



***Jesus, Light of the world.  
When I am afraid and unsure,  
comfort me with the light of Your presence.  
When Loneliness chills me,  
warm me with the light of Your love.  
When the road ahead seems dark,  
guide me with the light of Your way.  
When I don't understand and my  
thoughts are unclear,  
fill me with the light of Your wisdom.  
When I seem spent like a candle consumed,  
replenish me with the light of Your life.  
Then, so filled with Your light, use me,  
So that I, with You, may be light for the world!***

***Amen.***

## Mass Schedule

Tuesday Thru Friday: 8:15am

Saturday (Vigil): 4:00pm Sunday: 8:00am & 10:30am

Parish Office: 414-771-4626

### Pastor

Rev. Adam F. Hirudayasamy, SMA

Email: fernandeza@stjoetosa.com

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Deacon José Gonzales

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Deacon Kurt Peot

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### Catholic Formation Staff

Adult Minister: Dennis Sylva

Email: dennissylva@hotmail.com

Phone Extension 106

Child/Youth Minister: Colleen Rooney

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Phone Extension 108

Admin. Assistant: Lisa Marynik

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### Parish Staff

Business Administrator: Julie McKendry

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Maintenance Director: Matt Adams

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Interim Music Director: Dan O'Connor

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414-444-2244

Pastoral Council Chair: Joe Herro

Email: joeherro@yahoo.com

414-469-7261

## **St. Joseph School: 414-771-5577**

2750 N. 122nd Street

Wauwatosa, WI 53222-4096

www.stjosephschooltosa.com

Principal: Christopher Multhauf

Email: multhaufc@stjosephschooltosa.com

Phone Extension 120

Admin. Assistant: Lisa Taubner

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## *Our Advent Collection with Fr. Adam*

As we prepare our hearts for the coming of Jesus this Advent we also pray in thanksgiving  
for the education of all our children.

Father Adam's charism is for the education of the children in India. He holds these children close to his heart and always in prayer. Families in India must pay for their children to attend school and it is very difficult for many families especially at this time.

Our Advent collection will go directly to these families in India to help pay for the school fees to educate their children

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Amount shared \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*Please make checks payable to St. Joseph Congregation*

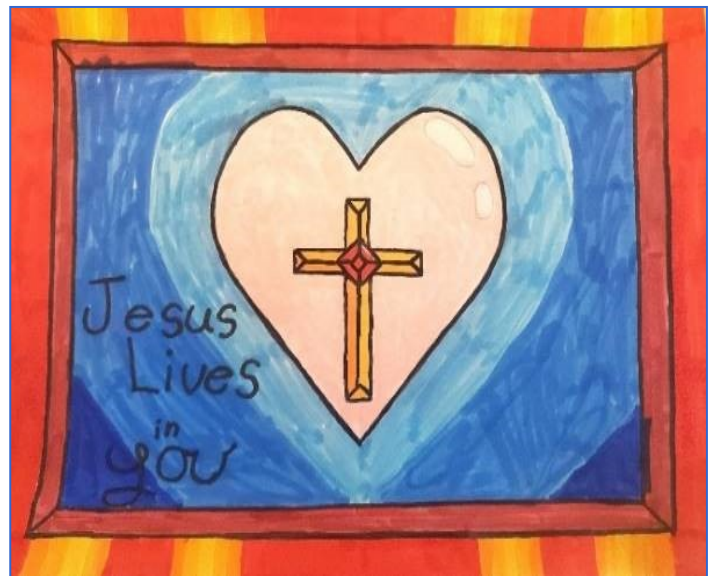
### **Don't forget to Turn in Your 2023 Stewardship Commitment Forms**

Have you turned in your 2024 St. Joseph stewardship commitment form? If not, please do so as soon as possible.

There are numerous opportunities for all members of the family, children through seniors, to share their time, talents, and treasure with the parish family of St. Joseph.

Stewardship commitment forms can be dropped off at the parish office, mailed to the office, or scanned and emailed. If you need a new commitment form, contact the parish office. To those who have responded already, Thank you!

*May the offerings of our time, our talents, and our material resources be made in the same spirit of sacrifice that Jesus taught us by His life and death for us. Amen*



### **2023 Contributions**

All contributions must be received by Noon on December 29th to be considered as donations for this calendar year.

Contributions received at December 30th & 31st Masses will be included in 2023.

The parishioners of St. Joseph's have a long history of generosity. The following is a list of methods of financially assisting St. Joseph's in our community mission.

### **Gifts of Cash/ACH**

The most common way of supporting St. Joseph's Congregation is an outright gift that can come in the form of a cash gift, an annual pledge, or a planned gift that generates income. Most cash giving at St. Joseph's is through pledges. If you have not pledged for this year, please prayerfully consider making a pledge. If you have already pledged, please make sure you are meeting that pledge. All outright gifts are tax deductible as provided by law.

Consider having your parish contributions come directly from your bank account via Electronic ACH. It is easy to set up and there are no fees.

### **Securities**

Stocks, bonds, and mutual funds are the most common type of Securities in a person's financial portfolio. If you are looking to give Securities, it's important to know if they have increased or decreased in value since you purchased them. If your Securities have increased in value over time, giving the Securities directly will enable you to avoid capital gains taxes while potentially providing a charitable deduction for the fair-market value of your gift.

In circumstances where your Securities have depreciated, you will be better off selling them and donating the proceeds. This allows you to receive a deduction for your capital loss plus a charitable deduction for the amount given.

### **Estate Planning Through Your Will**

*"The Christian, above all others, should realize that we come into life with empty hands - and it is with empty hands that we leave it. Actually we can possess nothing—no property and no person—along the way. It is God who owns everything, and we are but stewards of his property during the brief time we are on earth." – Billy Graham*

A will is your legal document that ensures your estate is distributed and your family is cared for as you direct. With a will, your wishes are carried out. Without a will, the state makes all major decisions. No charitable gifts can be made from your estate without such designations through a will.

You can make a gift to St. Joseph's through your will by designating a percentage of your estate, a specific sum of money, or a specific asset (such as securities or property). Contact an attorney to prepare a will that reflects exactly what you want it to say.

### **Life Insurance**

Most people purchase Life Insurance to provide for their children, to protect their home mortgage, or to secure retirement funds. As people age, they often find that they no longer need financial protection in these areas. If that describes you, consider how your Life Insurance policy could help St. Joseph's. Contact your financial advisor for assistance.

### **IRA Contributions**

Parishioner's over 70 ½ years of age can contribute directly from a qualified IRA to St. Joseph's. In recent years the US Congress has made these contributions completely tax free (IR-2014-117). See your financial advisor for current status and assistance.



## ***Join Us!***

***Little Books for Advent are available at all doors of church***

***Please take home a Jesse tree packet and share your talents with our church environment.***

***Immaculate Conception Masses Vigil Dec 7th - 7:00pm  
Holy Day Dec 8th - 8:15am & 12:10pm***

***Sat Dec 9 ~ Breakfast with Jesus 9:30am-11:30am***

***Tues Dec 12 ~ Candlelight Rosary 6:30pm  
\* the Feast of our Lady of Guadalupe \****

***Wed Dec 13 ~ School Christmas Concert  
1:00pm – dress rehearsal 6:30pm — concert***

***Thurs Dec 14 ~ Advent Reconciliation 6:00pm***

***Sun Dec 17 ~ “Hanging of the Green” in church 3:30pm***

***4th Sunday of Advent Masses***

***Sat Dec 23 - 4:00pm Sun Dec 24 - 9:00am ONLY***

***Christmas Masses***

***Eve Dec 24 ~ 4:00pm & 10:00pm***

***Day Dec 25 ~ 8:00am & 10:00am***

***Stjoetosa.com***

## CANDLELIGHT ROSARY

God loves Mary. We can see how precious Mary is to the Church because the Church remembers and celebrates Mary on 20 different Feast Days. On December 12<sup>th</sup>, we celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, who appeared as an Aztec woman.

On December 9<sup>th</sup>, 1531, Juan Diego, a poor Aztec man, saw the image of a glowing woman. It was Mary. She told Juan to ask the Bishop of Mexico City to build a church for her. The bishop told Juan to bring a sign from Mary. Mary told Juan to pick some flowers, which shouldn't have been growing at that time of year. Mary arranged them in Juan's cloak. When Juan opened his cloak for the bishop, the roses fell to the floor, and the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe was there on his cloak.

The bishop believed and ordered that the church be built. Today, Juan's tilma hangs in a church. It is still in the same condition as it was almost 500 years ago. The miraculous image of Our Lady of Guadalupe has never faded. It is always warm like a living person, and Mary's eyes seem to be alive.



Our Lady of Guadalupe is the patroness of Mexico and of the Americas. She is also the patroness of the unborn. Many people ask for her intercessions for their personal intentions—especially the people of Mexico—and many make pilgrimages to Guadalupe Basilica each year on her Feast Day.

**COME JOIN US FOR THIS FAMILY PRAYER OPPORTUNITY!**

**CANDLELIGHT ROSARY TO CELEBRATE**

**OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE**

**DECEMBER 12, 2023**

**ST. JOSEPH CHURCH**

**6:30 P.M.**

# PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

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Meeting Location: St. Joseph Room

Date/Time: November 15, 2023 – 6:30 pm

Notes By: Padge Haas

Attendees: Joe Herro, Alanna Wilgus, Joe Schueller, Audrey Szews, Mike Smrz, Padge Haas, Tom Zimmerman, Carol Polivka, Duane Filtz, and Rachel Blackwood

Excused: Father Adam, Kelly Ciriacks, and Sandy Schmitt

Meeting started at 6:30 p.m. with an opening prayer by Joe Herro.

The agenda was approved.

## **Committee Reports:**

Home and School: Rachel Blackwood reported preparation is underway for the Cookie House and that is where the focus is right now. Orders are being taken. See the bulletin.

Day School and Art and Environment: Carol Polivka said they are working on fine tuning the sound system especially for church. She said the school group is working with the Prayer and Worship committee to make some changes using the money from the Love One Another Campaign.

Prayer and Worship: Audrey Szews reported that the formation students are doing some volunteering and that upcoming events include Breakfast with Jesus on December 9<sup>th</sup>, a candlelight rosary will be December 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm, a Family Reconciliation Night on December 14<sup>th</sup>, and a "Handling of the Green" in church will be December 17<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 PM. There will also be an Advent Collection for the Education of children in India. They will also invite the day school children, the RE children, and the parish at large to read and color ornaments for our Jesse Tree.

Finance: Tom Zimmerman said he is working with Julie McKendry on financial statements for the Archdiocese.

Stewardship: Duane Filtz stated the committee is still working on the stewardship commitment for this coming year and they are shifting to the Advent Season. He also said they continue to work on preparation for the St. Joseph Day in March. He has been checking on the Donut Sunday scheduled November 19<sup>th</sup> being coordinated by the Pastoral Council.

St. Vincent de Paul: Joe Schuller stated they had a great turnout for the Thanksgiving collection.

Parish Life: Mike Smrz reported that Trivia Night is this coming Friday, November 17<sup>th</sup>. The Chili Cookoff will be January 27<sup>th</sup>. They are considering having a Bingo Night. The committee is looking for new ideas to gather people and share fellowship.

## **Continuing Business**

Eucharistic Revival Updates: Sandy Schmitt reported training sessions are underway for small group leaders for Emmaus 30. This program will run from New Year's Day to Easter and will offer ways to grow in one's relation with Jesus through encountering Him in the Eucharist, scripture, prayer, and participating in a small group. Members will receive daily prayer prompts, challenges to grow in holiness, formation sessions and a small group discussion guide. The Archdiocese is offering two Zoom sessions for small group leaders on November 16 and December 7. Dennis Sylva has provided a sign-up link in the bulletin or you can contact him to help in the formation of small groups.

Food with Father Updates: This event is scheduled for Saturday, February 24, 2024 after the 4:00 pm Mass. This is to learn more about Father Adam. Pizza, his favorite food, will be served.

Adoration: Audrey Szews said that Adoration is available every Thursday after the 8:15 am Mass until 9:30 am and the First Thursday of the month from 6:00 – 7:00 pm. The attendance in the evening has been low. The question was raised on how we can improve attendance. Audrey reported that people have asked her what Adoration is and have asked how to participate in Adoration. It was suggested to create articles in the bulletin and/or a talk on what Adoration is and how to use this opportunity. On December 7<sup>th</sup> there will be Adoration from 6:00 until 6:45 and Mass at 7:00 pm.

OKR (Objectives and Key Results) Updates: An example of this would be the following objectives for the communications committee. Objective #1 is to increase St. Joseph Ministry Activity Awareness. Three ways to do this are first, have a calendar of events and communicate this through the bulletin, website, email, texts and other sources. Second, have signage in front of church and on church property. Third, to continue ministry leader attendance and reports at Pastoral Council Meetings. A measure of success would be an increased number of communication events and a sign on Center Street. Objective #2 would be to develop a standard format for communication (pictures, font format, etc.). To develop a database to archive pictures, event communications, etc. To replace or use Trumpia software and provide staff and ministry training. A measure of success would be to have a communications format created and a database in place. Objective #3 would be to develop better methods or tools to communicate when events were happening and what help is needed. This could be done with text messaging on when events were happening and when help is needed. There would need to be an agreement on when emails would be used to expand the data base. Also, there should continue to be help wanted ads in the bulletin and on the website. A measure of success would be regular text and email messages being sent monthly. Objective #4 would be to increase communication to the surrounding community. This could be achieved by providing more St. Joseph media communication and providing more materials to parish members to give to neighbors and friends. A measure of success would be regular social media communication.

OKR Update for Youth Formation/Leadership Strategy – Faith Formation: The first objective is to increase parent involvement. Goals are to have K-8 grades go home with class summary sheets, have an Altaration parent formation group, have intergenerational service projects and a bi-monthly family newsletter. Ways to measure this success are first, the number of signed summary sheets coming back, second, the Altaration attendance sheet, third the number of parents at service projects and fourth the number of newsletter open and click rate. The second objective is to bridge the school and parish relationships. The goals are first, to have first sacrament parent meetings and retreats. Second, to have the second grade day school students attending Religious Ed classes on Nov. 12<sup>th</sup> and Feb. 25<sup>th</sup> and having the class co taught by the second grade teacher and catechist. A measure of success would be the exit slips turned in after the meetings and retreats. The third objective is to invite middle school students to participate in retreats and service projects. A measure of success would be attendance at these events. The third objective is to build a comprehensive formation program. The religious Education Program has adapted a new curriculum that includes parent resources, multimedia and other resources. Tools being used are Loyola Press “Finding God” for K-4, St. Mary’s Press CONNECT for grades 5-8, Loyola Press “Called to Be Catholic” and Ascension Press “Bible Timeline” for grades 9-10 and Loyola Press “Confirmed in the Spirit” for grade 11. The curriculum meets the needs of students from a variety of backgrounds (returning students, new students and students from St. Joseph School). The program builds on the four pillars the Archdiocese asks all programs to incorporate each year which are creed, liturgy and sacraments, morality, and prayer. Make up lessons go home for those who were absent and attendance follow up is made. Middle School and High School retreats are being offered. For St. John Bosco Youth Day St. Joseph parish had 13 participants which included 2 students from the day school, four seventh graders, one ninth grader and six tenth graders.



NET Middle School Retreat had eleven Day School participants and twelve REC students who attended. Three other parishes participated and sent students as well. On March 16, 2024 there will be a Wisconsin Catholic Youth Rally. On April 20, 2024 there will be a High School Retreat. Service projects being offered are The Gathering, St. Ben's, St. Anne's, Hunger Task Force, Trivia Night, Cookie Walk, Breakfast with Jesus and the Soup and Chili Cook Off. A measure of success for the Religious Education Program are quarterly Catechist and Parent surveys and attendance at the programs. Numbers for this year include 45 returning students, 10 new students and nine students who have returned after being away.

Faith Formation also reported some current needs: They need group leaders for 7<sup>th</sup> through 11<sup>th</sup> grades for the second semester this year. This involves two to three Sundays per month 9:00 – 10:15 am. There are six to eight students in the group. All necessary materials will be provided. A group leader will facilitate small group discussions after the large group presentation. The leaders will be asked to attend the December 14<sup>th</sup> Reconciliation Mass at St. Joseph. Secondly, mentors are needed for 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> graders. Mentors will act as a secondary sponsor for a young person progressing toward Confirmation. They will pray for the person they are mentoring, attend at least one Faith Formation class with them, share your faith experience during class, and attend the December 14<sup>th</sup> Reconciliation Mass at St. Joseph. Optional activities will include attending a service project with them and attend Mass with them.

Increase Engagement within the Parish: This discussion was tabled until the January or February Pastoral Council meetings. Joe Herro feels we need more things to engage people at St. Joseph. We need to think and pray on this. Submit any ideas you have to Joe.

Addressing the 18-30 Age Group: Joe Herro stated this is an age group we have an opportunity to do something with and that he will reach out to Dennis Sylva to see what activities/events/programs are being offered for these parishioners. Do we need to ask them in what they would be interested? And we need to see what the Archdiocese has available in this area and possibly coordinate with that group.

## **New Business**

Event Ideas for the upcoming Year:

1. What is currently scheduled: January has the Soup/Chili Cookoff, February has the Evening with Father Adam, March has the Auction and St. Joseph Day.
2. Possibility of a national speaker to be coordinated with other parishes.

## **Miscellaneous**

Next Pastoral Council meeting will be January 17, 2024 at 6:30 pm.

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 pm with a closing prayer by Alanna Wilgus.



**DIAPER CAKES!!!**



Thank you to Child & Youth Ministry and our Pro-Life committee for teaching us how to tie blankets and create diaper cakes!





# The Annual Santo Ingrilli Memorial Trivia Night



**Team "Zoom Meeting" took home the win for highest trivia score.**

**Team "Happy Little Accidents (The Bob Ross table)" took home the award for best costume.**



**Thank you to Steph and Ben Weiler for their time and creativity and the entire Parish Life Committee for planning the evening!**





## CHRISTMAS 2023

*"And this will be a sign for you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger." Luke 2:12*

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It's no accident that when Jesus was born, he was placed in a manger. Think of it – the Son of God, born among us in absolute poverty, and placed in a trough meant for animal food. He became our Bread of Life. "This King of Kings came to us as food, feeding a starving humanity 'with his tender love,'" Pope Francis once said. How true, and that continues today with the ultimate gift we receive at every Mass – Jesus in the Eucharist.

This Christmas, we are in the second year of the Eucharistic Revival, a special time in our Church when we are called to renew our devotion to the Eucharist. Jesus is truly present, Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity, and is there to sustain us in all that we do. Come and receive Him at Mass, and never go hungry. Sit with Him in Adoration and find comfort in the love He has for you, today and always.

As we look to resolutions for the new year, I suggest you resolve to make this extra effort to deepen your relationship with Christ. What an amazing opportunity to focus on the Eucharist as the Source and Summit of our faith – for it is through the Eucharist that we are united with Christ and with one another.

May peace and joy be with you and your family this Christmas, and throughout the New Year.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

*Jerome E. Listecki*

**Most Reverend Jerome E. Listecki**  
Archbishop of Milwaukee





*St. Joseph Parish Staff  
Prays you have a joyous Christmas  
And a Blessed New Year*

*Julie McLandry*

*Patricia*

*Anthony*

*Bill*

*Rev. Adam*

*Lisa*

*Mark Adams*  
*Dennis Spera*

*Deb Bialczyk*

*Stephen Silman*



# A CHILD IS BORN IN BETHLEHEM



Angie Marshall

Lucia  
Munoz

Colleen  
Wissinger

Josh Laurson  
Mrs. Leonard

Karissa  
Hinsien

Spring  
Munoz

Ira  
Hansen

May Your Hearts be Lifted in Parise  
This Christmas  
for the Wonderful Gift of Jesus  
And the Joy He Brings to Our Lives.

Keri Kinney

Katherine  
Lentini

Doreen  
Shore

Kathi  
Sinclair

On Behalf of the Faculty and Staff  
OF St. Joseph Catholic School  
We Wish our Parish Family  
God's Grace and Blessings  
Throughout this Holiday Season  
And Upcoming New Year.

Nancy Loh  
Bryanna  
Van Vleet

Robert  
Feldman

Tricia  
Bons

M. C. [Signature]

Danner  
Brophy  
Laura  
Dunlop

Maat  
Lorison

[Signature]

Matt Adams

Becki  
Pursell

Lauren  
Manspik

Cynthia  
Krichman

Sue  
Skypen

Ira  
Lambert

