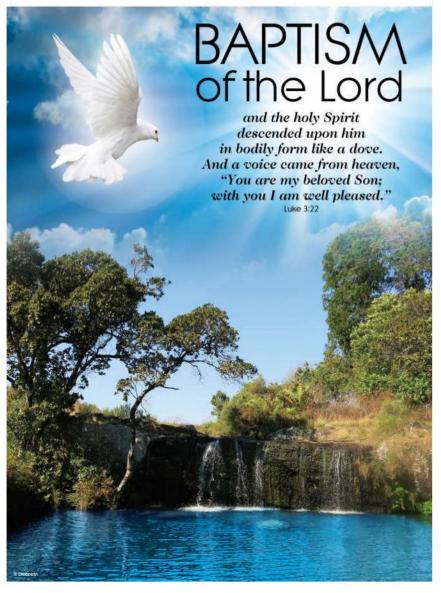
ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH

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 ● January 13
Hebrews 1:1-6/Mark 1:14-20
No Mass

Tuesday ● January 14

Hebrews 2:5-12/Mark 1:21-28

7:00 p.m. Mass †Charlotte Voisin

By: St Monica's Ladies Auxiliary

Wednesday ● January 15 Hebrews 2:14-18/Mark 1:29-39

12:05 p.m. †Benedict Swanchara

By: Knights of Columbus #3281

Thursday ● January 16
Hebrews 3:7-14/Mark 1:40-45

8:30 a.m. Mass †Ben and †Rose Orson and living and

deceased family members

By: Kathy Orson

Friday ● January 17

Hebrews 4:1-5, 11/Mark 2:1-12

8:30 a.m. Mass †Walt Pytlowanyj, Sr.

By: Family

Saturday ● January 18 Hebrews 4:12-16/Mark 2:13-17 5:00 p.m. Mass *†Tom Donohue*

By: Sally Kramer

Sunday ● January 19

Isaiah 62:1-5/1 Corinthians 12:4-11/John 2:1-11

8:00 a.m. Mass †Ronald Cuthbert

By: Jeff Cuthbert

10:00 a.m. †Joseph Halfmann

By: Marjorie Halfmann

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

6:00 p.m. Mass in Spanish

Rest in Peace

Our prayers and sympathies to the family and friends of

John 'Jack' Sira



The Sanctuary Lamp will burn from January 12 - 18, 2025

Tom Kowalewskí





Eucharistic Adoration

"And the Word became *flesh* and made His dwelling among us..."

John 1:14

"Jesus said to them, "Amen, amen, I say to you, unless you eat the *flesh* of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you do not have life within you." John 6:53 (Emphasis added)

Jesus dwells among us! Come let us adore Him!

Are you interested in starting a positive habit in 2025 to give your spiritual life a boost? How about scheduling monthly or weekly Eucharistic Adoration? Call Rebecca at 989-292-2072 for more information.

KEEP THEM IN YOUR PRAYERS

Please pray for our parishioners and their families, especially:

Adam Chris Sawyer Ballinger Lisa Clarizio Sherri Couch Mary Enneking Keith Enneking Friend
Cindy Fontus
Brenda Higgins
David Higgins
Korine
Alissa McKeown
Gabrielle Meece
Myah
Daniel Pung
Jenny Pytlowanyj
Frank Rademacher

Deacon Mary & Tita

Robertson
Patricia Rojas
Joan Schrauben
Sherri
Anne Thelen
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)

Advent -- A Quick Look Back

Though Advent is now just a speck in our rear-view mirrors, along with eggnog and gingerbread cookies, I found myself reflecting the last few days on the quality of my Advent this year. Each year, I try to find something that will stimulate my understanding and participation in Advent. Sometimes, I get caught unprepared for the season and grasp whatever is available to me as Advent begins, and I end up a little disappointed in my spiritual growth that season.

This year I planned a two-track approach. I decided that I would do Matthew Kelly's daily reflections and supplement that with the daily offerings presented on the "Hallow" app. I think Matthew Kelly fits a previously under-served population in the Catholic Church -the common man. I have read many of his books each wellwritten and practical -- with topics we can wrap our brains around. His focus this Advent was to find

personal joy in preparing for the birth of the child Jesus.

I have over several years leaned on Kelly's reflections and those of Bishop Robert Barron to help me through Advent. But this year, I wanted a bit more, so I followed the Hallow app, which calls for a greater daily time commitment, with the promise of a deeper look into ourselves. Thus, we receive a better chance for spiritual fulfillment. This Advent the focus was on a 50-year old book called "A Mercy" Severe by Sheldon Vanauken. And though it was not a story specifically about Advent or Christmas, it was a story about love of God -- a topic relevant at any point in a year, but especially as we approach Christmas or Faster

The book focuses on the intense courtship and marriage of Sheldon to his wife Davy. They had an intense love for each other in which they agreed to share everything with each other -- books they read, music they listened to, the way they were to live and to top it off, they agreed to take their own lives should the other die young. They called their agreement "The Shining Barrier:"

"We raised the Shining Barrier against creeping separateness, which was, in the last analysis, self... above all, we would be us-centered, not self-centered."

Without going into too much detail on the story, the bottom line for Sheldon was that he had to endure Davy's death to eventually realize that the "us-centered" love he had for Davy prevented him from having a God-centered love. As I worked my way through Advent, I found that I needed to express the joy Matthew Kelly was encouraging along with the need to stay God-centered through the season. Those needs were brought together at the candlelight adoration hour we held at St. Joe's just five days before Christmas. My two-track approach to Advent evolved into a three-track fulfillment of a successful season. I hope others were just as fulfilled.

("Hallow" offers a free-trial period, if anyone would like to try it out come Lent, which by the way, is only seven weeks away.)

Deacon Eric 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 Auxilia-



ry 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.



I'd like to take a moment to thank everyone for all the prayers, cards, food, and gifts that I received this Christmas. I really appreciate it. However, more than anything else, I truly appreciate and consider myself blessed to be among such a great group of people.

I am truly blessed as your pastor.

Fr. Míke

K-12 Grade Religious Education January Calendar

- 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**

Contact Jen Nelson at 989-224-8537 or

dre.stjoseph@gmail.com with questions or to register.

First Reconciliation Parent/Child Workshop

Families with second graders that are preparing for their child's First Reconciliation are scheduled for a parent/child workshop on **Thursday**, **January 23 at 6:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m**. in the school cafeteria. This workshop is for all school and religious education program children/parents to attend.

Please contact Jen Nelson for questions at dre.stjoseph@gmail.com

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

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 13-17, 2025

Monday: Chicken nuggets, mashed potatoes and

gravy with corn, fruit, and milk.

Tuesday: Corn dog, carrots, warm apples with

cinnamon, and milk

Wednesday: Lasagna with breadstick, green beans,

fruit, and milk.

Thursday: Hamburger on a bun with cheese, fried

chips, fruit, and milk.

Friday: Chicken and cheese quesadilla with salsa,

lettuce salad, fruit, and milk.

Lunches are \$3.25 Milk \$0.50

Liturgical Minsters

January 18/19

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

Sophia R.

8:00 a.m. Miles S.

Kavnin S.

10:00 a.m. Mara T.

Ellis T.

Vera T.

12:00 p.m. Mabel R.

Willow R.

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. Icnacio O. 8:00 a.m. Trevor H.

10:00 a.m. Jane M. 12:00 p.m Linda S.

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

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

Collection Counters: January 13 Group 3

Sanctuary Cleaners: Laurie Hunt & Tammy Zuker

STEWARDSHIP

For the weekend of December 30, 2024

Addits (200 girls including offine giving)	\$17,303.30
Loose Cash:	\$865.00
Total:	\$18,170.96
Other Gifts Received	
Education Trust Fund:	\$100.00
Building Fund:	\$61.00
Tuition Scholarship Fund:	\$15.00

Adults (265, gifts Including online giving): \$17,305,96

Our weekly average since July 1, 2024 is \$19,937.06. If we continue to keep this average, we will meet our budgeted goal.

\$\$ MISCELLANEOUS MONEY MATTERS **\$\$**

Year End Contributions

Year-End Contribution Statements for 2024 will be mailed by the end of January. In compliance with the IRS, any donations postmarked after 12/31/24 or received in the office after 12/31/24 will be recorded as 2024 gifts. Your generosity this year toward the support of our parish has been appreciated!

Thinking about starting automatic contributions? Click on the Online Giving link at www.stjoecatholic.com/donate to get started.

Are you already using Online Giving? Sometimes we set up automatic systems and forget to check them to make sure everything is current. Please take a few minutes to make sure that your donation amount is correct and that your credit card or bank card hasn't expired.

IRA Required Minimum Distributions: If you're 73 years or older, donating your IRA required minimum distribution to the parish can be a way to pay less taxes. Contact your investment advisor and the parish office to make a direct transfer so that the distribution doesn't have to be claimed as income.

Donate stocks, bonds, or mutual funds: To avoid capital gains tax on appreciated securities, considering transferring them to St. Joe's as your donation. Contact your investment advisor and the parish office to make this transfer.

Have you liked us on FACEBOOK?



St. Joseph Church, St. Johns, MI



St. Joseph Catholic School

St. Johns, MI

Tolkien & Fatherhood Retreat Attention: Catholic Dads and soon-to-be Dads!

J.R.R. Tolkien is known for writing *The Hobbit* and *The Lord of the Rings*, but was also a devout Catholic husband and father of four. This retreat for current and future Catholic dads will focus on three letters that Tolkien wrote to his son Michael, offering time for reflection, discussion, and pray about what it means and how to be a Catholic father today.

Mass, Adoration and an opportunity for Confession will be included in the day's schedule.

Cost of the day is \$30.

Upcoming dates: March 22, 2025, April 25, 2025, and May 17, 2025

St. Francis Retreat Center
703 E Main St. DeWitt MI 48820
Phone: 517-669-8321 ~ website: www.stfrancis.ws



Ecumenical Prayer Service Friday, January 17, 2025 6:30 p.m. University of Methodist 1120 S Harrison, East Lansing

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is celebrated from January 18 - January 25, 2025. This week brings together Christian denominations from around the world to pray that Jesus' desire that his followers be one come true (John 17:21-23). This year's theme is "Do you believe this?" (John 11:26). The 1,700th Anniversary of the Nicene Creed is also being celebrated.

An Ecumenical Prayer Service, co-officiated by Bishop David Bard of the United Methodist Church of Michigan, **Bishop Earl Boyea of the Catholic Diocese of Lansing**, and Bishop Craig Satterlee of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, Northwest Lower Michigan Synod, will take place at University United Methodist on Friday, January 17, at 6:30 p.n. Fellowship and refreshments will follow. University United Methodist is located at 1120 S. Harrison, East Lansing. For more information, please contact Fr. John Fain at 517-487-3749. Please come and pray with your fellow Christians!



St. Francis Retreat Center Part-time positions available



St. Francis Retreat team is looking to fill several part-time positions. These positions include **kitchen/server** and **housekeeping** opportunities and offer flexible hours, competitive pay, and an amazing work environment.

We are looking for both daytime shifts as well as evenings/weekends. Ideal for high school students! Those interested please call 517-669-8321

To date, our parish has raised **\$856,314.00** toward our target of \$1,260,000.00.

Next weekend marks the near end of our parish's participation in the *Stewardship for Saints and Scholars* campaign. During all Masses next weekend, we will invite those who have not yet had an opportunity to participate in the campaign, to join our success. Further, we want to say thank you to everyone who has already made a commitment to this important effort. Together, we are helping secure the future of the saints and scholars diocesan wide. We ask anyone who has yet to make a campaign commitment to consider, pray, and contribute during next week's commitment weekend. Every gift makes a difference!

OurSundayVisitor

Each week a generous donation from our local St. Vincent DePaul Society covers the cost of the Our Sunday Visitor now in magazine form for our parish. This magazine is an excellent source of news and articles from a Catholic viewpoint. They are available by all of the doors along with your bulletin, take a copy home to read and share!



Some Adult Formation Opportunities to Look Forward to in 2025

A partial sneak peek at what lies ahead

60%

- 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.

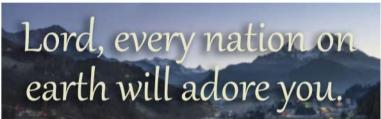
And more! Watch the bulletin for additional information about these and other opportunities to grow in your faith.

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 ramp entrance. Simply sign up for the week that you want, and the Chalice, as well as suggested prayers, are yours for that week.





Did you know that a blue envelope donation goes to the Educational Trust Fund? The Educational Trust Fund supports education of our school students, religious education programs and RCIA. Please consider either donating to the Educational Trust Fund in the collection basket on Sunday or online at:

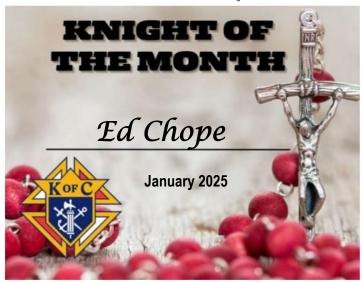


www.myowngiving.com/Default.aspx?cid=1479

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. First pick up a white "Holy Matrimony" folder located in the gathering space with all the information about marriage in the Catholic Church. To schedule an appointment to meet as a couple with Fr. Mike, contact the parish office (989-224-8994 or stjosephchurchstjohns@gmail.com)





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