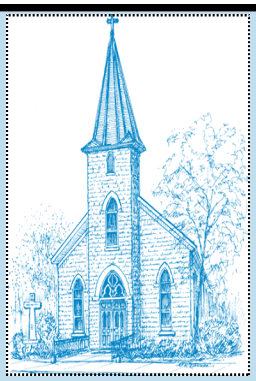


Welcome to

St. Joseph Catholic Parish

A Faith Community Since 1868

December 21, 2025

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

"Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home" - Mt 1:20

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

©LPi

LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

Weekday Masses:
Mon-Thurs: 7:30 am
Fri: 12:05 pm
Saturday Vigil Mass: 4:00 pm
Sunday: 8:00, 10:00, Noon
1st Friday: 12:05 pm Mass with Adoration to Follow
Holy Days of Obligation: 6:30 am, 12:05 pm

Sacrament of Reconciliation:
Saturdays: 5:00 pm and by appointment.

FOR ONLINE DONATIONS, USE THIS QR CODE

www.stjosephlockport.org **815-838-0187** **www.sdjacademy.org**

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.

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

Hospital/Homebound:

Please notify the rectory office if you or a loved one have been admitted to a hospital or a nursing home. 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 .

Parish Pastoral Council Members:

John Albrecht	Donna Cifonie
Bill Molony	Deacon Nick
Deacon Dennis	John Walters

Knights of Columbus: Contact John Walters at 630-303-0075 for information on becoming a Knight.

Saints Dennis and Joseph Catholic Academy

Follow us on FACEBOOK

St. Joseph Church
410 S. Jefferson
Lockport, Illinois 60441
Phone: 815-838-0187
Fax: 815-838-5379

PASTORAL STAFF:

Rev. Daniel Hoehn	Pastor
dhoehn@stjosephlockport.org	
Rev. Thomas Logue	Parochial Vicar
tlogue@stjosephlockport.org	
Bishop Dennis Spies	In Residence
Deacon Nick Cifonie	ideatrak@gmail.com
Deacon Dennis Stolarz	
Mr. Garry Kearnes	
gkearnes@stjosephlockport.org	Business Manager
Mrs. Jean Genty	
jgenty@stjosephlockport.org	Church Secretary

R.C.I.A.

Mr. John Albrecht	Director
johnalbrecht47@comcast.net	312-399-0161

PASTORAL CARE

Rev. Daniel Hoehn	Coordinator
	815-838-0187

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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

SCHOOL

Mr. Thomas Newton	Principal
tnewton@sdjacademy.org	
Mrs. Rita Baxter	School Secretary
rbaxter@sdjacademy.org	815-838-8173

MARKETING/ENROLLMENT/ADVANCEMENT

Mrs. Michelle Ray — Director
Parish: Marketing advancement@stjoeschool.com
School: AdvancementMarketingEnrollment
mray@sdjacademy.org

Bulletin Announcements	Pulpit Announcements
Deadline: Monday	Deadline: Friday
Rectory Office Hours: M-F	8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

www.stjosephlockport.org
www.sdjacademy.org
https://www.facebook.com/St.JosephLockport

"Follow" us on Twitter@StJoeLockport

Connect with us throughflocknote.com/ stjosephlockport or text 'lockport' to 84576 with your mobile device

KEEP IN TOUCH WITH PARISH EVENTS and FR. DAN'S WEEKLYSPIRITUAL NEWSLETTER

STJOSEPHLOCKPORT@FLOCKNOTE.COM

View bulletins at ONEPARISH.COM

MASSES, INTENTIONS, AND EVENTS
December 20-December 28, 2025

SATURDAY, December 20
+ Jane Rogan by the Rogan Family
+ Joe Encarnacion Birth. Rem. by Rosario Vianzon
5:00 p.m. Confessions

SUNDAY, December 21: 4th Sunday of Advent
8:00 a.m. + Len Skuta by Family
10:00 a.m. + Stella Tremback Anniv. Rem. by Family
Dr. Erwin Z. Mangubat Birth. Congrats. by D & Ma Vianzon
Noon + Greg, Jozef, & Stanislawa Szuba by Beninda Szuba
1:00 p.m. Baptisms in Church

MONDAY, December 22:
7:30 a.m. Guiliana Hendry Birth. Congrats. by Grandma & Grandpa

TUESDAY, December 23: St. Joan of Arc
7:30 a.m. + Virginia Guffrie by Anne Garvey

WEDNESDAY, December 24:
7:30 a.m. + Carol Berman Birth. Rem. by husband Bill
+ Len Zupancic Anniv. Rem. by Family
9:30 a.m. A.A. Meeting in Church Basement
4:00 p.m. Mass in Church
10:00 p.m. Scriptures & Caroling in Church
10:30 p.m. Mass in Church

THURSDAY, December 25: The Nativity of the Lord
8:00 a.m. Mass in Church
10:00 a.m. Mass in Church
Noon Mass in Church

FRIDAY, December 26: St. Steven
12:05 p.m. + For the Poor Souls in Purgatory by Anne Garvey
8:00 p.m. A. A. Meeting in Church Basement

SATURDAY, December 27:
4:00 p.m. +Luke Patrick Smith by Nana & Papa
+ Robert Solley Anniv. Rem. by Family

SUNDAY, December 28: The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph
8:00 a.m. + Jim Viskocil & Helen Lauster Anniv. Rem. by Family
10:00 a.m. + Justin Vanderveen by Family
+ Wesley Loboz by Family & Friends
For All R.E. Families
Noon + Sara Zervos by her sister Anne
+ Brittney M. Bales by Tim, Isabel, Kyle, & Kimberly

MINISTRY SCHEDULE
December 27 & 28

SATURDAY, December 27 @ 4:00 p.m.
Reader: **D. Haag**
EM:
Musician: **V. Moreno JR Gillogly**
Ushers: A. Lostroscio
G. Nagel
J. Wisneski

SUNDAY, December 28 @ 8:00A.M.
Reader: **M. Schultz**
EM: **J. Foresman**
Musicians: **R. Nicholas, J. Ray**
Ushers: R. Schenk
N. Wheeler
J. Drozdek

SUNDAY December 28@ 10:00 A.M.
Reader: **D. Cifonie**
EM:
Musician: **Choir**
Ushers: T. Stark
G. Little
T. Marcione

SUNDAY, December 28 @ NOON
Reader: **A. Garvey**
EM: **J. Garvey**
Musicians: **M. Ray**
Ushers: M. Adelman
S. Fitzmaurice
J. Garvey

CATHOLIC TRIVIA – JUST FOR FUN

Quedtion: Which saint's nickname is "Santa Claus"?

Answer: St. Nicholas

ADVENT ALMSGIVING AT ST. JOSEPH PARISH

With the unrest in our world, and the suffering of so many, this Advent, we will dedicate our Advent Almsgiving to various agencies.

The needs of this Christmas season are great!

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS, MANTENO
Men's sweatpants—L, XL—4XL
Dress Shirts & neckties
Sunglasses
Eyeglass neck holders
Sugar/sweetener packets
Individual liquid coffee creamers
Canned coffee (no decaf)
Gatorade
Pop, root beer
Individually wrapped snack cakes
Individually wrapped mini-donut packs
2026 calendars

MINISTRY SCHEDULE
December 24& 25

Wednesday, December 24 @ 4:00 P.M.
Musicians: **M. Ray, Children's Choir**
Reader: **J. Ranney**
EM: **I. Hurtado**
Servers: **E. Belsan, C. Ranney, M. Leyva**
Ushers: A. Lostroscio
J. Wisneski
G. Nagel

Wednesday, December 24 @ 10:30 p.m.
Musicians: **N. Hauch, Choir**
Reader: **R. Ward**
EM: **R. Ward**
Ushers: **R. Schenk**

Thursday, December 25 @ 8:00A.M.
Reader: **D. Haag**
EM: **J. Hartford**
Musicians: **R. Nicholas, M. O'CP**
Ushers: N. Wheeler
J. Drozdek

Thursday, December 25 @ 10:00 A.M.
Musician: **N. Hauch, Choir**
Reader: **T. Governale**
EM: **P. Ciciora**
Ushers: T. Stark
G. Little
J. Blake

Thursday December 25 @ NOON
Musicians: **V. Moreno, B. Webster**
Reader: **D. Adelmann**
EM: **P. Burandt**
Ushers: M. Adelman
S. Fitzmaurice

Catholic Charities Head Start Program
is asking for donations of :
hats & gloves
Throw blankets (new)
Hygiene items
Holiday socks
Hot cocoa packets

The Giving Tree will be located in back of church for your contributions. Cash donations and gift cards can be placed in an envelope marked "Giving Tree" .

There will be bins in back of church for your convenience, or bring your items to the rectory.

Monetary donations are also gladly accepted. donations and gift cards are also acceptable.

Mini reflection: Advent is drawing quickly to a close, and Christmas is coming soon. The change is upon us. Do we rise to accept it, or do we fall on our faces in fear?

The First Transfiguration
I imagine Joseph waking up the morning after the dream, blinking in the dim half-light of the dawn.

One day, decades from now, the baby his wife carries will stand on a mountaintop. His face will shine like the sun, and those who look upon him will fall down upon their own faces in fear.

We call this the transfiguration, and Joseph won't be there to see it. But that doesn't matter. What those men will learn on the mountaintop, Joseph already knows. He learned it last night.

Today, he shrugs off the remnants of slumber and stands up.

"Rise, and do not be afraid." This is what the baby — a baby no longer, but a man now, one in the last days of his life — will say to his companions on the mountain a few decades from now. They will look up to see him standing there the same as he always was, and they will realize that he did not change at all. They did.

"Do not be afraid." This is what the angel said last night as he revealed to Joseph the will of God: that Joseph take Mary and the Child as his own, despite having so many reasons not to do so. And today Joseph wakes up and the world is the same as it always was: Mary is pregnant, and the Child does not belong to him.

No, the world has not changed. Joseph has.

He rises, and goes to Mary.

Advent is drawing quickly to a close, and Christmas is coming soon. The change is upon us. Do we rise to accept it, or do we fall on our faces in fear?

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 for $1.00. Bring Christ back into Christmas.

Stewardship

December 7, 2025

SUNDAY COLLECTION:	**$10, 481..00**
Weekly Average of all ACH And CC Transactions	**2799.00**
TOTAL	**$13,280.00**

($loose cash: 720.00)

Christmas@ $180.00
Religious Retirement: $20.00
Immaculate Conception : $75.00

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.

Readings for the week of December 21, 2025

Sunday:	Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 (7c, 10b)/ Rom 1:1-7/Mt 1:18-24
Monday:	1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8 abcd/Lk 1:46-56
Tuesday:	Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14/Lk 1:57-66
Wednesday:	Morning: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29/Lk 1:67-79
Thursday:	*Vigil*: Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29 (2a)/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 (Lk 2:11)/ 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 (3c)/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14
Friday:	Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17/Mt 10:17-22
Saturday:	1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12/ Jn 20:1a, 2-8
Next Sunday:	Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 (see 1)/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Mt 2:13-15, 19-23

Observances for the week of December 21, 2025

Sunday:	4th Sunday of Advent
Tuesday:	St. John of Kanty, Priest
Wednesday:	Christmas Eve
Thursday:	The Nativity of the Lord
Friday:	St. Stephen, First Martyr
Saturday:	St. John, Apostle and Evangelist
Next Sunday:	The Holy Family

CHRISTMAS SACRAMENT OF PENANCE

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

CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES

Wednesday, December 24

St. Joseph
4:00 p.m.
10:30 p.m.
(10:00 p.m. Scriptures and Caroling)

St. Dennis
3:00 p.m., 4:30 p.m., 9:00 p.m.

CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES

Thursday, December 25

St. Joseph
8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m., Noon

St. Dennis
7:30 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m.

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

Wednesday, December 31 Vigil Mass

St. Joseph
4:00 p.m.

St. Dennis
4:30 p.m.

Thursday, January 1, 2025

St. Joseph
11:00 a.m.

St. Dennis
7:30 a.m., 9:30 a.m.
(Please note: all Masses are in Church)

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 19 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:

_____

WE NEED CHILI COOKS!!!

St. Joseph Parish
Chili Cook-Off
is scheduled for
February 28, 2026.

We need between
12-15 cooks in order to have enough "samples" for everyone to enjoy.

Call the rectory at
815-838-0187
to enter your
favorite recipe!

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:

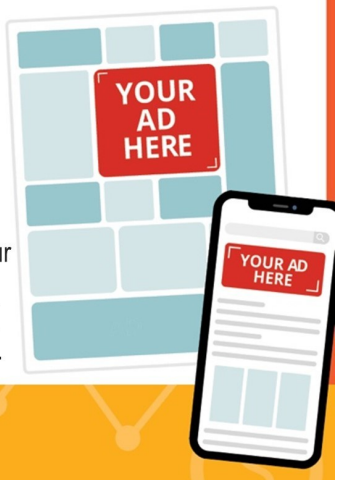
If you have had a change of mailing address, phone number, or email, please notify the rectory or drop this form into the collection basket.

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

AVAILABLE NOW!
PRINT & DIGITAL AD SPACES

Build your business and help us grow a vibrant faith community!

Julie Blanford from LPi, our bulletin printer, will be securing new ads for our church in the coming weeks. As a valuable member of the business community, we invite you to expand your reach and grow your business with a print ad in our parish bulletin and/or a digital ad featured on ParishesOnline.com.



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