

## About those Shepherds...

by Fr. Dwight Longenecker



The charming story of Christmas night is that the shepherds were a bunch of country bumpkins who were dozing around the fire on the hillside when some angels appeared in the sky and sang “Glory Hallelujah” and the farmers rubbed their chins and said, “Ye know Festus, I speck we oughter go down there to the village and see if we can find this here pretty baby.”

There was more to it than that. Much more.

The Jewish historian Josephus writing in the first century records that at Passover up to 265,000 lambs would be sacrificed in the Jewish temple at Jerusalem. The Passover lamb was called “The Lamb of God.” Those lambs had to meet the strict legal-religious regulations of the Jewish faith. They had to be no more than one year old, male and without spot or blemish. Therefore they had to be born in controlled conditions and inspected for birth defects before being raised in protected conditions. Where did they get that many lambs? The law also said that animals to be sacrificed had to be born within five miles of Jerusalem. Bethlehem is just five miles from Jerusalem.

The hillsides around Bethlehem, therefore were a first century lamb factory farm. When the lambs were born they were wrapped up in strips of cloth to protect them and placed in a stone feeding trough in the birthing barn until the priest could come by and inspect them. This is why the angel said to the shepherds “This shall be a sign for you. You will find the baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.” The “manger” was most likely a stone feeding trough, not a wooden crib as we usually see. Jesus was therefore born in the same place and at the same time with the same treatment as the lambs that would be sacrificed.

The shepherds knew they were not going to see just any baby. They were going to see the newborn Lamb of God. That’s why they worshipped him. They knew he was the promised Messiah, the Suffering Servant, the Lamb of God.

Adapted from **Fr. Dwight Longenecker’s Blog**. You can read this article in it’s original context at: [www.patheos.com/blogs/standingonmyhead/2018/12/the-bethlehem-shepherds-were-not-just-country-bumpkins.html](http://www.patheos.com/blogs/standingonmyhead/2018/12/the-bethlehem-shepherds-were-not-just-country-bumpkins.html)

## Free Friday Night Hockey Game!

On occasion, parishioners are fascinated to learn that your priest plays ice hockey. Sometimes they will say, “I’d like to come watch a game some time. When do you play?” The answer is usually, “LATE on Friday nights!” Well, in response to those who have asked, you may be pleased to know that my next hockey game is Friday, January 4 (which happens to be my 43rd Birthday!) at the relatively early time of 7:40pm. We play on the Centerpoint Community Ice Rink (southwest entrance) at Silverstein Eye Centers Arena in Independence, MO. Admission is free, especially since you are giving up your time to come support the team. Look for no. 12 in the Purple and Gold.

— Fr. Totton



# St. Joseph Church

**Fr. Joseph Totton - Parish Priest**

*Cell phone: 816-294-9841*

*email: [fathertotton@gmail.com](mailto:fathertotton@gmail.com)*

***Holy Mass Sunday at 8 a.m.  
Confessions Sunday at 7:30 a.m.***

### Mission Statement

We the members of Saint Joseph Catholic parish,  
will strive to be the reflection of  
Jesus in this particular time and place.

### Parish Finance Council

Jim Adams	Julie Moran
Jim Ingle	Jordan Roth
Rosalie Ingle	Mike Roth
Tony Kauzlarich	Wayne Weipert

### Cemetery Board

Ed Fisher Mike Roth Steve White



***Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph  
December 30, 2018***

Parish Secretary: Penny Harrison  
Email: [stjosephchurch@centurytel.net](mailto:stjosephchurch@centurytel.net)  
Website: [stjosepheaston.org](http://stjosepheaston.org)

Hall Rental: Call office at 816-473-2011 or  
email [stjosephchurch@centurytel.net](mailto:stjosephchurch@centurytel.net)

### To Protect our Children:

To Report Abuse - Jenifer Valenti 816.812.2500  
Victims' Advocate - Kathleen Chastain 816.392.0011  
[chastain@diocesekcsj.org](mailto:chastain@diocesekcsj.org)

P.O. Box 197 - 107 North Shortridge, Easton, MO 64443

Telephone: 816-473-2011



# Mass Intentions for the Week

**Sunday December 30**  
8:00 a.m. † **Chuck Schenecker**  
Requested by Steve and Patty Culver

**Monday December 31**  
6:00 p.m. **Brian Crouse**  
Requested by: Steve and Patty Culver

**Sunday January 6**  
8:00 a.m. † **Ron Neely**  
Requested by: Roth Family

**Please remember those who have died.**  
**Grant them eternal rest and peace, O Lord.**  
† Denotes Deceased

## Birthdays

Marge Kinney January 2  
Dorothy Kretzer January 2  
Father Totton January 4  
Katie Bishop January 6  
Toni Hamera January 6  
Erin Kempf January 6  
Shawna Grier January 6



## Anniversary

Brint & Theresa Connett January 4

## Parish Registration

If you are new to our Parish, we encourage you to register:  
Please introduce yourself to Fr. Totton after Mass, come to the  
Parish Office on Tuesday or Thursday , or log on to our Parish  
Website at: [www.stjosepheaston.org](http://www.stjosepheaston.org) and register.



## DONUT SUNDAY

### 2019 Sign Up Sheet

On the back bulletin board is the sign up sheet  
for Donut Sunday for 2019.  
Please sign up!

# WEEKEND MINISTRY SCHEDULE

## December 30 - 8 a.m. Mass

**Greeter:** Knights of Columbus 5067  
**Lectors:** Knights of Columbus 5067  
**Ministers:** Knights of Columbus 5067  
**Counters:** Knights of Columbus 5067

## January 6 - 8 a.m. Mass

**Greeter:** Jim Ingle  
**Lectors:** Scott Antle, Jordan Roth  
**Ministers:** Wayne Weipert, Jan Pottier, Paul Pottier  
**Counters:** Tony Kauzlarich, Paul Wolford

## Weekend Collection - Dec. 23, 2018

Envelopes: \$ 1,165  
Plate: \$ 101  
Total Parish: \$ 1,266

Budget is from July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2019  
Dec. to Date: \$ 7,171.00  
Dec Budget: \$ 7,550.00  
Year-To-Date: \$ 57,049.00  
Year Budget: \$ 90,600.00

Thank You for your continued support of  
St. Joseph Parish.

## Holy Day Mass Schedule for St. Joseph and St. Ann Parishes



## Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

December 31 at 6:00 p.m.  
at St. Joseph

January 1 at 10:00 a.m.  
at St. Ann

*This is a Holy Day of Obligation*

## Mark your Calendars—Parish Events

### Parish & Finance Council

Tuesday, February 12 at 6 p.m. in Rectory

### Altar Society

Parish Hall after Donut Sunday

### Hand Linens

January/February: Jan Pottier

### Donut Sunday - January 6

Nannette Wolford

### Knights of Coumbus Council #5067

Jay Pflugardt, Grand Knight

1st & 3rd Thursday, 7 p.m.

Rosary 3rd Thursday, 6:30 p.m.

### Recitation of Rosary

2nd Sunday of month beginning at 7:40 a.m.

### First Saturday Mass and Confessions at MIR House

Fr. Christian Malewski, Pastor of Our Lady of Guadalupe  
Parish offers Confession at 7:00 a.m.

Mass at 8:00 a.m. every first Saturday of the month at  
Mir House of Prayer. All are invited and welcome to attend.  
Chapel of the Holy Rosary, 6492 NE Highway 6, St. Joseph,  
MO 64507.

## 2019 Annual Catholic Appeal

We have an opportunity to commit our support to diocesan  
programs and ministries that no single parish could provide on  
its own. Our theme, “**The community of believers was of one  
heart and mind**” Acts 4:32, appropriately recognizes our  
unity as the people of God to work together for the  
betterment of all. Our goal is 100% participation. No gift is too  
small. Please join our efforts.

The goal for St. Joseph’s parish is \$5,775  
Our total so far is \$4155.00

Thank you for all your help and support of the  
2019 Annual Catholic Appeal.



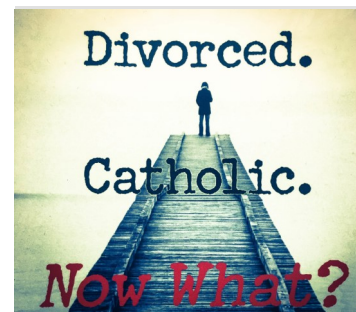
## Prayer Corner

“To everything there is a season and a  
time...for every purpose under Heaven.”  
—Ecc. 3-11  
“...a time to heal...”

Ron Kretzer, Bob Everett, Mildred Ottinger, Lori Redmond,  
Nancy Totton, Bubba Miller, Amy Dobrowansky, the elderly  
and infirm, the chronically ill and their caregivers.

For those who attend to the dying and grieving; for medical  
professionals and first responders; for the homeless and those  
lost in this world; for those who harbor hatred and especially  
for those who have no one to pray for them.

Please notify the parish office of any new intentions or of any  
names that should be removed.



## Journey of Hope Divorce Ministry

*Journey of Hope*, a simple,  
effective solution to  
bringing hope and healing to  
separated and divorced  
members of our parish  
communities.

The program has a 17-year proven track record of having  
helped hundreds of men & women across the country  
understand the issues they face from a truly Catholic  
perspective.

The men’s group begins Tuesday, January 8th and the women’s  
group begins Wednesday, January 9th, both 6:30-8:00 p.m.,  
Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, 4503 Frederick.

For registration and/or more information, please contact Kathy  
Powers, Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, 816.232.2847

The Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph is committed to combating sexual abuse  
in the Church. If you are a victim of sexual abuse, or if you *observe or suspect*  
sexual abuse:

1. Call the Missouri Child Abuse Hotline at 1.800.392.3738 (if the  
victim is currently under the age of 18), and
2. Contact your local law enforcement agency or call 911, and
3. After reporting to these civil and law enforcement authori  
ties, report suspected *sexual abuse of a minor or vulnerable  
adult* to the Diocesan Ombudsman, Jenifer Valenti, at  
816.812.2500 or [JeniferValenti@att.net](mailto:JeniferValenti@att.net), if the abuse involves a  
priest, deacon, employee or volunteer of the Diocese of Kansas  
City-St. Joseph.

The Diocese has a sincere commitment to providing care and healing resources  
to victims of sexual abuse and their families. Please contact Victim Advocate,  
Kathleen Chastain, at 816.392.0011 or [chastain@diocesekcsj.org](mailto:chastain@diocesekcsj.org) for more info.