

## OUR PARISH



## OUR FAMILY

### Services

#### Weekend Liturgy

Saturday Vigil 4:00 pm  
Sunday 8:30 am & 11:00 am

#### Daily Services

Monday 7:00 am Communion Service  
Tuesday-Thursday 7:00 am Mass  
Friday & Saturday 8:30 am Mass

#### Eucharistic Adoration

Tuesday 1:00 pm-6:00 pm  
First Friday after 8:30am Mass

#### Rosary

Tuesday 6:30-7:30 pm

### Sacramental Life

#### Reconciliation

After 8:30 a.m. Mass Saturday &  
3 p.m. on Saturday; from 5:30-6:30  
p.m. Tuesdays during adoration;  
First Friday or by appointment.

#### Baptism

The first and third Sundays of the  
month at 12:30 pm or during the  
Liturgy. Parents must reserve and  
attend a baptism class.

#### Weddings

Arrangements must be made at least six  
months in advance. At least one of the  
engaged persons (or their parents)  
must be a registered parishioner.

#### Communion to Homebound

Call Deacon Leon Fritz 815-932-6909.

#### Registration

Newcomers are welcome to register  
online or stop by the parish office.

### Pastoral Staff

#### Pastor

Rev. Marcin Michalak

#### Deacon

Leon Fritz

#### Music Director

Brad Benoit

#### Pastoral Associate

Deacon Greg Clodi

#### Business Manager

Kevin Delabre

#### Director of Communications

Paul Storer

#### Religious Education

Anita Lovell  
Coordinator  
Phone: 815-937-9340

#### Youth Ministers

Ken & Michelle Barrie  
barrieacres@yahoo.com

#### Prayer Line

Sharon Monty: 815-954-4922  
parishadmin@stjosphbradley.org

#### Parish Office

Monday-Thursday 9am-4pm  
Friday 9am-1 pm  
Office Phone: (815) 939-3573

#### Parish Website

www.stjosephbradley.org

#### Social Media

"Like" us on Facebook &  
"Follow" us on Instagram

**Parish Nurse**-Call the Parish  
Office; enter #307



When John the Baptist heard in prison of the works of the Christ, he sent his disciples to Jesus with this question, "Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?" Jesus said to them in reply, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them. And blessed is the one who takes no offense at me." (Mt 11:2-3)

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# St. Joseph Church

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[pstorer@stjosephbradley.org](mailto:pstorer@stjosephbradley.org)

## December 11, 2022



## Giving Tree Concludes at St. Joseph's

This weekend all Giving Tree gifts (unwrapped) need to be returned to the back of the church. If you have more than one gift you can tie them together or put them in a bag. But, please make sure the tag is visible. **Return all gifts by Noon this Sunday.** The items are going to the organizations immediately after they are packed together for each agency. **If you would like to help get the gifts ready for transport, please come to St. Joseph Church at 1 p.m. this Sunday.** Thanks again for doing such a great service, bringing some Christmas cheer to our friends in need in the community!

## Our Parish Mission Starts This Sunday!



Interested in finding some meaning during the restlessness of our busy lives? Take some time during Advent to escape the hustle and bustle and center yourself in the desert of our Parish Mission. A dynamic and experienced retreat leader, Fr. Tom McCarthy will be the voice of the mission and our guide during this experience.

Fr. Tom wants us to consider the following as we prepare for the mission. **Evening 1: How am I entering the Restless Journey?** How am I climbing a tree to see Jesus? How am I willing to say Yes when it is crazy to say Yes? Do I let fear control my life? **Evening 2: How am I being called to the Restless Journey?** Am I awake enough to listen to the call? Sure, you want to go bowling? Change or fear? My choice! **Evening 3: How am I living out the Restless Journey?** What does Elvis have to do with the Restless Journey? Do you know you turn smart when you turn 7 years old? Parrot, signpost or witness?

The Parish Mission kick offs this Sunday, Dec. 11 (program and fellowship), and will continue on Monday, Dec. 12 (program, Reconciliation and fellowship), and conclude on Tuesday, Dec. 13 (Mass and fellowship). It will begin at 7 p.m. each evening in the church followed by fellowship in the parish hall.

**Please find the time to attend one or more sessions. You will be so happy that you did!!**

## Bishop Ron is celebrating Mass at St. Joseph's next Saturday

Bishop Ron Hicks is coming to Bradley next Saturday, Dec. 17, to celebrate the 4 p.m. Mass at St. Joseph Parish. This is certainly exciting as this will be the bishop's first visit to our church! Please join us for Mass and dinner and welcome our



**Spaghetti  
DINNER**



Our Knights  
of Columbus,

Bishop. It's certainly going to be a great time meeting Bishop Hicks and being with each other as we take time and enjoy Our Parish, Our Family. See you then.

## Come & Pray & Stay

Council of Catholic Women and Religious Education groups are planning a Spaghetti Dinner in the Parish Hall after Mass. This is not a fundraiser; there will be no cost for the meal. We will have a basket for free-will donations. It's going to be a fun time!

## SERVICE INFORMATION &amp; MASS INTENTIONS

Monday Dec. 12 <i>Our Lady of Guadalupe</i> 7:00 a.m. Monday Communion Service	Tuesday Dec. 13 <i>St. Lucy, Martyr</i> 7:00 a.m. Mass † Samuel Nowman by Cheryl Redmon	Wednesday Dec. 14 <i>St. John of the Cross</i> 7:00 a.m. Mass † R. Ann Prince by Family & Friends 9:00 a.m. BMCS Mass	Thursday Dec. 15 <i>Advent Weekday</i> 7:00 a.m. Mass † Janice Sims by Cathy Meidema † Vincent Messier (Wedding Anniversary) by Wife, Connie	Friday Dec. 16 <i>Advent Weekday</i> 8:30 a.m. Mass † Larry Null (Anniversary Memorial) by Debbie Null	Saturday Dec. 17 <i>Advent Weekday</i> 8:30 a.m. Mass *Health of Noel Taylor by Kent & Ellen Taylor
Saturday, December 17/18 4 p.m. † Rose Mary LaMore by Loved Ones † Leonard Lambert by Gary & Tricia Langevin			Sunday, December 18 8:30 a.m. † George Ray by Wife, Rayne 11 a.m. † Leona Pearman by Family		

## EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP

*I don't have anything left to give. All I do is give. Who is giving to me? Have you ever had any of these thoughts? We can become so easily depleted by life and ministry. Many of us also undergo certain seasons—seasons of the year, but also seasons of life—that seem to deplete our energy and leave us totally empty. In these times, it seems impossible to continue in the spirituality of Everyday Stewardship. Graciousness, mindfulness, prayerfulness, gratitude, accountability—maintaining some semblance of these characteristics in our daily life feels not only overly optimistic, but totally impossible. The Church gives us certain liturgical seasons that are meant to fill us up, almost like spiritual pit stops. Advent is one such season, and the Scriptural passages we reflect on at Mass during these four weeks are filled with images of nature defied. We see the dry steppe blooming. We see the weak made firm. We see the frightened made strong. We see the lame walk. We see the Virgin give birth. If you think you don't have anything left to give this Advent, think again. This is the season of miracles when what we thought was depleted brings new life.*

-Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

Offerings for the weekend of December 3/4, 2022  
\$11,432.66

4:00 pm: \$3,923.00

8:30 am: \$1,962.00

11:00 am: \$1,926.66

Offerings Mailed to St. Joseph Parish: \$3,621.00

Food Donations: 60 Pounds



**Please remember in your prayers the family of Daniel Babinski recently called to eternal life. Rest in Peace, Daniel. May God welcome you home with His loving embrace.**

## Readings for Week of December 11, 2022

**Sunday:** Is 35:1-6a, 10/Ps 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10/Jas 5:7-10/Mt 11:2-11

**Monday:** Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/Jdt 13:18bcde, 19/Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47

**Tuesday:** Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19 and 23/Mt 21:28-32

**Wednesday:** Is 45:6c-8, 18, 21c-25/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14/Lk 7:18b-23

**Thursday:** Is 54:1-10/Ps 30:2 and 4, 5-6, 11-12a and 13b/Lk 7:24-30

**Friday:** Is 56:1-3a, 6-8/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 7-8/Jn 5:33-36

**Saturday:** Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17/Mt 1:1-17

**Next Sunday:** Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 [7c, 10b]/Rom 1:1-7/Mt 1:18-24

**Mass Readings:** [www.stjosephbradley.org](http://www.stjosephbradley.org)

Our Electronic Giving options are the most convenient ways for giving and staying consistent with your offerings. You can make automated ACH Offerings from your savings or checking accounts. Download the form at the parish website; print; complete; follow the directions and put in collection basket or mail or to the parish. Or stop by the parish office to sign-up for Auto Deduct. Or look for the PayPal Button at our website to set-up contributions through this online payment method. Thanks for your support!





One way to stay grounded in what Christmas is really about is going to Reconciliation during Advent. This year, however, we are not having an official Advent Reconciliation Service at St. Joseph Parish because we will be offering this sacrament of strength and healing during our upcoming Parish Mission as part of the second evening at 7pm on Monday, Dec. 12. Priests of the area and Fr. Tom and Fr. Marcin will hear confessions during this part of the mission.



## *The Week at a glance at St. Joseph Parish*

<b>Saturday, Dec. 10</b> <b>Daily Mass</b> 8:30 a.m. <b>Vigil Mass</b> 4:00 p.m. <b>Sunday, Dec. 11</b> <b>Masses</b> 8:30 a.m. & 11 a.m. Church <i>Return Giving Tree</i> <i>Gifts this weekend</i> <b>RCIA Class</b> 9:30 a.m. Ministry Center <b>Giving Tree Sorting</b> 1:00 p.m. <b>Parish Mission</b> (fellowship after) 7:00 p.m. Church	<b>Monday, Dec. 12</b> <b>Communion Service</b> 7:00 a.m. Church <b>Parish Mission (with Reconciliation)</b> 7:00 p.m. Church <b>After Mission Fellowship</b> Parish Hall <b>Tuesday, Dec. 13</b> <b>Daily Mass</b> 7:00 a.m. <b>Adoration</b> 1:00-6:00 p.m. Church <b>Lion's Club Meeting</b> 6:00 p.m. Ministry Center	<b>Tuesday, Dec. 13</b> (continued) <b>Rosary Group</b> 6:30 p.m. Church <b>Parish Mission Closing Mass</b> 7:00 p.m. Church <b>After Mission Fellowship</b> Parish Hall <b>Weds, Dec. 14</b> <b>Daily Mass</b> 7:00 a.m. Church <b>Adult Choir Practice</b> 7:00 a.m. Church	<b>Weds, Dec. 14</b> (continued) <b>Knights of Columbus Monthly Meeting</b> 7:00-9:00 p.m. Parish Ministry Center <b>Thurs, Dec. 15</b> <b>Daily Mass</b> 7:00 a.m. Church <b>O'Connor Wedding Rehearsal</b> 5:00 p.m. Church <b>Men's AA Group</b> 7:00-9:00 p.m. Ministry Center	<b>Friday, Dec. 16</b> <b>Daily Mass</b> 8:30 a.m. Church <b>St. Joseph's Mobile Food Pantry</b> 10:00 a.m. Church Parking Lots & Surrounding Streets <b>O'Connor Wedding</b> 5:00 p.m. Church <i>Congrats &amp; Many Blessings to Couple &amp; Families</i>
<b>Saturday, Dec. 17</b> <b>Daily Mass</b> 8:30 a.m. <b>Vigil Mass (with Bishop Hicks)</b> 4:00 p.m. Church <b>Spaghetti Dinner &amp; Fellowship</b> 5:00 p.m. Parish Hall	<b>Sunday, Dec. 18</b> <b>Masses</b> 8:30 a.m. & 11 a.m. Church <b>RCIA Class</b> 9:30 a.m. Ministry Center <b>A &amp; E Decorating for Christmas</b> 12:00 p.m. Church	<p><i>The weekly Schedule for the Sacrament of Reconciliation is on Page 1 of the Bulletin. Confession will be offered during the Parish Mission on Monday, Dec. 12. And, appointments for Reconciliation can always be made by calling the parish office.</i></p>		

LITURGICAL ROLES	December 17 4:00 PM	December 18 8:30 AM	December 18 11:00 AM	<p>Are you interested in any of these liturgical roles?</p> <p>Contact the parish office for training. Ministers can go online to see when they are scheduled, request subs and input when not to be scheduled.</p>
Hospitality Ministers	Marian Worby Bev & Trisha Emme Mike Worby Jim Lustig	Ellen Taylor Kent Taylor Michael Storer Kathy Storer	Jim Graf Becky Graf Julie Gindy Volunteer Needed	
Lectors	Beth Bisailon (both readings)	Ryan Adams (1) Gert Auberry (2)	Greg Brenneisen (1) Candi Brenneisen (2)	
Eucharistic Ministers		Lindsay Adams Justin Sommer Wayne Delabre	Julie Gindy Jason Grizzle	
Altar Servers	Aiden Jamros Ryane Jefferson Emily Storer Sean Storer Joshua Sorich	Harrison Adams Adelaide Bedford	David Quigley Sean Quigley Jane Quigley	
Advent Candles	RCIA Group	Holy Name Group	Matejewski Family	
Deacons	Deacon Greg Clodi Deacon Leon Fritz	Deacon Greg Clodi	Deacon Leon Fritz	
Presiders	Fr. Marcin Michalak Bishop Ronald Hicks	Fr. Charles Wheeler	Fr. Marcin Michalak	



## Preparing Our Church For Christmas

Next Sunday, Dec. 18, we are inviting parishioners to help us transform our church from Advent to Christmas! There is always such a wonderful spirit as we put up the lights, straighten the bows, hang the wreaths, position the Nativity characters, and arrange the candles. Please join us for a fun afternoon. Decorating will start after the 11 a.m. Mass. Come and help and enjoy how your work will inspire others throughout the Christmas Season.

©LPi

## Vehicle Magnets



These \$5 magnets are great reminders of the "Reason for the Season." Purchase them at church or at the parish office during the week.

The Knights of Columbus of St. Joseph are selling Vehicle Magnets after Masses this weekend.



## Retired Religious Collection



Thank you so much for your support of this weekend's Retired Religious Collection.

Your generosity will help furnish care, medicine, and other necessities for aging religious. Please feel free to make a donation with the envelope you received from the parish next weekend.

# Bishop Ronald Hicks' Column for December 2022



## *'All are welcome in this place'*

**I love Jesus! And it is always a source of joy and honor to offer the holy sacrifice of the Mass whenever and wherever I am asked to do so. So when I received a request to celebrate a diocesan-wide Mass for individuals with special needs or disabilities and their families and friends, without hesitation, I responded, "Yes!"**



On September 18, we gathered as a family of God with our brothers and sisters living with Down syndrome, deafness, amputations and other challenges. The Mass was beautiful. After being nourished by Word and sacrament, I enjoyed a post-Mass gathering with attendees, posing for photographs and engaging in conversation. During these delightful interactions, just about everyone expressed gratitude for the Mass and the fellowship. However, I was also struck by a common theme of their not feeling welcomed – not only in many parts of our society, but also in some of our churches. Participants shared experiences of not being acknowledged or recognized, and even feelings of invisibility.

I was surprised, and probably more accurately, shocked by their comments. Honestly, my heart broke and sank as I reflected on some of their experiences of rejection and isolation. As I drove away from our time together, I wondered, "How is it possible that people with disabilities have experienced exclusion in our Catholic churches, where for decades we have sung an entrance hymn with the lyrics, "All are welcome in this place."

Hopefully, it goes without saying that the Church should be a community in which all people experience an unconditional love that reflects God's love. I am sure that most of us never intentionally intend to be noninclusive. Yet during this month when we celebrate the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, let me take this opportunity to challenge all of us to reflect on some of our unintentional attitudes and actions, and look for ways to see, welcome and include all of our sisters and brothers with disabilities or special needs.

For we should always strive to be a church that lives the words of St. Paul in his Letter to the Galatians 3:26-28: "So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus."

As baptized Christians, we are all constantly called to a personal conversion that reflects the love of Christ. But it

does not end with our own individual attitudes and actions. As an institution, we as the Church also need to embrace persons with disabilities or special needs concretely with our ministries, policies and programs. I am proud to highlight that in the Diocese of Joliet, Renata Cichowicz is providing the lead for pastoral outreach for such ministries through the Department of Catechesis and Evangelization. The diocese also acts as an affiliate of the National Catholic Partnership on Disability. Additionally, St. Raphael Catholic Church in Naperville and several other parishes intentionally serve these communities with programs like REACH: Religious Education Apostolate for Christian Handicapped. REACH provides simplified religious education lessons at a slower pace using a smaller student-to-catechist ratio. This program also prepares students for the sacraments of reconciliation, the Eucharist and confirmation.

I look forward to whenever I have the opportunity to celebrate Mass and gather with our beautiful community of individuals living with deafness, disabilities or special needs. Until then, I enthusiastically echo our Holy Father's words from his 2021 message for the International Day of Persons with Disabilities: "I would like to speak to all of you who live with any condition of disability, to tell you the Church loves you and needs each of you for the fulfillment of her mission."+

### **Prayer to Foster Belonging**

**Creator God, we are your people. We look to the future with optimism and with faith in You, as we pursue our call to provide justice and fullness of life for all people with disabilities. We pray that every man, woman and child may develop their potential and meet You in themselves and in one another. May we enjoy a totally welcoming community, with You as our center, joined hand in hand with our sisters and brothers. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.**

*From the National Catholic Partnership on Disability and based on the Pastoral Statement of U.S. Catholic Bishops on People with Disabilities*





What a great night spreading Christmas cheer at the Bradley Christmas Parade! Did you hear the big news? Our Mobile Pantry Team earned First Place in the Float Competition for the service category. Thanks to our volunteers who created the float and to all the parishioners who donated candy to treat the people and everyone who walked and participated to raise

awareness for our monthly food assistance effort.

**Don't forget that we have a Mobile Pantry happening next Friday, Dec. 16. Volunteer at the parish website or call the parish office.**



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