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



ALL ARE WELCOME!

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 • Paul Atchley

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

THIS WEEK'S LITURGIES

Monday ● December 23

Malachi 3:1-4, 23-24/Luke 1:57-66

No Mass

Tuesday ● December 24

Isaiah 9:1-6/Timothy 2:11-14/Luke 2:1-14

1:30 p.m. Mass in Spanish

4:00 p.m. Mass *†Alexander Parker*

By: Mom an Dad

7:00 p.m. Mass Living and Deceased Members of the Orson

and Smith Family

By: Kathy Orson

10:00 p.m. Mass †Yvonne Asher

By: Sue and Terry Brya

Wednesday ● December 25

The Nativity of the Lord

Isaiah 62:11-12/Timothy 3:4-7/Luke 2:15-20 9:00 a.m. †Don Rademacher

By: Drucella and Family

Thursday ● December 26

Acts 6:8-10, 7:54-59/Matthew 10:17-22

No Mass

Friday • December 27

1 John 1:1-4/John 20:1a and 2-8

No Mass

Saturday ● December 28

1 John 1:5--2:2/Matthew 2:13-18

5:00 p.m. Mass *†Jim Jorae*

By: Jenny Jorae

Sunday ● December 29

Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14 or 1 Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28/Colossians 3:12-21

or 3:12-17 or 1 John 3:1-2, 21-24/Luke 2:41-52

8:00 a.m. †Monica Craig

By: Knights of Columbus #3281

10:00 a.m. †Julius and †Martha Schmitt and the

deceased members of their family

By: Family

12:00 p.m. The People of the Parish

6:00 p.m. Mass in Spanish

Upcoming Bulletin Deadlines:

Noon on December 26 for the January 5th bulletin





The Sanctuary Lamp will burn from December 23-28, 2024

in loving memory of beloved husband, Bob

Rest in Peace

Our prayers and sympathies to the family and friends of

Dorothy Scharnweber and Earl Vincent

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

"God is light and in Him there is no darkness at all."

1 John 1:5

Spending time in the presence of our Eucharistic Lord allows Christ to shine His light on our minds and hearts so that we can more clearly "walk in the light as He is in the light." (1 John 1:7)

The Blessed Sacrament will be Exposed for Adoration January 3 and 4, 2025.

KEEP THEM IN YOUR PRAYERS

Please pray for our parishioners and their families, especially:

Adam Sawyer Ballinger Lisa Clarizio Sherri Couch Mary Enneking Keith Enneking Friend Cindy Fontus
Brenda Higgins
David Higgins
Korine
Alissa McKeown
Gabrielle Meece
Myah
Jenny Pytlowanyj
Frank Rademacher
Deacon Marv & Tita
Robertson

Patricia Rojas

Joan Schrauben Sherri Michael VanElls Jeff Wadell Jennifer Jerry 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 Colby Munger Adam Novak Alex Rojas David Seperic Noel Smith II Joshua Szpont Jordan Van Amburg

To add or remove a name from the bulletin prayer list, please call the parish office: 989-224-8994 or email Stjosephchurchstjohns@gmail.com

*Please note: <u>only</u> immediate family members may add names to the bulletin.



WE ARE ALL EVANGELIZERS

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

Anticipation

The anticipation is slowly building. Children can hardly stand it. Everywhere they looked, for the last month (at least), there has been something or someone shouting Christmas. The shouts were in the form of advertising, pre-Christmas parties, decorative lights everywhere they looked -- not to mention Christmas songs on the radio or in the shopping malls. The pressure keeps mounting and the children keep hoping their favorite holiday will hurry up and get here -- after all school is out for two full weeks and they need their new toys, games or clothes. "Hurry-up-itis" (I love literary license, don't you?) is building like steam in a tea kettle.

And what are the adults doing? Some are panicking about not being ready, afraid everything won't get done. Let me re-phrase that, many are panicking about not being ready and when we realize that, we have to stop, take a breath and relax. We had a wonderful Advent prayer and adoration hour Friday night in which

we shut off lights in the nave of the church and sang, prayed and adored the Lord in candlelight only. This allowed all of us in the building to avoid visual distraction because the Lord was in the spotlight. We could all focus on Jesus while ignoring the frenzied busyness of the outside world. One hour of peace away from the chaos does wonders for the soul.

Those unable to go last Friday can still get the benefits attendees achieved by carving out an hour today or tomorrow for a one-on-one visit with the Lord. We can read Matthew's or Luke's account of Jesus' birth with the light on, then we can light a candle, turn the light off and focus on the flame. Pray to Jesus, the light of the world for inner peace as we go into the homestretch toward Christmas Day. We may have to give up the thought of having everything perfect and realize that it's the people at Christmas, not the things, that will make the day.

Anticipation is usually good, unless we turn it into anxiety. Catholic author Matthew Kelly always does an Advent reflection series, making a different point each day. One of his points last week was to enjoy the anticipation of Christmas. Kids will

likely always be more excited about opening gifts than adults, generally speaking. In talking of anticipation, Kelly noted that he makes all of his employees schedule at least two weeks of vacation in an upcoming year before the end of January. He's found, probably as many employers have, that having that vacation time on the calendar not only helps people focus, but be joyful in anticipation in the days leading up to the vacation time. Thus anticipation = joy = more productive employees.

So let's take that quiet hour and remember the joy that echoed through the countryside near Bethlehem and revel in the joy baby Jesus brings us all. Let's use the anticipation in these last few days before Christmas for the joy of our own families. Ditch the anxiety. What gets done gets done. So let's share a smile in peace and harmony. May we all share in a blessed Christmas. Amen.

Deacon Eric deaconeric@hotmail.com



Thank you so much to everyone who purchased Kichwa Artisanal items the weekend of November 16/17. We were able to sell a large amount of items which helped these families immensely. A huge thank you to all of those who have donated to help this community. With the help of your donations we were able to purchase food for the week of December 9th,. There was a protest in their city making it almost impossible to work and provide for their families. Here are photos of the families with food donations you helped purchase. They are all so grateful! Thank you all again and we hope you have a very blessed Christmas and Happy New Year! God Bless!

Anna Biewer and Wellington Alvarado

(Want to continue hearing about their mission work in Ecuador? If you would like to receive their mission email updates, feel free to send Anna an email at annablewer@familymissionscompany.com and she will send you the link where you can sign up for the email updates)

Parish Office Christmas Hours

9:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Monday, December 23

(closed noon-1:00 p.m.)

Tuesday, Christmas Eve Wednesday, Christmas Day Closed

Closed

Thursday, December 26

9:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. (closed noon-1:00 p.m.)

Friday, December 27

9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. (closed noon- 1:00 p.m.)

INCLEMENT WEATHER

Parish Office Closure

When St. Johns Public School closes for Inclement Weather, so does St. Joseph Catholic Church parish office. If there is a weekday Mass scheduled that day, the Mass will still take place. Please consider all precautions if you still plan on attending

the weekday Mass. If you have any questions or concerns, please call the parish office.











St. Joseph Catholic School - Christmas Break!

Have a very Merry and Blessed Christmas!

From Mrs. Denovich, Mrs. Klein, and Mrs. Jakus

Liturgical Minsters

December 28/29

Altar Servers: 5:00 p.m. Joslynn R.

Sophia R.

8:00 a.m. Nolan C.

Ella C.

10:00 a.m. Cassie S.

Gracie H.

12:00 p.m. Mason W.

Derek C.

Mary Beth E.

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:

5:00 p.m.	Group 2
8:00 a.m.	Group 2
10:00 a.m.	Group 2
12:00 p.m.	Group 2

Lectors: 5:00 p.m. Diane A. 8:00 a.m. Lu Anne C.

12:00 p.m

10:00 a.m. Tori S.

Ushers: 5:00 p.m. Group 5B

8:00 a.m. Group 8A 10:00 a.m. Group 10D 12:00 p.m. Group 12A

Collection Counters: December 23 Group 3

Sanctuary Cleaners: Bonnie Weber & Mary Cole

STEWARDSHIP

For the weekend of December 15, 2024

Adults (297 gifts Including online giving):	\$24,457.58
Loose Cash:	\$805.75
Total:	\$25,263.33

Other Gifts Received

Education Trust Fund:	\$117.00
Building Fund:	\$401.00
Tuition Scholarship Fund:	\$227.00

Our weekly average since July 1, 2024 is \$19,491.57. If we continue to keep this average, we will not meet our budgeted goal.

Do you have questions about St. Joseph Catholic School or are interested in registering this 2024/25 school year? Please contact Chris wells at princpal@stjoecatholicschool.org.



The Divine Mercy Chaplet is an intercessory prayer that asks the Lord to send His mercy upon us and upon everyone living in the world. It is prayed using the rosary and takes ten minutes to pray. The chaplet is traditionally said during the hour of mercy, the 3:00 pm hour. According to the Diary of St. Faustina, Jesus promised that all who recite this chaplet at the hour of death or in the presence of the dying will receive great mercy. The Vatican has approved Jesus' promises to St. Faustina regarding the Chaplet, Divine Mercy Sunday and the Divine Mercy picture. You may want to research the many promises of mercy that Jesus made to St. Faustina. The chaplet is an intercessory prayer that

extends the offering of the Eucharist so it is especially appropriate to pray it after receiving the Eucharist at Mass

Please join the Path of Divine Hope Grief Ministry after the last Saturday Mass each month when the Divine Mercy Chaplet is said for the parishioners who died during the month. This month it will be prayed after the 5:00 p.m. Mass on December 28.

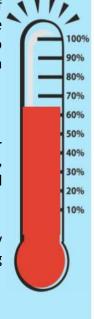


To date our parish has raised \$785.414.00 toward our target of \$1,260,000.00. Thank you to everyone who has participated and to those who are praying about how they may make a difference.

Did you know...

100% of individual donations will directly support teachers, schools, families, and parishes! The diocese is covering all campaign expenses.

In our parish, our share of the money raised will be used towards replenishing our savings account after the recent expenditures for the school.









In a Lansing area hospital and need the Anointing of the Sick?

When you or your loved one is ill, receiving the Sacrament of the Sick is important. When in a Lansing area hospital, please let your attending nurse know you would like the Anointing of the Sick. They will contact the chaplain who will, in turn, contact a local priest who is "on call" to come and give you the sacrament. This is the quickest way for you or your loved one to receive the sacrament, if they didn't already receive it before going into the hospital.



ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL 100TH ANNIVERSARY REQUEST

While your family gathers for the holidays, how about taking a group picture of all family members who either attended or worked at St. Joseph School (or do now)? We would love to have these for a display at our 100th anniversary **Open House on January 26**, **2025**. Please identify who the picture includes and any other pertinent information. You can either print the picture and mail it, bring it to the school or church office, or email it to: padgetts@stjoecatholicschool.org by January 10, 2025.

Also, it would be wonderful to read about memories or positive impacts from your time at St. Joe's, even if it is not possible to send a picture.

Traveling Chalice for Vocations

If you love the Catholic faith and want to contribute in a meaningful way, please pray for vocations. The Knights of Columbus has provided a traveling chalice that you can take home for a

week of daily prayers. The chalice is located on a table by the sacristy door. Simply sign up for the week that you want, and the chalice as well as suggested prayers are yours for that week.



YEAR END CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS

Your Year-End Contribution Statements for 2024 will be mailed in late January 2025. If you would like your end of the year donation recorded for this year, it must be given to the church by December 31st or postmarked by 12-31-24. Your generosity this year toward the support of our parish has been appreciated.





Remembering the Farish

After providing for families and loved ones, you may wish to include St. Joseph Parish in your will. All gifts are welcome, and we ask that you prayerfully consider whether a portion of your estate should be used to continue the ministries of the parish. This can be accomplished with the words:

I bequeath to St. Joseph Parish of St. Johns, Michigan, [insert amount being given or percentage of residue] to be used to support the ministry of the parish.

A bequest can be a specific dollar amount, a specific piece of property, a percentage of an estate, or all or part of the residue of an estate. It is always recommended that you consult a lawyer for drafting or amending a will.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Prayer for Travelers

Gracious God, we thank you for making this beautiful world and for calling us your people. Bless us with every heavenly blessing and give us a safe journey. Help us to enjoy these days of vacation and let them be a time of refreshment and joy. Give us grace that we may serve you each day and grow in your love. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



Traveling this Holiday Season?

MassTimes.org provides worship times, locations, contact info,

websites and maps of over 117,000 churches in 201 countries and territories.





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