

St. Joseph Congregation

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



December 14, 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

November 16, 2025

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		Choose Our Response
Monday, December 15th 8:15am † Don Tollefson		<p>Good news, Christian stewards — we are gaining ground on our Advent mountain climb and it is time to take a moment to rejoice in the Good News that our Savior will come again in triumph one day. Today’s readings on this Gaudete (“Rejoice”) Sunday are filled with reminders of God’s final victory over suffering and injustice, and encouragement to remain steadfast in our mission to live as faith-filled disciples.</p> <p>Such a day almost seems too good to be true, especially when we look around at the dire circumstances we face in our world at present. But by faith, we know this day is coming. Lest we grow weary as we await the glorious day of Christ’s return, St. James, in our second reading, offers wise counsel. “Be patient, brothers and sisters, until the coming of the Lord.” “Make your hearts firm... Do not complain, brothers and sisters, about one another, that you may not be judged.”</p> <p>This is excellent advice for us Christian stewards as we face the challenges of everyday life in our broken world, especially in the hectic days that precede Christmas when stress can make us and those around us less than our best selves. St. James reminds us that we can choose our response to both the great strains and the minor annoyances of life. In other words, we can be good stewards of our attitude, “making our hearts firm” by practicing patience with others and refusing to give in to the temptation to complain.</p> <p>We can choose to see and rejoice in God’s presence with us, no matter the circumstances surrounding us.</p> <p>-copyright: Catholic Stewardship Consultants, www.CatholicSteward.com</p>
Tuesday, December 16th 7:30am The Patriotic Rosary 8:00am Perpetual Help 8:15am † Dennis Werra		
Wednesday, December 17th 7:35am Rosary 8:15am † Santo Ingrassia		
Thursday, December 18th No Mass		
Friday, December 19th 7:35am Rosary 8:15am Michelle Jermier		
Saturday, December 20th 3:00pm Reconciliation 4:00pm † George R. Schimmel † Larry Maloney † Josef Bitzl		
Sunday, December 21st 7:00am Reconciliation 8:00am Our Parish Family 10:30am † Alvin Bucheger James Allbright		
Readings of the Week	Monday: Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a; Ps 25:4-5b, 6, 7bc, 8-9; Mt 21:23-27	<div><p>Your Human Concerns Committee would like to remind you that next weekend, December 20th & 21st, we will have our food collection benefiting St. Rose.</p><p>Donations can be left in the Welcome Center. Items must be non-perishable. Please donate generously!</p></div>
	Tuesday: Zep 3:1-2, 9-13; Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-19, 23; Mt 21:28-32	
	Wednesday: Gn 49:2, 8-10; Ps 72:1-4b, 7-8, 17; Mt 1:1-17	
	Thursday: Jer 23:5-8; Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19; Mt 1:18-25	
	Friday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6b, 16-17; Lk 1:5-25	
	Saturday: Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-6; Lk 1:26-38	
	Sunday: Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-6; Rom 1:1-7; Mt 1:18-24	
Attention Liturgical Ministers <p>The winter schedule is now available. You should have received an email to login into MSP and view your scheduled times, as well as the complete schedule for all ministries. This schedule runs from December 13/14, 2025 through March 14/15, 2026. Please watch your emails and the bulletin in mid-February for information on the spring schedule. Thank you so much for all of your time and dedication to your ministries!</p>		



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.



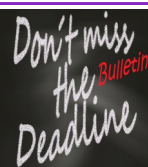
Severe Weather Procedure

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.



Early Bulletin Deadline

All bulletin articles for the December 28th bulletin **will be due by Noon on December 15th.** Thank you!

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 Foxgrover, 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.

Tree of Life—Thank you!

Thank you for your generosity for the Tree of Life Collection. The Welcome Center was overflowing with your donations of clothes, toys, blankets, household items, as well as monetary donations and gift cards.

You've really helped make a difference for the less fortunate in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, so with hearts filled with gratitude, we say

THANK YOU!





From the Desk of Father Justin

Ah, the third Sunday of Advent – time to break out the pink socks and focus on the joy of the upcoming celebration of Christmas. Always a good time of the year, to be sure!

I don't have too much to announce on behalf of the parish right now, as we're all-in for Advent programming – our school's Christmas Concert was on the 10th, Breakfast with Jesus was on December 13th, and we have confessions galore at our parish as well as our neighboring parishes. For the record, our Advent Reconciliation Night will be on Wednesday the 17th, starting at 6:00 PM.

With that out of the way, and nothing else particularly demanding of my article space for the moment, I'd like to give a short list of joyful things that have happened in the past three weeks or so.

- We had a lovely holiday party among the staff last weekend, with plenty of conversation and cholesterol. If anyone tells you that they were at the party and that Father Justin doesn't know the difference between the wise men and Saint Joseph, just ignore them and don't ask follow-up questions.
- We have snow drifts near the upper playground (from last weekend's winter storm), and now they're hard packed snow fit for climbing. The students and I have delighted in climbing the tiny hills of packed snow, pretending we're penguins. To play penguins, you dash up the snow, make penguin sounds for a few seconds, and then slide down the hill. Repeat as many times as possible before it's time to go back inside. Fun for all ages**!
- After winning a day of pheasant hunting at last year's school auction, we finally made it happen on December 4th: the coldest day of the week, by far. Yet, it was a truly enjoyable day: we bundled up well, and the fresh air and walking did us well. I'm grateful that my first hunting experience was a good one. If you've never been hunting before, this would be a worthwhile thing to bid on this spring... I'm just sayin'!
- There have been many wonderful spiritual conversations throughout these past weeks of Advent. There are so many, they'll get bullet points of their own.
 - We've shared holy memories of Advents-Gone-By at this month's table talk. A simple morning, but a good one!
 - I am very grateful for all the people who stayed after Mass on November 30th and December 1st for my pastor's talk. Some of Sunday's questions were real zingers, but it was a 45-minute block of time well-spent either for both days.
 - I continue to be deeply proud of how many people come to confession during the weekends: I had an understandably light weekend two weeks ago due to the weather, but the math tends to balance out after a bit more time.
 - 7th grade's "ask Father Justin your weird religion questions" was the highlight of that particular Friday.
 - Go-Getters are always good for some nice conversation at Alioto's for their Advent get together. Of course, I never need an excuse to go to Alioto's!
 - Finally, while we have a remarkably small Confirmation class, I can always count on some very fine conversation between 4:00 and 5:30 those Sunday afternoons. It makes for a long weekend, to be sure, but it's worth it to spend a substantial amount of time with at least a few of our young adults.

The above list certainly goes on, but this is a good stopping here. For all the above examples, it is a real joy to discuss and share worthwhile conversation with people: this is what faith sharing is supposed to feel like! It's not meant to be a debate or an argument: it's meant to be a joyful sharing of that which matters most. And I've come to understand that Saint Joseph people are excellent conversationalists.

May the Lord bless you all, and thank you for reading. Between the final Sundays of the year and Christmas, I hope to see you at Mass!

Peace, Father Justin

HOPE
LOVE
JOY
PEACE



Advent 2025 The Path of Light

Our worship reflects a sense of anticipation, quiet, and hope. One way of listening for God's voice during Advent is to practice intentional times of silence.

During our Sunday liturgies this Advent, we'll lean into silence. Upon entering the church space, you're invited to maintain holy silence, using the time before the liturgy for quiet prayer and reflection.

Upcoming Events during the Advent Season:

- * **First Fruits—Helpin' Elves Wrapping Presents**
Monday, December 15th—6:15pm-8:00pm in Lower Level of Parish Center
- * **Family Advent Reconciliation**
Wednesday, December 17th—6:00pm-7:30pm in Church
- * **The Hanging of the Green**
Sunday, December 21st—3:30pm in Church

Christmas Masses

December 24 - 4pm and 10pm

December 25 - 8am and 10am

Do you still need to complete your Safeguard Training? An IN PERSON training session will be happening at St. Joe's. Please scan the QR code or use the link below for more information and to register!

Safe Environment Education

IN PERSON at St. Joe's!

Date: December 18, 2025

Time: 5:00pm-8:00pm

[Event Detail](#)

Please contact Brianne Burke-Leonard for more information—414-771-5577 or leonardb@stjosephschooltosa.com



ARCHDIOCESE
of MILWAUKEE



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 + DAVE & BUSTER'S

SAVE THE DATE



SANTO INGRILLI MEMORIAL

TRIVIA NIGHT

SATURDAY, JANUARY 17TH

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

Upcoming Activities at St. Joseph's:

Monday, December 15

9:30am-11:00am: First Fruits in St. Joseph Room
 2:30pm-3:30pm: School Advent Prayer Service in Church
 5:30pm-8:30pm: Basketball Practice in Gym
 6:15pm-8:00pm: First Fruits Holiday Wrapping in Youth Den
 6:30pm-8:00pm: First Fruits in St. Joseph Room

Tuesday, December 16

9:00am-10:30am: St. Joseph Bible Study in St. Joseph Rm
 4:00pm-7:00pm: Basketball Practice in Gym
 7:00pm-8:00pm: Pilgrims on the Road to Emmaus in St. John Rm
 7:00pm-8:00pm: St. Joseph Bible Study Online

Wednesday, December 17

8:00am-11:00am: St. Faustina in St. Matthew Rm
 3:15pm-4:00pm: Girl Scouts Troop 37999 in Library
 3:15pm-4:15pm: Spanish Club in Spanish Rm
 4:00pm-8:30pm: Basketball Practice in Gym
 6:00pm-7:30pm: Family Advent Reconciliation in Church

Thursday, December 18

8:30am-9:45am: Sandwich Ministry in Kitchen
 3:10pm-4:30pm: Girl Scouts Troop 37642 in Library
 3:30pm-7:00pm: Basketball Practice in Gym
 7:30pm-9:00pm: One on One Milwaukee Basketball in Gym

Friday, December 19

4:00pm-5:30pm: Basketball Practice in Gym

Saturday, December 20

6:25am-8:00am: Men's Group in Hall & Kitchen
 8:00am-Noon: BARCEL Violin in Music Room
 8:15am-1:15pm: Basketball Games in Gym
 10:15am-11:15am: 5th Grade Boys vs. St. Gabriel vs. Christ King
 1:30pm-3:00pm: Handbell Rehearsal in Church

Sunday, December 21

12:00pm-1:30pm: One on One Milwaukee Basketball in Gym
 3:30pm-5:30pm: Art & Environment: Hanging of the Green in Church
 6:00pm-9:00pm: Spike Milwaukee Volleyball in Gym

Around the Archdiocese of Milwaukee:

YOUNG ADULT RETREAT

WINTER WEEKEND

Take time to enjoy being away from your daily routine. Our Winter Weekend Retreat is an opportunity to experience renewal within a vibrant young adult Catholic community. Whether you are already passionate about living your faith or are just looking to get to know the community, Christ, or the Church, you have a place here.

FEB. 13, 6PM – FEB. 15, NOON

Schoenstatt Retreat Center, Waukesha



Cost per person will differ based upon lodging options. For more information and to register, go to brewcitycatholic.com

SPONSORED BY



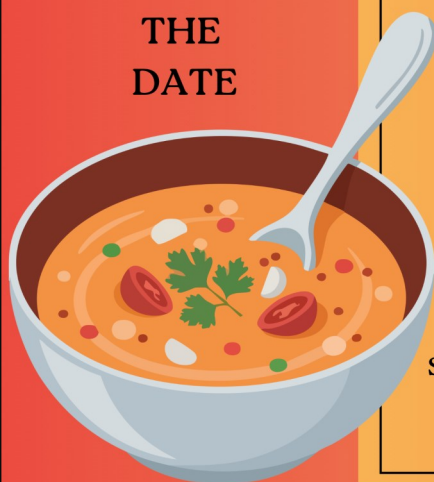
The Rummage Sale is expanding its "aluminum can collection" to include BRASS and COPPER. We are also collecting burned out Christmas lights. Please leave outside the garage doors.

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.



SAVE
THE
DATE



SOUP & CHILI COOK-OFF

SATURDAY, JANUARY 24TH
5PM
PARISH HALL



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



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

Learn more about our day school at 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 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

Restaurant And Lounge Open For Lunch And Dinner
 Stop by our Lounge for Sandwich Or
 Enjoy a Steak In Our Dining Room!
Alioto's
 3041 North Mayfair Rd
 414-476-6900
Banquet Facilities Available

 Dr. David J. Foti	FOTI Chiropractic 11717 W. North Avenue Wauwatosa WI 414-259-9008 www.fotichiropractic.com	 Dr. Felicia Toy
--	---	--

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

Suzuki Violin Instruction
 Registered Suzuki Instructors

 Colleen Fitzgerald
 Celestine Fitzgerald
 Parish members
 Email: barcel.suzuki@gmail.com

BUNZEL'S
Old Fashioned Meat Market
 Fresh Custom Cut Choice Meats
 Party Trays • Catering
 Thank You For Shopping A Family Tradition
 9015 W. Burleigh St. • 873-7960
www.bunzels.com