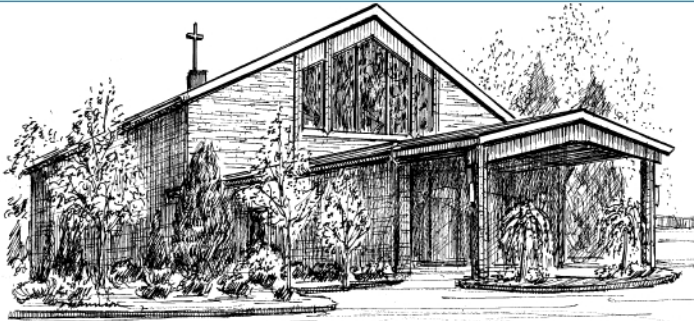


# Saint Joseph Church

*A Pennsylvania Charitable Trust*



## Sunday Masses:

Saturday evening: ..... 5:00 PM  
Sunday: ..... 8:30 & 10:45 AM

## Holyday Masses:

As scheduled in the bulletin.

## Daily Masses:

Mon., Tues., Fri. .... 9:00 AM  
Saturday: ..... 5:00 PM only

Rev. Edwin J. Wichman, Pastor

825 Second Street • Verona, Pennsylvania • 15147

Phones:

**Parish Office** ..... 412-795-5114  
**Parish Fax** ..... 412-828-1236  
Hours: 8:30 A.M. - 4:00 P.M. (Monday - Friday)  
**E-mail:** .....joevchurch@verizon.net  
**Faith Formation Office** ..... 412-828-7715  
Sr. Lynn Miller, CSJ, Program Manager  
Peter Starz .....stirfaith@gmail.com  
**School Office** ..... 412-828-7213  
Sr. Jean Uzupis, CSJ, Principal  
**Social Service Office** ..... 412-828-7715  
Sr. Lynn Miller, CSJ - Director  
**Facilities Coordinator** ..... 412-715-1832  
John Hazur  
**Safe Environment Coordinator** ... 412-795-5114X11  
Fran Morrow .....StJoVeSafe@gmail.com

## Parish Membership:

Please call the Rectory if you wish to become a member of our parish or if you are leaving to join another parish.

## Parish Mission Statement

St. Joseph Parish is a faith community, rich in history and strong in its Catholic tradition since 1866. Through the grace of the Eucharist and under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to building up the Body of Christ through a strong spiritual life, education in the faith and service to our parish and community.

**Pennsylvania  
Child Abuse Hotline  
1-800-932-0313**

**Diocese of Pittsburgh  
Victims Assistance Hotline  
1-888-808-1235**

The Seven Sacraments

**Holy Orders:** Any men exploring the possibility of becoming a Priest or Deacon or anyone contemplating Religious Life should contact the Office for Vocations of the Diocese of Pittsburgh at 412-456-3123.

**Baptism:** Second Sunday of the month by appointment. Arrangements are made through the Parish Office. Pre-Baptism instructions are obligatory.

**Confirmation:** Celebrated periodically as scheduled by the Diocese.

**Holy Eucharist:** First Communion is celebrated in the Spring. Call the Rectory to arrange for communion for those who are homebound.

**Reconciliation:** Saturdays from 11:00 A.M. to Noon and by appointment.

**Matrimony:** Couples must contact a parish priest six months prior to the proposed date. Marriage instructions are mandatory.

**Anointing of the Sick:** Celebrated the Third Sunday of the month after all Masses. If a family member is seriously ill or about to have surgery, please call a priest.

**RCIA:** The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (for those wanting to become Catholic or those interested in learning more about the Catholic faith) is conducted through the Faith Formation Office. Call that office for more information about the process.

*Please remember St. Joseph Parish in your will.*



### *The Light Is Still On For You*

This Advent on the evening of December 9th from 6:00 - 9:00 PM, rediscover the healing power of the Sacrament of Reconciliation at any Catholic parish in the Diocese. If you've been away for a long time, don't worry. We'll leave the light on for you... Go to <http://www.diopitt.org/latest-diocesan-news/light-you-0>.

### *Pro-Life Prayer*

Heavenly Father, thank you for the precious gift of life. Help us to cherish and protect this gift, even in the midst of fear, pain, and suffering. Give us love for all people, especially the most vulnerable, and help us bear witness to the truth that every life is worth living. Grant us the humility to accept help when we are in need, and teach us to be merciful to all. Through our words and actions, may others encounter the outstretched hands of your mercy. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen. - USCCB 2015-16 Respect Life Program Prayer Card: "Every Life is Worth Living" [www.goo.gl/076T65j](http://www.goo.gl/076T65j).

### *Problems After Abortion?*

1-800-634-2224

### *From The Catechism*

(1393) *Holy Communion separates us from sin.* The body of Christ we receive in Holy Communion is "given up for us," and the blood we drink "shed for the many for the forgiveness of sins." For this reason the Eucharist cannot unite us to Christ without at the same time cleansing us from past sins and preserving us from future sins....

### *OPLATKI (Christmas Wafers)*

Sharing a Christmas wafer during the Christmas Eve Vigil has been a tradition in Poland, Lithuania and Slovakia for hundreds of years. Whatever your background, it's a warm and loving way to express the sentiment of the season. Packets are available in the sacristy of the Church for a \$2 donation.

### *Rosary For The Deceased*

The Ladies of Charity invite you to join them in praying the rosary for the recently deceased of the parish immediately after the 8:30AM Mass on Sunday, December 13th.

### *A Thought*

Money can't buy happiness but it sure makes misery easier to live with.

### *From the Desk of Father Ed:*

The Feast of the **Immaculate Conception** is on December 8<sup>th</sup>. This celebration reminds us that God chose Mary to be the mother of his only Son. A perfect home was necessary for this pregnancy; therefore, *Mary herself was conceived without sin.* Masses at Saint Joseph for this Holyday of Obligation will be celebrated on **Tuesday at 9 AM and 7 PM.**

This **Wednesday**, December 9<sup>th</sup>, is the day chosen by our Bishop for the Advent observance of ***The Light is on for You.*** This is an opportunity to receive the *Sacrament of Reconciliation* in preparation for Christmas. All parishes in the Diocese are expected to participate in this event. Confessions will be heard here **between 6 PM and 9 PM.** **Fr. Jack Nanz** will be here from 6 PM until 7 PM. **Father Tom Dansak** will hear confessions between 7 PM and 8 PM. **Father John O'Shea** will be the confessor from 8 PM until 9 PM. **Father Jean-Luc Zadroga, OSB** will also be available between 6 PM and 7:30 PM. *These are good, kind priests.* Keep them busy throughout the evening. *Don't forget, we will not have a Penance Service here at Saint Jo-*

*seph's this year because it is scheduled for the following day, December 10.* Confessions will be heard at the other Cluster Parishes the following week. Thus, there are ample opportunities for receiving the Sacrament of Penance. All you need to do is *show up to experience God's mercy!*

Our **monthly bingo** will be held this coming Saturday, **December 12<sup>th</sup>.** Doors open at **6 PM** and the Early Bird games start at **6:30 PM.** Regular games commence at **7 PM.** The donation is still only **\$25** for a good night out. Take a "time-out" from the hustle and bustle of the season and *relax having fun, making friends and celebrating life.* You might end up with some extra Christmas cash. Our Progressive Jackpot is now at **\$450!**

*Bulletin Deadline*  
**MONDAY AT NOON**

## Pray For

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Please pray for all those in our parish who are in need especially the sick at home; in nursing homes and hospi-

tals; the unemployed; those who have lost a loved one and those who feel isolated or abandoned. In particular, we ask you to pray for **Karen Cohn, Keith E. Cohn, Andrew Newmaster, Joseph Geiser, Yvonne Mosco, Ruth Ruehling, Mary Henry, Ross Orgera, Frank Pecora, Bob Popowski, John DeRiggi, Peggy Tomes, Carol Harrity, Phyllis Cosnotti, Don Tappe, Catherine Milewski, Cecilia Condon, Ann Baratta, Merle and Stella Scheid, Judy Khlan, Colleen Strahler, Archangelo Loggi, Connie Mastrogiacomo, Shirley Leras, Helen Caruso, Adelmo Appoloni, Kim Milby, Janet Sendek, Sally Miller, Annette Mszyco, Delfina Listorti, Ralph Botta, Catherine Wisneski, Anne DellaSala, Joe H and Lois O'Connor.**



### Prayer For On Mission For The Church Alive:

Father of Mercy, we ask you for your guidance as we journey On Mission for The Church Alive! Endow us with your gifts of courage, collaboration, and compassion so that we can continue to fulfill the mission of Christ and his Church through vibrant parishes, dynamic schools, religious education programs, and effective ministries. Raise up selfless, energetic leaders - lay, religious, deacons and priests, to serve the Church in fidelity and with care. May we, the Church of Pittsburgh in Allegheny, Beaver, Butler, Greene, Lawrence and Washington Counties, all be sustained and strengthened by your grace. Help us to learn Jesus, love Jesus and live Jesus. Hear this prayer and grant it through Jesus Christ our Lord, with the help of our dear Blessed Mother, who protects us under the mantle of her love. Amen.

### Walk Through The Holy Door

In response to Pope Francis' call for a Jubilee Year of Mercy, our Bishop David Zubik will open a Holy Door on Sunday, Dec. 13, 2015 at 2:30 PM during a special Mass in Saint Paul Cathedral. Everyone is welcome to be led through the Holy Door with Bishop Zubik. For more information go to <http://www.diopitt.org/jubilee-year-mercy>.

### Treasures From Our Tradition

By now, trees are beginning to appear in living rooms throughout the parish. To a complete outsider to

our culture, it must seem an odd thing indeed. The "roots" of this custom are in liturgical drama: religious plays performed in the churches and town squares of medieval Europe. The favorite theme for this time of year was the "Paradise Play," a dramatic history of the human race from the Garden of Eden to the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem. The language and music varied from place to place, but one feature was always in place: a great tree decorated with apples. As a prop, it provided lots of material for the actors: the temptation, shelter for the manger, and a reminder of the wood of the cross. Soon people began to bring "paradise trees" into their homes, decorating them with gifts and lighted candles.

Many Germans give credit to Martin Luther for transforming the "Paradise Tree" into the evergreen Christmas tree. Walking home on a starry Advent night, he was so awed by the beauty of the night that he hauled a pine tree inside and decorated it with lighted candles. Americans were holdouts. It took until 1856 for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to decriminalize Christmas decorations, the old Puritan dislikes falling before the waves of Irish and German immigrants with traditions firmly in hand!

—Rev. James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

### Words Of Our Holy Father

A mother not only accompanies her children in their growth, without avoiding the problems and challenges of life; a good mother also helps them *to make definitive decisions with freedom*. This is not easy, but a mother knows how to do it. But what does freedom mean? It is certainly not doing whatever you want, allowing yourself to be dominated by the passions, to pass from one experience to another without discernment, to follow the fashions of the day; freedom does not mean, so to speak, throwing everything that you don't like out the window. No, that is not freedom! Freedom is given to us so that we know how to make good decisions in life! Mary as a good mother teaches us to be, like her, capable of making definitive decisions; definitive choices, at this moment in a time controlled by, so to speak, a philosophy of the provisional. It is very difficult to make a lifetime commitment. And she helps us to make those definitive decisions in the full freedom with which she said "yes" to the plan God had for her life (cf. Luke 1:38).



### *Weekly Collections*

(Week of November 29, 2015)  
Budgeted Offertory \$8,063.73  
Collected Offertory: \$6,554.00

### *Parish Share*

2015 Goal: \$58,980.00  
Amount Collected: \$42,070.00

### *Giant Eagle Sales*

Sales—\$12,375.  
Profit—\$618.75



We commend to the eternal care of our loving and life-giving God the souls of **Vincent R. Sciuolo, Richard Bishop, Charles Dentino and Fernaldo Tamburro, Jr.** who were buried recently from St. Joseph Parish. May their souls rest in peace, and may their families find strength in their faith.

### *On EWTN*

Tuesday at 1:30 PM  
Pure in Heart

Just a reminder that all **Giving Tree** presents should be returned to the Church next weekend December 12-14th. Please do **NOT** wrap the gifts.

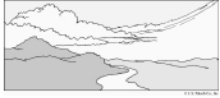


### *Story Time*

Our school is inviting children who are 4 years old to join our kindergarten teacher for an afternoon Story Time to celebrate the feast of Saint Nicholas. It will be held at the school on Monday, December 7th, from 3 - 4 PM. Students will hear a story, create a craft they can take home with them, and meet new friends. Please call the school at 412-828-7213 if you are interested in having your child attend. We look forward to welcoming you to our school!

### *Christmas Show*

Come get your annual dose of Christmas cuteness on Sunday, December 13th at 5 PM in the school gym. Our 1st through 3rd grade classes will be presenting "*The Night Before Christmas Caper*" with a prelude of Christmas songs presented by our Kindergarten students.



God has commanded that every  
lofty mountain be made low.

— Baruch 5:7

**MONDAY - December 7 - Saint**

**Ambrose**

9:00 **Eleanor Koller** (Family)

**TUESDAY - December 8 - The Immaculate Conception  
of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

9:00 **Gen Pasinski** (Family)

7PM **Members of the Parish**

**WEDNESDAY - December 9 - Advent Weekday**

8:00 **St. Irenaeus Parish**

9:00 **St. Gerard Majella and St. Susanna**

**THURSDAY - December 10 - Advent Weekday**

8:00 **St. Irenaeus Parish**

9:00 **St. Gerard Majella Parish**

10:00 **St. Bartholomew Parish**

**FRIDAY - December 11 - Advent Weekday**

9:00 **Howard Rosfeld** (Rosemary Rosfeld)

**SATURDAY - December 12 - Our Lady of Guadalupe**

5:00 PM **Elizabeth Wedmore** (Family)

**SUNDAY - December 13 - Third Sunday of Advent**

8:30 **Members of the Parish**

10:45 **Ralph Ibella** (Family)

*Liturgical Ministers*

(Dec 12--13)

**Altar Servers:**

5:00 PM **A. Bowser - M. McKeag**

8:30 AM **M. Citrano - J. McAfee**

10:45 AM **J. Maisto - G. Fiore**

**Cantors:**

5:00 PM **Sean Reilly**

8:30 AM **Colleen Doyle**

10:45 AM **Angelo Raghianti**

**Lectors:**

5:00 PM **Rita Petrocelli**

8:30 AM **Mike Forbeck**

10:45 AM **Tom Doyle**

**Extraordinary Ministers:**

5:00 PM **E. Johnson, G. Lorence, S. Krachala**

8:30 AM **D. Gould, M. Gould, J. Hutfles, J. Januck,**

**J. Karmitzski, J. Kegges, M. Kegges**

10:45 AM **C. Molitierno, B. Molyneaux, D. Murphy**

*Other Volunteers*

**Money Counters:** Tim M., Frank O., Joe S., Joe J.

**Giant Eagle Sellers:**

5:00 PM **Bowser/Skeba**

8:30 AM **Dye/Smith**

10:45 AM **Green/Vrscak**