



ST. JOSEPH PARISH

DOWNINGTOWN

Rev. Stephen F. Leva.....Pastor
Rev. Andrew J. Auletta.....Parochial Vicar
Rev. John E. Donia.....President, Bishop Shanahan High School
Rev. Samuel A. Verruni.....Chaplain, Saint Martha Center
Deacon Matt Coyne..... Permanent Deacon
Deacon Michael Murtha..... Permanent Deacon
Deacon Ed Schiappa.....Permanent Deacon

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

www.stjosephrc.org

332 Manor Avenue, Downingtown, PA 19335

September 17, 2023 | 24th Sunday of Ordinary Time



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
Deacon Michael Murtha Ministry Coordinator
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, SEPTEMBER 16

5pm: Mary Ellen Trout

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

6am: Parishioners

7:30am Dick Straub,

1st Anniversary

9am: Irene Valentino

10:30am: Stephen Dudley

12pm: Irene Valentino

4pm: Mark Comeau

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

7am: Joan Reilly

9am: Elsie Edelman

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

7am: Jim DiSante

9am: Frank DeMucci

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

7am: Kathy Martinoli

9am: Carol Rodgers

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

7am: Anthony Ottaviano

9am: Jon Oechsler

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

7am: Mary McGuinness

9am: John C. Francella

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

8am: Michael Nastasi

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

5pm: Wayne Cocco

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

6am: Parishioners

7:30am: John B. McCloskey

9am: David Gallagher

10:30am: Mary & Tom Doyle
& Matthew Rivas

12pm: Fredesvinda Ramos

4pm: Tina DiLuigi Lynam

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, Airman First Class, James G. DiSantis, 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, Diane Blakely Attien, Charles Authier, Daniel Barron, Vincent Bellistri, Deb Blazejewski, Baby Botero, Kevin Boylan, Ashlyn Brown, Donna Buckalew, Kim Buttner, Donn Cabott, Mary Ann Cardelli, Bernadette Constant, Tony D'Angelo, Mason Ellingsworth, Joan Garber, Waldtraut Gauss, Craig Glantz, William Gilland, Carrie Grosso, Dana Hathaway, Liam Hawk, Christina Hoffmann, Danielle Horack, David Horack, Roseanna Isabella, Baby Kai D'Amore, Kari D'Amore, Jimmy Kane, Matthew Keenan, Aidan Kelly, Rosie Kuchar, John Keenan, Jim Lisney, Chris Litwinko, Barbara Luminella, Kathleen Manuel, Donna Martin, Kellie Martin, Taylor Martin, McBeth Family, Mary McDonald, James Mento, Jr., Bill and Rosemarie McReynolds, Mark Michaels, Richard Miller, Deborah Nejman, Katie Nejman, Michele Pate, Jeannette Petrella, Angie Pisano, John Pontzer, John Powers, Gina Ofner, William O'Neill, De 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, Christian Toner and Barbara Wayne.

WE REMEMBER

Please remember in your prayers all those who have died, especially:

Jane B. McLoone and Frank Malvestuto

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

WEEKLY LETTER

September 17, 2023

Dear Friends,

Sometimes I hear the words of Jesus and I reflect on my life, and I wonder if I am being true to his words, to his commands? It is not that I do not want to do as Jesus asks, rather it is that sometimes it just seems too difficult, or is it?

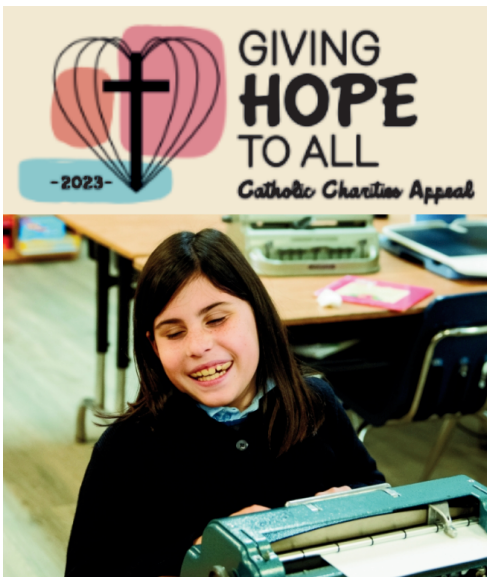
“So will my heavenly Father do to you, unless each of you forgives your brother from your heart.” That last line from this weekend’s Gospel is a true wake up call for any of us that consider ourselves to be followers of Jesus. Isn’t it amazing how I can say that I love Jesus (and I do) and then almost in the next breath I can hold a grudge against someone for something that is possibly so trivial and so small, or even something that is big and hurtful? I know that it is an all too human emotion to hold grudges and not always forgive, especially when we have been hurt. But the truth that Jesus speaks to us today is that unless we seek the grace to offer forgiveness to our sisters and brothers then we should be wary about asking the Lord for his forgiveness.

Of course Jesus desires to forgive us that is why he gave his life for us. However the part of that equation that sometimes gets lost in our self-righteousness is that we are not justified in holding back forgiveness to others. Seeing God’s forgiveness and absolution goes hand and hand with offering that very same forgiveness to others, even those who have hurt us. No, it is not easy. Yes, I have to seek strength and grace in order to do it but that my friends is what Jesus gives us if only we ask.

Our Gospel this weekend started with Peter asking a question of Jesus, “Lord, if my brother sins against me, how often must I forgive? As many as seven times?” Jesus answered, “I say to you, not seven times but seventy-seven times.” Jesus’ answer to Peter’s question is not an invitation to count each and every time we offer forgiveness to someone and then when we hit seventy-seven to call it quits. The answer Jesus gives (seventy-seven times) is his way of saying that there is never a time when we should hold back forgiveness for our sisters and brothers. God never does that; God I am confident that he expects the same from us!

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the collection for the Saint Vincent de Paul Society, that money will go a long way in helping us to help so many in our parish and in our local community. God bless your generosity.

*Peace,
Fr. Steve Leva*



The Catholic Charities Appeal (CCA) is the Archdiocese of Philadelphia's single most important fundraiser benefiting hundreds of thousands of people through countless organizations and ministries in the Archdiocese. Gifts made to the CCA will provide support needed to beneficiaries grouped into five key areas of focus: Education; Social Services; Evangelization, Parish and Spiritual Life; Clergy; and Local Mission Activities.

To make a donation or learn more, please visit:
<https://www.catholiccharitiesappeal.org/>



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 Sept. 18
Mary Sweeney at 610-269-0604
Michele DiGiantomasso at 267-312-2269

For the week of Sept. 25
Debbie Hastings 610-304-0631
Janet Schramm at 484-631-8875



ST. VINCENT DE PAUL: DOWNINGTOWN THANKS YOU!

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul at St. Joseph Church thanks all of our parishioners for their generosity over the \$1 donation weekend. Please know that 100% of the money you donated is going directly to work to help our Downingtown neighbors in need.

Donations can be made at any time during the year. Mail or drop-off your donation to the parish office with "Attention: St. Vincent de Paul" noted somewhere on the envelope.

MEALS NEEDED: CARING FOR FRIENDS

The Caring For Friends freezer is in need of meals. Pans are in the Katherine Drexel room at church or in the church office by the freezer closet. If you have made meals that you are storing in your home freezer please take them to the church freezer asap. Our homebound neighbors are so appreciative of your homemade meals!

For more information contact
Debby at
dokeefe19@hotmail.com



YOUNG ADULT GROUP (AGES 21-35)

Tuesday, September 19th at 7pm- Discussion Night: Hope in the Midst of Suffering

There will first be a brief talk and then an open discussion. Feel free to bring a snack or drink to share! This will take place in the Nest.

OREMUS PRESENTED BY ADULT FAITH FORMATION

Classes begin this week!

Do you find it easy to pray? For most of us the answer is no. The good news is that you can overcome these difficulties. Oremus teaches you the essentials of an effective and fruitful prayer life. Join us Tuesday evenings at 7pm in Parish Meeting Center Or Friday mornings at 9:30am in the St. John Neumann room in church. Register now at: <https://stjosephrc.org/adult-faith-formation>

PASTORAL COUNCIL 2023-24

What is the Pastoral Council?

The Pastoral Council is a consultative body that meets monthly to discuss the pastoral needs of the parish. The council's goal is to foster the full participation of the parish in the life and mission of the Church.

Who serves on the Pastoral Council?

Members include the parish clergy, ex officio members who have a particular parish role and elected parishioners.

What qualities are ideal for a Pastoral Council Member?

Candidates should primarily desire deeper spiritual growth for the parish. They should be willing to speak honestly, listen actively, and work toward consensus. They must also be flexible, collaborative, innovative and kind.

Who is eligible for nomination?

Candidates must be baptized Catholics at least 18 years of age. They must also be parishioners of St. Joseph Parish for at least 3 consecutive years, and attend Mass regularly.

Pastoral Council Nomination Form

Please list your name or the name of a parishioner whose qualities you believe would enhance the Pastoral Council's ministry. Candidates, if accepting of the nomination, will be contacted directly to further discuss a position on Pastoral Council.

1. Name: _____

2. Phone: _____

3. Email: _____

Only complete forms can be considered. Please return to the parish office by Sept. 30, 2023.



walking with purpose
Come as you are.

YOU ARE WELCOME HERE

Walking With Purpose is a program that meets women right where they are, hands them a cup of coffee, and transforms their hearts. We are thrilled to announced that we will offer two Bible studies this season. Trust us. This may be your best YES ever. And step out in faith: invite a friend.

Opening Your Heart, our foundational study, is perfect for a woman new to WWP (with or without Bible study experience). We invite you to be amazed at how Scripture applies to your everyday life.

Rooted and Radiant walks through the book of Colossians verse by verse. We will seek to understand the challenges that faced the Colossians, recognizing that they are remarkably similar to our own challenges today.

More information and registration can be found here: <https://stjosephrc.org/walking-with-purpose>

JOIN NOW: CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Does your child like to sing, and want to be more involved in Mass? Please consider joining our Children's Choir for 4th through 8th grade students. We will be singing our first Mass in October, and we will have a few practices before so that we are prepared.

If you would like to participate, please register at the link: <https://www.stjosephrc.org/chidrens-choir>.



SATURDAY MAMA MEETUP

Join us on the third Saturday of each month for some Mama time! Littles are welcome! Most littles that have attended are 5 and under but there is no limit.

During the school year, we meet in The Nest from 9:30-11am. However from May though September, we will meet at Bell Tavern Park as long as weather permits.

Please contact Christine Davis as needed at (302)668-5185. Or, check out our St. Joe's Mom Facebook group for updates at www.tinyurl.com/MamaMeetup



JOIN US TONIGHT!

Sunday, Sept. 17, 5-7pm

The SOAR weekly focus group is for High School students in grades 9-12th. Join us for a mix of fun, faith-based discussions and activities, prayer, and snacks! Join us in the Nest (entrance located at rear of parish office building).

ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA EUCCHARISTIC CONGRESS

A virtual option is being made available as tickets to attend in-person have sold out. The event will take place on Saturday, September 30, 2023 at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa.

Those interested in participating in the Eucharistic Congress via livestream can register via the dedicated link found here: <https://secure.acceptiva.com/?cst=U7s42v%C2%AO>

The stream will open at 9:00 a.m. with Archbishop Pérez celebrating Mass. The Eucharistic Congress Choir, featuring performers from 33 parishes and schools, will provide liturgical music.

Bishop Michael Burbidge, the current Bishop of Arlington and a previous Auxiliary Bishop of Philadelphia, will serve as the homilist and as the keynote speaker.

Additionally, Mrs. Antonia Acutis, mother of Blessed Carlo Acutis, will speak about personal devotion to Christ in the Eucharist and her son's compelling story.

This initiative is part of the three-year National Eucharistic Revival called for by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. To learn more about the local observance of the Eucharistic Revival and how it is unfolding in the Philadelphia region, please visit <https://www.phillyeucharisticrevival.org/>.





Psst... Middle School students in grades 6-8th!

Mark the calendar for Sunday, Oct. 1st for Pizza & Prayer night! Meet in the chapel after the 4pm Mass for prayer and an inspirational talk from one of our priests or deacons. Then we feast - pizza!



The annual Camilla Hall Oktoberfest and Craft Fair will be held on Saturday, October 7, 2023, from 10 AM to 4 PM on the grounds of Camilla Hall.

Join us for a fun-filled day including craft vendors, merchandise tables, food concessions, children's games, theme basket raffle, money chances, white elephant flea market, and more!

Proceeds benefit Camilla Hall, the convent home and healthcare center for the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary (IHM). Camilla Hall is located near the campus of Immaculata University: 100 Maxis Drive, Malvern, PA 19355. For more information, visit: camillaoktoberfest.org.

MOTHER & DAUGHTER TEA

Sunday, October 15, 1:00 - 4:00 PM

St. Helena Catholic Church in Blue Bell, PA (Empress Room)

This is a special program for mothers and daughters between the ages of 10 to 13. The Mother Daughter Tea provides an opportunity to interact in a facilitated group setting while learning about the gift of fertility and how to care for it.

Talks will focus on:

- the sacredness of human life
- the physical changes in a girl's body
- the importance of modesty
- the development of healthy parent and peer relationships.

Speakers: FertilityCare Practitioners from the Gianna Center of Philadelphia, and Chastity Educators from Generation Life.

Must pre register for this event. To learn more, please go to phGiannaCenter.org and click the events tab.



FESTIVAL 2023 WRAP UP

Thank you to all who supported our festival in any way, weather you were a sponsor, a patron or a volunteer. Because of everyone's hard work and support, after paying all of our bills, we were able to give back \$66,000.00 to the parish. None of this could have been done without the hard work of every volunteer. I hope to see the return of all of our current festival family volunteers and with some luck, hope to have new volunteers join us!



BSHS CLASS OF 1973: 50TH REUNION

Date: Saturday, November 18th, 2023
Place: Hilton Garden Inn, Exton, PA
Time: 6 - 10PM
Contact: Patti Panichelli 484-467-2667

Eating is Necessary, But Cooking is an Art! ***Help Wanted-Rectory Cook***

St. Joseph Parish is looking to hire a part-time (2 to 3 days weekly, 3:30-6pm) experienced cook who will plan and serve well-healthy, balanced meals within a budgeted allowance, shop and keep kitchen stocked and maintain the kitchen and dining areas. To apply, please email: MaryBethM@stjosephrc.org



STEWARDSHIP REPORT

SEPTEMBER 10 (CASH, CHECK & ONLINE) \$52,933

FISCAL YEAR TO DATE \$481,874

thank you

MONTHLY POOR BOX
HONEY BROOK
FOOD PANTRY
\$642

WOMEN OF HOPE CASSEROLE SCHEDULE

Group 1- Southwest Chickn w/ Corn & Rice

Group 2- Stuffing-Crusted Creamy Chicken

Requested Items:
water & small snack bags.

Please leave items in the Loaves and Fishes closet in the designated basket.

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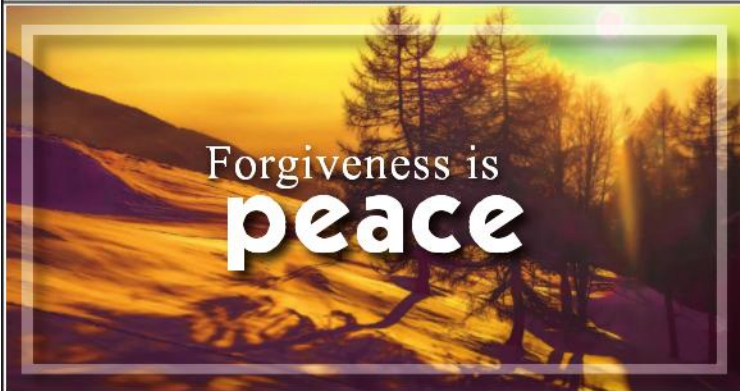
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Your Will**

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