



Welcome to
St. Joseph Catholic Parish
A Faith Community Since 1868

**Fourth
SUNDAY**
of
Advent

December 20, 2020

The angel Gabriel said to Mary,
"Do not be afraid, Mary,
for you have found favor with God.
Behold, you will conceive in your womb
and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus."

Luke 1:30-31

Copyright © J.S. Paluch Co. Inc.
Photos: © iStockphoto.com, © Spicy Truffel/Adobe Stock,
© iStockphoto.com, © iStockphoto.com
© 2001, 1999, 1997, 1989, 1970, CCD.

LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

Weekday Mass: Mon-Fri.: 7:15a.m.

(Thursday Mass during the School Year: 9:30)

Saturday Vigil Mass: 4:00 p.m.

Sunday: 8:00, 10:00 and 11:45 a.m.

Holy Days of Obligation: 6:30 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 7:00 p.m.

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Saturdays: 5:00 p.m. and by appointment.

www.stjoeschool.com

www.stjosephlockport.org

<http://www.facebook.com/St.JosephLockport>

MISSION STATEMENT

We the members of St. Joseph Parish of Lockport, are called to be a community of diverse people, gathered together in faith.

As part of the Roman Catholic Church of Joliet, we strive to be the Body of Christ by living the Faith, preaching the Word, building community, serving others, especially the poor, and celebrating our unity through the sacraments. We are committed to bring about the Kingdom of God through the words and actions of our lives.

Membership:

An important part of living the Faith is having a committed relationship of support to a parish. All are welcome to join St. Joseph; please call the parish office or stop by to register.

Baptism:

Baptisms are typically held on the third Sunday of the month at 1:00 p.m. First-time parents are required to attend a Baptism Preparation program before the baby is born. Before setting any dates for a baptism with family, please call the parish office in advance to make arrangements. We ask that the family is registered at the parish.

Marriage:

Engaged parishioners must contact the parish office at least six months before their intended wedding date. Do not set any dates before making firm arrangements with the parish.

R. C. I. A.: Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults Adults and teens wishing to become Catholic and/or be confirmed, please call the parish office.

Hospital/Homebound: If you are in a local hospital or are homebound, call the parish office if you would like Father to make a sacramental visit.

Parish Pastoral Council Members:

- | | |
|---------------|------------------------|
| John Albrecht | Margarita Levasseur |
| Donna Cifonie | Bill Molony |
| Deacon Nick | Rev. Gregory Rothfuchs |
| Deacon Dennis | Nick LaBanca |
| John Walters | |

St. Joseph Church
410 S. Jefferson
Lockport, Illinois 60441
Phone: 815-838-0187
Fax: 815-838-5379
Email: sjchurch@stjoeschool.com

PASTORAL STAFF:

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------|
| Rev. Gregory Rothfuchs | Pastor |
| Deacon Dominic Cerrato | |
| Deacon Nick Cifonie | |
| Deacon Dennis Stolarz | |
| Mr. Garry Kearnes | Business Manager |
| Mrs. Jean Genty | Church Secretary |

R.C.I.A.

- | | |
|----------------------------|--------------|
| Mr. John Albrecht | Director |
| johnalbrecht47@comcast.net | 312-550-6772 |

PASTORAL CARE

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------|
| Rev. Gregory Rothfuchs | Coordinator |
| sjchurch@stjoeschool.com | 815-818-0187 |

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

- | | |
|------------------------------|--------------|
| Deacon Dennis Stolarz | Director |
| deacondennis@stjoeschool.com | |
| Mrs. Kathy Gibbons | Secretary |
| St.josephre@aol.com | 815-838-2112 |

SCHOOL

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|
| Miss Lynne Scheffler | Principal |
| blueribbonprincipal@stjoeschool.com | |
| Mrs. Rita Baxter | School Secretary |
| | 815-838-8173 |

ADVANCEMENT

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------|
| Mrs. Michelle Ray | Director |
| advancement@stjoeschool.com | 815-838-8173 |

Bulletin Announcements

Deadline: Monday
Rectory Office Hours: M-F

Pulpit Announcements

Deadline: Friday
8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

www.stjosephlockport.org
www.stjoeschool.com
<https://www.facebook.com/St.JosephLockport>

“Like” us at www.facebook.com/St.JosephLockport
“Follow” us on Twitter @StJoeLockport
<http://stjosephlockport.blogspot.com>

Connect with us through flocknote.com/stjosephlockport or text ‘lockport’ to 84576 with your mobile device

Yes, I would like to get involved!

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Eucharist Minister | Reader |
| Altar Server | Usher/Greeter |
| Choir/Cantor/Musician | Parish Council |
| Holy Name Society | Worship Commission |

Circle any ministry you would be interested in and return this form to the rectory, or place it in the collection basket. We will contact you.

NAME _____

PHONE or EMAIL _____

Need a visit? Let us know

Please notify the rectory office if you or a loved one have been admitted to a hospital or a nursing home. We are not automatically notified.

Our Homebound Ministers are available to bring Communion to shut-ins at their home or in nursing homes.

Please call the parish office at 815-838-0187 if you would like to set up a home visit .

**THIS WEEK AT ST JOSEPH
December 20-December 27, 2020**

Sunday, December 20
4th Sunday of Advent
8:00, 10:00, Noon -Masses

Monday, December 21
7:15 a.m.-Mass

Tuesday, December 22
7:15 a.m.-Mass
7:00 p.m.-A.A. Meeting in Church basement

Wednesday, December 23
7:15 a.m.-Mass
9:30 a.m.-A.A. Meeting in Church basement

Thursday, December 24
7:15 a.m. -Mass

Thursday, December 24
Christmas Eve
3:00 p.m.-Mass in Activity Center
5:00 p.m. Mass in Activity Center
10:30 p.m.-Mass in Activity Center

Friday, December 25
Christmas Day
8:00 a.m. - Mass in Activity Center
10:00 a.m.-Mass in Activity Center
Noon-Mass in Activity Center

Saturday, December 26
4:00 p.m.-Mass
5:00 p.m. -Confessions
7:00 p.m.-A.A. Meeting in Church basement

Sunday, December 27
The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph
8:00, 10:00, Noon -Masses

~~~~~

**UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER**

**January 1, 2021**  
**Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God**  
**Mass Times:**  
**8:00 a.m.**  
**10:00 a.m.**  
**Reservations are required.**



**Monday, January 4: School Resumes**

**Wednesday, January 6: R.E. Classes Resume**

**Mass Schedule & Intentions  
Week of December 21-December 27, 2020**

**MONDAY**  
7:15 + Dr. Erwin Mangubat  
by Henry & Rosario Vianzon  
Richard Pierzchala Birth. Congrats.  
by the Kilian Family

**TUESDAY**  
7:15 + Stephanie Herbst by Marie D'Arpa

**WEDNESDAY**  
7:15 + Ed Willfahrt by Dave Ostrowski

**THURSDAY**  
7:15 + Carol Berman Birth. Rem. by husband Bill  
+ John Rothfuchs by wife Merry  
3:00 Parish Family  
5:00 Parish Family  
10:30 Parish Family

**FRIDAY**  
8:00 Parish Family  
10:00 Parish Family  
Noon Parish Family

**SATURDAY**  
4:00 + Salvatore D'Arpa Birth. Rem. by wife

**SUNDAY**  
8:00 Parish Family  
10:00 + Joseph Ricciuti by Family  
R.E. Families  
Noon + Thomas & Bernadine Horkey Wedd. Anniv.  
Rem. by Theresa Zuchowski & Family



© J. S. Palach Co., Inc.

**PLEASE PRAY** *for*

Bill Doyle Jr., Bill Doyle, Jacki Horvath, Erin Conners, Kathy Salvatore, William Detloff, Connor & Matthais Erickson, Phil Timm, Alex Bratuljevich, Ezra Singletary, Heather Kubinski, Virginia Butler, Esmerelda & Luke Bonk, Gregory Bonk, Karl Blank, Helen Krumlinde, Patrick Bonk, Tom Wojciak, Jennifer Baer, Marilyn Singletary, Gary and Mark Ellison, Dorothy Manning, Cora Zgrabik, Cindi Carter Buck, Joe & Dolores McGrath, Mary Johnson, Mark Kehlenbach, Roger Matice, Ray Bruemmer, Madelyn Grillo, Naia Peña, Kenneth Wojewocki, Tim Baldwin, Justine Weck, Michael Haddix, Bernie Muren, Michael Paggie, Peter Aument, Dorothy Felak, Rosalee D, Mary Sterioti, Stelle Tremback, Lillian Mikan, Michael McIntire, Jonathan Cannon, Gabby Matlak, Joseph Cunico, Joann Ellison, Marianne Kowalkowski, Barbara Majerczyk, Mark Babich, Paulette Georgantas, David Skrzypczynski, Edna Carrigan, Mike O'Malley, Jeff Campbell, Cindy Conway, Bob Malek, Mary Perry, Nina Olsen, Veronica Wilson, Becky Smith, Vivian Schneider, Carol Preston, Adrienne Sanda, David Carrigan, Carol Kegley, Dawn Ozewski, Betty Baker, Jean Bryan, Daun Konicek, Marge Johnson, Phil May, Judy Valek, Tench Garza, Anthony Harames, Lynn Drolet, Anna Pustz, and Stephanie Herbst

**MINISTRY SCHEDULE**  
December 26 & 27, 2020

**SATURDAY, December 26 @ 4:00 P.M.**

**Presider:** Fr. Greg  
**Musician:** M. Ray & C. Vollmer  
**Ushers:** A. Lostroscio  
 J. Albrecht  
 G. Nagel  
**Cleaners:** M. Vollmer  
 C. Vollmer  
 J. Albrecht

**SUNDAY, December 27 @ 8:00A.M.**

**Presider:** Fr. Larry  
**Musicians:** R. Nicholas & M. O'CP  
**Ushers:** M. Timm  
 R. Schenk  
 N. Wheeler  
**Cleaners:** M. Timm  
 K. Timm  
 P. Bozych

**SUNDAY, December 27 @ 10:00 A.M.**

**Presider:** Fr. Greg  
**Musician:** J. Ray  
**Ushers:** T. Stark  
 G. Little  
 J. Blake  
**Cleaners:** M. Giacomo  
 M. Leyva  
 T. Stark

**SUNDAY, December 27 @ NOON**

**Presider:** Fr. Greg  
**Musicians:** R. Nicholas & B. Webster  
**Ushers:** M. Adelman  
 L. Sandoval  
**Cleaners:** J. Ray  
 M. Ray  
 L. Sandoval  
 J. Genty

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

**Monday:** Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21; Lk 1:39-45  
**Tuesday:** 1 Sm 1:24-28; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-8abcd; Lk 1:46-56  
**Wednesday:** Mal 3:1-4, 23-34; Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-10, 14; Lk 1:57-66  
**Thursday:** 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29; Lk 1:67-79  
**Friday:** Vigil: Is 62:1-5; Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25 [18-25]  
Night: Is 9:1-6; Ps 96:1-3, 11-13; 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 98:1-6; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18 [1-5, 9-14]  
**Saturday:** Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Ps 31:3cd-4, 6, 8ab, 16bc, 17; Mt 10:17-22  
**Sunday:** Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3; Ps 128:1-5  
 or Ps 105:1-6, 8-9; Col 3:12-21 [12-17] or Hb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19; Lk 2:22-40 [22, 39-40]

**MINISTRY SCHEDULE**  
December 24 & 25, 2020

**Christmas Eve @ 3 pm**

**Presider:** Fr. Greg  
**Musician:** M. Ray  
**Ushers:** G. Nagel  
 T. Lostroscio  
 JR Gillogly  
 S. Cardamone  
 C. Morfoot  
**Sanitizers:** L. Gillogly  
 N. Gillogly  
 M. Leyva  
 T. Tully  
 M. Vollmer,

**Christmas Eve @ 5 pm**

**Presider:** Fr. Greg  
**Musicians:** M. Brsan, J. Ray  
**Ushers:** K. Timm  
 J. Svoboda  
 B. Svoboda  
 NEEDED  
 NEEDED  
**Sanitizers:** B. Svoboda  
 J. Svoboda  
 K. Timm  
 M. Timm  
 NEEDED

**Christmas Eve @ 10:30 pm**

**Presider:** Fr. Larry  
**Musicians:** S. Lebensorger, B. Webster  
**Ushers:** S. Fitzmaurice  
 R. Schenk  
**Sanitizers:** D. Schenk  
 S. Fitzmaurice  
 R. Schenk

**Christmas Day @ 8 am**

**Presider:** Fr. Greg  
**Musicians:** R. Nicholas, J. Ry  
**Ushers:** M. Timm  
 N. Wheeler  
 R. Schenk  
**Sanitizers:** NEEDED  
 NEEDED  
 NEEDED

**Christmas Day @ 10 am**

**Presider:** Fr. Greg  
**Musicians:** J. Ruhaak, B. Webster  
**Ushers:** T. Stark  
 J. Blake  
 J. McBride  
**Sanitizers:** J. McBride  
 NEEDED  
 NEEDED

**Christmas Day at Noon:**

**Presider:** Fr. Greg  
**Musicians:** R. Nicholas, N. Gillogly  
**Ushers:** S. Fitzmaurice  
 M. Adelman  
 L. Sandoval  
**Sanitizers:** A. Sandoval  
 L. Sandoval  
 J. Genty

**THE ETERNAL GOD**

King David wished that the ark of God might have a more permanent home. David may have envisioned something like the cedar palace where he resided. God had in mind something more: a throne where David's descendants would rule for ever, a kingdom where Jews and Gentiles alike would be welcome.

Mary's prayerful nature led to an even more disturbing message. She would conceive and bear a Son though she was not yet married. "How can this come about?" Mary wondered. "The Holy Spirit will come upon you," she was told (Luke 1:35).

Mary's acceptance of this difficult challenge ushered in this, the final age of God's reign. What was once a secret known only by chosen people like King David and his descendants must now be made clear to all so that, as Saint Paul wrote to the Romans, we can be brought to the "obedience of faith" "according to the command of the eternal God" (Romans 16:26).

Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

**Gathering**

When Pope Benedict XVI visited the United States in 2008, tens of thousands gathered in Yankee Stadium to celebrate the Eucharist with him. What made them different from all the other excited crowds who have assembled there through the years? When they began to sing together, to listen together, to pray together, they ceased to be a crowd, and became a liturgical assembly. It was not where they were but what they did that set them apart.

The Gospels speak of many instances when Jesus prayed alone to his Father. But Jesus also put a special value on communal prayer. "Where two or three are gathered together in my name," he told his disciples, "there am I in the midst of them" (Matthew 18:20). Jesus gave his own mission to his followers, sending them forth to do everything he did: to heal, to teach, to proclaim the kingdom. Jesus wants us to meet God in and through each other. So the Christian community continues to gather, Sunday after Sunday. When we get up on Sunday morning and come to Mass, we respond to Jesus' invitation, and we express our trust in his promise that whenever we come together, he comes, too.

—Corinna Laughlin, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

~~~~~

OPLATKI: THE CHRISTMAS WAFER

The word "Bethlehem" means "House of Bread." The breaking of the bread is a sign of charity, unity, and friendship. A beautiful Christmas custom is the Christmas Wafer—Oplatki. Family customs remind us that we seek and obtain salvation with the help of others at all times.

Begin a family tradition this Advent. Stop by the rectory and get a packet of Oplatki. Packets are only \$1.00. Bring Christ back into Christmas.

Stewardship

December 13, 2020

SUNDAY COLLECTION:*

Weekly Average of All ACH

And CC Transactions

4378.00

Total

(\$ loose cash: 250.00)

Not Available because of early bulletin transmission,

BUDGETED WEEKLY AMOUNT NEEDED:

\$11,150.00

DEFICIT: ()

For your convenience, St. Joseph's offers automatic donations through your credit card or checking accounts.

Please call Garry Kearnes at the rectory for further information, or stop by and pick up an authorization form.

PARISH DEBT AS OF November 2020

PAST DUE HEALTH – 193,304.00

PROPERTY PURCHASED: PRINCIPAL – 59,688.71

INTEREST 96.43

TOTAL: \$253,089.44

END-OF-THE-YEAR TAX LETTERS

If you would like a year-end statement of contributions to the church, please call the rectory t 815-838-0187 and we will gladly end one out to you. Because of the current tax laws, we will not automatically provide a statement unless requested.

~~~~~

**IF YOU ARE ATTENDING CHRISTMAS MASSES, PLEASE ALLOW YOURSELF EXTRA TIME. BECAUSE OF COVID, EVERYONE HAS TO BE CHECKED IN AND BROUGHT TO SPECIFIC SEATS, WHICH WILL TAKE ADDITIONAL TIME.**

**PARKING WILL ALSO BE AT A PREMIUM.**

**Thank you.**



## CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

### SACRAMENT OF PENANCE

**(Confessions are held every Saturday in Church  
beginning at 5:00 p.m.)**



### CHRISTMAS MASSES

#### December 24th

Christmas Eve Vigil Masses  
3:00 p.m. Mass in the Activity Center  
5:00 p.m. Mass in the Activity Center  
10:30 p.m. Mass in the Activity Center

#### January 1, 2021

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God  
8:00 & 10:00 a.m. Masses in Activity Center

#### December 25th

Christmas Day Masses  
8:00, 10:00, Noon: All Masses in Activity Center

#### January 3, 2021

Epiphany of the Lord  
Regular Schedule of Weekend Mass

**ALL MASSES WILL BE BY RESERVATION ONLY**

## A LETTER FROM FR. GREG

Dear Parishioners of St. Joseph,

Advent 2020

"Thank God it's almost over!" That's the way just about everyone feels about 2020, I'm sure. It's been a uniquely challenging time for everyone we know, indeed for everyone in the whole world. One of the great challenges that so many people have faced is financial difficulty, a challenge that has also affected parishes throughout the world due to significantly reduced Mass attendance (following three months of no Mass at all).

Thankfully, the parishioners of St. Joseph have been amazing in their consistent support of our parish! Even during the total shutdown, donations kept rolling in so that the parish avoided serious financial danger. I am deeply grateful. Many parishes are experiencing a sort of financial catastrophe this year; because of your generosity, we are not. But that doesn't mean that we are out of the woods...

Let me describe our "Covid situation" in a bit more detail. The financial impact of this strange time boils down to three main factors: reduced donations, cleaning supplies cost, and cleaning services cost. Because our weekend attendance is about half of what it was before Covid, the "loose bills" part of our offering income has dried up quite a bit (unlike our committed givers such as our electronic debit donors). We also have to purchase a large amount of sanitizing supplies every month to spray over all surfaces that may pose a virus transmission danger. These chemicals must be of a specific kind that is approved by the CDC...and the cost of these chemicals adds up over time! Finally, we have had to contract a greater availability of cleaning services to work in our buildings, particularly after any sort of gatherings.

The bottom line is this: since Covid began in March, the financial shortfall from our budgeted "normal" baseline is a deficit of \$38,500. I want to ask your help in addressing this shortfall by considering an "Advent Gift" to St. Joseph to make up this loss. Would you consider joining me in making a special one time donation to the parish beyond your regular weekly offering? I have personally begun this campaign myself by giving \$100 to get the ball rolling...won't you join me? As I think of the various gift giving that happens during this season, I am deeply aware that our beloved parish could use a special gift this year and so I ask that you join me in giving a gift to honor St. Joseph during this holy season in which he figures so prominently.

..... you can easily return your gift by mail or in the collection. I will also be sending out a Flocknote email to you shortly so that you can make an electronic one time donation through our new e-giving partner "GiveCentral" if you prefer the convenience of that method. In either case, I want to thank you for the gift of yourself and of your resources to St. Joseph!

God bless you!



**Flowers for St. Joseph Church  
During the Christmas Season**

This holiday season, you have the opportunity of remembering and honoring a loved one by donating to our Christmas Fund. With your donation, your loved one will be remembered during the Christmas season. Money generated will also be used to beautify the Activity Center for this most unusual Christmas.

Write the name of the person you wish to remember on the appropriate line and return in the collection basket or to the rectory in an envelope marked "Christmas Flowers". Please submit the form by December 21 in order for their names to be in the bulletin for Christmas.

IN HONOR OF:

IN MEMORY OF:

NAME OF PERSON/FAMILY OFFERING A REMEMBRANCE:

**St. Joseph Parish New Parishioner/  
Change of Address**

So that we might better serve your needs, please fill out this form and drop it in the collection basket or mail it to the parish office (410 S. Jefferson St., Lockport, IL 60441). Thank you.

\*Name \_\_\_\_\_

\*Address \_\_\_\_\_

\*City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

\*Phone \_\_\_\_\_

\*Email \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ New Parishioner

Change of Address \_\_\_\_\_

Change of Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Change of Email \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Moving Out of Parish

**\*MANDATORY FIELDS**

**PLEASE NOTE:**

**If you have had a change of mailing address, phone number, or email, please notify the rectory or drop this form into the collection basket.**

**These updates are important in order to guarantee delivery of contribution envelopes, contact information, and parish news and events.**