

St. Joseph Church

December 22, 2024

Fourth Sunday of Advent

440 Joliet St., Dyer, IN 46311

(219) 865-2271

www.stjosephdyer.org



Vision

Enthusiasm and Love of God and Neighbor to inspire and encourage interpersonal relationships in the St. Joseph Faith Community in order that an atmosphere of sharing our faith, time, talent, treasure and hospitality will expand the Kingdom of God.

Prayer

God of all peoples, how blessed we are to gather in faith at Eucharist, for it is in Your Word and Sacrament that we discover that we are the Community called the Body of Christ.

Our St. Joseph Parish Vision is filled with enthusiasm for loving God and neighbor because Your Kingdom expands, Creator Father, in an atmosphere of interpersonal relationships.

May we the members of St. Joseph Parish continue to grow in faith during our Pastoral Planning Process, so that our Parish Vision will be fulfilled as we discover that as parish we are Community in Christ.
Amen.

Welcome, New Parishioners

Please register by calling or stopping in the parish office.

Office Hours

Monday-Friday, 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Friday, 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Parish Telephones

Parish Office:..... 219-865-2271

Religious Education Office:

(At St. Maria Goretti)..... 219-322-6124

Staff Directory

Pastor: Rev. Peter Muha

Email: pastor@stjosephdyer.org

Pastoral Associate & Building & Grounds

Coordinator: Deacon Gary Blue

Email: buildings@stjosephdyer.org

Office Manager: Patty Jarzembowski

Email: office@stjosephdyer.org

Director of Religious Education: Kathy Hansen

St. Maria Goretti

Email: kathyh@smgdyer.org

Director of Music & Liturgy: William Coble

Email: music@stjosephdyer.org

Assistant to Office: Mary Marszalek

Email: assistant@stjosephdyer.org

Mass Schedule

Weekend Masses

Saturday: 4:30 PM

Sunday: 8:00AM, 10:00AM, 6:00PM

Weekday Masses

Mon, Tues, Wed., Thurs, Fri: 9:00 AM

Holy Day Masses

Please see schedule inside bulletin.

Sacramental Life

Sacrament of Reconciliation (*Confession*)

Saturday 3:00 to 4:00 PM

Sacrament of Baptism

12:00 Noon.

Arrangements must be made previously.

Instruction class for parents required.

Sacrament of Marriage

Arrangements must be made at least six months in advance.

Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick

Call the office any time.

Knights of Columbus

Grand Knight: Randy Piscitelli 815-258-6923

Bulletin Deadline

Monday 12:00 Noon, *in writing.*

PLEASE LIKE ST. JOSEPH PARISH ON FACEBOOK



Monday, December 23, Late Advent Weekday

9:00 AM Martin S. Morales

Celebrant: Fr. Krolczyk

Tuesday, December 24, Vigil: The Nativity of the Lord

4:30 PM For All Those on Our Christmas Flower Memorial Envelope

Celebrant: Fr. Krolczyk

10:00 PM For All Those on Our Christmas Flower Memorial Envelope

Celebrant: Fr. Peter

Wednesday, December 25, The Nativity of the Lord

8:00 AM For All Those on Our Christmas Flower Memorial Envelope

Celebrant: Krolczyk

10:00 AM For All Those on Our Christmas Flower Memorial Envelope

Celebrant: Fr. Peter

Thursday, December 26, St. Stephen

9:00 AM Colleen Quinn

Celebrant: Fr. Peter

Friday, December 27, St. John

9:00 AM Matthew Vojvodich

Celebrant: Fr. Peter

Weekend Mass Intentions

Saturday, December 28, Vigil: Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

4:30 PM The People of the Parish

Celebrant: Fr. Krolczyk

Sunday, December 29, Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

8:00 AM Thomas M. Adams

Celebrant: Fr. Peter

10:00 AM Pauline Rybicki

Celebrant: Fr. Peter

6:00 PM Bart Lipowski

Celebrant: Fr. Gaza



Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God

December 31 & January 1 Masses

St. Joseph Parish will have the 4:30pm Mass on Tuesday, December 31st.

St. Maria Goretti will have the 10:00am Mass on Wednesday, January 1st.

We will celebrate this Holyday of Obligation together this year.

If you are attending St. Maria Goretti, you may still put in your envelope and they will be sent over to St. Joseph. The same relates to St. Maria Goretti envelopes coming here and we will return to their envelopes to their parish.

You Are Invited!

Father Leo Gajardo, Pastor of St. Maria Goretti and St. Joseph Parishes, will have a "Welcome to St. Joseph" after all the masses on the weekend of January 4th & 5th.

There will be light refreshments in the Gathering Room after all the masses.

Please stop by to introduce yourself and say "Welcome".

Outreach Ministry

The Outreach Committee would like to thank everyone for their generosity this past year, especially in December. December is a difficult month for our consortium, since some members have to decrease their financial participation due to other charitable endeavors. Thanks to you, we have been able to make a onetime increase in our contributions for December to help overcome this financial shortfall. We would also like to thank Father Peter for his support for our full participation in the consortium's mission to serve all residents of Lake County rather than just selected municipalities. We also need to express our gratitude to Patty Jarzembowski for her check writing services. May God bless all of you for your generosity with a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Our hotline number is 219-440-7126

Parish Office Closed

The parish office will be closed December 24th, 25th & 26th.

Reminder!

You can donate your weekly and special contributions on-line by going to our website, www.stjosephdyer.org and on the main page, look for Online Give, then hit Give Now

Stewardship of Treasure Report

December 14th & 15th

Weekly Budget Amount Needed: \$9100.00

Weekly Sunday Treasure Amount Collected: \$7105.34

Charity: \$113.00

Religious Education: \$20.00

Immaculate Conception: \$1479.00

Memorial Flower: \$190.00

Christmas: \$170.00

Memorial Poor Souls: \$20.00

Food Pantry: \$10.00

50/50 Raffle: \$365.00

50/50 Envelopes

We are asking you not to draw or doodle on the 50/50 envelopes. We just had to place another order and the envelopes went up almost 50%.

We truly appreciate your understanding in this situation.

**Fourth Sunday of Advent
TREASURES FROM
OUR TRADITION**

In ancient pagan Rome, these days in mid-December were a time for general slacking off at work and far too much rejoicing. The period of leisure after the harvest and a whole cluster of pagan festivals were a force for the church to reckon with. The Saturnalia, breaking out on December 17, was a time of high living and loose morals. Christians were advised by their bishops to drop out of the mayhem and do some serious fasting. A famous church council at Saragossa in Spain made a season of fasting mandatory from December 17 to December 23, exactly coinciding with the Saturnalia. The bishops at that time were perhaps less concerned with preparing for Christmas than with resisting the kind of loose living going on.

Modern times have restored a bit of the Saturnalia spirit to our culture, so that a general period of partying with a vague connection to religion is now upon us. How does a Christian keep balance? The practice of charity by remembering the poor in our gift-giving, of hospitality in finding a place at our holiday tables for the poor and lonely, and of daily prayer in the home and at church are great helps. Although Advent is not a penitential season like Lent, it is a time for making room in our lives for what matters most.

—James Field



The Birth of Jesus 



MROO 1

NGEAL 4 5

BYBA 2

NBOR 6 3

You will find the baby lying in a _____

Luke 2:12 1 2 3 4 5 6

"This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." Luke 2:12

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THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

Monday, December 23
7:00am— Morning Prayer

Tuesday, December 24
No 9:00am Mass
Parish Office closed
4:30pm & 10:00pm Vigil Masses

Wednesday, December 25
Parish Office closed
8:00am & 10:00am Masses
No 6:00pm Mass

Thursday, December 26
Parish Office closed
6:00pm—Evening Prayer & Holy Hour

LORD,
MAKE US TURN
TO YOU; LET US
SEE YOUR
FACE AND
WE SHALL
BE SAVED.



Weekly 50/50 Raffle

The Number Drawn on
December 10th was # 594

The Winner Won **\$2005.00**

Drawings will be held every
Tuesday at 9:45am
in the Gathering Room

All registered members of St. Joseph Parish are eligible for the 50/50 raffle. **YOU MUST USE 2 SEPARATE ENVELOPES FOR THE CURRENT WEEK EVEN IF YOU ARE A MONTHLY, ELECTRONIC, HOMEBOUND OR WEEKLY CONTRIBUTOR. ALL CONTRIBUTORS MENTIONED PREVIOUSLY MUST MAKE THEIR SACRIFICIAL CONTRIBUTION BY THE FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH AND INDICATING ON EACH SUBSEQUENT WEEKLY ENVELOPE THAT IS PLACED IN THE COLLECTION BASKET THAT YOU ARE EITHER A MONTHLY, ELECTRONIC OR HOMEBOUND CONTRIBUTOR.**

You must use your current weekly treasure envelope with your sacrificial amount and the preprinted 50/50 envelope found in the pews with EXACTLY \$5.00. If you are paying by check, you must use **2 checks**, one for the weekly treasure made out to St. Joseph Church and the other check for \$5.00 for the 50/50 raffle made out to St. Joseph Church—50/50 Raffle.

The 50/50 raffle envelope is to be put in the collection along with your sacrificial weekly treasure envelope

Ministry Schedule
December 28th & 29th

Lectors

4:30pm— **Please see MSP schedule for**
8:00am— **schedule for all masses**
10:00am—
6:00pm—

Extraordinary Ministers

4:30pm—Mark Gabrione
8:00am—
10:00am—Jim Paolino
6:00pm—Emma Gallenberger

December 31st

4:30pm—Paul & Patty Jarzembowski, Dennis Bork



The Signs of God

Midnight Christmas Mass was always my favorite as a kid. We would get all dressed up and enter the beautiful Church with all the decorations and the nativity scene. It's like I can still smell the pine trees and see the glow of the Christmas lights. I think we probably all have memories that bring us back to the Christmas season. Whether it is the smell of freshly baked cookies or the Christmas ham roasting for hours, these physical signs point us back to memories and experiences that we have enjoyed.

The Gospel from the Christmas Mass during the Night proclaims, "For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord. And this will be a sign for you." This has me thinking about the importance of physical signs. Wedding rings are exchanged as a sign of commitment. Gifts are exchanged as a sign of love or friendship. In today's Gospel we have the signs of the manger and the swaddling clothes that are communicating to us that God has become flesh. Signs are important for us.

The beautiful thing about the signs we have in the Catholic Church is that they go beyond mere symbols. Today we commemorate not just a sign of God's love in clothes and a structure, but we commemorate God literally taking on flesh to be a physical and effective sign of his love. Not just a sign in the sense of symbolic representation, but a sign that is so real and so effective that it literally becomes what it signifies.

We see this played out in every Mass. We start with the Liturgy of the Word where we read from Scripture. But that Word, throughout the course of the Mass, becomes so living, so real, so physical, so effective, that the Word of God literally becomes flesh for us on the altar. This is the very thing we celebrate this Christmas season. We can think back to all the great symbols that plunge us deeply into beautiful memories of family life, but let's set aside some special time today to focus on the fact that God transcends all earthly signs and literally becomes one of us. He wants to be one with you and with me. If there is nothing else we take out of our celebrations today, I think it would do us well to focus on that reality. God loves you enough that he was born in a manger to have a relationship with you and one day be with you forever in paradise.

From all of us here at Diocesan, Merry Christmas and God bless!

By Tommy Shultz

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