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 Deacon Ed Schiappa.....Permanent Deacon

Phone: 610-269-8294 Fax: 610-269-2487

www.stjosephrc.org

332 Manor Avenue, Downingtown, PA 19335

July 23, 2023 | 16th Sunday of Ordinary Time



Matthew 13:25

Parish Staff

Mr. Allan Anderson, CPA Business Manager
 Mrs. Joyce Castaldi Parish Secretary
 Mrs. Kelly Ennis Elder Care Manager
 Mrs. Dodie Milano Receptionist
 Mrs. Mary Beth Mostyn Administrative Assistant
 Mrs. Carol Orphanos Bookkeeper
 Mr. Darrin Preston Facilities Manager

Parish Office Hours

Monday - Friday 8AM-4 PM
 Memorial Day-Labor Day, Office Closes at 12pm on Fridays
 Evening Hours MON & WED: 4PM-7PM
 Sunday 9AM-1:30PM
 Closed 12PM-1PM Weekdays

School

Phone: 610-269-8999
 Fax: 610-269-2252
www.StJosephRCSchool.org
 Sister Lisa Ann Golden, I.H.M. Principal
 Sister Diane Licordare, I.H.M. Vice Principal
 Mrs. Mary Jane McGeehan Administrative Assistant

Parish Religious Education Program

Phone: 610-873-8798
 Fax: 610-873-5466
www.stjosephrc.org/prep
 Mrs. Kathleen Greco Director of Religious Education

Convent

484-593-4352
 Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, JULY 22

5pm: Linda Lerro

SUNDAY, JULY 23

6am: Parishioners

7:30am: Frances Borden

9am: Justin McCarthy

10:30am: George & Dorothy Kravec

12pm: Anthony & Yolanda DiBerardinis

4pm: Mary Raysor

MONDAY, JULY 24

7am: John & Valerie Englehardt,
Living

9am: Edie Tierney

TUESDAY, JULY 25

7am: Dominic Fulginiti

9am: Ann Cardenuto

WEDNESDAY, JULY 26

7am: Martin Gaynor

9am: Vincent G. Leva

THURSDAY, JULY 27

7am: Connor Cupo

9am: Harold "Jackie" Strohm

FRIDAY, JULY 28

7am: Kathleen Donnelly,
Living

9am: Lena & Joseph DeMucci

SATURDAY, JULY 29

8am: Daniel Ziobro, Jr.

SATURDAY, JULY 29

5pm: Kathy Martinoli

SUNDAY, JULY 30

6am: Parishioners

7:30am: Everett Lang

9am: Nicholas Formica

10:30am: Madeliene Giordano

12pm: James McGovern

4pm: Gilda H. Lucarini

SACRAMENTS & DEVOTIONS

BAPTISM

Parents of babies to be baptized are asked to please register for Pre-Jordan, a baptism preparation program. You can find the class dates and register either online via our website: stjosephrc.org/baptism

MATRIMONY

Couples planning to marry are asked to meet with their parish priest as soon as possible after their engagement and to enroll in a marriage-prep program at least 6 months prior to the wedding. For more information, visit stjosephrc.org/matrimony

RECONCILIATION

Saturday: 330PM-430PM

Wednesdays: 630AM, 830AM, 630PM

ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Any sick or hospitalized parishioner who is in need of the Sacrament of the Sick should contact the Parish Office.

PERPETUAL ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Available 24/7 in the Holy Family Center.

MORNING PRAYER

Monday—Friday at 630AM in Church.

DAILY DEVOTIONS

The Holy Rosary: Recited before the 9AM Mass daily.

Miraculous Medal Devotions: Every Tuesday after the 9AM Mass.

Novena to Saint Joseph: Every Wednesday after the 9AM Mass.

Divine Mercy Chaplet: Every Thursday after the 9AM Mass.

Litany to the Sacred Heart: First Friday of the month after the 9AM Mass.

First Saturday Devotions: The First Saturday of each month at 830AM

PRAYER LIST

Every three months we will remove names from the military and sick list. This is to help ensure that our lists are always up to date. Please call the parish office to add or remove names.

...those who are serving our country:

Brandon W. A'Hara, SSGT Steve Anderson, Pvt. Daniel Barron, Petty Officer Katesiree Cannon Boson, Caytie Castells, PV2 Francesca Chindemi, Ensign Morgan S. Dankanich, Major Joseph S. DiBerardinis, CPL Daniel A. DiLuigi, Capt. Mark Edwards, Pvt. Corinne Riley Estrella, Sargent Ian Fay, James Heisler, Nathan J. Horton, Christopher L. Hume, USN Victoria Jones, Zachary Kish, Peter Kurtz, Lt. Col. Paul Lang, Krzysztof Malarz, Capt. Andrew C. Oddo, Pvt. Vincent Romano, Cpt. Joseph W. Rule, 1st Lt. Eric F. Satterthwaite, Pvt. 1st Class Matthew Scalia, Cmdr. Christopher Schwarz, Jr., Corporal Jeremy Solnosky, SaR. Max Spatola, LT Sean Sweeney and Aaron Thieroff, Captain Kyle Wagner and Sgt. Stephen Yori

...those who are sick:

William Allan, Lidia Arasin, Sally Aruis, Charles Authier, Daniel Barron, Vincent Bellistri, Deb Blazejewski, Baby Botero, Kevin Boylan, Ashlyn Brown, Donna Buckalew, Kim Buttner, Mary Ann Cardelli, Bernadette Constant, Tony D'Angelo, Mason Ellingsworth, Helen Fiorillo, Joan Garber, Waldtraut Gauss, Craig Glantz, William Gilland, Toby Graveno, Carrie Grosso, Dana Hathaway, Liam Hawk, Christina Hoffmann, Danielle Horack, David Horack, Roseanna Isabella, Baby Kai, Jimmy Kane, Matthew Keenan, Aidan Kelly, Rosie Kuchar, John Keenan, Jim Lisney, Chris Litwinko, Barbara Luminella, Mike Lyons, Donna Martin, Kellie Martin, Taylor Martin, McBeth Family, Mary McDonald, James Mento, Jr., Bill and Rosemarie McReynolds, Richard Miller, Deborah Nejman, Katie Nejman, Michele Pate, Jeannette Petrella, John Pontzer, Gina Ofner, William O'Neill, De Anna Ousey, Chris Osner, George Pastino, Nancy Paquet, Brenda Pezone, Larry Polinsky, Charlie Rivas, Dee Roache, Dave Robey, Anna Reverman, Robin Reichert, John Rogelstad, Stephen, Ed Shultz, Justin Smith, Robin Smith, Phyllis Suleski, Donald Sundstrom, Bob Tiedemann, Noah Thomas, Agnes Timothy, Barbara Wayne and Patricia Wishing.

WE REMEMBER

The Sanctuary Candle burns in loving memory of:

Betty Neyhart

Please remember in your prayers all those who have died.

Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord, and may Perpetual Light shine upon them.

WEEKLY LETTER

July 23, 2023

Dear Friends,

Today Jesus speaks to us about the “Kingdom of Heaven” a theme that Jesus uses again and again in his discussions with his Disciples and with all of us. We read today that the Kingdom of Heaven is like the weeds and the wheat, it is like a mustard seed, it is like a yeast mixed with flour. It is obvious that for Jesus, and for us, the Kingdom of Heaven is something precious and it is something that we have to nurture and pay attention to in order for it to come to fulfillment in our lives and the lives of those we love and meet each day. Sometimes as Christians we might take for granted this whole idea of the Kingdom of Heaven and simply assume that this precious gift is ours for the taking. Now while I truly believe that our God is a God of love who wants each of us to be happy and fulfilled and eventually to live with him forever in heaven, I also believe that we are meant to work for those blessings while in this life.

Do I think we can “buy” the gift of the Kingdom of Heaven, no. Do I think we can earn that gift, no. Do I think that we are called to live our lives as best we can and be the best Christians, the best people of God that we can be and therefore help to bring about that Kingdom here and now, yes, absolutely. Our faith is not meant to be a passive part of our lives. We cannot, if we are being true to our baptismal promises, simply worry about ourselves and our relationship with the Lord and the heck with everyone else. Faith is a total gift from God that is not earned or taken for granted but once offered it is a gift that is meant to be lived and shared. Witnessing to our faith makes our faith stronger, it brings about the Kingdom of God here in our midst.

The truth is my friends that God gives us all good things and that includes the gift of faith. We are meant to live those gifts and our faith and share them with others. We partner with our God to help bring about his Kingdom by the way we live our lives and the good that we do and the forgiveness that we seek and offer to others. Christian action is required of us as children of God, brothers, and sisters of Jesus. Not a passive, safe living out of our faith but rather a truly active use of our faith that puts our hope and trust in our God of love and mercy. May we all pray for the grace to be instruments of God’s grace to one another and in that way help to bring about his Kingdom here on earth!

*Peace,
Fr. Steve Leva*





HOPE TRANSPORTATION MINISTRY

HOPE is a transportation ministry which provides rides to doctor's appointments, the grocery store, the pharmacy and other necessary errands. Rides require a minimum of 48 hours notice and can be requested a week in advance. For more information, please contact Debbie Hastings at 610-304-0631.

For the week of July 24
Janet Schramm at 484-631-8875
Debbie Hastings at 610-304-0631

For the week of July 31
Helen Lyons at 484-402-8407
Meredith DiPietro at 267-481-3873

UNITING FOR UKRAINE: SPONSORING UKRANIAN FAMILIES

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops', together with dioceses across the country, is helping to welcome displaced families to the United States through "Welcome Circles". The St. Joseph Parish Faith and Justice Team has formed a "Welcome Circle" and we are now preparing to welcome our first families to Downingtown.

A Welcome Circle is a group of 5-20 people who come together to provide wraparound support for the family, housing, time-bound income support, basic necessities, job search advice, orientation to the community, and more.



The families we will be welcoming are coming to the United States as part of the Uniting for Ukraine (U4U) Program. Created by the U.S. Government shortly after the start of the war in Ukraine, the U4U program allows Ukrainian citizens and their immediate family members to come to the United States and stay temporarily for 2-years. This program does not provide a pathway to citizenship, but a reprieve for those that have had to flee their homeland due to war. Participants are allowed to and are expected to work while in the United States.

Our first family is making plans to travel in the next few weeks. They are Yuliia and her son Ilarii (5 years old). They are from Kamianets - Podilskyi in Ukraine. Yuliia is a teacher and is hoping to bring Ilarii to a safe place where he can begin school again.

If you would like to help this family (and others that will hopefully soon follow), please visit www.tinyurl.com/WelcomeCircle or scan the QR code above where you can donate to our "St Joseph Welcome Circle." Funds will be used to help them travel to the U.S., basic necessities when they arrive, and to get them settled into suitable housing when they arrive. If you would like to learn more about our welcome circle, please email Deacon Matt at DeaconCoyne@stjosephrc.org

Archdiocese of Philadelphia Eucharistic Revival

THE HOLY MASS: ASSISTING AT MASS VS. GOING TO CHURCH PART 3 OF 4

[On] August 15, 2021, the Solemnity of the Assumption, the obligation to assist (be present) at Mass in-person [was] reinstated for Catholic Christians living in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. This means that we are to be present for Holy Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation. Our absence carries with it the pain of grave sin. Exceptions to this obligation ordinarily consist of those obstacles posed by grave physical (illness) or moral (excess fear, anxiety etc.) factors that would make assisting at Mass difficult if not impossible.

Over the past few weeks we considered from where the obligation to attend Holy Mass each Sunday comes. We learned that our remembrance of the Passion, Death and Resurrection is not only an external one but one that literally changes us from within. As such, the Church requires her sons and daughters to faithfully be present for this memorial each Sunday, the definitive Lord's Day. Sometimes our participation at Mass can feel out of sync with how important we are told it is. At the Second Vatican Council, the Council Fathers recognized this very problem (it is ages old). As a result, they sought to encourage people to actively participate in the sacrifice of the Mass. What does this mean?

Active Participation does not so much mean "doing" something particular as it does being fully conscious and present to what Jesus is doing on behalf of his people. In Spanish, the verb used to describe "going to Mass" (our English expression) is *asistir* (to assist or to attend). In English, the term was and is still used by some describe their attending Holy Mass. The idea of "assisting" at Mass gives the impression that someone needs to be doing something in order to be at Mass. However, the expression involves a great deal more than simply executing a function.

The Fathers of the Second Vatican Council made it a point to illustrate the way the lay faithful participate in the life of the Church. Their words I believe help us understand how all of us who assist at Mass are called to do so. They teach:

"...the laity, dedicated to Christ and anointed by the Holy Spirit, are marvelously called and wonderfully prepared so that ever more abundant fruits of the Spirit may be produced in them. For all their works, prayers and apostolic endeavors, their ordinary married and family life, their daily occupations, their physical and mental relaxation, if carried out in the Spirit, and even the hardships of life, if patiently borne - all these become "spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ". Together with the offering of the Lord's body, they are most fittingly offered in the celebration of the Eucharist."

Some of the immediate things we do to prepare for Mass can assist us in consciously making an offering of the whole of our lives to God through Jesus Christ. Taking time to read the Word of God which will be proclaimed in advance is an important part of our preparation. Fasting for one hour from food and drink (except water/medicine) remind us physically of the absolutely unique guest we prepare to welcome into our hearts. Taking care to dress and groom ourselves well for Mass reminds us of the fact we kneel in the presence of the King of kings who deigns to call you and me his brothers and sisters.

- Rev. Matthew Biedrzycki, Parochial Vicar, Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul, Philadelphia

CATHOLIC IN RECOVERY

Catholic in Recovery provides healing from addictions, compulsions, and unhealthy attachments. Meetings combine the spiritual principles of 12-step recovery and the sacraments of the Catholic Church. Join others in recovery as we overlap scripture from Sunday's Mass readings, liturgical themes, and recovery topics with honest discussion and prayer. Confidentiality is protected.

For more information, visit www.catholicinrecovery.com, or email mtal1962@yahoo.com or cir.familyfriends.stjosephdtown@gmail.com

TWO MEETING OPTIONS

FAMILY & FRIENDS RECOVERY GROUP

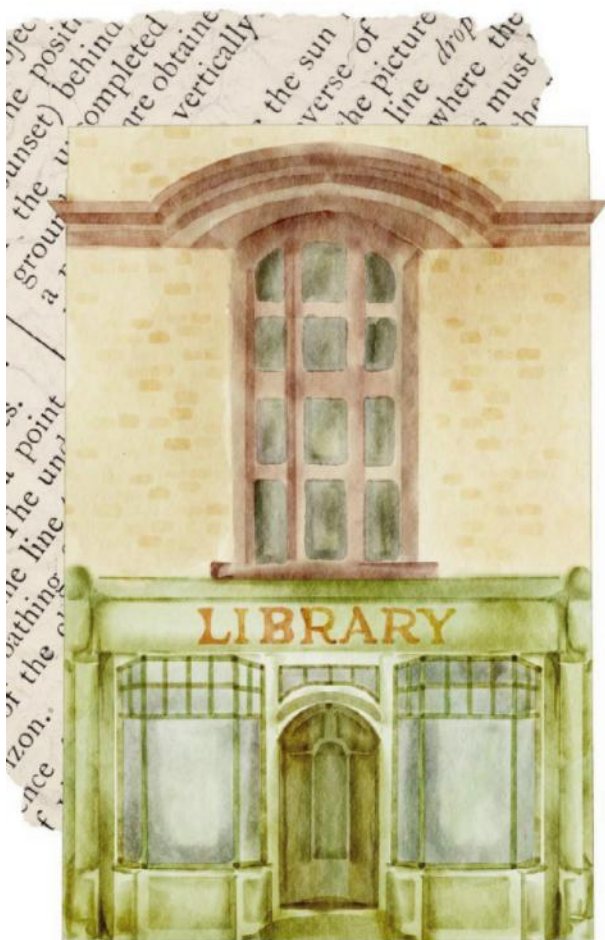
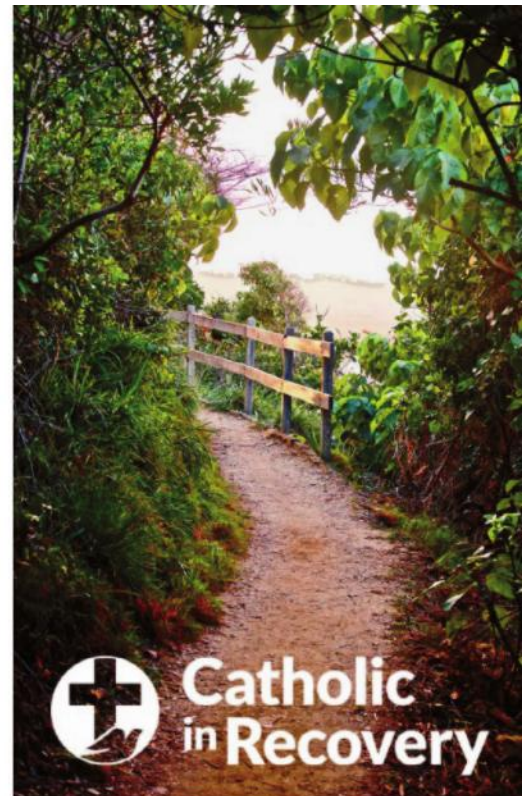
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GENERAL RECOVERY GROUP

Saturdays
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FOR THOSE
IN RECOVERY



ST. JOSEPH PARISH LIBRARY

Located in the Parish Office. Open during office hours.

Our Library has added new books and movies over the last several months. All new materials are on display and instructions for borrowing items are located at the circulation desk. Summer is a good time to enjoy some quiet reading or watch a movie with your family. We hope you will stop by to check out all the resources that are available to you.

Father, Creator of All,

Thank You for summer!
Thank you for the warmth of the sun
and the increased daylight.
Thank You for the beauty I see all around me
and for the opportunity to be outside
and enjoy Your creation.
Thank You for the increased time I have
to be with my friends and family,
and for the more casual pace
of the summer season.
Draw me closer to You this summer.
Teach me how I can pray
no matter where I am or what I am doing.
Warm my soul with the awareness of
Your presence and light my path with
Your Word and Counsel.
As I enjoy Your creation, create in me
a pure heart and a hunger and a thirst for You.

Amen.



Order of Christian Initiation for Adults

St. Joseph parish invites you to join us for the 2023 – 2024, Order of Christian Initiation for Adults (OCIA) class which commences on the evening of September 6th, at 7 PM in our Parish Meeting Center. OCIA is for prospective converts to the Catholic faith as well as those wishing to refresh themselves with our Catholic faith. Candidates are gradually introduced to aspects of our Catholic beliefs and practices which encompasses a period of reflection, prayer, instruction, discernment, and formation.

Our OCIA classes meet each Wednesday evening at 7 pm in our Holy Family Center (HFC) which is located between the rectory and the convent. Our first meeting subject will be an introduction to OCIA, How God makes Himself known, and Who is Jesus? For more information and to register for 2023-2024 OCIA class, please contact St Joseph's Director of Religious Education, Kathleen Greco at: Kathleeng@stjosephrc.org.

REGARDING OUR BULLETIN ADVERTISERS...

Did you know our bulletins are provided free of charge each week? The reason is our lovely bulletin sponsors! Through their support, we are able to receive printed bulletins at no cost to the parish. Please take a moment to look through our sponsors and patronize their businesses as much as possible - and tell them thanks for supporting St. Joe's!



DEAR ADVERTISERS: PLEASE BE AWARE

Some unsavory types are trying to scam our advertisers. If you receive an invoice from "Local Catholic Churches" regarding an invoice payment, please be aware this is a scam. Example of the mailing is included here.

Our bulletin publisher is Diocesan Publications. There is no third-party payment system. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact Diocesan directly at 717-507-3766.



A NOTE ABOUT PHISHING SCAMS



Phishing emails and text messages often tell a story to trick you into clicking on a link or opening an attachment. You might get an unexpected email or text message that looks like it's from a company you know or trust, like a bank or a credit card or utility company.

Unfortunately, parishes are not immune to these types of attacks. Scammers will try any method to achieve financial gain, including impersonating priests via email or text. A parish priest will never contact you via email or text to request gift cards, wire transfers, etc. All parish email addresses end in @StJosephRC.org. If you have a question, please don't hesitate to contact the parish office to ask for clarification.





Atlantic City Air Show

Join Downingtown Area Recreation Consortium as they travel to Atlantic City on Wednesday, Aug. 16th to enjoy the Atlantic City Air Show with the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds, U.S. Army Golden Knights Parachute Team and so much more. The fun begins at 11am. But don't forget there is so much more to explore in Atlantic City: beachers, casinos, shopping and more! \$65/person

U.S. Open

Have you ever wanted to see your favorite tennis player in person? Now's your chance! Join DARC as they travel to New York's Billy Jean King National Tennis Center for the U.S. Open. \$70/person

Register: 610.269.9260 or Online: www.darc.info



PACK 2 - DOWNINGTOWN, PA

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Cub Scout Pack 2 Crayon Recycling drive in June. With your help we have kept 75 pounds of petroleum-based products out of our landfills!

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

REGULAR COLLECTIONS (CASH, CHECK & ONLINE)

July 16 \$39,037

ANNUAL TO DATE (FISCAL YEAR START JULY 1)

2023-24 \$147,823

thank you

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Group 1- Ham & Noodles
Group 2- American Chop Suey

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