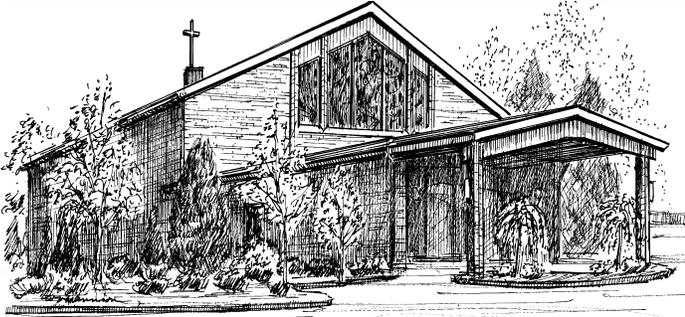


Saint Joseph Church

A Pennsylvania Charitable Trust

Visit Us at: StJosephVeronaPA.com



Sunday Masses:

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

Holiday Masses:

As scheduled in the bulletin.

Daily Masses:

M,T,W,Th,F..... 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

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...412-795-5114

Fran Morrow.....StJoVeSafe@gmail.com

Resident Priest..... **Rev. Faustine Furaha**

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

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.

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.

Please remember St. Joseph Parish in your will.

OUR CAMPAIGN FOR
THE CHURCH ALIVE!

THE WORK OF GOD'S HANDS – Today we begin the season of Advent, our annual time of joyful expectation as we await the coming of Jesus Christ. Our waiting is two-fold. More immediately, we anticipate the celebration of Christmas and the anniversary of the Son of God coming as one like us to love us and to set an example for us to follow. At the same time, we actively await the time when Christ will come again in glory and call all people to himself. Throughout the Advent season, as in today's Gospel, we will hear the call to be alert and ready for the Lord's coming that we might not be caught off guard. That readiness includes allowing the God who created us in his image to continue to form our hearts and lives to be more like His own, for "we are the clay and [He] the potter." As we also anticipate the changes coming in our parishes as part of the On Mission for The Church Alive! initiative we place our trust in God as he continues to form us and our parishes. May our hearts be formed in patience and peace as we work to build up new communities of faith. May our parishes be formed in vibrancy and unity as places of warm welcome and firm faith. Visit onmissionchurchalive.org to learn more and to stay informed.

Little Sisters of the Poor Christmas Card Sale

The Little Sisters of the Poor are once again offering Christmas Cards. This year's card is cream with a green sketch of Mary holding baby Jesus. For information on ordering the cards and to view the cards, go to www.littlesistersofthepoorpittsburgh.org. All proceeds from the sale of the cards help to support the elderly poor Residents in the Little Sisters care.



Giving Tree

Thanks to all the parishioners who took tags from the annual Christmas Giving Tree. If you did not get one, there are a few tags remaining and they can be picked up at the rectory. Please remember **not** to wrap your gift, include the **value of gift cards**; and **return** all gifts to the church by **December 17th**.

Encounter/Experience Christ

"When we encounter Christ, experience his love, and deepen our relationship with him, we become more aware of our own worth and that of others." – USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities "How to Build a Culture of Life," <https://goo.gl/yA6Gk>

Problems after Abortion?

1-800-634-2224

From the Desk of Father Ed:

This weekend marks the start of the **Advent Season**. It is a time to prepare for the coming of Christ at Christmas. While most people will be busy with all of the holiday preparations for decorations, gatherings, cards, gifts, etc., it should also be a time to get ready spiritually. *We will have opportunities to pray and to be reconciled with our loving and merciful God.* Try to make time for these spiritual exercises during these next several weeks – especially the times that will be available for Confession.

Sister Jean and I completed separate **surveys** concerning the diocesan plan for regionalization of the schools in our area. There were many questions about the *successes and challenges* that we've encountered over the years. There was also *a focus on enrollment, facilities and financial considerations*. Know that these issues are being vented throughout the region. We will continue to try to keep you updated with developments in this area.

One of the keys to keeping our school alive is providing the necessary financial backing that is so important. You help by supporting our efforts through the **Grocery Gift Cards**. This is particularly helpful during the holiday season. You can purchase other merchant gift cards (*restaurants, entertainment, home-improvement, airline, vacation destinations*) by using our gift cards. It doesn't cost you anything other than a few moments to buy the card. Please try to participate in this program – especially during the holiday season.

Another component of our school financial package is our monthly **BINGO**. Sadly, we are behind our expectations. We absolutely need to generate more income through this effort. Please encourage people to support this bingo. Our next session is on **Saturday, December 9th**. Doors open at 6 PM. The cost is still only \$25 for a nice evening with good people in a pleasant environment. You may pick up a few extra bucks for Christmas if you are lucky – if not, you are making a contribution to our school.

Our **monthly raffle** is a third component of our school financing endeavor. Although the goal is to sell 1000 tickets, we don't even come close. Hitting the goal would give us a guaranteed profit of \$5000. We are struggling to move 275 to 325 per month. If you are not a regular customer, why not at least buy a ticket or two as a nice Christmas gift for someone – postman, delivery person, stocking

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 hospitals;

the unemployed; those who have lost a loved one and those who feel isolated or abandoned. In particular, we ask you to pray for *Andrew Newmaster, Yvonne Mosco, Mary Henry, Ross Orgera, Bob Popowski, John DeRiggi, Peggy Tomes, Carol Harrity, Phyllis Cosnotti, Don Tappe, Catherine Milewski, Cecilia Condon, Judy Khlan, Colleen Strahler, Archangelo Loggi, Dom Mastrogiacomo, Shirley Leras, Adelmo Appoloni, Janet Sendek, Sally Miller, Joe H., Dorothy Morrissey, Elaine Wertz, Randy Barker, Sonny DeRiso, Bill Gould, Michael Fanzo, Guy DeCarlo, Tom Medved, Jack Martz, Rene Olean, Dolores Sciullo, Gia Regan, Tim McKee, Jim Cunningham, Ed Hoolahan, Cookie Bigenho, Mary Ann Kralovic, Catherine Vertullo, Alice Havics, George Gerneth, Mary Ellen LoAlbo, and Loretta Williams.*

SAM – Substance Addiction Ministry

The next Substance Addiction Ministry Rosary for Recovery will be Wednesday, December 20, 2017 at St. John the Baptist, 444 St. John St., Pittsburgh, PA 15239. We will meet at 7:00 PM for the Rosary followed by an informal gathering for all who are afflicted or affected by addiction. It will be a safe, confidential place for people to seek education, referral and support. For more information please contact Noreen at 412-296-1709



Words Of Our Holy Father

Families are the domestic church, where Jesus grows; he grows in the love of spouses, he grows in the lives of children. That is why the enemy so often attacks the family. The devil does not want the family; he tries to destroy it, to make sure that there is no love there. Married couples are sinners, like us all, but they want to go forward in faith, in fruitfulness, in their children and their children's faith. May the Lord bless families and strengthen them in this time of crisis when the devil is seeking to destroy them.

Bulletin Deadline
MONDAY AT NOON

Treasures From Our Tradition

Advent calendars appear now in many homes, and newfangled formats are even available on line. Children have fun opening the doors and windows keyed to the days counting down to Christmas. Behind each door is a picture related to the Christmas mystery, perhaps a scripture verse or saying, but more and more these days something totally unconnected to religious life, like a small toy or a chocolate treat, appears instead. The Advent calendar is not very old as traditions go. We can trace it back to German-speaking Christians, both Protestant and Catholic. Lutherans might have originated the custom by placing chalk marks on doors starting December 1, lighting candles every day, or placing a new religious picture on the wall each day during Advent. The oldest known hand-made calendar goes back to 1851, and the first printed ones appeared in 1908 in Germany with Bible verses behind the doors. By far the most interesting calendar is a building, the town hall (*Rathaus*) of Gengenbach in Germany's Black Forest. Every year the townspeople invite an illustrator of children's books to create twenty-four paintings or motifs for each of the twenty-four main windows of the building. Every night the people gather to see a new window opened and illuminated.

Very few commercial Advent calendars pay much attention to the core values of our liturgical calendar: the pivotal place of Sunday, the importance of Advent feasts like Saint Lucy and Saint Nicholas, and the clear shift in tone on December 17 from Advent longing and preparation toward imminent hope in Christ's coming. That kind of creativity is left up to you!

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

From The Catechism

(1489) To return to communion with God after having lost it through sin is a process born of the grace of God who is rich in mercy and solicitous for the salvation of men. One must ask for this precious gift for oneself and for others.

St. Joseph School

Saint Joseph School in Verona is sponsoring an Advent story and craft time on Monday, December 11, at 3:00 PM for students who will be ready to enter kindergarten in August. Come and visit the classroom, meet the teacher and explore the play center. Parents will receive information about our kindergarten program. Please call the school office at 412-828-7213 to let us know you will be attending or if you have any questions. We look forward to seeing you at school.



Weekly Collections

Budgeted Offertory \$8,063.73
(Week of November 19, 2017)
Collected Offertory: \$6,542.00
(Week of November 26, 2017)
Collected Offertory: \$5,224.98

Parish Share

2017 Goal: \$50,356.00
Amount Collected: \$44,737.00

Giant Eagle Sales

Sales—\$3,355.00
Profit—\$167.75

Stewardship Prayer: My church is composed of people like me. I help make it what it is. It will be friendly, if I am. Its pews will be filled, if I help fill them. It will do great work, if I work. It will make generous gifts to many causes, if I am a generous giver. It will bring other people into its worship and fellowship, if I invite and bring them. It will be a church of loyalty and love, of fearlessness and faith, and a church with a noble spirit, if I, who make it what it is, am filled with these same things. Therefore, with the help of God, I shall dedicate myself to the task of being all the things that I want my church to be.

Central Catholic High School

The placement/entrance test for eighth grade boys who wish to attend Central Catholic in the fall of 2018 will be administered on Saturday, December 9th at 9:00 AM. There is no fee to take this test. Registration for the test can be completed online at www.centralcatholichs.com/apply. Contact the Admissions Office at 412-621-7505 with any questions.

On EWTN

Monday at 4:30 PM
Masterpiece Donut Shop

Visit Us at: StJosephVeronaPA.com and





Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come.

— Mark 13:3

MONDAY - December 4 - Advent Weekday

9:00 Lois O'Connor (O'Connor Family)

TUESDAY - December 5 - Advent Weekday

9:00 Guy Pantoni (Family)

WEDNESDAY - December 6 - Advent Weekday

9:00 Stella Scheid (Keith and Joanne Osbourne)

THURSDAY - December 7 - Advent Weekday

9:00 Thaddeus Duda (M/M John Kerekes)

7PM Henrietta Luczak (Frank Pecora Family)

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

9:00 Della Cummings (Family)

SATURDAY - December 9- Advent Weekday

5:00 PM Louise Bergamasco (Diana & Cory Stampo)

SUNDAY - December 10—Second Sunday of Advent

8:30 Anne Della Sala (Ladies of Charity)

10:45 Members of Saint Joseph Parish

***Feast of the Immaculate Conception
(December 7-8)***

Lectors:

Thursday 7PM Joe Woods

Friday: 9AM School Students

***Liturgical Ministers
(December 9-10)***

Altar Servers:

5:00 PM D. Sellers—N. Vigliotti

8:30 AM Alex Smith—F. Konieczka

10:45 AM M. Skeba—V. Green

Cantors:

5:00 PM Schedule Not Available

8:30 AM Schedule Not Available

10:45 AM Schedule Not Available

Lectors:

5:00 PM Lynn DeDousis

8:30 AM Kathryn Schimmel

10:45 AM Laura Bowser

Extraordinary Ministers:

5:00 PM H. Lane, C. Maisto, J. Maisto, M. Ferraco
B. Steinmeyer, Josie & D. Doyle

8:30 AM C. McSteen, R. Franciscus, B. Franciscus

10:45 AM S. Sparacino, M. Scuro, A. Bursic

Other Volunteers

Money Counters: John H., Dan G., JC Smith

Giant Eagle Sellers:

5:00 PM Dye/Aliberti

8:30 AM Green/Skoda

10:45 AM Bowser/Woods