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 Deacon Michael Murtha..... Permanent Deacon

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

Sunday, September 8, 2024 23rd Sunday of Ordinary Time



HE MAKES THE DEAF HEAR & THE MUTE SPEAK

<p>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</p>	<p>Parish Office Hours Monday - Friday: 8AM-4 PM Evening Hours Mon & Wed: 4PM-7PM Sunday: 9AM-1:30PM *Closed 12PM-1PM Weekdays*</p> <p>Convent 484-593-4352 Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary</p>	<p>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</p> <p>Parish Religious Education Program Phone: 610-873-8798 www.stjosephrc.org/prep Mrs. Kathleen Greco, Director of Religious Education</p>
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Mass Intentions

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

Sanctuary Candle: Lucia Napoleone

Monday, Sept. 9

7am: Ron Savastio

9am: Claire McGovern

Tuesday, Sept. 10

7am: Jeremy Morris

9am: Joan Scalia

Wednesday, Sept. 11

7am: Sr. Miriam George Kelly, IHM

9am: Claire McGovern

Thursday, Sept. 12

7am: Corrine O'Neil

9am: Josephine Hennigan

Friday, Sept. 13

7am: Patricia Mullen

9am: Patricia Mullen

Saturday, Sept. 14

8am: Marie Montella

Next Week: Sunday, Sept. 15

5pm Vigil: Francis John Perella

6am: Parishioners

7:30am: Christopher Reynolds

9am: Elisa DiFrancesco

10:30am: Saverio Gidaro

12pm: Luciano Sciarra

4pm: Rita Mich

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, Lauren Elliot, Conner Farnum, Joe Fasano, Nicole Ferst, Joan Garber, Jane Gill, Jim Guisepppe, 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.



Weekly Letter

September 8, 2024

Dear Friends,

In this weekend's Gospel we hear Jesus use an Aramaic word (Aramaic being the language we believe Jesus would have spoken) "Ephphatha," the Evangelist Mark is very good about telling us that this word, Ephphatha means "be opened." Pope Benedict XVI wrote, "This little word, 'Ephphatha—Be opened,' sums up Christ's entire mission. He became man so that man, made inwardly deaf and dumb by sin, would become able to hear the voice of God, the voice of love speaking to his heart, and learn to speak in the language of love, to communicate with God and with others." I love that Pope Benedict draws our attention to a deeper meaning in the healing of the deaf man, Jesus is calling each of us to hear the Word of God and respond to that Word.

As we grow in our relationship with the Lord we are called to become more and more familiar with his voice, with his word and to allow that word to settle in our hearts and minds. As we hear that word we are then, called as the baptized people of the new covenant, to respond to the word. It is not enough my friends to simply hear the word, that is a great and necessary first step, however, once we hear that word then we are expected to act on the word and allow that word to help shape our lives and make us a new creation in Jesus. Jesus is that Word that bring us new life. May we all live our lives as people formed in that Word and may Jesus always be that loving voice that we hear and follow each day of our lives. God bless your week.

Peace,
Fr. Steve Leva

7th Level Students Annual Fall

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29TH

Bake Sale

ENJOY A WIDE VARIETY OF HOMEMADE
COOKIES - CUPCAKES - DOUGHNUTS - CAKES - BREADS, CANDY BAGS, PIES

ALL PROCEEDS GO TOWARDS PURCHASING GROCERY GIFT CARDS, FOR LOCAL FAMILIES IN NEED AND THE BLESSED BUNDLES PROGRAM.

Outside the church after the 9:00, 10:30 and 12 Noon Masses. Look for the tents!



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 9
Mary Sweeney at 610-269-0604
Janet Schramm at 484-631-8875

For the week of Sept 16
Debbie Hastings at 610-304-0631
Diane Sweeney at 484-678-2738



RISE & SOAR

ST. JOSEPH YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS

Ministry of the Week: Youth Group

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.

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.

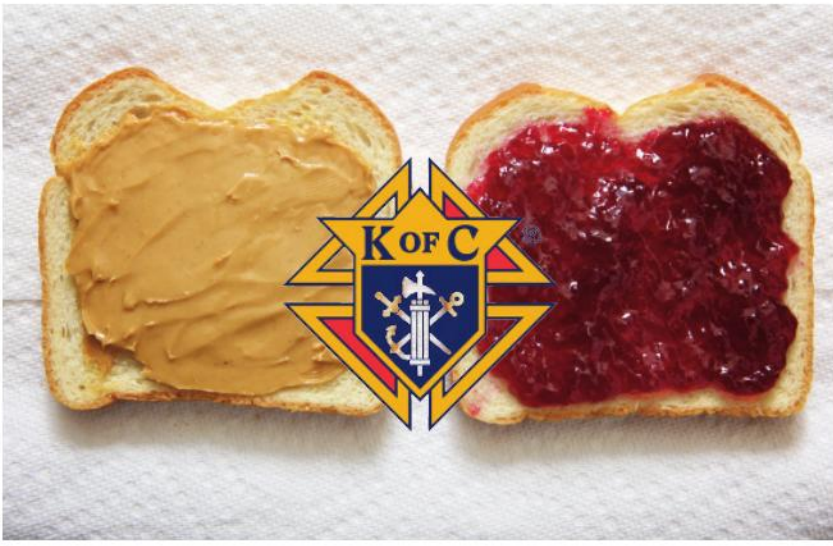
Register Online: <https://stjosephrc.org/youth-ministry-weekly-focus-groups>

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>

Youth Ministry Mass - September 22 at 10:30am



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).



Knights of Columbus: Coffee & Donut Social

And after you drop off your peanut butter & jelly donations, join the Knights of Columbus in the cafeteria after the 9am Mass today, Sept 8th), for coffee and donuts. See you there!



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>



Fall Flower Sale

Sponsored by Cub Scout Pack 2:

Get a head start decorating your home for the fall with Mums. The Cub Scouts will be selling mums on-site before and after all masses on Saturday, September 14 and Sunday, September 15.

There will be assorted colors of 9" pot single plant mums-\$8.00/ea. Available in colors of red, yellow, orange, purple, white, pink

All preordered fall flowers will be available for pickup on September 14-15.

Thank you for your support!

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 <https://pmweb.troopmaster.com/Website/Home>.

We look forward to meeting you!



The Divine Mercy Cenacle

The Divine Mercy Cenacle is an opportunity for people to gather and become more familiar with the precepts of Jesus as Divine Mercy. The group studies THE DIARY OF ST. MARIA FAUSTINA KOWALSKA.

The DIARY is Sister Faustina's writings which include her personal conversations with Jesus. These small groups study the writings with the help of Cenacle Formation Manuals presented by the Eucharistic Apostles of The Divine Mercy, Holy Scripture and the Catechism of the Catholic Church. The group prays for the Parish intentions and recites the Divine Mercy Chaplet. The goal of each member is to become a Eucharistic Apostle of the Divine Mercy.

The Cenacle meets every other Tuesday morning after 9:00 AM Mass in the John Neuman Room. Our first meeting is September, 17. New members are encouraged and always welcome.

Join the PA March for Life

Knights of Columbus Council #7208 and St. Peter's parish are sponsoring an Elite Coach bus for the trip. The bus will leave St. Joseph's parking lot at 8:30am and return at 5:15pm. There is no fee for the bus, but we do request you bring between \$3-\$5 per person, for a tip for the bus driver.

Seating is limited so please contact Jim Solnosky at Jamessolnosky@yahoo.com.

Save the Date: Designer Bag Bingo is Back!

St. Joseph Youth Ministry will be hosting Designer Bag Bingo on Friday, November 8th at 7pm. Doors will open at 6pm. Stay tuned for more info and ticket sales.

PREP Volunteers Needed

I can't be a Catechist because...

- I don't know enough.

Maybe think this instead...

- 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...

- 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**

Are You a Past Cursillo Participant?

The Philadelphia Cursillo is taking steps to revive itself. If you experienced a Cursillo weekend in another (arch)diocese and are interested in connecting with Cursillo again, please contact Fr. Bill Waters, OSA at h2ososa@aol.com.



CYO SPORTS BRIEF

Next CYO Board Meeting is Thursday, Sept. 26th at 7pm. Board positions for 2024-25 are available. Full board meeting schedule can be found on the CYO website.

Who Can Join CYO?
All programs are open to *student parishioners* attending St. Joseph School, private, public or home based schools. The programs are strengthened by committed and qualified volunteers. Teams are open to all interested in participating - from the beginner to the most experienced. All are encouraged to participate.

Fall Sports:
Co-Ed Soccer
Volleyball
Field Hockey
Cheerleading
Cross Country
Football

Info & Registration
st-joseph-cyo.sportngin.com

Come as you are.

YOU ARE WELCOME HERE

Make authentic connections with other women
Refuel and refresh | Learn more about God

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 announce that we will offer two Bible studies this season. Trust us. This may be your best YES ever.

In ***Keeping in Balance***, we'll explore Biblical ideas for managing life's pace and pressure while living with calm and steadiness. Come along on a journey throughout Scripture as we discover the relevance of Old and New Testament wisdom to our current daily challenges. Your lifestyle of health and holiness awaits. **Beginning in person September 25th and Virtual September 30th.**

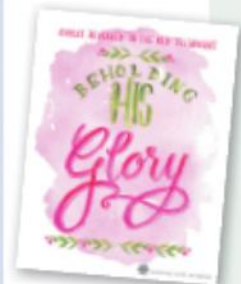
Beholding His Glory reminds us how all Scripture points us to our Redeemer, Jesus Christ. We'll learn to recognize and appreciate God's plan for our own lives, His awe-inspiring majesty, and His desire for personal intimacy with each one of us. This study is designed for women who have participated in WWP in the past. **Beginning September 25th.**



St Joseph's Parish
Parish Meeting Center
Wednesday at 9:00am

Virtual Monday at
7:30pm

St Joseph's Parish
Parish Meeting Center
Wednesday at 7:00pm



Questions? Email Amy McDonald at wwpstjosephdtown@gmail.com

 walking with purpose

www.walkingwithpurpose.com





Adult Faith Formation Presents: ALPHA

In a world of isolation, anonymity, and keyboard-warriors, Alpha offers content and guidance to create a space for honest and open conversations about life's biggest questions. How can I find my purpose? Why am I here? What should I believe? How can I find peace? Why is life so unfair? How can I thrive in challenging times? How can I make the most of my life?

Try ALPHA. Join us on Tuesday evenings Starting Sept 10th in the PMC at 7pm. Everyone welcome!

Register Online Now: www.stjosephrc.org/alpha

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>



Stewardship Report

August 28, 2024

Weekly/Monthly/Online:
\$28,911

September 1, 2024

Weekly/Monthly/Online:
\$30,300

Fiscal Year to Date:

\$418,302

Weekly Poor Box:

St. Vincent de Paul
\$1,820



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.

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