

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 9

The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Genesis 3:9-15, 20/Ephesians 1:3-6, 11-12/Luke 1:26-38
No Mass

Tuesday • December 10

Isaiah 40:1-11/Matthew 18:12-14
7:00 p.m. Mass †Karl Hufnagel
By: Mom and Dad

Wednesday • December 11

Isaiah 40:25-31/Matthew 11:28-30
12:05 p.m. †Ron and †Elaine Pung
By: Mark and Diane Armbrustmacher

Thursday • December 12

Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe
Zechariah 2:14-17 or Revelations 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/Luke 1:26-38
8:30 a.m. Mass †Mary Herrick
By: Ann Boynton

6:00 p.m. Mass *Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass and celebration (Bilingual)*

Friday • December 13

Isaiah 48:17-19/Matthew 11:16-19
8:30 a.m. Mass †Laurie Vaive
By: Brad and Andrea Rehmann

Saturday • December 14

Sirach 48:1-4, 9-11/Matthew 17:9a, 10-13
5:00 p.m. Mass †Leo, †Marie and †Kevin Thelen
By: Family

Sunday • December 15

Zephaniah 3:14-18a/Philippians 4:4-7/Luke 3:10-18
8:00 a.m. †Rita Thelen
By: Knights of Columbus #3281
10:00 a.m. †Charles Wadell
By: Gail Wadell
12:00 p.m. The People of the Parish

6:00 p.m. Mass in Spanish †Margarita Alor

Upcoming Bulletin Deadlines:

Noon on December 19th for the
 December 29th bulletin
 and
 Noon on December 26
 For the January 5th bulletin



The Sanctuary Lamp
 will burn from
 December 8-14, 2024
 in memory of
Kathy Reynolds

Advent Candlelight Holy Hour

Friday, December 20, 2024

6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Inside the church



Prepare for the coming of Our Lord during a candle-lit holy hour of Eucharistic Adoration. This event will feature music, a reflection, quiet moments with Our Lord, and more, as we prepare to step out of the darkness and into the light of Christ.

People of all ages are welcome.

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)

The Voice and The Light

When we first read of John the Baptist in the gospel of Luke, it is early in chapter one as the angel Gabriel tells John's father Zechariah that though he and his wife were elderly, they would be blessed with a child to be named John. Late in the first chapter, we hear of his circumcision at which he was named John -- to the surprise of many. They were also surprised that Zechariah would affirm that name vocally, since Zechariah had had his voice taken away after initially doubting Gabriel.

Zechariah uses his rediscovered voice to praise God and to announce the role of his son, saying: "You my child shall be called the prophet of the Most High, for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way, to give his people knowledge of salvation, by the forgiveness of their sins." Zechariah uses his voice to announce "The Voice," the one who we hear in

today's gospel as the "voice of one crying out in the desert" -- John the Baptist.

This is the message we hear on the second Sunday of Advent every year, John the Baptist telling us we need to repent for the forgiveness of sins. And repent means more than asking for forgiveness, but a change in our ways -- a turning away from sin and toward the Lord. It's hard to do, but it may be easier if we look at repentance as part of our New Year's resolutions. Here at the start of Advent, we are at the beginning of the new liturgical year. Come January first we will have a running start on becoming a better person, not just a thinner one, if we piggyback a change of character through repentance with a secular resolution to lose weight, save money or other similar resolutions.

If we are hearing the Baptist's voice this season, we know that he is asking us to use one of our other senses as well - sight. In his description of the Baptist's message, we hear that he, in the evangelist John's words, came "to testify to the light." The birth of Jesus,

as we are aware, is celebrated just days after the shortest day of the year -- which means, of course, the longest night. The Light of the world arrives at a time he is most needed, when the world is in its deepest dark.

We will mark the longest night here at St. Joe's this year with a candlelight adoration hour. On Friday evening the 20th, the parish's new faith formation team will present an opportunity for all of us to step away from all our Christmas preparation and hullabaloo for a short time, and perhaps get a better personal understanding of the coming of the child Jesus. We will have many of the church lights out, with most of the light emanating from candles. I will read a selection from the evangelist John on the coming of the "Light" and present a short homily. Most importantly we will have a time of quiet for reflection, meditation and adoration -- great tools to use in a season of repentance and adoration.

Deacon Eric

deaconeric@hotmail.com

Calling families big and small!

We need your help to light the Church's
Advent Wreath before a Mass this
Advent Season.

Quick and easy sign-up is available on the Sign-Up Genius by scanning the QR code below (or call the parish office at 989-224-8994) We hope your family is part of the weekly celebration as we prepare for Christmas



Heavenly Father, in Your goodness You have given us this time to prepare ourselves for the coming of the greatest gift, Your Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, more fully into our lives. Please help us to make a gift of ourselves to those in our family and community, through our time, our talents, and our prayers. We start by praying for those whose hands make up our little wreath, (mention names here), for their intentions, and for our entire St. Joseph Parish family. May we all better know the great peace, hope, love, and joy that comes only from You, as we grow closer to You throughout the seasons of Advent and Christmas. We ask all this through the power of the Holy Spirit, truly guiding the Church and its people today, and through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Amen.

All members of the St. Joseph Catholic Church family along with the choir are invited to join the **Knights of Columbus Council #3281**

christmas caroling!

**Hazel I Findlay Country Manor
Monday, December 9th, 2024
7:00 p.m.**

Song books will be provided. Dress for the holidays in your favorite Christmas attire and Santa hat and help spread some Christmas Joy to with the residents!



UPCOMING HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATION:

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE:

Tuesday December 24:
*4:00 PM, *7:00 PM, 10:00 PM

Wednesday, December 25:
9:00 AM

Solemnity of Mary

Tuesday, December 31: *6:00 PM

Wednesday, January 1: 8:00 AM

** Incense Free Masses*

Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, and Altar Servers can sign up for any of the Holy Days Masses at this time. Please call or email the parish office or sign up on the sheets in the gathering space.

Please pray for the following children preparing for **First Holy Communion** this 2025 Spring.

Paulina A.	Jace G.	Roan R.
Oaklee B.	Kasin H.	Daryl S.
Paola C.	Micki H.	Eli S.
Thea D.	Easton L.	Kiozer S.
Larson D.	Lydia M.	William S.
Ava F.	Sarah M.	Connor S.
Benjamin F.	Millie R.	Henrik T.
Atalia G.	Owen R.	Sophia V.
Joshua G.	Robinson R.	

Please pray for the following **Confirmation Candidates** that will be Confirmed in March 2025.

Noah B	Lily Marie M.
Logan F.	Madden R.
Archer G.	Sam S.
Lucas H.	Ty S.
Trevor H.	Alayna S.
Teaghan H.	Laney T.
Levi L.	Jakson V.
Claire M.	Gracyn W.
Cole M	Elliott W.
Gage M.	

CHRISTMAS FLOWER DEDICATION*

If you would like to make a donation of any amount towards our Christmas Poinsettias in memory of or in honor of a loved one, please use this form. Place in your red Christmas flower envelope.

Donated by:

In memory of (For the deceased)

In honor of (For the living)

Please return to the parish office **no later than**

Monday, December 16th

to be included in the memorial list.

Donations received in excess of flower costs will be applied towards decorations and other liturgical expenses.

Aging religious need your help.

The Retirement Fund for Religious help the more than 24,000 senior religious who have dedicated their lives to service retire with dignity. Donations will provide for the essential care, medicine, and daily needs of senior sisters, brothers, and religious order priests who have served for decades--usually for little to no pay. Show your appreciation by supporting those who have given a lifetime.

*Dear Lord,
please flood me with your peace
so that when I'm surrounded by
the busyness of the Christmas
season, I can remain ready to
meet you. Amen.*

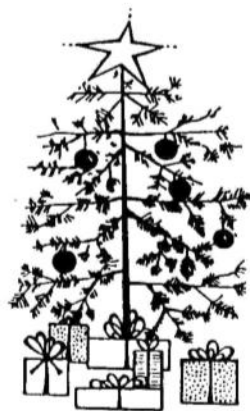
THE GIVING TREE

Ornaments are in the baskets located at the new gathering space in the church. Each ornament has an item that you can provide for someone in need. Your responsibility is to bring the wrapped gift, marked with the name & number found on the ornament, and return the gift in the gathering space. Please remember that the gift you provide is often the only gift that the person receives.

In past years over 200 individuals from Hazel Findlay, Safe Center, Eureka House, and Reach the Forgotten Ministries have benefited from the generosity of St. Joseph parishioners.

Please return monetary gifts to the parish office.

All gifts must be returned by Wednesday, December 11



The Giving Tree

Join us to celebrate
Our Lady of Guadalupe Feast

Thursday, December 12, 2024

Mass - 6:00 p.m.

Dinner - immediately following
at St. Joseph School Social Hall/Cafeteria

All Are Invited!

Our Lady of Guadalupe is one of Mary's most well-known titles. She is also recognized as the patroness of America. We, with the help/generosity of the Hispanic Community from our church will honor her with a Mass and dinner.

During Mass, a brief representation of the apparitions of Our Lady will take place. A Mexican dinner and a program with crowning of Our Lady will follow immediately after Mass.



Please come and join us!

Attention all Widows and Widowers in the Parish
our next group meeting will be Tuesday, December 10, 2024
at 10:00 a.m. in the church basement.

Put your thinking caps on and come with ideas for a name for our group.

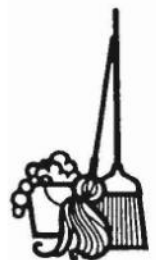
Questions?

Call Kathy at 517-896-5441 or Midge at 989-640-7268.

Church Cleaning

is scheduled for Monday,
December 9th at 6:00 p.m.
Bring some cleaning cloths,
and a friend or two!

Many hands make light work!



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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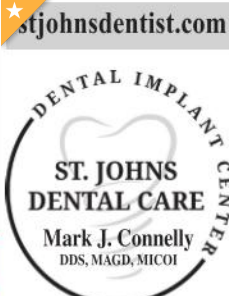
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