

St. Joseph's Church

THE CRADLE OF AFRICAN AMERICAN CATHOLICISM IN DELAWARE



1012 French Street
Wilm., DE 19801
302-658-4535 (Tel)
302-658-2006 (Fax)

ADMINISTRATOR
Rev. John C. McVoy
frmac@stjosephfrenchst.org

DEACON
Deacon Robert J. Cousar

Office Hours During Pandemic: Wednesday 10am - 2 pm

Parish Secretary: parishsecretary@stjosephfrenchst.org

Website: www.stjosephfrenchst.org

YouTube Channel: St Josephs Downtown Wilmington
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC9-ljIa9-IU0OS9jPbe2ddQ>

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday Vigil — 5:00 pm Sunday — 10:00 am
Weekday Mass — Wednesday and Friday 12:10 pm
Confessions are heard on Saturday at 4:30 pm and by appointment.

Notary Services
Available
Upon Request.
See Loretta Young

MARRIAGE:

All couples contemplating marriage are asked to give the Pastor at least one year prior notice in order to satisfy all diocesan requirements for marriage. All couples must attend either Pre-Cana Classes or make an Engaged Encounter.

BAPTISM:

Before a child is Baptized, the parents and Godparents must participate in a Pre-Baptismal program. Please call the Pastoral Center to make arrangements.

NEW PARISHIONERS:

Welcome! We encourage new families moving into the area to stop in or call the Parish Office and complete a registration form.

CARE OF THE SICK AND

HOMEBOUND: This ministry is restricted due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Please notify the Parish Office if any parishioner is ill or hospitalized.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS, EMAIL, TELEPHONE NUMBER: Contact the Parish Office if your personal contact information changes.

December 13, 2020 Third Sunday of Advent



- ▶ Monday Rosary Prayer ~ @ 12:15 pm via Conference Call
▶ 1-515-603-4906, access code 178602
- ▶ Friday Bible Study 1:00 pm via ZOOM & Conf. Call, Led by Fr. Mac
- ▶ December 13 ~ Sodality Meeting, 1:00 pm Conference Call
▶ 1-515-603-4906, access code 178602
- ▶ December 24 ~ Christmas Eve — 5:00 pm Mass
- ▶ December 25 ~ Christmas Day — 10:00 am Mass
- ▶ January 1, 2021 ~ New Years Day — 10:00 am Mass
- ▶ January 25, 2021 ~ St. Joseph's Book Club, 7:00 PM via ZOOM
▶ *Down the River Into the Sea by Walter Mosley*

More detail on inside pages

Weekly Collections

The parish requires a weekly collection of \$4,901 to cover expenses. The numbers below compares 2020 with the same week in 2019. Thank you for being consistent with your donations. Please be prayerful about your contributions to the parish.

Dec 6, 2020 - \$4,958

Dec 8, 2019 — \$3,105

Pandemic & Flu Season: Please take precautionary measures such as wearing a face mask, washing hands often and thoroughly. If you are under the weather please stay at home and take care not to share your misery with others. We all will bless you for it.

**Mass Intentions
December 12 — December 20**

Saturday, 12/12	5:00 pm	People of the Parish
Sunday, 12/13	10:00 am	
Wednesday, 12/16	12:10 pm	
Friday, 12/18	10:00 am	
Saturday, 12/19	5:00 pm	People of the Parish
Sunday, 12/20	10:00 am	

PARISH STAFF

Administrator: Rev. John C. McVoy
 Deacon: Robert J. Cousar
 Parish Secretary: Loretta L. Young
 St. Vincent dePaul Society: Fayetta Jackson
 Director Religious Education: Mary Polk
 Bookkeeper: Jane Putscher

Introduction to the Liturgy

The Third Sunday of Advent is called Gaudete Sunday because today's opening antiphon begins with the word Gaudete, which means rejoice. We rejoice today, for the coming of the Lord is so near that we cannot help but think about it. Perhaps we are starting to feel overwhelmed by all of what we need to do between now and Christmas. Let this be an opportunity to refocus our attention on the true reason we celebrate this time of year. Rejoice, the Lord is near!



In Mac



Listen to Catholic Forum every Saturday afternoon at 1:30 on Relevant Radio 640. Next Saturday, December 19th, tune in to hear the annual Catholic Forum Christmas program featuring Bishop Malooly's annual Christmas message to the people of Delaware and Maryland's Eastern Shore. Listen to Catholic Forum online anytime at www.cdow.org/CatholicForum, or search "Catholic Forum" on Apple, Spotify, or iHeartRadio podcasts. For photos, information regarding upcoming guests, links and more, "Like" Catholic Forum on Facebook at www.facebook.com/Catholicforum

Marriage Moments (by Susan Vogt, www.SusanVogt.net)

MARRIAGE MOMENTS

How about choosing one thing that gives you joy, say one prayer, and be thankful for one thing today. Share.

PARENTING POINTERS

God often comes through people we can identify with. Having trouble getting a message across to your kids? Try tuning into their world, their needs.

Question of the Week

When and where do I recognize the presence of the Lord in the world.

Christmas Decorations

Consider honoring a family member, friend or loved one by contributing toward the Christmas decorations fund. This is a very nice way to remember loved ones. Envelopes are in your box set and the back of the church.

IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

PLEASE REMEMBER AND PRAY FOR OUR SICK AND SHUT-IN, AND THOSE WHO SERVE IN THE MILITARY

<i>Charlie Anderson</i>	<i>Mary Bossack</i>	<i>Marie Reed</i>	<i>Gerry Reybold</i>
<i>Gwen Sanders</i>	<i>Guissepina Fazzone</i>	<i>Earl White</i>	<i>Beverly White</i>
<i>Tina Holmes</i>			

If you would like to be added to our sick and shut-in list, please send email to parishsecretary@stjosephfrenchst.org or call the parish office 302-658-4535. Names of parishioners in hospitals or facilities will remain on the list indefinitely. All others will remain for one month, unless there are extenuating circumstances.

ADVENT WREATH PRAYERS

Opening Prayer:

O GOD, BLESS THIS ADVENT WREATH.
MAY IT HELP US PREPARE TO WELCOME JESUS, YOUR SON,
INTO OUR LIVES.
MAY THE LIGHT OF HIS LOVE SHINE THROUGH US. AMEN.



Advent Wreath

1st CANDLE – (purple) **THE PROPHECY CANDLE** or **CANDLE OF HOPE** – We can have hope because God is faithful and will keep the promises made to us. Our hope comes from God. (Romans 15:12-13)

2nd CANDLE – (purple) **THE BETHLEHEM CANDLE** or **THE CANDLE OF PREPARATION** – God kept his promise of a Savior who would be born in Bethlehem. Preparation means to “get ready”. Help us to be ready to welcome YOU, O GOD! (Luke 3:4-6)

3rd CANDLE – (pink) **THE SHEPHERD CANDLE** or **THE CANDLE OF JOY** – The angels sang a message of JOY! (Luke 2:7-15)

4th CANDLE – (purple) **THE ANGEL CANDLE** or **THE CANDLE OF LOVE** – The angels announced the good news of a Savior. God sent his only Son to earth to save us, because he loves us! (John 3:16-17)

5th CANDLE – (white) **“CHRIST CANDLE”** – The white candle reminds us that Jesus is the spotless lamb of God, sent to wash away our sins! His birth was for his death, his death was for our birth! (John 1:29)

WEEK 1- First Sunday of Advent (Light candle # 1) – **HOPE**

**WE BELIEVE IN YOU, LORD.
WE KNOW THAT YOU CAN HELP US
TO LOVE AND RESPECT EACH OTHER MORE.
YOU ARE OUR LIGHT,
THE LIGHT THAT OVERCOMES DARKNESS.
COME, LORD JESUS!**
(Pause for silent prayer. Share your good deeds)

WEEK 2 – Second Sunday of Advent (Light candles #1 & #2) – **LOVE**

**COME, LORD JESUS.
WARM OUR HEARTS WITH YOUR LOVE.
HELP US TO PREPARE FOR YOUR COMING.
HELP US TO SEE THE GOOD THINGS WE CAN DO.
HELP US TO SEE THE GOOD THINGS OTHERS DO.
COME, LORD JESUS!**
(Pause for silent prayer. Share your good deeds)

WEEK 3 – Gaudete Sunday (Light candles #1, #2, #3) – **JOY**

**JESUS, WE WANT YOUR COMING TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE
IN HOW WE LIVE AND LOVE.
OPEN OUR HEARTS TO HEAR YOUR TELLING US
HOW WE CAN BRING PEACE AND JOY TO OTHERS.
COME, LORD JESUS!**
(Pause for silent prayer. Share your good deeds)

WEEK 4- Fourth Sunday of Advent (Light candles #1, #2, #3, #4) – **PEACE**

**LORD JESUS,
QUIET THE WORRIES AND FEARS IN OUR HEARTS.
GIVE US YOUR PEACE.
THANK YOU FOR THE LIFE YOU SHARE WITH US.
HELP US TO SHARE YOUR LIFE WITH OTHERS.
COME, LORD JESUS!**
(Pause for silent prayer. Share your good deeds)

SAINT VINCENT DEPAUL SOCIETY

St. Vincent DePaul Society continues to operate and serve those residing in zip code 19801. Anyone needing assistance should go to www.svdpwilm.org and submit an online assistance form located at the top of the home page. A Saint Vincent DePaul volunteer will respond to the requester as quickly as possible. If you are a parishioner and in need of assistance, just call the parish office at 302-658-4535.

ADDITIONAL NEWS

Buy gift/ pre-paid cards for a good cause.

It's that time of year when we consider gift giving and gift cards are a safe and easy way to give to others, especially this year.

Please consider buying gift/ pre-paid cards for everyday items & gifts. Proceeds are used to support the mission of the Knights of Peter Claver, such as service to the Church, assistance to the needy and youth scholarship. Order forms are in the back of the church or online. For information contact Grand Knight Vincent Robinson at 302 4945699; Email: kpc.scrip@stjosephfrenchst.org
Web: http://kpc.stjosephfrenchst.org.KPC_ScripFundRaisingInfo.pdf

PUT PREVENTION INTO PRACTICE

SAFE TOYS and GIFTS MONTH

When it comes to toys and gifts, it is critical to remember to consider the safety and age range of the toys. Prevent Blindness America has declared December as Safe Toys and Gifts Awareness Month. The group encourages everyone to consider if the toys they wish to give suits the age and individual skills and abilities of the individual child who will receive it, especially for infants and children under age three. This holiday season (and beyond), please consider the guidelines for choosing safe toys for all ages recommended by the American Public Health Association at (Source: <https://www.apha.org/events-and-meetings/apha-calendar/2019/safe-toys-and-gifts-month-2019>)

WINTER SAFETY SEASON – DECEMBER 21- MARCH 20, 2021

Driving in the winter means changes in the way you drive. Snow, sleet and ice can lead to hazardous road conditions. Prepare your vehicle for the upcoming winter season with these helpful tips. Avoid Shoveling, Snow blowing Injuries. Shoveling snow or using a snowblower are among winter's most grueling activities. High levels of activity in cold temperatures put many people at risk of heart attack, especially those that have inactive lifestyles. The National Safety Council is America's leading nonprofit safety advocate. Their focus is on eliminating the leading causes of preventable injuries and deaths. Visit this website to learn more details of how you can protect yourself and loved ones during the winter months at: (Source: <https://www.nsc.org/home-safety/tools-resources/seasonal-safety/>)

VISITATION MINISTRY:

Remembering Our Homebound and Isolated Parishioners Take a few moments to show your care and love through the upcoming holidays. Consider how you, your family and/or Health Ministry Team can brighten the day of someone. Small holiday gifts such as a child's drawing or craft, an icon, an ornament, fruit, a floral gift (amaryllis, Christmas cactus/poinsettia, etc.), holiday candle, lap blanket/shawl, or a homemade card with a favorite verse or prayer can be a "pick-me-up" for those who may not be able to share the day in-person with loved ones. Take a few minutes to make a phone call, send a card, or deliver a small item. May we each be a blessing to others as Christ is to us. (Source: Pittsburgh Mercy Parish Nurse Newsletter November/December, 2020 PittsburghMercy.org)

Please contact La Vaida Owens-White to discuss if your congregation, temple, mosque or synagogue would be interested in establishing a health and wellness ministry for your community. Contact: cokparish@aol.com with Health Ministry in the **subject** line.



December

Ryan Small	02
Vanel Fleury	03
Josephine Griffin	03
August Hazeur	03
Marie Corbitt	05
Rosetta Henderson	08
Iona Johnson	08
Irmina Hudson	10
Yvonne Flagg	12
Willa Seth	12
Blythe Shine	12
Dana Jackson	13
Tristan Thompson	14
Xavier Wycliffe	14
Donald Cory Towles	15
Michala Dash	17
Gwendolyn Sanders	17
Carlvin Joseph	21
Patrick Abili	22
Corriam Jolly	24
Father John McVoy	24
Lisa Mims	25
Mary Pearce	25
Gabriel Elijah Towles	28
Leatitia Bedminster	29
Desiree Blackwell	29
Christopher Sterling	29
Marquis Baynard	30
Tracy Purnell	30
Janice Jolly	31
Paula Willis	31

*Note: Apologies if your name does not appear on the birthday list. If this is the case, please call the parish office at 302.658.4535 or email the parish secretary at parishsecretary@stjosephfrenchst.org
Please include your name, birth month, day and year.*