

MAKING CHRIST A REALITY IN THE COMMUNITY IN WHICH WE LIVE

Pastor: Rev. Joseph C. Bordonaro
Pastor Emeritus: Rev. J. A. Grant

School: 850 Euclid Avenue, Warrington
Principal: Mrs. Deborah Jaster
Religious Education: Mrs. Cathy Cain
CCD Office: 215-672-9990/ 3020
Music Director: Mrs. Maria Lennon
 mariaalennon@comcast.net

WEBSITE: WWW.SAINTJOSEPHCHURCH.US

RECTORY: 215-672-3020 (9AM-4PM Mon. to Fri.) **EMAIL:** sjc18976@verizon.net
SCHOOL: 215-343-5100

MASS SCHEDULE:

Saturday: 5:30 PM
Sunday: 7:00 AM, 8:30 AM,
 10:00 AM, 11:30 AM
Weekdays: 8:00 AM

Saturdays: 8:00 AM

Holy Days: 5:30 PM Vigil
 8:00 AM, 10:00 AM, 7:00 PM

CONFESSIONS: Saturdays: 4:00 PM to 5:00 PM

MASS FOR SHUT-INS:

TV - Sunday, 5:30 a.m. WPVI Channel 6,
 Radio - Sunday, 9:00 a.m. 89.3 FM

BAPTISMS: Parents should make arrangements with the Pastor at least one month before the date wanted. Baptism is celebrated on the **FIRST** and **THIRD** Sundays of the month at 12:30 PM. Preparation is held on the **SECOND TUESDAY** of each month, 7:30 PM, in Room 18 of the Church Building. Godparents must be practicing the faith and present a Letter of Eligibility from their parish. No date can be set for baptism until parents have fulfilled these responsibilities.

MATRIMONY: To set a date for a wedding, couples must make an appointment at the Rectory at least 6 months prior to the wedding date. Weddings can be scheduled for most Saturdays, at 12:00 Noon or 2:00 PM, or on Friday afternoons.

SICK CALLS: Phone the Rectory,
 215-672-3020.

REGISTRATION: All Catholics who live within the parish boundaries should register. Boundaries: South of Street Road from Lower State Rd., to Norristown Rd., to County Line, to Blair Mill Rd., to Moreland Rd., to Maple Ave., to Horsham Rd., to Limekiln Pike, to Lower State Rd. & back to Street Road.

If you are not registered, we cannot serve you in ways which require us to know you. Please call the Rectory (215-672-3020.) We will welcome you as part of our community of faith.

PARISH ACTIVITIES: Catholic Youth Organization, CCD School of Religion, Choir (Adult and Children's), Home & School Association, Men's Group, Miraculous Medal Novena and Rosary, Respect Life Committee, Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, Senior Citizens, and Women's Group. (Notices for these groups are posted inside this bulletin.)

A Note from the Pastor



My Dear Parishioners,

I take the opportunity on behalf of Fr. Duffy, Msgr. McCoy, Msgr. Bolger, myself, and all those who minister here at St. Joseph to wish you all a very Blessed and joyous Christmas. Jesus makes himself vulnerable to us, by coming to us as a small baby. He took a risk when he became human. We are also called to risk as we reach out to welcome Him into our hearts. We are filled with the presence of Jesus as He comes to us in Body and Spirit. Please accept my prayers for you and your family to experience a sacred renewal of the life that the Christ child brings at this time of year. I also pray that your New Year is filled with God's many blessings. I thank all of you for the opportunity to serve as your pastor and also for the witness and inspiration you provide me.



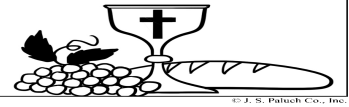
I also want to thank you for your extremely generous support of our Advent Giving Tree. We were able to help over 35 families in our local area directly with their Christmas celebrations. In addition, we were able to help the following charities: Guiding Star ministries in Philadelphia, which helps pregnant women and children; Gift of Mary, which provides a similar ministry in Chester; Blessed Margaret of Castello Home, which is a crisis pregnancy center in Bensalem; St. Ignatius/Our Mother of Sorrows Church, which is a merged church in West Philadelphia and provides outreach to many families in need; and Mother of Mercy House which provides outreach to those in North Philadelphia. We are also able to help many more families in the future through our own Hope Committee and also through the tuition assistance provided. The majority of the remaining gifts and cards were given to Catholic Social Services located in Levittown.

I also want to remind our numerous volunteers to pick up a small token of our appreciation from Classroom 18. This year the "featured gift" is a personalized coffee mug with a picture of St. Joseph Church on it. The list of various volunteer groups includes: the Adult servers; those who care for the Altar linens; those who assist with decorating the altar and maintaining it, collection counters; CCD teachers, assistants, and volunteers; Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion; Finance Committee; Food for the Poor; Giving Tree; Hope Committee; Lectors; Music Ministry; Office Volunteers; Health and Help Ministry (Nurses and assistants); Respect Life; RCIA; Socials Committee; Ushers; VINE Group. I haven't forgotten about our student altar servers, I will have a separate gift for the young people available in the sacristy.



May God Bless You,
Fr. Bordonaro

Masses for the Week



Saturday	<u>December 23, 2017</u>	5:30pm	Joseph A. Gallen, Sr.
Sunday	<u>December 24, 2017</u>	7:00am	All Souls
		8:30am	Dr. Louis Cerritelli
		10:00am	William Kuscin
		11:30am	Dr. Louis Cerritelli
Christmas Eve		5:30pm	Celebrant's Intention
		7:30pm	Celebrant's Intention
		Midnight	Celebrant's Intention
Monday		7:00am	Celebrant's Intention
		8:30am	Celebrant's Intention
		10:00am	Celebrant's Intention
		11:30am	Celebrant's Intention
Tuesday		8:00am	Miss Kitty Casey
Wednesday		8:00am	Marie Leibfreid
Thursday		8:00am	Catharine, James & Mary Grimes
Friday		8:00am	John Fuegel
Saturday		8:00am	Cecilia G. Chapman
Saturday	<u>December 30, 2017</u>	5:30pm	Charles Dampf
Sunday	<u>December 31, 2017</u>	7:00am	Fontini Gerasimidis
		8:30am	Snyder & Grossman Families
		10:00am	People of the Parish
		11:30am	Joseph A. Farina

Please Pray For



Those who are ill: Betty Bell, Kim Bell, Gary Cain, Alicia Cruz, Bill Gaida, Lauren Gorniak, Bob Hagan, Paul Moran Kilbride, Eleanor McDonald, Dave McKay, Patricia O'Mara, baby Ronan Power, Ann Scanlon, Brenda Shelton, Gil Sleutaris, Dorothy Smedley, Lorraine Smith, Jack Striewski, baby Violet Grace, and Joan Vollmar.

Sunday Collection

12/17/17: \$ 10,533.00
12/18/16: \$ 10,284.00

This Week in Our Parish

Monday, December 25, 2017

* Merry Christmas

Monday, January 1, 2018

* No Rosary or Benediction



**Please note, the Rectory will be closed on Mon., Dec. 25th and Tues., Dec. 26th for Christmas.*

Readings for the Week

Monday: Vigil: Is 62:1-5; Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27-29; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25 [18-25]
During the Night: Is 9:1-6; Ps 96:1-3, 11-13; Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14
Dawn: Is 62:11-12; Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12; Ti 3:4-7; Lk 2:15-20
Day: Is 52:7-10; Ps 98:1-6; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18 [1-5, 9-14]

Tuesday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Ps 31:3cd-4, 6, 8ab, 16bc, 17; Mt 10:17-22

Wednesday: 1 Jn 1:1-4; Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12; Jn 20:1a, 2-8

Thursday: 1 Jn 1:5 — 2:2; Ps 124:2-5, 7cd-8; Mt 2:13-18

Friday: 1 Jn 2:3-11; Ps 96:1-3, 5b-6; Lk 2:22-35

Saturday: 1 Jn 2:12-17; Ps 96:7-10; Lk 2:36-40

Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3; Ps 128:1-5 or Ps 105:1-6, 8-9; Col 3:12-21 [12-17] or Hb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19; Lk 2:22-40 [22, 39-40]



**Fourth Sunday of Advent,
December 24, 2017**

The child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. —*Luke 1:35*

Masses for Christmas

Sunday, Christmas Eve:

5:30 p.m., 7:30 p.m., 12:00 midnight.

Monday, Christmas Day:

7:00 a.m., 8:30 a.m., 10:00 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.

Free Throw Contest

Knights of Columbus Fr. Gallen Council #5494 will be holding a Free Throw contest at Nativity of Our Lord School's Community Center on January 13, 2018 at 8:00 AM. The contest is open to boys and girls ages 9-14 and participation is free. For entry form and registration information, please contact Mr. Tom Devlin at 610-517-2213.

God's Promise

The lengthy passage from Samuel is a wonderful exposition of God's promise to the house of David: that his throne would forever be gloriously occupied by his descendants. Hidden in the mystery of the prophecy is the promise of the Savior, the Messiah, Son of God and Son of David. The prophet Nathan, speaking in God's name, poetically turns around David's plan to build a house for God, and announces God's plan to build a "house," that is, a dynasty for David. From this house of David will come the Messiah, the Christ, not in kingly splendor as David ruled, but as a humble man, destined to rule forever and over all. When God gives a gift, it's amazing what we are given—so different from what we ever could have imagined.

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Monthly Food Drive

Our next food collection is scheduled for the weekend of January 6th and 7th. Non-perishables only. Canned food items in greatest need are: **beef stew, tuna fish, fruit, vegetables, pasta, soups and pork & beans.**

Gift Giving!

Great "Stocking Stuffers!" Be sure to pick up an inspiring Catholic CD or book at our parish stand before or after masses for anyone on your "Christmas list!" You'll find some new titles... and even some Christmas music on CD. Thank you for your donations that keep our stand refreshed.

Never undertake anything for which you wouldn't have the courage to ask the blessings of heaven. —
Georg C. Lichtenberg

Treasures from our Tradition

Children of the parish are somewhat focused on Santa Claus these days, who is keeping an eye on who's naughty and who's nice. Santa Claus, with his heavenly patron Saint Nicholas, has been more or less in charge of gift-giving to American children for a hundred years or so. In other places, perhaps more attentive to our Christian tradition, there are different gift-bearers. In Greece, Saint Basil delivers the presents on his feast day, December 31, and makes sure everyone is sprinkled with holy water. The Baby Jesus is in charge elsewhere, called the *Christkind* in Austria and Belgium, *El Niño Jesús* in Columbia, and *Le Petit Jesus* in France, where he shares his duties with *Père Noël*. In the Czech Republic almost everyone is atheist, but *Ježíšek*, the infant Jesus, brings gifts to one and all. In Poland the "Star Man" is said to bring the gifts, although often he turns out to be the village priest in disguise. Saint Nicholas, not his Americanized cousin, is the giver in Holland, where he wears a bishop's miter, and in Russia, where he wears a bishop's crown. Soviet Russia tried to dethrone Saint Nicholas and promote Grandfather Frost, but no one was much fooled by this attempt to squeeze religion out of Christ's birth. One country has a saintly woman in charge of the gifts, Saint Lucy, honored in Sweden on December 13, when children serve their parents breakfast in bed, and others awake to news that they have been nominated for a Nobel Prize. Some children have a second round of gifts on Epiphany, when the magi assume the gift-giving duties. In general, the gifts of Christmas are simple pleasures, not great heaps of treasures. Once upon a time, a new pair of socks or an orange was enough for us. No matter what gifts we receive, all of them are to point us to the true gift, and the true giver. —*Rev. James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.*

CCD School of Religion

Please call 215-672-9990 or 215-672-3020 for information.



Class times: Tuesdays, 4:30- 5:50 p.m. and 6:15- 7:35 p.m.

December 2017

Merry Christmas!



January 2018

Tues., Jan. 2: Grades 1-6 and Sacrament Class in session including Junior/Senior High School.

Thurs., Jan. 4: 6:30 p.m., teachers meeting in school building.

Tues., Jan. 9: Grades "1", "2", "4", "5", "6" and Sacrament Class in session. 3rd Graders will report directly to the Church for First Penance practice from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. Children will be dropped off and picked up from the Church not the school.

Wed., Jan. 10: Sacrament of First Penance for 3rd Graders, 7 p.m. in Church.

Tues., Jan. 16: Grades 1-6 and Sacrament Class in session. "Protecting God's Children" classes will be presented to all grades.

Tues., Jan. 23: Grades 1-6 and Sacrament Class in session. (Snow date for "Protecting God's Children" classes.)

Tues., Jan. 30: Grades 1-6 and Sacrament Class in session. End of first half of the year. Confirmation Class 2018 Service Projects due.

Tips from the Health and Help Ministry



Preventing the Flu: Good Health Habits Can Help Stop Germs

The single best way to prevent seasonal flu is to get vaccinated each year.

1. Avoid close contact. Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
2. Stay home when you are sick. If possible, stay home from work, school, and errands when you are sick.
3. Cover your mouth and nose. Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing.
4. Clean your hands. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand rub.
5. Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth.
6. Practice other good health habits. Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces at home, work or school. Get plenty of sleep, be physically active, manage your stress, drink plenty of fluids, eat nutritious food.

Content source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases (NCIRD)

Bulletin Submittals

Please submit your bulletin requests to the Rectory. Requests may be emailed to sjc18976@verizon.net or dropped off at the Rectory Monday-Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. We welcome your bulletin requests; however, all bulletin requests are subject to Pastor's approval and space availability.

St. Joseph/St. Robert School



ST. JOSEPH/ST. ROBERT SCHOOL
FOCUSED ON FAITH AND LEARNING

850 Euclid Avenue
Warrington, PA 18976
215-343-5100
www.STJSTR.ORG

Registration is now open for half day & full day Pre-K & K.

Please call 215.343.5100, ext. 209 or email at kwilliamson@stjstr.org.

St. Joseph / St. Robert School HSA

4th Annual BINGO BONANZA ~ Ladies Night Out

St. Robert Bellarmine, Msgr. Marley Hall

Fri., Jan. 26th, 2018

7 p.m. (Doors open at 6 p.m.)

Basket Raffles, * 50/50 *, Door Prizes

Tickets - \$ 35 includes: 15 Bingo rounds, Hot & Cold Beverages / Dessert

BYOB & Snacks

To purchase tickets please visit: www.stjstr.org

or contact Daiana Fuller 215-801-8602 (tickets will sell out, get your tickets early!)

Pro Life Union

Thank you for your support of the Pro-Life Union! We are so grateful for your parish's commitment to the cause of life! The amazing amount of \$2,481.13 donated by your parish through the Baby Bottle Campaign during Respect Life Sunday activities will help us to continue to affirm the sanctity of every human life and support the many women and children we meet.

Flame of Love Event

Fri., Feb. 2, 2018

St. Charles Seminary

Begins at 6:00 p.m. ~ 8:30 p.m. Holy Mass

Bring a Friend ~ All are welcome!

Celebrant and Homilist, Father James Blount, SOLT



FR. JAMES BLOUNT is a priest of the Society of Our Lady of the Trinity – Georgia Mission. A very gifted spiritual director and confessor, Fr. Jim is a bold charismatic preacher empowered by the gifts of the Holy Spirit. He speaks of living a life in relationship with each of the Persons of the

Holy Trinity, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. His teachings depict his deep love for the Eucharist and devotion to Jesus and Mary. Father is a powerful instrument of the Holy Spirit as evidenced by so many stories of miracles, healings and conversions. Father is returning to St Charles Seminary on Friday, February 2, 2018, to celebrate the Flame of Love Feast Day and the Feast Day of the Presentation of our Lord.

Questions: Annie Myers, Flame of Love Apostolate
anbmyers2021@gmail.com, 610-322-1940