

# St. Joseph Congregation

*A family devoted to experience Jesus through  
prayer, formation and service.*

## *The Path of Light*

May the light of the advent candles  
illuminate your path with hope,  
peace, joy & LOVE

*Fourth Sunday of Advent*

*December 21, 2025*

### Mass Schedule:

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, & Friday 8:15am | Saturday (Vigil) 4:00pm | Sunday 8:00am, 10:30am

12130 W. Center Street, Wauwatosa, WI 53222

Parish Office: 414-771-4626 | Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8:00am-3:30pm

St. Joseph Congregation  
12130 W. Center Street  
Wauwatosa, WI 53222  
Parish Office 414-771-4626

Pastoral Team

Rev. Justin Lopina, Pastor  
lopinaj@archmil.org  
Phone Extension 105

Deacon José Gonzales  
joseuugon@yahoo.com

Deacon Kurt Peot  
kurtap@yahoo.com

Catholic Formation Staff  
Adult Minister: Dennis Sylva  
dennissylva@hotmail.com  
Phone Extension 106

Admin. Assistant: Lisa Marynik  
marynikl@stjoetosa.com  
Phone Extension 111

Parish Staff

Parish Admin. Assistant: Nikki Claas  
parishadmin@stjoetosa.com  
Phone Extension 101

Director of Liturgy &  
Business Admin. Assistant:  
Suzanne Silman  
silmans@stjoetosa.com  
Phone Extension 104

Maintenance Director: Matt Adams  
adamsm@stjoetosa.com  
Phone Extension 115

Interim Music Director: Dan O'Connor  
music@stjoetosa.com  
414-444-2244

Trustees

Sandy Schmitt, Secretary  
taschmitt@sbcglobal.net

Tom Zimmerman, Treasurer  
tom.zimmerman@fiserv.com

Parish Information

**Parish Registration:** Registration for the parish can be done at the Parish Office during normal business hours or after Mass on Sunday in the Welcome Center at the Center St. entrance of church. Young people out of college school are requested to register as adult members.

**Hearing Impaired:** St. Joseph's Church has an "Audio Loop" for use by people who have a hearing aid equipped with a "T switch".

**St. Joseph Chapel Hours:** Monday-Friday 7:00am to 8:00pm.

St. Joseph Catholic School  
2750 N. 122nd Street  
Wauwatosa, WI 53222  
School Office 414-771-5577

**Principal:** Bryanna VanVreede  
vanvreedeb@stjosephschooltosa.com  
Phone Extension 120

**Admin. Assistant:** Wyatt Cupp  
sjsoffice@stjosephschooltosa.com  
Phone Extension 114

Pastoral Council

Chair: Joe Herro  
joeherro@yahoo.com  
414-469-7261

Pastoral Council Members:

Kelly Ciriacks  
Megan Harney  
Joe McCool  
Jennifer Mendoza  
Sarah Navis  
Jill Pitterle  
Kevin Scott  
Mike Smrz  
Alanna Wilgus, Vice Chair

Finance Council

Chair: Bern Enright  
bernright@gmail.com

Finance Council Members:

Peter Diotte  
Dave Gauss  
Mont Martin  
Carol Polivka  
Ed Reuter  
Dean Weyer

Buildings & Grounds

Chair: Carol Polivka  
carol\_polivka@polivka.org

School Committee

Chair: Jeremy Blackwood  
jblackwoodmu@gmail.com

Christian Formation

Chair: Larry Barbian  
frodolb@yahoo.com

Home & School Association

Chair: Rachel Blackwood  
rachelblackwood1@gmail.com

Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament:



Adoration will take place every Monday immediately following the 8:15am Mass until 9:30am. Confession offered as well.

Holy Hour/Adoration will take place on the first Thursday of the month at 6:30pm in the Chapel.

Anointing of the Sick:

Anointing will take place on the first Friday and first Saturday of the month at the 8:15am Mass.

Anointing may also be done by appointment. Please call the Parish Office.

Mass Intentions		Our Lives are a Gift to Those Around Us
Monday, December 22nd	8:15am † Souls lost abroad the Edmund Fitzgerald	As our Advent preparations end and Christmas fast approaches, it is fitting that today's readings demonstrate the intensity of the Father's perfect and passionate love for each of us, culminating in the gift of His own Son, Jesus Christ, on Christmas Day.
Tuesday, December 23rd	7:30am The Patriotic Rosary 8:00am Perpetual Help 8:15am † Robert & Dolores Ostrowski	In response to such an overwhelming gift, what can we do except offer our lives as gift in return, embracing a stewardship way of life with all the love and strength we have to give?
Wednesday, December 24th—Christmas Eve	4:00pm † Bruce Curry † Mary Peschel 10:00pm Our Parish Family	In our Gospel passage from Matthew, we find an unparalleled example of one who embraced this way of life in St. Joseph, as he obeys God's call to him through the message of an angel.
Thursday, December 25th—Christmas Day	8:00am † Eleanor & John Chudada, Jr. † Mike Nunemaker 10:00am † John Walentowski † Polly & Harry Crandall	We never hear St. Joseph speak, but the Scriptures tell us he was always listening, attentive to the leading of the Holy Spirit for his family. It was Joseph who found the stable where the baby Jesus would be born. No doubt it was Joseph who cleaned it up and prepared it for Mary and Jesus since we know that Mary was about to give birth. Joseph protected the family, guarded them, and tended to their safety, their comfort, and their well-being at the expense of his own plans and preferences. Though we do not hear any words from St. Joseph his actions clearly show that he offered himself, his whole life, as a gift to his family through his strong guidance, protection, and service.
Friday, December 26th	No Mass	Let us imitate St. Joseph, then, as good stewards, giving our very lives to those around us in love and gratitude to God, who has given us everything we have, especially His own Son, Jesus Christ.
Saturday, December 27th	3:00pm Reconciliation 4:00pm † Don Borden † Jerry & Joanne Olski † Harold & Florence Schneider	-copyright: Catholic Stewardship Consultants, <a href="http://www.CatholicSteward.com">www.CatholicSteward.com</a>
Sunday, December 28th	7:00am Reconciliation 8:00am Thomas & Mary Pat Kirchen † James Barnak 10:30am Our Parish Family	<u>Christmas Masses</u>
Readings of the Week	Monday: 1 Sm 1:24-28; (Ps) 1 Sm 2:1, 4-8d; Lk 1:46-56	December 24th ~ 4pm and 10pm
	Tuesday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Ps 25:4-5b, 8-10, 14; Lk 1:57-66	December 25th ~ 8am and 10am
	Wednesday: Is 62:1-5; Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:18-25	
	Thursday: Is 62:1-5; Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:18-25	
	**The readings for the Vigil of the Nativity of the Lord will be used at all Christmas Masses	
	Friday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Ps 31:3cd-4, 6, 8ab, 16bc-17; Mt 10:17-22	The Parish Office will be closed on December 24th, 25th, and 26th.
	Saturday: 1 Jn 1:1-4; Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12; Jn 20:1a, 2-8	
	Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14; Ps 128:1-5; Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17; Mt 2:13-15, 19-23	



## Sacraments

**Baptism:** Parents who wish to have their child baptized must be registered members of St. Joseph Parish and practicing their Catholic Faith. A pre-baptism class must be attended prior to the date of the baptism. Baptisms are celebrated at one of the weekend Masses or at another arranged time. For more information contact the Parish Office.

**Funerals:** Please call the Parish Office in the event of the death of a loved one. Arrangements will be made for planning of the service including the musicians. Advanced planning may be done by making an appointment with Father.

**Reconciliation:** Monday 9:00am-9:30am, during adoration, Saturday 3:00 pm-3:50 pm, Sunday 7:00am-7:50am, or by appointment. Please call the Parish Office.

**Weddings:** Couples must contact the pastor to make arrangements for marriage. No date should be set until this is done as the church may not be available. The Catholic party must be a registered and practicing member of the parish for at least six months prior to setting a date. In addition, a six month period of preparation is required for marriage.

## Severe Weather Procedure



In the event of severe winter weather, Mass and other activities at St. Joseph Congregation might be cancelled.



### These are the guidelines:

- If Elmbrook and/or Wauwatosa public schools close, St. Joseph School will close.
- If St. Joseph School is closed, all daytime activities and all evening activities will be cancelled, including Mass.
- If a weekday snow event falls on a Holy Day of Obligation, there will be Mass, even if school is closed.
- If a snowstorm falls on a Saturday or Sunday, there will be Mass; other events might be cancelled at the director's discretion.

Closings will be posted on local news stations (both TV & online), our St. Joseph Catholic Church Facebook page and website.

## Ministry of the Sick

*Please take a moment to pray...*

*Heavenly Father, Lay Your healing hands on those who are sick*

Connie Borden, Christine Brady, Chris Burk, Phil Cashill, Margaret Christman, Dennis Cimpl, Marian Cochrane, Katy Connors, JoAnn Doyle, Donna Drake, Marge Fandre, Jane Foxgrovier, Jeanne Fuchs, Josefina Gallegos, Cameron Gonring, Amy Grahovac, Betty Groshek, Jenny Grosschadl, Diane Haase, Bruce Henning, Barb Hesselbein, Alex Holmes, Charles Jacoby, Jim Janette, Joyce Keller, Janet Klein, Don Kresse, Richard Kroscher, Doug Kruse, Julian Lombard, Mark Mayer, Sue McCauley, Tom McElwee, Margaret Mehigan, Theresa Motto, Shawn Munch, Lee Neustedter, Loren Norstrem, Luis Rodriguez, Dan Rooney, Carol & Lee Smaglick, Tim Taff, Betty Weinzierl, Ann Marie Wick

*We also include any of our loved ones who are dealing with cancer or mental illness.*

If you know anyone who is sick or in the hospital, please let us know. The hospitals do not always contact us.

If you or someone you know is homebound or ill and would like to receive communion, please call the Parish Office.

## From our Bereavement Committee:

### Hope in the Midst of Grief

Tuesday, December 30th

at St. John Vianney Parish in Brookfield  
6:30pm-8:30pm in the Parish Center,  
Room P201 (2nd Floor)

The support group, "Hope in the Midst of Grief", meets on the fourth Tuesday evening of each month. (this month it is December 30th). This group is led by Michelle Setzer, a bereaved parent and former bereavement coordinator.

Anyone who wishes to heal from the loss of a loved one and grow in a supportive environment can participate. You do not need to be Catholic or a member of one of the supporting parishes. There is no charge, you do not need to register for the sessions and all are welcome.

Feel free to contact Michelle Setzer at [msetzer@hotmail.com](mailto:msetzer@hotmail.com) or 414-795-6374.



## *From the Desk of Father Justin*

Happy Soon-To-Be-Christmas to you all! This is “it’s time to scramble” part of the holidays, eh? Well, last weekend I covered miracles for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent, as a particular passion of mine. I had a few requests to offer the short version here, as many people couldn’t see my visual too well. As you can see at the top, it’s called the “Father Justin Hierarchical Pyramid of Miracles.” Here, I break up miracles into six categories. The top category is God at his most direct and the bottom is God at his least direct. The breakdown is as follows.

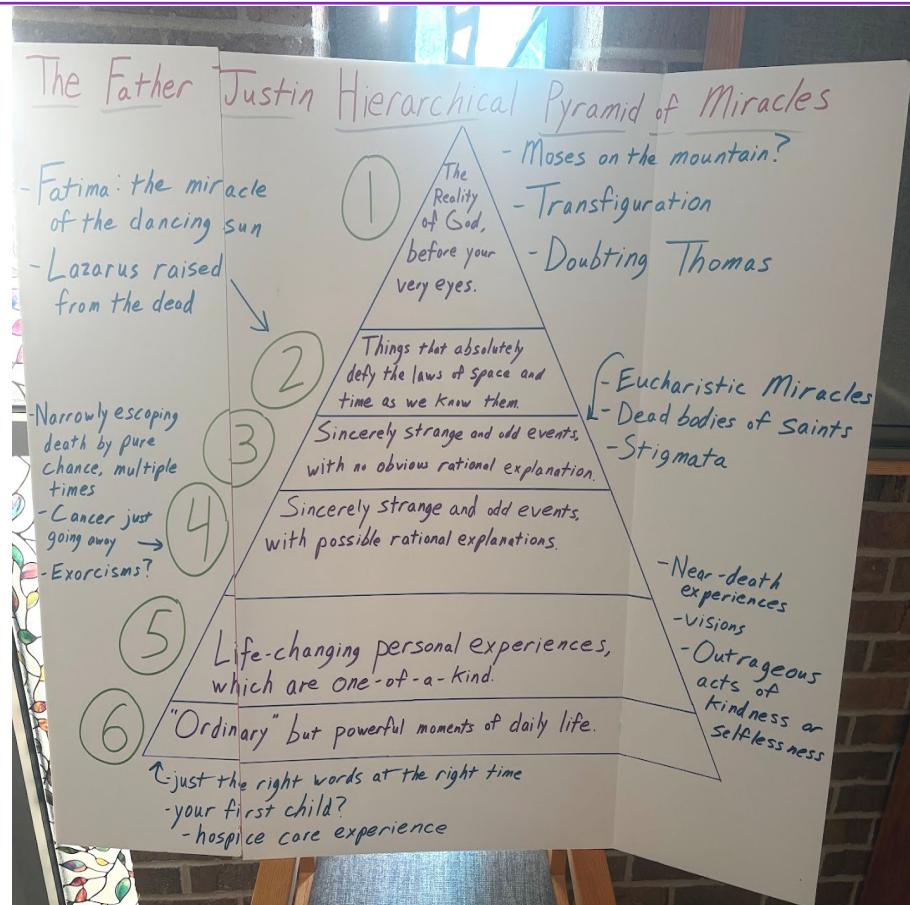
- Level one: God is directly before your very eyes in an undeniable way. This is what Moses experienced while alone on the top of the mountain before he came down with the 10 Commandments. It’s the Transfiguration, or when Jesus appeared before Thomas with holes in his hands and side. This is the reality of God before your very eyes.
- Level two: things that absolutely defy the laws of space and time as we know it and cause us to reevaluate our understanding of the universe: the perfect example is the miracle of Fatima where the sun danced in the sky. Ten thousand witnesses were there. The truly stubborn among them denied it has anything to do with God, which is what keeps it from being a level one miracle in my book.
- Level Three: things that are sincerely strange and odd, and lack any obvious rational explanation. The bread and wine of the Eucharist become literal flesh and blood for all to see. The dead bodies of saints do not decompose over decades or centuries. These are things unbelievers can ignore, to a degree, but they can’t explain with any kind of satisfying answer. When a simple communion wafer turns into a wet disc of bloody raw flesh, which later turns out to be from a human heart wall, there is no rational explanation for that. And skeptics have to say that it was a delusion, an intentional lie from a believer looking for attention, or it was somehow the work of a master illusionist.
- Level Four: Things that are sincerely strange and odd, but have a possible rational explanation. Some people have narrowly escaped death by pure chance in war... a dozen times over. Some people get terminal cancer or some incurable illness, which then disappears overnight without any medical explanation. Sure, maybe you were just really lucky, but I’ll bet that person looks at God in a new light...
- Level Five: Things that are lifechanging personal experiences: such as near-death experiences or powerful personal visions. I also count outrageous acts of kindness or selflessness. If someone literally gives you a kidney, freely and joyfully in your hour of need, would you at least try to give God another chance?
- Finally, we have level six: powerful ordinary moments in daily life. Just the right words said to you at just the right time by just the right person. I admit, that’s pretty weak as far as miracles go. But it counts. When life has got you on the ropes, and an unexpected friend gives you the spiritual boost that you desperately need, you’re probably going to remember that moment for the rest of your life as one of the good parts of life. And you will be grateful to that person all the rest of your days.

(continued on next page)

Miracles are God's wake-up calls to us – events that invite us closer to Him. Those can be big and grand and perhaps scientifically impossible. But they can also be subtle, quiet, personal, and folded nicely into ordinary daily life. In such a way, miracles really do happen every day, all around you. Keep your eyes open, and always strive to allow the Holy Spirit to move you one more step along the path of salvation.

Thank you for reading and see you on Christmas!

-Father Justin



Thanks to all the families that attended Breakfast with Jesus this year. We really enjoyed gathering together to celebrate the story of Jesus's birth. Thanks to all the volunteers that helped with the breakfast.

Also thanks to Father Justin for reading the Christmas story and our children, who did a wonderful job with the Christmas play!

Merry Christmas and may God's peace be with all of you.

Sincerely,  
Audrey Szews and Cathy Rakers





Our school children had a very busy week gearing up for Christmas, including the all-school Christmas Concert and the annual SJS Craft Day!



This week's Advent prayer service at St. Joseph Catholic School was filled with remembering the stories of joy of the Advent. The Angel appearing to Mary and asking her to be the mother of our savior Jesus, Joseph's dream, Zachariah being told by God that he would become a father and John the Baptist telling people about the Savior that was coming. Although Advent is a time of quiet and waiting, we remember that we are one week away from Jesus's joyous birth!





**Dear Parishioners,**

I write to you with heartfelt gratitude and joy for your incredible support of St. Joseph's Annual Christmas Cookie House. Your generosity and participation never cease to amaze me! This year, we raised **\$8,300 in sales**, part of which will cover expenses, with the remainder funding several upcoming activities that our students and staff truly enjoy.

I also want to take this opportunity to thank everyone who helped make this event such a success:

- **Preorders:** Thank you to everyone who ordered trays and sourdough—we sold **98 cookie trays** and **15 loaves of sourdough**, totaling over **291 pounds of cookies!**
- **Family Contributions:** Our SJS families shared their time and talents by contributing more than **365 dozen varieties of Christmas treats**. The display was absolutely breathtaking!
- **Volunteers:** A huge thank-you to all who helped make, bake, and roll the **451 dozen cookies** prepared by the committee for the sale. We truly could not do this without you.
- **Staff Support:** Thank you to the school and parish staff for your patience and encouragement throughout this process.

A special shout-out to the amazing ladies of the Cookie Court—**Alex Hersey, Stephanie Monson, Sydney Monson, and Annie Olivares**. You are truly remarkable!

Wishing you all a **Merry Christmas** and the happiest New Year!

Warm regards,  
**Rachel Blackwood**





On a cold and clear December night...

Thank you to all who were able to be present for Our Lady of Guadalupe Candlelight Rosary Service on Friday, December 12th.

Our sincere thanks and appreciation to Tina Reyes ("Grandma Tina") and Rachel Blackwood for providing the beautiful artwork and colorful roses.

The artwork has an interesting background. It was hand carved/painted by a prisoner in Mexico who dedicated the rest of his life to Christ and the Blessed Mother. Any money received for the pictures he made went back to the Church as penance for his sins.

What a wonderful inspiration for this Advent and Christmas Season!

## WE ARE MEN OF THANKS

Our parish men's group, "*Men of Saint Joseph-Tosa*," thanks all the men ages 20s-80s who attended our September-to-December Saturday morning breakfast meetings!

Our Winter semester starts Saturday, January 17th, 6:15-8:00am, Parish Hall, always with hot breakfast and a great video program. ALL MEN of the parish are welcome. Just show up! Our goal: 30 men!

St. Joseph Christian Women  
Invite you to attend "Ladies Night Out"



Join us for an evening of Good Friends, Good Food and Fun Opportunities!

**DATE: Wednesday, January 7th, 2026**

**PLACE: Alioto's Restaurant – 3401 Mayfair Road**

**TIME: 5:30 - Wine & Cheese Social**

**6:30 - Dinner**

**MENU (Please select ONE)**

Chicken Parmesan  
with Pasta

Slow Roasted 12oz NY Strip Steak  
with a Baked Potato

Salmon  
with Angel Hair Pasta

*All dinners include a salad, Italian bread, coffee, tea or milk and a holiday dessert.*

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**Cost: \$40.00 per person Advanced Reservations Only**

**Deadline: Friday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2026**

**Checks Payable to: St. Joseph Christian Women**

Send to: Linda Slawinski (262-781-2515) 3180 San Juan Trail Brookfield, WI 53005

**Cash Donations or Gift Cards may be dropped off at the Parish Office.**

**Thank you for your generosity!!**

**Keep above portion as your reminder**

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Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

**Please Circle ONE Entrée Choice: Chicken Steak Salmon**

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ seats at \$40.00 per person (Tables of 8 people)

I would like to sit with: \_\_\_\_\_

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## SAVE THE DATE!

Sunday, January 11, 2026

The Knights of Columbus will host a very delicious pancake breakfast after the 8:00am and 10:30am Masses in the Parish Hall.



## Dave & Buster's Power Cards to Support St Joseph 8th Grade DC Trip



Great Christmas gifts for kids! They can burn some energy indoors over the winter months!

Deadline to order January 15th

<https://grouprai.se/davebusters67636s>

GroupRaise +

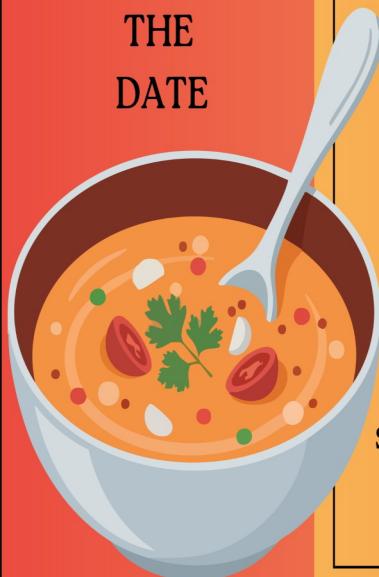
## SAVE THE DATE



SATURDAY, JANUARY 17<sup>TH</sup>

Join us for Trivia Night to help support our 8<sup>th</sup> graders' trip to Washington, D.C.!

SAVE  
THE  
DATE



SOUP  
&  
CHILI  
COOK-OFF

SATURDAY, JANUARY 24<sup>TH</sup>  
5PM  
PARISH HALL

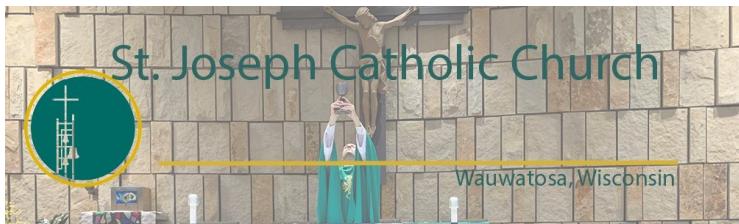


The Rummage Sale is expanding its "aluminum can collection" to include BRASS and COPPER. We are also collecting burned out Christmas lights. Please leave outside the garage doors.

## THE GREAT JEWELRY COLLECTION...

Thousands of pieces of jewelry are sold each year. Collect jewelry from family and friends and leave it in the Welcome Center or the Parish Office.





Welcome to St. Joseph Congregation.  
We are blessed to have you worship  
with us today!

We pray that our celebration of the Mass spiritually  
feeds you and that you feel welcome among us.

Have questions about St. Joseph  
Congregation or the Catholic Church?  
We're happy to answer! Just contact  
Father Justin, Dennis Sylva, our Adult  
Minister, or the parish office (414) 771-4626.

Learn more about us at [stjoetosa.com](http://stjoetosa.com)



At St. Joseph Catholic School we offer a  
faith filled academic experience for  
children 3K—8th grade.

If you would like to schedule a  
tour and see what our school offers  
please contact our principal,  
Bryanna VanVreede, at  
414-771-5577 or  
[vanvreedeb@stjosephschooltosa.com](mailto:vanvreedeb@stjosephschooltosa.com)

Learn more about our day school  
at [stjosephschooltosa.com](http://stjosephschooltosa.com)

Items are collected for the Rummage Sale year-round, please see below for  
where items can be left:

- ♦ Please leave children's clothing, toys, adults & children's books in the Welcome Center.
- ♦ Bikes can be left between the west parking lot garages with a note attached: "Rummage".
- ♦ To donate furniture contact Fran, [dntolly@aol.com](mailto:dntolly@aol.com) Subject: Rummage
- ♦ Help us recycle & make money for St. Joe's—Currently collecting crushed aluminum cans and Christmas Lights. Leave outside the 2 single car garages in west parking lot.
- ♦ Join the great jewelry collection! Thousands of pieces of jewelry are needed! Ask every one you know if they can donate! Please leave the jewelry in the Welcome Center or Parish Office.

Collecting items now  
for the 2026 sale!



*Thank you for your continued support of our annual Rummage Sale!!*

*2026 Dates: June 18th, 19th & 20th*



Should you wish to  
advertise your business here,  
please contact the  
Parish Office  
at 414-771-4626 or  
[parishadmin@stjoetosa.com](mailto:parishadmin@stjoetosa.com)

**Suzuki Violin Instruction**  
Registered Suzuki Instructors  
  
Colleen Fitzgerald  
Celestine Fitzgerald  
Parish members  
Email: [barcel.suzuki@gmail.com](mailto:barcel.suzuki@gmail.com)



Dr. David J. Foti

**FOTI Chiropractic**

11717 W. North Avenue

Wauwatosa WI

414-259-9008

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



Dr. Felicia Toy

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