

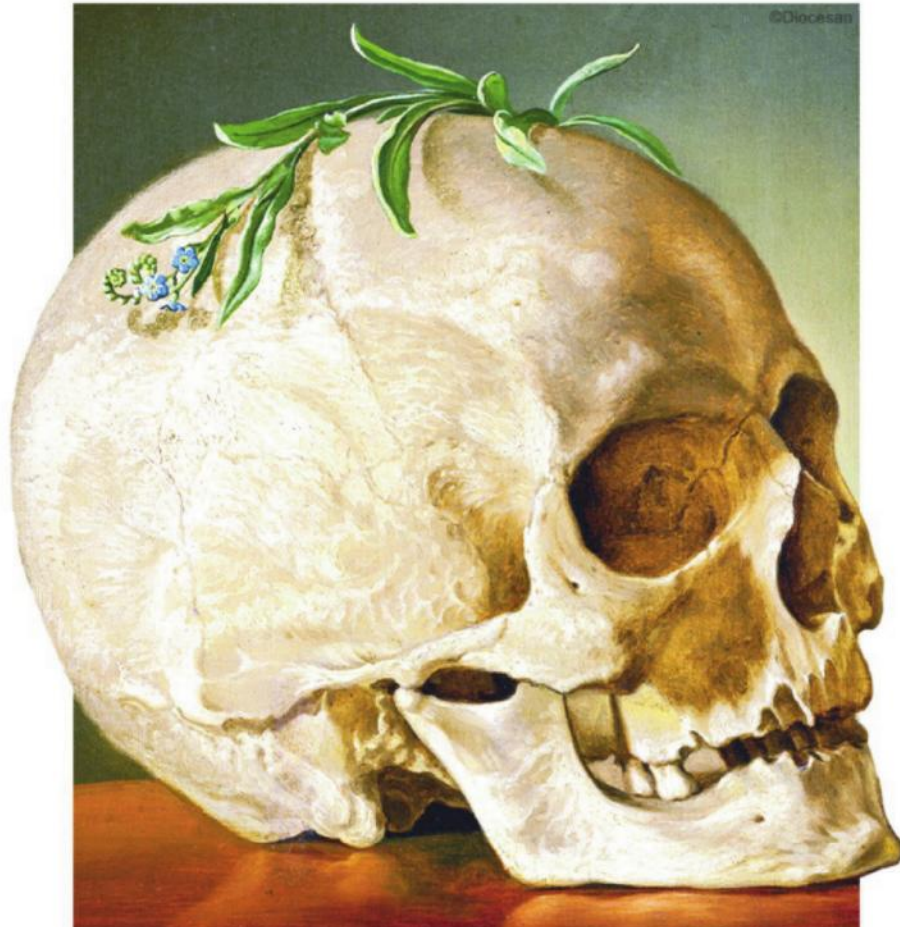


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 Deacon Michael Murtha.....Permanent Deacon

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

Sunday, February 11, 2024

6th Sunday of Ordinary Time



**FOR YOU ARE DUST
 AND TO DUST YOU SHALL RETURN**

GENESIS 3:19

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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

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

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 Heart of Mary

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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, Feb. 12

7am: Rose Ann Manetta
9am: Alice & Richard Stuart

Wednesday, Feb. 14

7am: Ella & Eugene Hickey
9am: Andrew Taraschi
10:15am: Michael Emig
7pm: John Powers

Friday, Feb. 16

7am: Thomas J. Hudecheck
9am: Ellie Bolger

Tuesday, Feb. 13

7am: Jim DiSante, 1st Anniv.
9am: Daniel Cauley

Thursday, Feb. 15

7am: Dominick Family
9am: Grace Irwin

Saturday, Feb. 17

8am: Giuseppe D'Anzi

Sunday, Feb. 11

5pm Vigil: John Bentley
6am: Parishioners
7:30am Jim DiSante
9am: Bundens & Fogarty Families (Living)
10:30am: Nicholas Chilla
12pm: Frank DelCoria, Jr.
4pm: Stephen P. Gerry

*Sanctuary Candle: Giuseppe D'Anzi
Chapel Sanctuary Candle: Michael Emig & John Powers*

Sunday, Feb. 18

5pm Vigil: John Bentley
6am: Parishioners
7:30am Jim DiSante
9am: Bundens & Fogarty Families (Living)
10:30am: Nicholas Chilla
12pm: Frank DelCoria, Jr.
4pm: Stephen P. Gerry

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 &
Wednesdays: 630AM, 830AM, 630PM

Anointing of the Sick

Please contact the Parish Office.

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:

Margaret Allan, Lidia Arasin, Sean Arnold, Diane Blakely Attien, Ted Barone, Vincent Bellistri, Wilma Bird, Deb Blazejewski, Baby Botero, Ashlyn Brown, Donn Cabott, Charles Chaiko, Bernadette Constant, Mary Crawford, Patricia Cudahy, Gerry Daney, Tony D'Angelo, Joan Dawson, Lisa Dawson, 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, Lisa Dawson, Lori D'Ginto Haring, Jimmy Kane, Matthew Keenan, John Keenan, Elizabeth Leisse, Jim Lisney, Kathleen Manuel, Donna Martin, Kellie Martin, Taylor Martin, Patricia Melcher, Jim Mento, Winnie Mullen, Michelle Murdaugh, Jennifer Murphy, Deborah Nejman, Katie Nejman, Angie Pisano, Gina Ofner, George Pastino, Nancy Paquet, Brenda Pezone, Larry Polinsky, Dave Robey, John Rogelstad, Stephen, Eileen Schafer, Don Skomsky, Helen Rechner Short, Justin Smith, Robin Smith, Donald Sundstrom, Noah Thomas, Christian Toner and Barbara Wayne

We remember in our prayers those who have died, especially: Gloria Nicolazzo

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



Weekly Letter

February 11, 2024

Dear Friends,

This Wednesday we celebrate Ash Wednesday and the beginning of our Lenten observance. The Church teaches us that: "The annual observance of Lent is a special season for the ascent to the holy mountain of Easter. Through its twofold theme of repentance and baptism, the season of Lent disposes both the catechumens and the faithful to celebrate the paschal mystery. Catechumens are led to the sacraments of initiation by means of the rite of election, the scrutinies, and catechesis. The faithful, listening more intently to the word of God and devoting themselves to prayer, are prepared through a spirit of repentance to renew their baptismal promises."

Lent is a beautiful time of closeness with the Lord as he journeys, for our salvation to the wood of the Cross. In his passion, death, and resurrection we find forgiveness and new life. Spending these days in prayer, fasting, and alms giving, the traditional pillars of our Lenten journey we gain access to the mind and heart of Jesus as he gives his life for our salvation. I invite all of us to the celebration of a holy Lent, filled with every grace and blessing which will lead us to the joys of Easter. I pray that these days will be filled with grace, contemplation, prayer, and closeness with the Lord. Please take great advantage of the Lenten activities that our parish offers and celebrate with great devotion these days of Lent.

The Bishops of the United States prescribe, as minimal obligation, that all persons who are fourteen years of age and older are bound to abstain from eating meat on Ash Wednesday, February 14, 2024, on all Fridays of Lent and Good Friday. Further, all persons eighteen years of age and older, up to and including their fifty-ninth birthday, are bound to fast limiting themselves to a single full meal on Ash Wednesday and on Good Friday, while the other two meals on those days are to be light.

All the faithful are encouraged, when possible, to participate at Mass and to receive the Holy Eucharist daily, to celebrate frequently the Sacrament of Penance, to undertake spiritual reading, especially the study of the Sacred Scriptures, and to participate in parish Lenten devotions as well as Lenten education programs. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is especially recommended.

All are encouraged to participate in Operation Rice Bowl which has aided countless hungry persons here in the Archdiocese as well as throughout our nation and our world. More information can be found at: www.crsricebowl.org

Please keep in prayer all our Catechumens and Candidates as they enter the final phase of their preparations for the Easter Sacraments. We anticipate with them the time when they will celebrate with us at the table of the Lord where all of God's children are fed with the Bread of Life.

Peace,
Fr. Steve Leva

Ash Wednesday: February 14

Mass Times

7AM
9AM
10:15AM
7PM

Prayer Service

12:05PM
5PM

Ashes will be distributed at all Masses & Prayer Services





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 Feb. 12
Mary Sweeney at 610-269-0604
Janet Schramm at 484-631-8875

For the week of Feb. 19
Casey Rhoads at 908-489-0174
Debbie Hastings at 610-304-0631



Ministry of the Week: Adoration

Adoration Is your time to talk to the Lord. Just you and Jesus. We are blessed at St. Joseph's to have a Perpetual Adoration chapel. This means the chapel is open 24/7 for you to sit, pray and talk with Jesus. Ideally, we would have two people scheduled for each hour of the week. That way Jesus is never alone should one person not be able to make it during their assigned time.

The commitment is not one that must last forever. Life happens. If your time no longer works, just let the office know. Once you do become a regular adoration adorer, you will find it hard not to carve that time out in your week. The sense of peace, love, and renewal after one hour with Lord is one you won't want to miss.

For more information or to sign up for a weekly hour, contact Peg Cassidy at ptcassidy1980@gmail.com



40 DAYS FOR LIFE.
THE BEGINNING OF THE END OF ABORTION.

Feb. 14 - Mar. 24

Prayer & fasting, peaceful vigil, and community outreach truly make a life-saving and life-changing impact as shown in these 40 Days for Life worldwide results: 24,224 lives saved, 148 abortion centers closed, and 256 abortion workers quit.

THANK YOU for your continued perseverance and faithfulness on the front lines, giving of your time to advocating for abortion-vulnerable moms and babies as long as it takes to bring an end to the wicked culture of death stronghold and usher in a beautiful culture of Life.

Chester County Campaign:

www.40daysforlife.com/en/chestercounty

PRESENCE

The Mystery of the Eucharist

Presented by
Adult Faith Formation

5-Week Course Begins Feb. 20
Tues PM: 7-8:30pm OR
Fri AM: 9:30-11am



Explore how God is with us and strengthens us through the Miracle at every Mass! This 5-week video course with group discussion will lead us in discovering the powerful way that God is present to us in the Eucharist.

We will:

- examine the effects of the sacrament and its setting in the Mass,
- explore the scriptural foundation of the sacrament, and
- discover the beauty of Holy Communion and the transformative power of the grace God offers us in this sacrament.

More Info & Registration: <https://stjosephrc.org/presence-the-mystery-of-the-eucharist>



Course Preview: God Is With Us

When is the last time you sat down to enjoy a meal with your family or close friends—not just to eat food in close proximity to each other, but to bask in each other's presence and grow in love for one another? For most of us, this doesn't happen at a typical meal. But this is the kind of meal God wants to share with us. This is the kind of meal he has prepared for us and invites us to participate in through the Sacrament of the Eucharist.

LENT 2024



Liturgical Dates To Remember:

Wednesday, February 14 | *Ash Wednesday*

Mass will be celebrated at 7am, 9am, 10:15am (school Mass) and 7pm. Prayer services, which include readings and distribution of ashes, will take place at 12:05pm and 5pm.

Wednesday, February 21 | *Parish Stations of the Cross Begins*

St. Joseph Parish will celebrate the Stations of the Cross each Wednesday evening at 7pm during Lent. The school Stations will take place on Tuesdays at 2pm during Lent.

Sunday, March 24 | *Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion*

Tuesday, March 26 | *Parish Penance Service*

Our Parish Penance service will begin at 7pm, with many local and Archdiocesan priests. This will be the final opportunity for Confession at St. Joe's before Easter, as Confessions will not be available on Wednesday, March 26th.

Throughout Lent (until the Parish Penance Service), Confession is also available on Wednesdays, starting half an hour before each daily Mass and again at 6:30pm. On the weekend, Confessions are heard on Saturdays starting at 3:30pm.

Thursday, March 28 | *Holy Thursday*

No morning Masses. The Mass of the Lord's Supper will be celebrated at 7pm. Night Prayer will take place at 11pm.

Friday, March 29 | *Good Friday*

No morning Masses. The Office of Readings and Morning Prayer will be at 9am; Celebration of the Lord's Passion at 3pm; and Stations of the Cross at 7pm

Saturday, March 30 | *Holy Saturday*

No morning Mass. The Office of Readings and Morning Prayer will be at 9am; Blessing of Easter food at 1pm. The Easter Vigil will be celebrated at 8pm.

Sunday, March 31 | *Easter Sunday*

Please note the adjusted Easter Mass times: 6am, 7:15am, 9am, 10:45am, and 12:30pm. There will be no 4pm Mass.



Fish Fry-Days and Lenten Pizza Suppers

Fish Fry-Days | *Knights of Columbus*

March 8th, 15th and 22nd from 4:30pm to 7pm

Dine-In, Carry-Out, or Drive-Thru

All your favorites are back! Including the famous Capt'n Chucky's Crab Cakes. Each dinner (except the soups) includes our famous french fries, coleslaw, and a dessert. Pre-orders are accepted. Please make sure you are pre-ordering on the correct day... Or make it easy and order for all 3 Fry-days!

- **March 8th Pre-Order:** <http://tinyurl.com/March8Fryday>
- **March 15th Pre-Order:** <http://tinyurl.com/March15Fryday>
- **March 22nd Pre-Order:** <http://tinyurl.com/March22Fryday>

Lenten Pizza Supper | *Cub Scout Pack 2*

March 1st from 3:30-6pm

Cub Scout Pack 2 is now taking pre-orders online for a Lenten Supper which consists of fresh, made-from-scratch pizzas and strombolis that you bake yourself (all meat-free and Lent-friendly!). We also offer cookie dough to make fresh made cookies.

- **Pre-Order:** <https://pack2dtown.square.site>
- *Pre-orders will be taken through 12pm on Thursday, February 22nd.*

This Weekend: Catholic Relief Services Rice Bowl

Join our faith community in a transformative Lenten journey through CRS Rice Bowl to meet people in Uganda, El Salvador and Indonesia who are working hard to overcome the challenges of hunger and the impact of climate change. Pick up your family's CRS Rice Bowl after Masses Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 10-11. During the 40 days of Lent, we will reflect on our connectedness as one family in Christ and work together to ensure our sisters and brothers worldwide can thrive. Visit crsricebowl.org to learn more.



Altar Server Training

Altar server training will be offered to all students in grades 5 and up on Monday, February 12, at 7 pm in the church. All current servers who would like additional training are encouraged to come and bring your questions!

We will need all our servers over the next few months as we prepare for Lent, Easter, First Communion and Confirmation!

Contact: Tracy Hoffmann (TracyH@stjosephrc.org)

The Samaritians Choice: An Act of Love

On February 19, 2024 at 7:00pm at St Joseph Church, the **Archdiocesan Office for Life and Family**, in partnership with the **Sovereign Military Order of Malta, American Association** will present an educational program designed to help stem the tide of human trafficking in our local community.

The presentation is provided free of charge and open to all. The focus is on prevention and protection for you, your family and those who fall into your sphere of influence by raising awareness on how to identify the signs, how to report it, and how to support survivors.

For more information on this program please visit the website of the Office of Life and family at: <https://phillycatholiclife.org/>.



**Coffee & Donut
Social: Next
Sunday, Feb. 18th
after 10:30am Mass**

Knights of Columbus 8th Annual Golf Outing

Join the Knights of Columbus Monday, April 29th at the Coatesville Country Club (new venue!) for their annual golf outing.

8am check-in and a 9am shotgun start. Cost is \$140 per golfer, or \$550 per foursome and includes golf, cart, range, continental breakfast and buffet lunch. Mulligans, raffles and course games can be purchased for an additional cost.

Proceeds benefit David's Drive 831 and local food banks.

Sponsorships are available:

- Lunch sponsor: \$750
- Beverage Cart: \$500
- Breakfast sponsor: \$500
- Driving Range sponsor: \$500
- Hole sponsor: \$150

For more information or to purchase tickets, please contact Joe Cutolo (jcutolo@gmail.com) or Brian Roselli (Brian@BrianRoselli.com)





Thank You from St. Vincent de Paul: Helping Local Neighbors in Need

Thank you to our generous parishioners who help to support the St. Vincent de Paul ministry. This ministry helps neighbors in the Downingtown area with basic human necessities such as; rental assistance, utility assistance, car payments and food. **Please know that 100% of your assistance goes directly to those in need in our local Downingtown neighborhood.**

We are funded totally by donation and 100% of money contributed goes to support our neighbors in need. We are grateful for your generosity!

Donate: Checks or Cash can be dropped off at the parish office. Checks can be addressed to "St. Vincent de Paul." If donating cash, please enclose in a sealed envelope and note "St. Vincent de Paul" on the front.

Upcoming Young Adult Events Ages 21-35

Tuesday, February 13th at 7pm- Holy Hour to Happy Hour!

We'll first meet for adoration/praise and worship in the daily mass chapel. Afterwards, we'll head over to Estrella's to feast before the fasting begins!

Tuesday, February 27th at 7pm- Spelling Bee Contest!

All levels are welcome! :) In honor of Lent, this will be Catholic themed! If participating, please bring \$2 to contribute to the cash prize for the winner! Feel free to also bring a snack or drink to share! This will take place in the Nest (located behind the parish office building).



Stewardship Report

February 4 2024
Weekly/Monthly/Online:
\$65,193

Fiscal Year-to-Date
\$1,415,449

Poor Box
(IHM Literacy Center)
\$486

Care of Aging & Infirm Priests
\$7,176



Women of Hope Casserole Schedule

Group 3:

Beef Puffs w/ Mushroom Sauce

Group 4:

Swiss Potatoes and Ham

Requested Items:

water & small snack bags.
Please leave items in the Loaves and Fishes closet in the designated basket.

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