



May 10, 2026

SAINT JOSEPH

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PARISH INFORMATION

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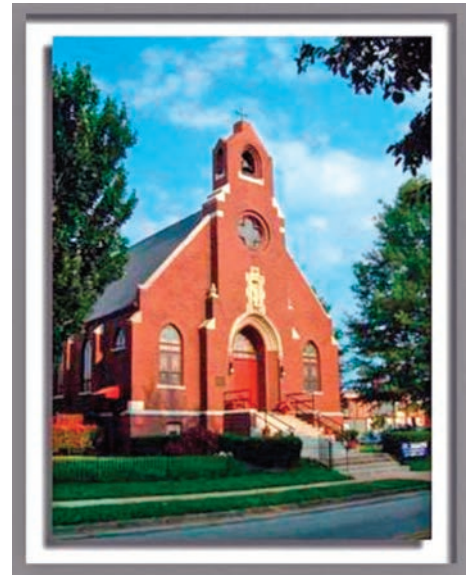
Parish Email
Office@stjosephva.org

Josephite Website
www.josephite.com

Rectory Office Hours
Tuesday - Friday
9:30 to 12:00 noon &
12:30 to 3:30 pm

Office is closed on Monday

Bulletin Deadline
All bulletin requests
are due by Monday
2:00 pm – Email to
Office@stjosephva.org



Electronic Giving: Contact Parishsoft giving donor support at 866 930-4774 option 6 or donorsupport@parishsoft.com

Sunday Masses

8:30 am & 11:00 am
Livestream for 11:00 am Mass only
Gospel choir 1st & 3rd Sunday at 11 am Mass

Weekdays (In Chapel)

Monday: 7:00 pm - Holy Hour & Novena to St. Joseph
Tuesday: 7:00 pm - Mass
Wednesday, Thursday & Friday:
8:30 am - Mass

Confessions: Sundays, 8:00 am & 10:30 am and upon request

Baptisms: See inside of the bulletin for the schedule of the Baptism classes. Baptism will be scheduled by the Deacon.

Marriage: Please contact the Rectory at least six months prior to your desired wedding date. Do not set dates until you have a meeting with Deacon or Father.

OCIA: Becoming a Catholic: Are you interested in becoming a Catholic? Do you know someone who is or who has mentioned it to you? Have them contact Michael McCormick at ocia@stjosephva.org.

New Parishioners: We would like to extend a warm welcome to new members of our congregation. Call the Rectory, or email Office@stjosephva.org. Register online, www.stjosephva.org.

Our Mission at St. Joseph's Catholic Church, a historically African American Catholic church... is to praise the Lord and embrace the future while engaging and transforming the community.

Our Values are:

Catholic Spirituality Stewardship Fellowship Compassion
Inclusion Heritage Serving the Community Family

All are welcome!

“Our sole wish is to do the will of God.” — Mother Mary Lange

Mass Intentions – Week of May 10, 2026

Sunday: 8:30 a.m. Mother's Novena of Masses #1
 Sunday: 11:00 a.m. Mother's Novena of Masses #2
 Monday: 7:00 p.m. Holy Hour and Novena to Saint Joseph
 Tuesday: 7:00 p.m. Mother's Novena of Masses #3
 Wednesday: 8:30 a.m. Mother's Novena of Masses #4
 Thursday: 8:30 a.m. Mother's Novena of Masses #5
 -- **Anniversary of the 1916 dedication of our Church**
 Friday: 8:30 a.m. Mother's Novena of Masses #6
 Sunday: 8:30 a.m. Mother's Novena of Masses #7
 Sunday: 11:00 a.m. Mother's Novena of Masses #8

Mark Your Calendars

Today – Blessings to all mothers! Happy Mother's Day
May 13 – 6:00 p.m. Chorale Choir Rehearsal in Hall
 --- 7:00 p.m. Faith Formation/Bible Studies
May 14 – 7:00 p.m. Gospel Choir rehearsal in the Hall
May 16 – 12Noon – Legion of Mary Meeting – Rectory Chapel
 --- Josephite Seminarians Peter Claver & Innocent graduate CUA
May 17 – Fr. Pontien's Book Signing at St. Joseph's (see col. 4)
May 20 – 6:00 p.m. Chorale Choir Rehearsal in Hall
 --- 7:00 p.m. Faith Formation/Bible Studies (last class till Sept.)
May 23 – 8:30 a.m. – Saint Joseph Garden Ministry
May 26 – 7:30 p.m. Mass and Healing Prayer service (see below)
May 27 – 6:00 p.m. Chorale Choir Rehearsal in Hall
May 28 – 7:00 p.m. Gospel Choir rehearsal in the Hall
June 13 – 3:45 - 9 p.m. 2026 Diocesan Festival in Berryville VA
June 14 – 11 a.m. Mass - Graduate's Sunday at St. Joseph's
June 30 – Deadline for Catholic Schools scholarship applications.
Sept. 16 – 7:00 p.m. Parish Pastoral Council Meeting
Sept. 23 – 7 p.m. Faith Formation/Bible Studies resumes
Oct. 4 to 16 – Parish Pilgrimage to Portugal, Spain and France.
October 18 – 50th Anniversary of the St. Joseph Gospel Choir

Upcoming Special & Second Collections

May 17 – Catholic Communications Campaign Collection
May 24 – Retired **Diocesan priests** collection
June 7 – Josephite Share In Mission monthly appeal and
 --- Enrollment of Fathers for Father's Novena of Masses
June 28 – Peter's Pence Collection for Pope Leo's charities

Our Parish History: By the efforts of Mr. Thomas Blair and his committee, our parish was created June 11, 1915 when Josephite Fr. John Kelly was appointed pastor by Bishop Denis O'Connell of Richmond. **The Dedication of our parish church took place on May 14, 1916 – 110 years ago.**

Repairs Around the Church – New church front doors are on order, and we are still gathering information for the renovation of the church bathrooms. We also have **a leak in the roof**. All this comes out of the funds from the recent "Special Needs Collection" for St. Joseph church.



PARISH SICK AND SHUT-INS: We list them here to not only keep them in our prayers, but also to remember them with occasional cards, phone calls and visits. They are Arlene Atkinson, Roseann Brent, Florence Calloway, Maria Calloway, Vernessa Carter, Juanita Carter, Maurice Crump, Doretha Delandro, Helen Desfosses, Michael Diffley, Deidre Dineene, Conner Doyle, Hazel Edelin, John Fay, Mary Goodson, Jesurena Smith-Griffin, Patricia Hilgard, Tomasa Lockman-Haynes, Residents at Cogir, Sharon Johnson, Dora and Calvin Jones, Linwood Smith, Brenda Stewart, Ellen Sukolsky, and Elvira Talton.

Baptism Preparation Class for Parents and Godparents

The next Baptism preparation class will be in the Parish Hall on June 3. Class dates after that are on the First Tuesday of the month in the Parish Hall at 6:00 p.m. Upcoming class dates are July 7, August 4, Sept. 8, etc.

NOTE: **You must email the rectory office@stjosephva.org to register for these classes and then you will receive a confirmation email allowing you to attend.** *** September date moved from the 1st to the 8th due to the holiday weekend.

Learn more about the Catholic Faith through OCIA - Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA): "You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it finds its rest in you." St Augustine. Are you interested in becoming Catholic? Do you know someone who has mentioned it to you?

Contact Mike McCormick, at OCIA@stjosephva.org for more information.

Faith Formation/Bible Study – Faith Formation/Bible study meets 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. every Wednesday via Zoom. Each session begins with a discussion of anything the attendees have questions about, or want to inform the group about, related to the Catholic church. We then watch a movie or engage in something on Formed.org, followed by a discussion. Everyone is invited to attend.

Email Desiree Brooks desinmk2@cox.net to be added to the group. May 20 is the last class for the season. Summer break ends in September.

Mass and Healing Prayer Service: On May 6 at 7:30 p.m. a Mass is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. at Queen of Apostles Catholic Church, 4401 Sano Street, Alexandria. Fr. John Melmer of St. John the Beloved Church of McLean will celebrate. Confessions will be available. This liturgy comes through the Arlington Healing Ministry. For more information, please contact Dick Schaad at 703-455-6131.

Saint Joseph Parish's 110th Anniversary Pilgrimage to Marian Shrines in Spain, Portugal and France. You are invited to join us on a 13-day Pilgrimage to the Marian Shrines, visiting holy places in Lisbon, Fatima, Santiago de Compostela, Avila, Zaragoza, Lourdes, Lisieux, and Paris as part of our 110th Anniversary Celebration, October 4 to 16, 2026. Pilgrimage directors will be Fr. Donald Fest, SSJ and Fr. Roderick Coates, SSJ. Space is limited to 40 people – 25 have already registered!

For further information and/or to receive a registration form and brochure, contact Sharon McCarter at 703-888-8996 (shmccarter@verizon.net), or Desiree Brooks at 571-212-8923 (desinmk2@cox.net).

May 16 - Six Josephite Seminarians will graduate from Catholic University of America. They are Bro. Innocent Okwuchukwu SSJ and Bro. Peter Claver Anonchirim SSJ, both serving here at St. Joseph's this year, as well as Bro. Emmanuel Onuoha SSJ and Bro. Shedrack Michael SSJ who have served here in recent years, along with, Bro. Lawrence Omatola SSJ and Bro. Solomon Kwaza SSJ. They will all be receiving a Master of Divinity (MDiv) degree. All of them reside at St. Joseph Seminary, 1200 Varnum St. NE, Washington, D.C. 20017.

Community Blood and Wellness Day: The Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority, Zeta Chi Omega chapter will celebrate their 70th Anniversary by having a community blood and wellness drive, Saturday, May 16, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Charles Drew elementary school, 3500 ~ 23rd St. South in Arlington VA.

For info contact: communityblooddrive@akazzco.org

Camp Saint Charles – a Catholic overnight summer camp for boys and girls in Newburg, MD. For more information, directions, go to www.campstcharles.org or email at director@campstcharles.org or call 301-934-8799.

The National Eucharistic Pilgrimage is coming to our diocese! Save the date for a Holy Hour at the Basilica of Saint Mary in Alexandria on Friday, June 5. On Sunday, June 7 on the Feast of Corpus Christi Bishop Burbidge will celebrate a Mass of Thanksgiving at Saint William of York in Stafford.

Deacons Justus Ihemawulotu and Alexander Lema will be ordained priests on May 30, 2026, 10:00am at Church of the Incarnation, 880 Eastern Ave. NE, Washington, D.C. 20019



Celebrating our Parish's 2026

graduates: Attention High School and College Graduates... June 14 we will honor our high school and college graduates. If you graduate from high school, college, certification programs, etc., and are a member of St. Joseph parish, please email the rectory, giving your name, school from which you are graduating, and give your future plans. If you are getting a degree, please mention what degree it is in the email. Let us know by June 1. We will celebrate our Graduates' Mass on June 14 at 11:00 a.m. Mass.



Catholic School Assistance Scholarships – St. Joseph Parish offers tuition assistance partial scholarships ***for our parishioners who are attending*** elementary, high school, college ***Catholic schools***. Applications are in the back of the church. ***Deadline to return completed forms IS June 30. No Exceptions.***

Next Sunday - We welcome Fr. Pontien Kenfack C.S.Sp. the parochial vicar at Our Lady Queen of Peace parish in Arlington who will be with us on Sunday, May 17 to celebrate Mass and do a Book Signing of his new book, ***"Love: The Path to Salvation."*** The book sells for \$10 and proceeds will help the Spiritans in their ministry to youth in this country and in Cameroon. *See attached flyer.*



Softball Team schedule

May 11, 6:30pm – Alfred Street Baptist
May 18, 6:30pm – First Baptist CA
Games are played at Joseph Hensley Park, 4200 Eisenhower Street, Alexandria, VA

The 2026 Diocesan Festival will be held on Saturday, June 13, 2026, from 3:45 p.m. until 9:30 p.m. at the Clark County Fairgrounds in Berryville. The theme of the Festival is ***"Celebrating Faith + Freedom."***

To register go to www.arlingtondiocese.org/festival.

Children's Choir Rehearsals... All children of the parish are invited to participate. Parents and guardians are encouraged to bring them to rehearsals from 11:30am-1pm on Saturday, May 16 and Saturday, May 30. They will sing on May 31.

GOLDEN JUBILEE GRATITUDE: I wish to thank everyone for taking good care of my family who joined us last Sunday for Mass and the awesome celebration in the Hall afterwards. It was spectacular – a total surprise and I am so grateful for your cards, gifts, and well wishes and for the many volunteers who helped make it happen. Thank You everyone!

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May 2026

Saint Joseph Church
Director of Religious Education



Thoughtful Moments

St. Rita of Cascia

St. Rita always wanted to be a nun but was unwillingly married to a cruel man with a terrible temper. After eighteen years of patience and love, she was widowed. Following the deaths of her sons to illness, she entered the convent. She inspired those around her by her patience, kindness, and devotion. Once, she was graced with a share in Christ's Passion – a mysterious wound to her forehead, as if from a crown of thorns.



The Holy Spirit aids us

"Because he is so near to us, yet so unobtrusive, we should turn to the Holy Spirit instinctively in all our needs and ask him for his guidance and help. The Spirit comes to help us in our weakness...What more can we expect of God than that?"
St. John Paul II

"I will pray the Father, and he will give you another Counselor, to be with you forever"
(John 14:16).



Family life when life doesn't go as planned

Mary and Joseph were probably surprised by much of what God asked of them. Yet they offer a model for those of us who are navigating uncertainty and change.

Adapt and adjust. When they arrived in Bethlehem and found no place to stay (Luke 2:7), they did not give in to frustration. They adjusted, trusted God, and moved forward. In family life, this means facing disruptions with calm and flexibility, trusting that God can still bring good from the unexpected.

Prioritize what matters most. The Holy Family lived in quiet obedience to God, faithfully observing the tenets of their faith (Luke 2:39). For us, this looks like building a Christ-centered

rhythm: regular Mass, prayer, and a sincere effort to live the Gospel.

These choices shape the spiritual life of our homes.

Accept the crosses that come. Simeon's words to Mary, "a sword will pierce your own soul" (Luke 2:35),

warned of future suffering. Her "yes" to God

included both joy and sacrifice. We cannot remove our children's struggles, but we can accompany them with faith and trust in God's plan.

Remain open to God's call. Children may feel drawn to paths we would not have chosen. Like Mary and Joseph, we are called to trust that God is at work in their lives and to support their vocation with openness and faith.

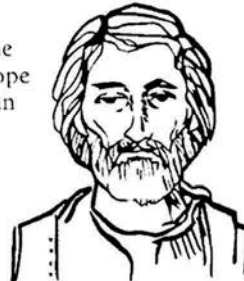


Why Do Catholics Do That ?

Why do Catholics honor St. Joseph in May?

The feast of Saint Joseph the Worker was established by Pope Pius XII in 1955 as a Christian response to secular labor movements observed on May 1.

The observance honors the dignity of work, exemplified by St. Joseph

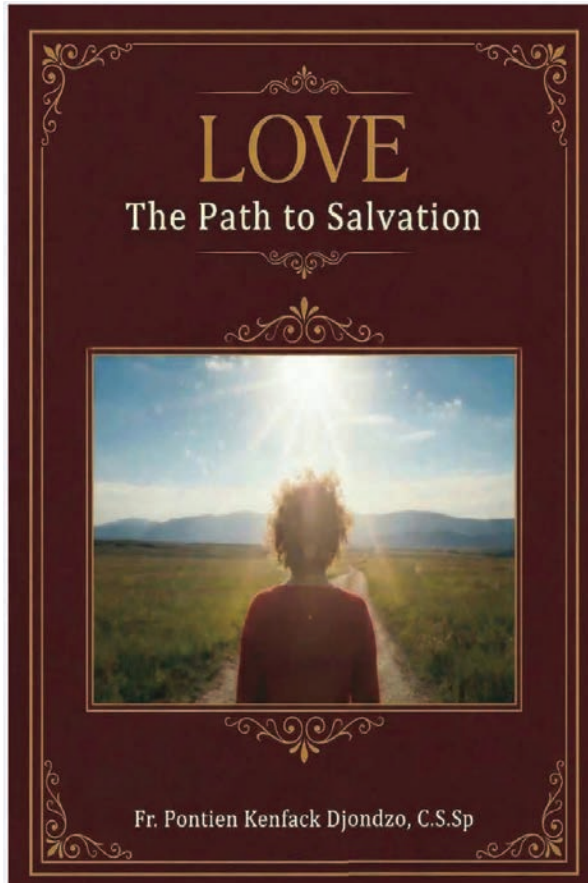


and his foster son, Jesus, who provided for the Holy Family through honest labor. All work, no matter how simple, shares in God's care for creation (Genesis 2:15).

The feast calls us to respect and value those whose daily work sustains society.

Father Pontien's Book Signing

"Love is a fundamental virtue necessary for a Christian to enter the Kingdom of God. Love gives life, transforms life, and leads to eternal life...can we not also be witnesses of this true love for our neighbor through the quality of our daily actions?" ~ Fr. Pontien Kenfack, C.S.Sp.



BIOGRAPHY

Father Pontien Kenfack Djondzo, C.S.Sp, is of Cameroonian origin, a member of the Congregation of the Holy Spirit under the Protection of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Love: the Path to Salvation is his third book.

After each Mass on Sunday, May 17, 2026

Saint Joseph Catholic Church

711 N Columbus St. Alexandria, VA 22314

**Father Pontien will be signing copies of his new book,
LOVE, The Path To Salvation in the Parish Hall.**

The book is \$10 with all proceeds supporting our Youth Ministry who are preparing for World Youth Day to South Korea next year and for the formation of Spiritan seminarians in Cameroon.

DONATIONS ARE APPRECIATED!

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