ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH

109 Linden Street Saint Johns, Michigan 48879-1837 (989) 224-8994 Fax: (989) 224-3475 www.stjoecatholic.com stjosephchurchstjohns@gmail.com



St. Joseph is a place of refreshment, peace and love, a place of ministry and renewal. We welcome you to be part of our faith community where the Word of God is proclaimed, friendship is offered and the Sacraments are celebrated.

Pastoral Care

Fr. Michael Williams Deacon Marv Robertson (retired) Deacon Jerry Fust Deacon Eric Elstro

Worship Music • Jeff Richards

Parish Life

Parish Council • Dick Weller Finance Council • Scott Dzurka Parish Secretary • Judi Thelen Business Manager • Susan Mahoney Maintenance • Glenn Esch

Family Ministries

Marriage Preparation • Fr. Michael Williams Baptism • Please contact the parish office St. Joseph School • Chris Wells Religious Education Jen Nelson Confirmation • Jen Nelson Christian Initiation of Adults • Amanda Grigar

Please call the parish office for more information on our Family Ministries.

Medical Emergencies requiring an Anointing of the Sick, please call 989-227-1244.

St. Joseph School: (989) 224-2421 Religious Education Office: (989) 224-8537

Regular Mass Schedule Saturday • 5:00 p.m. Sunday • 8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m., 12:00 p.m. Mass in Spanish • 6:00 p.m. (Holy Days • Consult the bulletin)

Sacrament of Reconciliation Tuesday • 6:30 p.m. Saturday • 4:00 p.m.

Prayer Tree Parish Office: (989)-224-8994

ASCENSION OF THE LORD



12:00 p.m. Mass †Alvina Avardo By: Susan Cardosa 6:00 p.m. Mass Holy Souls in Purgatory

Please pray for our parishioners and their families, especially: Adam Beverly Sawyer Ballinger Joan Bozung Carol Burgtorf Lisa Clarizio

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Sherri Couch Friend Joe **Cindy Fontus** Marcia Goerge Melissa Brenda Higgins David Higgins Korine Alissa Mckeown

Gabrielle Meece

Myah Noah Patricia Jenny Pytlowanyj Frank Rademacher Deacon Marv & Tita Jerry Schafer Joan Schrauben Donna Smith Jason Thelen Michael VanElls

KEEP THEM IN YOUR PRAYERS

Jeff Wadell Brad Walker Millie Wassa Fr. Don Wieber **Bill Darnell** Susan Darnell

Please pray for our parishioners in the service, especially:

William Hess Jake Hoskins Jacob Longoria Eric Martin Jessica Mitchell Colby Munger Adam Novak Alex Rojas David Seperic Noel Smith II Joshua Szpont Jordan Van Amburg Jacob Wells

Call or text Rebeca at 989-292-2072.

Are you interested in attending Eucharistic Adoration on

First Friday during Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament?

To add or remove a name from the bulletin praver list. please call: 989-224-8994 or email Stjosephchurchstjohns@gmail.com *Please note: only immediate family members may add names to the bulletin.

THE SACRAMENTS ARE CELEBRATED



WE ARE ALL **EVANGELIZERS**

(and whatever else is on Deacon Eric's mind)

One Solemnity After Another

Today marks the beginning of a wonderful stretch on the church calendar as we celebrate four Sunday solemnities in a row and this year we have a rare opportunity to celebrate each of them with our full St. Joe family. Because Lent was so early this year the whole church calendar is moved up. Thus we will celebrate Ascension, Pentecost, the Holy Trinity and Corpus Christi all before St. Johns Public Schools are out for the year, triggering summer vacation. (Our St. Joe school students, however, will get a twoweek head start so renovations on the school can get started.)

Today is the Solemnity of the Ascension, which some of us chronologically-mature parishioners know was celebrated 40 days after Easter and known as Ascension Thursday. That 40 days came from the Acts of the Apostles description of the period in which Jesus appeared to his disciples following his Resurrection, but the Church grants local bishops the authority to move the solemnity to the following Sunday. There are only six

states in the country that celebrated Ascension Thursday.

Of course, Jesus' ascension marked a new beginning for the apostles, who were afraid and confused right after Jesus' crucifixion and hid in the upper room. But then they thought they had a new lease on spiritual life when they saw the Lord had risen. In the Acts account. the disciples were still confused while asking Jesus if he were still going to restore the kingdom to Israel. Despite all they had witnessed during Jesus' ministry, they still were thinking that all his work was to restore an earthly kingdom. The Lord told them that it was not theirs to know the time or the seasons, but he did promise them the Holy Spirit's assistance in their upcoming ministries.

That takes us to Pentecost next Sunday and the Spirit's descent upon the apostles in the upper room. They were emptied of fear and filled with the fire of the Holy Spirit. Gone was the confusion and misunderstanding. In its place was a confidence that made them all great evangelists, taking the Word of the Lord to the ends of the earth. This solemnity officially brings the Easter season to its end. Jesus' mission was complete, he spread his gospel, then opened the

gates of heaven to us through his death and Resurrection. After some final words of encouragement he ascended to heaven, only to send the Holy Spirit ignite the apostles with their sense of purpose.

Following that we will celebrate the Solemnity of the Holy Trinity. The readings this year spell out this fundamental teaching of the Church of the doctrine of God's self-revelation as rooted in salvation history. We recognize the Father, Son and Holy Spirit every time we bless ourselves.

Finally, in the last Sunday before we return to Ordinary Time, we will celebrate what is officially known as the solemnity of The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ, a.k.a. Corpus Christi. This recognition of the Eucharist as the Real Presence will conclude after Noon Mass June 2nd with a Eucharistic procession from St. Joe's around the block (Linden, M-21, Oakland and Cass), as Fr. Mike blesses the four corners of St. Johns. No matter what Mass you attend that Sunday, please come back and join in this procession in a strong show of belief in the Eucharist.

Deacon Eric deaconeric@hotmail.com

We want to thank **Deacon Eric** for answering God's call to the Permanent Diaconate. He has served St. Joseph Parish for five years since his Ordination on May 18, 2019.

Happy Mother's Day

Clinton County Right to Life wishes all the mothers of St. Joseph Parish a very Happy Mother's Day. Thank you for the gift of life, it is through our Mother's that God's beautiful gift of life is realized. There are prayer cards in the pews for each mother to have as a gift. To help honor mothers, carnations will be available for a donation at the church doors after all Masses. The profits from these donations help to continue getting the pro -life message out to the community. One message can be seen on the billboard that continues at the northbound US 27 at French Rd.

Clinton County **Right to Life**

THE WORD OF GOD IS PROCLAIMED

ASCENSION OF THE LORD

Vacation Bible School

Due to the construction in the school VBS will be **canceled for this summer, 2024**. We look forward to next year to celebrate this faithfilled week of fun with all the children and families.

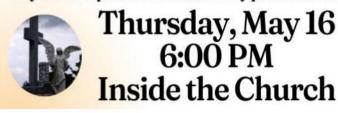
St. Joseph Parish





Have you ever experienced confusion about a Church teaching, questioned what "Catholic protocol" would be in a situation, or wondered, "why do Catholics do that?"

Join Fr. Mike, Deacon Eric, and Deacon Jerry as they answer questions submitted by parishioners.



Liturgical Minsters May 18/19

Altar Servers:	5:00 p.m.	volunteer
		Volunteer
	8:00 a.m.	Volunteer
		Volunteer
	10:00 a.m.	Maggie K.
		Oliver B.
	12:00 p.m.	Declan T.
		Tanner K.

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:

5.	00 p.m.	Group 3
	-	-
8:	00 a.m.	Group 3
10:	00 a.m.	Group 3
12:	00 p.m.	Group 3
<i>Lectors:</i> 5:	00 p.m.	Sheila B.
8:	00 a.m.	Bob P.
10:	00 a.m.	Ted S.
12:	00 p.m.	Dawn L.
Ushers: 5:	00 p.m.	Group 5B
8:	00 a.m.	Group 8D
10:	00 a.m.	Group 10D
12:	00 p.m.	Group 12A
Collection Counters:	May 13	Group 3

Menu is subject to change, based on food availability from suppliers.

St. Joseph School Lunch Menu

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Milk \$0.50

For the week of May 13 - 17, 2024

Monday:	French toast, hash browns, sausage, fruit, and milk.	
Tuesday:	Tortilla chips with cheese and meat sauce, carrots, fruit, and milk.	
Wednesday:	Pigs in a blanket, green beans, strawberry shortcake, and milk.	
Thursday:	Hamburger on a bun with cheese, fried chips, fresh fruit, and milk.	
Friday:	Mac & Cheese, pretzel, peas, fresh fruit, and milk.	
Milk choice includes chocolate fat free milk or white 1% Low fat milk		

Lunches are \$3.25

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STEWARDSHIP

For the weekend of May 6, 2024

Adults (269 gifts Including online giving):	\$22,043.18
Loose Cash:	\$847.85
Total:	\$22.891.03

Becky Swender & Barb Longoria

Other Gifts Received

Education Trust Fund:	\$219.00
Building Fund:	\$218.00
Tuition Scholarship Fund:	\$1,145.00

Our weekly average since July 1, 2023 is \$19,354.25. If we continue to keep this average, we will not meet our budgeted goal.

MAY 12. 2024

BE A PART OF OUR FAITH COMMUNITY



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Dear Parishioners of St. Joseph Church,

We, the Finance Council, extend our heartfelt gratitude for your continued support and dedication to our parish community. Over the past few years, we've achieved **significant and needed upgrades** to our church, including enhancing the interior and creating a more inviting vestibule. This year, we're proud to announce ongoing improvements to the school, windows, and facade, which have been long overdue. We all take

great pride when our facilities can provide welcoming environments for us to worship in and our students to learn in.

However, these enhancements and ongoing cost increases have strained our funds for future projects. Despite careful budgeting and expense management, **inflation** has impacted our costs. We've done what we can from a budget side to keep expenses down, already restricting program offerings in many areas. As you likely know from your own personal lives, some planned project expenses have grown in ranges from 50% to 70%.

We humbly ask for your assistance in ensuring the sustainability of our beloved parish. Please consider increasing the amount you contribute. Even a modest increase of **\$5 per week in tithing or a contribution to our building fund** would greatly aid us in meeting our future financial obligations. We understand your

personal budgets have experienced similar circumstances. Your consideration and prayers on this matter are deeply appreciated. Together, we can continue to strengthen our parish and ensure a vibrant future for generations to come.

With gratitude and blessings,

Finance Council Members

Scott Dzurka, Chair Ted Suidgeest, Vice Chair Margaret Jorae Joe Tomczyk Ray Vitek Dick Weller



Our Lady of Fatima Rosary

To commemorate our Lady's visit to the children of Fatima, please join us on the front steps of St. Joseph church Monday, May 13th at 6:00 p.m. while we pray the rosary. We will pray one five-decade Rosary and focus on prayer to reunite our nation. You are welcome to bring a chair.



St. Vincent de Paul Store **Job Posting**

St. Vincent de Paul Store is looking to fill a NEW Store Support Position to process/price miscel-

laneous items. The position is 30-40 hours per week, including some Saturdays.

The ideal candidate is capable of working in a fast-paced environment, organized, solid decision-making abilities, familiar with prices of current and vintage merchandise, resourceful in using technology to aid in pricing items and desires to work to support our mission to serve others. The position requires some lifting and moving heavy objects. Compensation is \$15.00 /hour and eligible for paid time off and our Simple IRA Match Program, after successful completion of our probationary period.

Please submit a resume and cover letter to: StVincentStJohnsMI@gmail.com



THE WORD OF GOD IS PROCLAIMED

St. Monica Ladies Auxiliary

St. Monica Ladies Auxiliary received a thank you note from Carolyn McQuillan of Big Brothers/Big Sisters to share with the parish. Ms. McQuillan was very grateful for being invited to the Lenten Soup Supper to speak about BB/BS and enjoyed meeting so many kind people at the supper. She was pleased with the parishioner's interest in the Big Brothers/Big Sisters program and hopes parishioners will continue to support the BB/BS mission to give children and teens the support they need to thrive. For more information, go to bbbsmcr.org.



This thank-you highlights one of our projects St. Monica Ladies Auxiliary provides for the parish. Join us at our next monthly meeting May 13th at 6:30 p.m. at the Columbian Hall. All ladies of the parish are invited to join and enjoy fellowship in the planning of future events such as a proposed painting project. For questions, please call Mary Beth at (989) 227-0088.





THE OFFERING OF THE JUST ENRICHES

This weekend we reached 129.8% of our DSA goal of \$98,185.00 from only 303 of our 1010 families with total pledged at \$127,400.78. We are grateful for these contributions. If you have not yet made a pledge, please consider supporting our appeal with a gift that will benefit the work of Christ in our parish and through the wider church. You may submit your gift online at www.dioceseoflansing.org/ appeal or with a DSA pledge envelope to the parish office.

Remember, now that we have reached our goal, one half of all additional donations received comes back to Joseph Church.

1009

60%

50%

40%

30%

20%

10%

6

Blended Families Retreat

Traditional marriage preparation programs often fall short for couples entering blended family marriages. Unlike typical unions, stepfamily marriages involve addressing dynamics concerning ex-spouses, coparenting, loss, step-parenting, spiritual shame, finances, and the diverse expectations of both children and adults. Neglecting these complexities risks marital dissolution. The Marriage and The Blended Family Retreat provides a safe space for couples to navigate these challenges, offering insights into stepfamily life and fostering open dialogue on critical issues. Facilitators, experienced in their own blended family journeys,

offer guidance and support to attendees. For more information on dates and locations to register for upcoming retreats, go to **dioceseoflansing.org/blended** families or scan the QR code.



The Dresser Ministry:

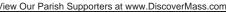
May is the month of Mary. In honor of our Holy Mother, we will be filling a "pack and play" for babies and their moms to be donated to the **Baby Pantry in St. Johns.** The Baby Pantry will accept all baby item donations but **especially needs the following**:

- Larger diapers (sizes 4 and up)
- Pull ups
- Baby wipes
- Paper products: facial tissue, toilet paper, and paper towers.
- Personal care items

Thank you in advance for your support!



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