

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 24, 2017

- ▶ CCD — Every Sunday following mass in parish center
- ▶ Adult Study Group will resume on Sunday, January 7, 2018
- ▶ 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 1, 2018 ~ New Year's Day — 10:00 am Mass
- ▶ January 07 ~ Ladies Sodality Meeting — 8:45 am
- ▶ Christmas Break ~ Office Closed, Dec 25 thru Jan 1. No 12:10 pm weekday mass. Weekday mass and regular office hours will resume on Tuesday, January 2, 2017
- ▶ January 28 ~ Black History Brunch



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 17, 2017 \$2,200

December 18, 2016 \$3,301

Mass Intentions

December 23, 2017– January 1, 2017

Saturday, 12/23	5:00 PM	People of the Parish
Sunday, 12/24	10:00 AM	† Brendon Moran Requested by Pat Rafter
Monday, 12/25	—	No Mass
Tuesday, 12/26	—	No Mass
Wednesday, 12/27	—	No Mass
Thursday, 12/28	—	No Mass
Friday, 12/29	—	No Mass
Saturday, 12/30	5:00 PM	People of the Parish
Sunday, 12/31	10:00 AM	† Patrick O. Starks Requested by Fr. Paul Williams, OFM
Monday, 01/01	10:00 am	† Barbara Willis Requested by William Willis

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



Introduction to the Liturgy of the Word

This is the shortest Fourth Week of Advent can possibly be. Within twenty-four hours the Church will be celebrating Christmas and the birth of our Lord. It is tempting to overlook the Fourth Week of Advent this year. It seems insignificant in that it consists only of Christmas Eve, and in fact is easily overshadowed by Christmas. So too did Mary seem like an insignificant woman and Bethlehem like an insignificant town. But we know God places value in what seems to us insignificant.

Fr. Paul

Thank You!!!

A very special thank you to parishioners who patiently decorated the church for Christmas. The decorations have been perfectly placed and the entire church is beautiful. I am so very grateful to all who contributed.

Fr. Paul

Question of the Week

How can I take the gift of Jesus that I have been given and share this gift with others?

Save the Date

Our annual Black History Brunch will be on Saturday, January 27, 2018 at 11:00 am. Please contact Glenda Townsend at 302.478.5246 for additional information.



Parish Bus - December Schedule



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



Special thanks to everyone who contributed to the Christmas flower fund, thus far. The church is beautifully decorated because of your generosity.

May you have a special blessing this Christmas Season for your support of the parish.

Stephanie Bolden

In honor of deceased family members

Brenda Burns

In memory of her mother Mary E. Ryder, Fred E. Ryder, Sr., Fred E. Ryder, Jr., Lawrence Burns

Phyllis Chambers

In memory of Phillip & Helen Chambers

Dana Crumety

In memory of deceased family members of Crumety Family, Brewington Family, Brown Family and Galloway Family

Sandra & Jed Donahue

In memory of Serafin Bairos and Alvera Anaral

Charmaine Doyle

In memory of Richard & Mozella Doyle

Jeff and Bo Flynn

In memory of deceased family members

Gail & John Rando

In memory of Bryan Rando, Bill Persinger and all our loved ones who have gone Home to be with the Lord.

Rose Henderson

In memory of deceased members of McKinley Family and Henderson Family

Yvonne Hill

In memory of Anna E. Napier, Vincent dePaul Napier, Bernard D. Napier, and Bernadette Y. Napier

Michele Hinson

In memory of Dennis Hinson and Christine Davis

Rob & Adrienne Hopson

In memory of Talmadge Hopson, Carol Belton

Irmina Hudson

In honor of my children and grandchildren

Fayette Jackson

In memory of Elmer Hudson, Eureka Hudson, William E. Jackson, Sr.

John Manning

In memory of James Manning, Marian Manning, Andrew Manning

Doris Matthews

In memory of LaTaya Lopez, Roy H. McIntyre, IV Mr. & Mrs. Howard Perrigan, Virginia Manuel Mr. & Mrs. Herbert Berry

Denise McIntyre

In memory of Tempest Shade and LaTaya Lopez

Shirley Murray

In memory of deceased family members

Rafter & O'Connell Families

In memory of Jean O'Connell Brynes, Daniel E. O'Connell, Sr., George C. Burns, and Charles Kobsko

Sheris Owens

In memory of Juanita Owens, John Owens, Clementine Owens, and Mrytle Owens

Pat Rafter

In memory of Daniel E. O'Connell, Sr., Jean O'Connell Brynes, George C. Brynes

LaVon Robinson

In memory of Lois Robinson and Barbara Willis. In honor of WDGCC, Teddie, Dahlcia, L'Ause

Deborah & Vincent Robinson

In memory of deceased Robinson & Wynne Family members

Deidre L. Rogers

In memory of Ida Mae R. Stallings, Gertrude Henry and James D. Rogers

Denise Scales

In memory of James Branch Srr and John Purnell Jr.

Herb & Debbie Sterling

In memory of Sterling and Hunter Families

Delores Spencer

In memory of Octavia Manlove

Chuck Tarver

In Memory of Rupert J. Tarver, Jr., Stanley J. Tarver, Daisy Nero, Darryl Simms

Ella M. Taylor

In memory of Nathaniel Miles, Gerald Taylor, Mary Smith, Annie M. Dixon

Vernon Taylor

In memory of Evelyn and Wayman Taylor

John & Mary Joan Thompson

In memory of Scott Thompson

Loretta & Leonard Young

in memory of deceased members of the Coleman, Reynolds, and Young Families



Happy Birthday!

December

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

January

Francis Crumety	01
Arielle Mobley	03
John Thompson	05
LeRoy Wiles	05
Chanel Scott	07
Fred Ashe	08
Phyllis Chambers-Mobley	08
Marie Rivera	08
Jeannette Sammons	08
Albert Fletcher	09
Douglas Loosarian	09
Denise McIntyre	09
Deborah Robinson	09
Andres Barranco	10
Jacquar White	10
C. Owen Cardenas	13
Laura Chaplin	14
Margaret Clifford	14
Sheris Owens	14
Tauqeer Rashad, Jr.	14
Chantal David Towles	14
Andrew Parlock	17
Nicole Long	10
Margareth Hoey	20
Mikayla Purnell	20
Anne Taylor	20
Herbert Bracy	21
James Francia	21
Yvonne Bracy	22
Kyle Hopson	22
Josephine Mahler	22
Howard Robbins	22
Aaliyah Herman	23
Damita MacFarlane	23
Ryan Turnier	23
Megan Frances Thorpe	24
Tiara Goode	25
Ruth Lewis	27
Elizabeth McGeever	27
Linwood Manning	29
Paul Fahey	30
Yolanda Mohammed	30

Liturgy Schedule - December 2017/January 2018

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—10:00 am

Gail Rando ~ Lector
Pat Rafter ~ Eucharistic Minister

Saturday, January 6, —10:00 am

Herb Sterling ~ Lector
Debbie Sterling ~ Eucharistic Minister

Sunday, January 7, 10:00 am

Ava Wycliff, Altar Server
Sheris Owens, Greeter
Geraldine Cochran, Lector 1
Stephen Thorpe, Lector 2
Barbara Pulliam, 1st Eucharistic Minister
Delores Spencer, 2nd Eucharistic Minister

Saturday, January 13, 5:00 p.m.

Loretta Young ~ Lector
DeAnna Cardenas ~ Eucharistic Minister

Sunday, January 14, 10:00 am

J. Wright ~ Altar Server
Andrienne Hopson ~ Greeter
Lisa Mims ~ Lector
Judy Gallagher ~ Lector 2
Jed Donahue ~ 1st 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: _____



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, on the eve of Christmas, we are presented with the beautiful Gospel message that reminds us that, “The Lord is with you.” This message is central to our faith, and one that should bring us comfort.

The Lord is with all of us, always and forever.

Today’s message also reminds us to not be afraid. When Gabriel visited Mary it was to provide comfort and joy, a joy that is for the whole world. Tomorrow, as we celebrate the birth of Jesus, reflect on this joy.

Remember that Christmas is not just a day we receive presents, but it is a day that the world received Christ. Christ is the greatest gift that anyone can receive, and it is a gift that we should share with joy. Christmas day can be hectic, but remember to take a moment to reflect on its true meaning. Do not allow Christ to be taken out of Christmas, and take comfort in knowing that the Lord is with you always.



May God continue to bless us with the gift of joy this Advent and Christmas Season.



Bishop Malooly’s Christmas Greeting can be found in its entirety on www.cdown.org



Merry Christmas from Catholic Forum! 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 31st, tune in to hear an interview with Mr. Joseph Ryan, recently retired Editor of The Dialog. 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

Christmas Eve. The birth of a baby reminds us of the past and makes us think of the future. Today, ponder the lives of your ancestors and your unknown future together. .

PARENTING POINTERS

How many generations of your family will be present during your holidays? Listen to each other's stories. Learn about the past and future.



Vocations

4th Sunday of Advent

The angel Gabriel greeted Mary by saying “Hail, full of grace!” Every day, priests, deacons, religious sisters and religious brothers work to help women and men recognize and respond to God’s grace in their lives. Is God calling you to serve His people through a religious vocation? 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.cdown.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	Lee Newman	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



**COME CELEBRATE WITH US:
"JOURNEY WITH THE BEAR"
INVITES YOU TO A
NATIVE DINNER AND DANCE**

WHEN: JANUARY 20, 2018, 6:00 P.M.
WHERE: ST. ELIZABETH ANN SETON HALL
COST: \$10.00 PER PERSON 13 AND OLDER
Free for kids 12 and under

**SPECIAL SPEAKER: NATOSHA NORWOOD CARMINE, CHIEF
OF THE NANTICOKE INDIAN TRIBE OF DELAWARE**

DANCES PERFORMED BY:



**TICKETS ON SALE NOW SPACE IS LIMITED
CONTACT: SHARON WARD 302-545-3383 OR SEAS OFFICE**



*True love
was born in a
stable.*

**Mother Africa Union Church
aka "The Motherland"
812 N Franklin St, Wilmington, DE 19806
Hosts a Kwanzaa event:**

Candle Lighting Ceremony
Table Dressing Libation

Youth Showcase
Reed's Refuge Art Center
Essence Legacy Drill Team

Vendors
Art * Food
Jewelry
Education

UJAMAA
(oo-jah-mah)
COOPERATIVE ECONOMICS
Empowers our collective economic strength and encourages us to meet common needs through mutual support.

Group Interactions
Kwanzaa Jeopardy
Line Dancing

Academy for Peace
Featuring
Dr. Jav Macklin

Spoken Word
Crystal Bayard-Norman
Storytelling with Mama Chioma

**Friday, December 29, 2017
6 pm – 10 pm**

**Featuring Mr. John Carr & "Songs in the Key of Kwanzaa"
Brandywine High School Danceology Dance Ensemble**
For questions or for vending information, contact Mama Chioma at:
302-669-7005



**Metropolitan Wilmington
Urban League**

*Empowering Communities.
Changing Lives.*

The Perfect Christmas Gift!
**IN GOOD TASTE II
COOKBOOK**

Over 200 recipes some old, some new, some tried, some true

Are you looking for last minute Xmas present?
Consider the Metropolitan Wilmington Urban League Guild's Cookbook its great for teachers, neighbors, family & friends...

only
\$20.00 ea.
(\$25.00 if mailed)
Including appetizers, soups, salads, side dishes, main dishes, desserts, cookies and much more.



**ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE RENEE DUJEAN SCHOLARSHIP FUND OF
THE METROPOLITAN WILMINGTON URBAN LEAGUE GUILD**
For more information call (302) 478-6714