

DECEMBER 14, 2025



ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Pastor:

Fr. Anthony Mersmann
pastor@sjolpe.org
Rectory: 620-475-3420

Parish Office:

Hours:
Wed. 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Fri. 9:00 am-Noon
620-475-3326
office@sjolpe.org

Administrative Assistant:

Diana Kuhlmann
diana@sjolpe.org
620-475-3784 or 620-794-1914

Mass Schedule:

Saturday - 5:00 pm
Sunday - 8:30 am
Wed., Thurs., & Fri. - 7:15 am
The rosary is recited before weekend Masses @
4:35 pm on Saturday evenings and 8:05 am on
Sunday mornings

Confessions:

Wed., Thurs., & Fri. - 6:30 am - 7:00 am
Saturday - 3:30 pm - 4:30 pm
Upon Request

Adoration:

Wednesdays: 8:00 am-7:00 pm in the Church

Other Sacraments:

Contact Parish Office

Parish Contacts:

Funeral Dinners: Linda Dieker, (620) 475-3567
Cemetery: Steve Redeker, (620) 475-3255
K of C: Danny Schneider, (620) 794-5889
Family Life: Kay Schmidt, (620) 475-3767
Outreach: Arlene Redeker, (620) 475-3414
Finance Council: Kevin Flott, (620) 412-3275
Pastoral Council: Kim Irwin, (620) 475-3295
Religious Ed: Lindsey Ratcliff, (214) 732-3813
St. Joseph School Endowment: Michael
Ratcliff, (620) 490-0388

Sacristan 12/15/25 - 12/21/25

Karen Hayes

Weekend Lectors/EMHCs

12/13: LeAnn Eberle
12/14: Greg Markowitz - Lector
Lilly Skalsky - Lector
12/20: Donna Bolen
12/21: Greg Markowitz - Lector
Trish Markowitz - EMHC
12/24: Jana Redeker - 5:30 p.m.
12/25: Rosemary Martin - 8:30 a.m.
12/27: Lilly Skalsky
12/28: Cass Coughlin
12/31: LeAnn Eberle - 5:30 p.m.
01/01: Donna Bolen - 8:30 a.m.



Fr. Marie Mentez



St. Joseph Prayer List

Collins Baldwin
Linda Barnard
Maya Bishop
Jeanette Reed Copeland
Vicki Dickson
Kauffman Dieker
Norman Geiger
Susan Haag
Sylvia Haag
Darren Heins
Kenneth Langley
Debbie Markowitz
Brian Martin
Sylvia Miller
Shea Mueting
James Nunley
Todd Orear
Twyla Owen
Olivia Pimpl
Mrs. Ken Redeker
Richard Scheve
Danny Schmidt
Jackie Schmidt
Greg Schonhardt
Mike Wecker
Clara Young

United States Army:

SGM Matthew S. Richter,
Sgt. Austin Burenheide,
Grant Fath,
Major Jacob Haag

Marines:

Lt. Col. James Bechtel

Navy:

Grace Coughlin

Air Force:

Megan DePauw

Army National Guard:

Sgt. Mason Harmon

Mass Intentions:

Sat. 12/13: 5:00 pm +Roy Kuhlmann
Sun. 12/14: 8:30 am For the Parish

Wed. 12/17: 7:15 am +Jim & Marie Kuhlmann
Thurs. 12/18: 7:15 am +Clarence & Dorothy Schmidt
Fri. 12/19: 7:15 am +Chad Blow
Sat. 12/20: 5:00 pm +Don & Corrine, Evan, Cliff,
Montana and Cody Cole
Sun. 12/21: 8:30 am +Loretta Schneider
For the Parish



Christmas Flowers

We will again collect donations for flowers after Masses **this** weekend. If you would like to donate towards the purchase of altar flowers for Christmas in memory of a loved one, please contact Donna at 620-475-3794 or Laurie at 620-343-0321 **by December 22nd**. The suggested donation remains at \$25 this year.

Thanks to all for helping beautify the church for the Christmas season!

Parish Life Center Lottery Tickets On Sale

Get your lottery tickets for the March 2026 - February 2027 season in time for the holidays. They are available for \$25 each! Please help spread the word to your family and friends.

These lottery tickets make great Christmas gifts or stocking stuffers, and birthday, anniversary, "thank you," or "just because" gifts as well. There are 999 tickets for sale. We have sold out the last couple of years! The proceeds support the Parish Life Center.

If you are interested in purchasing tickets, you can contact a CCD student. You can also call Kim Irwin (520-237-5188) or the Parish Office.



Friendship Meals (located in the Knights' Hall) is in need of a site manager. Hours are approximately from 9:30a.m.- noon. Duties include receiving pre-packaged meals and sacking them for delivery and supervising meals eaten in the hall. No meal preparation or meal delivery is required. Record keeping includes keeping track of daily meals served, reporting number of meals needed each day, and sending monthly reports into the regional office. Training is provided. For more information, contact Shirley Langley (620-341-7668) or Barb Kuhlmann (620-794-4502).

Last Week's Collection:

Envelopes (26)	\$ 1,220.00
Plate	233.00
Capital Improvements	70.00
Retirement Fund for Religious	63.00
Catholic Charities	10.00
Christmas Offering	10.00
Christmas Flowers	660.00
TOTAL	\$ 2,266.00



Knights' News



The Knights will be serving a delicious biscuits and gravy breakfast **this Sunday** morning from 7:30 - 10:00 a.m. Please come join us and take an opportunity for fellowship and visiting with Fr. Mark Mertes.

The monthly Knights of Columbus meeting will be held this Wednesday, December 17th at 7:00 p.m. at the Knights Hall. We invite all Knights members to join us.

The Stag work lists are being distributed. If you have not yet received one, you are welcome to reach out to me.

Thank you,
- *Danny Schneider*,
Grand Knight

Thank You

Thank you to all who volunteered their time last Saturday to clean our Church in preparation of our Lord's birth and Archbishop McKnight's visit.

We were blessed to have Lisa Cole, Melanie Kerwin, Elaine Musick, Diana Kuhlmann, Debbie Cole, Father Mersmann, Cindy Barnard, Leanne Haag, Barb Kuhlmann, Shirley Langley, Sally Pargman, Connie Murphy, Dorothy Blaufuss, and Arlene Redeker work diligently and methodically to give our Church a thorough cleansing.

We are so blessed by the many individuals who give their time and dedication to our place of worship.

God bless,
- *Kim Irwin*
Pastoral Council Chair

"Advent"ures 2025!

We had a fun time learning about Advent on the first Sunday of Advent. We learned the meaning of the Advent season and what each candle represents on the Advent wreath.



We ended our day making a stained glass Advent Suncatcher, eating pizza, having hot chocolate, making wreath cookies, enjoying popcorn and candy while we watched the movie, "The Star."



Thank you Father Mersmann and all who helped to put on this event for our youth.

Sincerely,
Kay Schmidt, Family Life Ministry

Mark
YOUR
Calendar

**Sunday
December 21st**

- Donuts and beverages served in the Parish Life Center following Mass. Come and enjoy some holiday fellowship.
- Decorating the church for Christmas at 11:30 a.m. All are invited to help with this project. Many hands make quick work!

CCD News

The last night of CCD for the fall semester will be **Wednesday, December 17th**.

If you haven't already, please be sure to turn in your lottery ticket money and unsold tickets that evening. Thank you!



Advent is the season of waiting and preparation for both the celebration of Jesus' birth at Christmas and return of Christ at the second coming. This season is observed by displaying an Advent wreath with candles or erecting a Christmas tree with lights. Families spend extra time together in prayer, attend social gatherings, and give gifts.

As a Walking with Moms in Need parish, St. Joseph parishioners are invited to give a gift of diapers (sizes 4, 5 or 6), or Similac (in orange or blue cans) that will be given to the Shiloh House of Hope. Please leave your gifts in the back of church. They will be delivered on **Monday, December 22nd**. Thank you for your continuing generosity, especially in this season of giving.

Christmas Mass Schedule



Christmas Eve

Wednesday, December 24th

Caroling - 5:00 p.m. Mass - 5:30 p.m.

Christmas Day

Thursday, December 25th

Caroling - 8:10 a.m. Mass - 8:30 a.m.



Father's Corner



ADVENT CONFESSIONS

7-9PM

THURSDAY, DEC. 18TH

8-10AM

SATURDAY, DEC. 20TH

Examination of Conscience for Adults based on the 10 Commandments

[1] I am the Lord your God. You shall not have strange gods before me.

- Do I give God time every day in prayer?
- Do I seek to love Him with my whole heart?
- Have I been involved with superstitious practices, new age, astrology, fortune tellers or the occult?
- Do I seek to surrender myself to God's Word as taught by the Church?
- Have I ever received Communion in a state of mortal sin?
- Have I ever deliberately told a lie in confession or have I withheld a mortal sin from the priest in confession?

[2] You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.

- Have I used God's name in vain: lightly or carelessly?
- Have I been angry with God?
- Have I insulted a priest or consecrated religious person or abused a sacred object?
- Have I spoken about a priest or consecrated religious person in a derogatory manner?
- Have I damaged the reputation of anyone?

[3] Remember to keep holy the Lord's Day.

- Have I deliberately missed Mass on Sundays or Holy Days of Obligation?
- Have I tried to observe Sunday as a day of prayer and rest?
- Do I do needless work on Sunday?

[4] Honor your Father and your Mother.

- Do I treat my parents with honor?
- Have I neglected my duties toward anyone?
- Have I given my family good religious example?
- Do I try to bring peace into every setting in my life?
- Do I care for my aged and infirm relatives?

[5] You shall not kill.

- Have I had an abortion or encouraged anyone to have an abortion?
- Have I promoted pro abortion (pro choice) causes or persons?
- Have I physically harmed anyone?
- Have I wished evil upon another person?
- Do I waste time at work, school or at home?
- Do I gamble excessively?
- Do I pay my debts promptly?
- Do I seek to share what I have with the poor?
- Have I treated beggars and others in need with charity? Have I abused alcohol or drugs?
- Have I lead anyone into sin?
- Have I been angry or resentful?
- Have I harbored hatred in my heart?
- Have I mutilated myself in any way?
- Have I encouraged or condoned sterilization?

[6] You shall not commit adultery.

- Have I been faithful to my vows in thought and action?
- Have I engaged in any sexual activity outside of marriage?
- Have I used any method of contraception or artificial birth?
- Has each sexual act in my marriage been open to the transmission of new life? Have I been guilty of masturbation?
- Have I sought to keep my thoughts pure?
- Have I respected all members of the opposite sex, or have I thought of other people as objects?
- Have I been involved in any homosexual activity?
- Do I seek to be chaste in my words and actions?
- Am I careful to dress modestly?

[7] You shall not steal.

- Have I stolen what is not mine?
- Have I returned or made restitution for what I have stolen?

[8] You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

- Have I lied?
- Have I gossiped?
- Have I spoken behind someone else's back?
- Am I sincere in my dealings with others?
- Am I critical, negative or uncharitable in my thoughts of others?
- Do I keep secret what should be kept confidential?

[9] You shall not desire your neighbor's wife.

- Have I dwelt upon the desire of someone's spouse?
- Have I allowed impure thoughts by my reading, movies, conversations or curiosity?
- Do I seek to control my imagination?
- Do I pray at once to banish impure thoughts and temptations?

[10] You shall not desire your neighbor's goods.

- Am I jealous of what other people have?
- Do I envy the families or possessions of others?
- Am I greedy or selfish?
- Are material possessions the purpose of my life?
- Do I trust that God will care for all of my material and spiritual needs?
- Do I share what I have with those in need?