

A
PLACE
FOR YOU

Opportunities for
Ministry, Prayer &
Faith Formation

St. Joseph Catholic Church
109 Linden Street
St. Johns, Michigan 48879-1837

Along with gathering Catholics for Sunday worship, the parish exists to empower its members to be active disciples of Jesus Christ. Active discipleship includes being good stewards



of our time, talent and treasure. For this reason, the parish provides us opportunities to share our faith and reach out to others in Christ's name.

Presented here are brief descriptions of service, spiritual and faith formation opportunities at St. Joseph parish. Please consider participating in one of these opportunities to practice good stewardship of your Catholic Faith.

Contact the Parish Office for more information regarding any of the activities listed here, to volunteer, or to sign up.

St. Joseph Catholic Church

109 Linden Street

St. Johns, Michigan 48879-1837

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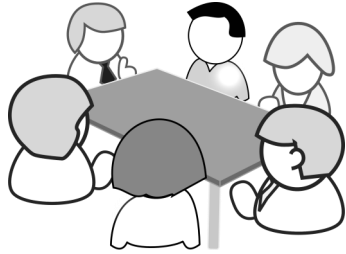
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Parish Councils & Committees

Pastoral Council: The Parish Pastoral Council is an advisory council comprised of parish members. Members of the Pastoral Council serve as parish representatives to provide the Pastor input and reflection on matters significant to the parish. Council members also serve as a means of dialogue between parishioners and the Pastor. Members of the Council serve 3 year terms. The Pastoral Council meets monthly.

Finance Council: The Parish Finance Council is an advisory council comprised of parish members. Members of the Finance Council provide the pastor advice and counsel relative to financial matters. This includes the development of policy regarding the use of parish funds, and the review of budgets and monthly financial reports. Members of the Council are appointed by the pastor for three year terms. The Finance Council meets quarterly.



Educational Trust Fund: Members of the Board of Trustees oversee the St. Joseph Educational Trust Fund. The Board makes decisions related to investments, deposits, and distribution of monies available from the Fund. Members of the Board of Trustees are appointed by the pastor for 3 year terms. The Board of Trustees meet twice a year.

Buildings and Grounds Committee: Parish members of the Buildings and Grounds Committee work with the pastor, maintenance supervisor, and business manager in consultation with the Finance Council and Pastoral Council. The committee identifies building and grounds' maintenance needs, and then develop immediate and long range plans to address these issues. Members are appointed by the pastor. The Building & Grounds Committee meets quarterly.

Evangelization Team: The Evangelization Team serves as a catalyst to initiate Renewal of Faith for individuals and organizations within the parish. Members witness to their own personal growth in Christian discipleship by: (1) coming together monthly, for prayer and ongoing formation and (2) reaching out to others with new evangelization resources. All are welcome to join this vital ministry.

Stewardship Committee: Members of the newly created Stewardship Committee have come together to promote stewardship as a way of life rooted in our Catholic tradition of Eucharist—thanksgiving for all God’s blessings. Our return of time, talent, and treasure—thanksgiving in action—bonds us more deeply to God, builds up our parish and provides a witness of Catholic presence to the larger community. All are welcome to participate in this effort.

— Liturgical Ministries —

Eucharistic Ministers: Eucharistic Ministers (EMs) distribute the Body and Blood of Christ to the faithful at Masses on Sunday, weekdays and Holy Days of Obligation. EM’s are trained and commissioned for service, with the expectation that they: (1) offer their service with a deep sense of reverence for the Eucharist and (2) commit to being available for one weekend Mass every three weeks, and occasionally Holy Days. This ministry, which is open to parishioners who are confirmed, provides an opportunity to deepen in Eucharistic spirituality and to be connected to the faith community in a significant way.



Lectors: Lectors proclaim the Word of God, reading the scriptures at Masses on Sunday, weekdays and Holy days of Obligation. Lectors are trained to cultivate a clear speaking voice. They are expected to: (1) present the readings with poise, appropriate dynamics and reverence, and (2) commit to preparing themselves to read at one Mass, every other month, and occasionally on Holy Days.

Liturgical Ministries (con.)



Altar Servers: Altar Servers assist the priest, in the liturgical ministry of the altar, during celebrations of Mass on Sundays, school Masses and Holy Days of Obligation. Training for this ministry is open to students in 5th-12th grade. Student servers are expected to: (1) be attentive, poised, and reverent, and (2) commit to serving Mass as scheduled (usually once or twice a month, depending on assigned Mass time). Adult altar servers are trained to assist the presider at funeral Masses and are scheduled as needed.

Ushers: Include men, women and young adults who volunteer at scheduled Masses on Sundays, weekdays and occasional Holy Days of Obligation. Ushers (1) greet people upon their arrival and assist them to seating, (2) take up the collection (3) usher people during the Rite of Communion and (4) distribute bulletins after Mass. Ushers additionally make sure that entrances are safe and occasionally assist the priest in other tasks. Ushers are assigned to teams and asked to commit to serving once every 3—5 weeks, depending on Mass time.

Offertory Gift Bearers: The gifts of Bread & Wine are presented to the presider, during Sunday Mass. This is usually done by: (1) families and individuals who have volunteered, (2) children participating in the Children's Liturgy of the Word, at the 10:00 & 12:00 Masses, during the school year, and (3) family members of a deceased Catholic, for whom the Mass is being offered. Parishioners are welcome and invited to contact the parish office, to arrange to present the Offertory Gifts, at a specific Sunday Mass.



Music Ministries

Sunday Choir: Members of the Sunday Choir sing together, presenting choral arrangements of the liturgical music and special anthems, to enhance the celebration of the Mass, and to lead the community in sacred song. Choir members are asked to commit to: (1) one rehearsal per week on Thursdays 7:00-8:30 PM; (2) weekly choir participation, singing at the 10:00 AM Mass on Sunday; and (3) availability to prepare for special feast day celebrations including Christmas, Easter, and other major feasts of the church year.

Cantors: Cantors are “song leaders”. Typically, they sing solo, providing audio cues for participation in sung liturgical prayer. Cantors work closely with the music director to prepare and rehearse for their role as song leader at Mass.

Instrumentalists: Instrumentalists share their gift of music, enhancing the beauty of the choral singing, solo and congregational singing. Musicians playing keyboard, strings, woodwind, brass & percussion instruments have all worked with the choir and music director for Sunday and Holy Day celebrations.

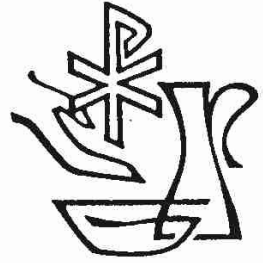
Funeral Choir: The funeral choir leads the singing during a funeral service. Members of the Funeral Choir commit to being available on an on call basis.

Youth Liturgical Ensemble (YLE): This high school ensemble consists of teens who sing or play instruments. The group typically plays for one weekend Mass, each month during the school year.



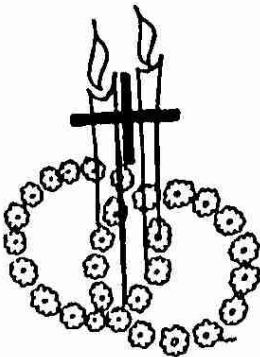
—Sacramental Celebration & Preparation—

Baptism Team: Baptism Team members assist at the monthly Rite of Baptism: (1) setting up the baptistery for celebration of the Rite, (2) welcoming and seating families and guests, and (3) assisting the celebrant, as needed, through the actual Rite. Team members typically work in pairs which serve every other month.



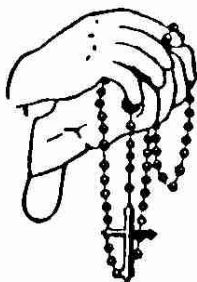
FOCCUS Couples: FOCCUS (Facilitating Open Couple Communication, Understanding, and Study) Couples work with engaged couples that are preparing for marriage. They are trained in the FOCCUS process of assessment & mentoring; all training is provided by the Diocese, and is open to couples that have been married for 5 or more years. The FOCCUS process includes walking the engaged couple through a guided self-assessment, and then meeting for 2-4 follow up sessions, as needed. FOCCUS couples typically mentor 1 or 2 engaged couples a year.

Wedding Coordinators: Wedding Coordinators (1) assist couples that are planning a wedding at St. Joseph Church, reviewing parish wedding policies and addressing questions about specifics, such as paper work, music, photos & flowers. Coordinators also: (2) assist the Priest or Deacon during the wedding rehearsal, (3) serve as the parish representative for visitors not familiar with the church, and (4) help make sure the wedding runs smoothly. A wedding coordinator is assigned to each couple planning their wedding ceremony at St. Joseph.



Prayer Ministries

Prayer Tree: Parishioners organized into several groups, and forms a telephone tree to pray for the needs of others in and around our community. Confidentiality of the prayer requests is important. We welcome all to join in this ministry of shared prayer.



Sunday Rosary: Parishioners sign up to lead the Rosary which is prayed in the Church, before each Mass, the first, second and third Sundays of the month. All are welcome to lead the faithful gathered in praying the rosary on first Sundays.

Traveling Chalice: Parishioners sign up for a week of hosting the Traveling Chalice in their homes. This serves as a unique (but simple) way to pray for an increase of vocations to the priesthood, diaconate and religious life. Families, couples and individuals are all welcome to sign up for a week of hosting the parish 'prayer for vocations' in your home.

First Friday Adoration: Parishioners gather monthly on First Fridays to adore and praise Christ in his Eucharistic Presence. This sacred time of public adoration is a wonderful opportunity for personal prayer in a communal setting. Prayer leaders monitor the Church from after First Friday Mass throughout the night until First Saturday Mass to insure that there is a constant presence of persons praying before the Eucharist. All are welcome to assist in this ministry of prayer by committing to a specific time of presence during the extended time of prayer.



Social Ministries

BeFriender Ministry: BeFrienders bring the presence of God and the Church community to those they visit, through their listening and caring attention. They also provide confidential support in times of loss or grief. Training is available for this ministry

Home Visit Eucharistic Minister: Eucharistic Ministers (EMs) bring communion to homebound parishioners on a weekly or monthly basis. Visits are arranged initially through the parish office, and then directly between the EM and recipient. Training is available for this ministry.

Sparrow Clinton Hospital Eucharistic Minister: Eucharistic Ministers bring communion to hospitalized parishioners, several times a week. Visits are scheduled through the parish office. Training is available for this ministry.



Hazel Findlay Eucharistic Ministers: Eucharistic ministers (EMs) assist with gathering and serving the Hazel Findlay residents, during the televised Sunday Mass. EMs typically work together in teams that serve once a month. Training is available for this ministry.

Health Ministry: Health ministers are available for blood pressure screening, the first Sunday of the month, in the parish library. This ministry is open to medical professionals trained to do blood pressure screening.



St. Gianna Respect Life Committee: The St. Gianna Respect Life Committee meets every other month after First Saturday Mass to discuss topics related to both beginning and end of life moral issues. All are welcome to join this ministry.

Adult Faith Formation

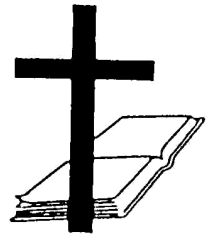


RCIA Team Members: Members of the RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults) team serve as catechists, sponsors, and mentors for inquirers who are checking out the Catholic faith, and catechumens and candidates preparing to join the Catholic community. Training is available for parishioners who would like to participate in this ministry.

Bible Study & Small Group Leaders: Leaders facilitate activities essential to the life in small Christian groups. This includes (1) planning and leading prayer, (2) guiding the group's study and reflection, and (3) choosing resources, activities and service projects. Leaders also serve as a link between group members and parish staff. Training is available for this ministry.

Religious Formation Programs

Catechists: Catechists share their faith with parish children in 1st—7th grades by teaching Catholic beliefs and traditions. Diocesan training is available for volunteer catechists. Additionally, the parish religious education director provides personal support and guidance in carrying out this important ministry. Classes meet in the school from mid-September through mid-May on Wednesdays from 6:30-7:30 PM.



Catechist Aid: Aids assist teachers in the religious education classrooms. Those 16 and older are eligible to serve. Parents of religious formation children are especially encouraged to consider this ministry, which provides a wonderful opportunity to grow in faith alongside the students.

Confirmation Mentor / Journey Group Leader: Mentors are adult leaders that influence and guide young teens during their time of preparation for Confirmation. Mentoring takes place within a small group format. Groups meet monthly for 1½ years.

●———— Religious Formation Programs (con.) ————●

Children's Liturgy of the Word: Children's Liturgy of the Word (LOW) leaders facilitate a celebration of God's Word with children aged 4 through 2nd grade, during the 10:00 & 12:00 Masses. This celebration provides the children a chance to reflect on the Word of God in a child-friendly setting, which helps them better internalize its grace and beauty. LOW runs September through May. Leaders are scheduled one Mass a month.

Vacation Bible School: Vacation Bible School (VBS) program volunteers make Bible stories come alive for children through singing, dancing and a variety of hands on activities. Volunteers are also needed preparing for the program and assisting leaders during the actual running of the one week VBS. Preparations for VBS begin in late winter with the program itself running for one week in June after school ends.

Religious Formation Office Help: Volunteers assist the Director of Religious Formation with various office tasks such as: copying, contacting volunteers, preparing materials for mailings, and preparations for retreats.

●———— High School Youth Ministries ————●

Adult Volunteers: Adult Volunteers help provide opportunities for high school teens to become fully active Christians in today's world by: (1) supporting the specific programming (topic nights, service project nights, and fun, food and friends nights, rake and runs, trips to Hazel Findley Nursing Home) and (2) by sharing faith, talents and resources with the group. The Youth Group meets regularly on Wednesday nights from 6:30-8:00 PM during the school year, with some special events on weekends.

Teen Volunteers: Teen volunteers have an option to serve on a leadership team (along with adult volunteers) to plan the activities and meetings for the year. The Youth Group meets on Wednesday nights from 6:30-8:00 PM.

St. Joseph School

Teacher / Library / Office Helpers: Volunteers who help at the school serve the school community by: (1) assisting teachers with various class room tasks; (2) helping the librarian catalogue and re-shelve books; (3) assist personnel in the school office with a wide variety of office tasks; and (4) help provide lunchroom or playground supervision when school workers are unavailable. School volunteers are needed primarily during the school day.



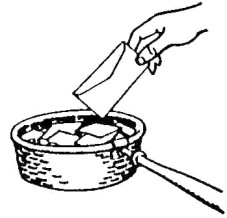
T.R.I.P. Program Volunteers: Volunteers are needed to help coordinate and track sales, and to fill orders, weekly, for the Tuition Reduction Incentive Program (TRIP). An optional program offered through St. Joseph School, TRIP provides participants with tuition relief for school and religious formation programs. Participants are able to purchase SCRIP dollars which are redeemable at local businesses for full value, while the school accumulates and tracks rebate amounts to reduce the buyer's tuition.

Parent School Council: Volunteers serve as (1) part of the advisory board of the Parent School Council, and as (2) general members that assist in a wide variety of fellowship and fundraising activities for the school, especially the School Carnival, which requires an abundance of volunteers. Volunteers are needed throughout the school year.



Parish Office Volunteers

Collection Counters: Volunteers work in teams to count the Sunday collection and other revenues, preparing the money for deposit. Each team is scheduled approximately once every 4 weeks, for roughly 60-90 minutes on Monday mornings. This ministry is particularly well suited to people who enjoy using basic math skills and have a good attention for detail.



Office Help: Volunteers help with office tasks, such as answering phones, making photo copies, putting inserts into the bulletin. Volunteers must be available between the hours of 9 AM - 5 PM.

Church Environment

Sanctuary Cleaners: Volunteers clean the Sacristy area of the Church weekly, usually on Friday or Saturday. Pairs are scheduled approximately once every three months; the cleaning takes about one hour.

Church Environment & Floral Ministry: Volunteers work together with parish staff to set up and maintain visual displays within the sanctuary and throughout the inside of the Church. Volunteers design and plan the use of drapery, flowers and seasonal decorations. And they care for and maintain the living plants, within each display, during the different liturgical seasons.

Outside Landscaping & Environment: Volunteers together with staff compose a committee that oversees the design and maintenance of landscaping around the church. Volunteers especially are needed throughout the summer to keep the flowers watered. This committee also plans and creates outdoor banners and seasonal displays to celebrate the liturgical seasons of the Church year.



Hospitality

Reception Coordinator and Volunteers: Hospitality ministers host receptions for large parish events (i.e. Confirmation), encouraging parishioners to actively participate in some of our special gatherings for sacramental celebration and special anniversaries. Volunteers work with parish staff to: (1) insure the room and decorations are set up, (2) arrange for food and supplies to be donated or purchased, and (3) schedule an adequate number of helpers to staff and clean up after the event. There are typically 2-3 large events each year.



Funeral Luncheons: The Funeral Luncheon coordinators help provide a luncheon for the families and friends of the deceased after a funeral. Each luncheon requires the help of 22-25 additional volunteers who help (1) by preparing salads, side dishes, and desserts at home for the luncheon or (2) by working 3-4 hours the day of the funeral to assist with food preparation, serving and clean up.

Parish Fundraisers

Church Rummage Sale: The annual rummage sale provides the community an opportunity to reduce, reuse, and recycle useable items while also raising funds for the parish. Volunteers are needed to help set up tables, sort items, and help with clean up the week of the event.

Lenten Soup Suppers: Parishioners gather a few times, during Lent for meal fellowship at a simple supper of soup and bread. Following the meal participants listen to a brief presentation from a featured charity or non profit organization. Freewill offerings are collected for the featured group. Parishioners can participate by: (1) bringing soup or bread, (2) helping set up, serve or cleanup after the event, or (3) make a donation to the sponsoring organization.



Parish Service Projects

Service projects listed on this page are sponsored or co-sponsored by St. Joseph Parish

Dresser Ministry: During the months of May and October the parish collects diapers, baby clothing, and other items for moms and babies to fill the Dresser. The items are donated to Shared Pregnancy in Lansing. Parishioners can participate in this project by donating specified items or by volunteering to help set up and run the project.

Veteran's Shower: The parish sponsors an annual collection of small gifts and personal care items for veterans. All items are given to the veteran's hospital in Grand Rapids as a show of our community's support for veterans. Parishioners can participate in this project by donating specified items or by volunteering to help set up and run the project.

Habitat for Humanity: Habitat for Humanity of Clinton County builds homes for local families. Each build is typically cosponsored by several local organizations. Parishioners are welcome to work with the St. Joseph group during our sponsored week during the summer by helping with construction or providing lunch for workers.



St. Johns Community Thanksgiving Dinner: Church and civic organizations sponsor a Thanksgiving Day meal for local folks who are alone, unable to prepare their own festive meal, or just open to joining with others. Parishioners can participate by (1) donating requested items (usually rolls or sweet breads) or (2) helping with the set up, hosting, serving or clean-up crews.

Giving Tree: The parish collects items specified on cards that are hung on the Giving Tree, right before Christmas. These small gifts and personal items are given to local charity organizations for distribution in the community. Parishioners can participate in this project by donating specified items or by volunteering to help sort and deliver gifts.

Affiliated Organizations



Knights of Columbus: The Knight of Columbus (KC) is a fraternal service organization for Catholic men. It is “dedicated to providing charitable service, promoting Catholic education, and defending Catholicism.” KC members in our parish belong to the St. John Council.

Our KC sponsors our First Sunday coffee and donuts and holds meetings the first Monday of the month at the Columbian Hall.

St. Monica Ladies' Auxiliary: The St. Monica Ladies' Auxiliary is a group for all Catholic women of the parish. They meet at 6:00 pm the second Monday of the month at the Columbian Hall.

St. Vincent de Paul Society: The St. Vincent de Paul (SVdP), St. Joseph Conference members are “men and women who strive to grow spiritually by offering person-to-person service to individuals in need.” SVdP runs a second hand store and uses the proceeds from sales to provide financial assistance to those in need throughout Clinton County. Parishioners are welcome to support SVdP through donations of items to the store, monetary donations and participate in SVdP ministry.



Right to Life: Clinton County Right to Life (RTL) is a group of people working together to promote the sanctity of life from conception to death. RTL is an affiliate of Michigan RTL. Our local RTL sponsors annual events such as the parade and baby contest at Mint Festival and selling roses on Mother's Day. Money that is raised goes toward education and to pregnancy centers geared toward helping pregnant women choose life over abortion. Members meet at 7:00 pm on the first Tuesday of each month in St. Joseph Church basement.

Catholic Home Schoolers: Catholic Home Schoolers network with one another through a local organization. Parents homeschooling their children are welcome to connect with other homeschool families in the parish and the local community.

Prayer Groups

First Sunday Rosary: The Glorious Mysteries are prayed publically in the Church, before each Mass, on the first Sunday of the month.

Fourth Sunday Divine Mercy Prayers & Chaplet: In honor of the year of Mercy, the Divine Mercy prayer and chaplet are said at 9:20 am before 10:00 am Mass on the fourth Sunday of the month.



Tuesday Evening Rosary & Devotions: The Mary Queen of Peace Prayer Group meets every Tuesday at 5:40 pm, to pray the full rosary (15 Decades). This is followed by Perpetual Help devotions at 6:45. All are welcome and encouraged to participate.

Friday Adoration & Exposition on First Fridays: Parishioners gather Fridays in the Church for quiet adoration. Adoration with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament is offered every First Friday from after Mass until First Saturday Mass at 8:30 am. All are encouraged to share in this time of prayer.

Small Group Faith Formation

Alpha: Alpha program is a 10 week course on Christian faith. Each night includes dinner, an Alpha talk, and discussion. Look for information in the bulletin regarding when the next session begins.

Average Joes Men's Group: The Average Joes Men's Group meets on the second Saturday of month at 8:30—10:00 AM. Come hungry, as they start with breakfast, followed by a short talk with discussion and some great fellowship.

Women's Friendship Circle: The Women's Friendship Circle meet to plan 3 service projects each year.

Bible Study / Faith Sharing Groups: Bible Studies and Faith Sharing Groups meet Tuesday mornings at 9:30AM during the school year and year round on Wednesday evenings at 5:15PM.

