------------|
| Saturday, 12/19 | 5:00 pm | People of the Parish |
| Sunday, 12/20 | 10:00 am | |
| Wednesday, 12/23 | 12:10 pm | |
| Thursday, 12/24 | 5:00 pm | |
| Friday, 12/25 | 10:00 am | |
| Saturday, 12/26 | 5:00 pm | People of the Parish |
| Sunday, 12/27 | 10:00 am | |

PARISH STAFF

| | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|
| Administrator: | Rev. John C. McVoy |
| Deacon: | Robert J. Cousar |
| Parish Secretary: | Loretta L. Young |
| St. Vincent dePaul Society: | Fayette Jackson |
| Director Religious Education: | Mary Polk |
| Bookkeeper: | Jane Putscher |



Introduction to the Liturgy

Our season of fervent anticipation is nearly over. The promise of these four weeks, the coming of our Lord and Savior, will soon be reaching its fulfillment. Have we prepared a place in our hearts for him even as we have made preparations for the holiday? Once more we hear Mary accept the invitation to bear the Son of God. Let her response be a model for us to accept God's invitation to bear Christ to one another.

Jo Mac



Merry Christmas! Listen to Catholic Forum every Saturday afternoon at 1:30 on Relevant Radio 640. Next Saturday, December 26th, tune in to hear an interview Father William Saunders, author of the book, "Have a Merry Catholic Christmas." Listen to Catholic Forum online anytime at www.cdow.org/ CatholicForum, or search "Catholic Forum" on Apple, Spotify, or iHeartRadio podcasts. For photos, information regarding upcoming guests, links and more, "Like" Catholic Forum on Facebook at www.facebook.com/Catholicforum.

Marriage Moments (by Susan Vogt)
MARRIAGE MOMENTS
 Dark nights can be cozy when warmed by love and candlelight, but they can also refer to times our love was challenged or a time of personal depression. Please pray for those who have experienced challenges.
PARENTING POINTERS
 How do you teach a child to wait for something good, to delay gratification? Model it yourself. Find a subtle way to show your child you are waiting for something a food, a purchase, an experience.

Question of the Week

How do I bear witness to my faith? How can the world see that the Lord is with me?

Christmas Decorations

Consider honoring a family member, friend or loved one by contributing toward the Christmas decorations fund. This is a very nice way to remember loved ones. Envelopes are in your box set and the back of the church.

IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

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

| | | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| <i>Charlie Anderson</i> | <i>Mary Bossack</i> | <i>Marie Reed</i> | <i>Gerry Reybold</i> |
| <i>Gwen Sanders</i> | <i>Guissepina Fazzone</i> | | |

If you would like to be added to our sick and shut-in list, please send email to parishsecretary@stjosephfrenchst.org or call the parish office 302-658-4535. Names of parishioners in hospitals or facilities will remain on the list indefinitely. All others will remain for one month, unless there are extenuating circumstances.



THE BLESSING OF A CHRISTMAS TREE

When the tree has been prepared, the household gathers around it. All make the sign of the cross.

The leader begins:

Blessed be the name of the Lord.

All respond:

Now and forever.

The leader may use these or similar words to introduce the blessing:

This tree is a blessing to our home. It reminds us of all that is beautiful, all that is filled with the gentleness and the promise of God. It stands in our midst as a tree of light that we might promise such beauty to one another and to our world. It stands like that tree of paradise that God made into the tree of life, the cross of Jesus.

Then the Scripture is read:

Listen to the words of the apostle Paul to Titus: But when the kindness and generous love of God our savior appeared, not because of any righteous deeds we had done but because of his mercy, he saved us through the bath of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he richly poured out on us through Jesus Christ our savior, so that we might be justified by his grace and become heirs in hope of eternal life. Titus 3:4-7

(The family's Bible may be used for an alternate reading such as Psalm 96:11-13.)

The reader concludes:

The Word of the Lord.

All respond:

Thanks be to God.

After a time of silence, all join in prayers of intercession and in the Lord's Prayer. Then the leader invites:

Let us now pray for God's blessing upon all who gather around this tree.

After a short silence, the leader prays:

Lord our God, we praise you for the light of creation: the sun, the moon, and the stars of the night. We praise you for the light of Israel: the Law, the prophets, and the wisdom of the Scriptures.

All respond:

Amen

Reprinted by permission of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. From *Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers*

SAINT VINCENT DEPAUL SOCIETY

St. Vincent DePaul Society continues to operate and serve those residing in zip code 19801. Anyone needing assistance should go to www.svdpwilm.org and submit an online assistance form located at the top of the home page. A Saint Vincent DePaul volunteer will respond to the requester as quickly as possible. If you are a parishioner and in need of assistance, just call the parish office at 302-658-4535.

ADDITIONAL NEWS

from Catholic Cemeteries...

In an effort to give employees a break during the upcoming celebrations of Christmas and New Year's, the staff will be working reduced schedule. On December 21st, 22nd, 23rd all committals must arrive in our cemeteries by noon on these days. No committals are being accepted beginning December 24th through December 27th. Committals scheduled for December 28th, 29th and 30th must arrive in the cemeteries by noon on these days.

No committals are being accepted beginning December 31st through January 3rd. This information is being shared with you to avoid confusion when scheduling funerals over the upcoming holiday season. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated. On behalf of the cemetery staff, we wish you and your loved ones a joyous Christmas and peace, prosperity and good health in 2021.

PUT PREVENTION INTO PRACTICE **"PEACE ON EARTH, GOOD WILL TOWARD MEN"**

SAFE TOYS and GIFTS MONTH

In the United States, December is observed as "Safe Toys and Gifts Month" as a means for alerting us to the need to be careful when making our toys and gifts choices, and to prompt us to keep in mind their safety and suitability. Knowing what to look out for can make a big difference in preventing possible injuries from well-intentioned gifts. This website provides an overview of the things to bear in mind when shopping for those toys and gifts.

Visit Prevent Blindness America at: <http://preventblindness.org>

INTERNATIONAL HUMAN SOLIDARITY DAY – DEC 20, 2020

Every 20 December is International Human Solidarity Day, a UN observance meant to encourage all human beings of every ethnic, linguistic, cultural, political, and religious background to dedicate themselves to unity with all other human beings in trying to solve the world's great problems. International Human Solidarity Day reminds people everywhere to aspire toward unity and to get involved with others in fighting against world poverty, war, human rights violations, inequality, and other problems. And it encourages all the world's people to commit to building a better society where freedom, love, justice, and equality truly prevail.

FAITH-BASED AND COMMUNITY LEADERS

In times of crisis, such as our current COVID-19 pandemic, people will turn to church and community leaders for help. Faith-based and community leaders are in a unique position to address potential concerns, fears, and anxieties regarding COVID-19. Additionally, by re-emphasizing simple hygienic precautions and practices, these leaders can widely promote essential information, manage fear and stigma, and restore a sense of calm into the lives of those they encounter. (Source: BalminGilead.org)

With already more than 40 million family caregivers helping loved ones with care in the U.S., we expect the virus to increase the number of family caregivers who are providing short-term or long-term care to an older loved one. AARP wants to offer some guidance to family caregivers, specifically to help them tackle how to create a plan for those they are caring for, and supporting those new to caring for someone due to the virus impacting more of the older population. (Source: [AARP Caregiving COVID Caregiving Tips.pdf](http://AARP.org))



December

| | |
|-----------------------|----|
| Ryan Small | 02 |
| Vanel Fleury | 03 |
| Josephine Griffin | 03 |
| August Hazeur | 03 |
| Marie Corbitt | 05 |
| Rosetta Henderson | 08 |
| Iona Johnson | 08 |
| Irmina Hudson | 10 |
| Yvonne Flagg | 12 |
| Willa Seth | 12 |
| Blythe Shine | 12 |
| Dana Jackson | 13 |
| Tristan Thompson | 14 |
| Xavier Wycliffe | 14 |
| Donald Cory Towles | 15 |
| Michala Dash | 17 |
| Gwendolyn Sanders | 17 |
| Carlvin Joseph | 21 |
| Patrick Abili | 22 |
| Corriam Jolly | 24 |
| Father John McVoy | 24 |
| Lisa Mims | 25 |
| Mary Pearce | 25 |
| Gabriel Elijah Towles | 28 |
| Leatitia Bedminster | 29 |
| Desiree Blackwell | 29 |
| Christopher Sterling | 29 |
| Marquis Baynard | 30 |
| Tracy Purnell | 30 |
| Janice Jolly | 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.