

St. Joseph's Church

THE CRADLE OF AFRICAN AMERICAN CATHOLICISM IN DELAWARE



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



PASTOR
Rev. Paul M. Williams, OFM
pw4ofm@aol.com

DEACON
Deacon Robert J. Cousar

Office Hours: Tuesday - Thursday, 10 am - 3 pm
Friday, 10am - 1pm
Parish Secretary: parishsecretary@stjosephfrenchst.org
Bulletin News: stjosephsbulletin@yahoo.com
Website: www.stjosephfrenchst.org

MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday — 10:00 am Tuesday to Friday — 12:10 pm
Saturday Vigil — 5:00 pm Holy days — As announced

**The Church is open for Prayer & Meditation Tuesday—Friday from 11:30 AM to 1:00 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 Pastoral Center and complete a parish registration form.

CARE OF THE SICK AND

HOMEBOUND: The Pastor, Deacon, and special ministers of Holy Communion will gladly bring Communion to anyone who is ill or otherwise unable to get to Mass. The Pastor and Deacon make regular visits to local hospitals. **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 10, 2017

Second Sunday of Advent

- ▶ CCD — Every Sunday following mass in parish center
- ▶ Adult Study Group — Every Sunday following mass in Blue Room. "Ways to Pray" by Cardinal Donald Wuerl
- ▶ December 10 ~ Advent Penance Service sponsored by Wilmington Deanery, St. Elizabeth Parish, 3pm
- ▶ December 10 ~ Native American Nativity Mass
- ▶ December 17 ~ Church Decorating Party
- ▶ December 17 ~ Luncheon for Parish Volunteers, 3pm
- ▶ December 24 ~ Christmas Eve:
10:00 am Mass — Wilmington Diocese Gospel Choir
5:30 pm Concert
6:00 pm Mass in the Evening
- ▶ December 25 ~ Christmas Day — 10:00 am Mass
- ▶ January 07 ~ Ladies Sodality Meeting — 8:45 am



Weekly Collections

The parish requires a weekly collection of \$4,901 to cover expenses. Amounts below represent last week's collection and the collection for the same week in 2016.

December 3, \$2,265

December 4, 2016 \$5,432

Mass Intentions

December 9, 2017– December 17, 2017

Saturday, 12/09	5:00 PM	People of the Parish
Sunday, 12/10	10:00 AM	B. Cecelia Requested by Kathy & Paul Fahey
Monday, 12/11	—	No Mass
Tuesday, 12/12	12:10 pm	Special Intention Requested by S.A. Guild
Wednesday, 12/13	12:10 pm	Special Intention Requested by S.A. Guild
Thursday, 12/14	12:10 pm	† Vittoria Elia Requested by Jane Crowley
Friday, 12/15	12:10 pm	† Mrs. Dillely Requested by Jane Crowley
Saturday, 12/16	5:00 PM	People of the Parish
Sunday, 12/17	10:00 AM	† Father of Sandra Donahue Requested by the Parish

Introduction to the Liturgy of the Word

Mark's Gospel begins by introducing us to John the Baptist, who prepared the way to Jesus by calling people to acknowledge their sins and receive a baptism of repentance. Are we prepared to welcome Jesus into the world? To do so properly, we need to acknowledge our sins and receive forgiveness for the wrong we have done. As we celebrate today's liturgy, let us keep in mind our failings and resolve to keep Jesus in our minds and hearts as we interact with others. As John the Baptist prepared the way of the Lord, so we, too, must prepare for his coming by being Jesus' disciples—his witnesses in the world.

Fr. Paul

NATIVE AMERICAN NATIVITY

On Sunday, December 10, we invite everyone to enjoy the **Native American Nativity** presented in the Church Hall by Members of the Journey with the Bear Kateri Circle.

Following the Nativity, we will have a brief informational meeting, in the Conference Room, for anyone who is interested in becoming a member of the newly-forming St. Joseph Kateri Circle.

ALL are welcome!

For more information, see Gail Rando.

PARISH STAFF

Pastor: Rev. Paul M. Williams, OFM
 Deacon: Robert J. Cousar
 Parish Secretary: Loretta L. Young
 St. Vincent dePaul Society: Fayette Jackson
 Director Religious Education: Mary Polk

Question of the Week

In what ways do I feel parched, spiritually or emotionally? How can Jesus' presence satisfy my thirst? How can I prepare myself for Christ's presence?

Christmas Flowers

Consider honoring a family member, friend or loved one by contributing toward the 2017 Christmas Flower fund. This is a very nice way to remember loved ones and to support the church. Envelopes are in the pews and at the back of the church.



A Soulful Christmas

Tuesday, December 12, 2017, 7:30 pm
 Verizon Center, Kimmel Center, Philadelphia, PA
 Our very own Brenda Burns and Mary Mirabeau along with Ann Marie Witkowski from the Gospel Choir are among the choir members that will sing at this year's Soulful Christmas event. Congratulations!

Parish Bus - November Schedule



DATE	DRIVER
Sunday, December 3	Yolanda Mohammed
Sunday, December 10	Daniel Mims
Sunday, December 17	Vanel Fleury
Sunday, December 24	Vanel Fleury



*The City Deanery
invites you to join us
Sunday, December 10, 2017
St. Elizabeth Church ~ 3:00 pm
South Broom St., Wilmington*



Penance Service
w/Individual
Confession



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)



Today's Advent Prayer
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Jesus, as we prepare
to welcome you again this Christmas,
speak your words into our hearts and lives,
that by our preparation for your birth,
we might proclaim what still needs to be made ready
if our world is to become more like your Kingdom.
Soften our hearts, calm our fears, and give us courage
to proclaim your coming in our broken world.

Happy Birthday!

December

Michelle Granger	01
Ryan Small	02
Paris Carr	02
Vanel Fleury	03
Josephine Griffin	03
August Hazeur	03
William Cavin	04
Percy Ponder	04
Marie Corbitt	05
Rosetta Henderson	08
Iona Johnson	08
Irmina Hudson	10
Paula Dugas	12
Yvonne Flagg	12
Willa Seth	12
Blythe Shine	12
Dana Jackson	13
Tristan Thompson	14
Xavier Wycliffe	14
Kenneth Cunningham	15
Donald Cory Towles	15
Olivia Frances Clark	16
Michala Dash	17
Gwendolyn Sanders	17
Alan Walter Lloyd	18
Calvin Mintz	19
Carlvin Joseph	21
Patrick Abili	22
Fred Johnson	24
Corriam Jolly	24
Lisa Mims	25
Mary Pearce	25
Gabriel Elijah Towles	28
Leatitia Bedminster	29
Desiree Blackwell	29
Christopher Sterling	29
Tracy Purnell	30
James Forrest	31
Janice Jolly	31
Tyrone Steele, Sr.	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.

Liturgy Schedule - December 2017

Saturday, December 9, 5:00 p.m.

Vernon Taylor ~ Lector

Loretta Young ~ Eucharistic Minister

Sunday, December 10, 10:00 am

Tia Pulliam & Ramaj Gray ~ Altar Server

Fayette Jackson ~ Greeter

Stephanie Bolden ~ 1st Lector

Jed Donahue ~ 2nd Lector

Delores Spencer ~ 1st Eucharistic Minister

Barbara Pulliam ~ 2nd Eucharistic Minister



Saturday, December 16, 5:00 p.m.

Stephen Thorpe ~ Lector

Denise Scales ~ Eucharistic Minister

Sunday, December 17, 10:00 am

Jaylean Walker, Altar Server

Adrienne Hopson, Greeter

Jasmine MacFarlane, Lector 1

Kevin O'Connell, Lector 2

Lorraine Eckrich, 1st Eucharistic Minister

Denise McIntyre, 2nd Eucharistic Minister

Saturday, December 23, 5:00 p.m.

Vernon Taylor ~ Lector

Loretta Young ~ Eucharistic Minister

Sunday, December 24, 10:00 am - Christmas Eve

Joaquin Ledesma ~ Altar Server

Deidre Robinson ~ Greeter

Herb Sterling ~ Lector

William Ray ~ Lector 2

Debbie Sterling ~ 1st Eucharistic Minister

Delores Spencer ~ 2nd Eucharistic Minister

Sunday, December 24, 6:00 pm - Christmas Eve

Robert Hopson ~ Greeter

Andrea Queen ~ Lector

Andrea Queen ~ Lector 2

Marie Cousar ~ 1st Eucharistic Minister

Barbara Pulliam ~ 2nd Eucharistic Minister

Monday, December 25, 10:00 am

Roberto Rivera ~ Altar Server

Loretta Young ~ Lector

Gail Rando ~ Lector 2

Gwen Cavin ~ 1st Eucharistic Minister

John Rando ~ 2nd Eucharistic Minister

Saturday, December 30, 5:00 p.m.

Stephen Thorpe ~ Lector

Denise Scales ~ Eucharistic Minister

Sunday, December 31, 10:00 am

Xavier Wycliffe ~ Altar Server

Fayette Jackson ~ Greeter

Lisa Mims ~ Lector

Judy Gallagher ~ Lector 2

Lorraine Eckrich ~ 1st Eucharistic Minister

Denise McIntyre ~ 2nd Eucharistic Minister

Monday, January 1, 2018.

Gail Rando ~ Lector

Pat Rafter ~ Eucharistic Minister

Parish Leadership

Parish Council is advisory to the pastor on matters of the church such as the mass schedule, improvements to the building, parish social life, etc. The Council meets on the third Wednesday of each month at 6:30 pm and all parishioners are invited. **Parish Council does not meet in June, July, August or December. The next meeting is January 17, 2018.**

Fr. Paul Williams, President
Deacon Cousar, Ex Officio
Linda Abili Vincent Caesar
Kathy Hodges Chantal Jackson Derrick Johnson
Deirdre Robinson Damita MacFarlane
Doris Matthews John Rando
Cheryl Riviere Loretta Young

The **Finance Committee** is responsible for helping the pastor with creating and managing the budget and to ensure the parish is fiscally sound. Members are appointed by the pastor and meet quarterly. Current committee members are:

Deacon Bob Cousar, Chair
Dana Crumety
Judy Gallagher
Herb Sterling
Bertley Wharton

TRIP TO THE BATHROOM

Little people sometimes find it necessary to make a bathroom visit during mass to relieve boredom if nothing else. Fellowship hall and the bathrooms are unsupervised and accessible to outsiders. For the safety of our little ones, their grown-up should accompany them when they take a break. Nothing has happened and we want to be sure it doesn't.

Parking Lot

During the weekdays, the parking spaces are not available. In addition, please do not park in the pastors' or volunteer parking slots. These slots are available on Sunday, but never during the weekday. If you have a special request, please call the office. Thank you.

Sunday Morning Fellowship

We've been blessed to have the coffee and pastries donated on each Sunday of the month as indicated below.

- ◆ 1st Sunday - Ladies Sodality
- ◆ 2nd Sunday - Knights of Peter Claver and Ladies Auxiliary
- ◆ 3rd Sunday - Loretta & Leonard Young
- ◆ 4th Sunday - Krispy Kreme donuts hosted by Kathy Hodges



Thank You!
Thank You!

THANKS FOR BEING HERE!

If you would like to become an ACTIVE member of Saint Joseph's Parish we invite you to complete the Parish Registration form below and place the completed form in the Offertory basket or send to the Parish Office. Someone from the Parish Office will contact you.

Saint Joseph Catholic Church Parish Registration Form

Last Name: _____

Full Name: _____

Birthdate: (month, date, year) _____

Church of Baptism: _____

List all resident family members you wish to register at Saint Joseph's and the relationship of all.

Email Address: _____

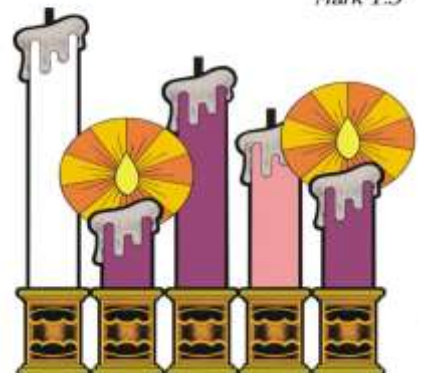
Mailing Address: _____

Cellular Phone: _____

Home Telephone: _____

PREPARATION

The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
"Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight."
Mark 1:3



ST. JOSEPH'S PARISH LIFE AND NEWS



The Sodality honors the Blessed Mother

through prayer. These ladies faithfully pray the rosary each Sunday before mass and they pray continuously for the parish, the city and for individuals in need of the intercession of the Blessed Mother. If you would like to join this ministry, please contact Denise

Scales on 302.368.9881.

JUNIOR SODALITY

The Jr. Sodality mission statement includes:

having a deeper appreciation and understanding of others by enriching values of respect, responsibility and sharing with the guidance and example of St. Joseph Senior Sodality. Making a difference by bringing joy, love and refreshments to brighten the lives of others including St. Joseph community and the shut-in, hosting a luncheon for those less fortunate, sharing in the ministries of the church and participating in the Angel Tree Adopt A Child

Program. ALL YOUNG LADIES, 6 TO 14, IN THE DIOCESE ARE INVITED TO ATTEND. PLEASE CONTACT

Jean Toy, 302.658.2218,

Margaret Levesque, 302-656-0813, or Lorenza Hinds, 302-574-0057. FOR INFORMATION. THANK YOU.

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

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, phone 302 598 0448; Email:

kpc.scrip@stjosephfrenchst.org

Web: http://kpc.stjosephfrenchst.org.KPC_ScripFundRaisingInfo.pdf

BAYLOR PRISON MINISTRY: Every Friday morning, parishioners and friends brighten the lives of women who are incarcerated. On the first and third Friday, Fr. Paul celebrates mass. For additional information, please contact Rose Henderson, 302-762-9044.

Stock the Pantry - Catholic Charities

Non-Perishable Food Donations

A barrel for non-perishable foods is located in the vestibule of the church. Please help to replenish their food closets by contributing non-perishable food items as well as personal hygiene items such as soap, toothpaste, tooth brushes, etc. To make a cash donation online, visit <https://www.cdow.org/ccdonation.html>.

Knights of Peter Claver and Ladies' Auxiliary is comprised of over 18,000 Catholic family members. We continue our expansion efforts welcoming all Catholics to join. Our purpose is to render service to God and His Holy Church. If you would like to join our organization please see Grand Knight Vincent Robinson or Grand Lady Brenda Burns.

FOR THE SAKE OF GOD'S CHILDREN Reporting Allegations of Child Abuse to Authorities

1. Division of Family Services at 1-800-292-9582
2. State Attorney General's Office 302-577-8310
3. Report to Fr. Paul, Deacon Cousar or Loretta Young
4. Report to Diocese: Vicar General 302-573-3118



St. Joseph's Book Club Meets in the Parish Center. Bring your book, a friend, snack, and your insights to this lively discussion. The next meeting is January 29, 2018 and the book for discussion is "One Thousand Gifts." Please see Geraldine Purnell for additional information.

Emergency contact == To contact the pastor after hours, call the parish number. The messages are checked every few hours, the first thing in the morning and the last thing at night. When the pastor is away, the parish secretary checks the phone frequently and will notify the pastor if there is a grave situation.

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults)

The journey of faith is a process that takes time. Please contact the pastor about taking steps leading to initiation as a Catholic Christian. If you know someone who needs special invitation, please inform the pastor. The whole church is built up when an adult embraces the faith. We need to embrace those called by Christ.



The St. Joseph Choir is Recruiting

If you would like to help us celebrate the Mass and get extra credit, (because you know when you sing you are praying twice), please come and join the St. Joseph Choir. We rehearse and sing every Sunday, except 4th Sunday, in the Parish Center Conference Room at 9:15 AM. If you are interested, please see DeAnna Cardenas after Mass or call the Parish Center and leave a message. Thank you!

WILMINGTON DIOCESE GOSPEL CHOIR

WDGC sings at St. Joseph on the fourth Sunday and throughout the Diocese during the year. For information, call Brenda Burns at 302-322-6899.

THROUGHOUT THE DIOCESE



This week's message focuses on John the Baptist, an eccentric, and passionate man. He was an outsider, and many looked down on him. Despite John's appearance, and the opinions of others, Jesus sought him out. How often do you avoid those that appear different than yourself? Do you avoid individuals that dress strangely or seem odd? Jesus has come for everyone, not just those who are popular, athletic, or intelligent. What can you do to help spread this truth and the truth that has been revealed to us through Christ? How can you be more inclusive and embrace others that are different than yourself? This week prayerfully consider these questions, and contemplate how you might be able to share the peace that Christ provides.

Rediscover the Love in Your Marriage!

Is your marriage going down the right road . . . or is it a little off track? life can be difficult, and so can the challenges you face in marriage.

Does the distance between you seem wide? Are you already separated? Looking for a better way?

Retrouvaille can help and offers hope for a better relationship. Retrouvaille is a peer ministry of volunteer couples that can help you to learn the tools of healthy communication, build intimacy and heal, just as they have done in their own marriages. Retrouvaille is Christian-based, and Catholic in origin, but welcomes couples of all faiths as well as non-religious couples. Retrouvaille can help get your relationship back on track. **The next program begins on the weekend of February 16 at the Family Life Center in Malvern, PA. Additional weekends will be held in April and August.** For more information, or to register for one of our weekends, visit our web site at: www.HelpOurMarriage.com or call 1-800-470-2230. All inquiries are kept strictly confidential.



Listen to Catholic Forum every Sunday morning at 10:05 a.m. on WDEL 101.7 FM, 1150 AM and www.wdel.com. Next Sunday, December 17th, author, Thomas Craughwell will talk about his latest book, "101 Places to Pray before You Die." For photos, information regarding upcoming guests, podcasts and more, "Like" Catholic Forum on Facebook at www.facebook.com/catholicforum. Listen to past episodes of Catholic Forum online at cdow.org/communications, or search "Catholic Forum" on Apple Podcasts or iHeartRadio podcasts.

Office for Marriage and Family Life

by Susan Vogt, www.SusanVogt.net

MARRIAGE MOMENTS

Are you ready? It's a common question as Christmas approaches, but these are sobering times with natural disasters multiplying and the threat of nuclear war present. Being ready depends on how you live today. Make today a day worthy of your life. Talk this over with your beloved.

PARENTING POINTERS

What does it mean to conceive a child? Whether you are the mother or father, it means your life is forever changed. It is the start of enduring love and sacrifice for another being put in your care. Pause today and ponder your creative role.



Vocations

Second Sunday of Advent

In every generation, God calls some men and women to "prepare the way of the Lord" through lives of service as priests, deacons, religious sisters and religious brothers. Do you think He's calling you? If you think so, please call or write Father Norm Carroll, Diocesan Director of Priestly and Religious Vocations (302-573-3113 or vocations@cdow.org). Be sure to visit our website: www.cdow.org/vocations!

IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

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

Adia Bracy	Donald Evans	Serafim Bairos	Nellie Lawrence	Rose Henderson
Ronald Toy	Joanna Warren	Adele & Fred Reed	Kendra Denhardt	Jessica Fullman
Leta Johnson	Delores Tuller	Alice Harris	James Thomas	Donna Scott May
Tanya Wilson	Mark Gallagher	Leonard J. Young, Jr.	Barbara Stacey	Gordon Sanders
Jeffrey Britton	Tony Dash	Jane McDonald	Giuseppina Fazzino	Arlene Watson
James Henderson	Doris Gallagher	Mary Joan Thompson	Jemison Asante	Jolene Tyson
Ethel Barrett	Gerry Reybold	London Louise Simmonds	Vivian Priest	John Polk
Sean Willis	Jean Toy	Charlie Anderson	John Thompson	Christian Coleman

The **Junior Board of St. Francis Hospital** is once again sponsoring "Lights of Love" to recognize friends and family or to honor the memory of our loved ones. By making a donation of \$10 or more per name, those honored will have their names displayed on a scroll in the hospital lobby. On December 18, 2017, a Mass in the Chapel (5th floor) and celebration in the lobby led by the Most Reverend W. Francis Malooly, Bishop of Wilmington will be held in honor of those named. For more information contact susanmclaughlin53@gmail.com or send checks payable to the Jr. Board of St. Francis send checks payable to The Junior Board of St. Francis Hospital, Inc. and mail them to PO Box 2764. Wilmington, DE 1980 to arrive no later than December 10th. Proceeds benefit Junior Board projects for the hospital.



Choir School of Delaware presents **Messiah**

Saturday, December 16, 2017, 7:30 pm

First and Central Presbyterian Church
1101 North Market Street, Wilmington, DE 19801

Celebrate the holiday season with the Christmas portion and favorite choruses from Handel's most beloved oratorio! Also enjoy other holiday favorites!

Tickets
\$25 per person; available at ChoirSchoolOfDelaware.org and at the door

For more information, please call (302) 543-8657 ext.8 or visit ChoirSchoolOfDelaware.org

