

# 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



The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.  
-Luke 2:40

## 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 30**  
 1 John 2:12-17/Luke 2:36-40  
 No Mass

**Tuesday • December 31**  
 1 John 2:18-21/John 1:1-18  
 7:00 p.m. Mass †Tom Kowalewski  
 By: Dennis and Rebecca Worrall

**Wednesday • January 1**  
**Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary**  
 Numbers 6:22-27/Galatians 4:4-7/Luke 2:16-21  
 9:00 a.m. †Donna M. Smith  
 By: Sharon DeBoer and Marie Leonard

**Thursday • January 2**  
 1 John 2:22-28/John 1:19-28  
 8:30 a.m. Mass †Marcia George  
 By: Charlie and Lisa Wieber

**Friday • January 3**  
 1 John 2:29--3:6/John 1:29-34  
 8:30 a.m. Mass †Don Randolph  
 By: Kathy

**Saturday • January 4**  
 1 John 3:7-10/John 1:35-42  
 8:30 a.m. Mass For an End to Abortion  
 5:00 p.m. Mass †Jim Jorae  
 By: Jenny Jorae

**Sunday • January 5**  
**The Epiphany of the Lord**  
 Isaiah 60:1-6/Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6/Matthew 2:1-12  
 8:00 a.m. Mass **The People of the Parish**  
 10:00 a.m. †Neil and †Jean Harte  
 By: Wadell Family  
 12:00 p.m. †Courtney Craig Nowak  
 By: Jacob and Ellen McManus and Family  
 6:00 p.m. **Mass in Spanish**

**Parish Office Holiday Hours**

**Monday, December 30** 9:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.  
 (closed noon- 1:00 p.m.)  
**Tuesday, New Years Eve** **Closed**  
**Wednesday, New Years Day** **Closed**  
**Thursday, January 2** 9:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.  
 (closed noon- 1:00 p.m.)  
**Friday, January 3** 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.  
 (closed noon- 1:00 p.m.)



The Sanctuary Lamp  
 will burn from  
 December 29, 2024-January 4, 2025

*Jim Jorae*

**First Friday Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament**

The Blessed Sacrament will be Exposed for Adoration following the 8:30 a.m. Mass on First Friday, January 3, 2025 until prior to First Saturday Mass at 8:30 a.m. Saturday, January 4, 2025.

**O Come, Let Us Adore Him!**

We are in need of subs at the following times:

**Friday, January 3:** 10:00 a.m, 11:00 a.m.  
 (2 needed),  
 2:00 p.m., 3:00 p.m.,  
 5:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.

**Saturday: January 4:** 1:00 a.m. and 3:00 a.m.



Please text/call Rebecca at 989-292-2072 or sign up in the gathering space if you are able to attend at one of these times.

**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

Stjosephchurchst-johns@gmail.com

**\*Please note: only immediate family members may add names to the bulletin.**



**WE ARE ALL  
EVANGELIZERS**

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

**Nobody’s Going to  
Read This**

“Nobody’s going to read this” I said to myself as I prepared to write this column. It’s being written early to meet one of the several early deadlines that go with the Christmas season. On top of scrambling for new column ideas, I think I’ve used up my allotment of “grins” for 2024.

“Nobody’s going to read this -- this is the bulletin on the Sunday between Christmas and New Year’s,” I said to myself. “Nobody’s going to spend time reading the bulletin today after having to go to Mass three times in a week. Enough is enough already.” And besides, I think I’ve used up my allotment of poignant thoughts for 2024.

“Nobody’s going to read this, there is so much holiday partying and football still available today -- it’s a waste of time to read this Sunday bulletin, isn’t it? How many read the Sunday bulletin anytime?,” I wondered. And as I write this, I have a nagging feeling

that I’m not only out of grins and poignancy, I may be completely out of words for 2024. And really, who wants to read a column that runs out of words?

I know (light bulb over my head), I’ll use someone else’s words to get me to the finish line. We talked about a Christmas poem of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow’s at today’s final Average Joe’s get-together of 2024. Now I have never been accused of being a long or tall fellow myself, but his “Christmas Bells” has all the markings of an Old Testament psalm, with a variety of emotions expressed. That might work.

The first three verses all end with the uplifting line “Of peace on earth, good will to men.” But then his thoughts turn to the reality of his time, the American Civil War, with bombs bursting and people dying and Longfellow’s thoughts turn dark: “There is no peace on earth’ he said, “for hate is strong and mocks the song of ‘peace on earth good will to men.”

But then he hears Christmas bells ring once again and his faith in God appears in the final verse: “God is not dead, nor doth He sleep; The Wrong shall fail, “The Right prevail,

With peace on earth, good-will to men”

“Maybe somebody will read this after all,” I thought. “Maybe somebody will at least scan this column and see the name of this Longfellow fellow, who wrote a poem with a message. Maybe the words of this Longfellow fellow will touch their hearts, because they’ve had some bombshells in their lives this year and can see that in the end their faith in God will help them get through this difficult holiday season.”

And now I think I can do this “Maybe one person will read this and find the words of this Longfellow fellow pertinent to their lives. I’ll pray for that person” I said to myself.

Well I guess I made it. Jesus gave me my first Christmas present -- enough words to finish 2024. I can look with joy to the new year, chock full of grins and poignancy (God willing) in 2025. God bless you all. See you next year.

*Deacon Eric*  
[deaconeric@hotmail.com](mailto:deaconeric@hotmail.com)

**St. Monica Ladies Auxiliary Meeting  
January 13, 2025 at 6:30 p.m.  
Columbian Hall**

All ladies of the parish are invited to the fun, prayer and fellowship at the next St. Monica Ladies Auxiliary meeting on January 13, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. at the Columbian Hall. The new year is a perfect time to come and check out an Auxiliary meeting. Come hungry because there is always some type of food to enjoy. The fun activity planned for this first meeting will be card games. Maybe you have a favorite game you would like to share. The new year is a time for new beginnings, so we hope that attending St. Monica meetings will become one of your new beginnings.



***Are you grieving and  
missing a beloved spouse?***

Are you lonely and wishing you could meet with other like-minded men and women who are experiencing similar situations? Please join us in the coffee and donuts room (RR) in the church basement where you can gather for conversation and companionship.

***Wednesday, January 8 2025  
at 10:00 a.m.***

We will break in time for Noon Mass.

Any questions, please call 517-896-5441.

**K-12 Grade Religious Education January Calendar**

- Wednesday, January 8: K-8 Classes
- Wednesday, January 15: K-8 Classes
- Wednesday, January 22: K-12 Classes, Confirmation Class and Youth Group
- Wednesday, January 29: Confirmation class and interviews

For more information, class times, and other dates go to:

[stjosecatholic.com](http://stjosecatholic.com)

Contact Jen Nelson at 989-224-8537 or

[dre.stjoseph@gmail.com](mailto:dre.stjoseph@gmail.com) with questions or to register.



**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@stjoecatholicsschool.org](mailto:padgetts@stjoecatholicsschool.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.

**St. Joseph Catholic School - Christmas Break!**

**Have a very Merry, Blessed Christmas and Happy New Year!**

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

***Liturgical Minsters***

**January 4/5**

<b>Altar Servers:</b>	5:00 p.m.	Volunteer
		Volunteer
	8:00 a.m.	Volunteer
		Volunteer
	10:00 a.m.	Volunteer
		Volunteer
	12:00 p.m.	Volunteer
		Volunteer

***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

<b>Lectors:</b>	5:00 p.m.	Sheila B.
	8:00 a.m.	Rich H.
	10:00 a.m.	Ted S.
	12:00 p.m.	Debbie T.

<b>Ushers:</b>	5:00 p.m.	Group 5C
	8:00 a.m.	Group 8B
	10:00 a.m.	Group 10A
	12:00 p.m.	Group 12A

**Collection Counters:** December 26 Group 4

**Sanctuary Cleaners:** Ramona Smith & Leona Thayer

**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 31<sup>st</sup> or postmarked by 12-31-24.** Your generosity this year toward the support of our parish has been appreciated.

**STEWARDSHIP:** Due to early deadlines, the collection from the weekend of December 22, 2024 will appear in a later bulletin.

# ST. JOSEPH PARISH CALENDAR

# JANUARY 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p><b>Happy New Year</b></p> <p>5 Masses: 8 &amp; 10 AM, Noon</p> <p>8:30 a.m. KC Pancake Breakfast(SH)</p> <p>Epiphany</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Mass in Spanish</p>	<p>December 31</p> <p>Parish Office is Closed</p> <p>(no confessions)</p> <p>7:00 PM Mass (incense free)</p> <p>No School</p>	<p>1 9:00 a.m. Mass</p> <p><i>Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God</i> (Holy Day of Obligation)</p> <p>Parish Office is Closed</p> <p>- Christmas Break</p> <p>8 12:05 PM Mass</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Widows meeting (RR)</p> <p>3:00 p.m. Grief Ministry (L)</p> <p>4:00 p.m. Bible Study (L)</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Rel Ed K-8 (Sch)</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Choir Practice (CL)</p> <p>6:30 p.m. RCIA (RR)</p>	<p>2 8:30 a.m. MASS</p> <p>6:30 p.m. RCIA (ch)</p>	<p>3 8:30 A.M. 1st Friday Mass</p> <p><i>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</i> (from after Mass Fri. thru 8:30AM Benediction on Sat.)</p> <p>4:00 PM Confession</p> <p>5:00 PM Mass</p>	<p>4 8:30 AM Benediction and 1st Saturday Mass</p>	
<p>6 No Mass</p> <p>School Resumes</p>	<p>7 9:30 AM Bible Study (L)</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Confessions</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Mass</p>	<p>8 12:05 PM Mass</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Widows meeting (RR)</p> <p>3:00 p.m. Grief Ministry (L)</p> <p>4:00 p.m. Bible Study (L)</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Rel Ed K-8 (Sch)</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Choir Practice (CL)</p> <p>6:30 p.m. RCIA (RR)</p>	<p>9 8:30 AM Mass</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Bible Study (L)</p> <p>6:30 p.m. RCIA (RR)</p>	<p>10 8:30 AM Mass</p> <p><i>Adoration (C) from after Mass until 7pm</i></p> <p>4:00 PM Confession</p> <p>5:00 PM Mass</p>	<p>11 8:30 AM Average Joes (RR)</p>	
<p>12 Masses: 8 &amp; 10 AM, Noon</p> <p>1:00 p.m. Baptisms</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Mass in Spanish</p>	<p>14 9:30 AM Bible Study (L)</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Confessions</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Mass</p>	<p>15 12:05 PM Mass</p> <p>4:00 p.m. Bible Study (L)</p> <p>5:30 p.m. Parish Council (L)</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Rel Ed K-8(Sch)</p> <p>6:30 p.m. RCIA (RR)</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Choir Practice (CL)</p>	<p>16 8:30 AM Mass</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Bible Study (L)</p> <p>6:30 p.m. RCIA</p>	<p>17 8:30 AM Mass</p> <p><i>Adoration (C) from after Mass until 7pm</i></p>	<p>18 8:30 AM Average Joes (RR)</p>	
<p>19 Masses: 8 &amp; 10 AM, Noon</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Mass in Spanish</p>	<p>21 9:30 AM Bible Study (L)</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Confessions</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Mass</p>	<p>22 12:05 PM Mass</p> <p>4:00 p.m. Bible Study (L)</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Rel Ed K-8 (sch)</p> <p>6:30 p.m. 9 grade Confirmation Session (Rel R)</p> <p>6:30 p.m. RCIA (RR)</p> <p>7:30 p.m. 9-12 grade Youth Grp (Rel R)</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Choir Practice (CL)</p>	<p>23 8:30 AM Mass</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Bible Study (L)</p> <p>6:00 p.m. First Communion parent/child workshop (Sch)</p> <p>6:30 p.m. RCIA</p>	<p>24 8:30 AM Mass</p> <p><i>Adoration (C) from after Mass until 7pm</i></p>	<p>25 8:30 AM Average Joes (RR)</p>	
<p>26 Masses: 8 &amp; 10 AM, Noon</p> <p>100th Anniversary of St. Joseph School Open House (Sch)</p> <p>Catholic Schools Week</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Mass in Spanish</p>	<p>28 9:30 AM Bible Study (B)</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Confessions</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Mass</p>	<p>29 12:05 PM Mass</p> <p>4:00 PM Bible Study (L)</p> <p>No Rel Ed K-8</p> <p>6:30 PM Confirmation interviews (L)</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Rcia (RR)</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Choir Practice (CL)</p>	<p>30 8:30 AM Mass</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Bible Study (L)</p> <p>6:30 p.m. RCIA</p>	<p>31 8:30 AM Mass</p> <p><i>Adoration (C) from after Mass until 7pm</i></p> <p>No School</p>	<p>4:00 PM Confession</p> <p>5:00 PM Mass</p>	

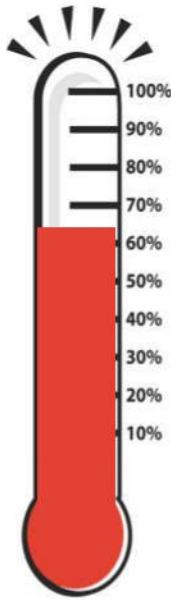
**Abbreviation Key:** (L) Library (RR) Reception Room-coffee donuts (RoR) Reception overflow Room (C) Church (CL) Choir Loft (SH) Social Hall/Cafeteria (TL) Teacher's Lounge (Rel R) Religion Room (G) Gym (K) Kitchen (Sch) School (KCH) K of C Hall KC - Knights of Columbus (RCIA) Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults RFC - Religious Formation

Events on this calendar can change without notice.



## Stewardship for Saints and Scholars

Our campaign thermometer is on the rise! Be sure to keep an eye on our progress as we continue to push those lines higher and higher. We have currently raised **\$807,414.00**. As you may remember, our target at St. Joseph Church is \$1,260,000.00. Thank you to everyone who has participated and to those who are praying about how they may make a difference.



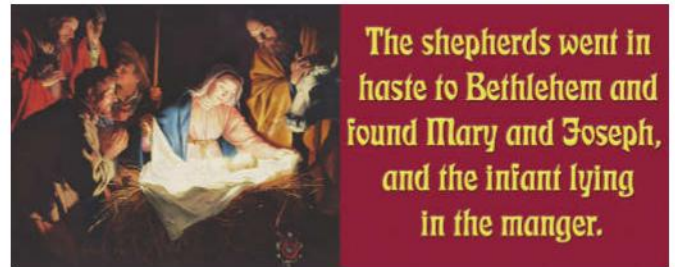
During the last several weeks we have made a concerted effort to educate every parishioner about the campaign. We want to continue answering any questions you might have and ask for your participation. We need everyone's help in order to reach our target.

## Some Adult Formation Opportunities to Look Forward to in 2025

### A partial sneak peek at what lies ahead

- ◆ **Lent (dates TBD): Forgiven: *The Transforming Power of Confession*.** This three-week parish group study will help us grow in our appreciation of this great sacrament of God's mercy.
- ◆ **April 26, 2025: The Catholic Biblical School of Michigan will present *Journey with the Apostles* at our parish.** This half-day retreat will provide inspiration for us in our own unique mission as a Christian after encountering Our Risen Lord on Easter.
- ◆ **Late Spring/Summer (dates TBD): Understanding Catholic Historical Controversies series.** We will be tackling some of the most questioned and controversial topics in the history of the Church, including: the Crusades, the Inquisition, the Native Missions, the Galileo Affair, and Pope Pius XII and the Holocaust. Helpful for a variety of people, from those curious about Catholicism to those seeking to better navigate these tricky topics when they come up.
- ◆ **June 21, 2025: A Diocesan-wide Mass and Eucharistic Procession will be held in Lansing.** 6,000 people participated in a similar event in 2018; you will not want to miss this powerful experience.

And more! Watch the bulletin for additional information about these and other opportunities to grow in your faith.



The Society of St Vincent de Paul has been serving in our parish since 1946. In 1996, St. Vincent's began operating a retail store which is now located in the Southpoint Mall at 1009 S. US-27 in St. Johns across from McDonalds.

St. Vincent's has volunteer opportunities for people to assist with accepting, processing & pricing donations and volunteers in our Resource Center where they assist people with emergency needs such as rent, utilities, prescriptions, auto repairs, etc.

Last year, St. Vincent de Paul assisted families in Clinton County with over \$226,000 of emergency financial assistance!!

If you are interested in exploring volunteer opportunities or if you find yourself with an emergency financial need, please call St. Vincent's at 989 292-7057.



..... ALL YOU CAN EAT  
**PANCAKE BREAKFAST**  
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- Fellowship and Good Food!
- Pancakes, Scrambled Eggs, Sausage Links, Applesauce, Orange Juice and Coffee
- First Sunday of Every Month, September through June
- In the School Cafeteria following 8 AM Mass until 11:30 AM
- \$5 Suggested Donation

**EVERY FIRST SUNDAY**



**Priest, Prophet, King Retreat**


January 12, 2025, 9am-8pm  
 St. Joseph Parish - Pewamo  
 106 East St., Pewamo

Come join St. Joseph Parish-Pewamo for an incredible day centered on Christ present in the Eucharist. This retreat is a guided reflection of faith including Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Rosary, Praise Worship, Small Group Discussion, Interactive Prayer Experiences, two workshop breakouts, lunch, Eucharistic procession, and Mass. The entire day is designed to help you intentionally embrace Jesus Christ present in the Blessed Sacrament and in your daily life. This year's theme is Adoratio. Christianity is a relationship with Jesus Christ. We are called to a deeper relationship with Him in everything we do. How we act in our daily lives should reflect Him who sends us. How do you order your family, your daily life, and your worship to make you an example of Christ's love to those you encounter? How you act is a reflection of how you rightly or wrongly worship in this world. Come and learn how to adore Christ as our Savior in your everyday life. This retreat is free, but does require registration.

Learn more and register at [stjosephpewamo.org](http://stjosephpewamo.org).

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