

IN GREENWICH VILLAGE



SAINT JOSEPH'S

1829

CATHOLIC CHURCH

September 8, 2024 – Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

MASS TIMES:

MON – FRI: 12:10 PM
SATURDAY: 12:10 PM
5:30 PM (Vigil)
SUNDAY: 9:00 AM
11:30 AM
6:00 PM

CONFESSION TIMES:

MON – FRI: 11:30 AM to 12:00 PM
SATURDAY: 11:30 AM to 12:00 PM
4:30 PM to 5:15 PM
SUNDAY: 8:30 AM to 9:00 AM
11:00 AM to 11:30 AM
5:30 PM to 6:00 PM

PARISH OFFICE:

Office Hours M-F 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM
212-741-1274
secretary@stjosephgv.nyc



PASTOR

Fr. Boniface Endorf, O.P.

PAROCHIAL VICAR

Fr. Jonah Teller, O.P.

NYU CATHOLIC CENTER

Fr. Isaiah Beiter, O.P., Director & Chaplain

Fr. Vincent Bernhard, O.P.
Associate Director & Chaplain

SACRISTAN

Br. Paul Kennedy, O.P.

GIVING FIRE QR CODE



Please check the back page of the Bulletin for a new segment called “People in the Pews”!

371 6th Avenue New York, NY 10014 | stjosephgv.nyc | (212) 741-1274

A Word From Our Parochial Vicar

Twenty-third Sunday of Ordinary Time
9/8/24

Dear St. Joseph Family,

Fr. Jonah here, filling in while Fr. Boniface is away. Today is the first class of the Order of Christian Initiation for Adults (OCIA). We have a large class this year - over 40 people have reached out to us (maybe more by the time of this printing), and we give thanks to God for drawing more and more people to his Church.

I ask that all of the parishioners of St. Joseph's keep those in OCIA in their prayers in a particularly focused way between now and Easter. It's a great journey, entering the Church, and it's a joy to pray for those who will soon be our brothers and sisters in Christ!

Peace,
Fr. Jonah, OP

Fr. Jonah Teller, O.P.

Weekly Collection

August 19th, 2024 – August 25th, 2024

Regular Collection - \$7,440.05

Thank you for your continuous support.

Saint Lucy: A Musical Hagiography

For one night only! On **Friday, September 13th**, Arthouse2B will present *Saint Lucy*, a musical hagiography by Karina Majewski. Performed by a band of Virgin Martyrs, this experimental concert play features original songs that bring alive the story of this truly bold, radical, and iconic saint. Music by Mary Fedrigo & Tom Lewis. Featuring Lydia Brinkmann, Mary Fedrigo, Karina Majewski, Adrian Mercedes, Peter Murphy, & Victor Giler.

Scan the QR code below for tickets!



Healing the Whole Person Ministry

The group will be meeting on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month beginning on September 25th and going through the Healing the Whole Person workbook from the JPPI Healing Center. Meetings will include prayer, lectio divina, and a short discussion.

Please sign up using the QR code below!



Mass Intentions

Saturday, September 7th

12:10pm		John McCready
5:30pm (Vigil)	†	Federica

Sunday, September 8th

9:00am		Amy McCready
11:30am	†	Fredrick Elseman
6:00pm		People of the Parish

Monday, September 9th

12:10pm		Gloria M. Alvarez
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Tuesday, September 10th

12:10pm	†	Robert Ferris
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Wednesday, September 11th

12:10pm	†	Fr. John McGuire, O.P.
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Thursday, September 12th

12:10pm	†	Colleen Carney
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Friday, September 13th

12:10pm		Ethan, Lavinia & Family
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Saturday, September 14th

12:10pm	†	Thomas Joyce
5:30pm		The Di Piazza Children

Sunday, September 15th

9:00am		People of the Parish
11:30am	†	Joseph Giacobbe
6:00pm	†	Mary M. Holder

Parish Prayer Intentions

Annsya Smith, †John McAuliffe, †Peter Bianco, †Stephen Grillo, Gerri Williams, Jill Sutro, George Telesco, Kim Barreiro, Natalie Nass, Joan Budson, Michael Budson, Veronica O'Donnell, †Jade Colleen Adam, †Alice Negrone, Vicente Morales, Brigit Rotond, Catherine Harty, Salvatore Salamone, Guy Bogdanovich, Norma Rivera, The Rivera Family, Andrea Steele, Liam Hannay, Jocelyn Elise Crowley

If you would like to include someone on our prayer list, please call the parish office to submit their name. Names on the prayer list will remain for four (4) weeks. If you wish to leave them on longer, please call the parish office, weekdays 8:00am–4:00pm.

This Week at St. Joe's

Sunday, September 8th

In Vino Veritas (Young Professional Meeting) | 7pm

Monday, September 9th

Dominican Discourse | 7:30pm

Tuesday, September 10th

Jesus in the 21st Century | 7pm

Entrepreneur Group | 7pm

Friday, September 13th

Saint Lucy: A Musical hagiography (Ticket purchase required) | 8:00pm



Upcoming Event

Life-Giving Wounds Retreat

Friday, October 4 - Sunday, October 6 at St. Joe's

Life-Giving Wounds retreats are an opportunity for those with divorced or separated parents to reflect on the wounds caused by their family's divorce and begin to find healing. Registration can be found by scanning the QR code below - the retreat cost is \$200.

Participants must be 18 or older.

For more information, please email nicole@stjosephgv.nyc.



People in the Pews

Jeffrey Eugenides

Go to the 11:30 Mass and you might encounter Jeffrey Eugenides and his family. Go to a bookstore and you might encounter one of his three acclaimed novels: "The Virgin Suicides," later made into a movie by Sofia Coppola; "Middlesex," which earned him a Pulitzer Prize; and "The Marriage Plot," featuring an account of a spiritual journey that he admits is more than a little autobiographical. Originally from outside Detroit, he made his way to Greenwich Village six years ago for a teaching position at NYU – a move that ended up bringing him to Catholicism and to St. Joe's.

This conversation has been edited for space and clarity.



[Jeff Eugenides with his wife Marlene Morgan and their beloved daughter Helen on Easter Sunday 2024]

You weren't actually a Catholic when you came here in 2018. But you were looking for it?

I was baptized Greek Orthodox and then not brought up religiously. I got interested on my own in college taking religious studies courses. And I got interested particularly in Christian mysticism and Thomas Merton (a Trappist monk who embraced Zen concepts) and that sort of thing. I flirted with converting to Catholicism in my early 20s. I took a trip around the world and ended up volunteering with Mother Teresa in Calcutta for a short period. I was kind of searching but I chickened out really from converting.

So I would say I went through a religious stage in my early 20s that was serious but not lasting, and then kind of scudded around for the next 40 years really. And then decided to convert just a few years ago. So sort of a long way.

Did you go to Calcutta specifically because of your interest in Catholicism?

I was in that frame of mind. My college buddy and I took an eight-month trip through Europe and then went to India. And I met people along the way who had worked with Mother Teresa, who were returning to Europe, so I just got the idea from them. I failed at my attempt to be a saint, I have to say.

That's what you were thinking when you went over there – you were going to be a saint?

When you work with Mother Teresa, the idea is: Could you live that way? Could you give up your life and devote yourself to the poor and work in a place like that? I worked at the home for the destitute and dying. And by the time I left, I felt like a failure in terms of my ability to do that. I just knew that it wasn't going to be my life and I didn't have the capacity or the moral strength to do that kind of work.

Did you interact with Mother Teresa?
A little bit.

How would you describe that?

I had a strange reaction to her, because when I saw her the first thought that came to my mind was that she reminded me of the comedian George Burns (laughs). There was a similarity to their faces.

Did you believe in God?

I felt like I did believe in God, yeah. But I have a much firmer belief now that I'm in the Church than I did then. I never felt like an atheist and I'm not even sure I felt like an agnostic. My faith would wax and wane and I wouldn't talk about it much. It was private and almost secretive to a certain extent.

In your first book, “The Virgin Suicides,” the family is Catholic. Was that a coincidence or was there something you were trying to express about Catholicism?

I look back at my work and Catholicism is always there. There’s a kind of obsession with it. And it’s not always a very devout or kind attitude that I expressed. The Catholic family in the Virgin Suicides is not at all an ideal Catholic family and it’s almost opposite. It’s almost an antagonistic – a typical secular dismissiveness toward Catholicism. And I don’t know why that’s in there. I wasn’t doing that on purpose. But I notice: Why was I so interested? Why was there so much Catholic imagery in “The Virgin Suicides” even though I was fairly ignorant about Catholicism? And I see that throughout my work. These things were in my mind and in my work waiting for me to either embrace them or understand and comprehend them.

You mentioned you wanted to be a writer from a young age...

Yeah, 16 or so.

...what drew you to it?

It was the book “A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man” that gave me a sense that writing would be like a religious vocation. Stephen Dedalus is thinking of being a priest in that book, and then he goes through a Jesuitical spiritual retreat, and then he loses his faith and he decides he’s going to be an artist instead. I just swallowed that hook, line and sinker as a 16-year-old, and I thought, *This is what I’ll do too*. That both gave me direction and gave me false direction in my life. It did make me want to be a writer, and I’m glad I became one because it’s what I do best.

What do you mean by false direction?

I don’t think that one should think about one’s writing career as a religious vocation. That’s a little highfalutin (laughs).

There’s a line I’ve heard, “I don’t like writing. I like having written.” What is the process like for you? Is it agony?

I would say it’s the opposite. I like writing. I don’t like having written. I always like doing it every day and I do it every day, and people think I don’t because it takes me so long to finish a book. It’s almost like being a trapper in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. You disappear for years and years and years and people forget you exist, and then you come back with some pelts. I’m able to do that for some reason.

Your interest in Catholicism goes far back, but what was the path to actually converting?

I got here in 2018. I did have a thought when I saw the NYU chapel, *I’m going to finally become Catholic*. My wife knew nothing about that intention of mine. And then we went to a couple of churches. When we tried St. Joe’s, it felt very, very different. The message from Fr. Boniface was so practical and so simply stated. We both liked it. It was Easter 2022 when we were actually accepted into the Church.

What was that moment like?

For me it was like, *Finally*. Even though I’d ignored it for those 40 years, it was always in my mind that I’d be happy if I ended up there. And I continue to be ecstatic about finally having a church instead of fiddling around with all these different things I’ve done. Being there and investing myself and going every week. All the rules seem to make so much sense to me. Thank God I have to go every week, because it starts to trickle away if I don’t. So the structure of it that from the outside can seem arbitrary is the opposite of that.

I just feel like I’m in there finally. These are my people and I’m part of the Church and that makes me feel really happy because I’ve never had that before. I’ve always been observing, thinking about it and not committing. It’s a big difference.

As an author, do you hear the readings or read Bible passages differently?

Absolutely. I’m not going to tell you what it is, but my next novel’s title comes from the Mass and I hear it every time I’m at Mass.