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 Rev. Andrew J. Auletta.....Parochial Vicar
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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 1, 2024 1st Sunday of Advent



<p>Parish Staff Allan Anderson, CPA, Business Manager Joyce Castaldi, Parish Secretary Kelly Ennis, Elder Care Manager Paul Futer, Choir Director Dodie Milano, Receptionist Mary Beth Mostyn, Administrator Deacon Michael Murtha, Ministry Coordinator Carol Orphanos, Bookkeeper 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, Dec. 1

5pm Vigil: Garrett Vincent Fasano

6am: Parishioners

7:30am: Dominic Binh Tran

9am: Sadie Keane

10:30am: Memorial Society:

Joseph & Marie Gasper, Phyllis Suleski, Marie L. Scotese, Charles Ricker, Diane Schroeter, Patricia Markos, Joseph & Mary Jamack, Edith Delio, Darren DiMidio, Dean Leahy

12pm: Aidan William Primanti

4pm: Josephine Kufta

Sanctuary Candle: Madeline Woodruff

Chapel Sanctuary Candle: Baby Jenkins

Monday, Dec. 2

7am: Madeline Woodruff

9am: Adam C. Erdman

Tuesday, Dec. 3

7am: Paul Dixon

9am: Carmen & Lucy Spadaro
& John & Lillian Fogarty

Wednesday, Dec. 4

7am: Debbie Mack

9am: Denise Sinclair, Living

Thursday, Dec. 5

7am: Walter Easley

9am: Ed Hill

Friday, Dec. 6

7am: Dominic & Nancy Toscani

9am: Joseph Poretta

Saturday, Dec. 7

8am: Ryan McFarland

Next Week:

Sunday, Dec. 8

5pm Vigil: Elaine Vogel

6am: Parishioners

7:30am: Michael B. Herley

9am: Deanna Roache

10:30am: Mandy Lynn Lange

12pm: Joseph & Millie Pinto

4pm: Ramon Rodriguez-Bonhomme

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, 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, 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., SaR. Max Spatola, LT Sean Sweeney and Aaron Thieroff, and Sgt. Stephen Yori

For those who are sick:

Lidia Arasin, Joseph Bilder, Kevin Bilder, Deb Blazejewski, Baby Botero, Dennis Brehany, Ashlyn Brown, Donn Cabott, Sandy Cabott, Terry Campbell, Maureen Collins, Mary Conners, Tim Connor, Lanai Costanzo, Ryan Coombs, Patricia Cudahy, Mary Ellen Curran, Helen Cupo, Gerry Daney, Kari D'Amore, Baby Kai D'Amore, Dante Danilshenko, Joan Dawson, Lisa Dawson, Richard Deblasio, Patricia Derelanko, Lori D'Ginto, Robin DiMattei, Lauren Elliot, Jack Falkner, Conner Farnum, Joe Fasano, Nicole Ferst, Michelle Ford, Jeff Ford, Trudi Gauss, Jane Gill, Jim Guiseppe, Carol Gray, John G. Haney, Barbara Hartmann, Gary Henderson, Tom Ippolito, Jimmy Kane, Frank Keane, Matthew Keenan, Rose Kuchar, Elizabeth Leisse, Mark Lisney, Jack and Maryann Logan, Deb Lojewski, Patricia Melcher, Jim Mento, Rich Miller, Sean Moore, Winnie Mullen, Michelle Murdaugh, Jennifer Murphy, Robert Nagy, Katie Nejman, Angie Pisano, Nancy Paquet, Dave Parker, Brenda Pezone, Larry Polinsky, Lucy Poole, Elizabeth Poole, Jeanette Randall, Dave Robey, John Rogelstad, Leila Ruedy, Alexis Shaffer, Stephen, Don Skomsky, Alexis Shaffer, Jaxon Sirhal, Robin Smith, Helen Rechner Short, Diana Simmons, Justin Smith, Don Sundstrom, Noah Thomas, Don and Irene Tuffner, Nancy White, Barbara Wayne and Howard Wright.

We remember in our prayers those who have died.

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



The Parochial Vicar's Weekly Letter

December 1, 2024

Dear Friends,

In 2015, I graduated from Penn State University. During my senior year, I had become determined to go to seminary to study to be a priest, but I still needed to take a bunch of classes to graduate. I heard that Pope Francis was coming to Philadelphia, and I thought it was a wonderful time to enter the Seminary. In my determination, I decided to take the rest of my classes during the summer to obtain my degree and be present at St. Charles Seminary at the beginning of the 2015-2016 school year... What I did not anticipate was how much work that summer would entail!

I completed 15 credits of classes (five classes total) in six weeks, and I was completely overwhelmed. I still remember the anxiety of having three 10-page papers due within one week for three different classes. My nerves were shot, I doubted myself, and I felt entirely unprepared. Yet miraculously, all the work was finished. If I had been a better student I could have completed those classes at any other point during the previous four years, so I learned a valuable lesson early on. Normally when we choose to do what is easy, we wind up having to do the hard work later.

Jesus, in today's Gospel, is asking us to prepare our hearts. I love the line where he says, "Do not let your hearts become drowsy from carousing and drunkenness, and the anxieties of daily life, and that day catch you by surprise like a trap." When we lose focus on our faith, or we choose to take the easy route in life, we can become overwhelmed and anxious. We can feel disconnected and lost. This Advent season is about reinvigorating our faith in Jesus Christ and preparing our hearts to receive him in humility and love.

We have plenty of opportunities to help you on this Advent pilgrimage. We will have our annual Lessons and Carols on Sunday, December 8th at 7 P.M. Please join us to listen and reflect on beautiful hymns and scripture readings! We also have options for charity like our Giving Tree, and many opportunities to go to the sacrament of confession! Whatever it may be, it is important to do something more to prepare our hearts to receive Jesus. Do not let the anxiety of this season drown out the grace and joy the Lord desires you to experience.

In Christ's Peace,
Rev. Andrew J. Auletta



Remember Your Loved Ones at Christmas

Donations are being accepted to help offset the cost of our beautiful Christmas decorations in and around the church. For \$10 per name, your loved ones names will be included in the Christmas bulletin. **If you would like to participate, please send this form to the parish office no later than Friday, Dec. 13th at 9am.**



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 Dec. 2
Debbie Hastings at 610-304-0631
Casey Rhoads at 908-489-0174

For the week of Dec. 9
Casey Rhoads at 908-489-0174
Debbie Hastings at 610-304-0631



Join Adult Faith Formation for an Evening of Advent Reflection

Please join us for an evening of Advent Reflection with Father Dave O'Brien on Wednesday, December 11 at 7 PM in the church. Open to all: men, women, families, friends and neighbors.



Wreaths Across Amercia

With Cub Scout Pack 2 and Boy Scout Troop 2

Saturday, Dec. 14, 2024 | Help honor local heroes. Sponsor a wreath to be placed on a veteran's grave this December during National Wreaths Across America day. Wreaths Across America (WAA) needs wreaths, and invited volunteers, family and friends to help with placement of the wreaths.

The Scouts will be attending Paoli Battlefield (11AM) and Indiantown Gap (12pm). Directions and details for these events can be found under "Locations" on the WAA site.

To make a donation, please scan the QR code or visit:
www.wreathscrossamerica.org/pages/168513/Overview



"Keep Christ in Christmas" Car Magnets On Sale

The Knights of Columbus are sponsoring a Keep Christ in Christmas car magnet and Holy Family ornament sale after all the Masses in the Narthex this weekend of. The magnets are \$5 each for black and white or color, and the ornaments are \$3 each. Cash or check only, please.



Advent
**LESSONS
& CAROLS**

*Sun, Dec. 8 at 7pm in Church
Presented by the Schola Cantorum*



RISE & SOAR

ST. JOSEPH YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS



Today is Your Last Chance to Register!

Youth Ministry Christmas Party

Open to all students grades 6th through 12th!

Please join us for our Youth Ministry Christmas Party on Saturday, December 7th from 4 pm to 8 pm at The Campus in Downingtown. In addition to ice skating, we'll have an ugly sweater contest with prizes for the winners, a spaghetti dinner, gaga ball, crafts, and hot chocolate and cookies for desert. The cost for this event is \$20 per attendee and all parishioners in grades 6th through 12th are invited!

CHRISTMAS Party

DECEMBER 7TH

4 PM TO 8 PM
AT THE CAMPUS

ICE SKATING

UGLY SWEATER CONTEST

SPAGHETTI DINNER

FOR ANY PARISHIONER IN GRADES 6TH - 12TH
SPOTS LIMITED - REGISTER TODAY!

Sisters OF STRENGTH

For Young Women in High School

Registration is now open for Sisters of Strength: A Catholic Mentoring Program for High School Girls. This is a Walking With Purpose course written specifically for girls in grades 9th through 12th. This course runs for ten weeks on Wednesday afternoons from January 22 through April 9th.

Visit: <https://stjosephrc.org/sisters-of-strength>



The Loaves & Fishes Project

With the Loaves and Fishes Project, giving is as easy as 1 - 2 - 3...!

1. Grab any soup can, box of pasta, or any other non-perishable item from your cupboard as you dash out the door to Mass.
2. Drop off your donation in the Loaves & Fishes closet on your right as you come into church.
3. Enter the church with the warm feeling of a nourished soul!

The Loaves & Fishes team delivers the items to the Lord's Pantry in Downingtown. As a church family, we can make a much appreciated contribution and a significant impact to a charity that helps over 700 families every week. For more information, visit:

<https://stjosephrc.org/loaves-fishes-project>

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BREAKFAST *with* SANTA

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8TH
FROM 8AM-12PM | CAFETERIA**

Pancakes, pork sausages, coffee and juice will be served.

PRICE
\$4 per child,
\$7 per adult
*or max cost of
\$25 per family*



Still Time for the Giving Tree Project!

There are still tags on the tree, and, if you haven't participated yet, there is still time!

To participate:

- Take a tag from the tree
- Purchase the gift
- Wrap the gift
 - Pay attention if there are instructions to not wrap a specific gift)
- Affix the tag to the wrapped gift
- Return the gift office by Weds, Dec. 11th
 - Presents go under the tree in the church
 - Gift cards and checks should be dropped off at the Parish Office

Thank you to those who have participated in the past. Hopefully you can once again support a family in need. This year there are even more needs, and many requests are for gift cards.

Questions? Contact Nick D'Addezio at 610.308.1757 or 484.770.8777.

Don't forget, all gifts must be returned to the Church or Parish Office by Wednesday, December 11!



ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL
DOWNINGTOWN

Upcoming Open House Times

- Wednesday, December 11th 5:00 - 6:30
- Friday, January 17th 10:00
- Sunday, January 26th 10:00 - 11:30

In-person Registration on Tuesday, February 11th

- 9:00 - 11:30 for PreK - K,
- 1:00 - 2:00 Grades 1 - 8

Now Hiring! Long Term Substitute

Saint Joseph School is looking for a long-term substitute teacher for 5th grade. The position starts in February 2025. For more information and to submit your resume, please reach out to Sister Lisa Golden, Principal, at (610) 269-8999 or sisterlisa@stjosephrc.org.

Advent Wreath Sale

\$10 Candles (4)
\$5 Gold Circlet

Purchase in Parish Office
During Business Hours
Proceeds Benefit Parish Youth Group





St. Joseph Mom's Group

Are you a mom looking for connection? Come enjoy friendship with other moms and introduce your children to some of their first friends!

Weekday Mom's Group in the PMC

- Thursday 12/5 9:30 - 11AM
- Friday 12/20 9:30 - 11AM
- Tuesday 1/7 9:30 - 11AM

Please reach out to Theresa (302)723-6648 or tmf1029@gmail.com to RSVP or for more information.

Can't make one of these dates, but want to sign up to receive more information about upcoming dates?

Visit: stjosephrc.org/moms-group

*"The loveliest masterpiece of the heart of God is the heart of a mother."
St. Thérèse of Lisieux*

Nourish for Caregivers

Nourish For Caregivers is a Christ-centered Catholic ministry that supports practical, emotional, and spiritual needs of caregivers. This is for anyone juggling the challenges of everyday life, health, career and caring for a loved one, whether it be a family member with disabilities, an ill or aging parent, spouse, friend or grandparent, in town or at a distance. Luckily there is a Nourish for Caregivers support group near us! The group meets at St. Elizabeth Parish in Chester Springs on the first Saturday of the month at 10:30 a.m. in the Holy Family Room/Library off of the Church Narthex. You are not required to register ahead.

If you would like further details, or want to discuss your situation please call Kelly Ennis, St. Joseph ElderCare Program at 610-269-7480 or email kennis@chs-adphila.org.



Stewardship Report

Due to printing schedules, the Nov. 27 Stewardship Report will be included in next week's bulletin.



Women of Hope Casserole Schedule

Group 2:

Old Fashion Beef Stew

Group 3:

American Chop Suey

Requested Items:

water & small snack bags.

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

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St. Joseph's Sunday Bulletin

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