



Welcome to
Historic
St. Joseph Parish



Historic
St. Joseph Church
416 N. Chicago Street
Joliet, IL 60432
815-727-9378

www.stjosephjoliet.org

Visit our facebook page: St. Joseph Catholic Church,
Joliet, Illinois

2012 Handbook, edition two

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St. Joseph Parish Mission Statement

As living members of the Body of Christ, the people of St. Joseph Parish embrace the Traditions of the Church as given to us by Christ. Empowered by the Holy Spirit we teach, live, and love one another as brothers and sisters in Christ, and celebrate the Word of God as a faith-filled community that welcomes all who seek the truth. We celebrate the presence of God in our midst through worship, service, and catechesis. In accordance with the teachings of the Church, we work to assist all parish members in discerning the truths of our faith and the moral obligation to which we are called to live the Gospel.

The parish began a school in 1895 with 64 students. In 1913, a second, larger school was built on Scott Street to house 641 students. During its 115 years of education, the student body grew to include students of many different ethnicities and races. After 115 years of educating the children of Joliet and surrounding communities, our beloved school was closed.

St. Joseph Parish has its own cemetery with a chapel and a grotto. The grotto honors the memory of parish service men and women of World War II and those who died in action. An annual Memorial Day Mass pays tribute to their sacrifices.



Our Parish Park and Hall, along with lighted baseball fields, invite young and old for recreation and celebrations. Numerous clubs and organizations are an integral part of parish life.

This parish will always recognize the contributions of previous generations. Once monthly, a Sunday Mass is offered in the Slovenian language and the Parish Choir joins in singing traditional Slovenian hymns.

Today's faces and names of parishioner families reflect the rich ethnic tapestry of the world around us. We worship together, giving thanks and praise to our God for all of the good things He has bestowed on us.

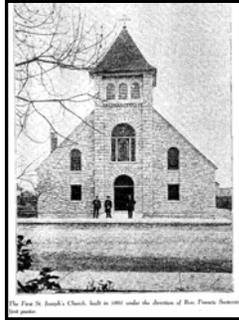
We welcome you to St. Joseph Parish. We encourage and invite you to become involved in our Parish life.

A Peek at our Roots:

A Short History of St. Joseph Parish

St. Joseph Church has been a beloved home to many Slovenians and their descendants for over a century. The founders were hard-working immigrants from Slovenia who settled in Joliet in the 1870's.

On May 12, 1891, Rev. Francis S. Sustersic arrived from Slovenia. He was appointed organizer and first pastor of St. Joseph Parish by the Archbishop of Chicago. Wasting no time, the energetic young priest began plans to construct a church on Chicago Street. A cornerstone was dedicated on July 19, 1891. Just three months later, the new church was blessed.



Soon the growing congregation required a larger edifice. The old Church was torn down to make room for the new. By October 15, 1905, our magnificent Church was blessed. Three bells from the original Church were installed and named to honor St. Joseph, St. George, and the Blessed Virgin Mary. Religious and civic leaders and three thousand out-of-town guests attended the joyful celebration. Built of Indiana limestone, it was the first stone and steel building and the largest, grandest Church in Joliet. At long last, the Slovenian immigrants had a beautiful House of God they could call their own. By their selfless toil and sacrifice, the dream had come true.

In the following years, more adornments were added: a high altar donated by Father Sustersic, a pipe organ, stained glass windows, Stations of the Cross, and a Marija Pomagaj (Mary, Help of Christians) Shrine.

Welcome

It gives us great pleasure to present this handbook to you. The purpose of this book is to enthusiastically welcome and inform our new parishioners, but additionally to reacquaint all of our parishioners with the many spiritual, social, and educational groups and activities that are available at our parish. As we look forward to the future and the continued growth of St. Joseph Parish, we pause to give thanks to the Lord, Our God, for all the blessings we have received for over a century. With God's help and with the cooperation and involvement of all those who make up our faith community, we trust that the goodness of the Lord will continue to shine upon us in the years to come.

As you read this handbook, you will find a variety of parish ministries, as well as many social and educational activities, all designed to allow your faith to deepen and allow you to experience the love of Our Lord, Jesus Christ.

We are grateful for everything you do and have done to make St. Joseph's the vital, active parish it is today. We encourage you, whether young or old, single or married, with children at home or empty-nesters, to find a way to honor God by involving yourself more intimately in the life of our parish family.

Through the intercession of our "good and just" Patron, St. Joseph, and our Blessed Mother, Marija Pomagaj, may Our Lord bless you and all those you hold dear.

"Lord, teach us to be generous.
Teach us to serve You as You deserve:
To give and not to count the cost."

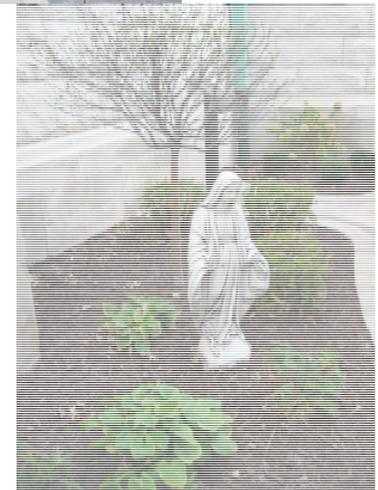
St. Ignatius

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Prayer Garden

The St. Joseph Prayer Garden, in memory of past and present parishioners and their families, is located between the rectory and the Church buildings. It is a center for quiet reflection, contemplation, and meditation. Memorial bricks can be purchased in honor of your loved ones by calling the rectory.

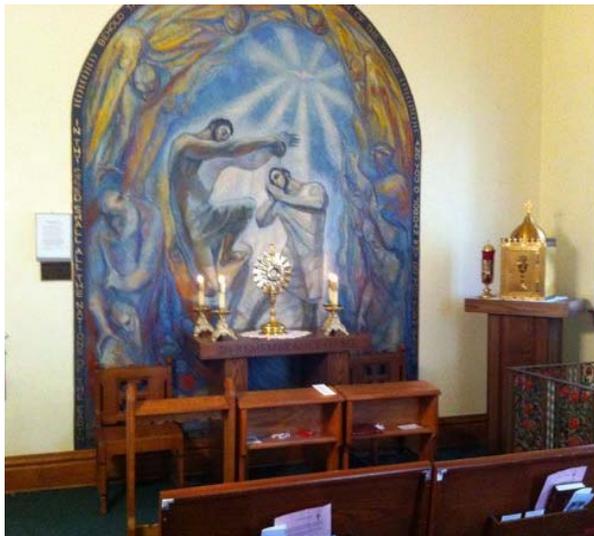


Adoration Chapel

We have the opportunity here at St. Joseph Parish to engage our bodies and souls in the Adoration of our Lord in His Eucharist Presence on a daily basis.

The Sacred Congregation of Rites gives instruction on Eucharistic worship declaring: "When the faithful adore Christ present in the Sacrament, they should remember that His presence derives from the sacrifice and is directed toward both sacramental and spiritual Communion. In consequence, the devotion which leads the faithful to visit the Blessed Sacrament draws them into an ever deeper participation in the Paschal Mystery. They offer their entire lives with Christ to the Father in the Holy Spirit and receive in this wonderful exchange an increase of faith, hope, and love."

Adoration of the Eucharist takes place each weekday from the conclusion of daily Mass until mid-afternoon. Each and every member of our parish is encouraged to avail themselves of this sacred opportunity to spend time with our Lord in His Real Presence: Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity. The Adoration Chapel is located behind the Sacristy; proceed through the passageway behind the Altar.



Liturgy and Sacraments

Liturgy: The Church's "work" of praising God through Jesus Christ

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is offered daily at St. Joseph Church. Mass schedules for weekdays, Holy Days of Obligation, and weekend Masses that fulfill the Sunday obligation can be found in the weekly parish bulletin or on the parish website. On the fourth Sunday of the month, one Mass is offered in Slovenian at 8:30 a.m.

Eucharistic Devotions

Everyone is invited to spend time with Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. The Adoration Chapel is open Monday through Friday following the morning Mass until mid-afternoon.

Benediction is held on the First Friday of each month following the morning Mass.

In honor of the feast day of our patron, St. Joseph, the Blessed Sacrament is exposed in the Church. Parishioners and parish organizations spend quiet time in prayer, reflection, and contemplation. Refer to the bulletin for the exact date and time.



Parish Rosary

The Rosary is prayed prior to the Saturday Vigil Mass and at other scheduled times during the month. Refer to the bulletin for information.

Sacraments

"The Sacraments are chosen instruments of divine power, outward signs instituted by Christ to give grace."

Sacrament of Baptism

Baptisms are performed on the second Sunday of each month immediately following the 11:30 a.m. Mass. Parents of the child are required to be active parishioners and must make arrangements at the rectory at least three months prior to Baptism. The parents are required to attend a Baptismal preparation class. Godparents must be practicing Catholics, 16 years of age or older, and are asked to bring a letter stating they are in good standing with their parish.

Sacraments

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Confessions are heard on Saturdays before the Vigil Mass, at penance services during the seasons of Advent and Lent, and at other times upon request. Please call the rectory if you wish to schedule a personal Confession time. Catholic baptized children in second grade in our Religious Education program receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time prior to receiving the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist. Per Diocesan guidelines students must be enrolled in the Religious Education program for two years before receiving this Sacrament.

Sacrament of Holy Eucharist

To prepare to receive our Lord in the Sacrament of Holy Eucharist, two years of instruction in our Religious Education program are required. Students receive their First Holy Communion on the first Sunday in May.

Communion to homebound parishioners, hospital patients, and nursing home residents can be arranged at any time by calling the rectory.

Sacrament of Confirmation

The Bishop of Joliet confers the Sacrament of Confirmation every two years upon candidates from St. Joseph Parish who have received the sacraments of Baptism, Reconciliation and Holy Communion. Candidates must be sufficiently prepared through two years of instruction in our Religious Education program. Community service hours and other obligations are included as part of the preparation process.

Sacrament of Matrimony

Active parishioners planning to marry should contact the pastor at least six months in advance of the proposed wedding date to discuss Pre-Cana and other requirements.

“ ...For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh...”

Matthew 19:5

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults)

All who are interested in becoming Catholic or who are Catholic and wish to come into the fullness of their Catholic faith by receiving Sacraments, join us for RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) classes. During a six month period of study and reflection, each adult who participates will be strengthened spiritually in the teachings of the Catholic Faith. At the conclusion of this instruction, the adult is ready to join and/or more fully participate in the Life of the Church through the reception of the sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation. This takes place at the Easter Vigil service in the spring. At St. Joseph Catholic Church there is **no cost** for joining the RCIA program. All are welcome to participate, from those with no experience in the faith to those who have been catechized.

Religious Education Program (CCD)

Our parish Religious Education program offers instruction to public school children in grades one through eight. Classes meet weekly in the parish school building during the school year. Volunteer catechists teach the Catholic message to live the Gospel of the Lord and prepare students to receive the Sacraments.

Ushers

Ushers greet people as they arrive, reserve seating when necessary, help to keep order during worship services, assist with the offertory collection and attend to emergency needs if they arise.

Youth Discipleship Teen Group

Membership in the Youth Discipleship Teen Group is open to high school students. Social and spiritual activities are planned by members under adult supervision. The group is open to teens of the parish.

Young Adult Ministry

In a relaxing social setting, young adults gather monthly to discuss the challenges of living their faith in today's world. Through fellowship with group leaders, speakers, and conversations within the group, the members strengthen their spiritual muscles. This ministry is open to adults ages 21—40.

Art and Environment

This committee keeps the worship area clean, tidy, and beautiful, changing floral arrangements to suit the seasons and caring for decorations, altar linens and the tabernacle veils. Hard-working cleaners and seamstresses are welcome.

Extraordinary Ministers

Men and women are invited into this ministry for their faith and devotion to the Holy Eucharist. They are called to assist the priest in distributing Holy Communion. The ministry is open to parishioners age sixteen and older who have been confirmed. Training is provided.

Lectors

Members of this ministry serve the community by proclaiming the Word of God and imparting the spirit of the Word in a reflective way at regular Masses and at special liturgies.

Little Flowers

Little Flowers Girls' Club® is a Catholic program for girls ages 5 and up based on learning Catholic virtues through the lives of Catholic saints, Scripture and the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

Liturgy Planners

To prepare for special Masses, planners may help to select readings, music, and/or compose the prayers of the faithful.

Ministers of Music

Adult and child vocalists and instrumentalists bring a prayerful musical atmosphere to liturgical services. New members are always welcome.

Mothers' Group

Mothers of children up to 18 years of age are invited to participate in the Mothers' Group. Members of this group offer prayerful support and friendship to each other, while giving mothers a time to socialize with their peers.

Neo-Catechumenal Way

This Catholic faith community within the Church is dedicated to studying and proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ. Its members come together to pray, learn, and reach out to others in the parish and in the community. Membership is open to any adult interested in the program.

Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick

Anyone who is seriously ill should be anointed through the Sacrament of the Sick. Arrangements may be made by calling the rectory.

RCIA Program

Refer to the RCIA section under Worship Commission.

Parish Pastoral Council

The Parish Pastoral Council is the visioning body of the parish. Through a process of prayer, reflection, sharing and discernment, the Council sets goals, identifies and evaluates needs and makes recommendations to the pastor regarding decisions to be made to enable St. Joseph Parish to fulfill the mission of Jesus Christ in the world today.

All activities and organizations of St. Joseph Parish are coordinated through the Council/Commission structure, as recommended by the Diocese of Joliet. Commissions communicate with each other on a regular basis through Parish Council liaisons.

Council membership consists of the pastor, one representative from each of the commissions named below, and members of the parish at large. Regular meetings of the council are open to all members of the parish.

There are opportunities for parishioners to participate in the religious and secular activities of the parish through the Parish Pastoral Council and its Commissions, which are:

- Administrative Commission
- Service Commission
- Worship/Education Commission

Administration Commission

The Administration Commission serves the Pastor, Parish Pastoral Council, and the other commissions. It has the obligation of planning, providing for and supervising the financial affairs and physical properties of the parish. The Administration Commission is concerned with three broad areas: the effective utilization of parish resources, the budget, and Church support. It submits the annual budget to the Parish Council for approval before forwarding it to the Diocese. Composition of the Administration Commission includes representatives from the following committees and at large members as appropriate:

- Budget and Finance Committee
- Buildings and Grounds Committee
- Cemetery Committee

Budget and Finance Committee

This committee develops an annual budget, in consultation with other commissions and in accordance with objectives set by the Parish Council. It periodically reviews income and expenditures to determine that the parish is complying with the budget. The budget is submitted to the Parish Council for approval. All parish operations are reviewed and more efficient procedures are recommended, if needed. The Budget and Finance Committee provides parishioners with periodic and annual reports on the financial state of the parish.

Buildings and Grounds Committee

Periodic inspection of all parish properties is done by the buildings and grounds committee to ensure that the Church properties remain in proper repair. Recommendations are made to the pastor and Parish Council regarding the repair, purchase or transfer of property in accordance with Diocesan policy.

Cemetery Committee

The beautification of St. Joseph Cemetery chapel and grounds is the main focus of the Cemetery Committee. It serves in an advisory capacity to the pastor, reviewing cemetery conditions and recommending repairs and/or enhancements as needed.

Worship / Education Commission

The Worship / Education Commission engages in liturgical education and the planning, celebration and evaluation of all aspects of parish liturgies in order to promote meaningful worship. In addition to at-large members, a representative of each of the following groups attends Worship Commission meetings:

- Adult Education
- Altar Servers
- Art and Environment
- Extraordinary Ministers
- Lectors
- Little Flowers
- Liturgy Planners
- Ministers of Music
- Mothers' Group
- Neo-Catechumenal Way
- RCIA Program
- Ushers
- Young Adult Ministry
- Youth Discipleship Teen Group

Adult Education

St. Joseph Parish offers several programs to enrich the faith-journey of adults, including the annual St. Thomas More Lecture Series, held during the Lenten season, and adult Bible Study, held in the Fall.

Altar Servers

Children in fourth grade through high school, who have received the Sacraments of Baptism, Reconciliation and Eucharist, may be trained to assist the priest and deacon at regular and special occasion liturgies.

Shepherd's Table

On the second Monday of each month, volunteers from St. Joseph Parish prepare and serve lunch to members of the community. Workers are requested to arrive at 9:00 a.m. at the Daybreak Shelter at 611 E. Cass Street in Joliet. The center is operated by Catholic Charities, which provides emergency housing, food, and supportive services to individuals and families who are in need. Parish volunteers are always welcome.

St. Joseph Slovenian Catholic League

This group offers support to St. Joseph Parish and supports Slovenian missions at home and abroad. The League also helps preserve Slovenian customs. Membership in the League is open to any interested St. Joseph parishioner. Annual dues are \$2.

Welcome Committee

This ministry contacts new parishioners, introducing them to parish life at St. Joseph Church, and extending to them a warm welcome to our parish community.

Prayer to St. Joseph

Oh, St. Joseph, whose protection is so great,
so strong, so prompt, before the throne of God,
I place in your all my interests and desires.

Oh St. Joseph, do assist me by your powerful intercession,
and obtain for me from your Divine Son all spiritual
Blessings through Jesus Christ, Our Lord, so that having engaged
here below your heavenly power, I may offer my thanksgiving
and homage to the most loving of Fathers.

Oh, St. Joseph, I never weary contemplating you and Jesus
asleep in your arms. I dare not approach while He reposes near
your heart. Press Him in my name and kiss His fine Head for me,
and ask Him to return the kiss when I draw my dying breath.
St. Joseph, patron of departing souls, pray for me. Amen

Service Commission

The Service Commission involves parishioners in service to one another, to the parish, and to the larger community. Special concern is given to meeting the physical and spiritual needs of people. The commission includes at-large members and representatives of the following groups and organizations:

- Altar and Rosary Society CCW
- Bereavement Committee
- Food Pantry Collection
- Gardening Angels
- Holy Name Society
- Ministers of Care
- Prayer Chain
- Pro-Life Program
- Senior Parishioners
- Shepherd's Table
- Slovenian Catholic League
- Welcome Committee

*"I am nothing: I am but an instrument, a tiny pencil in the hands
of the Lord with which He writes what He likes. However
imperfect we are, He writes beautifully."*

Mother Teresa

Altar and Rosary Society CCW

The Altar and Rosary Society CCW purchases altar linens and supplies such as candles, vestments, holiday flowers, and other items for the sanctuary as requested by the pastor. Funds for this ministry are raised through annual events sponsored by its members. All profits are given to the Church. Meetings are held quarterly, with a Mass following for all living and deceased members. The pastor serves as the spiritual director of this group.

Bereavement Committee

This committee is responsible for providing individual funeral planning services to parishioners and their families.

Food Pantry Collection

On the last Sunday of each month, paper products and non-perishable food are collected at Church entrances. Volunteers from our parish, along with our Facilities Manager, deliver the donations to the Food Pantry located at St. John the Baptist Parish where they are distributed to those in need.

Gardening Angels

Volunteers help to beautify the landscaped areas around the Church and rectory by preparing, planting, and maintaining flower beds and shrubbery.

Holy Name Society

The primary objective of the Holy Name Society is the personal sanctification of its members by acts of love and devotion to the Most Holy Name of Jesus. Basic practices include frequent reception of the Sacraments, public profession of faith and living the Holy Name pledge. The society conducts prayer services and offers Masses for its deceased members. The Holy Name Society meets quarterly, beginning with Mass, followed by breakfast and a meeting. The pastor serves as spiritual director of the Holy Name. All men of the parish are welcome to join.

Ministers of Care

Extraordinary Ministers bring Holy Communion to parishioners who are homebound or in nursing homes. The Ministers of Care visit and pray with the parishioners, and offer words of love, care, and support on behalf of the parish.

Prayer Chain

Anyone willing to pray daily for intentions requested by parishioners may become a member of the Prayer Chain. Prayer requests may be placed in the wooden box at the main entrance of Church or may be phoned to the contact person listed in the handbook supplement.

Pro-Life Program

Members of the Pro-Life group provide information and encouragement to parishioners to actively uphold the sanctity of human life from conception until natural death through articles in the bulletin and various programs and activities which support local and national pro-life causes throughout the year.

Senior Parishioners

All parishioners who are 55 years of age or older are eligible to join the Senior Parishioners. Membership is free. This group exists to offer parish seniors an opportunity to meet, socialize, and relax for a few hours a month. Meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month, preceded by a luncheon.

