

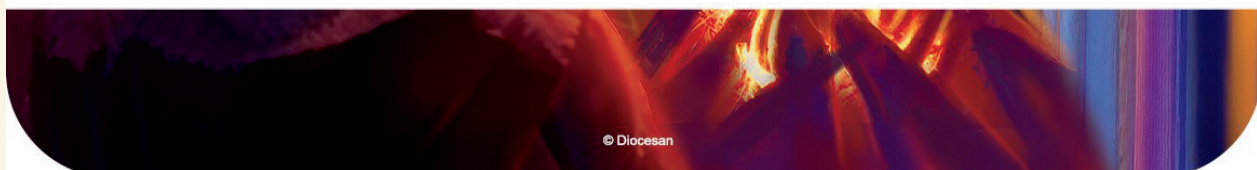
ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH

'Where Faith and Family Are One'

Main and Poplar Sts. Ambler, PA 19002



SOME WHO ARE LAST
**WILL BE
FIRST**
AND SOME WHO ARE FIRST
**WILL BE
LAST**



© Diocesan

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 24, 2025

GENERAL

Contact: 215-646-0494 www.stjoeambler.org
 E-mail: stjoeambler@gmail.com
 Rectory Address: 16 S. Spring Garden St.
 Ambler PA 19002 fax 215-643-6389

Staff

Pastor Father James T. Mc Guinn
 Director of Adult and Hispanic
 Deacon Mark J. Kuhn (Spanish speaking)
 contact - 484-746-3414
 Deacon Michael Cuff
 Deacon Kevin Gentilcore

Director of Family & Youth 215-646-0494 (ext. 6)	Suzanne Kuhn
Office Manager/Secretary Housekeeper	Lisa Gallagher Michele Zollo
Facilities Manager	Oleg Berezovski

Parish Office Hours

Monday through Thursday 9:00AM - 4:00 PM
 Closed for lunch from 12:00 PM -1:00 PM
 Friday 9:00 AM -12:00 PM
 The Rectory office is closed on all holidays.

New Parishioners

We are always happy to welcome new parishioners!
 If you are interested in joining our wonderful Parish family, please register after any of the masses or:
 register online at stjoeambler@gmail.com
 visit our website at stjoeambler.org or contact the rectory office at 215-646-0494.



Prayer Requests for:

Jimmy Cowman	Anthony D'Acunto
Clare Di Donato	Emily Gudas
Kathleen/Francis Hart	Joan Sontag
Jessica Hummel	Rita Malozzi
Maryann Osowski	Jeanne Stabilito

Please continue to pray all who are ill or in need of prayers. Names are removed monthly unless notified.

Please keep Joseph Regan in your prayers as he discerns about the priesthood and God's calling in His life.

Living Stewardship Now

If anyone expresses doubt about faith and religious belief, don't argue with them. Speak words of encouragement and pray for them.
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Mass Intentions

Saturday Vigil

4:00 PM Skip Hofmann

Requested by

Roseanne/Charles Hofmann

Sunday

7:30 AM Trudy Rich
 1:00 PM

Mauerer Family

Monday, Wednesday and Friday Communion Service

Tuesday

6:30 AM Ray and Carol Damiani

Maria Damiani

Thursday

6:30AM Joseph Tobin

Betty/Jim O'Brien

Candle Memorials



Mary



Tabernacle
Mike/Dolores Zollo



St. Joseph



Mass Schedule

St. Joseph Mass schedule

Saturday Confession: 2:45-3:45

Saturday Vigil 4:00 PM

Sunday 7:30 AM

Monday, Wednesday and Friday AM Communion Service

Tuesday and Thursday 6:30 AM Mass

Spanish 1:00 PM First and Third Sunday

Holydays of Obligation 12:05 PM

St. Anthony of Padua Mass schedule

Sunday 9:00 AM, 11:00 AM & 5:00 PM

Spanish 1:00 PM Second Sunday

Monday, Wednesday & Friday 8:15 AM

Tuesday & Thursday 8:15 AM Communion Service

Holydays of Obligation 8:15 AM

Sunday Readings

Reading 1 [Isaiah 66:18-21](#)

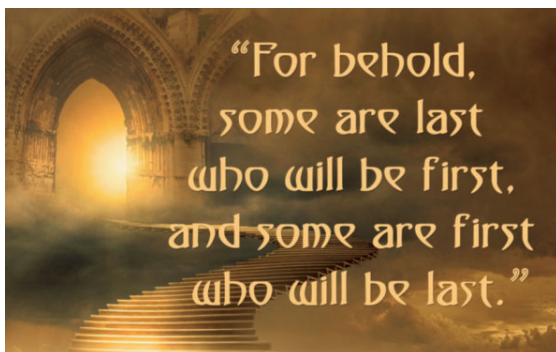
Thus says the LORD:

I know their works and their thoughts,
and I come to gather nations of every language;
they shall come and see my glory.
I will set a sign among them;
from them I will send fugitives to the nations:
to Tarshish, Put and Lud, Mosoch, Tubal and Javan,
to the distant coastlands
that have never heard of my fame, or seen my glory;
and they shall proclaim my glory among the nations.
They shall bring all your brothers and sisters from all the nations
as an offering to the LORD,
on horses and in chariots, in carts, upon mules and dromedaries,
to Jerusalem, my holy mountain, says the LORD,
just as the Israelites bring their offering
to the house of the LORD in clean vessels.
Some of these I will take as priests and Levites, says the LORD.

Responsorial Psalm [Psalm 117:1, 2](#)

R. Go out to all the world and tell the Good News.
Praise the LORD, all you nations;
glorify him, all you peoples!

R. Go out to all the world and tell the Good News.
For steadfast is his kindness toward us,
and the fidelity of the LORD endures forever.
R. Go out to all the world and tell the Good News.



*This section of the bulletin will soon be discontinued. Including the scriptures in the bulletin began with COVID when there were no hymnals available.

We encourage you to use the hymnals that are in the pew holders to follow the readings and join in song.

Reading 2 [Hebrews 12:5-7, 11-13](#)

Brothers and sisters,

You have forgotten the exhortation addressed to you as children:

"My son, do not disdain the discipline of the Lord or lose heart when reproved by him; for whom the Lord loves, he disciplines; he scourges every son he acknowledges."
Endure your trials as "discipline"; God treats you as sons.
For what "son" is there whom his father does not discipline?
At the time, all discipline seems a cause not for joy but for pain,
yet later it brings the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who are trained by it.
So strengthen your drooping hands and your weak knees.
Make straight paths for your feet,
that what is lame may not be disjointed but healed.

Gospel [Luke 13:22-30](#)

Jesus passed through towns and villages, teaching as he went and making his way to Jerusalem.
Someone asked him,
"Lord, will only a few people be saved?"
He answered them,
"Strive to enter through the narrow gate, for many, I tell you, will attempt to enter but will not be strong enough.
After the master of the house has arisen and locked the door,
then will you stand outside knocking and saying, 'Lord, open the door for us.'
He will say to you in reply, 'I do not know where you are from.'
And you will say, 'We ate and drank in your company and you taught in our streets.'
Then he will say to you, 'I do not know where you are from.'
Depart from me, all you evildoers!
And there will be wailing and grinding of teeth when you see Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God and you yourselves cast out.
And people will come from the east and the west and from the north and the south and will recline at table in the kingdom of God.
For behold, some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last."

THE SACRAMENTS



Sacrament of Baptism and Confirmation Role of Sponsors Baptisms are scheduled with the Deacon. Please contact the rectory office for more information.

Godparent or Sponsor Requirement- You must be a practicing Catholic, in good standing, and attend mass regularly, (married validly if married), at least 16 years of age, and have received the sacraments of initiation (Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist).

Sacrament of the Sick In case of serious illness, please contact the Rectory or call the emergency number if after office hours.

Sacrament of Marriage

Parishioners planning a wedding, contact the office to book an available date at least six months or more prior to that date. If a couple is not a member of this parish, they should request a letter of permission from their 'home' parish.

Applying this Week's Gospel

In Jesus' day, some nominal disciples who were slightly familiar with Christ thought that a casual knowledge of him was enough to be saved. Others thought that once they were saved and members of the Church, life would be easy, and they could just coast. What was a problem in Jesus' day is also a problem in our day. As Christians, we too can think that a casual knowledge of Jesus or simple membership in the Church is enough to guarantee salvation. They are not, and this type of thinking is unacceptable. This week, see how there may be a casual knowledge of Christ in your life and take steps to correct it.

Father Jim



We would like to welcome Father Drew from the St. Charles Seminary. Father will be assisting at our Masses here and at St. Anthony.

ADULT

Saint Monica (332-387) August 27

She had smiles for the neighbors, though her husband found her religion and the charity it inspired annoying. She made tearful prayers in private for a son, outwardly self-assured but, as his mother knew, inwardly restless, and whose girlfriend of a dozen years had borne his child out of wedlock. Though not the first or last such mother and son, Monica and Augustine are the Church's most famous, so we keep their feast days back to back, with Monica's, fittingly, first. To Rome she followed Augustine, then to Milan, where years of prayer—and nagging—finally bore fruit in his conversion by Saint Ambrose. For six months, mother and son enjoyed the blessing of rediscovering each other. Just in time! On the way home to North Africa, Monica took sick and died near Rome. No child who has mourned a parent can read, unmoved, Augustine's tender account, in his *Confessions*, of Monica's last days. At this time of the year, when parents watch apprehensively as children leave for school, may Monica's perseverance and Augustine's long-prayed-for conversion ease anxiety and kindle hope.

—Peter Scagnelli

Our Lady of Czestochowa August 26

The creation of this Black Madonna in Czestochowa, Poland, also known as Our Lady of Jasna Gora, is attributed by legend to Saint Luke. It bears scars and gashes that have been inflicted on it over centuries of sometimes violent events in Polish history.



Donut Sunday will resume on Sunday, September 28th after the 11:00 Prep Mass at St. Anthony of Padua's Friendship Hall. All are Welcome!



Anointing of the Sick

Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick

this sacrament takes place after the 4:00 PM Vigil Mass on the second Saturday of the month.

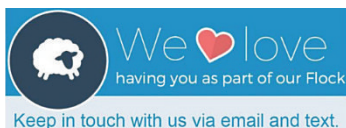
After the mass is ended, those who wish will be invited gather around the baptismal font. Please write your name on the sign up sheet after receiving the sacrament so it will be recorded in the book.

THE STRUGGLE

Mother Teresa—a saint for our times. She began religious life as a teacher in Calcutta, India, where she was shocked by the dismal poverty beyond the school. In 1948 she left teaching for a new calling: to serve the destitute in Calcutta's slums. Other women joined her, forming the Missionaries of Charity. At her death, Mother Teresa was world-renowned for her compassion. A recent book contains letters she wrote to advisors and friends, which reveal that she lived for years in a spiritual desert. She longed for God, but felt no faith, love, or fervor. Her smile masked an emptiness: if there is no God, there is no Jesus Christ. She died with her doubts in 1997. Atheists declared that the letters prove that religion is a sham. We who struggle with faith call her heroic for doing God's will in spite of spiritual darkness. Her dying wish was for the destruction of her letters, but the Church decided to keep them. Perhaps now we know why.

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Flocknote returns...



A few years back (around covid time) we started Flocknotes which is a way to reach out to everyone with church information who provided their email addresses and mobile numbers. We used it a few times, however; not too many signed up for it. It is an effective way for instant communication.

We are now going to use this social media form again. For those who previously signed up, you will still receive the information. If you are unsure, email St. Joseph's for confirmation.

For anyone who hasn't signed up you can send an email with the information or you can detach the short form provided here and just put it in the collection basket.. Thank you for all you do for St. Joseph's Church.

Detach here _____

NAME _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

MOBILE PHONE _____

**This is the same information requested when signing up for the digital bulletin.

FAMILY & YOUTH

Calling all Confirmation Candidates...

The sacrament of Confirmation will be conferred at St. Joseph's on Thursday, November 13, 2025. Does your child/ren match this description?

- ◆ Your family is registered at St. Joseph's Parish
- ◆ Your child attends a local Catholic school or is being home-schooled in a Catholic curriculum.
- ◆ Your child will be in seventh or eighth grade next fall.
- ◆ Your child has been baptized and has received First Holy Communion.
- ◆ Your child has received religious instruction continuously for at least the past two years and can document this.
- ◆ Your child has received some Confirmation instruction as part of his/her day school curriculum.

If so, please contact Director of Religious Education Suzanne Kuhn at 215-646-0494 or stjosephamblerdre@gmail.com for your child to be included in the November celebration of Confirmation.

Registration is about to begin for PREP 2025-2026. Live in-person religious instruction will be offered for grades K to 8 on Sundays from September 14, 2025 through May 3, 2026 from 10:15 AM to 11:30 AM in **St. Anthony's Education Center, 260 Forest Ave., Ambler 19002.**

Registration materials will be available at the doors of St. Joseph Church starting Sunday, June 15, 2025 and can be dropped off at St. Joseph's Rectory during normal business hours.

Back to School Prayer

Almighty God We give you our school. We give you all the teachers and staff who work here, We give you all the children who study here. We pray our school would be place of great discovery, adventure and creativity. May it be a place where we love to learn and where we learn to love, A place where every one is respected and all are deeply valued. We ask all this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

FINANCE

August 17th.

Sunday: \$2203.00

Spanish Mass: \$466.00

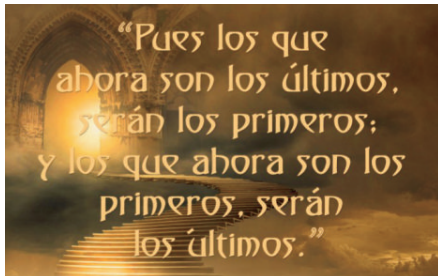
Assumption: \$727.00

Thank you for your contribution to St. Joseph Church. We appreciate all that you do.

HISPANIC MINISTRY

Nuestra Senora de Czestochowa 26 de Agosto

La leyenda atribuye a san Lucas la creación de esta Virgen Negra en Czestochowa, Polonia, también conocida como Nuestra Señora de Jasna Gora. Luce cicatrices y cortes inflingidos sobre ella durante el correr de los siglos y los sucesos, a veces violentos, de la historia polaca.



Santa Monica(332-387) 27 de Agosto

Les sonreía a los vecinos, aunque a su esposo le molestaba su religión y la caridad que inspiraba. Rezaba en privado con lágrimas en los ojos por su hijo, aparentemente seguro de sí mismo pero, como su madre sabía, interiormente inquieto, y cuya novia durante doce años había dado a luz a su hijo fuera del matrimonio. Aunque no son la primera ni la última madre e hijo de este tipo, Mónica y Agustín son los más famosos de la Iglesia, por lo que celebramos sus días festivos en dos días consecutivos, con el de Mónica apropiadamente primero. Le siguió a Agustín a Roma y luego a Milán, donde años de oración y regaños finalmente dieron fruto en su conversión por San Ambrosio. Durante seis meses, madre e hijo disfrutaron de la bendición de redescubrirse y ¡justo a tiempo! De camino a casa en el norte de África, Mónica se enfermó y falleció cerca de Roma. Ningún niño que haya llorado a una madre puede leer impasiblemente el tierno relato de Agustín de los últimos días de Mónica en sus *Confesiones*. En esta época del año, cuando los padres observan con aprensión cómo los niños se van a la escuela, que la perseverancia de Mónica y la conversión de Agustín por la que tanto oró alivie la ansiedad y encienda la esperanza. —Peter Scagnelli

LITURGY AND MUSIC

Scripture Readings

Sunday Is 66:18-21; Ps 117:1, 2; Heb 12: 5-7, 11-13; Lk 13:22-30

Monday 1 Thes 1:1-5, 8b-10; Ps 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a and 9b; Mt 23:13-22

Tuesday 1 Thes 2:1-8; Ps 139:1-3, 4-6; Mt 23:23-26

Wednesday Memorial of Saint Monica 1 Thes 2:9-13; Ps 139:7-8, 9-10, 11-12ab; Mt 23:27-32

Thursday 1 Thes 3:7-13; Ps 90:3-5a, 12-13, 14 and 17; Mt 24:42-51

Friday Memorial of the Passion of John the Baptist 1 Thes 4:1-8; Ps 97:1 and 2b, 5-6, 10, 11-12; Mk 6:17-29

Saturday 1 Thes 4:9-11, Ps 98:1, 7-8, 9; Mt 25:14-30

Treasures From Our Tradition

Eastern Catholic and Orthodox Christians share a love for the Byzantine liturgy because it is during the Eucharist that the Church is most true to its identity, expresses its integrity, and discovers its vocation. Eastern Catholic and Orthodox Christians celebrate essentially the identical liturgy, with only very slight variations. It is a fairly complex ritual weaving together three separate layers of prayers: a liturgy prayed in the sanctuary by priests, often hidden by a curtain or screen; a liturgy sung by the assembly and led by a deacon in front of a screen formed of painted icons; and a third layer of private prayer by the priest, who prays in support of the deacon and the faithful. It is an eyes-wide-open experience, gorgeous in visuals, and filled with the sound of God's people singing prayer. The energy of the worship centers on the presence of Christ, largely through an awareness of heaven touching earth when the Church gathers to celebrate.

In the late twentieth century, Latin Rite Catholics were encouraged to embrace a style of worship that was "full, conscious, and active," a value that has never been lost in the East. The liturgy has great impact in its beauty, in its poetry and contemplation, and by the actions of bowing, signing with the cross, and chanting that are required of the assembly. Contact with the Eastern Church reveals some key values that have been obscured in our own Church and are slowly being recovered.

—James Field



OUTSIDE NEWS

Abbey Fest – September 20, 2025

This year, our annual AbbeyFest is being held on the beautiful grounds of The National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa in Doylestown, PA. The Shrine grounds will be transformed into a festival atmosphere featuring amazing music, Catholic and Christian vendors, the presence of religious orders of priests and sisters, food trucks, family and kid-friendly activities, games, and an overall sense of the love of Christ. Also present are dozens of priests hearing confessions, along with prayer teams to support you in prayer. One of the most unique aspects of AbbeyFest is its engaging atmosphere for children, teens, youth groups and families to experience the fullness of faith and truth in Jesus Christ.

Join us in our mission and experience AbbeyFest. Visit <http://www.theabbeyfest.com> to register!

Corpus Christi

900 Sumneytown Pike, Lansdale
Presents Lunch and Bingo– September 20, 2025
Admission: \$40.00 (includes lunch and bingo)
Doors open at 9:00AM Bingo starts at Noon
Door Prizes 50/50 Pull Tabs
For advanced sales and Table Reservations call:
Laurie Ponticello 610-584-5694
email: geraldponticello@comcast.net

Catholic Women's Conference 2025

10 Year Anniversary Saturday, October 18, 2025—
9:00 AM to 4:00 PM National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa 654 Ferry Road Doylestown, PA Our theme is "Women on Mission: The Feminine Genius in the New Apostolic Age" based on the book From Christendom to Apostolic Mission: Pastoral Strategies for an Apostolic Age. At this year's conference, we will explore the beauty of our feminine genius and the unique position of Catholic women, transformed by Christ, to bring the light of the Gospel to a society that no longer knows it needs Him. Breakout sessions will feature examples of holy Catholic women who lived this reality in the midst of their own apostolic times.
Visit <https://www.catholicwomensconference.org/> To learn mor, volunteer and to register!

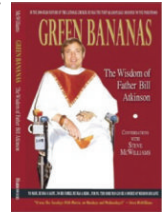
St Luke Over 50's Club

Opening Mass, Birthday Party and Meeting
Tuesday September 9, 2025 Mass: 11am at St Luke Church
Lunch: 12 noon at the Glenside VFW
2519 Jenkintown Road, Glenside PA

Father Bill Atkinson's Cause for Canonization:

Please continue to pray for his intercession.. For favors received or for more information, write Fr. Bill's Cause-Augustinian Provincial Offices PO Box 340- Villanova, PA 19085 610-527-3330 www.augustinian.org

As you know we continue to remember and pray for Father William Atkinson's 'call to Sainthood'.



Pray for our Nation

Our country, our military, police and first responders all need our prayers now! Please continue to pray for all in harms way who help protect us and our country. God bless and protect them all. Many have returned home and need both physical and emotional care. They cannot be forgotten. Pray for all those who have unselfishly given up their lives for our freedom. Jesus has said, "*There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for a friend*". May God give them strength and courage to continue to fight the battles they struggle with abroad and here at home!



Lansdale Catholic HS Class of '70- 55th Reunion

Come join us for laughter and reconnecting! Saturday September 27, 2025 - 2 PM to 5 PM Smokehouse Tavern, 155 Pennbrook Pky Lansdale, PA \$35 cash at door - Call or text RSVP by September 13th : Marianne Monzo - 215-872-0883 or Pat O'Hara - 267- 973-0378 or Louise Linden - 215-933-8606

Bishop McDevitt

50th Reunion Celebration
Date: Saturday, October 18, 2025 Time: 5:00-9:00 PM
Location: Sandy Run Country Club
200 E. Valley Green Road
Oreland, PA 19075
Cost: \$75.00 per person Includes: Buffet Dinner (cash bar) Dress Code: Country Club Casual
RSVP by October 1 by mailing your check to:
Mary Pat Wilkinson
P.O. Box 5
Lafayette Hill, PA 19444
Please make checks payable to Mary Pat Wilkinson.
Also accepting Zelle – Mpwilk0211@aol.com
Please include your contact information with your payment and maiden names for the ladies.
Let's reconnect and celebrate 50 years of memories, laughter and Lancer Pride.
Any questions contact:
Mary Pat Wilkinson - mpwilk0211@aol.com
Audrey Brabson Durkin - abd328@gmail.com



Diocesan is proud to be printing *St. Joseph's Sunday Bulletin*

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For opportunities to advertise, please call 800-994-9817

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