

St. Joseph's Church
P.O. Box 338, Charlton City, MA 01508
508-248-7862

Ministry Summaries

Adult Faith Formation (AFF) Cheryl Kingston 508-864-3698, cgkingston@yahoo.com and Susan Montville, tsmontville@aol.com Adult Faith Formation Ministry is concerned with the ongoing learning of our adult faith community. We offer schedule friendly and enlightening programs to those who seek to deepen their knowledge of the Catholic Faith. We currently offer Faith Sharing Session on Wednesday mornings at 10:00 am in the Cornerstone, Lighthouse Catholic Media CDs, visit Formed.org for on-line resources, a book club, and various local pilgrimages. All are welcome! Follow us on the St. Joseph's webpage at www.stjosephscharlton.com/adult-faith-formation.

Altar Servers/Adult Acolytes, Jenn and Dick Vaughn, 774-230-7458, jharwich@gmail.com A very special opportunity to serve God and our community. Members must have made their First Holy Communion. Altar servers are trained to serve at the Liturgical Celebrations then paired with a "veteran server" for support for the first few mass assignments. They are scheduled according their availability. Both boys and girls, men and women are always welcome to join and we are ALWAYS in need of servers. Many of our altar servers continue through high school and transition to the Adult Acolyte Ministry. Acolytes may serve at any mass, but especially on occasions such as the triduum (Holy Week during Easter), Christmas Eve, Confirmations, funerals, and other such masses.

Baptismal Preparation: Fr. Donato Infante, 508-248-7862 Ext 5, donato.infante@gmail.com This process consists of a single meeting with parents and if possible, godparents after the 4:30 mass on a Saturday. Either Fr. Bob or I greet prospective parents with an introduction to the parish and review "paperwork." There is discussion about the importance of raising your children in the Catholic faith along with the importance of the role that the godparents play. We also go over the signs and symbols of Baptism and why we do what we do. Refreshments are also served.

Book Club: Lisa Diezel, 774-641-3737, lisadiezel@aol.com Part of our Adult Faith Formation (AFF), St. Joseph's Book Club is one of our many Adult Faith Formation offerings. The group meets every six weeks (currently from 7-8:30 pm on a Thursday evening) to discuss our latest selection and recommend future selections. We have read a variety of books; from fiction to non-fiction, classics to contemporary. Our informal discussions are facilitated by group members. The date and selection for our next discussion is always available in the weekly bulletin and on the parish website. All are welcome to join in the discussion at any time! We currently have about 20 individuals that follow our selections with 6-8 joining in our monthly discussion and a few more always reading along with us in spirit. Contact Lisa to be added to our email list.

Children's Liturgy: Kris Rusack 508-344-3867 Kris333@outlook.com Children from 3yrs. up to and including 1st grade are dismissed from the 10:00 mass every Sunday except Easter. They are dismissed prior to the first reading with a teacher where they hear the same Gospel as the rest of the congregation only in simpler terms. Children return right before the offertory; usually with a coloring activity that has been completed. Parents are welcome to join their children until they are comfortable. Teachers are scheduled on a rotating basis and are required to be CORI checked.

Choir (10:00 mass): Jan Mathieu 774-641-2637

We consist of 20 dedicated individuals with diverse and varying musical skills who gather every week to make a joyful noise unto the Lord! Our primary ministry is to lead and support the congregation in worshipping God in song during mass. We also present 4-part choral pieces and meditative music to enhance the Liturgy and Word of God. New members are ALWAYS welcome (we are adding a set of risers in anticipation of this!) **We rehearse one evening per week from 7-9 PM/ September through May (rehearsal day to be announced in August).**

College Connection: Tina Coderre: 508-248-7277 trcoderre@charter.net We are a group of who gather four times a year to put together packages of “treats” and other fun items along a prayer to our college/military age youth. Addresses are given to us by parents, grandparents or anyone who wants their “kid” to receive a package. These packages serve to remind our kids that they are never far away and they are always in our thoughts and prayers. This ministry is fun, easy and it does not require a lot of your time. We are always looking for new members.

Communion for Homebound: Judy Stevens, 508-248-5638, judystevens690@gmail.com Do you have an hour or two of free time? Are you looking for a meaningful way to minister in your parish? We are laymen and women who have been trained as Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist. We visit the homebound, pray with them, bring them Eucharist and help to keep them connected to the parish family. If you would like to become part of this ministry, please call Judy Stevens at [508-248-5638](tel:508-248-5638). If you would like to receive Eucharist, please call the parish office at [508-248-7862](tel:508-248-7862).

Ecumenism Ministry: Chris McTigue, 508-248-4726, cmct@verizon.net

We represent St Joseph's at monthly meetings and encourage participation from our church at community ecumenical services and events. Some of the past year's opportunities were: The Winter Coat Closet held at Holy Trinity in Southbridge, Christian Unity Sunday, Living Faith Lenten series, Easter Sunrise Service at Old Sturbridge Village and the National Day of Prayer. **We would love to have more people join us to help spread the word with the various events that we participation in.** Our focus is on what our faith has in common with other faith communities. We are "One in Christ for the Community"! This year we are focusing more on common prayer, discussion and fellowship.

Food Pantry: Joni Metras: 508-864-5458: jmets23@yahoo.com

Our food pantry is open to all St. Joseph parishioners and greater Charlton community residents. We are open the 2nd & 4th Wednesday of the month from 9am-11am. Visitors receive 2 bags of non-perishable groceries all of which are donated from our parish family and community. The pantry services anywhere from 9 to 20+ visitors/families each week it is open. Donations are always greatly needed and can be dropped off in the basket in Narthex. The food pantry is located around the back of the church off the driveway by the garage doors.

Funeral Hospitality Ministry, Sue Quinn: squinn464@yahoo.com After funeral refreshments for family and friends. The Funeral Hospitality Ministry sets up food and coffee along with cold drinks. We supply paper goods, tea, coffee etc. along with a variety of baked goods supplied by parishioners who have asked to be on our “bakers list.” We take care of set up and clean up. Bakers are always needed as well people to help with setup and clean up. They take away the stress for the family in a time when they just need someone to take care of them. There is no setting up or breaking down of tables and chairs. As funerals are unpredictable, this is the perfect ministry for someone who is home during the day, works part time or has a flexible schedule.

Funeral Ministry: Pat Lawrie, 508-248-5050 or parish office: 508-248-7862 When someone dies and begins their “new life”, I meet with the family to plan the funeral mass. This includes what readings they want, who will read, music choices, who will be bringing up the gifts, along with who they want to be part of the funeral mass. A funeral mass booklet is also made for the family. Fr. Bob also meets with the family. Occasionally the church hall is used for a gathering after the funeral; (see Funeral Hospitality)

Giving Tree: Sandy Woods 508-320-5984 and Bonnie Falcone The Giving Tree is set up the first week in December. We set up and coordinate the gift tags that are hung on the Christmas tree in the Narthex. The gifts are then picked up and delivered to a central location where they are sorted and wait for pick up by needy families both locally and beyond. This ministry is extremely rewarding and is a great opportunity for families to work together for other families in need at Christmas. Please consider helping.

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren: Ted & Dianne Dubsky 508-764-4553, dbdubsky@aol.com This ministry is for grandparents and kinship caretakers interested in sharing their experiences caring for grandchildren and learning about resources that are available to them. This support can be over the telephone, face to face in a private setting or in a traditional “support group.” All options are confidential.

Hand Bell Choir, Ellen Thibodeau, 508-248-9161 The Hand Bell Choir provides beautiful enhancement in the liturgy with the use of hand bells on special occasions at mass. NO PRIOR MUSIC EXPERIENCE NEEDED! Please call Ellen Tibadeau for more information.

Knights of Columbus (KofC) Council#11379: Allan Turmelle, 508-248-7154, Grand Knight We are a fraternal benefit society true to the founding principles of charity, unity and fraternity. Our Council offers financial, spiritual and physical support to St. Joseph’s parish as well as working with other Knights of Columbus councils throughout the State. We sell Christmas trees; fund the Steve McKenna Remembrance Scholarship, sponsor guest speakers, support activities within St. Joseph’s with volunteers for setup, breakdown or anything that is needed. We welcome men 18 years and up. Our meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month with a rosary at 6:30 and our meeting at 7pm.

Liturgical Environment: Alex Diaz alexdiadesign@gmail.com and Heidi Renfrew daveandheidi2001@yahoo.com 774-200-3381 The Liturgical Environment Committee at St. Joseph’s is a team of active individuals who minister in our church by transforming the Worship Space into a place of beauty and transcendence in tandem with the Liturgical Year. This is especially true during the high holy seasons such as Easter and Christmas. Holy Week is our most intense season when the church is dressed and redressed throughout the week.

Liturgical Linens: Tricia Kasierski 774-230-6912 pkasierski@gmail.com Liturgical linens are the linens that are used at mass. Every mass we use one “corporal” and up to 5 “purificators”. The corporal is the cloth used on the altar during the Consecration and the purificators are the cloths used to wipe the cup during Holy Communion. These linens are taken home once a week washed, dried and ironed. They are washed separately from any other laundry and returned before the following week. This ministry has 4 members and welcomes anyone who would like to be involved; time commitment of once a month.

Marriage Preparation: Fr. Donato Infante, Parish Office, 508-248-7862 Ext. 5 Engaged couples meet to prepare for the Sacrament of Marriage. The purpose of this ministry is to help engaged couples develop the skills and attitudes necessary to transition successfully from engaged to married life and to begin marriage on a solid foundation in Christ.

Mary Martha Women's Guild: Jean Peck 248-6069, jeanpck@charter.net We are a group of dedicated women serving the needs of the church community. We foster community via meals, raffles and fundraisers. We help 4 families each Christmas as well as provide \$200 in gift cards each month for those in need. The Mary Martha Guild is always looking for new members.

Ministers of the Eucharist: Deacon Bill Shea, 508-248-7862, wshea@2667@aol.com This beautiful ministry allows trained lay people to administer the Eucharist in both species (body & blood) at mass. This ministry also encompasses bringing communion to home bound if desired. Training is done on an as needed basis and you are then scheduled according to your mass preference. We always welcome new parishioners for this wonderful ministry.

Missionaries of Mercy: Tom Creamer, 774-696-0903, trc@charter.net, prayer@missionariesofmercy.net A newly restored parish home visitation ministry whose focus is to bring love and the mercy of God to all our brothers and sisters through the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy—one prayer at a time, one person at a time, one neighborhood at a time. Through prayer, personal interaction, neighborhood engagement and helping hands for those in need, we seek to foster love, restore hope and enrich souls. We ask you to please pray for our Lord's Church, our Parish and our Ministry. We invite you to join us as we share the love and mercy of God. Visit us at missionariesofmercy.net or on Facebook at [facebook.com/missionariesofmercycharlton](https://www.facebook.com/missionariesofmercycharlton) Contact Tom Creamer trc@charter.net or 774-696-0903

Next Step Bereaved Parent Support Group: Sue Brunell 508-344-1564, beadlady1113@yahoo.com and Kathy Berube 508-892-4722, DJB@aol.com "Next Step" is a support group for bereaved parents who want to learn new ways of coping and surviving the unimaginable; the death of their child. No matter what the age, the loss of a child is crippling and life altering for those who remain. Our group is a topic based discussion group created by bereaved parents for the purpose of supporting each other after the loss of a son or daughter. Parents will discover that they are not alone in their experiences and emotions and will gain strength from sharing with others who truly understand. We ask that you keep our children in your prayers, along with lighting candles or other things that you consider a nice gesture.

We meet at Harrington Hospital in Southbridge. Our meetings are on the 4th Tuesday of each month. They are held in the medical office building directly in front of the ER on the Harrington campus. The building can be entered from either side, but parking is easier on the street side. Take the elevator down to the basement and we are in Conference room # 4. There is a Facebook page to keep up on postings, meetings, etc. Contact Sue to join.

Parent and Child Connection: Amy Nelson, 774-200-6989, amrosracki@aol.com A group created for stay at home parents with children from birth to kindergarten, who wish to enjoy social time and cultivate a community with their children. If you are interested in joining or donating age appropriate toys for this ministry, please contact Amy Nelson at 774-200-6989 or amosracki@aol.com. The group will meet on Thursdays at 1:00 pm in the Church Hall.

Partner's in Charity: Diane and Dan Cetin 508-248-7862, Diane55382@aol.com Partner's in Charity is a diocesan appeal that raises money to fund 29 local charities and ministries in the Diocese of Worcester. We coordinate the speakers for this appeal and track contributions. The appeal is conducted once a year in every parish in the diocese. The money collected in this appeal stays in this diocese and helps in our own communities. The funds help with religious education, charity and ministry work. You can also check out the Partners in Charity web site www.partners-charity.net.

Parish Finance Committee An advisory committee made up of parishioners who serve to give input on the financial well-being of the parish members. Committee members may serve for a year at a time and their membership is renewable yearly. Contact Fr. Bob at 248-7862 for more information.

Prayer Cenacle: John McNeaney 508-248-7140 & Nelson Sleeper 508-248-5414 Pray! Pray! Pray!

We meet on Monday nights in the Worship Area immediately following Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction. The Divine Mercy begins at 7:00 pm, followed by a Rosary at 7:30pm (we have free rosaries for those who want one) then the Cenacle Prayer at 8:00pm. We have a priest with us once a month and also are blessed to be able to have a Healing Service on different occasions. ALL ARE WELCOME! Please pray for us as we pray for all of you.

Prayer Shawl Ministry: Ellen Thibodeau, 508-248-9161, Sr. Agnes, 508-248-7862 Hand knit prayer shawls are a beautiful way to give an ailing family member, friend, or co-worker your (and our) prayers. Each meeting begins and ends in prayer. Our shawls are made with love, caring hands and prayers. Each shawl is given in a gift bag with a prayer specific to the “prayer shawl”. Each recipient is then wrapped in prayer each time they use their shawl. During church hours contact Sr. Agnes (248-7862) after hours contact Ellen Thibodeau. Our group is dedicated to our ministry and our church. WE ARE ALWAYS HAPPY TO WELCOME NEW MEMBERS! **We meet at 10:00 am on the third Saturday of the month.** There is no charge for a prayer shawl.

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults): Ted andPatty Covill, 508-248-4718, tcovill@charter.net, or Fr. Bob 508-248-7862

The RCIA process is for adults looking to join the Catholic Church. Both unbaptized and baptized persons from other Christian denominations are invited to begin their Christian life in the teachings of the Catholic Church. Candidates and Catechumens, those needing one or all of the sacraments, meet on a regular basis with the RCIA team studying the teachings of the church and Holy Scripture in preparation for reception of the sacraments at the Easter Vigil.

RCIC (Right of Christian Initiation of Children): Sue Netsch, 508-248-6418, msnetsch@verizon.net

The RCIC is the children’s version of the RCIA (Right of Christian Initiation of Adults). RCIC offers remedial religious education for the children of adults in the RCIA process and for the children of Catholic families who, for whatever reason, are getting a late start in their catechesis. During an approximately 10 week course, the children learn about God, Mary, their prayers and are prepared to receive the age-appropriate sacraments to “catch them up” to their peers.

Religious Education Board: David Smolski, 508-250-2091,davidjsmolski@gmail The Religious Education Board is a group of 15 dedicated parish members who meet on the first Monday of each month to discuss all aspects of Religious Education from First Lights, to Edge, to LifeTeen, to Young Adults and Adult Faith Formation. The purpose of this board is to ensure that the highest quality religious educational opportunities are offered to all of the youth and adults of our parish. Parishioners who are interested in joining the board are encouraged to watch the bulletin in April, particularly on the first Sunday in April, when an announcement is made that new members may apply.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (First Lights, EDGE, Lifeteen)

First Lights Religious Education Sr. Agnes at 508-278-7862; sisteragnespaula@yahoo.com Our First Lights Religious Education Program is for elementary grade children, grades 1-5. What is more important than teaching a child its faith; a faith that will see them through a lifetime? First Lights provides a foundation to build their faith. Sacramental preparation is included for First Communion and Reconciliation. Students meet on Sunday morning 8:30-9:45 and other days depending on teacher/student need.

EDGE Program Diane Cetin at 508- 248-7862 or Diane55382@aol.com Our EDGE movement is a Catholic youth ministry/religious education program aimed at young adults in grades 6, 7 and 8. They are not really children, but not adults either. They are in a place we call The **EDGE**. It is designed to meet their educational, spiritual, emotional and social needs. EDGE creates an environment where our youth are part of a community rather than an isolated classroom. Middle School youth have unique challenges that the Catholic Church must meet, or we run the risk of spiritually losing them. Youngsters in middle school are making decisions that will spiritually impact them for a lifetime. A solid middle school youth ministry allows for an easier transition to high school ministry and LIFE TEEN.

LIFETEEN High School Religious Education: Deacon Bill Shea 248-7862 , wshea2667@aol.com or lifeteen508@gmail.com LIFETEEN is a dynamic youth ministry program serving teens in grades 9 to 12. We strive to bring kids "closer to Christ" through the Eucharist and a multi-dimensional curriculum that fosters them intellectually, spiritually, emotionally, and socially. Confirmation preparation is included for our 11th graders. LIFETEEN encourages our kids to BE Christ through various mission trips, community outreach and in their everyday world. LIFETEEN kids attend 5:00 mass on Sunday then meet for a meal (donated by parents/parishioners) and Life Night held in our parish hall. We encourage all to attend the 5:00 mass to experience our LIFETEEN band as well experience our young adults as active participants in the Mass. Please consider volunteering or helping by preparing a meal for one of our Life Nights.

Sewing: Kris Rusack, 508-344-3867 Kris333@outlook.com and Sylvia Stepien, 508-248-0636 dstepien@charter.net Not a common skill these days, but all our baptismal robes and banners are all sewn by a few parishioners. Each baptismal robe that is given to a baby has been hand made by our sewers. The banners that hang in the front of the worship area and rotunda are also done by various parishioners.

Shining Lights: Pat Lawrie, 508-248-5050, or Parish Office 508-248-7862 There are a lot of unsung heroes in this wonderful parish. We have a committee who meets and votes on a person or two to be our "shining light". People are nominated by dropping their name into the collection basket with a brief summary of why they should be nominated. You can also leave an envelope in the parish office with my name on it. If you have someone in mind right now, write them down and drop their name off. No service is too small!

Web Page Administrator: Denise Thomas: 508-248-7106 denise@stjosephscharlton.com St. Joseph's website is your "go to" place for current news and information about our church. We have dozens, perhaps hundreds of meetings, events and worship services each month. The website is designed and monitored to keep track of it all and place it at your fingertips. Our goal is that you are only 2 "clicks" away from viewing schedules, meetings, photo albums, bulletins, mass times, electronic giving, and even prayer requests! Bookmark us as www.stjosephscharlton.com

Welcoming Committee: Rich and Cathy Cayer. (508) 248-1543, richcathc@aol.com The goal of this ministry is to bring the Church community to newcomers of Charlton and give them a sense of family, friendship and information about our parish. We call new members of our Parish and welcome them to St. Joseph's, talk with them about what is available at St. Joseph's (i.e. ministries, religious education, etc.). We host a Newcomer Mass celebrated twice a year (once in the Spring and once in the Fall) along with a continental breakfast open to the entire parish where we visit with our new parishioners, share a cup of coffee, introduce them to other parishioners and answer any questions they might have about St. Joseph's. You might even make a new friend yourself!

Welcome Table: Barbara Perron 508-248-7016, barbperron1@gmail.com and Dayna Dumas 508-248-9009, daynabeth@aol.com The Welcome Table is a ministry of hospitality and the first point of contact for visitors to our parish. Staffed by two members of the parish at each Mass, the welcome table provides information about the parish and our activities. It also allows for new parishioners to register at our parish, assists visitors in locating useful facilities like the children's worship room (cry room), confessional, or restrooms, and assists non-Catholics in explaining our hymnals, providing a Mass response sheet, and finding a welcoming parishioner or family who can sit with our visitors.

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