

Collection Total for December 08, 2024

Envelopes: \$1,235.00 (35)
Loose: \$47.00
Total: \$1,282.00

Weekly Amount Needed: \$1,400.00

Building Fund: \$70.00 (2)

Retirement for Religious: \$302.00 (8)

Religious Education: \$75.00 (3)

Christmas Offering: \$100.00 (1)

Christmas Flowers: \$125.00 (6)

December Bulletins: In Memory of Barbara Ann Ochs

December Missalettes: For the Parish

PARISH EVENTS:

Tuesday, December 17 – ASAP Prayer Service and Adoration at St. Joseph-Stringtown, 9:30am

Eucharistic Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament of St. Joseph-Olney, 12pm-3pm
OCIA, St. Joseph-Olney, 6pm

BROTHERS IN CHRIST:

Thursdays at 7:00pm at Holy Cross-Wendelin

CAROLINE TRIMBLE - PASTORAL ASSOCIATE:

This is the time of expectation, longing, and holy waiting. A time to be drawn closer to the purest and most perfect of Love. A Love that transcends and is waiting to be born, waiting in the first tabernacle. This tabernacle is the womb of Mary, his Mother-our Mother! Mary journeys onward in expectation, longing, and holy waiting! Are you sharing in the same journey as our Mother? Join with Her and begin this day journeying towards the stable where Love is born. There are many stops along the way- stop and share in the wonder and awe of our God. Journey with Mary this Advent and you too will experience a birthing of joy in your heart, and in your soul.

The Whole World is Waiting on Love- can you wait? Light your third candle- pink for Gaudete Sunday - Joy Full Sunday! - and journey to Bethlehem with Joseph and Mary! Be Joyful, like Mary! He is coming soon! 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:

Christmas Choir Practices will be held at 7pm on the following dates: Thursday, December 19 and Sunday, Dec 22. All are welcome to join!

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****
Midnight Mass at St. Joseph-Stringtown
8:00am at St. Lawrence-Lawrenceville
8:00am at St. Joseph-Olney

ANNIVERSARY OPEN HOUSE:

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

ADVENT:

Advent always begins on the Sunday closest to November 30th, the feast day of St. Andrew the Apostle. St. Andrew Christmas Novena which is traditionally prayed from the feast of St. Andrew (November 30th) until Christmas Eve (December 24th).

Prayer is an *essential* part of Advent. Reciting this special novena prayer each day is a simple yet beautiful way to celebrate the spiritual significance of the Advent season and to experience a deeper conversion to the heart of Jesus. *It is piously believed that whoever recites the St. Andrew Christmas Novena Prayer FIFTEEN times each day will obtain the favor requested.*

Hail and blessed be the hour and moment in which the Son of God was born of the most pure Virgin Mary, at midnight, in Bethlehem, in piercing cold. In that hour vouchsafe, I beseech Thee, O my God, to hear my prayer and grant my desires through the merits of Our Savior Jesus Christ, and of His blessed Mother. Amen.

ADVENT/CHRISTMAS BOOKS:

Little Blue Books still available in church to help you devote some minutes to prayer during the Advent and Christmas season.

YOUNG ADULTS:

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

THANK YOU:

Thank you to Kistler-Patterson Funeral Home for providing our 2025 calendars! We appreciate your continued support of our parishes!

SISTERS IN CHRIST:

Join us this Advent for a 4-week journey of *Encountering Emmanuel*. Embark on a transformative journey this Advent with Heather Khym, cohost of the *Abiding Together* podcast,

in *Encountering Emmanuel*. Each day will show you a unique way God can come into your life, including the following:

- *he comes in the darkness*
- *he comes to set us free*
- *he comes to awaken us from slumber*
- *he comes as a helpless child*
- *he comes as a gift to the world*
- *he comes as a person with a face*
- *he comes to be our food*

God will not force—love never does—but he asks, and we have a choice. Will you open wide your heart to the Savior and give your fiat as Mary did? Come and Encounter Emmanuel this Advent, the book cost is \$8.00.

Tuesday morning: St. Joseph Stringtown 10:00 am
Wednesday evening: Holy Cross Wendelin 5:30 pm
Contact Kristi Sandschafer, Janette Kocher or Caroline Trimble Pastoral Associate for more information.

ST. JOSEPH OLNEY SCHOOL NEWS:

December 17- Girls Basketball 8th grade night
December 18- 3rd-8th grade Reconciliation service 9am-noon; Early dismissal at 1:50
December 19- Boys Basketball 8th grade night
December 20- K-4 Christmas Program in gym at 1:00, Early dismissal at 1:50
Warm Christmas wishes from the staff and students at St. Joseph School!

OLNEY KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS:

December 19th – 4th Degree Meeting at 7pm. There were 212 entries in Olney Council Knights of Columbus Christ in Christmas Poster Contest. There were four winners at four age levels. The four first places at each age level qualify for the Regional Belleville Competition and those winners will be published in the December issue of the Messenger.

ST. JOSEPH-OLNEY BIBLE STUDY:

Wednesdays at 9:15 AM, Room B. Deacon Jack will take you through the readings for the Fourth Sunday of Advent and we'll hear that God is present to us in a variety of ways. We'll talk about recognizing God in our daily lives. Our own actions and words can carry the presence of God to others. What a responsibility! Better attend Bible Study.

RESPECT LIFE CORNER:

ASSISTED SUICIDE SENDS A MESSAGE TO PEOPLE THAT THEY ARE BURDENSOME

In Oregon, where assisted suicide has been legal for years, data shows people request suicide drugs not for pain but because they cannot do the same activities that they could before, such as control bodily functions. They feel they've lost dignity or that they are a burden. Assisted suicide can also promote the view that elderly relatives are not persons to be loved but burdens to be managed. Suicide drugs are not the answer. Everyone deserves loving, supportive care, affirmation of their dignity, and to know that they are never a burden. **Tell your state legislators to Vote NO on SB 3499 - assisted suicide.** Visit www.ilcatholic.org for additional information and resources.

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 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.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL NEEDS COATS!

Cold winter weather has definitely arrived and the Society of St. Vincent de Paul Belleville Council desperately needs coats to distribute to those in need. Gently-used or new coats of all types in all sizes for all ages – toddlers, children, teens and adults (men and women) are being requested. Items can be dropped off at the St. Vincent de Paul office located at 8800 West Main Street, Belleville, across from Blessed Sacrament Church, or call Joe Hubbard or Pat Hogrebe at 618-394-0126 for additional information. Warm your heart by keeping someone warm and donate a coat today! Thank you very much.

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

Welcome Back Fr. Felix! We're so glad you're back with us!

Sunday, December 15, 2024

Third Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 15, 8:00am at St. Joseph-Stringtown "Alberta Zuber+" "Louis & Lelia Volk+"
Monday, December 16, 6:30pm at St. Joseph-Stringtown "Brenda Kocher+" "Bill & Kathy Zuber Family"
Tuesday, December 17, 5:00pm at St. Lawrence-Lawrenceville
Wednesday, December 18, 8:05am at St. Joseph-Olney
Thursday, December 19, 6:30pm at Holy Cross-Wendelin
Friday, December 20, 8:00am at St. Joseph-Olney
Saturday, December 21, 4:00pm at Holy Cross-Wendelin; 5:00pm at St. Joseph-Olney
Sunday, December 22, 8:00am at St. Joseph-Stringtown "Norman Kocher+" "Carolyn Zuber+" "Elmer & Elfrieda Zwilling+"
8:00am at St. Joseph-Olney
10:00am at Holy Cross-Wendelin
10:00am at St. Lawrence-Lawrenceville

12/15/2024

Servers:

Amity Zuber
Mitchell Ochs
Brady Ochs

Lector:

Kylie Kocher

EMHC:

Gary Kocher
Beth Kocher
Owen Kocher

Gifts:

Elmer & Mary Ochs

Ushers:

Lester Zuber
Caden Kocher

Greeters:

Gary & Beth Kocher Family

Children's Liturgy:

Anita & Anna

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

**St. Joseph Church
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Ashley Hinterscher _____ Administrative Assistant
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Office Phone _____ 618-754-3676
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Parish Office Hours: Tuesday 9-2pm & Thursday 9am-1pm