

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 - 4:00 pm Tuesday thru Thursday

Parish Secretary: office@sjfschurch.org - New Email Address

Website: www.sjfschurch.org - New Website Address

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

Fourth Sunday of Advent

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday Vigil — 5:00 pm Sunday — 10:00 am
Tuesday thru Thursday — 12:10 pm

If you would like to register with the parish, please access the registration form located on our website www.sjfschurch.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 can take!

CHANGE OF ADDRESS, EMAIL, TELEPHONE

NUMBER: Contact the Parish Office if your personal contact information changes.

December 21, 2025

REHEARSAL FOR NATIVITY PRESENTATION TODAY - ALL YOUTH ENCOURAGED TO PARTICIPATE

- Rosary Prayer - Mondays @ 12:15 pm via Conference Call 1-716-427-1572, code 178602
- Dec 21 - *Finalize Christmas Decorating*
- Dec 24 - **Christmas Eve (No 12:10 pm Mass)**
 - 4:30pm Christmas Nativity
 - 4:45pm Christmas Caroling
 - 5:00pm Mass
- Dec 25 - **Christmas Day** - 10:00 am Mass
Christmas Novena Begins
- Dec 28 - **Feast of the Holy Family** - 10:00 am Mass
- Dec 30 - **Kwanzaa Celebration**
- January 01, 2026 - **New Year's Day** - 10:00 am Mass
Feast of Mary, the Mother of God
- ♦ January 4 - After Mass, prepare Fellowship Hall for Mass
- ♦ January 6 - Begin Mass in Fellowship Hall
- ♦ January 7 - Bible Study Resumes, 6pm Supper, 6:30pm session begins - Parish Center Conference Rm
- ♦ January 12 - Painting of Church Begins

Parish Office will be closed for Christmas and New Year's beginning December 24th and will reopen Tuesday, January 6, 2026

More Detail Inside

Mass Intentions December 20 - December 28, 2025

Saturday, 12/20/2025	5:00 pm	For the People of the Parish
Sunday, 12/21/2025	10:00 am	Joseph Marro Requested by D. Kirlin
Tuesday, 12/23/2025	12:10 pm	Chris Claudy & Family and for his Laborers
Wednesday, 12/24/2025	5:00 pm	For the People of the Parish
Merry Christmas! Thursday, 12/25/2025	12:10 pm	Christmas Novena #1
Saturday, 12/27/2025	5:00 pm	For the People of the Parish
Sunday, 12/28/2025	10:00 am	Christmas Novena #2

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:	Tiffany Ostrishko

Introduction of the Liturgy of the Day

As we approach the festive day on which we may receive gifts and guests into our homes, we take a moment to recall that during this season of Advent we are called to prepare to receive Jesus into our hearts. Yes, we receive Him in a most special way at Christmas, the day we celebrate the world receiving Him in the flesh, but we also have the opportunity to receive Him each and every day. Let us humbly ask God to prepare our hearts to receive Him in the Eucharist here today.

CHURCH PAINTING PROJECT

We fully trusted that the Good Lord would provide the remaining \$1,900 needed for our painting project, and so it happened. Thanks to the support of a very generous parishioner, **we have received the total \$18,600 needed to complete the painting of our church interior — thank you!**

Our **painting project for the interior of the church walls and ceiling is now scheduled to begin on Monday, January 12, 2026** and will last approximately 2-3 weeks. During this time, we will celebrate weekday and weekend Masses in the Fellowship Hall as we did before.

To make this happen, we must relocate the church to the fellowship hall. **On Sunday, January 4th, it's all hands on deck after Mass to relocate the church to the Fellowship Hall until the painting is complete.** Please mark your calendars for this day and plan to join us. We have done this before, so I know it will be a smooth transition.

Many thanks to all of our friends and our parishioners for the support and care of the parish and thanks be to God, our Father who continuously showers blessings upon Saint Joseph Parish! God is very good!




*Christmas
Novena*

Include your special intentions to be remembered in our **Christmas Mass Novena**. Please use the Envelopes at the church entrance to record the names of loved ones to be remembered during Christmas time. Submit your envelope in the collection basket or to the parish office.



Sunday Fellowship
Sponsored by



Lavon Robinson

The parish is grateful to all who continue to support this ministry.



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, during the season of Our Savior's Birth, while supporting your parish. Envelopes are in your box set and the church pews.

Weekly Collections

The parish requires a weekly collection of \$4,901 to cover expenses. **The weekend collections on December 13th & 14th totaled \$2,308.** In addition, we average \$600 per week from on-line donations. 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!

Year-End Giving

Dear Parishioners, Family, & Friends of Saint Joseph,

As we draw near to the joyful celebration of the Nativity of our Lord and bring this year to its close, **my heart is overflowing with much gratitude for the very blessed journey we have shared together throughout 2025.** In this holy season, when we contemplate the mystery of Emmanuel, "God-with-us", I give thanks for the many ways our parish family has reflected the light of Christ in the world.

Together, we have gathered faithfully around the altar to worship and glorify God at Mass on our amazing new flooring. We have prayed, shared meals and fellowship, served one another and our neighbors in need, and rejoiced in the countless signs of God's goodness among us. I trust that each of us has grown more deeply in our personal relationship with the Lord, and I know with certainty that our parish community has been strengthened through your generous acts of faith, love, and perseverance.

I am deeply grateful for your prayers, your service, and your generosity. Each of you has played an essential role in carrying forward the mission the Lord has entrusted to us here at Saint Joseph. Whether by warmly welcoming newcomers, participating in Bible study, serving meals to homeless families, collecting socks for local shelters, supporting the Angel Tree, or offering the unique gifts and talents God has given you in so many hidden ways, you have truly been the hands and feet of Jesus within our parish and beyond.

As we prepare to embark upon a New Year, **I invite you to join me in praying for a continued increase in our vibrancy and a courageous openness to share the Hope Christ brings us with those who do not yet know our Savior, those searching for a church to call home, and those who have lost their way and need to reconnect to the Lord.** By God's grace, we at Saint Joseph have always been a warm, welcoming, and faith-filled family, and so we are continually challenged to remain a place where people can truly encounter the Love of Christ.

In these final days of Advent with Christmas soon to come, we have arrived at a moment called to finish the year strong in our financial support of our mission. Your generosity helps us conclude this year well and begin 2026 with the resources needed to serve even more faithfully and effectively

Please consider making a generous Christmas gift to our Lord Jesus through the Church of Saint Joseph. You may give during our weekend Masses, by U.S. Mail, or online by scanning the QR code below. Every gift, regardless of size, truly makes a difference in advancing God's work through our parish.

May the Joy and Peace of the Christ Child fill your hearts and homes during this holy season! May the coming Year of 2026 be one of abundant blessings, deep personal spiritual advancement, continued growth for our parish, and joyful service in the name of Jesus, Emmanuel. Know of my ongoing appreciation in journeying by your side to heaven here at Saint Joseph's!




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 July/ We hope that you will continue supporting these important ministries and acts of charity.

- **Dec 06/07 - Christmas Flowers**
- **Dec 06/07 - Building & Maintenance**
- **Dec 08 - Immaculate Conception**
- **Dec 13/14 - Retirement Fund for Religious**
- **Dec 20/21 - Christmas Novena**
- **Dec 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 donate please simply scan our QR code with your cellphone.

Question of the Week

What small act of mercy can I carry out this fourth week of Advent?

Parish Bus – December



DATE	DRIVER
Sun, Dec 7	Judd Williams
Sun, Dec 14	Yolanda Mohammed
Sun, Dec 21	Judd Williams
Sun, Dec 28	Judd Williams

God Bless Our Bus Drivers!

IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

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

<i>Megan Pitts</i>	<i>Jean Toy</i>	<i>Guissepina Fazzone</i>	<i>Mavis Woolley</i>	<i>Barbara Pulliam</i>
<i>Glenda Townsend</i>	<i>Nicole Raye Shaw</i>	<i>Ron Toy</i>	<i>Mercedes Zahralbin</i>	<i>Mary Polk</i>
<i>Judy Gallagher</i>	<i>Donna Scott May</i>	<i>Yvonne Hill</i>	<i>Don Skomsky</i>	<i>Michelle Hamilton</i>
<i>Constance H. Hamilton</i>	<i>Deidre Rogers</i>	<i>Julian Hinds</i>	<i>Rose Henderson</i>	<i>Pat Robbins</i>

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.



Ryan Small	02
Willow Harmon	02
Vanel Fleury	03
Josephine Griffin	03
William Cavin	04
Marie Corbitt	05
Alisha Cruz	08
Rosetta Henderson	08
Iona Johnson	08
Ricardo Taylor, II	08
Maria Bairos	09
Irmina Hudson	10
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
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 at office@sjfchurch.org. Please include your name, month, day and year of birth.

PUT PREVENTION INTO PRACTICE

IMPAIRED DRIVING PREVENTION MONTH

Too many families know the pain of losing a loved one to a drunk or drug-impaired driving accident. Each year, more than 10,000 Americans lose their lives in these preventable tragedies. During National Impaired Driving Prevention Month, we remind everyone that they can save lives by driving only sober, calling for a ride, planning, and making sure friends and loved ones do the same. (Source: <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/>)

NATIONAL GIVING MONTH

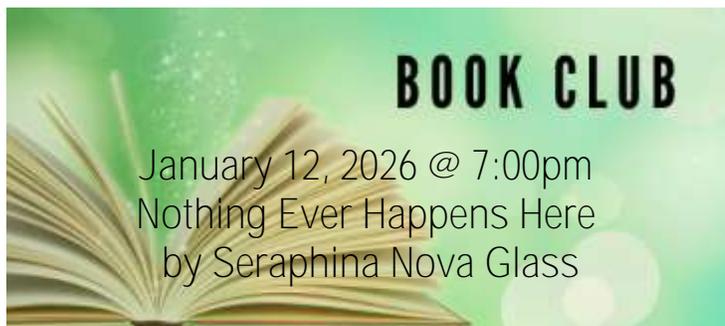
Do you have some extra clothes or food you want to give away? Use this month to ensure your hand-me-downs reach those in need! You can also take part by volunteering with a community-based organization serving the under-resourced community or with your congregation's many ministries. Give a random act of kindness and buy a gift for stranger.



Wedding Anniversary Blessings



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



Listen to Catholic Forum each week. Tune-in this week for the annual Catholic Forum Christmas show featuring Bishop Koenig's Christmas message to the people of the Diocese of Wilmington and a special report from Rome! The Catholic Forum podcast on Apple, Spotify, iHeartRadio, Amazon Music podcasts and YouTube.com/DiocesefWilm debuts every Wednesday at 12:00 p.m.; and on Relevant Radio 640 every Saturday afternoon at 1:30. More information is available at cdow.org/CatholicForum and [FaceBook.com/CatholicForum](https://www.facebook.com/CatholicForum).

Saint Joseph Catholic Church is committed to ensuring that no person is excluded from participation in or denied the benefits of its transportation services based on race, color, or national origin, as protected by Title VI in the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Circular 4702.1B. For additional information on Saint Joseph Catholic Church nondiscrimination policies and procedures, or to file a complaint, please visit the website at www.stjosephfrenchst.org or contact St. Joseph Parish Office, 1012 N. French Street, Wilmington, DE 19801.