

**Mass Intentions**

**Saturday** December 23rd, 2023—Vigil  
**3:45 PM** \*For an End to Abortion\* by Bill & Lu  
**Sunday** December 24th, 2023—Fourth Sunday of Advent  
**10:30 AM** + Mary Longendyke by Amy & Bernie  
 \*For an End to Abortion\* by Bill & Lu  
**Sunday** December 24th, 2023—Christmas Eve Mass  
**5:30 PM** + Susi Arockiasamy  
 “For the Parishioners of St. Joseph”  
**Monday** December 25th, 2023—Christmas Day  
**11:00 AM** “For the Parishioners of St. Joseph”  
**Wednesday** December 27th, 2023  
**9:00 AM** No Mass  
**Friday** December 29th, 2023  
**12:00 PM** + Kevin Vost by Henry & Debi Sanna  
 \*For the Departed Souls of St. Joseph Parish  
**Saturday** December 30th, 2023—Vigil  
**3:45 PM** + Anna Diehl by Karen Jahnke  
 \*For an End to Abortion\* by Bill & Lu  
**Sunday** December 31st, 2023—The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph  
**10:30 AM** + Elsie Conte by Bill Colin  
 \*For an End to Abortion\* by Bill & Lu  
**Monday** January 1st, 2024—The Octave Day of the Nativity of the Lord Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God  
**12:00 PM** \*For the Parishioners of St. Joseph”

**Weekly Offering Table**

Weekly Need: \$ 2,973.41

December 16th & December 17th, 2023

	Sat	Sun	Total
Regular	\$577.00	\$1,043.00	\$ 1,620.00
Xmas Flowers			\$ 846.00
Cemetery Fund			\$ 50.00

“Please write a separate check to St. Joseph’s when requesting a mass intention. Mass intentions are \$15.00 each.”

**Thank you for supporting your parish!**

**Instagram**

St. Joseph and St. Vincent de Paul now have an Instagram. If you have Instagram, look for “[joevin138](#)”,

**Liturgical Ministers**

**Lectors: 12/30/2023 & 12/31/2023**

**3:45 PM: Diane Fedor**

**10:30 AM: Sean Filipowski**

**Eucharistic Ministers: 12/30/2023 & 12/31/2023**

**3:45 PM: Joe Poliseno**

**10:30 AM: Barbara Guilfoyle**

**Altar Servers: 12/31/2023**

**10:30 AM: Liam Serdy, Jason Krueger**

**Greeter: 12/31/2023**

**10:30 AM: Quinn Serdy**

**Ushers: 12/31/2023**

**10:30 AM: Angel Mravlja, Lola Kelley**

**Readings for the week of December 24th, 2023**

Sunday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Rom 16: 25-27/Lk 1:26-38  
 Christmas Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25  
 Christmas Day: Is 52:7-10/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14  
 Tuesday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Mt 10:17-22  
 Wednesday: 1 Jn 1:1-4/Jn 20:1a, 2-8  
 Thursday: 1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Mt 2:13-18  
 Friday: 1 Jn 2:3-11/Lk 2:22-35  
 Saturday: 1 Jn 2:12-17/Lk 2:36-40

**Bible Study Class**

There will be no Bible Study class on Thursday, December 28th. Classes will resume on Thursday, January 4th at 6:00 PM

**Sincere Condolences**

Fr. Joe and the parishioners of St. Joseph’s would like to express their sincerest condolences and heartfelt sympathies to the Sarter family for the passing of their mother, Beatrice Sarter. We pray for the repose of her soul. May our Lord give her eternal reward! May she rest in peace! Amen.



**The Responsorial Psalm**

**Forever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.**

**2023-2024 Diocesan Appeal**



The Diocesan Appeal for 2023-2024 has begun! Information has been sent to our parishioners. Our assessment this year is \$17,203.00. To date, we have received 5,737.00 in donations from 23 of our parishioners. Please be generous in supporting our Diocese so that they can continue to help in providing services to our parish and other parishes throughout the Albany Diocese.

**A Big Thank You!!**

Discipleship Formation for Children would like to thank all of the children, parents, parishioners, ministries, catechists and the visitors supporting our program this year by attending events, fundraisers and many other activities including the Angel tree.

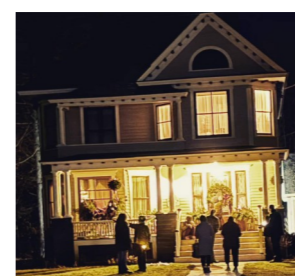
Also, many thanks to Fr. Joe for supporting Discipleship Formation efforts to make it a very successful program.

Merry Christmas!!!



**Discipleship Formation Christmas Party/Story Time**

What a special event this turned out to be!!



**\*For Healing Rosary—Wednesday 7:00 p.m.\***  
 Meeting I.D. 284 272 6978  
 Password: 359189

**Can you help us financially?**

Thank you for your generous support to St. Joseph. Your donation helps us to pay the bills. Without you, what will we do? Please attend mass and help us with your offering. Now you can make your weekly offering to St. Joseph by mail or place it in our side door rectory drop box. You are all in my prayers and masses. God Bless You! Fr. Joe

**\*\*Discipleship Formation Reminder\*\***

Children must return for Discipleship Formation classes on January 7th. Please make note of this!! Thank you.

**Lector & Eucharist 2024 Schedule**

The new schedules have been prepared for January, 2024 to June, 2024 and are located in the plastic bins by the Sacristy door. Please take one and review it. If there are any conflicts that you may have with the dates assigned to you, please contact the rectory and we will make the necessary changes.

**Blessed Christmas Greetings from Fr. Joe and staff.**  
**May you have a joyful Christmas with your family**  
**God Bless You!!**

**Cookie Baking for Homebound**

Here are our Discipleship Formation children baking cookies for the homebound. Thank you Corinne, all of the other mothers and volunteers who participated in this joyful event and especially to the children!!!!



**“If you are what you should be, you will set the whole world on fire. Let the truth be your delight—proclaim it, but with a certain congeniality”...St. Catherine of Sienna**



**St. Stephen—first martyr  
Feast Day—December 26th**



From early in the fourth century, the deacon Stephen has been honored by the Catholic Church on December 26, the day after Christ's birth. He is the first martyr, dying for his faith in Jesus, born of Mary. The story of his persecution and death before the Sanhedrin is told vividly in the Acts of the Apostles.

“As a deacon, appointed by the apostles after Pentecost, Stephen was a man filled with grace and power, who worked great wonders and signs among the people. Certain members of the so-called ‘Synagogue of Roman Freedmen’ (that is, the Jews from Cyrene, Alexandria, Cilicia and Asia) would undertake to engage Stephen in debate, but they proved no match for the wisdom and spirit with which he spoke.

“Those who listened to his words were stung to the heart; they ground their teeth in anger at him. Stephen meanwhile, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked to the sky above and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at God's right hand. ‘Look!’ he exclaimed, ‘I see an opening in the sky and the Son of Man standing at God's right hand.’ The onlookers were shouting aloud, holding their hands over their ears as they did so. Then they rushed at him as one man, dragged him out of the city, and began to stone him. The witnesses meanwhile were piling their cloaks at the feet of a young man named Saul. As Stephen was being stoned he could be heard praying, ‘Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.’”

“The love that brought Christ from heaven to earth raised Stephen from earth to heaven,” says St. Fulgentius. Stephen's love gave him courage before an angry mob and prompted him to pray like Jesus for his persecutors.

St. Stephen, St. John the Apostle, and the Holy Innocents, whose feasts occur on the following days of December, are seen as special companions of Jesus. They are examples of the different ways of martyrdom for Christ. Stephen voluntarily accepted death and was executed for his faith. John willed to die for Christ, but was not martyred. The Holy Innocents died for Christ without understanding what was happening to them. (reprinted from *The Book of Saints*, Regina Press, 2010)

*Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.*

**Prayer Remembrance**

Please, remember all of our homebound, sick and dying, hospitalized, and the needy! Pray for all the cancer patients and COVID patients! Pray for all of our veterans and soldiers and especially for all the soldiers who are in war zones!! Special prayers for Arthur Verity, Maryann Legaspi, Ean Shirm, Joseph Fedor, Alfred Staudohar, Judy Staruck, JoAnn Barnhart, Grace D. Leggio, Frances Florance, Nick Wicowski, William Libasci, and Karlene Tauzel (Stokes), David Miller, Ed Cacioppo, Shannon Colin, Alexander Mustico, Jim Bender, Tessa Rheingold, Bob Colichio, Tom Morton, Beverly Erway, Jill Scott, Charles Dufresne. Linda Clements and Sharon Heller for a speedy recovery.



**Knights of Council 5419**



**Merry Christmas from the Knights of Council 5419!**

Check out this inspiring short video from the Knights of Columbus on how families can Keep Christ in Christmas.: <https://youtu.be/U9hnKA8032Q>

**St. Joseph's Holiday  
Mass Schedule**



Christmas Eve—Dec. 24th—5:30 pm  
Christmas Day—Dec. 25th—11:00 am  
Saturday Mass—Dec. 30th—3:45 pm  
Sunday Mass—Dec. 31st—10:30 am  
New Year's Day—Jan. 1st—12:00 pm

**No Masses**

There will be no weekday masses on Tuesday, December 26th & Wednesday, December 27th.



**Discipleship Formation  
Christmas Pageant**

This weekend the Christmas pageant will take place at the 10:30 Mass on Sunday. Please come and enjoy this presentation of the Nativity performed by our Discipleship Formation children. And, please bring a friend!!

**ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH**

201 Main Street, Worcester, NY 12197

Phone: 607-397-9373 [st.josephs.worcester@rcda.org](mailto:st.josephs.worcester@rcda.org)

“facebook.com/St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church, Worcester, New York” -

Instagram: “joevin138”

**Mission Statement:** To form Missionary Disciples through encountering the Lord in Word, Sacraments and one another to transform the communities in which we live.

**Vision Statement:** St. Joseph is a Vibrant, Welcoming, Evangelizing and Transforming Catholic Community!

Servant of the Lord

Reliable Words From God And Mary



**Parish Staff**

**Pastor:** Fr. Joe X. Arockiasamy

**Secretary:** Joan DeBenedittis

**Coordinator for Discipleship Formation for Children:** Corinne Connington

**Music Director:** Terry Hait

**Guitarist:** Richard Gruber

**Bookkeeper:** Mike Argiras

**Trustees**

Diane Fedor & William Fredette

**Finance Chairperson**

Amy Muehl

Will you please remember “**St. Joseph's Church**”  
in your **Last Will?**

**December 24th, 2023**

**Weekend Masses**

Saturday Evening: 3:45 PM

Sunday Morning: 10:30 AM

**Weekday Masses**

Wednesday: Mass 9 AM

Friday: Adoration 11 AM—Mass 12 PM

**PARISH OFFICE HOURS**

Wednesday: 9:00 AM—1:00 PM

Friday: 9:00 AM—1:00 PM

**Sacraments**

**The Sacrament of Reconciliation**

Saturday: 3:00 PM –3:30 PM

**Sacrament of Baptism**

Contact the Parish Office

**The Sacrament of Matrimony**

Arrangements for wedding should be made at least six months prior to the marriage.

**Anointing of the Sick**

Please call our Parish Office to arrange for the Sacrament of the Sick

**Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)**

Please call the Parish Office

**All are Welcome to St. Joseph!**