Saint Joseph Catholic Church
“Like us on Facebook—St. Joseph Catholic Church—Fort Jennings”
A member of the St. George Deanery
135 N. Water St. P.O. Box 68 Fort Jennings, OH 45844
Telephone: 419-286-2132 - FAX: 419-286-3132
Father Charles Obinwa, Pastor—
419-286-7656
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Mrs. Rhonda Liebrecht, CRE—419-286-2019
stjoeerled@bright.net
Mrs. Kelly Stant, Secretary—C: 419-235-2667
www.stjosephfortjennings.org

OFFICE HOURS
Monday, Wednesday, Friday—9:00 until Noon
E-mail address: stjoeparishofc@bright.net

NORMAL MASS TIMES
Saturday: 5:00 pm
Sunday: 7:30 am and 9:30 am
Monday:
Tuesday: 7:00 pm
Wednesday: 7:00 pm
Thursday: 7:00 pm
Friday: 7:55 am

CONFESSIONS
Tuesdays 6:30 pm
Saturdays 4:30 pm
Anytime by request

BAPTISMS
Baptisms will be celebrated anytime agreeable with Fr. Charles or Deacon Larry. For BAPTISM INSTRUCTION date and time check the bulletin. Please call the parish office to register.

MARRIAGE
Make arrangements at least six months ahead of time by calling the parish office. Do not set wedding date prior to contacting the parish office.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA)
RCIA classes run from September to May. These classes are for anyone interested in learning more about the Catholic Faith or who wish to join the Church. Call the parish office to register.

FAITH ENRICHMENT
Religious Education Classes for the elementary students from August through May. Classes for the Junior High and High School students run September through March. Adult Enrichment: Bible Study, Spiritual development, missions and retreats. Check the bulletin for details.

MINISTRY TO THE SICK AND ELDERLY
Visitation and Eucharist will be provided by a Eucharistic Minister. A priest will be available if needed. Notify the parish office about people in the hospital or shut-ins. If you are, or will be hospitalized because of a surgery or serious illness, contact the pastor to receive the Sacrament of Healing.

WELCOME NEW PARISHIONERS
If you are new to our St. Joseph Parish Family, please call or visit the parish office to register.

ALL ARE WELCOME HERE
LITURGICAL MINISTERS - December 12 & 13:

SERVERS:
- 5:00 pm Trent Siefker
- 7:30 am Emily Luersman
- 9:30 am Carley Von Sossan

EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS:
- 5:00 pm Becky Uphaus, Jodi Von Sossan, Eva Von Sossan
- 7:30 am Volunteers Needed
- 9:30 am Don & Christy Good, Sarah Hellman

LECTORS:
- 5:00 pm Dave Luersman
- 7:30 am Volunteer Needed
- 9:30 am Denise Sukup

USHERS:
- 5:00 pm Kevin & Mandi Kahle
- 7:30 am Volunteers Needed
- 9:30 am Jerry & Jackie Siefker

Pray for the sick: Cherie Luersman

THIS WEEK’S READINGS

Mon 12/07 Saint Ambrose, Bishop
- Is 35:1-10 Lk 5:17-26

Tues 12/08 The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- Gn 3:9-15, 20 Eph 1:3-6, 11-12 Lk 1:26-38

Wed 12/09 Saint Juan Diego Cuaaultlataootzin
- Is 40:25-31 Mt 11:28-30
- Is 48:17-19 Mt 11:16-19

Thu 12/10 Is 41:13-20 Mt 11:11-15

Fri 12/11 Saint Damasus I, Pope
- Is 48:17-19 Mt 11:16-19

Sat 12/12 Our Lady of Guadalupe
- Zec 2:14-17 Lk 1:26-38

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2021 OFFERTORY ENVELOPES are in the Narthex. Please, do not use these envelopes until January 1, 2021. Your envelope number may have changed. We reduced the number of boxes ordered to have less unused boxes. If you need envelopes, please contact the parish office.

YTD as of November 29th = $87,156.10
YTD Under Budget = $-843.90

A huge THANK YOU to those of you who have continued to donate throughout this difficult time.

If you are unable to attend church due to Covid, please, mail your offering to PO Box 68 or drop off at the FJ Bank, FJ Location. Thank you!

As we once again fall below budget, we ask for the support of our parishioners. Please, send in your donations even if you are not attending Mass in person.
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

BAPTISMS: To arrange a baptism please call the Parish Office or Deacon Larry (cell) (419) 302-2532 or by email larry@fjsb.com.

BAPTISM CLASSES
Baptismal Classes are temporarily discontinued due to COVID-19.

Attend a Pre-Marriage Preparation Class before your marriage.
Find Marriage Prep Classes at http://ToledoMarriagePrep.org

Bulletin submissions deadline:
Wednesdays at 10 a.m.

Nigerian Mission Fund
I have come again to solicit your support for the Nigerian Mission Fund. I ask of this request once a year during the Christmas season. Your generosity helps put smiles on the faces of the wretchedly poor in my homeland. I am extremely grateful to all of you for your prayers and very generous contributions to this fund in the past. May the good Lord bless and replenish your stocks.

This mission has benefited numerous people in so many diverse ways, food, school expenses, hospital bills, house rents, funerals and so on. We have been able to erect a house for a very poor widow and her children. All that remains is electricity for the house to be completed. When this house is finished you will see it in the bulletin.

By the grace of God, we will begin the building of another house for a very poor widow by early 2021.

I remain ever grateful to you all for standing for these poor ones. May God bless you always. You are in my prayers.

Cheers!!

&
Merry Christmas Blessings,
Fr. Charles Obinwa

“I never thought it was such a bad little tree. It’s not bad at all, really. Maybe it just needs a little love.”
– Linus Van Pelt

CHRISTMAS SHARING — There are tags for several families on the “Sharing Tree” in the Narthex to help those in need for Christmas.

If you want to help, take a tag from the tree and purchase the item. Remember, the tags are ideas, you do not need to get the exact item. Larger items could be purchased by an extended family going together for example. This is their “Wish List”. They are told to put what they really want. Pick a tag that fits YOUR budget. For example, if your children have a gaming system they do not use, that could be donated.

Return the item to the parish office or under the tree in the narthex. Gift wrapping the present would be greatly appreciated but not necessary. Please attach the tag securely on the gift. If you would like to make a cash donation, we would gladly do the shopping for you.

You can drop your donation in the collection basket, please mark your envelope “Christmas Sharing” or drop off at the Parish Office. We need all presents or donations back by December 19th. Thank you for being the hands and feet of Christ sharing His love once again this Christmas.

OUR SYMPATHY goes out to the family & friends of LEONA K. BRUSKOTTER, to her children Sandy (Mike) Gerdesman, Dale (Joan) Bruskotter, Denny (Shirley) Bruskotter, her 10 grandchildren and 21 great-grandchildren. Leona died on November 30th at the age of 89. May the Lord grant Leona eternal rest and life in the Kingdom.

Fort Jennings Elementary will hold kindergarten registration for the 2021-2022 school year on school days from December 7th thru December 22nd. To register your child, please come to the elementary office between 8:00 am and 2:00 pm. Parents are asked to bring their child’s birth certificate, social security number, and immunization record at the time of registration. Children must be five years of age on or before September 30, 2021 to be eligible for kindergarten. Please feel free to call the elementary office at 419-286-2762 if you have any questions.
CHRISTMAS MASSES will be on December 24th at 4 p.m., 7 p.m. & 8:30 p.m. We are hoping that the 7 & 8:30 p.m. Masses will lessen the number of attendees at the 4 p.m. Mass. Christmas Day Mass will be at 9:30 a.m. We are not doing tickets or seating charts like some neighboring churches, but social distancing and masking will be enforced at Christmas Masses. If you wish to get a seat, come early. We will have overflow seating in the Narthex but once we are at capacity you may need to come back later to another Mass. The greatest gift you can give this year to your fellow man is to adhere to the preventative guidelines therefore keeping each other safe from Covid.

The faithful are to be reminded that the dispensation to attend Sunday Mass, and Holy Days of Obligation, remains in place for the foreseeable future until you are notified otherwise. Those who are at high risk, especially the elderly and those with pre-existing health conditions are to be strongly advised to refrain from Mass attendance out of concern for their own well-being and out of Christian charity for others.

Support St. Francis Spirituality Center by purchasing a ticket for the 2021 Christmas 365 Raffle! There will be raffle drawings for cash prizes on the 25th day of every month in 2021 St. Francis Spirituality Center will be giving away $4500 in cash prizes with each contestant having the possibility of up to 13 chances to win, which includes an extra $500 drawing on Christmas Day 2021. Each winning ticket goes back into the drum for a chance to win on the next drawing. Tickets are $10 each or 6 for $50. As an added incentive, due to the pandemic, if you purchase 6 tickets online you will receive 3 FREE entries, 12 tickets you will receive 6 FREE entries and 18 tickets you will receive 9 FREE entries. Tickets are $10 each or 6 for $50. As an added incentive, due to the pandemic, if you purchase 6 tickets online you will receive 3 FREE entries, 12 tickets you will receive 6 FREE entries and 18 tickets you will receive 9 FREE entries. Tickets can be purchased online by visiting https://franciscanretreats.org/christmas-365-2021-raffle/.

Tickets are on sale through September 30, 2021. Winners will be notified by phone, and names will be posted on our Facebook page (St. Francis Spirituality Center) and website, www.franciscanretreat.org.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS – Envelopes are in the offertory boxes to use if you would like to donate in memory of your loved one and have them listed on the bulletin. If you do not have offertory envelopes, you can put an envelope in the collection marked “Christmas Flowers”. Include the name of your loved one that you would like to honor this Christmas.

NEW HYMNALS are in the Narthex. Please, take a hymnal and bring the hymnal back and forth to Mass each week or use at home to follow along. Due to Covid, do not leave the hymnals in the pews after Mass. This will be your personal hymnal until the pandemic subsides.

THE SEARCH

This series on FORMED is an innovative video series that tackles the key questions of every human heart. In seven beautifully filmed episodes, Chris Stefanick and experts from multiple fields of science, medicine, psychology, art, and religion examine our place in the larger story of existence.

See below for how you can sign up for FORMED free of charge thanks to the Diocese of Toledo.

There are SO MANY amazing programs available to view on FORMED.org. Sign up for your free access today and browse the programs, movies and podcasts! It will improve your relationship with God, we guarantee it!!

FORMED is Available for ALL St. Joseph parishioners to use and watch. The Toledo Diocese has purchased this program for 2 years, as a way to help families stay connected to and nourish their faith. This is a Netflix type format, with Catholic content and teachings. To sign up you can use your computer, iPad/phone. Go to FORMED.ORG Click “sign up”. Click “I belong to Parish or Organization”. Create a new account. Search our parish by typing in our zip code 45844 - click “St Joseph OH 45844”. Click “next” then type in your name and email address and click “sign up”. It is that easy and from there you watch, learn and listen to whatever you like. There is so much on here from kids shows, movies, pod cast and much more. If you have any questions you can reach out to Rhonda Liebrecht.
“As We Await the Blessed Hope”

In these days so marked by the COVID-19 pandemic and all the ways it affects our lives, we all need to hear a message of hope! “As we await the blessed hope.” These are words well familiar to every Catholic, words we hear the priest pray in every Mass just after the Our Father. While I have always found impactful the prayer in which these words appear, called the embolism, they seem to have taken on even deeper significance during this unique 2020 Season of Advent. Here is the prayer in its entirety:

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil, graciously grant peace in our days, that by the help of your mercy, we may be always free from sin, and safe from all distress, as we await the blessed hope and the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

As we learn early on in our catechism classes, hope, together with faith and love, is one of the three theological virtues, that virtue by which we both desire and expect from God both eternal life and the grace we need to attain it (CCC 1817).

The Catholic Catechism helps us understand the hope we are called to and which even now the Lord is encouraging in us! The virtue of hope responds to the aspiration to happiness which God has placed in the heart of each person; it takes up the hopes that inspire our activities and purifies them so as to order them to the Kingdom of heaven; it keeps us from discouragement; it sustains us during times of abandonment; it opens up our going? When will we have a vaccine? Will we ever get back to “normal”? We may not be feeling very optimistic, our confidence may be low and frankly we may not find our future prospects encouraging. This is not meant to be depressing, it’s simply facing the reality. But as people of faith, we know that despite all of the challenges, we are nonetheless called to be a people of hope facing every challenge with a sense of joyful expectancy, reassured ourselves and reassuring to others, displaying an optimism not born of ourselves, but of the one who Himself gives us hope in the very midst of the challenges, the one for whom we wait in Advent: Christ Jesus who is our Hope!

This Advent, I invite you to use this prayer as part of your own daily prayer. Allow it to penetrate your heart, mind and soul, for it highlights the nature of this Holy Season, the very purpose of Advent, and draws us into the hope for which we long.

No doubt many of us right now are not feeling very hopeful, with all that’s transpired this year and with all of life’s uncertainties. Where is all this
hearts in expectation of eternal beatitude. Buoyed
up by hope, we are preserved from selfishness and
led to the happiness that flows from charity (CCC
1818).

This is the hope that Advent brings, a hope the
Lord desires us to experience here and now, a hope
which unfolds from the beginning of Jesus’
preaching the beatitudes, which trace the path that
leads through the trials that await his disciples.
“But through the merits of Jesus Christ and of his
Passion, God keeps us ‘in the hope that does not
disappoint.’ Hope is the ‘sure and steadfast anchor
of the soul…that enters…where Jesus has gone as
forerunner on our behalf.’ Hope is also a weapon
that protects us in the struggle of salvation: ‘Let
us…put on the breastplate of faith and charity, and
for a helmet the hope of salvation.’ It affords us joy
even under trial: ‘Rejoice in your hope, be patient
in tribulation.’ Hope is expressed and nourished in
prayer, especially in the Our Father, the summary
of everything that hope leads us to desire” (CCC
1820).

In this Advent time then, we are invited to be
“witnesses to hope,” the hope for which we wait at
Christmas, the hope which even now is with us as
he promised, as we look to the hope of eternal life.

In his book “Interior Freedom,” Father Jacques
Philippe, in reflecting on the exercise of freedom
in the spiritual life, seems to be speaking directly
to our current situation when he writes:

“We should not limit ourselves to accepting
things grudgingly, but should truly consent to them
– not to endure them, but in a sense ‘choose’ them
(even if in fact we have no choice, and that’s what
most annoys us). Choosing here means making a
free act by which we not only resign ourselves but
also embrace the situation. That isn’t easy,
especially in the case of really painful trials, but it
is the right approach, and we should follow as
much as possible in faith and hope. If we have
enough faith in God to believe him capable of
drawing good out of whatever befalls us, he will do
so. Jesus says repeatedly in the Gospels, ‘As you
have believed so let it be done to you’ (Mt. 8:16)”.

If you’ve known someone who is not just hopeful
but truly hope-filled, you’ve known someone who
clearly has interior joy. Such joy is similar to that
of Abraham of whom Saint Paul recounts: “He
believed, hoping against hope, that he would
become ‘the father of many nations’…He did not
doubt God’s promise in unbelief, rather he was
empowered by faith and gave glory to God, and
was fully convinced that what God had promised
he was also able to do” (Romans 4:18-21).

What God has promised he is able to do! We place
our trust in Christ’s promise relying not on our own
strength, but on the help of the grace of the Holy
Spirit. “Let us hold fast the confession of our hope
without wavering, for he who promised is faithful”
(Heb 10:23). This Advent, we are encouraged and
inspired that Christ who is our hope came to save
us from our sins. He is preserving us even now in
this pandemic, so that no matter our situation, if we
consent in faith, he will deliver us from evil, grant
peace in our days, help us with his mercy, keep us
free from sin and safe from all distress, “as we
await the blessed hope and the coming of our
Savior Jesus Christ.”

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Most Rev. Daniel E. Thomas
Bishop of Toledo
November 30, 2020