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Deacon Michael Murtha.....Permanent Deacon

338 Manor Avenue, Downingtown PA 19335
Phone: (610) 269-8294 Website: www.stjosephrc.org

Sunday, December 31, 2023

Feast of the Holy Family



LUKE 2:40

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, Administrator
Deacon Michael Murtha, Ministry Coordinator
Mrs. Carol Orphanos, Bookkeeper
Mr. Darrin Preston, Facilities Manager

Parish Office Hours

Monday - Friday: 8AM-4 PM
Evening Hours Mon & Wed: 4PM-7PM
Sunday: 9AM-1:30PM
Closed 12PM-1PM Weekdays

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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
www.stjosephrc.org/prep
Mrs. Kathleen Greco, Director of Religious Education



Mass Intentions

Monday, Jan. 1

7am: Diane Watson-Reece, Living
9am: Santo Chilla
12:05pm: For Our Parishioners

Wednesday, Jan. 3

7am: Sister M. Sarah Lamb, IHM
9am: Jack Cooper

Friday, Jan. 5

7am: Dino Taraschi
9am: Rose Ann Manetta

Tuesday, Jan. 2

7am: Rose Ann Manetta
9am: Antonina Magagnoli

Thursday, Jan. 4

7am: Nick Chilla
9am: Rose Ann Manetta

Saturday, Jan. 6

8am: Don Ganim

Sunday, Dec. 31

5pm Vigil: Paul James McGovern
6am: Parishioners
7:30am: Carmen & Lucy Spardaro & John & Lillian Fogarty
9am: Vincent Kane
10:30am: Garrett Vincent Fasano
12pm: Eda "Edie" Tierney
4pm: Lucia Napoleone

Sanctuary Candle: Lucia Napoleone

Sunday, Jan. 7

5pm Vigil: Dawn Duffy Kavulich
6am: Parishioners
7:30am: Gary Sypolt
9am: Marianne Bianco
10:30am: Memorial Society: Rose Ann Manetta, Christine Warihay, Mike Peto, Kathleen E. McDaid, James Hickman, Sr. Joseph Fumo, Michael Bennett, Dolores Noonan, Rose Rayeski, Donna Tarello, Marie Celii & Francis Perella
12pm: Nicholas Chilla

Sacraments & Devotions

Baptism

First-time parents are asked to please attend Pre-Jordan. Baptism scheduling and Pre-Jordan class information can be found on the parish website.

Matrimony

Engaged couples are asked to meet with their parish priest as soon as possible to enroll in a marriage-prep program at least 6 months prior to the wedding.

Reconciliation

Saturday: 330PM-430PM &
Wednesday: 630AM, 830AM, 630PM

Anointing of the Sick

Please 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: Tuesdays after the 9AM Mass.
Novena to Saint Joseph: Wednesdays after the 9AM Mass.
Divine Mercy Chaplet: Thursdays after the 9AM Mass.
Litany to the Sacred Heart: First Fridays after the 9AM Mass.
First Saturday Devotions: First Saturdays at 830AM

Prayer List

Every three months we will remove names from the military and sick list to ensure the list remains up-to-date. Please call the parish office to add intentions.

For those that are serving our country:

Brandon W. A'Hara, SSGT Steve Anderson, Petty Officer Katesiree Cannon Bosen, Caytie Castells, Francesca Chindemi, Specialist, Ensign Morgan S. Dankanich, Major Joseph S. DiBerardinis, CPL Daniel A. DiLuigi, Airman First Class, James G. DiSantis, Sargent Ian Fay, James Heisler, LTJG Nathan J. Horton, USN, Christopher L. Hume, USN Victoria Jones, Peter Kurtz, Lt. Col. Paul Lang, Krzysztof Malarz, Capt. Andrew C. Oddo, Pvt. Vincent Romano, 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, and Sgt. Stephen Yori

For those who are sick:

William Allan, Lidia Arasin, Sean Arnold, Diane Blakely Attien, Charles Authier, Ted Barone, Vincent Bellistri, Wilma Bird, Deb Blazejewski, Baby Botero, Ashlyn Brown, Donna Buckalew, Donn Cabott, Charles Chaiko, Bernadette Constant, Mary Crawford, Patricia Cudahy, Gerry Daney, Tony D'Angelo, Patricia Derelanko, Conner Farnum, Joan Garber, Carrie Grosso, John G. Haney, Dana Hathaway, Liam Hawk, Danielle Horack, David Horack, Baby Kai D'Amore, Kari D'Amore, Dante Danilshenko, Jimmy Kane, Matthew Keenan, Aidan Kelly, John Keenan, Elizabeth Leiffe, Jim Lisney, Barbara Luminella, Kathleen Manuel, Donna Martin, Kellie Martin, Taylor Martin, McBeth Family, Claire McGovern, Bill and Rosemarie McReynolds, Patricia Melcher, Jim Mento, Winnie Mullen, Jennifer Murphy, Deborah Nejman, Katie Nejman, Angie Pisano, John Pontzer, Gina Ofner, George Pastino, Nancy Paquet, Brenda Pezone, Larry Polinsky, Charlie Rivas, Dave Robey, John Rogelstad, Stephen, Eileen Schafer, Ed Shultz, Don Skomsky, Helen Rechner Short, Robin Smith, Phyllis Suleski, Donald Sundstrom, Bob Tiedemann, Noah Thomas, Christian Toner and Barbara Wayne

We remember in our prayers those who have died, especially Gene Menna, Eileen Schafer, and Marie Scotese

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



Weekly Letter

December 31, 2023

Dear Friends,

This weekend we gather to celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph and we are given the opportunity, as we prepare for the beginning of a New Year to reflect on how our family of faith has answered the call of Jesus to be witnesses of his love to others. For Christians that really is the mission to love as God loves and to share that love with everyone we encounter. This love and the way we choose to share the love of Jesus is what helps to make us a family formed in faith. As we strive to be like the Holy Family, may we always find in Jesus, Mary, and Joseph the joy of doing God's will and see the Holy Family as the example of what family love and devotion truly is.

This moment, looking into the beginning of a new year offers us the opportunity to look back on the last year and to see how God has touched our lives each day of that year. It is good for us to hope and to place our trust in the goodness of God and to know that as we live out each day of this coming year we do so with God's love in our hearts and with Jesus walking right beside us. A new year brings with it the chance to make new decisions, perhaps even better decisions and to recommit ourselves to living as God's people in this world. In every way I am thankful for the past year, and I anticipate the New Year and spending this year with all of you, in truth I cannot think of any place I would rather be. This is home and you are my family, and I am grateful to God and each of you for your goodness and love.

Remember that January 1 is the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God, and this year it is not a Holy Day of obligation. Masses for the Solemnity will be celebrated at 7:00 am, 9:00 am and 12:05 pm. In the name of the Priests of the parish and our Deacons and their wives and families, the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, and the entire parish staff, we wish all of you the blessings of the New Year. May you know God's love and peace, health, and happiness in 2024!

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 Jan. 1
Helen Lyons at 484-402-8407
Nancy Coccetti at 610-269-3036

For the week of Jan. 7
Debbie Hastings at 610-304-0631



Pray as a Volunteer Helper of God's Precious Infants

Please join us Saturday, Jan. 6th at 8am for Mass followed by a rosary procession to Planned Parenthood in West Chester. Mass will be celebrated at St. Agnes church.

IHM Conference Center January Events

Movie With Meaning: "Gifted Hands: The Ben Carson Story"

Wednesday, January 10, 2024

1:00 p.m. (Lunch at 12:00 noon)

Stipend: \$25

Inspired by his mother to never give up, Detroit native Ben Carson overcomes poverty and prejudice to become a neurosurgeon. Starring Cuba Gooding, Jr. and Kimberly Elise

Conference Day: "Cultivating a Discerning Heart in Everyday Life"

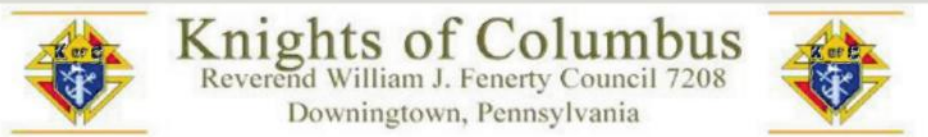
Tuesday, January 16, 2024

9:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Presenter: Sister Rose Adams, IHM

Stipend: \$40 (includes Continental Breakfast, Mass, Lunch)

The purpose of Discernment is knowing when to act, when to wait and when to be led or acted upon according to God's time. The gift and practice of Discernment is rooted and nourished in prayer, community, worship and ministry. Participants are invited to come apart and enjoy a day of seeing and learning how God is alive and living deeply in our lives.



2023 Year End Thank You to St. Joseph Parish

With the Christmas season upon us and a New Year ahead, the Knights of Columbus Council 7208 would like to thank you for your continued support.

Through your generosity, our council was able to give back:

- Church: over \$3,500
- Local Pro-Life Organizations: \$6,000
- Local Community: over \$6,000 and 900 pounds of PB&J
- Youth: over \$6,500, including school scholarships and 360 coats donated to local children in need!

We would also like to congratulate the winners of our Catholic Citizenship Essay Contest:

- First place – Lauren Ruggeri
- Second place – Patrick Hoang
- Third place – Brooke Heinrichs, Kelly McClatchey

We look forward to your continued support of our activities in 2024 including our monthly Parish Socials, the basketball free throw championship open to boys and girls aged 10-14, Designer Bag Bingo, the Lenten Fish Frys, and our Annual Golf Outing in April.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!
Grand Knight Adam Moritz and the 280 brothers of Council 7208

***If any male 18 years of age or older is interested in joining our Council and supporting our programs, reach out via email to kofc7208membership@gmail.com or visit www.kofc.org/join.

A YEAR IN REVIEW

2023

Thank you to our wonderful parishioners who helped make truly special memories this year.

HELLO!



February:
Walking With Purpose hosts their founder, Lisa Brenninkmeyer, for an evening of discussion. Their sold out event packed the main church!

April:
Our church truly shined with God's beauty on Easter Sunday.



May:

Parishioners participated in Rise Against Hunger. Through their efforts, \$5,696 was raised to purchase bulk food items. Parishioners came out in force on May 13th to help pack those bulk foods into family-size portions. Over 15,000 meals were packed to be distributed to families in underdeveloped nations without reliable access to nutritious meals.



June:

What a busy month!

First, we marked A Decade of Faith with the 10-year anniversary of the dedication of our new church building.

Then we bid a fond farewell & happy retirement to three of St. Joe's finest: Mrs. Kathy Thomas, Director of Religious Education, Deacon Jim Bogdan and Deacon Ed Schiappa.

Lastly, we had a blast with the annual St. Joseph's Community Festival!



July:

Parishioners rallied to support students at Drexel Neumann Academy with an annual school supply drive.



September:

New Altar Servers were installed. Thank you for your service to our parish!



October:

Our Youth Group hosted a spook-tacular Halloween Scavenger Hunt for parish children.



November:

The Faith & Justice Group Welcome Circle warmly welcomed Ilarii and his mom Yuliia from Ukraine.



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