

A painting of a bull in a field of wheat under a cloudy sky. The bull is dark brown and stands in the lower right, facing left. The field is filled with golden wheat stalks. The sky is filled with soft, white and grey clouds. The overall tone is warm and pastoral.

**454 Germantown Road**

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973- 697- 6100

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www.stjoseph-nj.org/

**March 17, 2024**

# ***St. Joseph Church***

***"The Oldest Catholic Parish in New Jersey!"***

**"Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains  
just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit."**

JN 12:20-33

**Served By:****Fr. Jakub Grzybowski** Parish Administrator**Deacon Steve McKenzie** Permanent Deacon**Sister Janet Brisky, P.B.V.M.****Sister Geraldine Corio, P.B.V.M****Parish Office Hours:**

Monday &amp; Wednesday 9AM - 3PM

Tuesday &amp; Thursday 10AM - 3PM

**MASS SCHEDULE:****Saturday** 9:00am and 5:00pm  
**Sunday** 8:00am, 10:00am, 12:00pm**Weekday Mass:**

Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 6:00pm

Tuesday, Thursday: 9:00am

**Holy Day Masses** 9:00am and 6:00pm**Eve of Holy Day** 6:00pm**Confession:**

Saturday 4:00pm - 4:30pm

Monday (After 6pm Mass/Holy Hour) 6:30pm - 7:15 pm

**For questions about the Cemetery** or to make an appointment to view available plots, please call Jenifer between 10:00 AM-2:00 PM on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday: (973) 697-6100, ext. 5. You may also email Jenifer at [jenifer@saintjoseph-nj.org](mailto:jenifer@saintjoseph-nj.org).

**Funeral Masses and Interments:** Arrangements for funeral Masses and interments are coordinated through the cemetery administrator upon notification by the family of the deceased or a funeral director. To arrange a funeral or interment, please call Jenifer at the number listed above. Your call will be returned promptly.

**Sacrament of Baptism:** Information about the Sacrament of Baptism may be found on the parish website: [www.stjoseph-nj.org](http://www.stjoseph-nj.org). If you wish your child to receive the Sacrament of Baptism, please contact the Parish Office.

**Marriages:** Please contact the Parish Office one year in advance of your wedding to arrange for Pre-Cana Marriage Preparation Sessions.

**Visitation of the Sick and Elderly:** Please keep us informed so that we can be attentive to those who are ill at home or in the hospital.

**Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA):** We wish to invite anyone interested in becoming a Catholic or a Catholic who would like information on receiving the Sacraments of Eucharist and or Confirmation to please call the Parish Office.

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**MASS INTENTIONS**  
**MARCH 17, 2024 - FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT****MONDAY, Mar 18 - Saint Cyril of Jerusalem,  
Bishop, Doctor of the Church**

6:00 PM

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**FRIDAY, Mar 22**6:00 PM 1. +Ruth Kennedy - 30 Days after Funeral  
2. Fabian Osuji**TUESDAY, Mar 19 - Saint Joseph, Spouse of the  
Blessed Virgin Mary**7:00 PM 1. +William Perry Jr and Bernice Perry  
from Donna & Ron Kajor

2. +Kevin Kajor

3. +Edward T. Kitchell from Michele Buske

**SATURDAY, Mar 23 - Saint Turibius of Mogrovejo,  
Bishop**

9:00 AM

~

5:00 PM

~

**WEDNESDAY, Mar 20**

6:00 PM

~

**THURSDAY, Mar 21**9:00 AM +Richard Abbiati from Joe & Ellen  
Patscher**SUNDAY, Mar 24 - Palm Sunday of the Lord's  
Passion**8:00 AM God's Blessing for Roseann Sepe-Topnick  
& Family

10:00 AM

~

12:00 PM God's Blessing for Monty Dellapi &amp; Family

### This Week:

Fifth Sunday of Lent

**1st Reading:** Jer 31:31-34

**2nd Reading:** Heb 5:7-9

**Gospel:** Jn 12:20-33



In today's Gospel, Jesus speaks of his imminent sacrifice, comparing it to a grain of wheat that must fall to the ground and die in order to bear much fruit. This metaphor encapsulates the essence of our faith – the paradoxical truth that through death comes new life.

As we journey through Lent, we're called to reflect on this mystery of faith. Just as Jesus embraced his cross, we are invited to embrace the crosses in our lives – the trials, the sufferings, the sacrifices. It's through these experiences of dying to self that we find true life and bear fruit in abundance.



In our world filled with distractions and comforts, it's easy to avoid the challenges of discipleship. Yet, Jesus reminds us that the path to glory passes through the cross. Lent offers us a sacred opportunity to unite our sufferings with Christ's, trusting that through our own small deaths, we will experience the fullness of resurrection.

### Next Week:

Palm Sunday

**1st Reading:** Is 50:4-7

**2nd Reading:** Phil 2:6-11

**Gospel:** Mk 14:1–15:47

**Scripture Focus:** Jesus is sentenced to death and crucified. The centurion who witnessed his death declared, "This man was the Son of God."

**Life Focus:** As we meditate on the cross, we ask again and anew what it means to make the statement of faith that Jesus, in his obedient suffering and dying, revealed himself to us as God's Son.

## The Little Catholic's Corner



When we plant a seed in the ground, we can't see anything happening for a while. It's like the seed is hidden away. But then, when the time is right, a little shoot pops up through the soil and starts to grow. That's when we see the miracle!

Jesus is a bit like that seed. He knew he had to go away for a little while, but then he would come back even stronger. And because of what Jesus did, we have hope and new life, just like the plants growing from seeds.

So, during Lent, we can remember that even when things seem tough or sad, there's always hope. Jesus showed us that even from the hardest times, new life can blossom. Just like the seeds growing into plants, we can trust that something beautiful will come from every challenge we face.



### A Time to Serve in The Military...

Daniel Luccarelli, Joseph Connors, Alex Richnavsky, Matthew Lattanzi, Christopher Hettema, Jeffrey Cox, Joshua Paicer, Ckyson Santos, Johnathan Greenwald, Joseph Canova, Carlos Hernandez III, Jude Pope, Noah Anderson  
*If you have a family member in the military and would like them to be prayed for please call the parish office with the name of the person.*

### A Time to Heal...

Bill Hoffman, Scott Frew, Natalie Hummel, Donald Conlon, Mary Henaghen, Andrea Di Domenico, Mary Paicer, Peg Lupo, Blanca Medina, Bobby Toomes, Antoniette Moralishvili, Dave Youngren, Bob Caldo, Barbara Richnavsky, Brenden Vielle, Paul Arthur Newman, Shannon Alejo, Joanne Klosz, Patricia Burd, Sandy Golcejak, Blanca Lynn, Edward McLaughlin, Kelly Misner, Carolyn Hanak, Gladys Tacinelli, Diane Wirth, Roseanne VanderJagt, Regina (McAloney) Kelly

### A Time to Return to God....

Those buried in our cemetery

## SAINT JOSEPH CARES FOOD PANTRY

**LAST CALL:**  
**EASTER FOOD DISTRIBUTION**  
**WILL BE ON MARCH 23RD!**

We can still use these Family Dinner items:

- Hams
- Turkey Breasts
- Party Size Lasagnas

**Please drop off these items on or before Saturday, March 23rd.**  
**Thank YOU!**

**THANK YOU COSMO'S FRESH MARKET**

For partnering with us on our February 17th Food Drive, we are very grateful for your continuing support and generosity!  
—St Joseph Cares Food Pantry

**DONATIONS FOR ANY OF THE FOLLOWING ITEMS ARE ALWAYS GREATLY APPRECIATED:**

• **ITEM OF THE WEEK:**  
**Canned Tuna & Chicken**

- Kid Lunch Items:
  - Spaghetti Os
  - Ravioli
  - Mac & Cheese
  - Snacks
- Chunky Soups
- Ketchup & Mayo
- Pasta & Pasta Sauce
- Bottled Juice
- Instant Potatoes & Side Dishes

**ST JOSEPH CARES FOOD PANTRY CAN BE REACHED DIRECTLY BY PHONE!**

Call us at the Parish Office number:

**973-697-6100 extension #6**

If we are unavailable to take your call, please leave a Voicemail and we will return your call as soon as possible!

**DONATIONS CAN BE BROUGHT TO**

- The **Parish Office** during **Regular** Business Hours:  
**OPEN:** Mon & Wed, 9AM to 3PM  
Tues & Thurs, 10AM to 3PM  
**CLOSED:** Friday
- The **Food Drop Off Box** Outside the Food Pantry (24/7 located outside the Food Pantry)
- The **Food Pantry** between 10AM and 12 NOON on Scheduled Saturdays.

## THE DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

The Disciples of Christ group meets every Saturday at 10:00 AM at the Parish Center.  
Come join us and lead all people to the love of Jesus Christ!



## LECTIONARY BIBLE STUDY

Our Parish Lectionary Bible Study meets every Tuesday at 7pm.  
Join us every week to deepen your relationship with Christ through prayerful reflection on His word!



## LUX MUNDI

The Lux Mundi Young Adult Group meets every Sunday after the 12pm Noon Mass. Meetings are both faith and activity based. All individuals 20-35 years old are welcome to join!



**Scan the code to visit our Facebook page and stay up-to-date on everything happening at St. Joseph Church!**

You can also find us by searching  
[www.facebook.com/StJosephWestMilford](https://www.facebook.com/StJosephWestMilford).



**Make sure to click the "like" button and follow us so you don't miss out!**



# LENTEN PRAYER OPPORTUNITIES

*During the season of Lent, we are called to deepen our spiritual journey through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. We warmly invite you to join us for our Lenten prayer opportunities as we strive to grow closer to God together as a community.*

## STATIONS OF THE CROSS:

Every Friday of Lent at 5:30 p.m

## LENTEN LAMENTATIONS:

Sundays at 1 p.m., right after 12 Noon Mass



## THE BLESSING OF THE COMMUNION RAILS AND NEW AMBO

Join us on **Tuesday, March 19th** (Solemnity of St. Joseph) for the blessing of the communion rails and new ambo. **Mass will be celebrated at 7 PM, by Bishop Arthur J. Serratelli.**



**WE WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND A HEARTFELT THANK YOU TO BISHOP SERRATELLI AND FATHER MASTROENI, FOR THEIR INSPIRING PRESENCE AND LEADERSHIP DURING OUR SOLEMNITY OF ST. JOSEPH CELEBRATION AND LENTEN RETREAT.**

**YOUR GUIDANCE AND WISDOM HAVE ENRICHED OUR SPIRITUAL JOURNEY IMMENSELY. MAY GOD BLESS YOU BOTH ABUNDANTLY!**

MARCH 19TH

# SOLEMNITY OF ST. JOSEPH

On this Feast Day of St. Joseph, we honor the quiet strength and profound faith of this humble carpenter who was chosen by God to play a pivotal role in the salvation of humanity. St. Joseph's life may not be marked by dramatic miracles or grand gestures, but his steadfast obedience, unwavering trust in God, and deep love for his family speak volumes about his character and holiness.

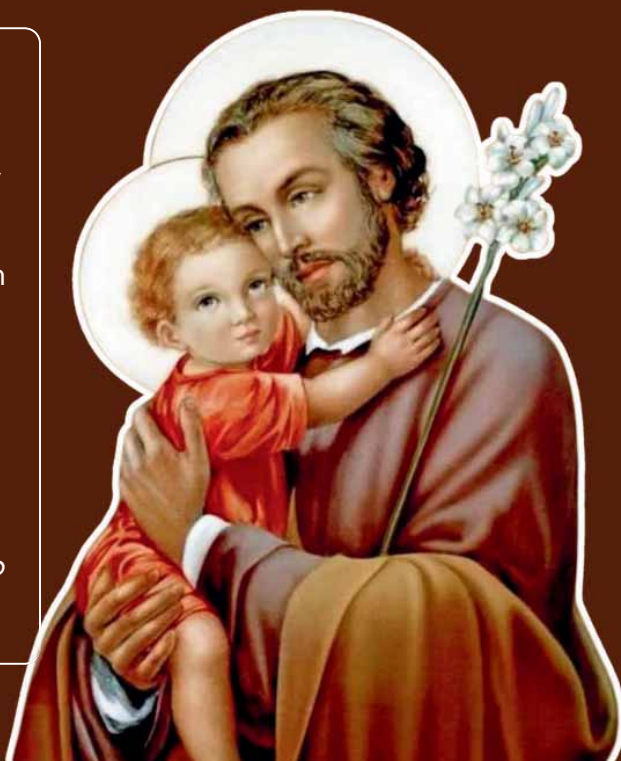
As we contemplate the life of St. Joseph, we are reminded of the importance of humility and obedience in our own journey of faith. Like St. Joseph, we are called to listen attentively to God's voice, even in the midst of uncertainty and doubt, and to respond with a resounding "yes" to His will.

St. Joseph's role as the earthly guardian of Jesus teaches us the value of fatherhood and the sacred duty of caring for and protecting our families. He exemplifies the virtues of selflessness, patience, and sacrificial love, demonstrating that true greatness lies in serving others with a generous and compassionate heart.

In St. Joseph, we find a model of quiet strength and perseverance, a beacon of hope for all who face challenges and difficulties in life. His life is a testament to the power of faith and trust in God's providence, even when the path ahead seems uncertain.

On this Feast Day of St. Joseph, let us turn to him in prayer, seeking his intercession for our families, our communities, and our world. May his example inspire us to embrace our own vocation with courage and humility, trusting in God's plan for our lives and relying on His grace to guide us each step of the way.

*St. Joseph, humble and obedient servant of God, pray for us, that we may follow your example of faith and love, and always seek to do the will of the Father. Amen.*





# Knights of Columbus®

The Knights of Columbus will be holding a food drive for the St. Joseph's Cares Food Pantry **on March 23 from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm** at **Cosmo's Fresh Market**.

Please support the Knights and the St. Joseph's Food Pantry by shopping and making a donation. Thank you!



## A MEMORY OF YOUR LOVED ONES

In the quiet sanctuary of our hearts, the memories of our departed loved ones continue to bloom like flowers.

You can now order an arrangement of flowers and a flickering candle with your loved one's name on it, honoring their cherished memory with a thoughtful tribute.

Each week a new flower arrangement and tribute candle will be placed near the altar, creating a space where the memories of our departed loved ones are honored and cherished by our entire Parish community.

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO PLACE YOUR ORDERS,  
PLEASE CONTACT JENIFER AT (973) 697-6100, EXT. 5 OR  
[JENIFER@SAINTJOSEPH-NJ.ORG](mailto:JENIFER@SAINTJOSEPH-NJ.ORG)



## A TRADITIONAL POLISH EASTER BASKET AND ITS CONTENTS

Święconka (shvyen-son-kah) is the traditional blessing of the food to be eaten on Easter Sunday. While the tradition varies from region to region and village to village, it is a tradition dear to the heart of every Pole. Today, this blessing takes place in church on Holy Saturday. All the items are placed in a wicker basket that is sometimes lined with an ornamental cloth or traditional folk fabric. The filled basket is then covered with a linen cloth which should be white, but can have a colorful crocheted or embroidered design. The basket is decorated with sprigs of boxwood (bucszpan), the typical Polish Easter evergreen. "Polish Palms" which are created from dried flowers, can also be used for decoration.

Listed at the right are Polish Easter Foods that are most commonly placed in the Easter Basket for the traditional blessing, along with the symbolism of each item.

### **Bacon – Boczek / Słonina**

(boh-chek / swo-nee-nah)

Symbol of the overabundance of God's mercy on us.

### **Bread – Chleb**

(h'lehb)

Home baked bread, the staff of life.

### **Easter Bread – Babka**

(bab-kah)

A special round loaf, made of rich dough and raisins, and decorated with a cross, reminds us of Jesus, the Risen Lord.

### **Butter – Masło**

(mas-wo)

The butter should be shaped into the figure of a lamb or cross. Dairy products are included to celebrate the end of Lent and the richness of Salvation which flows from the Death and Resurrection of Jesus.

### **Candle – Swieca**

(sh-veh-tsa)

The only non-edible item in the basket, the candle symbolizes Jesus, the Life and Light of the World. The candle can be lit during the blessing.

### **Cheese – Ser**

(sair)

A symbol to remind Christians of moderation.

### **Ham – Szyńka**

(shin-kah)

This popular main dish is symbolic of great joy and abundance.



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### **Colored Eggs – Pisanki**

**(pee-san-key)**

Both colored and uncolored eggs, indicate hope, new life and Resurrection. Because of their special meaning, it is fitting that the eggs to be blessed are decorated with symbols of Easter.

### **Horseradish – Chrzan**

**(h'shan)**

This represents the bitter herbs prescribed in the original Passover meal as a reminder of the bitterness and harshness of the life of slavery in Egypt. It also reminds us of the bitterness of the Passion of Jesus, by which he entered glory. Horseradish is often prepared with red beets in the dish "cwikła."

### **Salt – Sól**

**(sool)**

Symbolizes wisdom and preservation from corruption, it is included to remind us that Jesus did not undergo corruption in the grave.

### **Sausage – Kielbasa**

**(kel-bah-sah)**

This is an old Slavic tradition. Its links remind us of the chains of death that were broken when Jesus rose from the dead as well as God's favor and generosity.



# 19TH ANNUAL “DRIVE & DROP” CLOTHING COLLECTION

Parish Center Parking Lot — April 13th, 2024

## **Collecting the following used items:**

- Wearable clothing of all types and sizes
- Shoes (please place in separate bag)
- Linens: curtains, tablecloths, sheets, quilts, blankets, comforters, towel and decorative pillows
- Stuffed animals



***We are seeking volunteers to assist on the day of the drive.  
Please contact the Parish Office if you are interested.***

## **CAN YOU HELP?**

PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE ANYTHING IN SR.  
JANET'S GARAGE UNLESS IT IS LISTED HERE:

Mini Cycle Pedals  
Electric Grill  
Twin Bedding & Pillow  
Night Stand  
Lamp  
Curtains

Window Air Conditioners needed for  
Strengthen our Sisters 5,000 - 6,000 BTU's.

**PLEASE CALL Sister Janet at 973-697-2846 to  
arrange drop off.**



## **PLEASE BE AWARE:**

For **Sacramental Emergencies/Last Rites**, please call  
**973-697-6100, ext. 8.**

We are experiencing problems with  
the emergency phone number.



Let's pray for you!  
Submit your prayer  
request here

***St. Joseph our Patron pray for:***

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# HOLY WEEK 2024 AT ST. JOSEPH'S

## **PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD - March 24, 2024**

5:00 PM Vigil Mass of Palm Sunday w/Blessing of Palms on Saturday, March 23

8:00 AM, 10:00 AM, and 12:00 Noon: Mass of Palm Sunday w/Blessing of Palms

## **HOLY THURSDAY - March 28, 2024:**

6:00 PM - Mass of the Lord's Supper

*\*Adoration at the Altar of Repose ending at midnight.\**

## **GOOD FRIDAY - March 29, 2024:**

3:00 PM – Liturgy of the Passion with Solemn Transfer of the Blessed Sacrament in Procession to the Lord's Tomb

6:00 PM - Stations of the Cross

## **HOLY SATURDAY - March 30, 2024:**

9:00 AM - Morning Prayer

12:00 Noon - Blessing of the Easter Food

8:00 PM - Easter Vigil Liturgy

## **EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD - March 31, 2024:**

8:00 AM, 10:00 AM, and 12:00 Noon: Mass of Easter Day



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