



DECEMBER 19, 2021

Fourth Sunday of Advent



Mary set out and traveled to the hill country in haste
to a town of Judah, where she entered the house of
Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.

~Luke 1:39-40



ST. JOSEPH CHURCH

Directory

St. Joseph Parish Business Center

4824 Highland 630.964.0216

Religious Education: 630.964.0216 x1106

Youth Ministry: 630.964.0216 x1210

St. Joseph School: 630.969.4306

www.stjosephdg.org

Weekend Masses: Saturday Evening: 5:00 pm

Sunday: 7:00 am 9:00 am and 11:00 am

Weekday Masses:

7:00 am (Monday-Friday)

Weekday Holy Days: Call for schedule

Sacrament of Reconciliation: (Confession)

Saturday: 3:30—4:30 pm

Registration: We are happy to welcome new members to our community. Please contact Deacon Frank Kozar at 630.964.0216 x1107.

Pastor:

Rev. Al Heidecke • aheidecke@sjpdg.org

Parochial Vicar:

Fr. Leslaw Prebendowski • lprebendowski@sjpdg.org

Deacons: Frank Kozar, Greg Ouska,
Robert (Pat) Sullivan & Carl Schumacher (retired)

Parish Service Coordinator:

Frank Kozar • fkozar@sjpdg.org

Business Manager:

Beth Harbauer • bharbauer@sjpdg.org

Parish Administrative Assistant:

Gail Granby • ggranby@sjpdg.org

Director of Religious Education:

Jacqueline Lackaff • jlackaff@sjpdg.org

Religious Education Assistant:

Mark Lackaff • mlackaff@sjpdg.org

Youth Ministry Director:

Marta Spiezio • mspiezio@sjpdg.org

Youth Ministry Program Assistant:

Cindy Jagielo • cjagielo@sjpdg.org

Music Director/Liturgist:

Robert Valle • bvalle@sjpdg.org

Liturgy Assistant:

Julie Visher • jvisher@sjpdg.org

Parish Council:

Jacquelyn Provenzale • jacprovo@sbcglobal.net

School Principal:

Erick Passarelli • epassarelli@sjsgd.org

Assistant Principal:

Jessica Ranquist • jranquist@sjsgd.org

School Secretary:

Julie Wojciechowski • jwojciechowski@sjsgd.org

Systems Administrator

Mike Mazurkiewicz • mmazurkiewicz@sjsgd.org

Facilities Manager:

Robert Illich • rilich@sjpdg.org

Spiezio & Affiliates Counseling Service:

Joanna Avignone • joanna.avignone@gmail.com



St. Joseph Catholic Church • 4801 Main Street, Downers Grove

God's Call to Us

(The St. Joseph Parish Mission Statement)

St. Joseph Parish is a community chosen and called by God to be sent and directed by the Holy Spirit.

It exists to provide the People of God the pastoral care and spiritual nourishment they need to proclaim the good news of Christ in their lives and to the world.

Our Response to God's Call

(The St. Joseph Parish Vision Statement)

St. Joseph Parish is a community of God's People empowered by the Holy Spirit to promote God's reign in the world.

Nourished by Word and Sacrament, we will grow together in faith, hope, and in a passionate love of God and neighbor.

In our families, we will teach and learn the love of Jesus Christ.

In our various occupations we will make decisions and set priorities in accordance with the values of the Gospel.

And in the world around us we will stand always for justice, compassion and peace.

Sacraments

Baptisms: We celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism every Sunday. Parents are required to attend a Baptismal formation meeting. Baptisms are scheduled at this meeting. Please call the Parish Center for reservations and further information.

Marriages: Arrangements should be made at least six months in advance to provide ample time for preparation of this sacrament. Please call the Parish Center for more information.

Sick or Homebound: If you or a member of your family is hospitalized or homebound and would like a priest to visit, please notify the Parish Center.

Parish Boundaries: North: Tollway; South: 59th St. East: Prospect Avenue and extensions north and south; West: Belmont Avenue

To Register Your Child at St. Joseph School

Email register@sjsgd.org and you will receive instructions how to register a new student or returning student online. Registrations accepted anytime throughout the school year. For school tours, please call the school office.

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from the Pastor

O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL AND STAY WITH US, PRINCE OF PEACE

"The virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel, which means 'God is with us.' When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took his wife into his home" (Mt 1:23-24). The Advent season has once again helped us to enter into the drama of pivotal moments in our salvation history. These are divine mysteries, all of them, as we cannot "figure them out" nor dismiss them as "inventions" of a persecuted minority of the first century. These are historical events. This birth we celebrate is that of the Christ of history, who is one and the same as the Christ in Whom we trust for our salvation, the Christ of faith. A certain (and dangerous) stream of thought in biblical studies of the late 19th and early 20th centuries attempted to drive a wedge between these two understandings. In fact, prior to this discussion, there had always been but one understanding of who Jesus is historically and for all generations ever after. There is not now nor was there ever before a "Christ of history", whom the scholars proposed to discover, and a "Christ of faith" for the rest of us non-scholarly types. Their ultimately repudiated proposal was based on the unsubstantiated claim that the Jesus presented to us in the Gospels and handed down to generations of believers was a Jesus about whom we should doubt anything and everything said of him in those very same Gospels! The Gospels themselves were not to be trusted! Particularly suspect in the view of this school of thought were the infancy narratives, as they are known in biblical studies. These are the accounts of Jesus' birth with all their accompanying supernatural signs and wonders. These scholars, loving skepticism much more than the scriptures they claimed to be studying, approached their subject in a very modern way. That is to say, they approached it without faith. Very much in tune with the tenets of the so-called Enlightenment and thus thoroughly out of tune with the Fathers of the early Church and the ordinary believer in the pew in today's Church. Forgetting that the Bible is the inspired, inerrant Word of God, these scholars approached the sacred text pre-determined to view faith (not to mention humility) as obstacles to understanding. In doing so, they threw away the key to a true understanding. Remove all the supernatural signs and wonders surrounding the birth of Jesus—among them, angels speaking first to Mary, then Joseph, then some shepherds, wise men guided by a star—then what do you have? Skepticism. This in turn leads to a grim existence, a life without meaning in a world without meaning.

At Christmas we celebrate the meaning of our very existence. Yes, we do indeed know, as the Baltimore Catechism taught, Who made us and why He made us. We know that God made us to know Him, love Him, and serve Him in this life so as to be happy with Him in the next. When we come to adore the Christ Child, we look into the eyes of the one whose Word created all that is. And then the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.

O Come, Let Us Adore Him!

Sincerely in Christ,
Fr. Albert



STEWARDSHIP



St. Vincent DePaul GIVING TREE

Thank you, parishioners, for your incredible response to our annual Giving Tree! All the tree ornaments were taken in one weekend! We have had several inquiries from parishioners still hoping to help sponsor a family. If you are desiring to help, St. Vincent DePaul is gratefully accepting gift cards through December 21. Since we don't include parents to our Giving Tree, any extra gift cards received can be added to the family gifts for the parents!

Contact Joe Binder at 630-235-5905 or Marta Spiezio at 630-964-0216 ext. 1210.

A Stewardship Moment

Fourth Sunday of Advent

As we draw close to the great Feast of the Nativity, we hear the bold stewardship proclamation twice in today's second reading from the Letter to the Hebrews: "Behold, I come to do your will, O God!" Who is this Jesus? Who are we that we should follow him? Many want him as a friend, a guide, a king, an advocate. We long to see the face of God. Jesus reveals the nature of God, the servant sent to give us new life in Him. Take time to ponder: Do we have the courage to follow Jesus? To show others the face of God? To say to the Lord: "Behold, I come to do your will?"

Join the Diocesan Mission Trip to the Navajo Nation in June

The Diocese of Joliet will resume its U.S. mission program in June with a two-week trip to the Navajo Nation located near Chinle, Arizona.

The June 4-17 trip will focus on construction projects for residents of the reservation, with volunteers helping with such jobs as framing a house, tearing down dilapidated buildings, repairing fencing, etc.

"It's not just going to work for the people, but to be with them and experience their life and culture," said diocesan missions coordinator Bruce Carlson.

The diocese has organized mission trips to the reservation since 2002, but paused the annual expeditions during the past two years because of the ongoing coronavirus pandemic.

Informational meetings on the trip will be held on January 4 and 12 at the Blanchette Catholic Center, 16555 Weber Road, Crest Hill, Illinois. For more information, email bcarslon@dioceseofjoliet.org or call 815-221-6256.

A Free Tool to be a Steward for God's Blessings

As Catholics, we are called to plan ahead and share the blessings of our lives with our loved ones and future generations. To help you be a steward of everything God has entrusted to your care, St. Joseph Parish is sharing a free, online will-writing tool. It is cost-free and takes 20 minutes or less to protect your family and your assets, and create a gift to pass the Catholic faith onto future generations and strengthen St. Joseph Parish. Get started at: FreeWill.com/DioceseofJoliet.

Gratitude

O Thou who has given us so much, mercifully grant us one thing more—a grateful heart. — *George Herbert*



St. Joe's St. Vincent de Paul Society and Amazon Smile

Attention Amazon Shoppers! You can help us by naming us as your charity of choice.

1. Go to smile.amazon.com
2. Select St Vincent De Paul Society St Joseph Confrence Downers Grove

Please note, Confrence is spelled like some pronounce it without an "e" between the "f" and "r". We ran out of space and had to shorten "Conference" to "Confrence". A percentage of your purchase is automatically donated to our conference with every order you place. Thank you for your support.

Patronize Our Bulletin Advertisers

The bulletin is provided to St. Joseph Church free of charge thanks to the businesses that advertise. Please consider those who advertise in the bulletin first when shopping for goods and services.

YOUR GENEROSITY ENABLES US TO CARRY OUT OUR MISSION

As the end of year approaches, we reflect on the many blessings God has bestowed on us.

Please remember your St. Joseph Parish family when considering a year-end gift.

Ways You Can Give:

Gifts of Cash

You can make a cash gift by currency, credit card or check. If you are issuing a check, the effective date of your contribution is the date it is hand-delivered or mailed.

IRA Charitable Rollover

Take advantage of the opportunity to make a difference with a tax-free gift from your IRA to St. Joseph Church by December 31, 2021. If you're 70 1/2 years or older, you can contribute up to \$100,000 directly from your IRA to St. Joe's without including the amount in gross income.

Gifts of Securities

Stocks or other investments that have grown in value and that you have owned longer than one year can become a substantial gift with a low net cost to you. You receive a charitable deduction for the donation which is based on the stock's fair market value on the date of the gift.

Restore and Renovate Fund

- ◆ Renovation of the rectory kitchen and lower level \$ 80,000
- ◆ Replacement of our church track lighting \$ 25,000
- ◆ Restoration of St. Joseph and Mary statues \$ 10,000

To donate, visit stjosephdg.org/giving.

For more information, please contact Beth Harbauer at 630.964.0216 x1101 or bharbauer@sjpdg.org.

All donations received through 11:59 pm on December 31, 2021 (or postmarked by then), either by mail, hand-delivered or through the mail slot on the front door of the parish office at 4824 Highland, Downers Grove, IL 60515, will be included in the 2021 year.

Thank you for your continued support and generosity throughout this past year!



For it is in giving that we receive.

- St. Francis of Assisi



STEWARDSHIP AUTOMATIC DEBIT AUTHORIZATION AGREEMENT



St. Joseph Parish

I (We) hereby authorize St. Joseph Parish and the financial institution named below to initiate entries to my checking/savings account. The authority will remain in effect until I notify St. Joseph Parish at 4824 Highland, Downers Grove, IL 60515 in writing to cancel the entries. I understand I can stop payment of any entry by notifying my financial institution three (3) business days before my account is charged.

I have attached a voided check to this form.

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Financial Institution Routing #:

Account #:

Checking OR Savings

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Sunday collection \$ _____ monthly

Signature: _____

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Cell Number:

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Email address: _____

Date: _____

May God Bless You for Your Generosity and Stewardship!



Simbang Gabi

St. Joseph Church

Monday, December 20 at 7:30 pm

Live stream link: <https://youtube.com/channel/UCtK7V9ICYeagxz409MudGFw>

Scheduled Saturday 8:00 am Mass intentions will be fulfilled at the 7:00 am Friday Mass.

Scheduled Sunday 5:00 pm Mass intentions will be fulfilled at the 11:00 am Sunday Mass.

The 9:00 am Sunday Mass is LIVE-STREAMED. Visit www.stjosephhdg.org and click on Livestream.

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 19, 2021

O LORD of hosts, look down from heaven and see; take care of this vine, and protect what your right hand has planted.

- *Psalm 80:15-16*

MASS SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS

SUNDAY, December 19

7:00 AM People of the Parish

9:00 AM Joy Woelfel

Francesca Opre

11:00 AM Genevieve Nolan

John Palcu

MONDAY, December 20

7:00 AM Sonny Papuga

TUESDAY, December 21

7:00 AM Kenneth Lalla

WEDNESDAY, December 22

7:00 AM Ed and Rosemary Cox (L)

THURSDAY, December 23

7:00 AM Duhn Family

FRIDAY, December 24

4:00 PM Betty LaBosh

4:00 PM Darlene Chesky (gym)

11:00 PM Virginia Valle

SATURDAY, December 25

7:00 AM Jean Maragi

9:00 AM Valentina Herrera

11:00 AM George Caccipio

SUNDAY, December 26

7:00 AM Douglas R. Adams

9:00 AM People of the Parish

11:00 AM Edward A. Cox & Rosemary Cox (L)

Thomas Flavin

PRO-LIFE CORNER

**MASS FOR LIFE
with Bishop Hicks**

Join us to Pray for a Culture of Life & to Commemorate the tragic Anniversary of Roe vs. Wade

Sunday, January 16, 2022
10:30 AM Mass
Cathedral of St. Raymond
604 N. Raynor Ave, Joliet
Coordinated by Respect Life Ministry
For questions contact (815) 221-6251 or prolife@dioceseofjoliet.org



For confidential help after Abortion,
call Project Rachel Ministry at 888-456-HOPE



Keep the Prayers Coming!

St. Joseph's Parish joined Catholics across the country in Eucharistic Adoration from 6:00 pm, November 30, to 7:00 am, December 1.

During the overnight hours, before the Supreme Court heard oral arguments in Dobbs vs Jackson Women's Health, over 50 people prayed for the protection of all life before the Blessed Sacrament.

Our pastor, Fr. Al, opened Adoration in prayer, which continued throughout the night, concluding at 7:00 am with Benediction, blessing, Mass and Litany with Fr. Les. Please continue to pray that God's will be done and lives are saved and healed!

To learn more about Dobbs and our Adoration vigil go to stjosephhdg.org/life.

Maranatha Come, Lord!

Celebrating Advent and Preparing for Christmas

Each Advent, we remember Christ's first coming into the world. We celebrate his presence among us today and we wait in joyful hope for his coming in glory. The Church's prayers and scriptures evoke this sense of remembering, celebrating, and waiting. While we commemorate his first coming among us, we long to remember his powerful presence among us today in our hearts, in the Eucharist, and in those around us. We also prepare ourselves for Jesus' coming in glory when all will be reconciled, healed, and made whole. If we take the time to quietly wait, to surrender to this "longing," we will come to recognize the Lord's presence!

MASS

SUNDAY

Saturday 5:00 p.m.

Sunday

7:00 a.m.

9:00 a.m.

11:00 a.m.



DAILY (MONDAY - FRIDAY)

7:00 a.m. Mass

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Prepare the way for the Lord!

Individual
Reconciliation

Saturdays:
3:30—4:30 p.m.



SPECIAL PRAYER EVENT: “COME TO THE QUIET”

Wednesday,
December 22
7:00—8:00 p.m.

The Church will be open for quiet prayer. Bathed in candlelight marking spaces for your personal reflection, occasional contemplative music will fill the church to aid in your meditation.

We will begin and end together beneath the Advent Wreath, praying:

Come, Lord Jesus!

WEEKLY

Mondays:

EUCCHARISTIC
ADORATION

7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

Wednesdays:
CONTEMPLATIVE
PRAYER GROUP

December 22
1:00 - 2:00 p.m.
(via Zoom)

*Contact Bob Valle
(bvalle@sjpdg.org)
for Zoom passcode.*

ROSARY

8:45 p.m. with
St. Joseph Youth
Parish Center
Youth Room

Today's Readings

First Reading — From Bethlehem-Ephrathah shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel (Micah 5:1-4a).

Psalm — Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved (Psalm 80).

Second Reading — We have been consecrated through the offering of the body of Christ once for all (Hebrews 10:5-10).

Gospel — Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken by the Lord would be fulfilled (Luke 1:39-45).

Readings for the Week

- | | |
|------------|---|
| Monday: | Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-6; Lk 1:26-38 |
| Tuesday: | Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21; Lk 1:39-45 |
| Wednesday: | 1 Sm 1:24-28; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-8abcd; Lk 1:46-56 |
| Thursday: | Mal 3:1-4, 23-34; Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-10, 14; Lk 1:57-66 |
| Friday: | 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29; Lk 1:67-79 |
| Saturday: | <u>Vigil</u> : Is 62:1-5; Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25 [18-25]
<u>Night</u> : Is 9:1-6; Ps 96:1-3, 11-13; Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14
<u>Dawn</u> : Is 62:11-12; Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12; Ti 3:4-7; Lk 2:15-20
<u>Day</u> : Is 52:7-10; Ps 98:1-6; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18 [1-5, 9-14] |
| Sunday: | Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28; Ps 128:1-5 or Ps 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10; Col 3:12-21 [12-17] or 1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24; Lk 2:41-52 |

Saints and Special Observances

- | | |
|-----------|--------------------------------------|
| Sunday: | Fourth Sunday of Advent |
| Tuesday: | St. Peter Canisius; Winter begins |
| Thursday: | St. John of Kenty |
| Friday: | The Vigil of Christmas |
| Saturday: | The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) |

Hot Line to Heaven!

Don't forget...if you need extra prayers said for your special intention, St. Joseph's Prayer "Hot Line" can help. Call Bernadette Borgard at 630.969.3467 or email her at bernmatt@borgard.us with your prayer intention, or if you'd like to join the Prayer Hot Line!

Sick List

Francine Byrnes, Eleanor Carroll, Brian Frank, Bill Paradise, Dominick Strom, and Walter Wlodek

Gospel of Luke 2:41-52 † Sunday, December 26

Each year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the feast of Passover, and when he was twelve years old, they went up according to festival custom. After they had completed its days, as they were returning, the boy Jesus remained behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Thinking that he was in the caravan, they journeyed for a day and looked for him among their relatives and acquaintances, but not finding him, they returned to Jerusalem to look for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions, and all who heard him were astounded at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him, they were astonished, and his mother said to him, "Son, why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been looking for you with great anxiety." And he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he said to them. He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them; and his mother kept all these things in her heart. And Jesus advanced in wisdom and age and favor before God and man.



St. Joseph Parish Community would like to recognize and remember in prayer, **ALL ACTIVE DUTY** military personnel serving our country here and throughout the world.

Lt. Julia M. Anderson	Jack McGuire, US Navy
P.O. 1 Emily C. Behrel	Maeve McGuire, US Navy
Cpt. Ian Correll	S Sgt Ian A. Nogle
Sailor Steven Derdzinski	Lt. Bruce Penny
Matt Dickey	Pvt Brandon Skenandore
Lynnea K. Jensen	Shaun D. Vlk
Austin Kus, US Navy	Vincent Wrobleksi
Sheila Perazal Kus, Air Force	

To include/remove a name, contact Julie Visher at 630.964.0216 ext. 1202 or jvisher@sjpdg.org.

www.vocations.com

The Joliet Diocese Vocation Office web pages are a confidential way to learn more about priesthood and religious life vocations. Information is also available by calling Deacon Frank Kozar at 630.964.0216 x1107.



St. Joseph Adult Faith Formation Presents:

Growing Slow

By Jennifer Dukes Lee

A Group Book Discussion for Women

WE LONG TO MAKE A BREAK FROM THE FAST PACE OF LIFE...

But if we're honest, we're afraid of what we'll miss if we do. Yet when going big and hustling hard leaves us stressed, empty, and out of sorts, perhaps this can be our cue to step into a far more satisfying, sustainable pace. Beloved author Jennifer Dukes Lee offers a path to unhurried living by returning to the rhythm of the land and learning the ancient art of *Growing Slow*. With eloquent truths and vivid storytelling, Jennifer reflects on the lessons she learned from living on her fifth-generation family farm and the insights she gathered from the purposeful yet never rushed life of Christ. *Growing Slow* charts a path out of the pressures of bigger, harder, faster, and into a more rooted way of living where the growth of good things is deep and lasting.

Following the rhythms of the natural growing season, *Growing Slow* will help you:

- Find the true relief that comes when you stop running and start resting in Jesus
- Learn practices for unhurrying your heart and mind every day
- Let go of the pressure and embrace the small, good things already bearing fruit in your life
- And engage slow growth through reflection prompts and simple application steps

Join us for a group book discussion and reflection Monday mornings 9:00-10:00am or Thursday evenings from 7:00-8:00pm via Zoom. Register by placing this form in the collection basket to the attention of Julie Visher or sign up online at stjosephdg.org/growing-slow. You can also scan the QR code to register.

(Books may be purchased from Amazon.com or most book stores. The group will discuss the book only, not the accompanying Bible study.)

Please Select One:

Monday mornings 9:00-10:00am (via Zoom) January 17, 24, 31, February 7, 14, 21

Thursday evenings 7:00-8:00pm (via Zoom) January 20, 27, February 3, 10, 17, 24

Name: _____

Email: _____

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A photograph of a man and a woman sitting together, looking at a travel brochure or catalog. They are both smiling and appear to be planning a vacation.

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