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**ST. JOSEPH DIRECTORS/COORDINATORS**

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FROM THE PASTOR



Already ... but not yet! As Christians we live in this period as Christ has already come, but as we celebrate liturgically it has not arrived yet. This is especially this time of year as we are in the season of Advent as we approach the season of Christmas. The world around us typically skips right over the season of preparation and waiting and dives into the season of Christmas. Unfortunately, this leads to a seasonal burnout in which by Christmas day or the day after many have already started taking down Christmas lights, trees, and all their decorations. As Catholics we celebrate until the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, or in older traditions all the way until Candlemass, February 2.

We see this in our Christmas celebrations. Many want to go to the Christmas Eve Vigil Mass in order to begin their celebration of Christmas, however Christmas doesn't begin until midnight Christmas day. This is why Midnight Mass was always a big event and people remember it as a core memory, even if they are over tired. The traditional time of the birth of Jesus is midnight. The first fruits of the new day. The point that night is darkest and the new day begins signifying the Light of Christ entering the world at the darkest of hours.

The Roman Missal (the big red book from which we find all the prayers of Mass) offers 4 Masses for Christmas the Vigil Mass and the three traditional Masses of Christmas Day – Mass during the Night, Mass at Dawn, and Mass during the Day. Each Mass has its own set of antiphons, prayers, and readings recognizing the different aspects of the Christmas story. The Vigil Mass is a joyful anticipation, Jesus is not born yet and so the prayers and readings tell us that by what they say, or don't say. We are still moving out of Advent and into Christmas.

The Mass at Night is more known as Midnight Mass where the birth of Jesus of proclaimed. The Mass at Dawn shows us the parallel of Jesus and the dawning sun. As the sun rises and illuminates the world, Jesus' birth brings illumination to our thoughts and actions. The Mass during the Day reminds us that our minds are now illuminated by the Light of Christ, and our focus shifts to the mystery of the Incarnation and to Divine Generation. The Mass schedule in the parish may not be as you are used to having it. Each of us priests likes to offer each of these Masses in order to celebrate the fullness of the Christmas season. Yes, the Christmas season begins on Christmas Day. As Catholics we ought to celebrate for the whole season and not just the day. We should spend Advent preparing our soul so that we can celebrate the season more fully and not become burnt out by the celebrations that occur leading up to Christmas.

I urge you to read the antiphons, prayers, and readings for each of the Christmas Masses so that you can get the whole story. Our liturgies are meant to give glory to God for what He has done for us. Let us celebrate whole heartedly this Christmas season. Yes Jesus has already been born in history but let us celebrate liturgically by celebrating the season of Advent first, then the whole season of Christmas!

**Pilgrimage to Rome** — Fr. Brian is organizing a pilgrimage to Rome, and spots are filling up **FAST!!!** The dates of this 11-day pilgrimage are October 26 – November 5, 2026. Not only will you visit Rome, but you will also venture to Orvieto, Assisi, and Siena. To reserve your spot, go to [selectinternationaltours.com](http://selectinternationaltours.com) and use Trip Code: 26MI10ITBL. Don't delay, though – there are only 11 spots left!!!

**ST. JOSEPH NEWS:**

**Advent Confessions** will be in Oakley on Wednesday, December 17, from 5-8pm. There will be three priests available. Just come and go as you see fit.

**Volunteers** are needed to help decorate the church on December 21<sup>st</sup> after the 10:30 am Mass.

**ST. PAUL CHURCH NEWS: ST. PAUL CHRISTMAS CHURCH CLEANING** will be on Sunday, Dec. 21st at 1:00 pm. If you are unable to help at that time but can at a different time, there will be a list at the back of the church for you to mark off what you did. You may also text or call Nancy Schwarz, 824-8001. Those on the committee are: Nancy S., Nancy B., Kristy F., Karen D., Cheryl O., Tristan B., Raecine B., Linda S., Teresa S., Linda L. **THANK YOU!**

**Angelus Knights of Columbus FREE Youth Trapshoot** for grades 5 – 12<sup>th</sup>. This event will be held on Sunday, January 4, 2026, at 1pm. At the K of C Hall, Angelus.



If you would like to donate toward the Christmas poinsettias for a deceased family member, for either of the parishes, please call **Everything's A Bloomin**, or you can put money in the collection with your intent written on it. Thank you!!

**A HUGE THANK YOU** to everyone who made St. Joseph School Winter Blast a success. Year after year, you show up! We are so BLESSED!!

**Our Tithes from Last Week**

Oakley: \$4,574.00 Angelus: \$1,201.00

We welcome all our guests to our parishes. If you have moved here, we encourage you to register on our website.



Follow us on St. Joseph Catholic Church and School

@stjosephoakley

**DAILY SCHEDULE**

Sat 13 – 5pm Mass + Special Intention  
 Sun 14 – 8:00am Mass (Angelus) - Parishioners  
 10:30am Mass + Laura Goetz  
 Mon 15 – NO MASS  
 Tues 16 – 8:30am Mass + David Volk  
 9:30am Bible Study in the rectory  
 Wed 17 – 7:30am Mass (Angelus) + Bernice Heier  
 7pm CCD in Angelus  
 5 – 8pm Confessions in Oakley  
 8pm CYO Deep Clean Church  
 Thur 18 – 8:30 am + Myra Ostmeyer  
 9am – 7pm Adoration in Oakley  
 Fri 19 – 7am Mass + Dietz/Knapp Families  
 Sat 20 – 5pm Mass - Parishioners  
 Sun 21 – 8:00am Mass (Angelus) + Leon Zerr  
 10:30am Mass + Marge Feldt

Confessions are available 30 minutes before weekend Masses, by appointment, or as indicated on the schedule.

**ST. JOSEPH PARISH COUNCIL**

Mr. Danny Lockhart	Mrs. Raye Kuhlman
Mr. David Manhart	Mr. Mason Sheetz
Mrs. Penny Pfeifer	Mr. Ethan Schwarz
Mrs. Cassie Shirley-Vice Chair	Mrs. Dana Charles – Chair
Mrs. Micheline Huffman	

**ST. JOSEPH FINANCE COUNCIL**

Mrs. Lisa Racette	Mr. Lewis Evins
Mrs. Dana Charles (Par. Co. Rep.)	Mrs. Susan Glassman
Mr. Tom Halbleib	

**ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL COUNCIL**

Mrs. Kim Munk	Mr. Courtland Osborne
Mrs. Casey Zerr - Secretary,	Mrs. Mary Urrego – Vice Chair
Mr. Russ Kahle	Mr. Jeff Kuhlman – Chair
Mrs. Micheline Huffman (Par. Co. Rep.)	

**ST. PAUL PARISH/FINANCE COUNCIL**

Mr. Bernard Dickman	Mr. Mason Bixenman
Mr. Clem Felthoelter- Chair	Mr. Mark Rueschhoff
Mrs. Kristy Felthoelter - Vice Chair	Mrs. Kim Robben

Saturday Dec 20 <sup>th</sup> 5pm	Servers	Volunteers	Sunday Dec 21 <sup>st</sup> 10:30 am	Servers	Madeline K, Peyton K, & Shayden S.
	Lector	Bob Kuhlman		Lector	Carrie Evins
	Gifts	Bea Albers & Pat Ryan		Gifts	Christopher & Jessica Halbleib
	Hospitality	Jerry & Elaine Wycoff		Hospitality	Christopher & Jessica Halbleib

Sunday, Dec 21 <sup>st</sup> 8 am	Servers	Nick Robben
	Lectors	Millie Baalman & Nick Robben
	Gifts	Ron & Linda Lager
	Ushers	Ron, Daryl, Andrew & Mason Bixenman