

St.
Joseph's
Church



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

THE CRADLE OF AFRICAN AMERICAN CATHOLICISM IN DELAWARE

Office Hours: 10:00 am - 3:00 pm Tuesday - Thursday
10:00 am - 1:00pm Friday

Parish Secretary: parishsecretary@stjosephfrenchst.org

Website: www.stjosephfrenchst.org

YouTube Channel: St Josephs Downtown Wilmington
<https://www.youtube.com/c/StJoseph'sDowntownWilmington>



MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday Vigil — 5:00 pm Sunday — 10:00 am

Tuesday - Thursday — 12:10 pm

Confessions are heard on Saturday at 4:30 pm and by appointment.

December 24, 2023

- Rosary Prayer ~ Mondays @ 12:15pm via Conference Call 1-716-427-1572, code 178602
- December 24 - 4th Sunday of Advent
 - 10:00am Mass
 - Christmas Eve
 - 4:15pm Christmas Nativity
 - 4:45pm Christmas Caroling
 - 5:00pm Mass
- December 25 - Christmas Day - 10:00am Mass
Christmas Novena Begins
- December 27 - Kwanzaa Celebration - 1:00pm, Fellowship Hall
- December 31 - Feast of the Holy Family - 10:00am Mass (*No Mass New Year's Eve*)
- January 01, 2024 - New Year's Day - Mary, the Mother of God - 10:00am Mass
- January 10, 2024 - Bible Study Resumes

***Parish Offices are closed for Christmas beginning December 26
and will reopen on Tuesday, January 2, 2024 at 10:00 am.***

Mass Intentions December 23, 2023 - December 31, 2023

Saturday, 12/23/2023	5:00 pm	For the People of the Parish
Sunday, 12/24/2023	10:00 am	† Leonard J. Young, Jr Requested by Loretta Young
	5:00 pm	For the People of the Parish
Monday, 12/25/2023	10:00 am	Christmas Novena
Tuesday, 12/26/2023	12:10 pm	Christmas Novena
Wednesday, 12/27/2023	12:10 pm	Christmas Novena
Thursday, 12/28/2023	12:10 pm	Christmas Novena
Saturday, 12/30/2023	5:00 pm	For the People of the Parish
Sunday, 12/31/2023	10:00 am	Christmas Novena

PARISH STAFF

Pastor:	Vy. Rev. Glenn M. Evers, V.C.
Deacons:	Robert J. Cousar Phillip Gonzalez
Admin. Assistant	Loretta L. Young
Receptionist:	Lavon Robinson
Coord. Religious Education:	Vacant
Dir. Music Ministry:	Daniel Stevens
Bookkeeper:	Joseph Garniewski, Sr.

The Nativity of the Lord

Merry Christmas! Today we celebrate God's greatest gift: **Jesus Christ!** He did not come into this world in a grand and spectacular way; no, He was born to an unassuming woman, in a humble stable, in an unfamiliar town, after a long and difficult journey. But soon the skies filled with angels from heaven, announcing the glad tidings to the shepherds in the fields. We are those shepherds now, coming together in joy and wonder and expectation to worship our newborn King.

If you would like to register with the parish, please access the registration form located on our website www.stjosephfrenchst.org

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.

Wedding Anniversary Blessings:

Contact the parish office to schedule or inform Father Evers or our Deacons prior to Mass.

BAPTISM:

Before a child is Baptized, the parents are asked to participate in a Pre-Baptismal program. Please call the parish office 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:

Please notify the Parish Office if any parishioner is ill or hospitalized.

BECOMING CATHOLIC:

- ♦ Are you or someone you know interested in joining the Catholic Church?
- ♦ Have you been away, and want to come back to the Church and not sure how?
- ♦ Do you have a non-Catholic family member or friend who would like to know more about the Catholic Faith?
- ♦ Were you baptized but did not receive First Holy Communion or Confirmation?

If the answer is yes to any of these questions, please accept this as a personal invitation to join us. Simply see Father Glenn or call the parish office. This journey of faith is an enriching process and the most rewarding and beneficial journey a person take!

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



**Glory to God in the highest,
the Lord has come!**

Four weeks of Advent preparation have led us to this great day of celebration. In Jesus, God has become one of us to save us from our sins and bring His Light and Life into our hearts. Because of God's Love for us, we have been given the most precious and best of gifts — the gift of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ — Emmanuel, God with us!

I wish and pray for you and your family the joy, peace, and happiness of our Lord. May this Christmas Season be filled with many moments of love and laughter and God's abundant blessings for you now and always!

Fr. Glenn



December Special Collections

If you're not using a box set of collection envelopes and making your weekly contributions directly through your bank or via our website with online giving, below is a list of our special collections for the month of November. We hope that you will continue supporting these important ministries and acts of charity.

- December 3 - Christmas Flowers •
- December 3 - Retirement Fund for Religious •
- December 3 - Building & Maintenance Fund •
- December 8 - Immaculate Conception •
- December 8 - St. Vincent dePaul Society •
- December 25 - Christmas •



When making on-line donations, please use the drop down menu and select the special collection for which your gift is designated. To contribute please log on to www.stjosephfrenchst.org; click **Online Giving**, complete the form or simply scan our QR code with your cellphone.

Our **2024 Collection Envelopes** are located in the rear of the church and in alphabetic order. Please look for your name and be sure to pick up the correct box. If you do not see your name, please contact the parish office to acquire your box.

2024 Parish Calendars and Pocket Calendars are now available and located in the rear of the church. Please take one per family, so that we can be sure that every family receives at least one.



Dear Parishioners and Friends,

By the grace of God our new St. Joseph's Statue has arrived and will be placed in its permanent location during the next few weeks and prayerfully, we hope our flooring project will begin early in 2024 as well. We have grown in our membership and our ministries continue to expand - thanks be to God! These are major undertakings for our parish that are only possible by your generosity, the help from good friends and the blessings of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. I thank you from the depths of my heart for all that we are accomplishing here together at St. Joseph's.

God freely gives to us and as much as we can, the parish gives freely to others. To do this we rely upon year round consistent donations that help us to make our worship and ministries possible as well as the money needed to operate the church and parish center. As a result, your additional support is needed to keep the parish financially strong, so that we can continue to give our all to those in need.

Therefore, if you are able and only if you are able, I ask that as you consider your end-of-year gift giving that you remember our spiritual home here as well. And in doing so, I kindly invite each parishioner to please consider making a **generous Christmas gift** to our Lord Jesus through our Church of St. Joseph.

For parishioners that use the box set of weekly collection envelopes, please place your gift in the Christmas Envelope dated December 25, 2023. For those that do not use weekly envelopes, a special Christmas Gift Envelope has been placed in the church pews and at the church entrance. If you choose to donate online, please just use the drop down menu and designate your contribution as "Christmas Gift".

May God bless you abundantly and may this Christmas Season bring comfort and joy to you and your family!

Parish Bus - December



DATE	DRIVER
Sun, Dec 3	Yolanda Mohammed
Sun, Dec 10	TBD
Sun, Dec 17	Judd Williams
Sun, Dec 24	TBD
Sun, Dec 31	Yolanda Mohammed



Sunday Fellowship

Sponsored by

The Watts Family

Thank you to all who have supported this ministry.

Thank you for your Generosity!!



Question of the Week

Can I take the time to see Christ made flesh in myself and those I meet? How does it affect my behavior?

NAWAS INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL

GREECE & THE GREEK ISLES

In the Footsteps of St. Paul

11 DAYS: SEPTEMBER 24 - OCTOBER 4, 2024

Visiting

ATHENS * CORINTH * MYKONOS * EPHEBUS * PATMOS
CRETE * SANTORINI * DELPHI * KALAMBAKA * THESSALONIKI
INCLUDING A 3-DAY CRUISE TO THE GREEK ISLES & TURKEY

Hosted by

VY. REV. GLENN M. EVERS, V.C.

\$4399 PER PERSON FROM PHILADELPHIA

(Air/land tour price is \$3879 plus \$520 government taxes/airline surcharges)



QUALITY TOURS SINCE 1949

Weekly Collections

The parish requires a weekly collection of \$4,901 to cover expenses. The collection from **December 17, 2023 is \$3,639**. In addition, we estimate \$500 from on-line contributions. We have multiple ways to enable your consistent giving: In-Pew, On-line, US Mail, and Bank Checks. Either way, remember that the Parish relies on your consistent contributions and we ask that you continue to be prayerful about your gifts to the parish. Thank you for your faithfulness with giving back to the Lord!

IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

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

Gerry Reybold	Jean Toy	Guissepina Fazzone	Deidre Rogers	Angela Pulliam Banks
Ben Pearce	John Madison	Ron Toy	Mercedes Zahralbin	
Carolyn & Charles Wing	Avril Madison	Yvonne Hill	Julianna McGill	
August Hazeur	Donna Scott May	Mary Polk	Mavis Woolley	
Judy Gallagher	Meghan & Eric Pitts	Roxanne Wallace	Regis Majcher	

If you would like to be added to our sick and shut-in list, please send email to parishsecretary@stjosephfrenchst.org. 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.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

December

Ryan Small	02
Vanel Fleury	03
Josephine Griffin	03
August Hazeur	03
William Cavin	04
Marie Corbitt	05
Alisha Cruz	08
Rosetta Henderson	08
Iona Johnson	08
Maria Bairos	09
Irmina Hudson	10
Yvonne Flagg	12
Willa Seth	12
Dana Jackson	13
Tristan Thompson	14
Xavier Wycliffe	14
Kenneth Cunningham	15
Donald Cory Towles	15
Olivia Frances Clark	16
Michala Leventry	17
Carlvin Joseph	21
Patrick Abili	22
Lisa Hudson	25
Mary Pearce	25
Rita Watts	25
Gabriel Elijah Towles	28
Leatitia Bedminster	29
Desiree Blackwell	29
Christopher Sterling	29
Colby Twyman	29
Marquis Baynard	30
Tracy Purnell	30
James Forrest	31
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

PUTTING PREVENTION INTO PRACTICE

HOLIDAY BLOOD DONOR

Give one priceless gift to change lives, save lives. For many people, blood donation offers many health benefits with few risks. The strict regulation of blood banks means that a donor can give their blood or plasma safely in the United States. Donated blood can save the lives of people in need. However, according to some medical professionals, it may also benefit the donor. Visit this website to learn more about the benefits for the donor in more detail: <https://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/319366#benefits-for-the-donor>.

Nativity Creches Throughout the Diocese

A new video, produced by the Diocese of Wilmington, presents a montage of photographs of Nativity crèches from the Catholic churches of Delaware and Maryland's Eastern Shore. The video, which also includes beautiful instrumental Christmas hymns as a background, will debut on the Diocese of Wilmington's YouTube channel – [YouTube.com/DiocesefofWilm](https://www.youtube.com/DiocesefofWilm) – on Sunday, December 17, 2023 at 3:00 p.m. Families are invited to watch the 12 ½ minute video together, discuss which scene they like best and why, maybe try to be the first to identify the scene from our parish. Also, the video could be played in the background of Christmas gatherings so everyone can enjoy the holy music and images bringing Christ's Presence in the home.



Wedding Anniversary Blessings



Contact the parish office to schedule or inform Father Evers or Deacon Cousar prior to Mass if you would like to receive a Wedding Anniversary Blessing at Mass.

from the Office for Marriage and Family Life (OMFL)...

Annual Wedding Anniversary Mass

Bishop William E. Koenig invites all couples celebrating their 5th, 10th, 15th, 20th, 25th, 30th, 35th, 40th, 45th, 50th, wedding anniversary, or any anniversary beyond 50th, to the annual Wedding Anniversary Mass being held on World Marriage Sunday, February 11, 2024, at 1:00PM at St. Margaret of Scotland Church in Newark, DE. Reservations are required by February 2, 2024.

Bishop Koenig will be available for photos with interested couples beginning at 12:00 pm and again after the Mass. If you would like to have a photo taken with Bishop Koenig, please arrive at 12:00 pm or plan to stay after Mass. Questions may be referred to the Office for Marriage and Family Life at 302-295-0657 or by emailing OMFL@cdow.org. Registration can be completed by using the following link – cdowcym.wufoo.com/form...