



404 W Lawrence St Appleton WI 54911-5817

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www.saintjosephparish.org

A MINISTRY OF THE CAPUCHIN FRANCISCANS SINCE 1877

Br. Ray Stadmeyer, O.F.M., Cap.

December 24, 2023 - 4th Sunday of Advent

FOR UNTO US, *a Child is Born.*



MASS TIMES:

Saturday - 4:00 pm; Sunday - 8:00 am, 10:00 am, 6:30 pm

Weekend Mass may be viewed online: www.saintjosephparish.org

Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday - 12:05 pm

REACHING IN, REACHING OUT, REACHING GOD

Br. Ray's Reflections

A Blessed Christmas to All

We come to another Christmas celebration in 2023. Life has changed since 2022. For some it has been the birth of beautiful babies and for others it has been marrying the one we love and for others it has been a difficult moment in saying goodbye to beloved family members. Wherever we're at this moment, we come to celebrate the birth of Christ. We climb ladders to put up Christmas lights. We trim evergreens with our cherished family ornaments and we exchange gifts to celebrate the feast of Christmas. We do all of this amid the darkest days of the year and during a moment in history that sees crippling wars in Gaza, Ukraine and so many other areas of our world, as well as our own personal struggles in 2023. In spite of all those struggles, we shine our lights and decorate our homes as a protest to the darkness. With the birth of Christ, the Divine has come into our world in deep ways and all is possible. It is possible that the lion can lie down with the lamb. It is possible that we can broker peace between warring nations. It is possible that harsh judgments can be transformed into compassion. It is possible that all children can have enough to eat and a bed to sleep in each night. It is possible our mentally ill brothers and sisters on our streets will become a priority rather than a nuisance. It is possible that with the birth of our beloved Christ all hearts can be changed and we can view the world with the heart of Christ. Yes, let's decorate and light up everything but let's go deeper. May our lights be the hope we bring to the world as followers of Christ. May our decorations be a sign of how we want to cover the world with our compassionate presence and our generous hearts. As the world celebrates the birth of Jesus in a poor manger, may all of us have the will to care for all the vulnerable children and the most broken adults who have no place of welcome in the world. Yes, we celebrate Christmas at this moment and we stand firmly on our faith that all things are possible because of that child in Bethlehem!

Joy to the World. The Lord is come!

Please Pray For...

Please pray for all our parishioners who are ill: **Carolee Borntreger, Dave Hendricks, Mercedes Hartkopf, Mary Rettler, Sharon Verhoeven**

Remember also our nursing home residents and shut-ins, and pray for the intentions recorded in our Prayer Book of Intentions.

Please pray for our parishioners or family members of parishioners who have died: **Gary Rueden**

Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God

Mass:

Monday, January 1st at 9:00 am

Parish Office Closed

The Parish Office will be closed from **December 25th to January 1st**. We will resume our regular business hours on Tuesday, January 2nd.

Music at St. Joe's Christmas Masses!



Our music ministry loves the Christmas season!

Here is this year's Christmas Mass schedule:

Christmas Eve:

4:00 pm Mass – cantor, ladies quartet, and Chime Choir. Prelude begins at 3:30 pm. Nativity play also features children of the parish.

6:30 pm Mass – Cahall family quartet and Schwartz family instrumentalists, prelude begins after 6:00 pm.

10:00 pm Mass – Adult Choir begins special prelude music at 9:30 pm.

Christmas Day:

9:00 am Mass – cantor and violin.

Thank you to each and every one of our musicians for sharing the joy of the season!

End of Year Contributions

All donations you want counted for 2023 must be placed in our drop box by Door #1 outside the Parish Office by December 31. The drop box will be checked daily. If mailed, they must be dated and postmarked by 12/31/23. The IRS requires all 2023 donations be received before year's end to qualify for 2023 deductions.

Wedding Congratulations!



Congratulations to Zachary Starkey & Kirsti Romanesko who married on December 2.

Congratulations Calendar Raffle Winners

December 10 — Kimberly Koerth — \$25
December 11 — Gerard & Mary Potvin — \$25
December 12 — Craig Kuepper — \$25
December 13 — Mark Kuechler — \$25
December 14 — Traci Braun — \$25
December 15 — Bodo Bube — \$25
December 16 — Caradee Biesterveld — \$25

DECEMBER 24, 2023/ FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

THANK YOU-THANK YOU-THANK YOU!



Once again, St. Joe's parishioners have shown the true spirit of the Christmas season. The Giving Tree was quickly cleared of all the tags and the gifts were dropped off in mass quantities. I am so proud to be part of such a giving community. The family that we adopted through Vida is going to have a wonderful Christmas thanks to all of you. The Vida Boutique will be well stocked with diapers, clothes, toys, cribs, highchairs, pack-n-plays and baby essentials because of your generosity and huge hearts.

THANK YOU one more time! Christmas Blessings to all of you,
Jane Wilz - Coordinator of Volunteers

SCRIP Update

Starting January 2024, SCRIP will continue to be available on Walk-in Wednesdays from 11am-2pm. Orders can be dropped off in the collection baskets or at the reception desk or main office as usual. We will contact you as soon as your order is filled.

Order pick-up will resume after Masses in January on the 2nd and 4th weekends.

Please note - There will be no direct sales after Masses until next Christmas season.

Have a **Merry Scrip-mas and Happy New Year!**

ST. JOE'S BLOOD DRIVE

A special thank you to all who participated in the St. Joe's Blood Drive last weekend.

Thanks to your generosity, the Blood Center was able to collect 17 units of whole blood from registered donors with the potential of saving up to 51 lives. From over three blood drives, St. Joseph Parish collected 52 units (6.5 gallons). WONDERFUL!!



Songs
Stories & Fun!
at St. Francis Xavier Elementary School

Jan. 5 Marquette Street Campus
10 McDonald Street Campus
All events begin at 9:00 a.m.

Open to children **ages 2-5** with parents/grandparents.
Younger siblings welcome!



Financial News

| | |
|----------------------------|-------------|
| Tithing Needed | \$16,777.00 |
| Last Week's Tithing..... | \$12,164.00 |
| Auto Withdrawal | \$24,858.00 |
| Children's Collection..... | \$19.00 |
| Donations/IRA | \$7,400.00 |

Parish Support Through Collections (7/01/23—11/30/23)

| Budgeted |
|--------------|
| \$369,958.35 |
| Actual |
| \$344,182.54 |

November Outreach Programs

| | |
|-------------------------------|------------|
| Milk Money..... | \$1,442.72 |
| St. Joseph Food Program | \$370.00 |
| LEAVEN..... | \$50.00 |
| Pillars..... | \$425.00 |

Green contribution envelopes for our Outreach Programs are on the radiator in back of Church.

Thank you for your financial support!

Readings for Week of December 24

Sunday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/
Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29/Rom 16:25-27/
Lk 1:26-38

Monday: Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5,
16-17, 27, 29/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/
Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25

Night: Is 9:1-6/Ps 96: 1-2, 2-3, 11-12,
13/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14

Dawn: Is 62:11-12/Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12/
Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20

Day: Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6/
Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

Tuesday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/
Ps 31:3c-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17/
Mt 10:17-22

Wednesday: 1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6,
11-12/Jn 20:1a, 2-8

Thursday: 1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5,
7cd-8/Mt 2:13-18

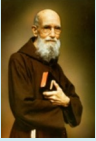
Friday: 1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3,
5b-6/Lk 2:22-35

Saturday: 1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9,
10/Lk 2:36-40

Next Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn
15:1-6; 21:1-3/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 or
Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9/Col 3:12-21 or
3:12-17 or Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19/
Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40 ©LPi

DECEMBER 24, 2023

SCHEDULED MASS INTENTIONS



Blessed Solanus Casey
Pray for Us

Monday, December 25

9:00 am Living & Deceased Members of the
Thomas Oudenhoven Family

Tuesday, December 26

12:05 pm Dec. Michael J. Pfefferle
12:30 pm St. Anthony Devotions

Wednesday, December 27

12:05 pm Dec. James & Nancy Walkowski

Friday, December 29

12:05 pm Dec. Michael Horn

Saturday, December 30

4:00 pm Dec. Thomas Pfefferle

Sunday, December 31

8:00 am Dec. Pete & Ginny Kolosso
10:00 am Dec. Bob Eggert &
Members of St. Joseph Parish

NO 6:30 PM Mass on December 31

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

Parish Office is closed December 25 - January 1

Saturday, December 30

9:00 am Private Reconciliation

Raffle Calendars

Thank you to everyone who has sold or purchased calendars. We have one more week to buy/sell our raffle calendars. The Parish Office will be closed from December 25 until January 1. If you will be dropping off your calendars during that time, use the drop box by Door #1 outside the Parish Office, which will be checked daily. The state requires that all entries be received **by midnight on December 31**. Contact the Parish Office with questions. Thanks again for your participation.

Winter Safety Reminder

As the Winter season is upon us, a friendly reminder that snow removal equipment has the right of way. Please be aware of them when they are cleaning and salting our parking lots and sidewalks. Thank you for your support.



Please Support This Week's Sponsor

*They help support the
printing of this bulletin.
Thank You!*

ST JOSEPH PARISH

PASTORAL STAFF

Capuchin Pastor, Br. Ray Stadmeyer, O.F.M. Cap;
RStadmeyer@StJoesParish.org...920-734-7195

Deacon, Mark Farrell

Parish Administrative Assistant, Dana Schmidt;
DSchmidt@StJoesParish.org

Music Director, Marisa Landsverk;
MLandsverk@StJoesParish.org

Finance Director, Roger Simon;
RSimon@StJoesParish.org

Bookkeeper, Maria Biesterveld;
MBiesterveld@StJoesParish.org

Facilities & Maintenance Manager, Mike Pusnik

Faith Formation Coordinator, Ben Wolf;
BWolf@StJoesParish.org

Coordinator of Volunteers, Jane Wilz;
JWilz@StJoesParish.org

Coordinator of C.A.R.E. Ministry, Joseph Martin;
JMartin@StJoesParish.org

SCRIP Coordinators; Scrip@StJoesParish.org

OFFICE HOURS: Monday-Thursday:

9:00 am-3:00 pm, Friday: 9:00 am-12:00 pm

ST FRANCIS XAVIER CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

920-735-9380

CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENTS

Marriage: Active parish membership of 6 months is required before a wedding date may be set.

Reconciliation: Saturdays from 9 until approximately 9:30 am or call for an appointment.

Baptism: Please call the Parish Office 2 months in advance.

Anointing of the Sick: Please call the Parish Office anytime.

Church Chuckles

- What do you call Santa when he stops moving?
Santa Pause.
- What do snowmen eat for dessert?
Ice crispies.
- What do grapes sing at Christmas?
'Tis the season to be jelly'.

