

**Collection Total for December 15, 2024**

Envelopes: \$1,315.00 (21)  
Loose: \$62.01  
**Total: \$1,377.01**

Weekly Amount Needed: \$1,400.00

**Building Fund: \$580.00 (6)**

**Christmas Flowers: \$10.00 (1)**

\*\*\*\*\*

**December Bulletins: In Memory of Barbara Ann Ochs**

**December Missalettes: For the Parish**

\*\*\*\*\*

**PARISH EVENTS:**

**Tuesday, December 24 – Parish Office will be closed!**

**ASAP Prayer Service and Adoration at St. Joseph-Stringtown, 9:30am**

There will not be Eucharistic Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at St. Joseph-Olney. OCIA will not meet Tuesday, December 24<sup>th</sup> or next Tuesday, December 31<sup>st</sup>. OCIA will resume on Tuesday, January 7<sup>th</sup>!

**Wednesday, December 25 – Merry Christmas!**

Bible Study at St. Joseph-Olney with Deacon Jack will not be meeting as usual because it falls on Christmas Day. Be sure to attend Mass as it is a Holy Day of Obligation. Deacon Jack wishes you all a blessed Nativity of the Lord.

**Thursday, December 26 – Parish Office will be closed!**

**Monday, December 30 – St. Joseph-Stringtown will not have usual Monday 6:30pm Mass.**

**Tuesday, December 31 – Parish Office will be closed!**

**ASAP Prayer Service and Adoration at St. Joseph-Stringtown, 9:30am**

There will not be OCIA. OCIA will resume January 7<sup>th</sup>!

**Sunday, January 5 – Stringtown Community Club Blood Drive, St. Joseph-Stringtown Parish Center, 7-11:30am**

**BROTHERS IN CHRIST:**

Thursdays at 7:00pm at Holy Cross-Wendelin

**CAROLINE TRIMBLE - PASTORAL ASSOCIATE:**

The gift that surpasses all understanding is drawing nearer! Do you know this gift? Do you know where to find it? This precious gift is more than an heirloom. This gift is timeless, and it is always in the right size, color, and quantity. This gift is Love- the Love that is being carried in the womb of Mary. This same Love wants to live within each and every one of us! When this Love truly lives within you - it radiates and illuminates your journey! This joyous time of waiting and longing is about receiving the Gift above all gifts. Take time to pause, stop, pray, and receive the Love that is being poured out... let Love be the gift that is received and given! Like Mary, we're waiting for Jesus, we're waiting for Jesus, the Lord. Light your fourth purple candle of *Love* and journey to Bethlehem with Joseph and Mary! Come, Lord Jesus! Come quickly, Lord Jesus! The whole world is waiting for Love! Live a Jubilee year as a "Pilgrim of Hope." Our Lady of Fatima, *pray for us!*

**STRINGTOWN COMMUNITY CLUB BLOOD DRIVE:**

**The next Stringtown Community Blood Drive is scheduled for Sunday, January 5, 2025, from 7-11:30 a.m.** Mark your calendar and schedule an appointment online today!  
<https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/donation-time>

**CHRISTMAS CHOIR PRACTICE:**

Final Christmas Choir Practice will be held at 7pm **today, Sunday, Dec 22.**

**CHRISTMAS CHOIR:**

The choir will begin singing at 11:30pm on Christmas Eve. Come early to pray and sing along!

**CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE:**

**\*\*Christmas Eve\*\***  
4:00pm at St. Joseph-Olney  
4:00pm at Holy Cross-Wendelin  
**\*\*Christmas Day\*\***  
**12:00am (Midnight Mass) at St. Joseph-Stringtown**  
8:00am at St. Lawrence-Lawrenceville  
8:00am at St. Joseph-Olney

**THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD:**

**New Year's Eve – Tuesday, December 31**  
5:00pm at St. Lawrence-Lawrenceville  
6:00pm at Holy Cross-Wendelin  
**New Year's Day – Wednesday, January 1**  
**8:00am at St. Joseph-Stringtown**  
8:00am at St. Joseph-Olney

**OFFICE UPDATE FROM ASHLEY:**

For those of you that follow along in the Facebook group you probably saw the update posted already but the Parish Office was closed both Tuesday and Thursday of last week. I'm sorry if you visited the office either of those days and I wasn't available. Unfortunately, I am dealing with some health issues at this time. I will be working remotely for a couple of weeks. Rest assured emails are still being monitored regularly and if you need assistance, I am still available on my cell phone via call or text. My cell phone is made available for your convenience so please do not hesitate to use this option. The parish office will remain closed until Thursday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>. Any remaining updates will be posted on the Facebook page, as well as in the bulletins. I appreciate your patience and understanding and thank everyone for your prayers. The parishioners of St. Joseph-Stringtown have blessed my life in many ways and I can't thank you enough! Wishing you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

**HELP REQUESTED:**

CYM and parishioners will combine efforts after 8:00am Mass today, December 22<sup>nd</sup> to take down

Advent decorations and put up Christmas decorations in church. Any parishioners that would be able to help with that project would be appreciated! Thanks for your help!

**ANNIVERSARY OPEN HOUSE:**

Carl & Debra Seiler will be celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on December 27<sup>th</sup>. There will be an open house at St. Joseph Stringtown Parish center on Saturday, December 28<sup>th</sup> from 1-3pm for anyone who would like to attend. Please no gifts. They look forward to seeing anyone who would like to attend!

**FR. DAN ADDRESS:**

We really enjoyed having Fr. Dan here with us as a substitute priest while Fr. Felix was away at officer training. If anyone is interested in sending Fr. Dan a card while he is undergoing some health issues, please send them to:  
Hincke-Sense Home for Retired Priests  
2620 Lebanon Avenue  
Belleville, IL 62221

**YOUNG ADULTS:**

**Bible Study** at the Holy Cross Parish House on Monday's at 7pm.

**ST. JOSEPH OLNEY SCHOOL NEWS:**

**Thank you to Michelle Doll** for her many years of hard work coordinating Santa's Workshop! We are so grateful for her service and dedication that has brought joy to so many students and families over the years.  
**School resumes** for students January 7.  
**Have a very Merry Christmas from the students and staff at St. Joseph School!**

**OLNEY KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS:**

**Sunday, December 29<sup>th</sup>:** The Knights lead the Rosary at 7:40 am.  
**Sunday, December 29<sup>th</sup>:** Mass ministries led by the K of C 4<sup>th</sup> degree members, and a fellowship breakfast after mass.

**Knight of the Month:** Steve Kuenstler Family

**RESPECT LIFE CORNER:**

Lord Jesus Christ, you chose to share our human nature and redeem all people. We ask for help for our brothers and sisters who are ill. Support them with your power and shelter them from sadness. Keep them firm in faith and serene in hope. Also help those who assist the sick and care for them in their time of illness. Inspire our society to resist the temptation of assisted suicide for the elderly, the sick, the vulnerable and all your people. May life's beauty and sanctity be respected among all our brothers and sisters. All this we ask in your holy name. Amen.

<https://www.ilcatholic.org/stop-assisted-suicide/>

**2024 CATHOLIC SERVICE & MINISTRY APPEAL:**

*Serve the Lord with gladness -Psalm 100*

The true joy of Christmas is in the everlasting love of Christ. May you find His peace, love and joy now and in the coming new year. With deepest gratitude for your prayers and generosity,  
-Bishop Michael McGovern and  
Ministries and Programs Funded by  
The Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal

**THE MESSENGER:**

Give the Gift that keeps on Giving...The Messenger! To subscribe online for Family or Friends go to: [www.bellevillemessenger.org](http://www.bellevillemessenger.org) or Call 618-233-8670. Please remember that current subscription prices are \$40 for print edition, \$35 for digital edition, \$45 for both print and digital.



**JUBILEE YEAR 2025:**

Pope Francis will open the Jubilee Year 2025 by opening the Holy Door in St. Peter's Basilica in Rome on Christmas Eve. Join Bishop Michael McGovern in opening the celebration of the Jubilee Year in our diocese at the 10:30am Mass at the Cathedral of St. Peter (200 W. Harrison,

Belleville) on Sunday December 29. Our theme for the Jubilee Year is Pilgrims of Hope. For more information visit [www.diobelle.org](http://www.diobelle.org).

*Remember In Our Prayers – Rick Rennie, Teresa Zehner, Luke G. Kocher, Judy Brown*

**On behalf of Fr. Steven, Fr. Felix, and all parish staff, we wish you a Merry Christmas!**

**Sunday, December 22, 2024**

**Fourth Sunday of Advent**

**Sunday, December 22, 8:00am at St. Joseph-Stringtown "Norman Kocher+" "Carolyn Zuber+" "Elmer & Elfrieda Zwilling+"**

**Monday, December 23, NO MASS**

**Tuesday, December 24, 4:00pm at St. Joseph-Olney**

4:00pm at Holy Cross-Wendelin

**Wednesday, December 25, 12:00am at St. Joseph-Stringtown "For the Parish"**

**8:00am at St. Lawrence-Lawrenceville**

**8:00am at St. Joseph-Olney**

**Thursday, December 26, NO MASS**

**Friday, December 27, 8:00am at St. Joseph-Olney**

**Saturday, December 28, 4:00pm at Holy Cross-Wendelin; 5:00pm at St. Joseph-Olney**

**Sunday, December 29, 8:00am at St. Joseph-Stringtown "Barbara Ann Ochs+"**

8:00am at St. Joseph-Olney

10:00am at Holy Cross-Wendelin

10:00am at St. Lawrence-Lawrenceville

**12/22/2024**

**Servers:**

Emmitt Kocher

Julian Seaman

Nathaniel Zwilling

**Lector:**

Hank Ginder

**EMHC:**

Harold Boehl

Lisa Boehl

Gary Zwilling

**Gifts:**

Seaman Family

**Ushers:**

Doug Kocher

Carter Seaman

**Greeters:**

Natalie Ochs

**Children's Liturgy:**

Laura & Delana

**12/29/2024**

**Servers:**

Silas Sager

Hallie Ochs

Natalie Ochs

**Lector:**

Natalie Zwilling

**EMHC:**

Jenny Hancock

Janette Kocher

Jocelyn Kocher

**Gifts:**

Lester & Janice Zuber

**Ushers:**

James Schneider

Owen Kocher

**Greeters:**

Doug & Lora Kocher Family

**Children's Liturgy:**

Anne, Joselyn, and Kaitlin

**St. Joseph Church  
In Stringtown, Illinois  
P.O. Box 10, Dundas, IL 62425**



(GPS address: 6342 N. Stringtown Rd, Olney, IL 62450) Phone: 618-754-3676

Email: [stjoestringtown@hotmail.com](mailto:stjoestringtown@hotmail.com)

Web site: [www.stjosephstringtown.com](http://www.stjosephstringtown.com)

**Very Rev. Fr. Steven Beatty, V.G. \_\_\_\_\_ Pastor**

Cell \_\_\_\_\_ 618-697-2632

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ frsteven.beatty@gmail.com

**Reverend Felix Chukwuma \_\_\_\_\_ Pastor**

Fr. Felix's Cell \_\_\_\_\_ 812-899-2415

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ [chibuchuma@yahoo.com](mailto:chibuchuma@yahoo.com)

**Caroline Trimble \_\_\_\_\_ Pastoral Associate**

Caroline's Cell \_\_\_\_\_ 618-263-7106

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ [ctrimblePA@gmail.com](mailto:ctrimblePA@gmail.com)

**Tyler Timm \_\_\_\_\_ Youth Minister**

Tyler's Cell \_\_\_\_\_ 507-530-2911

Tyler's E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ [ttimm@stjoeolney.com](mailto:ttimm@stjoeolney.com)

**Ashley Hinterscher \_\_\_\_\_ Administrative Assistant**

Ashley's Cell \_\_\_\_\_ 618-843-1892

Office Phone \_\_\_\_\_ 618-754-3676

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ [stjoestringtown@hotmail.com](mailto:stjoestringtown@hotmail.com)

Parish Office Hours: Tuesday 9-2pm & Thursday 9am-1pm