

217 North Sixth Street, Conway Springs 620-456-2276

December 16, 2018 3rd Sunday of Advent

MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday: 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.
Saturday: 5:30 p.m.
Weekdays: 8:05 a.m. (Tues. thru Fri.)
Holy Day vigil 7:00 p.m.,
Holy Day 7:00 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.

MARRIAGES

In order for weddings to take place here at St. Joseph, either the bride or groom must be registered in the parish for a minimum of six months before preparations for marriage will begin. In addition, the bride or groom registered in the parish is expected to be actively participating in the life of the Church by living the Stewardship Way of Life. Please contact Father for additional information.

REGISTRATIONS

New parishioners, please contact the Parish Office for a Registration form. Forms may be returned via the collection basket, mail or delivered to the Parish office.

ADORATION of the BLESSED SACRAMENT
Exposition takes place after Wednesday Mass. Adoration ends before Thursday Mass. Two persons are needed in prayer before Our Lord at all times.

CONFESSIONS

Saturday afternoon from 4:00-5:00 p.m.
Wednesday & Friday 7:45—8:00a.m.
(or by appointment)

BAPTISMS

By appointment and usually after the 10:30 a.m. Mass. Parents who plan to have their child baptized are required to be registered and practicing their Catholic faith. The Baptism Information Form must be returned to the Parish Office prior to the scheduled baptism. Please call the Parish Office at (620) 456-2276 with any questions.

PARISH PRAYER LINE

If you would like to sign up for this ministry or if you have a prayer request, call Eileen Harrington at (620) 456-3225 or 456-3283 or Bes Becker at (620) 456-2849

ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Enrollment in our parish school is without tuition for registered families who live their Catholic Faith by following the Commandments publicly, and by observing the Precepts of the Church, including the practice of stewardship through sacrificial giving of time, talent and treasure.

Phone Numbers & Email Addresses

Rectory/Office (620) 456-2276
Church Fax (620) 456-3317
School (620) 456-2270
Hall (620) 456-2271
School Fax (620) 456-2272
Parish website www.stjoeecs.org

Church email sjcs@juno.com
Pastor frsmeltzer@stjoeecs.org
Principal email arnold@stjoeecs.org
Altar Society Peggy Winter (620-584-6605)
K of C Phillip Lange (316-644-5683)
P T O Danny Pauly (620-456-3514)

Prayer Before Mass

Come, Holy Spirit, quiet my heart and my head, as I gather with my family, friends and neighbors to celebrate Mass. Quiet the thoughts and distractions that will keep me from worship. Open my mouth in prayer and song. Open my ears to hear God's Word. Open my eyes to the mystery of the Eucharist. Open my heart to receive Jesus with Love. May I go forth strengthened to take the Mass into my life this week. Amen.

Sunday of the Third Week of Advent begins with the **Prophet Zephaniah's** announcement of liberation and God's presence among the people after decades of their own infidelity. In **Luke's Gospel** John the Baptist is the focus of the expectation in the people who come to him asking what to do. He exhorts them to integrity and charity and announces the one who is to come: "He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire."

On Monday we reach the last eight days of Advent and the focus of the weekday readings returns to the gospels with stories from Jesus' family in the time before he was born. In **Matthew's** genealogy, we see the ancestors of Jesus. Joseph decides to divorce the pregnant Mary until an angel appears to him in a dream, saying, "It is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her." The rest of the week we have nearly all of the first chapter of **Luke's gospel**. Elizabeth and Zechariah, struggling with their inability to have a child, are told they will have a child named John who will be filled with the Holy Spirit. When Zechariah doubts, he is struck speechless. Thursday's gospel is the beloved story from Luke's gospel of the Annunciation with Mary's humble response, "May it be done to me according to your word." Mary sets out to visit her cousin, Elizabeth. "When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb" and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. Mary's response to Elizabeth: "My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my savior for he has looked upon his lowly servant...From this day all generations will call me blessed."

Weekly Guide for Daily Prayer" on the Creighton University's *Online Ministries* web site:<http://www.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/online.html>
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Mass Intentions

Saturday, Dec 15	Lord's Day Vigil	5:30 pm	Special Intention
Sunday, Dec 16	3rd Sunday of Advent	8:00 am	People of the Parish
		10:30 am	+ Velma Koester by Scott & Deb Masterson
Monday, Dec 17		8:05 am	No Mass
Tuesday, Dec 18		8:05 am	+ Eileen Andra
Wednesday, Dec 19		8:05 am	+ Karen Strate by Lotus Leddy
Thursday, Dec 20		8:05 am	+ Rocky Weber by Gary & Jan Wolke
Friday, Dec 21	St. Peter Canisius	8:05 am	+ Ed Roth by Virginia Roth
Saturday, Dec 22	Lord's Day Vigil	5:30 pm	Special Intention
Sunday, Dec 23	4th Sunday of Advent	8:00 am	People of the Parish
		10:30 am	+ Nick Strunk by Ralph & Linda Ohl

UPCOMING EVENTS

MON	Dec 17	K of C Meeting at 7:30
MON	Jan 7	Altar Society Meeting at 7:30 pm
MON	Jan 21	K of C Meeting at 7:30 pm
SUN	Jan 27	Confirmation at 10:30 Mass

Altar Society:

Circle 6—Next funeral
 Circle 6 —Rosary before Mass for December
 Circle 1—Rest Home Birthdays for December

Altar Society will once again offer poinsettias in memory of a loved one for the altar. They will be \$8. Place money and family members name in the collection basket or mail to the office by December 16 to have your name on the list for the bulletin.

Confession will be on Wednesday, Dec. 19 from 6—9 pm. There is no scheduled Penance Service.

Mass Times for Christmas Masses are:
 Mon, Dec. 24 at 4:00 pm and 8:00 pm
 Tues, Dec 25 at 12 midnight and 9:00 am

Mass Times for Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God, Jan 1 are:
 Mon, Dec. 31 at 5:30 pm
 Tues, Jan, 1 at 8:00 am and 10:30 am

There is a sign up sheet in the entrance of church to volunteer for the liturgy assignments for these Masses. Thank you

No PSR classes December 19—January 2. Classes resume January 6 for elementary and January 9 for MS and HS.

St. Joseph Time and talent forms are available in the vestibule, or downloading from the church website stjoeecs.org. Please take time to fill out and return. Thank you.

One of the greatest blessings in the Diocese of Wichita is that a young man is free to enter seminary without worrying about the cost of his private education. Please consider a gift this year for Christmas Call to Sharing to support our 37 seminarians and 19 retired priests.

St. Joseph Parish is collecting aluminum cans. Bags of cans can be put in the blue garage by the office (the side door is open) or in the container in the dumpster area. Thank you for your support.

Please consider making an IRA Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) to the Parish. The distribution from your individual retirement account will save you taxes since it is not reportable as taxable income. For those over 70 1/2 it can count towards your required minimum distribution (RMD). This is a way to save taxes whether you itemize or not. Contact your IRA plan administrator to learn their procedure for making a QCD gift to the parish.

Our Gifts To God

	last week	7/1/18 to date
Received	\$22,409.39	\$323,507.68
Budgeted	\$14,300.00	\$343,200.00
Over/(Under)	\$8,109.39	(\$19,692.32)

Liturgy assignments for December 22 & 23

Time	Servers	Reader	Music Ministers	EM of Holy Communion	Offetory
Sat 5:30 pm	Sylvester Hemberger Nathan Berntsen Johnathan Berntsen	Richard New	Amy Zoglmann	H-M Ebenkamp C-T Ternes C-N Koester	Matt & Sue Neises
Sun 8:00 am	Owen Friess Cohen Newell Isaac Winter	Marcia Stuhlsatz	Paul Lange	H-J Doffing C-J Pauly jr. C-D Seiwert	Dan & Lila Stuhlsatz
10:30 a.m.	Bella Lange Kirsten Whitney Isabella Linn	Beth Crick	Karen Struble	H-D Fitts C-J Klausmeyer C-T Klausmeyer	Matt & Jane Berntsen

CYM NEWS

All high school students in the parish are invited to join us for CYM on Wednesday nights 7-9pm.

Upcoming calendar

Dec 19th - No open gym or PSR

If you are a young adult and wondering how to serve your parish, CYM needs you! The youth of today are most impacted by young adult leaders. Consider helping for 30 minutes/month or once a year. No theology required, just a willingness to share your love of Christ with our young parishioners. Fill out your Time, Talent & Treasure form and check that box!

Marian Mantle Group: For the return of our children to the practice of the Catholic Faith will meet Wednesdays at 5:00 pm. Praying the Rosary, Parents' Litany and the Way of the Cross.

Mission Mart—There is a green tub in the entrance of church to drop off non-perishable items for our local mission mart. If you are in need of assistance, at any time, for food or to help pay utility bills, you can contact the United Methodist Church 620-456-2300. Their office is open on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, from 1:30 pm to 4:30 pm. Any other time you may leave a message and they will get back with you..

Fully Alive as Missionary Disciples

In today's gospel, John the Baptist speaks to the heart of the stewardship message. He does not tell the tax collectors to stop collecting taxes, but he tells them to stop taking more than the required amount. He does not tell the soldiers to desert their positions, but he tells them not to use their positions to oppress others. He tells them to share their excess with others. He preaches a message of social justice. As stewards of God's gifts, we should be mindful of living the same way. We should share of ourselves in whatever manner is helpful to the greater good. Advent is a perfect time to take action. Can you donate your extra coats? Do you have food you can share with the food pantry? Perhaps you have money you can give to those in need? Might you take the time to visit the homebound? Take this opportunity to reflect on your stewardship and be intentional about living a life of justice and integrity.

UPCOMING EVENTS

St. Joseph Catholic School students would like to spread the holiday cheer this Advent season! +Weather permitting, grades 1-4 will be performing songs from our Christmas Program on DEC. 18 at Spring View Manor at 9:45.

+Weather permitting all students will be going Christmas caroling throughout Conway Springs the morning of DEC. 19 from 9-10. We will be taking 3 different routes. If you live on these routes and would like the students to knock on your door, please call the school and let us know! Grades 5-6 will carol at Spring View Manor and houses south of Main St. on 8th St. Our next group will go west on St. Louis St. to Sug's Home Care and then south on Highland and east on Spring St. Our final group will go south on 7th St to houses along the way before they begin caroling at businesses along Main St. If you do not live along these routes but would still like to hear the children, they will be going through businesses on Main Street around 9:30, including Conway Bank, Vintage Bank, the post office, the pharmacy, and many more. We invite you to stop by one of these businesses to listen!

