

# **HOLY CROSS - WENDELIN**

## **Bulletins**

- Holy Cross – Wendelin ..... Pages 2-3**
- St. Joseph - Olney ..... Pages 4-5**
- St. Joseph - Stringtown ..... Pages 6-7**
- Kids Bulletin ..... Pages 8-9**



**faithful departed through the mercy of God, rest in peace."**

**KNEELER WALLS FOR SALE:**

We have eight (8) "kneeler walls" to sell. Kneelers are attached to these when there is no pew in front of a seat. They have been replaced to match the new pews. These are about 4' long and the same height as a pew. \$50 each. Contact Sherry Geier ([sherrygeier@gmail.com](mailto:sherrygeier@gmail.com)) if you would like to purchase one.



**EPIPHANY KITS:**

Available for pickup in the vestibule to bless your home! **20+C+M+B+26**

**2026 CALENDARS:**

Special thanks to **Kistler-Patterson Funeral Homes** for once again so generously providing the 2026 calendars, which are now available in the vestibule. We appreciate your support and generosity!

**CAROLINE TRIMBLE, PASTORAL ASSOCIATE:**

A Star guided the Magi to the King of Kings, and Lord of Lords. What Star is guiding you this New Year? What will you find once you reach the Star? Will it be life-giving, fruitful and "of God" or prideful and "of the world"? The moment of your Epiphany is closer than you might think! Seek to be guided by the One True Star for it is there where you will find your life of love! Journey

onward this New Year, being guided by the Star of Peace and Love!

**FOLLOWING IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF SAINTS**

**LIBRARY:** There are NEW Christmas books- items for kids and adults- to select from. Be sure to take home some Christmas reading material and something for these Winter nights. ***When we pray, we talk to God; when we read, God speaks to us.*** "St. Isidore of Seville "

**SISTERS IN CHRIST:**

There will be a pause for the Christmas season and the new study will be shared in the New Year.

**LADIES ALTAR SODALITY CAKE/CRAFT DRAWING:**

Drawing this weekend! If you are interested in donating a cake/craft item, please contact a Ladies Altar Sodality Member or the Parish Office to sign up.

**FORMED.ORG SUBSCRIPTION:**

Download the app or go to [www.formed.org](http://www.formed.org) and enter 62448. **The Week of January 4<sup>th</sup>**

**Recommendations:** God's Doorkeeper, The Three Wise Men, Epiphany

**ST. JOSEPH OLNEY SCHOOL NEWS:**

**2026 Benefit Calendars are here!** The price is \$25. The total payout is \$8,450. Calendars are for sale at the school office, the parish office, or by calling Jeffrey Rosenburg at 618-302-0391. **School will resume on Monday, January 5<sup>th</sup>!**

**OLNEY KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS:**

**Thursday, January 8:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree meeting, 7 PM.  
**Thursday, January 15:** 4<sup>th</sup> Degree meeting, 7 PM.

**VOCATION CORNER:**

What a wonderful Gospel account of the Magi traveling to meet the Lord. They followed the star – their "call" – to come and offer their gifts to the Lord. But the question arises as to how the Magi noticed a star at night and no one else really did.

Perhaps we need to embrace the "night," the stillness, to "see and hear" our call. How are we doing in discerning our call to Holiness – in living our vocation as man, woman, or child; married or single; priesthood or religious – of being called to something beyond ourselves?

**PHOTO DIRECTORY:**

Please submit photos if you were unable to make a date by sending to parish email, dropping a photo by parish office, or texting to Ashley!

**RESPECT LIFE CORNER:**

How do we live out the message of Christmas in the New Year, rather than pack it away with the ornaments? Each year, the Octave Day of Christmas falls on the first day of the New Year, on which we also celebrate the Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God. Her open heart and courageous "yes" to God show us how to live year-round—with hearts open to the Lord, following where He leads. We are called to place our trust in Him, to enter compassionately into the suffering of others, and to love one another as Christ loves us. Like Our Blessed Mother welcomed Jesus, we are called to cherish and protect the gift of human life, at every stage and in every circumstance. Copyright © 2024, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington, D.C. Reprinted with permission. All rights reserved.

**CSMA 2025 – HOPE IN THE LORD:**

May God's blessings pour upon you and grant you and your loved ones a healthy, prosperous and joyful new year. Heartfelt thanks to all of you for your support of the Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal and our Belleville Diocese in the past year. You are remembered always in our prayers. Ministries and Programs Funded by The Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal

**Sunday, January 4, 2026**  
**The Epiphany of the Lord**

Behold, the Lord, the Mighty One, has come; and kingship is in his grasp, and power and dominion.



**Holy Cross Parish in Wendelin**  
**5782 Ingraham Lane, Newton, IL 62448**

**Website - - [www.holycrosswendelin.com](http://www.holycrosswendelin.com)**

**Parish E-mail: [holycrosswendelin@outlook.com](mailto:holycrosswendelin@outlook.com)**

**Parish Phone Number: (618)-752-5671**

**Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday 10am-3pm, and Friday 10am-1pm.**

**Mass Schedule: Thursdays 6:30pm with Adoration at 5:30pm, Saturday 4:00pm, Sunday 10:00am**

**\*\*Very Rev. Steven L. Beatty – Pastor**

**Fr. Steven's Cell: 618-697-2632**

**E-mail: [frsteven.beatty@gmail.com](mailto:frsteven.beatty@gmail.com)**

**\*\*Reverend Levi James – Parochial Vicar**

**Fr. Levi: 618-240-3638, [levi.jamessiu@gmail.com](mailto:levi.jamessiu@gmail.com)**

**\*\*Caroline Trimble – Pastoral Associate**

**Caroline: 618-263-7106, [trimblePA@gmail.com](mailto:trimblePA@gmail.com)**

**\*\*Ashley Hinterscher – Administrative Assistant**

**Ashley: 618-843-1892, [creholycross@gmail.com](mailto:creholycross@gmail.com)**

**\*\*Tyler Timm – Youth Minister**

**Tyler: 507-530-2911; [ttimm@stjoeolney.com](mailto:ttimm@stjoeolney.com)**

**Trustees: Carl Will & Kasey Ifvert; Pastoral**

**Council: Tony Kuenstler-Chair; Kevin Blank-Vice-Chair; Cindy Blank, Sharon Edwards, Kelly Geier, Tammy Rudolphi, Holly Nettleton, Dusty Smithery**

**Sunday, January 4, 2026**  
*The Epiphany of the Lord*

**† Eucharistic Celebrations †**

Mon. Jan. 5	6:30 PM	at Stringtown
Tue. Jan. 6	5:00 PM	at Lawrenceville
<b>Wed. Jan. 7</b>	<b>8:05 am</b>	<b>Nina Wargel</b>
Thu. Jan. 8	6:30 pm	at Wendelin
<b>Fri. Jan. 9</b>	<b>8:00 am</b>	<b>For the Parish</b>
<b>Sat. Jan. 10</b>		
4:00 PM		at Wendelin
<b>5:00 PM</b>		<i>Lawrence &amp; Dorothy Fehrenbacher</i> <i>Carl &amp; Una Kocher</i> <i>Kenneth Buckels</i>
<b>Sun. Jan. 11</b>		
<b>8:00 am</b>		<i>John Bower</i> <i>Gary Stoltz</i> <i>Deacon Jack Shuster</i>
8:00 am		at Stringtown
10:00 am		at Wendelin
10:00 am		at Lawrenceville

**OUR JANUARY SPONSORS**

Bulletins: Dale & Mary Jane Tibbs  
Missalettes: Mike & Lori Uhl

**OUR TITHES FOR DECEMBER 28<sup>th</sup>**

Parish Operating Expense per Week = \$9,847.00  
Envelopes: \$22,837 (107) Loose: \$407  
Guatemala: \$45 (3) Christmas Flowers: \$95 (5)  
Retirement Fund for Religious: \$175 (3)  
Christmas for those in need: \$1,535 (37)  
Christmas collection: \$18,849 (144) Building Fund: \$1,100 (10)

**Let Us Pray For:** Kevin Bookhout, Marilyn McCormick, Elizabeth Ginder, Jim Gassmann, Dolores Hemrich, Clara Rose Wilson, Kenneth Ochs, Valerie Weidner, Julie Oesch, Margaret Burgener, Fr. Joe Erbacher, Jeff Beard, Judy Spitz, Jerry L. Harper, Emery Oesch, Gene Bergbower, Luke G. Kocher, Marlene Harris, Bessie Rossiano, Mary Rowark, Tony Tredway, Anita Shultz, Kenneth Hann, and Ruth Zwilling.

**Deepest Sympathy** to the family of **Tony Steber**.  
May he rest in the peace of God's love.

**~ AROUND OUR PARISHES ~**

**Saturday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>**

- Mass for **Margaret King, Ted Eagleson Sr., and Deacon Jack Shuster**.

**Sunday, January 4<sup>th</sup>**

- Mass for **Albert, Clara, & Rose Ellen Hahn, Christina Ginder, and a Special Intention**.
- Children's liturgy at 8 am mass. All students in grades K-3 are welcome to attend.

**Tuesday, January 6<sup>th</sup>**

- 12:00-3:00 PM, Eucharistic Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Olney. There must always be 2 people in the church.
- 6:30 PM, OCIA meeting in the conference room. Topic: God the Holy Spirit: Conversion, Call, and Ecclesia.

**Wednesday, January 7<sup>th</sup>**

- 6:30 PM, Twelfth Night 'Epiphany' Dinner for Family Catechesis. Join us for a Family Dinner, CYM Saint Skit, and a special guest to arrive with an Epiphany message. Let us continue to "Follow in the Footsteps of the Saints."

**Thursday, January 8<sup>th</sup>**

- 5:30 PM, Parish and Family Life Committee meeting in the quilting room.

**Sunday, January 11<sup>th</sup>**

- Treat your family to **donuts and coffee** after the 8 am mass at St. Joseph, Olney in the MPR. Don't miss these yummy donuts and fellowship!

**CALENDAR WINNERS - \$25**

Dec. 29: Herman Zuber (#111)  
Dec. 30: Doug & Kim Kuhl (#796)  
Dec. 31: **\$500** Reta Kocher (#605)



**2026 Benefit Calendars are here!** The price is \$25. The total payout is \$8,450. Calendars are for sale at the school office, the parish office, or by calling Jeffrey Rosenburg at 618-302-0391.

**St. Joseph School News**

- School resumes Monday, January 5<sup>th</sup>.

**~ PARISH NEWS ~**

- **Thank you to Kistler-Patterson Funeral Homes** for providing our 2026 calendars. The calendars are available at the doors.
- **Meals for Moms** would like to welcome **Isla Mae Zuber**, born on Dec 15, 2025 at 5:03pm (eastern). Daughter of Lexie (Erwin) and Tyler Zuber. If you would like to sign up to provide a meal and dessert to this family, or other families who welcome little ones, please contact Laura Matthews at 618-924-5901 or [lmatthews@stjoeolney.com](mailto:lmatthews@stjoeolney.com).
- **The Parish and Family Life Committee** has left over "Christmas Nail" ornaments. If you did not get one for your family, please feel free to pick one up at the back of church.
- **The Christmas Flower Memorial** list will be printed for next weekend. If you still have envelopes for memorials please bring them to the parish office by Monday, January 5<sup>th</sup>.

**~ KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS NEWS ~**

- Thursday, Jan. 8: 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree meeting, 7 PM.
- Thursday, Jan. 15: 4<sup>th</sup> degree meeting, 7 PM.

**Journey Onward Ye Sojourners**

*Caroline Trimble Pastoral Associate*

A Star guided the Magi to the King of Kings, and Lord of Lords. What Star is guiding you this New Year? What will you find once you reach the Star? Will it be life-giving, fruitful and "of God" or prideful and "of the world"? The moment of your Epiphany is closer than you might think! Seek to be guided by the One True Star for it is there where you will find your life of love! Journey onward this New Year, being guided by the Star of Peace and Love!

**The 2025 Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal**  
**Hope in the Lord**

*May God's blessings pour upon you and grant you and your loved ones a healthy, prosperous and joyful new year. Heartfelt thanks to all of you for your support of the Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal and our Belleville Diocese in the past year. You are remembered always in our prayers.*

**Ministries and Programs Funded by**  
**The Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal**

**Start your New Year off great, by Subscribing to The Messenger!** To subscribe online for the Paper or E-edition go to: [www.bellevillemessenger.org](http://www.bellevillemessenger.org) or Call 618-233-8670.

**Respect Life Corner: January 4, 2026**

How do we live out the message of Christmas in the New Year, rather than pack it away with the ornaments? Each year, the Octave Day of Christmas falls on the first day of the New Year, on which we also celebrate the Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God. Her open heart and courageous "yes" to God show us how to live year-round—with hearts open to the Lord, following where He leads. We are called to place our trust in Him, to enter compassionately into the suffering of others, and to love one another as Christ loves us. Like Our Blessed Mother welcomed Jesus, we are called to cherish and protect the gift of human life, at every stage and in every circumstance. Copyright © 2024, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington, D.C. Reprinted with permission. All rights reserved.

*Happy New Year 2026*

## Vocation Corner: January 4, 2026

What a wonderful Gospel account of the Magi traveling to meet the Lord. They followed the star – their “call” – to come and offer their gifts to the Lord. But the question arises as to how the Magi noticed a star at night and no one else really did. Perhaps we need to embrace the “night,” the stillness, to “see and hear” our call. How are we doing in discerning our call to Holiness – in living our vocation as man, woman, or child; married or single; priesthood or religious – of being called to something beyond ourselves?

## Sister Parish Trip to Guatemala

A group reservation has been made for 30 seats for the **sister parish trip to Guatemala** for June 2026. If still interested contact Shelly Sands at Missions International (618) 654-9254. Deadline to commit is February 1, 2026.

# St. Joseph Church

208 South Elliott St.  
Olney, Illinois 62450



Sunday, January 4, 2026  
*The Epiphany of the Lord*



## ~ St. Joseph Church ~

Website ..... [www.stjosephchurcholney.com](http://www.stjosephchurcholney.com)

Very Rev. Steven L. Beatty ..... Pastor

Fr. Steven's Cell ..... 618-697-2632

E-mail ..... [frsteven.beatty@gmail.com](mailto:frsteven.beatty@gmail.com)

Reverend Levi James ..... Parochial Vicar

Fr. Levi's Cell ..... 618-240-3638

E-mail ..... [levi.jamessiu@gmail.com](mailto:levi.jamessiu@gmail.com)

Caroline Trimble ..... Pastoral Associate

Caroline's Cell ..... 618-263-7106

E-mail ..... [CtrimblePA@gmail.com](mailto:CtrimblePA@gmail.com)

Tyler Timm ..... Youth Minister

Tyler's Cell ..... 507-530-2911

E-mail ..... [ttimm@stjoeolney.com](mailto:ttimm@stjoeolney.com)

Casey Hemrich ..... Administrative Assistant

Parish Office ..... 618-392-8181

E-mail ..... [stjosephchurch\\_olney@yahoo.com](mailto:stjosephchurch_olney@yahoo.com)

Jeffrey Rosenberg ..... Trustee

Elliot Brazil ..... Trustee

## ~ Welcome ~

The St. Joseph Parish family is a community of believers rooted in the teachings of Jesus.

### Join us for mass:

Wednesday 8:00 am

Friday 8:00 am

Saturday 5:00 pm

Sunday 8:00 am

Live streaming of the 8 am masses on Sunday and Wednesday are now available! To watch it live, go to [stjosephchurcholney.com](http://stjosephchurcholney.com)

New parishioners, please register as soon as you move into our parish. Call the Parish Office (618-392-8181) to receive a new member packet

**Office hours: Mon. Wed. Fri. 8:00-3:00 pm**

**Baptism:** Contact the Parish Office.

**Reconciliation:** Saturdays from 4:30 PM – 4:45 PM or contact the Parish Office.

**Marriage:** Call 6 months in advance.

**Anointing of the Sick:** Any time of need.

## ~ St. Joseph School ~

Josy Hart ..... Principal

Carol Potter ..... Assistant Principal

Catherine Fritschle ..... Office Manager

School Office ..... 618-395-3081

E-mail ..... [office@stjoeolney.com](mailto:office@stjoeolney.com)

Website ..... [www.stjoeolney.com](http://www.stjoeolney.com)

FAX ..... 618-395-8500

**School Advisory Council:** Angel Padilla (*Chairperson*), Heather Colwell, Samantha Foust, Marissa Graves, Andrea Kuenstler, Lauren McClain, Tyler Ochs, Doug Kocher (*St. Joseph-Stringtown Representative*), Holly Nettleton (*Holy Cross-Wendelin Representative*).

**Collection Total for December 24 and 25, 2025**

Envelopes: \$2,390.00	(44)
Loose: \$719.00	
<b>Total: \$3,109.00</b>	

**Building Fund: \$20.00 (1)****Christmas Flowers: \$40.00 (1)****Collection Total for December 28, 2025**

Envelopes: \$725.00	(22)
Loose: \$836.62	
<b>Total: \$1,561.62</b>	

**Building Fund: \$20.00 (1)****Christmas Offering: \$310.00 (2)****For the Needy: \$177.00 (7)****Solemnity of Mary: \$5.00 (1)****First Offering: \$15.00 (3)**Weekly Amount Needed: **\$1,400.00**

\*\*\*\*\*

**January Bulletins: For the Parish****January Missalettes: In Memory of Norman****Kocher**

\*\*Contact Ashley to schedule for 2026!

\*\*\*\*\*

**PARISH EVENTS:****Sunday, January 4 – Stringtown Community Club Blood Drive, 6:30am-12pm Noon!****Monday, January 5 – Young Adults Bible Study at Holy Cross-Wendelin, 7pm.****Tuesday, January 6 – Parish Office Open 11am-3pm. \*Note time change!****ASAP Prayer Service and Adoration at St. Joseph-Stringtown, 9:30am.**

Eucharistic Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at St. Joseph-Olney, 12-3pm.

OCIA at St. Joseph-Olney, 6:30pm. Topic: God the Holy Spirit: Conversion, Call, and Ecclesia.

**Sister's in Christ will resume in new year!****Wednesday, January 7 – Family Catechesis Twelfth Night Dinner, Holy Cross Parish Center, 6:30pm.****Thursday, January 8 – Brother's in Christ at Holy Cross-Wendelin, 7pm.**

**Sunday, January 11 – CYM Mass and Meeting at St. Joseph-Stringtown.**  
**Donut Sunday Following 8am Mass at St. Joseph-Stringtown Parish Center.**

**BAPTISM:**

The Sacrament of Baptism represents the first step in a lifelong journey of discipleship. To inquire about a Baptism and to schedule a date, contact Caroline Trimble.

**PHOTO DIRECTORY SIGNUPS:**

If you weren't able to get your photo taken, you can drop a photo by the parish office, send to our parish email [stjoestringtown@hotmail.com](mailto:stjoestringtown@hotmail.com), or text to Ashley.

**BLOOD DRIVE TODAY:**

The next Stringtown Community Blood Drive is scheduled for TODAY Sunday, January 4, 2026, from 6:30-12 noon. Mark your calendar and go ahead and pre-scheduled your January 4<sup>th</sup> appointment by clicking below.

<https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-results?order=DATE&range=10&zipSponsor=StringtownCC>

**St Joseph Stringtown Community Club Blood Drive**

Parish Hall  
6342 County Rd 1700 E  
Olney, IL 62450

Sunday, January 4, 2026  
6:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

For an appointment call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767)  
or visit [RedCrossBlood.org](https://RedCrossBlood.org). Sponsor code StringtownCC  
Bring a friend and help save lives together.



Come to give Jan. 1-26 for chance to win trip for 2 to Super Bowl LX in Calif! [rcblood.org/SuperBowl](https://rcblood.org/SuperBowl)

American Red Cross  
Don't let the season get between you & your commitment.

[rcblood.org](https://rcblood.org) | 1-800 RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767

**EPIPHANY KITS:**

Available for pickup in the vestibule to bless your home! **20+C+M+B+26**

**2026 CALENDARS:**

Special thanks to Kistler-Patterson Funeral Homes for once again so generously providing the 2026 calendars, which are now available in the vestibule. We appreciate your support and generosity!

**MINISTER'S LIST JANUARY-MARCH:**

Now available! Thanks to those that serve these ministries! If you are interesting in serving a ministry and do not already, please contact Ashley. We can provide training, if necessary. Thank you!

**DONUT SUNDAY:**

Donut Sunday will be held next Sunday, January 11<sup>th</sup> following Mass. Come join us!

**SISTERS IN CHRIST:**

There will be a pause for the Christmas season and the new study will be shared in the New Year.

**CAROLINE TRIMBLE - PASTORAL ASSOCIATE:**

A Star guided the Magi to the King of Kings, and Lord of Lords. What Star is guiding you this New Year? What will you find once you reach the Star? Will it be life-giving, fruitful and "of God" or prideful and "of the world"? The moment of your Epiphany is closer than you might think! Seek to be

guided by the One True Star for it is there where you will find your life of love! Journey onward this New Year, being guided by the Star of Peace and Love!

**FOLLOWING IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF SAINTS**

**LIBRARY:** There are NEW Christmas books- items for kids and adults- to select from. Be sure to take home some Christmas reading material and something for these Winter nights. When we pray, we talk to God; when we read, God speaks to us. "St. Isidore of Seville: "

**TWELFTH NIGHT EPIPHANY DINNER**

JOIN US FOR FAMILY DINNER, CYM SAINT SKIT, AND SPECIAL GUESTS

January 7 6:30pm  
Holy Cross Wendelin

**FAMILY CATECHESIS:**

*Twelfth Night 'Epiphany' Dinner* - January 7, 6:30pm at Holy Cross Parish Center. Join us for Family Dinner, CYM Saint Skit, and Special Guests to arrive with an Epiphany message. Let us continue to "Follow in the Footsteps of the Saints."

**ST. JOSEPH-OLNEY SCHOOL NEWS:**

**2026 Benefit Calendars are here!** The price is \$25. The total payout is \$8,450. Calendars are for sale at the school office, the parish office, or by calling Jeffrey Rosenburg at 618-302-0391. **School will resume on Monday, January 5<sup>th</sup>!**

**OLNEY KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS:**

**Thursday, January 8:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree meeting, 7 PM.

**Thursday, January 15:** 4<sup>th</sup> Degree meeting, 7 PM.

**FORMED.ORG SUBSCRIPTION:**

Download the app or go to [www.formed.org](https://www.formed.org) and enter 62448. **The Week of January 4<sup>th</sup>**

**Recommendations:** God's Doorkeeper, The Three Wise Men, Epiphany

**CSMA 2025 – HOPE IN THE LORD:**

May God's blessings pour upon you and grant you and your loved ones a healthy, prosperous and joyful new year. Heartfelt thanks to all of you for your support of the Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal and our Belleville Diocese in the past year. You are remembered always in our prayers.

Ministries and Programs Funded by  
The Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal

**RESPECT LIFE CORNER:**

How do we live out the message of Christmas in the New Year, rather than pack it away with the ornaments? Each year, the Octave Day of Christmas falls on the first day of the New Year, on which we also celebrate the Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God. Her open heart and courageous "yes" to God show us how to live year-round—with hearts open to the Lord, following where He leads. We are called to place our trust in Him, to enter compassionately into the suffering of others, and to love one another as Christ loves us. Like Our Blessed Mother welcomed Jesus, we are called to cherish and protect the gift of human life, at every stage and in every circumstance. Copyright © 2024, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington, D.C. Reprinted with permission. All rights reserved.

**VOCATION CORNER:**

What a wonderful Gospel account of the Magi traveling to meet the Lord. They followed the star – their "call" – to come and offer their gifts to the Lord. But the question arises as to how the Magi noticed a star at night and no one else really did. Perhaps we need to embrace the "night," the stillness, to "see and hear" our call. How are we doing in discerning our call to Holiness – in living our vocation as man, woman, or child; married or single; priesthood or religious – of being called to something beyond ourselves?

**QUALIFIED CHARITABLE DISTRIBUTION:**

It's the giving season! A **qualified charitable distribution** (QCD) allows people over age 70½ to donate to charities – like our parish and school – directly from a taxable IRA instead of taking their required minimum distributions. The tax savings can be very significant. For additional information, please contact your financial representative or tax preparer.

**THE MESSENGER NEWSPAPER:**

Make The Messenger a part of your New Year's Resolution! The Messenger brings you the stories of real people quietly living their faith through compassion and good works. Inspirational stories that show our Catholic faith is alive and well in southern Illinois. Subscribe to The Messenger at 618-233-8670. To subscribe online, go to [www.bellevillemessenger.org](http://www.bellevillemessenger.org). Prices are \$40 for print edition, \$35 for digital edition, \$45 for both print and digital.



Kocher

**REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS:** Rick Rennier, Teresa Zehner, Judy Brown, Brenda Zuber, Valerie Weidner, Steve Zuber, Carolyn Elie, Linda McWhirter, Jim & Norma

**Sunday, January 4, 2026**

The Epiphany of the Lord

**Sunday, January 4, 8:00am at St. Joseph-**

Stringtown "Judy Zuber†" "Gus & Lorena Ochs†,  
Joseph Schneider†" "Fr. Roger Schoenhofen†"

**Monday, January 5, 6:30pm at St. Joseph-**  
Stringtown "Judy Kocher†"

**Tuesday, January 6, 5:00pm at St. Lawrence-**  
Lawrenceville

**Wednesday, January 7, 8:05am at St. Joseph-**  
Olney

**Thursday, January 8, 6:30pm at Holy Cross-**  
Wendelin

**Friday, January 9, 8:00am at St. Joseph-Olney**

**Saturday, January 10, 4:00pm at Holy Cross-**  
Wendelin, 5:00pm at St. Joseph-Olney

**Sunday, January 11, 8:00am at St. Joseph-**  
Stringtown "Louis & Leila Volk†" "Elmer &

Elfreida Zwilling†", 8:00am at St. Joseph-Olney,  
10:00am at Holy Cross-Wendelin, 10:00am at St.  
Lawrence-Lawrenceville

**01/04/2025**

**Servers:**

Izzy Volk  
Will Volk  
Gabriel Volk

**Lector:**

Owen Kocher

**EMHC:**

Scott Seiler  
Janette Kocher

Gary Zwilling

**Gifts:**

Ellen Steber Family

**Ushers:**

Evelyn Volk  
Elmer Ochs

**Greeters:**

Caden Kocher

**Children's Liturgy:**

Joselyn & Mallory

**01/11/2025**

**Servers:**

CYM

**Lector:**

CYM

**EMHC:**

Jenny Hancock  
Joselyn Kocher

Owen Kocher

**Gifts:**

CYM

**Ushers:**

CYM

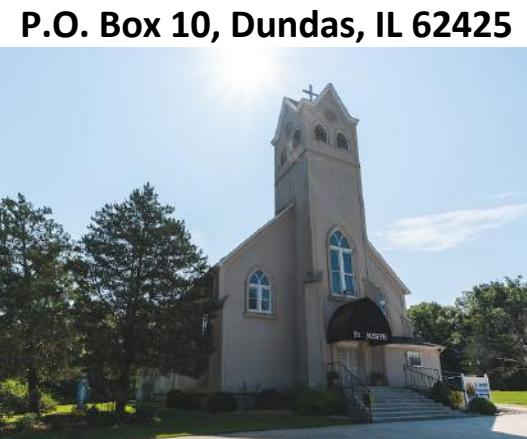
**Greeters:**

CYM

**Children's Liturgy:**

Madison & Natalie

**St. Joseph Church**  
**Stringtown, Illinois**



(GPS address: 6342 N. Stringtown Rd, Olney, IL 62450) Phone: 618-754-3676

Email: [stjoestringtown@hotmail.com](mailto:stjoestringtown@hotmail.com)

Website: [www.stjosephstringtown.com](http://www.stjosephstringtown.com)

**Parish Office Hours: Tuesday 9am-2pm & Thursday 9am-1pm**

**Very Rev. Fr. Steven Beatty** \_\_\_\_\_ Pastor  
Cell \_\_\_\_\_ 618-697-2632  
E-mail [frsteven.beatty@gmail.com](mailto:frsteven.beatty@gmail.com)

**Reverend Levi James** \_\_\_\_\_ Parochial Vicar  
Cell \_\_\_\_\_ 618-240-3638  
E-mail [levi.jamessiu@gmail.com](mailto:levi.jamessiu@gmail.com)

**Caroline Trimble** \_\_\_\_\_ Pastoral Associate  
Caroline's Cell \_\_\_\_\_ 618-263-7106  
E-mail [ctrimblePA@gmail.com](mailto:ctrimblePA@gmail.com)

**Tyler Timm** \_\_\_\_\_ Youth Minister  
Tyler's Cell \_\_\_\_\_ 507-530-2911  
Tyler's E-mail [ttimm@stjoeolney.com](mailto:ttimm@stjoeolney.com)

**Ashley Hinterscher** \_\_\_\_\_ Administrative Assistant  
Ashley's Cell \_\_\_\_\_ 618-843-1892  
Office Phone \_\_\_\_\_ 618-754-3676  
E-mail [stjoestringtown@hotmail.com](mailto:stjoestringtown@hotmail.com)

# The Epiphany

At the beginning of the new year we celebrate both Mary, the Mother of God and the Epiphany, which is when the wise men came from far away to worship baby Jesus.

Imagine that you are living a long time ago in Bethlehem and your parents have invited a poor family to stay at your house: a mother, a father and a new baby.



One day something amazing happens: some rich men from a far away country come to see the baby and bring expensive treasures for him! Do you know who the family is now? Who is the baby?

The baby is Jesus, of course, and the mother is Mary. She holds Jesus on her lap so the wise men can bow down to Him and worship Him. Mary cooperated with God to bring Jesus into the world so that we could all see and love and worship Him.

*Can you thank Mary today for bringing Jesus to us?*

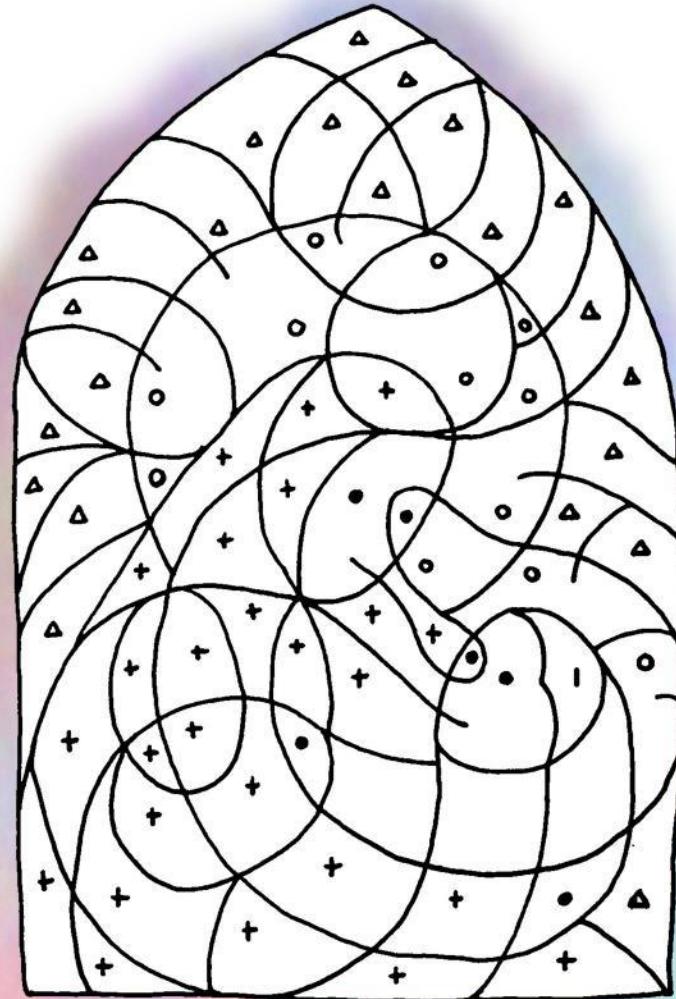
Answer to Octave of Christmas Word-Find:  
Mary the Mother of God

[www.thekidsbulletin.com](http://www.thekidsbulletin.com)



# The Kids' Bulletin

*Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God: Jan. 1  
& Feast of the Epiphany: January 4 or 6, 2026*



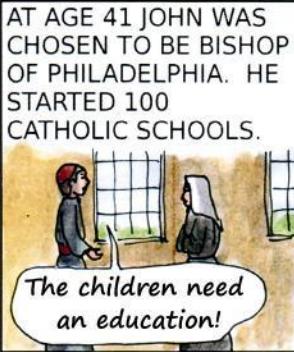
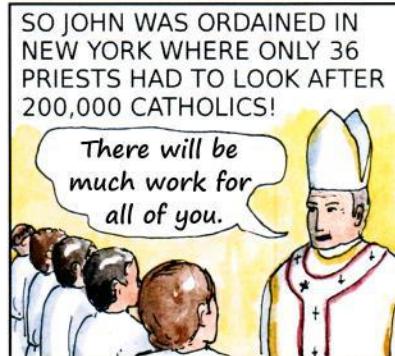
*Whose feast is it on New Year's Day?  
Colour in the spaces to see! Here's the code:*

- Blue
- Pink
- Yellow
- Brown
- Skin colour

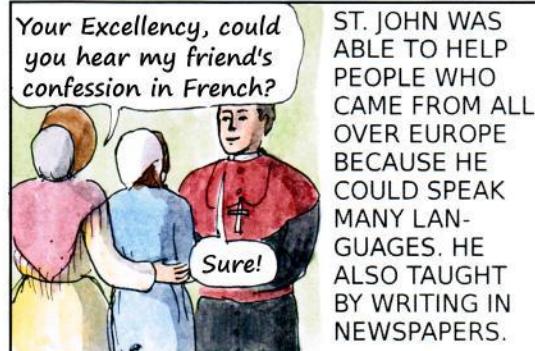
# Saint John Neumann

## January 5

JOHN NEUMANN WAS BORN IN BOHEMIA IN 1811. HE STUDIED FOR THE PRIESTHOOD BUT THE BISHOP WOULD NOT ORDAIN HIM BECAUSE THEY HAD SO MANY PRIESTS!



ONCE WHEN VISITING ONE OF HIS PARISHES, BISHOP JOHN HAD TO TAKE A RIDE ON A MANURE WAGON!



SAINST JOHN NEUMANN WORKED TIRELESSLY TO HELP THE POOR PEOPLE WHO WERE SETTLING IN AMERICA. HE DID NOT LET HIS OWN POVERTY SLOW HIM DOWN. WE CAN LEARN FROM HIS EXAMPLE TO USE OUR TALENTS TO BRING GOD TO THE WORLD NO MATTER HOW MUCH OR HOW LITTLE WE HAVE.

# Octave of Christmas

## Word-Find



Can you find all the words in the list in the puzzle below? Use the leftover letters to fill in the blanks at the end.

ANGELS  
ANIMALS  
BABY  
BARN  
BETHLEHEM  
BORN  
COLD  
FIELDS  
FOUND

GLORY  
GOD  
HOLY  
JESUS  
JOSEPH  
MANGER  
MARY  
MOTHER  
NIGHT

PRAISE  
SAVIOUR  
SHEEP  
SHEPHERDS  
SING  
SKY  
STABLE  
WONDER  
WORSHIP

W P M S I N G N I G H T  
O R A T A N I M A L S B  
N A S A N G E L S R H E  
D I A B M O T H E R E T  
E S V L A D J O S E P H  
R E I E R Y E L T H H L  
G L O R Y E S Y M O E E  
F B U T H E U S K Y R H  
O A R W O R S H I P D E  
U B A R N F I E L D S M  
N Y R M A N G E R O F G  
D O D C O L D P B O R N

On the eighth day of Christmas we honour in a special way

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_