Saint Joseph the Worker Parish

1879 Applewood Drive
Orefield, PA 18069
610-395-2876
stjw.org

Parish Guidebook
2026

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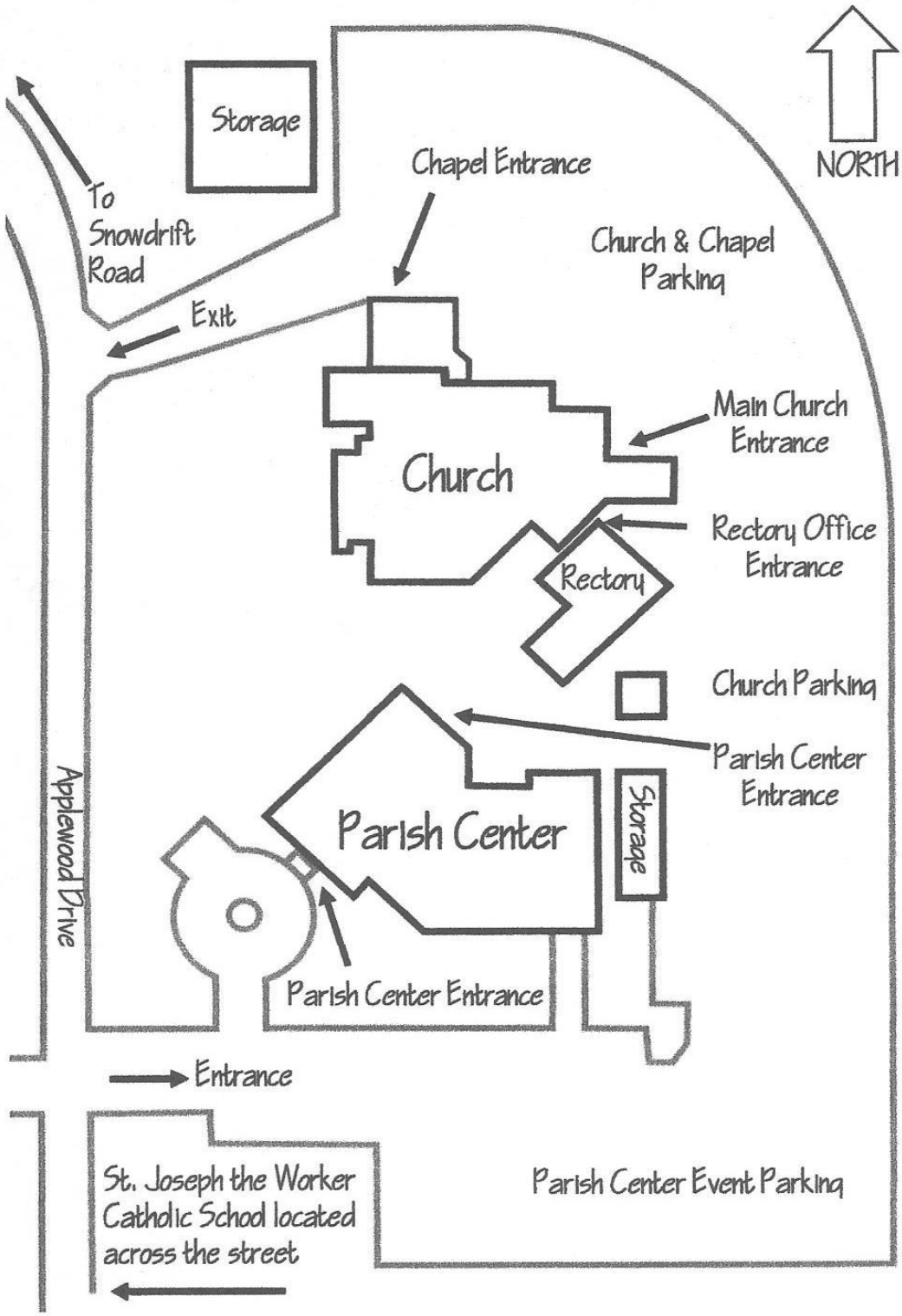
St. Joseph the Worker Parish Resource Map

1879 Applewood Dr.
Orefield PA 18069



OPPORTUNITIES ABOUND!

In this Guidebook you will find many ways to become a part of our parish family. There are opportunities for fellowship, faith formation, prayer devotions, outreach to others, and service to our Parish for adults and youth. We hope that you will find something that interests you within these pages and ***we cordially invite you to join us***! To speak with someone about getting involved at our Church, or if you are interested in leading a new ministry, contact Gina Medvedz at media@stjwchurch.org. New group suggestions are always welcomed!

✝

This Parish Guidebook is available online at www.stjwchurch.org

Be sure to sign up for our E-News on the home page of the website.

PARISH STAFF

Rev. Msgr. Victor Finelli, J.C.L., Pastor, Tribunal Judge

Rev. Aaron Scheidel, Parochial Vicar

Rev. Nikolai Brelinsky, In Residence, Chaplain for Allentown Central Catholic High School

Rev. Eugene Ritz, V.J., J.C.L., In Residence, Diocesan Judicial Vicar and Vicar of Clergy, Tribunal Judge

Mr. Anthony Brasten, Permanent Deacon

Mr. Anthony T. Campanell, Permanent Deacon (Retired)

Dr. Charles A. Coyle, Permanent Deacon (Retired)

Mr. Carl (Butch) Readinger, Permanent Deacon

Dr. Bruno Schettini, Permanent Deacon

Mrs. Anne Angelella, Parish Secretary, parishoffice@stjwchurch.org

Mrs. Rose Hayward, Director of Religious Ed.-FFF/Safe Environment, rhayward@stjw.org

Mr. Timothy Hood, Business Manager, thood@stjwchurch.org

Dr. Sarah Johnson, School Principal, sjohnson@stjw.org

Mrs. Theresa Heintzelman, Director, Pre-School and Pre-K, theintzelman@stjw.org

Mrs. Jennifer Keim, Finance Administrator, jkeim@stjwchurch.org

Mr. John Keglovics, Director of Maintenance, jkeglovics@stjwchurch.org

Mrs. Nancy Policare, Safe Environment Assistant, npolicare@stjw.org

Mrs. Gina Medvedz, Director of Communications, media@stjwchurch.org

Mrs. Jess Mueller, Director of the Parish Center, jmueller@stjwchurch.org

Mr. Mark O'Hearn, Director of Music, mohearn@stjwchurch.org

Mrs. Annaleigh Gidosh, Youth Minister, youthminister@stjwchurch.org

Parish Office (M-F, 9am-4:30pm)	610-395-2876
Parish e-mail:	parishoffice@stjwchurch.org
Pre-School (age 2 & 3) & Pre-k (ages 4 & 5)	610-395-7400
St. Joseph the Worker School	610-395-7221
School Fax	610-395-7904
Religious Education Office	610-395-4920

Parish Registration: Welcome! Contact Gina Medvedz to make an appointment for registration at gmedvedz@stjwchurch.org or call the Parish Office at (610)395-2876, ext. 11

Mass Schedule

Weekends:

Saturday Evening: **4:00** PM (Labor Day until Memorial Day Weekend). **5:00 PM** (Memorial Day Weekend until Labor Day Weekend).

Sunday: **7:00**, **9:00**, and **11:00** AM

Live Stream of 9:00 AM Mass also on YouTube at STJW Orefield

Daily Mass:

Monday-Friday **6:30** & **8:30** AM

Saturday **8:30** AM

Holy Days:

Times vary. Please see the website at stjwchurch.org during the week prior to the Mass.

Confession:

Friday **7:45-8:15** AM

Saturday **9:00-9:30** AM and **3:00-3:45** PM (Labor Day Weekend until Memorial Day Weekend), **4:00-4:45** PM (Memorial Day until Labor Day Weekend).

By appointment, also. Call the parish office at 610-395-2876.

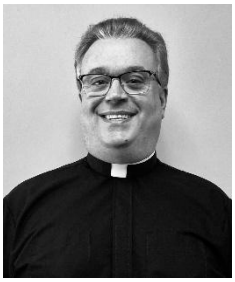
Special times available during Lent and Advent.

Eucharistic Adoration:

9 AM–8 PM weekdays in the chapel. First Friday 9 AM -8 AM Saturday.

If you are interested in being a scheduled adorer or substituting as needed, please email adoration@stjwchurch.org. Prayerfully consider spending one hour of your week with our Lord!

A Message from our Pastor



Dear Parishioner,

Whether you are new to St. Joseph the Worker Parish or have been with us for some time, we are very glad that you are now part of our Parish family. As brothers and sisters we worship our Lord through our Liturgy, perform works of mercy and charity for others, and ultimately show our love for God.

We have put together this directory as a guide (hence the name “guidebook”) to Parish life here at St. Joseph the Worker. You will see that there are many ways for you to find a place to meet fellow-parishioners, feel at home, and increase your faith.

I invite you to choose from the many opportunities for spiritual development, service outreach, and social interaction provided by the many ministries, groups, and programs that we are blessed to have here at St. Joseph's Parish. Your time and talents will be welcomed by these various groups and your presence will be valued. I invite you to join as much as you’d like and to become active in YOUR parish! This is your “home away from home” and I hope that in time you will realize you are an important part of the fabric of Saint Joseph the Worker.

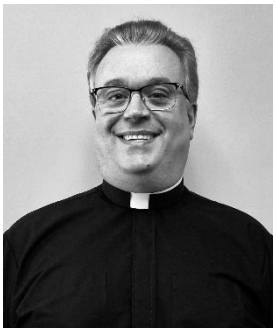
Thank you for being part of our parish; we need you and we welcome you. Our clergy and our staff are here to assist you and to make you feel welcome. Call, email, or stop by to visit at any time.

Welcome and may God bless you,

Rev. Msgr. Victor T. Finelli

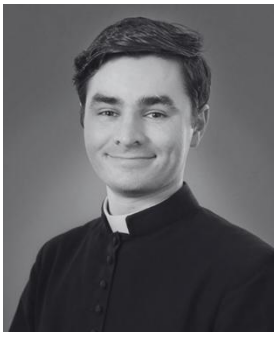
Reverend Monsignor Victor Finelli, V.J., J.C.L.
Pastor

St. Joseph the Worker Parish Clergy



Msgr. Victor Finelli
Pastor

Fr. Aaron Scheidel
Parochial Vicar



Fr. Nikolai Brelinsky
In Residence

Fr. Eugene Ritz
In Residence

Deacon Tony Brasten

Deacon Tony Campanell

Deacon Charles Coyle

Deacon Butch Readinger

Deacon Bruno Schettini

HISTORY OF ST. JOSEPH THE WORKER PARISH

When the growing number of Catholics in the Fogelsville area resulted in the need for Mass and religious instruction, three Catholic families shared their vision of a church for the area with Father Hugh McMullen, pastor of Saint Catharine of Siena in Allentown.

On Easter Sunday 1936, the first Mass was celebrated in the mission church of Saint Joseph the Worker for 36 Catholic families. The church building was a little red school house known to two generations as the Clover Dell School, at the corner of Snowdrift Road and Second Street in East Fogelsville.

In early 1947, more renovations were begun and the work was completed by December 25, 1947. Archbishop Dennis Cardinal Dougherty officially established Saint Joseph the Worker in Fogelsville as a parish on June 7, 1948. The church was dedicated by Monsignor Leo G. Fink of Allentown on June 27, 1948.

In 1964, the parish acquired 15 acres of land at Applewood Drive and Clauser Road in Orefield with the intention of eventually constructing a new and larger church.

With Monsignor Joseph P. T. Smith as Pastor, groundbreaking for the new church took place on June 1, 1975. Mass was celebrated for the 1st time on May 1, 1976. The parish was moved to Orefield in 1977 & a new rectory was built. A parish center was added in 1981.

On February 23, 1985, the parish held the closing service at the old Fogelsville church. Monsignor Robert J. Wargo, M. Div. has been pastor of Saint Joseph the Worker since June of 1990. He saw the necessity to expand the church building and construct a parish educational center. Funding was secured though a major capital campaign launched in June 1995. The generosity of the Jaindl Family allowed the parish to acquire a tract of land across the street on Applewood Drive to build the educational center.

Saint Joseph the Worker Center of Learning was opened to 315 students in grades one through eight on September 2, 1997. With the completion of the school, the expansion of the church was begun. The church expansion, which increased seating capacity to 1,200, was completed on March 8, 1998.

In 2003, construction of the Early Childhood Center and Gymnasium began; they were dedicated on September 4, 2004. The Chapel renovation, providing seating for 115, began in 2012 and, upon completion, was dedicated by Bishop John Barres in June 2013.

In 2014, through a gift bequest, the rectory and offices were expanded and updated, a project which was completed in the Fall of 2015.

In 2017 the Parish added a storage facility to the property.

In 2021, Msgr. Wargo retired after 31 years. Msgr. Finelli became our Pastor and began extensive renovations to our Sanctuary, Parish Center, and landscape. Our new organ was acquired in March of 2026.

Sacraments

BAPTISM: The Sacrament of Baptism will be administered on the first & third Sunday of each month at 12:45 p.m. Please contact the Parish Office at 610-395-2876 after the birth of your child to register for the Baptismal Workshop & the date of Baptism. The Baptismal Workshop is a Diocesan requirement and is offered the 1st Saturday of the month at 9:30 am in the Parish Center. Families must be registered parishioners for at least three months, attending Mass weekly & practicing the Faith. Godparents must be practicing their Faith, members of a parish for at least three months, married in the Catholic Church if married, and submit a certificate of eligibility at least two weeks prior to Baptism.

FIRST COMMUNION: The Eucharist is "the source and summit of the Christian life." The other sacraments, and indeed all ecclesiastical ministries and works of the apostolate, are bound up with the Eucharist and are oriented toward it. For in the blessed Eucharist is contained the whole spiritual good of the Church, namely Christ himself, our Pasch." (CCC 1324)

At St. Joseph the worker children receive First Reconciliation and First Eucharist in the second grade, typically on the first Saturday in May. Diocesan policy requires that each child be in preparation for two years, first and second grade religious education (St. Joseph the Worker School or Family Faith Formation). The parents, as primary educators of their children, also attend meetings for each Sacrament and oversee their children's work.

CONFIRMATION: Date determined at the discretion of the Bishop.

HOLY MATRIMONY: Couples must contact one of the Parish Priests at the Parish Office at least 6 months in advance of their intended wedding date. Bride or Groom must be a registered and practicing member for at least 6 months. In addition to the 3 sessions with the Priest, the Diocesan Marriage Preparation Dialogues must also be attended. The normal day for weddings is Saturday at 10 am, 12 pm or 2 pm.

RECONCILIATION: Friday: 7:45 - 8:15 am, Saturday: 9:00 - 9:30 am and 3:00 - 3:45 pm, (and also by appointment with one of the Priests). On occasions such as Lent or Advent there are special times for Confession.

SACRAMENT OF THE SICK: Notify the parish office as soon as someone becomes seriously ill or weak due to old age, so that they might receive the Sacrament of the Sick.

COMMUNION TO THE HOMEBOUND: Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist, under the direction of bring Jesus in the Eucharist, as well as comfort and companionship to those who are unable to attend Mass and those who are residing in nursing homes. Always notify us of those who are home-bound and in need of visitors.

PARISHIONER HOSPITALIZATION: If possible, alert the parish office whenever someone has to be hospitalized, especially if this admission is an emergency. Remember that each hospital knows which Catholic Parish is responsible for its emergency situations. A family member should notify the parish office of any admission of a parishioner and if they want their name on the prayer list for the sick.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

PARISH OFFICE HOURS – 9 am to 4:30 pm, Monday – Friday

REGISTRATION FOR THE PARISH:
New Parishioners should call the office to schedule a new member meeting. These take place by special arrangement. If you move out of the parish or change your address, please notify the parish office. Contact Gina Medvedz at gmedvedz@stjwchurch.org or 610-395-2876 to schedule your appointment.

BULLETIN & E-NEWS NOTICES:
Announcements for the weekly bulletin must be carefully prepared before acceptance and publication. Deadline is 9am Monday for the upcoming weekend. Submissions may be sent to media@stjwchurch.org with "Bulletin Submission" in the subject line. E-News deadline is Friday at 9 AM.

MASS INTENTIONS:
If you wish to arrange for a Mass to be said for special intentions, see the secretary, Anne, in the Parish Office. A suggested donation of $10 per Mass may be made via cash or check made out to St. Joseph the Worker.

MEMORIAL FUND:
Masses are said for members of the Memorial Fund on the First Friday of every month. Enrollment folders are available in the Parish Office for a donation of $25 or more.
After the death of a family member, you are invited to have your relative's name commemorated on a plaque on the Memorial Tree in the Grotto by suggesting that memorial offerings be donated to the Church in memory of the deceased. A leaf may also be obtained by making a donation of $100 or more in their memory. Contact Anne Angelella in the Parish Office at 610-395-2876.

HUSZAR SCOLARSHIP:
Contact: Anne Angelella, parishoffice@stjwchurch.org, 610-395-2876
Description: The Huszar Scholarship Fund, in the name of Francis and Michael Huszar, was established by parishioner Anna Huszar over 40 years ago. In her will she left a bequest to the Parish to be invested and used to assist college bound students. Mrs. Huszar never had the opportunity to go to college herself, and wanted to assist others. Criteria to receive scholarship funds are based upon financial need, practice of the Faith, Parish involvement, and college Newman Center involvement. An application may be picked up at the parish office in time to return it by June 30th.

ELECTRONIC GIVING is offered for your convenience, and for the convenience of our dedicated volunteers. Inquire at the parish office or on the website at www.stjwchurch.org/online-giving.

Offices located in the PARISH OFFICE:

- Communications Director: Gina Medvedz
- Parish Secretary: Anne Angelella
- Business Manager: Timothy Hood
- Administrative Assistant: Jennifer Keim
- Helping Hands: Jonelle Yonak

PARISH FACILITIES

PARISH CENTER: Meetings, social, and educational activities are held in the Parish Center.

- Commercial Kitchen: 6 ovens, 12 gas burners, griddle, warming units, walk-in cooler, double freezers, dishwasher, counter/work areas
- Main Hall: Up to 30 round tables which seat 8. Bar area. Capacity 250 people
- Room 1 (Director of Music's Office)
- Room 2 (Director of the Parish Center's Office)
- Rooms 3 and 4
- Rooms 5 and 6
- Monsignor Smith Boardroom: Seats 14

Offices located in PARISH CENTER:

- Parish Center Director: Jessica Mueller
- Music Director: Mark O'Hearn

SCHEDULING USE OF FACILITIES:

- To schedule use of the Church or Parish Center, contact Anne in the Parish Office at 610-395-2876 ext. 10.
- To schedule a meeting or event in the School, please contact Lisa Milano, 610-395-7221.
- A "Use of Facilities Request" form, required for all requests, may be obtained in the parish office or on our website, www.stjwchurch.org under forms.

CHAPEL:
The All Saints Chapel is open for Eucharistic Adoration from 9 AM to 8 PM, Monday through Friday. The Chapel can be reserved for small weddings.

THE GOOD SHEPHERD ROOM:
Parents with young children may sit in the Good Shepherd room if they are concerned about their children distracting people in the main body of the Church during Mass. Children are a blessing from God and are always welcome at St. Joseph the Worker Church! The Good Shepherd room is available to schedule for small group meetings when other space is unavailable, but not on a regular basis.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

BROTHERS IN CHRIST MEN'S GROUP

Contact Persons:

Deacon Tony Campanell, tonycampanell@yahoo.com, 484-788-2243

Mike Tully: mtully@groupspi.com, 702-622-1167

Description of Ministry:

This faith outreach to men seeks to serve the church in the mission of evangelization, providing opportunities for spiritual growth, renewal of faith, and a relationship with Jesus and each other to become the men God intended us to be. We seek to see more men respond to Jesus' call to discipleship by living out their Baptismal call to mission and ongoing conversion and transformation. We seek to establish an environment which supports, encourages and fosters men's spirituality, so they can model vibrant Catholic Faith in their family and marriages as well as be strengthened through God's Word and Sacraments.

Activities/Schedule: The group meets on Saturday in room 3-4 in the Parish Center at 9am.

Comments: We welcome new members 18 and over to join us. Feel free to show up or call if you would like more information.

CURSILLO RETREAT and GROUP MEETINGS

Contact Persons: Jim and Nancy Clee, nclee1708@gmail.com, 610-530-0174

Cursillo is a worldwide lay movement within the Catholic Church dedicated to the renewal of the faith and Christian service to our communities. An annual Cursillo Weekend Retreat (A Short Course in Christianity) is followed by optional monthly or weekly meetings where we discuss how Christ is acting in our lives.

Activities/Schedule: One-time annual retreat; optional monthly meetings with larger Cursillo community at Cathedral; optional weekly small group meetings at St. Joseph the Worker.

Comments: Individuals may only make the retreat once, but afterward may stay involved in the community as much as they wish.

DIVINE MERCY CENACLE

Contact Person: Nancy Clee, nclee1708@gmail.com, 610-530-0174

Description of Ministry: The Divine Mercy Cenacle meets weekly to study the message of Divine Mercy and discuss how we can live out that message in our daily lives. We perform works of mercy; run the

Parish food pantry; lead the Chaplet at 3pm in the Chapel; send cards to the sick and suffering; support prison ministry; and pray for the dying. The purpose of the Cenacle is to grow in our knowledge and understanding of the message of Divine Mercy and then incorporate that message into our daily lives.

Activities/Schedule: The Cenacle meets on Wednesdays at 9:15am in Room 3-4 in the Parish Center. We invite you to pray the Chaplet of Divine Mercy with us at 3pm in the Chapel on weekdays.

Comments: Everyone is welcome to join us. We are always happy to answer any questions you may have about Divine Mercy.

ORDER OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR ADULTS (OCIA)

Contact Persons: Deacon Butch Readinger, deaconcarl29@gmail.com 610-899-2048

Description of Ministry: OCIA is the program to prepare and welcome those 16 years-of-age and older into the Catholic Church. Any person who is not baptized or who is baptized into another Christian denomination and is seeking to learn more about the Catholic faith is welcomed to this weekly program which begins in September and runs through Easter. If you have a sincere desire to learn more about the Catholic Faith, or if you are a Catholic who, for any reason, has not received Christian formation or all of the Sacraments (Baptism, Holy Eucharist, Confirmation), then please join us.

We will introduce and discuss the basic doctrines of the Church, explain our common forms of prayer and worship, pray together the Rites of Initiation leading to Baptism at Easter, and share time in fellowship at various times throughout the year. We welcome you to join us!

Activities/Schedule: We meet September through April at 7 pm on Tuesday evenings in the Board Room in the Parish Center.

THURSDAY MORNING SCRIPTURE STUDY

Contact Persons: Carol Saccon, carolsaccon@gmail.com, 610-360-1617

Description of Ministry: Join us as we preview the readings for the upcoming Sunday to enrich and provide further explanation. We use a Study Guide, prayer, reading, discussion and personal sharing to prepare ourselves to participate whole-heartedly in the celebration of Sunday Mass. Come grow spiritually as your understanding of the Bible and God's Holy Word expand as well.

Activities/Schedule: Meetings are held on Thursday mornings from 9:30-11:00 am in room 5-6 in the Parish Center.

COUNCILS AND COMMITTEES

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Contact Person:

Alternate Contact: Timothy Hood, 610-395-2876

Description of Ministry: The Finance Committee represents the parishioners of St. Joseph the Worker parish as advisors to our pastor for all the financial matters of the parish. Our Mission is to provide the Pastor the most robust and timely financial advice in order to ensure that the best financial decisions are made for the benefit of the parish.

Activities/Schedule: Advisory meetings are scheduled four times per year to prepare budgets, review financial performance, consult on tactical and strategic matters and to coordinate major project decisions and implementation. Finance Committee members are invited to serve by the Pastor.

VOCATIONS COMMITTEE

Contact Person: Fran Galassi, 610-704-9122

Description of Ministry: The Vocation Committee is a group that promotes vocations to the Priesthood and Religious life through prayer and support for our clergy. Our Mission is to support our Priests, Seminarians, and members of the religious life through prayer, affirmation and celebration. The Vocations Committee hosts a weekly Holy Hour on Tuesdays at 7 PM to pray for vocations. All are welcome.

Comments: We welcome volunteers to serve in this ministry.

FESTIVAL COMMITTEE

Contact Person: Lance Mueller, lance.e.mueller@gmail.com, 610-762-4284

Description of Ministry: The Festival Committee holds our Annual Summer Festival on a Friday, Saturday & Sunday in June and works hard to ensure it is a success. We seek to create a sense of community within the parish and with the general community at large & to make a profit to assist with the parish finances.

Comments: We welcome and need many volunteers to assist in our Summer Festival. Volunteer sign up opportunities are presented to the Community prior to the Festival.

SAFETY COUNCIL

Contact Person: Chris Englebert, cenglebert@rcn.com, 610-428-8572

Description of Ministry: Responsible for seeing to the safety and security of the Parish.

FELLOWSHIP GROUPS/ACTIVITIES

CATHOLIC GRANDPARENTS ASSOCIATION

Contact Person: Art and Jo Garcia, garcia1047@ptd.net, 610-395-8247

Description: Our mission statement is, "To help Grandparents pass on the faith and keep prayer in the heart of family life." Join us as we pray for each other and share wisdom and hope for our families.

Activities: We meet once a month on the third Monday of the month at 9:15 AM. See the bulletin and E-News for details.

CLOVER DELL SCHOOLHOUSE QUILTERS

Contact Person: Vicky Kern, 610-730-8233 (call or text)

Description: The Clover Dell Schoolhouse Quilters meet every Monday evening from 6:30 to 9 pm in Room 1 at the Parish Center. We have been meeting since 1994 and most of us hadn't known how to quilt at that time. We have practiced our craft for almost all of our parish groups, providing them with an opportunity to raise funds for their individual priorities with hand quilted quilts. It is a time of learning and fellowship. Anyone interested in quilting with us or learning how to quilt is welcome. Just show up.

Activities/Schedule: We meet every Monday morning from 9 to 11 AM in the Rectory Basement. Stairs are located off the courtyard between the Church and the Parish Center.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Contact Person: Anthony Fragassi, acfrazz@gmail.com 610-530-8119

Description of Ministry: The Knights of Columbus is the largest Catholic family fraternal service organization dedicated to assisting our Pastor, parish, community, deceased member's widows and children, and a number of charitable organizations. Our Mission is to live our faith through example and action, and serve our fellow man through the principles of Charity, Unity, Fraternity, and Patriotism.

Activities/Schedule: Regular business meetings are held on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7:30 pm. You must be a member to attend. Contact us about joining.

LABOR OF LOVE KNITTING/CROCHETING CRAFTERS

Contact Person: Yvonne Schweighardt, schweiym@ptd.net , 610-395-9134

Description of Ministry: Needles, hooks, looms, and yarn, oh my! What beautiful items can be created and shared! The Crafters Group consists of dedicated members - experienced and beginners. Our purpose is to share our labors of love with those who may be in need of kindness and comfort.

Activities/Schedule: We meet from 1:00-3:30 pm in the Parish Center on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month (with some holiday exceptions) from September through May.

MIDDLE ADULT SERVICE & SOCIAL (M.A.S.S.)

Contact Person: Scott Appnel, scott.appnel@jefferson.edu, 484-280-3106

Description of Ministry: Meet and socialize with others between the ages of 35-55 who share your values and beliefs. Contact Scott to join our mailing list for event updates.

MOMS & MINIS

Contact Person: Cristina Atiyeh, cristina.atiyeh@gmail.com, 484-895-8720

Description of Ministry: Meet and socialize with other moms and their children, growing in Faith and raising strong Catholic children in a Christ-centered community.

SENIOR FELLOWSHIP

Contact Person: Janet Kahora, jlkahora1951@gmail.com, 610-392-7143

Description of Ministry: Senior Fellowship is a group of seniors who gather monthly for a complimentary luncheon and presentation or activity. Our mission is to provide social contacts, engage in activities and promote a positive life style for seniors who are alone and/or need spiritual and social support. Typically on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at noon, watch the bulletin and E-News for confirmation.

YOUNG ADULTS

Contact Person: Fr. Aaron Scheidel, ascheidel@stjwchurch.org

Description of Ministry: Open to all young adults, aged 21-35, married or single, parishioner or non-parishioner. We meet on the last Saturday of the month at 5:15 PM.

WOMEN'S GUILD

Contact Person: Ahalia Mangar-Buggs, ahaliad@gmail.com, 929-519-1254

Description of Ministry: Women's Guild is a parish organization open to all women over the age of 18. We show our parish pride by our continual commitment of time, talent, &treasure. We begin all meetings with Mass offered for our intentions and meet monthly, except January, from September to May, on the first Tuesday of the first full week of the month.

Our purpose is to help cultivate the spiritual, cultural, and social growth of not only all Guild members, but also the Parish at large. The Women's Guild, through its activities, works to engender vibrant Christian family life.

We create Craftfest in November; feed the needy of the Soup Kitchen; support our clergy; distribute proceeds from our many fund raising events to our Parish, the Missions & our community.

Comments: All are welcome at any and all meetings. You are invited to attend just our programs and meetings or to participate in any Parish or outreach ministries which may interest you. Attend a meeting and see what we are all about! Refreshments are served at all meetings.

HOSPITALITY

HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE

Contact Person: Gail Schairer at 610-349-1850, gail.schairer3@gmail.com

Hospitality Committee members serve to welcome and host at our many social events, including monthly Coffee & Donuts.

GREETERS

Contact Person: Joanne DeFalcis at 610-392-8402, joannedef@rcn.com

If you would like to share your bright smile and an open heart, the welcome committee wants you! Greeters are needed before all Masses. We work around your Mass time preference. It is a very small time commitment, but the generous gift you give of yourself in this way is so important to our community of faith here at St. Joseph the Worker. For information on becoming a Greeter, please contact Joanne.

USHERS

Contact Person: Deacon Butch Readinger, deaconcarl29@gmail.com

Ushers are welcoming members of our parish who help people find seats at Mass, take up the offering and hand out bulletins.

LITURGICAL MINISTRIES

ALTAR SERVERS

Contact Person: Gina Medvedz, 610-395-2876 ext. 11, or email media@stjwchurch.org

All students who have made their First Holy Communion in grade 4 and up may serve. Register your child for the next training by contacting Gina.

LECTORS

Contact Persons: Deacon Butch Readinger, deaconcarl29@gmail.com 610-899-2048

If you have a clear and prominent speaking voice, please consider sharing your skills with the parish as a lector. We can schedule you to read according to the Mass you typically attend.

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST

Contact Person: Deacon Butch Readinger, 610-899-2048, deaconcarl29@gmail.com

Description of Ministry: Extraordinary Eucharistic Ministers help to distribute the body, blood, soul and divinity of our Lord Jesus Christ during the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass when there are not enough priests and deacons to distribute in a timely fashion. If you feel called to this ministry, please contact Deacon Butch.

MUSIC MINISTRIES

CANTORS

Contact Person: Mark O'Hearn, Director of Music, mohearn@stjwchurch.org
Ministry Description: Cantors direct the congregation in song during the Holy Mass. If you are interested in becoming a cantor, please contact Mark.

ST. JOSEPH PARISH CHOIR

Contact Person: Mark O'Hearn, Director of Music, mohearn@stjwchurch.org
Ministry Description: Choir members will rotate singing at the 11 AM Sunday Mass. The choir sings different styles of music from traditional hymnody, Gregorian chant, classical choral literature to present day. The ensemble utilizes the organ as its primary accompaniment with occasional added instruments. Rehearsals are held on Thursday evenings during the academic year 7:00-8:00 PM in the Parish Center. All are welcome. For more information, contact the Director of Music.

INSTRUMENTALISTS

Contact Person: Mark O'Hearn, Director of Music, mohearn@stjwchurch.org
In addition to instrumentalists, we also seek proficient organists and pianists to support the singing at our other weekend and Holy Day Masses. For more information, please contact the Director of Music.

PRAYER DEVOTIONS

Let everything that breathes, praise the Lord. -Psalm 150

Divine Mercy Chaplet - 3:00 p.m. M-F in the Chapel. We welcome you to join us in prayer. If you have a special intention you would like us to pray for, please email Nancy Clee at nclee1708@gmail.com or call her at 610-530-0174.
Eucharistic Adoration - 9 am to 8pm Monday through Friday in the Chapel and First Fridays from 9 am to 8 am on Saturday (see below).
Morning Rosary - Mon.-Sat. - right after the 8:30 a.m. Mass in the Chapel.

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Contact Persons: Mary Johnstone, adoration@stjwchurch.org, 484-223-6239

Description of Ministry: The Adoration ministry involves planning, scheduling and increasing participation in weekly adoration as well as in times of extended Adoration on First Fridays, and during Lent. Our Mission is to promote the spiritual growth of our parish by providing a place and time for quiet prayer before the Blessed Sacrament and to encourage parishioners to commit to one hour of Adoration each week. Adorers willing to commit to a specific hour each week are always needed.
-Holy Hour for Vocations on Tuesday at 7pm
Activities/Schedule: Adoration takes place in the Chapel Monday through Friday 9 AM to 8 PM. On First Fridays it is extended overnight until 8 AM Saturday.
Comments: There is an Adoration tab on the Church website with information on Adoration and a list of frequently asked questions. Our E-News lists open hours that need coverage. Please contact Mary above if you can become a permanent adorer or a substitute.

SEVEN SISTERS APOSTOLATE

Contacts: Gina Medvedz, gmedvedz@stjwchurch.org, 610-395-2876 ext. 11

Ministry description: The Seven Sisters Apostolate prays for the Pastor of the parish. Each Sister completes a Holy Hour for the Pastor on their assigned day of the week in front of the Blessed Sacrament, if possible. At the end of a one year commitment, each Sister can decide whether or not to renew for another year. Those who desire to pray with the Seven Sisters Apostolate are always welcome. If you are willing to be a substitute if one of the Sisters cannot complete the hour on her assigned day, please contact Gina to be added to the list of substitutes.
Activities/Schedule: Annual meeting in June for group commitment renewal and weekly Holy Hour at your convenience during your assigned day.

SUPPORT GROUPS AND OUTREACH PROGRAMS

BEREAVEMENT

Contact: Parish Office, parishoffice@stjwchurch.org, 610-395-2876

Ministry description: The Bereavement Committee's Mission is to give support to our Parish families who have lost a loved one, to assure them that they are not alone and are being prayed for by our Parish family, and to give them the opportunity to be listened to and helped through their loss.
Activities/Schedule: Committee members assist families with funeral arrangements and pre-planning.

CARING COMMITTEE

Contact Person: Gina Medvedz, media@stjwchurch.org, 610-395-2876

Description: When parishioners are in need of a visit, a meal, a food box from our pantry, help with a doctor's visit, emergency babysitting, grocery shopping, or some other task that someone might be willing to do, the Caring Committee members step up to help. If you are interested in helping members of our parish in times of need, sign up HERE to join our list and receive notifications when parishioners are looking for help.

DIOCESAN PRISON MINISTRY

Contact Person: Parishioner Carol Saccon, carolsaccon@gmail.com, 610-360-1617

Description: Prison Ministers provide Catholic group ministry to the male and female inmates at the Lehigh County Jail, as well as secure priests for the sacraments of Confession and Communion. If you are interested in becoming a prison minister, contact Carol. New ministers accompany current ministers until they feel comfortable. You will need to submit paperwork to the jail and have a background check for clearance purposes to participate.

Activities: Varies depending on individual availability

FAMILY PROMISE

Contact Person: Ruth Joyce, rmj520@gmail.com, 484-809-2044

Alternate Contact: Fran Roposh, roposhfc@gmail.com, 610-428-0097

Description of Ministry: Family Promise provides temporary shelter for homeless families of Lehigh County in area Churches. Our Parish partners with Jordan Lutheran Church. The families stay at Jordan and our volunteers go there.

Activities: Family Promise volunteers set up beds, provide meals, stay overnight at Jordan Lutheran Church in case of emergency, and/or set out breakfast for the families in the program. Volunteers need clearances. For more information, contact Ruth or Fran.

HELPING HANDS

Contact Person: Jonelle Yonak, helpinghands@stjw.org, 610-395-2876 x-174

Description of Ministry: Helping Hands is a gift card fundraiser/scrip program that helps families reduce the cost of their STJW School, Early Childhood, Allentown Central Catholic HS, PREP tuition and even college. It assists families in reducing their tuition costs as well as raising funds to assist families in need and the needs of the Parish.

Activities/Schedule: We sell gift cards before and after Masses and Tuesday through Friday in the Parish Office from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm. We appreciate volunteers!

DEFENDERS OF LIFE

Contact Persons: Jo Garcia, garcia1047@ptd.net, 610-395-8247 or Sandra Zawistowski zfmly85@aol.com, 610-967-5015

Description of Ministry: Our group promotes the pro-life teachings of the Catholic Church. We seek to foster an appreciation for the dignity of human life by praying for the protection of all human life from conception to natural death, educating parishioners on issues pertaining to the right to life, supporting parishioners to face the challenges that threaten the dignity of the human person, most especially their most precious God given gift of life. We financially assist agencies which support pregnant unmarried women in their choice to keep, rather than abort, their babies.

Activities/Schedule: Meetings are on the second Thursday of the month via Zoom.

GOOD SAMARITAN SOCIETY

Contact Person: Anne Angelella, parishoffice@stjwchurch.org, 610-395-2876

Description of Ministry: The Good Samaritan Society helps those people in need with services that could include home furnishings, food, clothing, and shelter as deemed necessary on an individual basis.

YOUTH MINISTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

FAMILY FAITH FORMATION

Contact Person: Rose Hayward, rhayward@stjw.org**,** 610-395-4920 ext. 26

Alternate Contact: Nancy Policare, npolicare@stjw.org, 610-395-4920 ext. 27

Description of Ministry: Religious Education is much more than passing on facts; it is about formation! The life of every Catholic, from childhood to adulthood, is about being formed in the image of Christ.

This process of formation is always new and never ends. We are here to help you with the formation of your children as they grow in their relationship with our Lord.

St. Joseph the Worker Family Faith Formation is a continuing journey of faith for school age children and their parents. In this program, our families experience the rich traditions of our Catholic faith. We strive to pass on doctrine and Catholic traditions, build community, and prepare the students for the lives and ministry that their baptism declares. We hope to motivate all students and their families to a life of faithfulness and action. Supported by faith-filled parents, dedicated volunteer catechists, full-time teachers, priests, deacons, and the St. Joseph the Worker community of faith, may our children enjoy their learning and grow to appreciate the gift of their Catholic faith. Welcome to everyone, especially the children! If you are interested in assisting or teaching, contact Rose or Liz for clearance information.

ALTAR SERVERS

All children who have received their First Holy Communion who are in 4th grade or up may serve at Mass. To become an Altar Server, please contact the Parish Office at parishoffice@stjwchurch.org or 610-395-2876.

YOUTH GROUP- 8th through 12th grade students

Contact Person: Annaleigh Gidosh, youthminister@stjwchurch.org

CUB SCOUTS

For information about the Cub Scouts, contact Theresa Kowal, theresakowal@me.com, 610-351-4291

BOY SCOUTS

For information about the Boy Scouts, contact Dan Spieker, d_spieker@yahoo.com, 484-597-0013

CYO SPORTS

Contact Person: John Kriner, jkrinercyo@gmail.com, 610-715-8617

Basketball (winter)

- Skills and drills (grades k-2)
- Instructional "Biddy" League (grades 3-4)
- JV (grades 5-6)
- Varsity (grades 7-8)
- Vikettes Jr. High Basketball program at Central (must participate in CYO)
- High School (grades 9-12)

Cheerleading (grades 4-8, winter)
Cross Country (grades K-8, fall)
Golf (grades 7-8th, fall)
MiniVikes Football
Track and Field (3-8, spring)
Recreational Soccer (u6 - u8, fall and spring, seasonal registration)
Travel Soccer u9-u15 (both fall and spring, whole year registration)
Volleyball Junior Varsity and Varsity (5-8/Girls), Vikette Junior High Volleyball Program
Volleyball Co-ed Spring League Junior Varsity and Varsity (5-8 boys and girls)

PRE-SCHOOL AND PRE-K CLASSES

Mrs. Theresa Heintzelman, Director, theintzelman@stjw.org**, 610-395-7400**

Our Preschool/Pre-Kindergarten/Jr. Kindergarten classrooms are arranged into "Learning Centers". The programs are based on an age-appropriate, hands-on approach to learning where the teachers become the child's guides instead of implementing a rigidly structured day. The child chooses which "Learning Center" he/she is most interested in & works in that area until his/her interests shift to another area. Each "Learning Center" focuses on a different area of the child's development and the Preschool/Pre-Kindergarten/Jr. Kindergarten curriculum. They include Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies, Technology, Religion, Dramatic Play, Art, Music and Movement, Sign Language, and the use of manipulative materials to reinforce the area of learning. The children also have the opportunity for "Free Play" outside, weather permitting.

Preschool (Age 2 & 3) Tuesday and Thursday from 9:00 AM - 12 PM
Prekindergarten (Age 4) Mon., Wed., Fri. - 9:00 - 11:30 AM or 9:00 – 2:00 PM
Jr. Kindergarten Monday - Friday from 9:00 AM – 2:30 PM
Ask about Preschool with Childcare, Monday through Friday, 8 AM- 3 PM or 7 AM- 5 PM
All students must be age appropriate by October 15th

ST. JOSEPH THE WORKER ROMAN CATHOLIC SCHOOL

St. Joseph the Worker School, established in 1997, is a center for learning, committed to the teachings of Jesus Christ. It provides Catholic educational opportunities designed to promote, build, strengthen, & unify our faith community. It is a positive and engaging environment in which students can grow in mind, body, and spirit.

The school strives to nurture the growth of each student's relationship with God and with the community through prayer, liturgy, and service. We invite all parents to become involved in this growth process. We encourage an open, honest communication between parents, students, and teachers. The goal of St. Joseph the Worker School is to extend Catholic values initiated in the home.

We endeavor to create a student-centered environment guided by the life of Jesus, who shows us the pathway to His Father. Teachers strive to establish an atmosphere where mutual respect is fostered among all. Working together, administrators, teachers, parents, & staff structure a loving, student-centered environment supporting the Catholic formation of the whole child.

St. Joseph the Worker School has a tradition of graduating students that excel in academics and preparing them for the future in mind, body, and spirit. Explore our web site to learn more about our school. Our school community welcomes you and your family!

For information or to register your child, contact the school at 610-395-7221.

THE WORKS OF MERCY

The church gives us the spiritual and corporal works of mercy to inspire us to action.

The CORPORAL works of mercy focus on physical needs:

- Feed the hungry
- Give drink to the thirsty
- Visit the sick
- Bury the dead
- Clothe the naked
- Shelter the homeless
- Visit the imprisoned

The SPIRITUAL works of mercy center on spiritual and emotional needs:

- Instruct the ignorant
- Counsel the doubtful
- Admonish the sinner
- Comfort the sorrowful
- Forgive injuries
- Bear wrongs patiently
- Pray for the living and the dead

"God is so merciful to us. We too should learn to be merciful..."

Pope Francis

SAINT JOSEPH THE WORKER, OUR PATRON SAINT

St. Joseph has two feast days on the liturgical calendar. The first is March 19 - Joseph, the Husband of Mary. The second is May 1 - Joseph, the Worker. Joseph is the patron saint of many things, including the universal Church, fathers & families, the dying and laborers.

There is very little about the life of Joseph in Scripture but we do know that he was a carpenter, a builder and a working man, for the skeptical Nazarenes ask about Jesus, "Is this not the carpenter's son?" (Matthew 13:55). He wasn't rich, for when he took Jesus to the Temple to be circumcised and Mary to be purified he offered the sacrifice of two turtledoves or a pair of pigeons, allowed only for those who could not afford a lamb (Luke 2:24).

We know that he came from the royal lineage of King David. Both Matthew and Luke mark his descent from David, the greatest king of Israel (Matthew 1:1-16/Luke 3:23-38). Indeed the angel who first tells Joseph about Jesus greets him as "son of David," a royal title used also for Jesus.

We know Joseph was a compassionate, caring man. When he discovered Mary was pregnant after they had been betrothed, he knew the child was not his but was as yet unaware that she was carrying the Son of God. He knew women accused of adultery could be stoned to death, so he resolved to send her away quietly to not expose her to shame or cruelty. However, when an angel came to Joseph in a dream and told him, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins," he did as the angel told him and took Mary as his wife. (Matthew 1:19-25).

When the angel came again to tell him that his family was in danger, he immediately left everything he owned, all his family and friends, and fled to a strange country with his young wife and the baby. He waited in Egypt without question until the angel told him it was safe to go back (Matthew 2:13-23).

We know Joseph loved Jesus. His one concern was for the safety of this child entrusted to him. Not only did he leave his home to protect Jesus, but upon his return settled in the obscure town of Nazareth out of fear for his life. When Jesus stayed in the Temple we are told Joseph (along with Mary) searched for him with great anxiety for three days (Luke 2:48). We also know that Joseph treated Jesus as his own son, for over and over the people of Nazareth say of Jesus, "Is this not the son of Joseph?" (Luke 4:22)

We know Joseph respected God. He followed God's commands in handling the situation with Mary and going to Jerusalem to have Jesus circumcised and Mary purified after Jesus' birth. We are told that he took his family to Jerusalem every year for Passover, something that could not have been easy for a working man.

Since Joseph does not appear in Jesus' public life, at his death, or resurrection, many historians believe Joseph probably had died before Jesus entered public ministry.

SAINT JOSEPH PRAYER

To you, O blessed Joseph,
do we come in our tribulation,
and having implored the help of your most holy Spouse,
we confidently invoke your patronage also.

Through that charity which bound you
to the Immaculate Virgin Mother of God
and through the paternal love
with which you embraced the Child Jesus,
we humbly beg you graciously to regard the inheritance
which Jesus Christ has purchased by his Blood,
and with your power and strength to aid us in our
necessities.

O most watchful guardian of the Holy Family,
defend the chosen children of Jesus Christ;
O most loving father, ward off from us
every contagion of error and corrupting influence;
O our most mighty protector, be kind to us
and from heaven assist us in our struggle
with the power of darkness.

As once you rescued the Child Jesus from deadly peril,
so now protect God's Holy Church
from the snares of the enemy and from all adversity;
shield, too, each one of us by your constant protection,
so that, supported by your example and your aid,
we may be able to live piously, to die in holiness,
and to obtain eternal happiness in heaven.

Amen

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