

**From the  
Pastor's Desk**

Dear Parishioners,

I want to thank all those who contributed to the Archdiocesan Annual Appeal. As a parish we exceeded the goal set for us by the Archdiocese. Our goal was \$11,084.85 and thus far contributions and pledges have totaled \$14,029.00 (126.6% of our goal). Also, thank you to all who returned their stewardship forms designating your contributions to our parish for this coming year. If you have not yet decided to participate in the Annual Appeal and/or have not returned your parish stewardship form, I encourage you to do so. As I have said before, all that we do in terms of giving of our time, talent, and treasure to the parish, Archdiocese, and the Church as a whole is all about giving glory to God and returning our thanks to him for his blessings. The choices that we make in regards to stewardship communicate the degree of our gratitude that we desire to express to the Lord and many here at St. Joseph's have certainly done so by their generosity.

In this week's bulletin there is an insert (and more are available on the tables in the church entry) that is an examination of conscience to assist you in preparation for going to confession. If you have not yet received the sacrament of Reconciliation in preparation for Christmas, I encourage you to go to confession this coming week, whether here at St. Joseph or at whichever parish you so choose. We will have a brief reconciliation service with individual confessions on this coming Monday evening at 7:00 P.M. Fr. Swanson and Fr. Librea will be here to help me hear the confessions. Also, I have scheduled extra confessions time throughout this coming week. Please see the bulletin for details. That is all for now. Have a great week as we finish Advent and begin the Christmas season on Christmas Day. I pray that all will have a blessed Christmas and that Jesus will touch your hearts in a special way with his love this Christmas.

God bless,  
Father Gutowski

**FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY MASS**

There will be mass said at the Holy Family Shrine on Sunday, December 26 at 1:00 p.m. Archbishop Lucas will be the celebrant. Everyone is invited to attend.

**MASS  
INTENTIONS**

**DECEMBER 20 THRU DECEMBER 26**

Monday	Conrad Kwapnioski
Tuesday	Ray Heimes
Wednesday	Christian Kulm
Thursday	Lloyd Royal
Friday 5:00 P.M.	Frank Kolar
Saturday Midnight	People of St. Joseph
Saturday 9:00 A.M.	Jim Werner
Sunday	People of St. Joseph

PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGES BELOW  
FOR JANUARY 1ST AND 2ND

**CLIP AND SAVE**

Below is the holiday schedule for Reconciliation and Masses for Christmas:

**RECONCILIATION:**

- Monday, December 20, 7:00 p.m.  
Reconciliation Service w/individual confessions following (3 priests will be available)
- Tuesday, December 21, After morning mass and 5:00 - 6:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, December 22, After morning mass and 5:00 - 6:00 p.m.
- Thursday, December 23, After morning mass and Noon - 1:00 p.m.

**HOLIDAY MASS SCHEDULE:**

- Christmas Eve, 5:00 p.m.
- Christmas Midnight Mass
- Christmas Morning, 9:00 a.m.
- NO 5:00 P.M. MASS ON CHRISTMAS DAY
- NO regular confession time from 4:00 - 4:45 on Christmas Day
- Sunday, December 26, 9:00 a.m.
- Saturday, January 1, 9:00 a.m. (Feast of Mary Mother of God; 1st Saturday Mass)

Saturday, January 1, 5 p.m. Mass  
 Sunday, January 2, 9:00 a.m.

**REMINDER - FIRST SATURDAYS**

On the First Saturday of each month Mass is being offered at 9:00 a.m. followed by 1st Saturday devotions and Eucharistic Adoration.

**RE HAPPENINGS**

There is No RE on December 22 or 29...Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

**WINTER COATS**

Your Springfield knights of Columbus are in the final stages of delivering 50 Winter Coats for kids that they purchased. There are a few coats left. ( Call 707-8426 if in need ) The coats have been distributed to the needy in the Springfield Area and also some went to an Inner City Public School in Omaha. Once again if you know of someone in need, please call the above number. Thanks. Your Knights

**THANK YOU**

Knights of Columbus Blood Drive Recap: Thanks to all who took time to Donate Blood on Sunday Dec. 12th at the Springfield City Hall. We fell one donation short of making our goal but we still feel good about the turnout due to the late start because of truck problems. Once again, thank you and we look forward to your help again in the future. Your Red Cross and the Springfield Knights of Columbus

**NEW YEAR'S DAY CONFUSION**

With New Year's Day being on the 1st Saturday of the month and normally a Holyday of Obligation and also a weekend mass day, there is obviously been some confusion on the mass scheduling. We will have a 9:00 a.m. Mass on Saturday, January 1 because it is the 1st Saturday of the month. It is the Feast of Mary Mother of God, however it is not Holyday of Obligation this year and therefore no special

mass will be said . There will be a 5:00 p.m. Mass on Saturday, January 1, in anticipation of Sunday as well as the usual 9:00 a.m. Mass on Sunday.

**THE FORGOTTEN SAINT**

St. Joseph has often been call "the forgotten saint" because he gets very little attention in the scriptures and because we tend to focus so much more on Jesus and Mary. Pope John XXIII took a small step to improve this situation when he added Joseph's name to the Roman Canon, now our First Eucharistic Prayer. Still, Joseph often remains under appreciated.

Today's Gospel, however, reminds us that Joseph had a key role in the history of our redemption, both as the spouse of Mary and as the foster father of Jesus. This gives us an opportunity to add balance to our coming celebration, reminding ourselves that it's not just about the Virgin and Child but also about the husband and father.

**TODAY'S READING**

My friends, in today's Gospel we are reminded of Joseph's confusion, but also his openness to God's word. God sent Joseph a dream and Joseph listened to the message. God understands that we sometimes need signs to remind us of what we know deep down to be true. Let us prepare our hearts and minds today to be open to the signs God provides, pointing the way to our true happiness.

**CONDOLENCES**

Remember in your prayers Elsie Grubaugh, mother of Gayle Hughes and John Kloewer, father of Mary Alex. They both passed away recently. Please accept our prayers and condolences.