



THE  
*LIGHT SHINES*  
IN THE DARKNESS

JOHN 1:5

**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

**Merry Christmas from the staff at  
St. Joseph Catholic Church and  
St. Joseph School!  
May you have a  
blessed Christmas!**



**We enroll students all year long! For more information on our school visit:**

[www.school.stjoecatholic.com](http://www.school.stjoecatholic.com)

**If you have questions about St. Joseph Catholic Church, please contact Chris Wells at**

[principal@stjoecatholicschool.org](mailto:principal@stjoecatholicschool.org)



**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 [Stjosephchurchstjohns@gmail.com](mailto:Stjosephchurchstjohns@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)

**Merry Christmas** to everyone and may you also have a blessed and successful new year. Thank you for taking a minute to read today's special edition of the St. Joseph Christmas bulletin.

I'm Deacon Eric, and I'm pleased to offer a few words of joy to this edition. Regular readers of the bulletin know that I have a column each week in which I take a look at a wide variety of Catholic-related issues, but for those regular Mass-goers who don't think there is ever anything of value in the bulletin, or for

those visiting or who may be considering a return to the Church, let me briefly tell you about the column.

Entitled "We Are All Evangelizers (or anything else that's on Deacon Eric's mind)," I take inspiration from the Holy Spirit and produce what I believe is a unique look at Catholic life. (Some people may use less flattering words than "unique," but that's one of the reasons I believe people check in on the column each week.) It's a bit like Forrest Gump's look at a box of chocolates, "you never know what you're going to get."

One recent column looked to be a treatise on squirrels, but it turned out to be a Aesop-fable-like call for reflection on how our search for "The Golden Acorn"

can get in the way of following Jesus. Another column looked at our recent election and the need for us to not let politics become our religion. And I called for a reminder to everyone to celebrate the "thanks to God" part of the Thanksgiving holiday. The bottom line is I try to give a grin and a thought to ponder to readers each week.

So, next time you think there's nothing in the bulletin, pick one up anyway and take a peek. You might be surprised.

Once again, I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

*Deacon Eric*

**St. Joseph School's  
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. 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.

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.



"Let the children come to me; do not prevent them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these."

**To the parents of young children:**

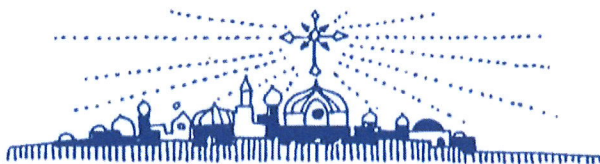
Bring your children to church.  
God put the wiggle in children; don't feel you have to suppress it in God's house.

Bring your children to church.  
Saturate their lives with the Word of God.  
Even if they lay on the floor. Even if they need 316 goldfish and a sucker to be quiet.  
Even if you stand in the cry room holding them, swaying for 10 minutes.  
Even when it's hard.  
Bring them to church.

Relax. Let them see you worship. Let them hear you praying, voicing the responses, and singing. Let them see you running toward our Lord—because if they don't see and learn these things from you, the world will teach them it's not a priority.  
The world won't teach them about Jesus.

**To the members of our parish:**

The presence of children is a gift to the church, and they are a reminder that our parish is growing. The way we welcome children in church directly affects the way they respond to the church, to God, and to one another. Help them learn liturgical behavior by praying, singing, and responding. Let them know that they are at home in his house of worship.  
(And give a smile of encouragement to their parents.)



**Welcome to St. Joseph Parish!**

**We are truly happy you joined us today!**

We especially want to welcome you if this is your first time in a church in a while. We're honored you are choosing to spend Christmas with us! If you walk away with nothing else from your experience today, we pray that it's this: **Jesus loves you.** He loves you so much that He, GOD, became human (even starting life as a vulnerable baby!) to save you from all the "darkness," both in the world and in ourselves, and to prove to you how much He loves you. Yes, *you*, the person reading this. Even if you're thinking to yourself, "That's nice, but there's no way He could love *me*." Yes, He really does!

If you don't believe that, or it's something that you've been struggling with, here's your challenge: whatever it is that you've been carrying with you lately--be it stress, anxiety, pain, or something else--give it to Jesus today. Then continue to bring your challenges to Him every day. Your prayers don't have to be long or elaborate, just tell Him what's going on and ask Him for help. It's not going to fix everything. But after a while, you'll start to notice, even if the circumstances don't change, you have a peace about it you can't quite explain. That's Jesus: His handiwork in our lives is awesome.

To help you accomplish this, we'd love to invite you back on Sunday. We know you're busy, and adding one more thing to your weekend is daunting; we promise that it's worth it



though. Those who consistently go to weekly Mass say that it not only gives them an opportunity to thank God and worship Him, but that they leave more refreshed, renewed, hopeful, and peaceful. It's because they've given their everything, even the messy parts of life, to the Lord, and He's transformed them with His love. We want that for you, too!

If you're here, you're part of our family, and we want to walk with you on this journey. We don't have life all figured out either. We struggle and grapple together though, and we pray for each other, help each other, and draw closer to Jesus together. We can only help you if we get to know you, so please join us again.

We pray you have a blessed Christmas, filled with knowledge of Christ's love for you, and we see you again soon. God bless you!

P.S. Maybe you have a lot of questions about faith. "Is that really Jesus in the bread and wine?" "Why do bad things happen to good people?" "Why does the Church teach \_\_\_\_?" If this is you, start small. Come spend some time with Jesus alone in the church (it's open most every day!) to ask Him your questions. Or contact the office if you would like to speak with someone about your questions directly. We mean it when we say we want to walk with you on this journey called life, and that starts by answering your questions.

*Amanda Grigar*  
[Rcia.stjosephparish@gmail.com](mailto:Rcia.stjosephparish@gmail.com)



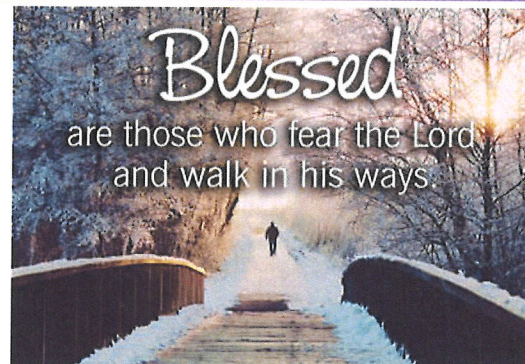
**K-12 Grade Religious Education**

The K-9 grades meet twice a month on Wednesday, with two family nights. All K-8 grades spend time in the new Religion Room with various curriculums, the main focus being "The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd. The curriculum is a hands-on approach to their faith that addresses what each child needs to develop his or her relationship with God through Scripture and Liturgy.

Sacramental Preparation begins in 1st grade for those seeking First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion in 2nd grade. First Reconciliation typically takes place in January and First Communion on the first weekend of May. The 2nd grade year consists of a parent meeting, two parent/child workshops, and a First Communion practice.

Confirmation preparation is for 8th-9th grades and follows the program calendar year with 8th-9th grade attending Wednesday Religious Ed classes. The High School Youth Group meet once a month on Wednesdays for leadership, faith, service, and food! All are welcome! Please go to [stjoecatholic.com](http://stjoecatholic.com) website for all K-12 calendars and registration forms.

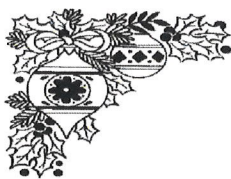
For questions to register or if you'd like to volunteer, please contact Jen Nelson, DRE, at 989-224-8537 or email at: [dre.stjoseph@gmail.com](mailto:dre.stjoseph@gmail.com)



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# CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

## 2024



### **In Memory of:**

Deceased Family and Friends

Richard and Doris Andrews

Harley Aylor

Kathy Babiak

Dale and Isabell Baker

Maynard, Shirley and Jeff Barrett

Gerald Bast

Ron Berghorst

Mick Bishop

Louis and Margaret Brya

Tom and Jean Burns

Larry, Mary, and Harry Burns

Cliff and Esther Carey

Dennis E Carn

Cathy Chambers

Jim Clark

Harold Cole, Jr

Edgar and Marie Conley

Ronald and Rose Coultas

Terese Croyle

Ronald and Rita Cuthbert

Roger Dershem

Roy and Mary Dieter

Lawrence and Stella Donahue

James Donahue

L.J. Donahue

Bernadette Doody

Maurice and Etha Eisler

Jerry and Kay Eisler

Meta Elftman

Henry and Betty Elstro

Shelly Elstro

Amelia Emmons

Gordon and Marlene Everett

Nurenberg and Pung Families

Thayer and Bezemek Families

Droste and Exelby Family

Viola and Francis Fedewa

Dale Feldpausch

James and Agatha Feldpausch

Stephan Fitzpatrick

Bernard and Marie Fox

Bill Fox

Justin Fox

Paul and Helen Fox

Marv Fox

Members of the Fox and Wagner Families

Agnes French

Lyle French

John Glowacki

Frank, Anna and Jim Glowacki

Frank and Janet Glowacki

Donald Goerge

Roy and Josepha Goerge

Art Halfmann

John and Ruth Hall

Tom and Pat Handlose

Kristie Harper

Neal and Jean Harte

William and Florence Hawk

Joe and Alma Hogan

Brenda Hogan

Hope Hoskins

Linda Hufnagel

Carl Hufnagel

Bernard and Joan Jorae

Donald and Laura Jorae

Stella Karek

Bill Kissane

Peter W. & Margaret Mary Klein

Leo and Phyllis Klein

Lawrence and Carolyn Klein

Leonard and Bernita Koenigsknecht

John Kowatch

Clayton, Betty, Clare, Leon Kramer

Donna Kus

Cindy Lambert

Curt Luttig

Ed and Betty Mankey

Sister Donna Marie

Miguel and Cecilia Martinez  
Clarence and Joan Mikulajczak  
Cindy Miller  
Bob Miller  
Terry Miller  
Jerry Motz  
Carol A Murphy  
Carl Murray  
Cindy Nunn  
Robert, Germaine & Debra Nurenberg  
Leon Nurenberg  
Alexandra Parker  
Janice Parker  
Peewee Pena  
Phillipa  
Judy Pohl  
Joe Pohl  
Germaine Pohl  
Arnie Pohl  
Marge and Floyd Prater  
Ken and Vernetta Price  
Don Rademacher  
Denis, Mary Lou, Ron and Dave Rademacher  
Brian Ritter  
Roland Ritter  
Joaquin Rojas  
Milton and Norene Rozen  
Susan K Scarchilli  
Mr and Mrs Herman Schmitt  
Julius and Martha Schmitt  
Ed Schmitt  
Edward and Alice Schneider  
Ron Schneider  
Don and Alice Schneider  
Jeanette Schomisch  
David Schroeder  
Alan Simon  
Clarence and Genevieve Simon  
Frank, Maxine and Janet Sipkovsky  
Tank and Gert Smith  
Mr and Mrs Clare Smith  
Linda Smith  
Donna Smith  
Janet Smith  
Stan and Joan Smith

Cecil and Joann Smith Family  
Julius Theis  
Arnold and Irmina Thelen  
Carl and Laurene Thelen  
Leon and Bertine Thelen  
Elmer and Wilma Thelen  
Diane (Klein) Thelen  
Dee Thelen  
Alex and Bernita Vitek  
Harry and Mary Wadell  
Charles Wadell  
Stan Wassa  
Urban, Marie and Ken Weber  
George and Therese Weber  
Herman and Roberta Weber  
John and Mary Werbish  
Elenore Whitford  
Melvin Wieber  
Herb and Doris Wieber  
Bob Wineberger  
Doug and Dennis Worrall  
Bob and Mary Zuker

Deceased members of the Ernst Family  
Deceased members of the Fernholz & Schroeder Family  
Deceased members of the Herman & Roberta Weber family  
Deceased members of the Julius & Martha Schmitt family  
Deceased members of the Kramer Family  
Deceased members of the Lawless Family  
Deceased members of the Schafer Family

**In Honor Of:**

George French  
Gail Wadell's children and grandchildren  
Harte brothers & sisters in law & their families  
Clayton, Nicholas and Victoria Lawless  
Paul and Eugenia Pung  
Roy and JoAnn Simon  
Men and Women who lead us in the Rosary  
John Werbish  
Fr. Mike Williams

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

We are at the beginning of the 2025 Jubilee Year, "Pilgrims of Hope", which spans from December 24, 2024 - January 6, 2026. More information and opportunities will be announced concerning the Jubilee Year in coming months.

- 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.
- 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.

### *Just Engaged?*



### *Congratulations!*

Any engaged couple who would like to complete the sacrament of marriage at St. Joseph Church should meet with Fr. Mike at least 9 months before your proposed wedding date. Please pick up a **Holy Matrimony** white folder located on the brochure rack in the gathering space. To schedule an appointment to meet as a couple with Fr. Mike, please contact the parish office.