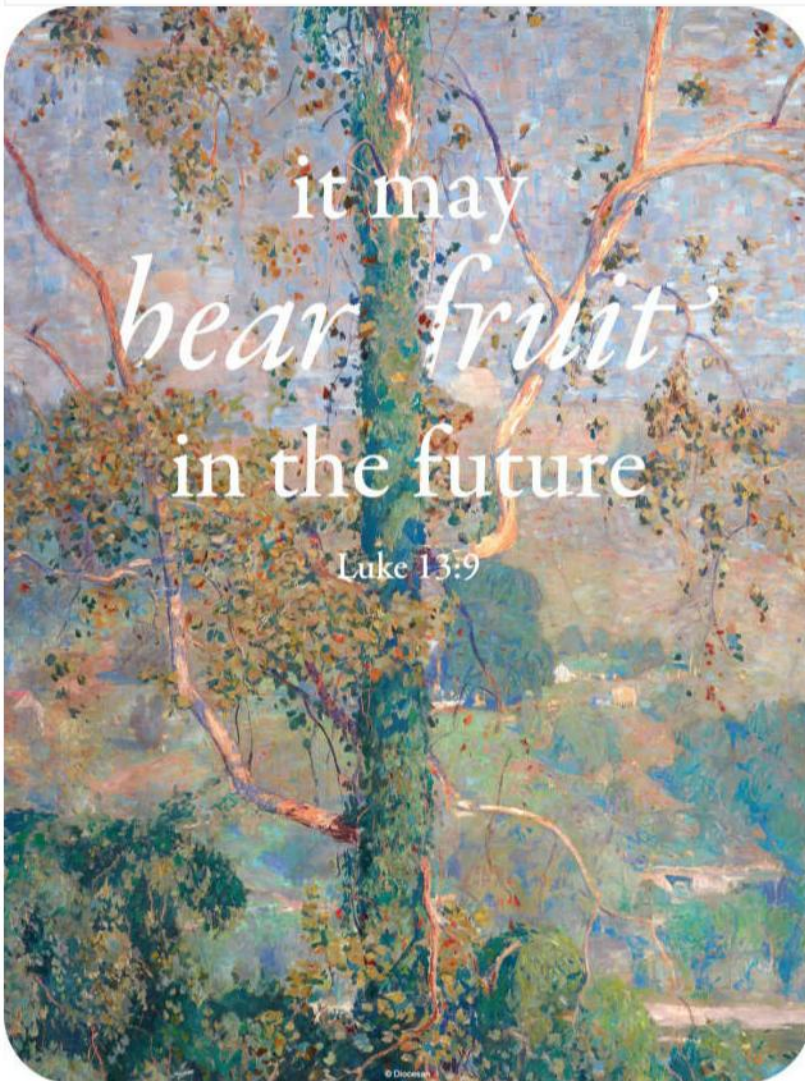


ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH

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 • March 24

2 Kings 5:1-15ab/Luke 4:24-30
No Mass

Tuesday • March 25

Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord
 Isaiah 7:10-14, 8:10/Hebrews 10:4-10/Luke 1:26-38
7:00 p.m. Mass †Alphonse and †Agnes Caudy
 By: Dan and Margaret Jorae

Wednesday • March 26

Deuteronomy 4:1, 5-9/Matthew 5:17-19
12:05 p.m. †Monica Craig
 By: Doug Hogan

Thursday • March 27

Jeremiah 7:23-28/Luke 11:14-23
8:30 a.m. Mass †Bill and †Bettie Shellberg
 By: Knights of Columbus #3281

Friday • March 28

Hosea 14:2-10/Mark 12:28-34
8:30 a.m. Mass †Yvonne Asher
 By: Joe and Helen Kus

Saturday • March 29

Hosea 6:1-6/Luke 18:9-14
5:00 p.m. Mass †Jerry, †Kay, and †Bill Eisler
 By: The Family

Sunday • March 30

Joshua 5:9a, 10-12/2 Corinthians 5:17-21/Luke 15:1-3, 11-32
8:00 a.m. Mass †Ray and †Suzanne Dietrich
 By: Family

10:00 a.m. The People of the Parish

12:00 p.m. †Carol Huhn
 By: Tom and Barb Thelen

6:00 p.m. Mass in Spanish



The Sanctuary Lamp
 will burn from
 March 23 - 29, 2025

All the Unborn Children

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Stations of the Cross will be held
 every Friday evening in Lent at 6:00 p.m.

Additional Penance Services

St. Paul Catholic Church - Owosso
 March 27th at 6:30 p.m.
 (many priests will be available)

Most Holy Trinity - Fowler
 April 7th at 6:30 p.m.
 (multiple Priest available)

St. Mary Parish - Westphalia
 Monday, April 14th at 6:30 p.m.
 (8 Priests will be available to hear
 confessions)



Eucharistic Adoration

"The Eucharist is the secret of my day. It gives strength and meaning to all my activities of service to the Church and to the whole world...Let Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament speak to your hearts. It is He who is the true answer of life that you seek. He stays here with us: He is God with us."
 ~Pope St. John Paul II

If you are interested in making a monthly Holy Hour on First Friday/Saturday or would like to be a sub, please call/text Rebecca at 989-292-2072.

KEEP THEM IN YOUR PRAYERS

Please pray for our parishioners and their families, especially:

- Adam
- Chris
- Sawyer Ballinger
- Lisa Clarizio
- Richard Connors
- Sherri Couch
- Verena DeBoer

- Mary Enneking
- Keith Enneking
- Trisha Fisher
- Friend
- Cindy Fontus
- Brenda Higgins
- David Higgins
- Korine
- Alissa McKeown
- Gabrielle Meece
- Myah
- Colleen Plunkett

- Daniel Pung
- Jenny Pytlowanyj
- Deacon Marv & 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
 - 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)

Hoops, Hopes and Hops

We are all familiar with the youth development program 4-H, referencing head, heart, hands and health. Program leaders seek to develop well-rounded young people by maximizing their potential in these four areas of growth. Today, I would like to present my "3-H initiative" which brings together two high-profile elements of the month of March: Lent and March Madness. I'm going to call it Hoops, Hopes and Hops.

We all know about Lent, but not everyone is familiar with March Madness so I will summarize it briefly: it is a state of temporary insanity in our country that runs from early March until the first Monday in April. It consists of the top college basketball teams in the U.S. competing in a tournament that has a win-and-advance, lose-and-go-home format until one team is left standing. It

has long been madness for coaches, players and fans, and in recent years has spread to workplaces or any group willing to fill out brackets and predict winners.

Hoops, of course, is just another name for basketball games, hopes belong to the teams, their fans and anyone who fills out a bracket sheet, and hops is slang for the ability of a player to work free from a defender and shoot a jump shot. (It could also refer to an essential ingredient in beverages consumed while watching March Madness).

But how does 3-H relate to Lent, one might ask? Well I'm going to take advantage here of something called "literary license" -- a tool that allows a writer or author to ignore some rules of grammar, punctuation or spelling mistakes in order to achieve a rhetorical effect. That being said, we reflect in Lent on all that Jesus has done for us in order to open up the gates of heaven for us. All through the 40 days of Lent we focus on his passion, death,

and Resurrection. He figuratively jumped through any and all "hoops" for us.

Without Jesus' sacrifice on the cross, we would not have any hope of spending eternity with him in heaven. We talked recently in an Average Joes meeting about the essence of hope and concluded that it's through our faith that our hope for eternal life exists. Jesus is our "hope" and we need to call on him in our need. And there's no time better to call on him than in Lent.

Even with literacy license, I find it a stretch to associate Lent and "hops." I guess I will leave that up to the kids and the secular view of Easter. I'm pretty sure I've heard that the Easter Bunny has some "hops." He can probably hop through a hoop. Anything is believable for those of us overcome by March Madness.

Deacon Eric

deaconeric@hotmail.com

LENTEN HOLY HOUR

Thursday, April 10

6:00 p.m.

In the church

**Join us for an opportunity to spend time
with Our Lord in Eucharistic Adoration
as we prepare to enter Holy Week.**

**This led-holy hour will include prayer,
song, reflection, silence, and an
opportunity for
sacramental confession.**

**Bring your family and friends,
all ages are welcome!**

FORGIVEN Group Study

Sin, guilt, failure, disappointment...these are all an unpleasant but universal reality of the human experience. We all have to deal with them, but we can't do it alone. The remedy is immediately available and miraculously effective---the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Confession isn't a rule, a formality, or an old-fashioned ritual. It's an intimate and life-changing experience of God's mercy. Join us for this three-week study that will look at the revelation of God's mercy in scripture, make an examination of the Rite itself, and allow us to grow a more profound appreciation for this great sacrament in which we experience his indescribable love.

Wednesday March 26 at 6:30 p.m.
in the parish basement.

K-12 Grade Religious Education
March Calendar:

- Tuesday: March 25: Rite of Enrollment for 8th Graders

For more information, class times, and other dates go to stjoecatholic.com

Contact Jen Nelson at 989-224-8537 or dre.stjoseph@gmail.com with questions or to register.

Lenten Almsgiving

This year's Lenten Almsgiving is for our local food banks. There are boxes located at the back of church. Please take one for your family. At the end of the Lenten season, **please write a check** for the amount collected in your box.



St. Monica Ladies Auxiliary will host its second Lenten soup supper on Wednesday, April 9th.

More details in next week's bulletin.

Do you have questions about St. Joseph Catholic School or are interested in registering this 2024/25 school year?

Please contact Chris wells at principal@stjoecatholicsschool.org.



St. Joseph Catholic School LUNCH MENU

FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 24-28, 2025

- Monday: Sweet and sour chicken over rice, peas, pineapple and milk.
- Tuesday: Sloppy joes, tator tots, fruit, and milk.
- Wednesday: Pizza, green beans, fruit, and milk.
- Thursday: Hamburger on a bun with cheese, fried chips, fruit, and milk
- Friday: **Start of Spring Break!**
Have a Great Week Off!

Lunches are \$3.25

Milk \$0.50

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

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Liturgical Minsters
March 29 and 30

Altar Servers:	5:00 p.m.	Volunteer
		Volunteer
	8:00 a.m.	Nolan C.
		Ella C.
	10:00 a.m.	Bryson S.
	Paisley S.	
	12:00 p.m.	Mason W.
		Derek C.

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

Lectors:	5:00 p.m.	Lisa W.
	8:00 a.m.	Trevor H.
	10:00 a.m.	Cassandra G.
	12:00 p.m.	Debbie T.

Ushers:	5:00 p.m.	Group 5C
	8:00 a.m.	Group 8D
	10:00 a.m.	Group 10A
	12:00 p.m.	Group 12A

Collection Counters: March 24 Group 1

Sanctuary Cleaners: Lori Pung and LuAnn Keilen

STEWARDSHIP

For the weekend of March 16, 2025

Adults (347) gifts Including online giving): \$21,017.88
Loose Cash: \$831.00
Total: \$21,848.88

Other Gifts Received

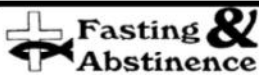
Education Trust Fund: \$100.00
Building Fund: \$197.00
Tuition Scholarship Fund: \$150.00

Our weekly average since July 1, 2024 is \$20,273.21. If we continue to keep this average, we will meet our budgeted goal.

POSITION OPENING - Business Manager

We are accepting applications for our parish Business Manager position. The position requires excellent organizational skills, experience with accounting principles and processes, and an understanding of facility maintenance needs. This position is full time with insurance, leave time, and pension benefits. Full position description is available at <https://www.dioceseoflansing.org/human-resources/careers>

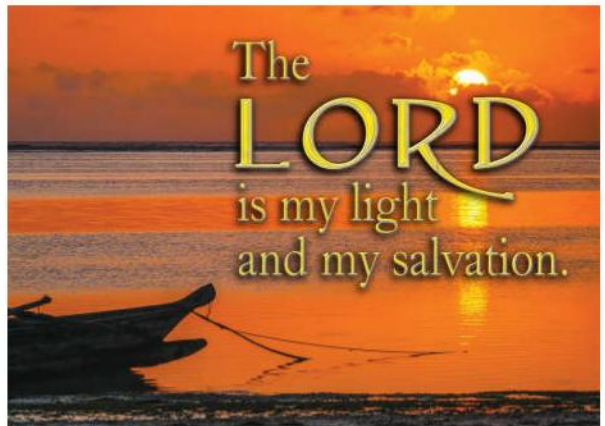
If you are someone who embraces the teachings and mission of the Catholic Church and are interested in working in this environment, please apply online or send your resume, cover letter, and references to Business Manager Position, St. Joseph Church, 109 Linden St., St. Johns, MI 48879, or email to business.stjoseph@gmail.com.



Age 14 and up - Abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday, all Fridays of Lent, and Good Friday.
Age 18-59 - Fast Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.

Fasting ~ eat one full meal, as well as 2 smaller meals, not equaling the one full meal.

Abstinence ~ Not eating meat.



EASTER FLOWER DEDICATIONS

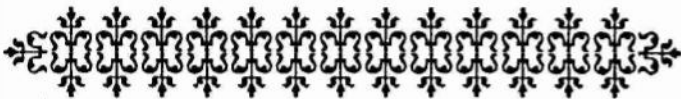
If you would like to make a donation of any amount towards our various Easter flowers in memory or in honor of a loved one, please use this form and place in the pink trimmed "Easter flowers, Decorations & Other Liturgy Expenses" envelope found in your March/April packets.

Dedicated by:

In Memory of or In Honor of

Please return to the parish office by **Monday, April 7th** to be included in the Memorial List

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



The Divine Mercy Chaplet

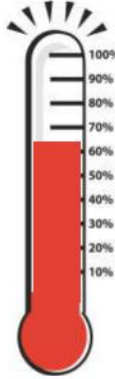


The Divine Mercy Chaplet is an intercessory prayer that asks the Lord to send His mercy upon us and upon everyone living in the world. It is prayed using the rosary and takes ten minutes to pray. The chaplet is traditionally said during the hour of mercy, the 3:00 pm hour. According to the Diary of St. 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: 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 mass on March 29th.



As of March 16, 2025, we reached \$62,054.18 (or 63.2%) of our DSA goal of \$98,185.24. Thus far 153 families have contributed to this year's appeal which is 15.1% of our 1025 families. We are grateful for these contributions and invite others to help push us over goal for the benefit of our parish and the wider church.





Lenten Fish Fry 2025
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Fridays
 March 28th
 April 4th and 11th

Serving 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m

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If you have not yet made a gift or a pledge, we invite you to do so today. Gift envelopes are available in the church or the parish office. Or you may submit your gift online at: www.dioceseoflansing.org/appeal. Your DSA gift will support the vital services and ministries that help bring the love of Christ to all we encounter.

Parents with one or more students attending Lansing Catholic High School may apply for a parish subsidy grant from St. Joseph Church to help with tuition costs. There are basic requirements to apply and forms are available through the parish office or on our website: stjoecatholic.com/forms/

Application deadline is March 31, 2025 for the 2025-26 school year.



The Spring 2025 40 Days for Life Vigil campaign is set to begin on Ash Wednesday and we will again be praying across from the Frandor Center Planned Parenthood facility Monday through Saturdays from 7:00 am until 6:00 p.m. 40 Days for Life is a prayerful and peaceful vigil in which prayers are sent out for the end of abortion, for those who have had abortions and for the conversion of those who support abortion. We need many pro-life advocates to help us cover the vigil hours. To sign up for a time, go to 40daysforlife/lansing.com. I will be going to pray each Thursday at 2:00 p.m. if you would like to pray that hour. Please call Mary Beth if you have any questions.



Grief Support Workshop 2025

Friday, May 9, 2025
 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
 Saturday, May 10, 2025
 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.*
St. Joseph Catholic Church
 109 Linden Street., St Johns

Grieving with Great HOPE is a weekend grief support workshop that offers a prayerful, practical, and personal approach for anyone who is mourning the loss of a loved one. If you have lost a spouse, a child (including pregnancy loss), a grandchild, a parent, another family member or a friend, you are encouraged to attend. Presenters include John and Sandy O'Shaughnessy from Good Mourning Ministry, a local Catholic bereavement apostolate.

For registration forms and details visit:
www.goodmourningministry.net
 Or call Jackie at 517-449-2928. Seating is limited.
 Registration is \$10. **Please register by April 13, 2025.**
 *with light breakfast options available at 9:30 a.m. and lunch.

Some Adult Formation Opportunities to Look Forward to in 2025

A partial sneak peek at what lies ahead

- ◆ **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.



52 SUNDAYS

52 Sundays helps families celebrate and reclaim Sunday as a day set apart for the Lord, for family, and for works of mercy through free weekly family reflections, family crafts, recipe of the week, family prayers, family challenge, fun facts and more.

Reclaim Sunday as a Family!

Learn more and sign up for the weekly newsletter at 52sundays.com.

Prayer for Travelers

Lord, be our guide and our protector on the journey we are about to take. Watch over us. Protect us from accidents. Keep us free from harm to body and soul. Lord, support us with Your grace when we are tired. Help us be patient in any trouble which may come our way. Keep us always mindful of Your presence and love. Amen.



Traveling for Spring Break?
 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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