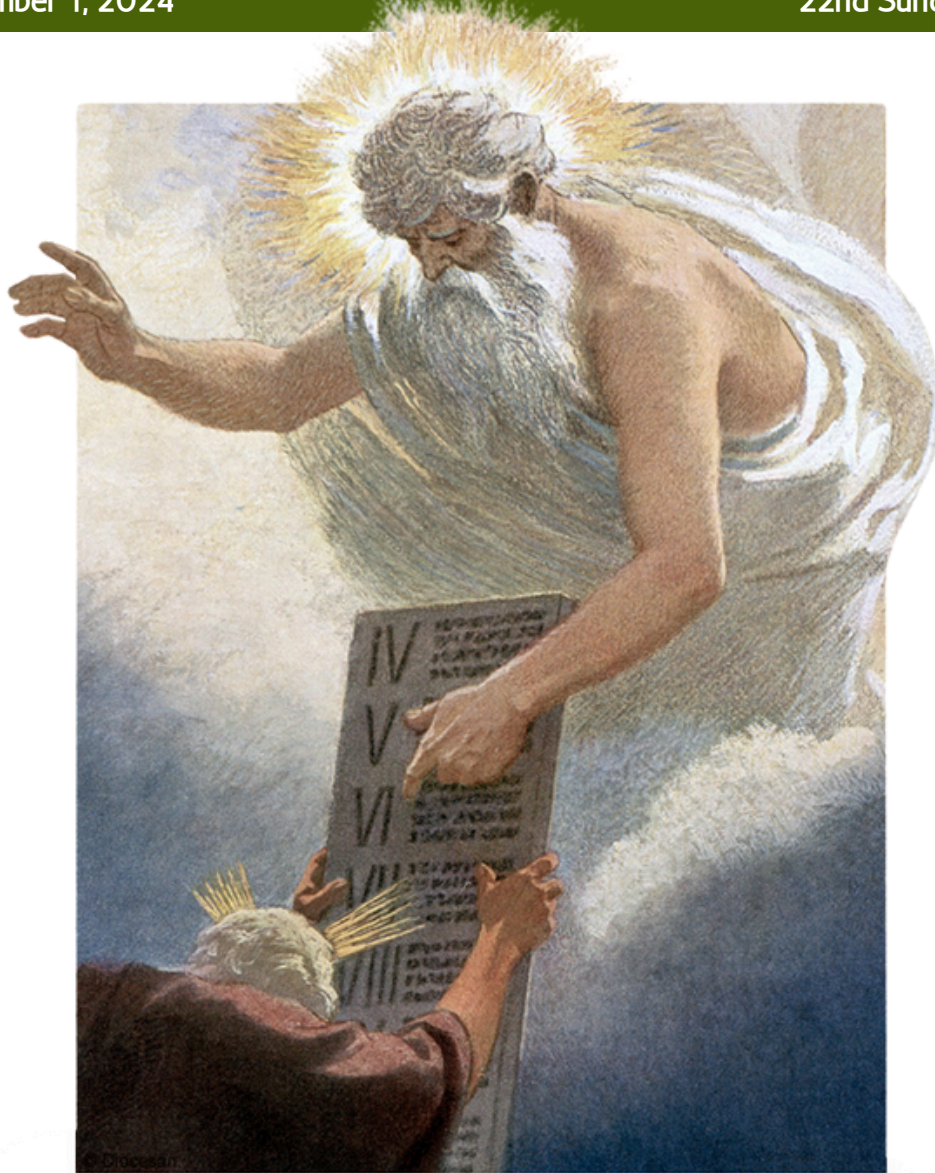




Rev. Stephen F. Leva.....Pastor
Rev. Andrew J. Auletta.....Parochial Vicar
Rev. Louis J. Monica.....Minister, Bishop Shanahan High School
Deacon Matt Coyne..... Permanent Deacon
Deacon Michael Murtha..... Permanent Deacon

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

Sunday, September 1, 2024 22nd Sunday of Ordinary Time



EVERY PERFECT GIFT IS FROM ABOVE

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

Convent

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

School

Phone: 610-269-8999
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

Sunday, Sept. 1

5pm Vigil: Mary Ann Cardelli

6am: Parishioners

7:30am: Peggy Nescio

9am: Dominic (Coogs) Castaldi

10:30am: Memorial Society:

Joseph & Marie Gasper,

Jean Valentino, Harry Valentino, Jr.,

Paul James McGovern,

Evelyn Garver, Richard Joseph Witkowski,

Carmela Pantalone, Noreen Banks, Connie

Yoho & Stephen A. Dacey, Jr.

12pm: Michael Vogel

4pm: Mary Ann Cardelli

Sanctuary Candle: Andrew J. Cozzone

Chapel Sanctuary Candle: Nicola Ursini

Monday, Sept. 2

7am: Judith A. Schmidt

9am: Dennis O'Donnell

Tuesday, Sept. 3

7am: George Dailey

9am: Floyd D'Ginto

Wednesday, Sept. 4

7am: Andrew J. Cozzone, 17th Anniv.

9am: Rose Stanish

Thursday, Sept. 5

7am: Paul B. Leva

9am: Lucia Napoleone

Friday, Sept. 6

7am: Helen Redick, 2nd Anniv.

9am: Charles R. Hanley

Saturday, Sept. 7

8am: Nicholas Santo Chilla

Next Week: Sunday, Sept. 8

5pm Vigil: Parker Stumpf

6am: Parishioners

7:30am: Robert Bammer

9am: John McGinley

10:30am: Marietta Gidaro

12pm: Peggy Gallo Paoli

4pm: Sylvia Donahue

Please Note:

The 2025 Mass book will open on Tuesday, September 3rd. Mass intentions can be purchased in the parish office during office hours. To ensure fairness, there will be a limit of one (1) Sunday Mass and three (3) weekday Masses per purchaser.

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, GySgt Steve & GySgt Shaina Anderson, Petty Officer Katesiree Cannon Bosen, Lt. Mitch Byers, Caytie Castells, Francesca Chindemi, Specialist, Ensign Morgan S. Dankanich, Major Joseph S. DiBerardinis, CPL Daniel A. DiLuigi, Ensign Jude DiMedio, USN, Airman First Class, James G. DiSantis, Cpt Mark Edwards, ROTC, Sargent Ian Fay, James Heisler, LTJG Nathan J. Horton, USN, USN Victoria Jones, SFC Peter Karol, Peter Kurtz, Lt. Col. Paul Lang, Krzysztof Malarz, Lt. Col. J. Kevin McKittrick, 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:

Lidia Arasin, Sean Arnold, Diane Blakely Attien, Vincent Bellistri, Deb Blazejewski, Baby Botero, Ashlyn Brown, Donn Cabott, Terry Campbell, Darlene Clark, Mary Connors, Tim Connor, Bernadette Constant, Nancy Coccetti, Lanai Costanzo, Ryan Coombs, Mary Crawford, Patricia Cudahy, Gerry Daney, Tony D'Angelo, Baby Kai D'Amore, Kari D'Amore, Dante Danilshenko, Joan Dawson, Lisa Dawson, Richard Deblasio, Patricia Derelanko, Lori D'Ginto, Robin DiMattei, Conner Farnum, Joe Fasano, Nicole Ferst, Joan Garber, Jane Gill, Carol Gray, John G. Haney, Dana Hathaway, Liam Hawk, Michele Hill, Danielle Horack, David Horack, Barbara Hartmann, Jimmy Kane, Matthew Keenan, Elizabeth Leisse, Jack and Maryann Logan, Kathleen Manuel, Donna Martin, Kellie Martin, Taylor Martin, Patricia Melcher, Jim Mento, Rich Miller, Sean Moore, Winnie Mullen, Michelle Murdaugh, Jennifer Murphy, Robert Nagy, Katie Nejman, Angie Pisano, Gina Ofner, Nancy Paquet, Dave Parker, Brenda Pezone, Larry Polinsky, Lucy Poole, John Protivnak, Jeanette Randall, Dave Robey, John Rogelstad, Leila Ruedy, Stephen, Don Skomsky, Alexis Shaffer, Helen Rechner Short, Diana Simmons, Justin Smith, Robin Smith, Donald Sundstrom, Noah Thomas, Christian Toner, and Barbara Wayne.

We remember in our prayers those who have died.

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

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



Weekly Letter

September 1, 2024

Dear Friends,

In today's Gospel we hear Jesus offer some strong words to those who were gathered to listen to Him speak, especially the Pharisees and some of the Scribes, "Well did Isaiah prophesy about you hypocrites, as it is written: This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me; in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines human precepts. You disregard God's commandment but cling to human tradition." Their failure to look into their own hearts and their own motives for how they live their lives has led them to condemn Jesus and His followers once again and by doing that they miss the point of what Jesus is trying to teach them.

It is easy to blame all the ills in our world, our country and even our Church on others or outside pressures and influences and to a degree there is truth in that belief. However, at some point we as faith filled disciples of Jesus must look at our actions and listen to our words and decide if we are building up the kingdom of God or helping to break it down? There is nothing wrong with tradition and uniformity of belief unless those things keep us from truly living God's law of love in our lives and the lives of those, we encounter each day. That law of love ("You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your being, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself") must be the first and most important guiding factor in our lives. If we are not living by that law of love, then all the traditions and prayers and masses in the world simply fall short of what they are meant to be and meant to do in our lives and in the lives of those we meet and especially of those we love. Love God, love others, it seems so simple and yet we know that it can be a challenge.

On this Labor Day weekend we pray:

*Lord on this Labor Day, we thank You for the blessing of work. We ask for strength to complete each day.
We ask for rest when we are weary. We ask Your guidance for everyone seeking employment,
and we ask that You be with those whose faces we might never see but who work tirelessly each day
for the good of us all.
Amen.*

Peace,
Fr. Steve Leva

Celebrate
LABOR
Day





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. **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO ASSIST WITH PHONE CALLS.**

For the week of Sept 2
Meredith DiPietro at 267-481-3873
Debbie Hastings at 610-304-0631

For the week of Sept 9
Mary Sweeney at 610-269-0604
Janet Schramm at 484-631-8875



Ministry of the Week: That Man Is You

That Man Is You (TMIY) is an interactive men's program focused on the development of male leadership in the modern world. It combines the best research from science with the teachings of the Catholic faith and the wisdom of the saints to develop the vision of authentic men capable of transforming themselves, their families and the greater society.

The Vision of Man Fully Alive enables men to experience authentic freedom as sons of God. Through living the three-fold mission of abiding presence, joyful service, and loving sacrifice, their hearts and homes will experience the joy that God desires.

The program is divided into two, 13-week sessions. The Fall session emphasizes the development of the Scriptural vision of man, especially in his relationship to his family and society, while the Spring session emphasizes the practical means of becoming that man.

Learn more: <https://stjosephrc.org/that-man-is-you>



Driven to Help Other People Everyday

Do you want to make a difference in your community? The HOPE Drivers program presents the opportunity to do just that. By volunteering with HOPE, you'll be helping to brighten someone's day and alleviate their transportation challenges.

Each journey is much more than a simple drive—it's a meaningful gesture of HOPE. You'll be directly supporting individuals who need transportation assistance, making their lives a little easier. Join the HOPE Drivers program today and become a vital part of a network dedicated to helping others and making a positive difference every single day.

For more information, please contact Debbie Hastings at 610-304-0631 or dmorrishastings@hotmail.com



Knights of Columbus Peanut Butter and Jelly Drive

The Knights of Columbus will be collecting jars of peanut butter and jelly the weekends of Sept. 7/8 and Sept. 14/15. Donations will be delivered to local food pantries - The Lord's Pantry and Honey Brook Food Pantry.

Crunchy or smooth, grape or strawberry - we're happy to accept it all! (Please, no bread).



Rev. William J. Fenerty Council #7208
Downingtown, PA www.kofc7208.org



2024 Coats for Kids Program

Double our impact by donating! (Now thru Sept 16)

Did you know that many local children go without a coat each winter?

Please support children in need by visiting the link below for more information and instruction on how to donate.

A \$25 donation will provide **TWO** warm winter coats for children in need.
Coats will be provided to local organizations for distribution.
Help us exceed our goal of 300 coats.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090A4FABAF2B0-coats1>





RISE & SOAR

ST. JOSEPH YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS

FOCUS Group Registration is Now Open!

Dive Deeper into your faith by joining a weekly Focus Group. We have several options available for both middle school and high school students in grades 7th - 12th.

Don't wait! Deadline to register is Wednesday, Sept. 11.

Register Online: <https://stjosephrc.org/youth-ministry-weekly-focus-groups>

You Won't Want to Miss our 2024-25 Kickoff Event!

Let's start of the year with some ol' time country fun! Join us for our Cornhole Tournament! We'll have prizes for the winners and for the best team name, tons of snacks and even SQUARE DANCING! Don't worry, we'll have an instructor on hand to teach us.

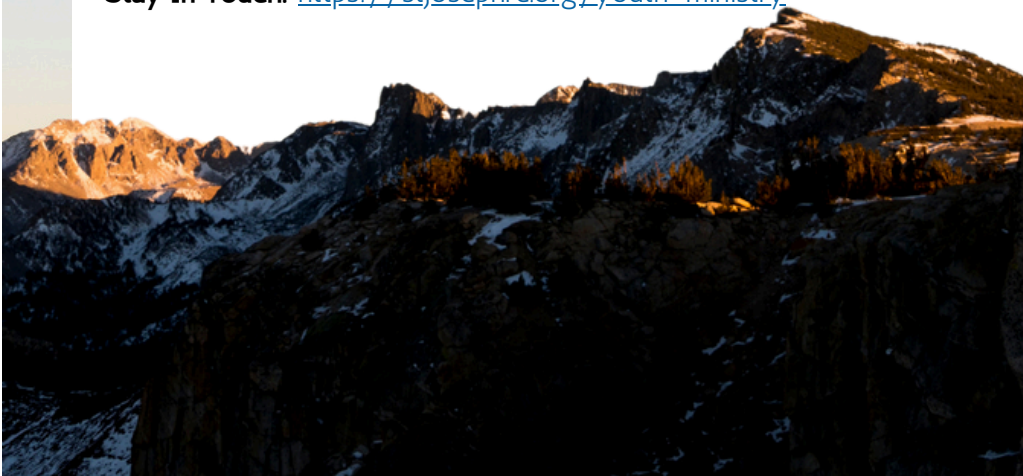
This event is open to grades 6th - 12th and pre-registration is required! Sign up before Sept. 6th to save your spot!

Register Online: <https://stjosephrc.org/cornhole-tournament>

Stay Up-to-Date on the Latest

Our goal is to serve the youth of our parish and meet every child where they are in their faith journey. We've planned lots of fun events, scripture studies, service days, and pizza and prayer nights to give youth opportunities to have fun, grow in Christian friendship, learn about God, and develop and strengthen their relationship with Him.

Stay In Touch: <https://stjosephrc.org/youth-ministry>





2024 Fall Flower Sale

Sponsored by Cub Scout Pack 2:

Get a head start and decorate your home with beautiful fall flowers! Pre-order today by selecting from a variety of 9" potted single plants (Montuak Daisies, Ornamental Peppers, Cabbage and Kale, (red, rose, white kale – purple or white cabbage), Mums (assorted colors)) \$8.00/each, 10" Mum (one plant) monochrome hanging basket - \$10.00/each, 10" Mum Tricolor hanging basket - \$20.00 each.

Online orders: August 19 through September 3. Orders will be available for pick up on September 14 and 15. Please use the attached link to place your order. <https://pack2dtown.square.site/autumn-flowers>

Onsite sales: Saturday, September 14 and Sunday, September 15 before and after all masses. Only 9" potted single mums (assorted colors), \$8.00 each.

Thank you in advance for supporting the scouts!

Join the Pack!

Cub Scouts is an activity that is open to boys entering Kindergarten to 5th grade. For over 100 years the scouting program has promoted 'fun with a purpose'. Scouting activities encourage our youth to try new things, provide service to others, build self confidence and reinforce ethical standards. From hikes to hayrides, camping to crafts, flag folding to fishing, we encourage our scouts to always do their best.

If you'd like to see what we are about, please join us at registration night on Wednesday, September 11th at 7pm in the school cafeteria (enter through the back by the basketball nets).

For any questions please email pack2dtown@gmail.com or visit our website at <http://pmweb.troopmaster.com/mysite/Pack2Dtown>.

We look forward to meeting you!

New Altar Server Training

Calling all future altar servers! Are you a rising 4th grader this year (or older)? Would you like to serve God and your parish on the altar? Please consider joining the altar server ministry!

Training will be held on Saturday, September 7, from 10:00 to 11:00 am in the church and again on Sunday, September 8, from 2:00 to 3:00 pm, when you will join all the parish altar servers for an 'all-hands' meeting, where Fr. Auletta will be addressing several issues that impact all servers. We look forward to meeting you on September 7.

ALL-HANDS MEETING FOR ALTAR SERVERS

Fr. Auletta is requiring that all current altar servers, including newly-trained servers, attend an 'all-hands' meeting on Sunday, September 8, from 2:00 to 3:00 pm. All servers need to plan to attend this meeting. Father will be addressing issues that impact everyone in the ministry.



PREP Volunteers Needed

I can't be a Catechist because...

- I don't know enough.
- I'm not a very organized person.
- I can't keep up to 15 children attentive and interested in learning about Jesus.
- I can't do this by myself.

Maybe think this instead...

- I'll give it a try because I want to give some of time to Jesus.
- I'll give it a try because I am available during the time my children come for classes. I may not be perfect, but I'll give it a try for Jesus.
- God is not asking for perfection. **There is no perfect person, but there is you. You are the one God is calling to teach His children.** So, close your eyes, take a deep breath, clasp your fingers to your nose, and dive into the catechist pool. God's grace will help you with every stroke.

I can be a Catechist because...

- I can learn more about Jesus and my faith.
- I can become better organized.
- I can tell children how much Jesus loves them and wants to know them better so they can know Him better.
- Jesus will be with me every step of the way.

General lesson plans available with online resources and all classes have aids to help. Contact the PREP Office (610-873-8798) to find out how you can help us bring the children closer to Jesus this year.

Becoming Catholic

Do you know someone who wants to be Catholic? Are you missing any sacraments? Why should you be Catholic? It's a simple question but not an easy one to answer quickly. It requires an approach that goes beyond arguments from Scripture or history about this or that Catholic teaching. Yet, since the people who ask it often have little or no experience with religion, the answer also needs to begin with simple truths to which everyone can relate. Begin your journey with us. We walk alongside you. Come, join us to...

- Hear the story of salvation history as revealed in Sacred Scripture
- Discover the love that God has for you, and deepen your faith in Him
- Learn about the Catholic Church, her doctrines, devotions, and practices
- Be welcomed into the Catholic Church and receive the Sacraments instituted by Christ

**Contact us without obligation to learn more:
Kathleen Greco, Director of Religious Education
610-873-8798 or KathleenG@stjosephrc.org**



CYO SPORTS BRIEF

Varsity and JV Volleyball Coaches/Assistants Needed!
Are you interested in coaching? CYO needs 1 Varsity Coach & 2 JV Coaches & Assistants. Please email StjoesCYO@gmail.com. Please pass along to anyone that would be interested in coaching our St. Joseph CYO Volleyball JV and Varsity teams.

Co-Ed Junior Soccer Program Sat/Sun afternoons, 6-weeks from Sept-Oct. Boys and girls in 3rd & 4th grade. Locations include: PJP, Pierce Middle, Garrett Mill Rd. Registration is \$75 and includes t-shirt.

www.tinyurl.com/CYOSoccerSJP

More CYO Info:
st-joseph-cyo.sportngin.com



An Invitation from the Chester County Padre Pio Prayer Group

On September 13-14, SS. Philip and James Church will have the Glove and Bloody Bandage of St. Padre Pio for veneration. Please join them to celebrate this amazing saint.

9/13 Veneration 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM (including Rosary and Novena to the Sacred Heart of Jesus)

- 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM SCHOOL DISMISSAL
- Veneration 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM
- Closing Mass 6:00 PM

9/14 Veneration 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM (including Rosary and Sacred Heart Novena)

- Mass 4 PM
- Veneration 5:00 PM – 6:00 PM Closing
- Questions contact Marie Romano 484-433-9401

Walking in Grief

Bereavement Offerings Fall 2024
Tuesdays Sept. 24, Oct. 1, Oct. 8

Attend one, two, or all three. Time: 6:00pm-7:30pm via Zoom.

Contact me if interested: Theresa Ferrari, MSN, RN, Certified Spiritual Director - DTPCMT@aol.com or 484-459-1564.

If you are grieving the loss of a loved one, no matter how much time has passed, please know that you are not alone. These offerings are for anyone grieving. Come share or just listen to others who also walk in grief.

May you know that God is with you.



Stewardship Report

The collection totals for August 28, 2024 will be reported in next week's bulletin.



Women of Hope Casserole Schedule

Group 1:

Southwest Chicken 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.