

Historic St. Joseph's Church

A Roman Catholic Community founded in 1862
600 State Street, Schenectady, New York 12305
Parish Office (518) 374-4466 email: saintjoes225@yahoo.com
St. Joseph's Cemetery

Celebration of the Eucharist

Saturday Vigil: 5:30 p.m. + Sunday: 9:30 a.m. + Weekdays: 12:15 p.m.

Sacrament of Baptism

The Sacrament of Baptism is celebrated on the first weekend of the month during Mass. A Baptism preparation class is a requirement prior to Baptism. Please call the Parish Office for further information.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Reconciliation is celebrated each day following the 12:15 pm Mass or by appointment.

Sacrament of Matrimony

NOTICE: Engaged couples who desire to celebrate the Sacrament of Marriage at St. Joseph's, should contact the Parish Office at least nine months prior to setting a date. No other plans or deposits should be made until a Church date has been secured.

Visitation and Anointing of the Sick

Please notify the Parish Office when serious illness occurs or when the sick, aged or homebound requests the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick or a visit from our Visitation Ministers.

Faith Formation Program

Faith Formation classes are available for grades Pre-K through 11th grade, including sacramental preparation for First Reconciliation, First Eucharist and Confirmation. Classes meet on Sunday mornings at 8:30 a.m. Please call the Parish Office at (518) 374-4466 to register or for more information.

Pastoral Staff

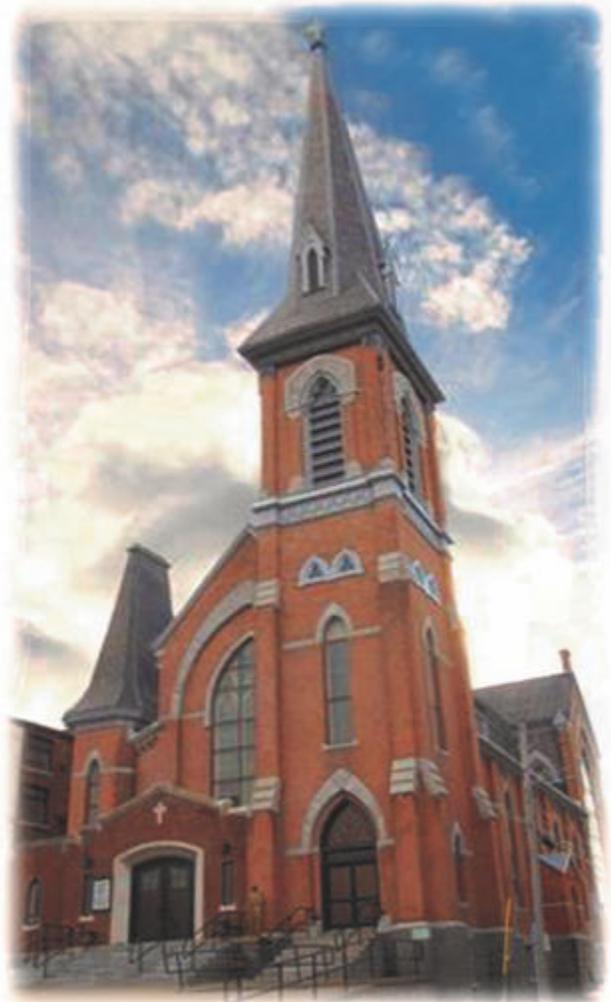
Rev. Dominic P. Isopo, Pastor
Sacristan/Bulletin Editor: Donald W. Penta, dpenta30@aol.com
Administrative Assistant: Ann Marie Coons
Music Director: Mark C. Reilly
Faith Formation: Julie Biittig & Annemarie LeClair, Coordinators
Office: 225 Lafayette Street, Schenectady, New York 12305

Cemetery Superintendent: Matthew Mountain, please call (518) 372-8805; or email: stjosephschenectady@gmail.com., 100 Kings Road, Schenectady, New York 12304

Sunday's 9:30 a.m. Mass Taping, aired on Channel 1301, Tuesdays, at 2:00 p.m. and the following Sunday at 2:00 p.m.

New Parishioners

All are welcome to join our Parish. Registration Forms may be found at the Church entrances.



**First Sunday of Advent
November 28, 2021**

St. Joseph's Place: 837 Albany Street, Schenectady, New York, 12307 at (518) 982-0355. **Coordinators:** Sr. Ann Christi Brink, CSJ and Sr. Linda Neil, CSJ. St. Joseph's Place is an outreach ministry of St. Joseph's Church, a drop in center serving the Hamilton Hill area. **Hours:** Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon.

First Sunday of Advent
November 28, 2021



“WHAT I SAY TO YOU, I SAY TO ALL: WATCH!”

Advent is a time to prepare for the coming of the Lord, whom we portray as a precious infant in a simple manger at the end of this season. But there are two more arrivals of our Lord to contemplate during this season of preparation and they tend to be overlooked. One day Jesus Christ will come again in glory as the world ends and He delivers His final judgment. He gives a glimpse of this to His disciples in today’s Gospel. But let us also consider His third appearance – to each of us personally into our hearts and into our lives as we embrace Him as His disciples. As we celebrate today, let us consider how we can welcome Him ever more intimately into our hearts.

DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday – Is 2:1-5; Mt 8:5-11; Tuesday – Rom 10:9-18; Mt 4:18-22; Wednesday – Is 25:6-10a; Mt 15:29-37; Thursday – Is 26:1-5; Mt 7:21,24-27; Friday – Is 29:17-24; Mt 9:27-31; Saturday – Is 30:19-21,23-26; Mt 9:35—10:1,5a,6-8.

ADVENT CALENDAR

Enclosed with this bulletin is an **Advent Calendar – 2021** to help us prepare the way for the celebration of the Birth of Jesus. We encourage everyone to please keep this calendar handy, depicting thoughts and scripture readings for each day of the Advent Season!

FIRST FRIDAY DEVOTIONS

Come and worship in His presence for **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Devotions to the Sacred Heart of Jesus** this coming Friday, December 3rd following the 12:15 p.m. Mass.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE B.V.M.

The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary is scheduled for **Wednesday, December 8th**. It is a **holy day of obligation** and the Mass will be celebrated at 12:15 p.m. At St. Luke’s Church it will be at 6:00 p.m.

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Can I name a person or group of people whom I now realize I have overlooked? How can I seek out Jesus in my neighbors?

ADVENT COMMUNAL PENCE

Our Schenectady Parishes will celebrate an Advent Communal Penance Service on **Thursday, December 16th at 6:00 p.m.** at **St. Luke’s Church**. We urge you to attend this Advent opportunity to be reconciled and prepared for the coming of Christ at Christmas!

SACRIFICIAL GIVING

Weekend of:	Actual	Budget
November 20/21	\$3,335.00	\$2,600.00

Thank You for Your Generous Support!

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Celebrate With Us -
November 29 to December 5, 2021

Monday

12:15 PM Birthday Blessings for Christine Underhill, req. by Fran Underhill
 Earl & LaVerne Blasch, req. by Sheila

Tuesday

12:15 PM For the People

Wednesday

12:15 PM Barbara Hofmann, req. by Coons Family
 Lorraine Hamelman, req. by Fran Underhill

Thursday

12:15 PM John & Mary Kinney & Their Families

Friday

12:15 PM Donald Foley & Timothy Dixon, by Mary Jane Foley

Saturday

5:30 PM Christine Parisi, req. by Martin & Carol Cirincione

Sunday

9:30 AM Simeon & Dorothy Richmire, req. by LeClair Family
 Walter & Mildred Menz, by Gary & Anna Mary Quirk

SANCTUARY LAMP

In Memory of Christine Hudacko & Family
 req. by Fran Underhill

ADVENT GIVING TREE

The **Advent Giving Tree** is decorated with various gift suggestions. **We would greatly appreciate it if you would return the gifts by Sunday, December 12th by the 9:30 a.m. Mass.** This will enable us to have the families and individuals receive their gifts in time for Christmas. If you did not have a chance to take a tag from the Giving Tree, there is still an opportunity for you to participate. Please do not wrap the gifts and attach the gift tag indicating the contents of the package and place under the Giving Tree. Your generosity will brighten the lives of those in our community who might, otherwise, have been forgotten and your help is greatly appreciated!

PRE-HOLIDAY BAKE SALE

The **15th Annual Pre-holiday Bake Sale** is scheduled to be held the weekend of **Sat. /Sun., December 18th/19th**. We will need volunteers to bake and/or be on hand on Saturday from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m., OR Sunday from 8:45 to 10:30 a.m. Sign-up Posters/sheets are now at both entrances of the Church for you to indicate your intentions. If you cannot bake or be present to help us out, **you are certainly welcome to make a cash donation.** Baked goods can be brought to the Church beginning at 4:30 p.m. Saturday, December 18th and please don’t forget – we will need everyone’s help! Thank You!

ADVENT WREATH

Today we begin a new Liturgical Year with the Advent Season, to mark the weeks that lead to Christmas. As you can see, our Advent Wreath is now in the Sanctuary, and each week candles will be lit to mark our progression through this holy season. Again, we would like families or individuals to assist by lighting the candles at the beginning of Mass. It’s not hard – in fact, it’s real easy! If you are interested in lighting the Advent Wreath, please see Donald Penta. So please plan to help by volunteering today, thus being a part of our Advent celebration! Thank you!

SEASON OF ADVENT

Advent, if we pay attention, can be complex and has been like that for much of human history. It is easy to see Advent as a wreath with purple and pink candles, familiar hymns of anticipation and, of course, shopping and preparations for Christmas. But Advent is a whole 'season' of life, more than just these four weeks. In the 1st reading for this First Sunday of Advent, we find hopeful and exuberant words from the prophet Jeremiah. Jeremiah was speaking about advent, the coming of peace and stability for the Jewish people. They had been struggling in exile after the destruction of Jerusalem generations before. The people had become despondent of ever returning and again having a temple. God calls Jeremiah to proclaim a message of hope. There was a very long season of advent. Yes, with mercy and hope proclaimed, they could endure until the eventual restoration of Jerusalem and the coming of the Messiah. In Luke's Gospel, we find Jesus instructing the disciples to prepare themselves and those who come after for a further long season of advent. That time will come before the return of Christ. As the human family heads towards the end of the ages, there will be catastrophic turmoil. Jesus says, "People will die of fright in anticipation of what is coming upon the world. For the powers of heaven will be shaken." Are we not living in that very season this Advent? What signs do we see in the heavens, on the earth and in the seas? What signs do we see in nations? Or what signs do we see in relations among people in the neighborhoods where we live as well as around the globe? Jesus offers us hope. "When these signs begin to happen, stand erect and raise your heads because your redemption is at hand." Finally, we consider the season of Advent in our own lives. St. Paul says it so well, "May the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we have loved you. May that love strengthen your hearts, to be blameless in holiness before God our Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ." Challenges, conflicts, decisions, uncertainties, these things and many others will be part of our Advent season. Giving every person selfless love may seem out of the realm of possibilities at times. But with the hope offered by Jeremiah and with the redemption brought about by Jesus Christ, we can live in the strength of God in our own season of Advent, however long that may be. Jesus' words to us are, "Be vigilant at all times and pray that you have the strength to escape the tribulations that are imminent and to stand before the Son of Man." Happy Advent and God Bless... Fr. Isopo.

MONTHLY FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION

Our **Monthly Food Collection**, sponsored by St. Joseph's Parish, to benefit Schenectady Inner City Ministry (SICM), will be **NEXT Saturday/Sunday, December 4th/5th**. **PLEASE NO EXPIRED DATES!** Monetary offerings are also accepted. Please see Donald Penta to give contributions, and **checks should be made out to: "SICM"**.

CHRISTMAS MEMORIAL FLOWER PROGRAM

Once again this year, we would like to offer Parishioners, friends and benefactors the opportunity to donate a Christmas Poinsettia in memory of their loved ones, living or deceased. Envelopes are available this weekend at all three bulletin stations for the **Annual Christmas Memorial Flower Program**. Here is an opportunity to help beautify our Sanctuary at this most Holy Season of the Year – and have your loved ones remembered at all our Masses during the Christmas season as well. Please place the Christmas Memorial envelopes in the collection basket. For those of you who use our regular offertory envelope system, there is an envelope for your use, which is dated **December 5th**. Thank you for your continued support!

WE WELCOME YOU WITH GREAT JOY!

We sincerely hope you feel at home and among friends. If you are a visitor just for today, we bid you Godspeed on your journey. If you **are seeking a Parish Community**, we will be delighted to **Welcome You** into our Parish Family! To register, there are Census Forms at both entrances of the Church in the top slot of the wooden stands. You can mail said form to the Parish Offices, place it in the offertory collection basket or hand it in by seeing Donald Penta. Thank You!

2021 – 2022 DIOCESAN APPEAL

The 2021-2022 Diocesan Appeal will begin with a mailing sent to Parishioners from the Diocese. You should expect to receive this correspondence no later than mid October. It will include a pledge card and envelope. Monthly or one-time gifts by credit card can be made via **secure website at donate.thediocesanappeal.org**. You can also make a pledge at that site as well as pledge payments. Questions – call the Office of Stewardship at (518) 453-6680 or email stewardship@rcda.org. Our Goal this Year is **\$23,945**. **As the Diocese serves as a critical partner with us serving you, we thank you in advance for your prayerful consideration of a pledge to the Diocesan Appeal.**

A GIFT FROM YOUR PARISH

This weekend a book, "The Word Among Us", is available for you to pick up at the bulletin stations. It is a pre-Christmas gift to you from your Parish to assist you as you journey through 43 days of the Advent/Christmas season.

HOLIDAY CRAFT SHOW & BAKE SALE

The Rosary Society of St. John the Evangelist is sponsoring a Holiday Bazaar on **Saturday, December 11th from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the Parish Center Gymnasium** on Eastern Avenue. The Bazaar includes regional vendors, raffles, a bake sale and refreshments. All are welcome!

A PRAYER FOR ADVENT

God grant you lightness in your step, a smile on every face you meet, Loved ones gathered at your hearth, and at your door, good friends to greet a holy hymn upon your lips, a window candle burning bright, and may the Good Lord bless your heart and come to dwell there Christmas night.

ST. JOSEPH'S CEMETERY

100 Kings Road, Schenectady, New York 12304
Matthew D. Mountain, Superintendent
By Appointment: (518) 372-8805
Email: stjosephschenectady@gmail.com

Daily Bread Food Pantry
for food assistance, call (518) 347-1385
sponsored by St. Luke's Roman Catholic Church

**As a lasting tribute to St. Joseph's
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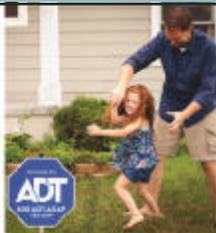
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