

# St. Joseph Catholic Church

109 Linden Street  
Saint Johns, Michigan 48879-1837  
(989) 224-8994  
Fax: (989) 224-3475  
[www.stjoecatholic.com](http://www.stjoecatholic.com)  
[stjosephchurchstjohns@gmail.com](mailto: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 • Dave Klein

### 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  
RCIA • Amanda Grigar  
Youth Group • Chris Groves  
*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** (See page 2 for locations during the church renovation)

Saturday • 5:00 p.m.

Sunday • 8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m., 12:00 p.m.

(Holy Days • Consult the bulletin.)

**Sacrament of Reconciliation** (in the Day Chapel)

Tuesday • 6:30 p.m.

Saturday • 4:00 p.m.

### Prayer Tree

Parish Office: (989)-224-8994

### BULLETIN DEADLINE

Mondays at Noon for the following weekend. Send to [stjosephchurchstjohns@gmail.com](mailto:stjosephchurchstjohns@gmail.com)



## THIS WEEK'S LITURGIES

### Monday • December 12

#### Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

*Zechariah 2:14-17/Luke 1:26-38*

**6:30 p.m. Mass in Spanish** (in the Day Chapel)

### Tuesday • December 13

*Zephaniah 3:1-2, 9-13/Matthew 21:28-32*

**7:00 p.m. Mass** (in the Day Chapel)

†**Alvin Booms**

By: Rehmann Family

### Wednesday • December 14

*Isaiah 45:6C-8, 21C-25/Luke 7:18B-23*

**12:05 p.m. Mass** (in the Day Chapel)

†**Margaret Klein**

By: Dan and Deb LeVeque

### Thursday • December 15

*Isaiah 54:1-10/Luke 7:24-30*

**8:30 a.m. Mass** (in the Wilson Center)

†**Dave Hambleton**

By: Chuck & Linda Biewer,  
Chris and Brenda Deliso

### Friday • December 16

*Isaiah 56:1-3a/John 5:33-36*

**8:30 a.m. Mass** (in the Day Chapel)

†**Charles Wadell**

By: Melissa and Scott

### Saturday • December 17

*Genesis 49:2, 8-10/Matthew 1:1-17*

**5:00 p.m. Vigil Mass** (in the Wilson Center Auditorium)

†**Stan Wassa**

By: Barb Yaich

### Sunday • December 18

#### Third Sunday of Advent

*Isaiah 7:10-14/Romans 1:1-7/Matthew 1:18-24*

**8:00 a.m. Mass** (in the Wilson Center Auditorium)

**People of the Parish**

**10:00 a.m. Mass** (in the Wilson Center Auditorium)

†**Art Halfmann**

By: Monica Klaver

**12:00 p.m. Mass** (in the Wilson Center Auditorium)

†**Leo, Marie and Kevin Thelen**

By: Family

**6:00 p.m. Mass in Spanish** (in the Day Chapel)

†**Crisanto Jimenez**

## Christmas Mass Schedule

(at the Wilson Center Auditorium)

December 24, 2022

4:00 p.m., 7:00 p.m., and 10:00 p.m.

December 25, 2022

10:00 a.m.

*all Masses will be incense free*

### THE SANCTUARY LAMP

WILL BURN FROM DECEMBER 11 - DECEMBER 17

IN MEMORY OF

**CHARLES WADELL**

*Rest in Peace*

Our prayers and sympathies  
to the family and friends of  
William (Bill) Kissane

## EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

"The holy hour in our modern rat race is necessary for authentic prayer. Our world is one of speeding which intensity of movement is a substitute for lack of purpose, where noise is invoked to drown out the whispering of conscience; when talk, talk, talk gives the impression that we are doing something when really we are not; where activity kills self-knowledge won by contemplation..." *Venerable Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen*



Especially during the busyness of the Advent season, we need time for contemplation as we prepare for the coming of Our Lord. Stop by our day chapel for some quiet time with Our Lord.

## KEEP THEM IN YOUR PRAYERS

Please pray for  
our parishioners  
and their families,  
especially:

Adam  
Beverly  
Sawyer Ballinger  
Daniel Blair  
Bob  
Joan Bozung

Carol Burgtorf  
Joseph Caudy  
Jacob Epling  
Friend  
Marcia Goerge  
Korine  
Mary  
Matthew  
Myah  
Noah

Danielle P.  
Patricia  
Jenny Pytlowanyj  
Jerry Schafer  
Donna Smith  
Jason Thelen  
Jeff Wadell  
Brad Walker  
Millie Wassa  
Fr. Don Wieber

Please pray for  
our parishioners  
in the service,  
especially:

Bryce Bongard  
William Hess  
Jake Hoskins  
Jacob Longoria  
Eric Martin  
Jessica Mitchell

Colby Munger  
Adam Novak  
Alex Rojas  
David Seperic  
Noel Smith II  
Joshua Szpont  
Jordan Van Amburg  
Jacob Wells

To add or remove a  
name from the

bulletin prayer list,  
please call: 989-224-  
8994 or email  
Stjosephchurchst-  
johns@gmail.com

**\*Please note: only  
immediate family  
members may add  
names to the bulle-  
tin prayer lists.**





**WE ARE ALL  
EVANGELIZERS**  
(and whatever else is on  
Deacon Eric's mind)

### PATIENCE IS A VIRTUE

It seems a couple young girls were visiting their Great Grandma one Advent. After excusing themselves to go to the bathroom, they did not return to the family gathering for quite a while. So Great Grandma went looking for them only to find them in front of her bedroom closet door discussing(?) which of them was going to get the doll they had just discovered. They both had requested that doll for Christmas. GG shooed them away from her closet and told them they would just have to wait and find out on Christmas. Great Grandma of course, as GG's do, went on Amazon the next day and ordered a second doll to please them both.

Kids can't help themselves at this time of year. Their curiosity gets the best of them and they go searching for gifts all around the house. If you try to tell them to wait --that patience is a virtue, they get

those cartoonish question marks in their eyes. Virtue just can't stand up to an inquiring child's sense of discovery. But patience is exactly what St. James is calling for in today's second reading, saying:

Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You too must be patient. Make your hearts firm, because the coming of the Lord is at hand.

Waiting. It's not something Americans are built to do. But it is something we need to do, especially at this time of year when we do our Christmas shopping. There are waits for prime parking spots near the mall. Then there are waits in line in the stores to buy our gifts. Then, we are hungry from all the time spent shopping and waiting in lines, so we go to a restaurant drive-through where we find - you guessed it - another line to wait in for our food.

How we've handled the waits dur

ing the Christmas season goes a long way toward our state of mind when Christmas finally rolls around. Are we exhausted and just trying to get through New Years Day when we can take down all the decorations and get back to normal? Or have we used those wait periods to get closer to Jesus, perhaps saying a decade of the rosary for someone while in line?

This reading from St. James should resonate with this community, which is quite familiar with the farming analogy James uses--the patience that comes with having to depend on the unknowns of weather. Today marks the halfway point of this season. Whether our patience is being tested or not depends upon how we are using the season. If we've wandered away from our Advent promise to prepare for the Lord's coming, there's still time to get back on track. (And parents, find a better hiding spot for kids' gifts than your closet. That makes it way too easy for them.)

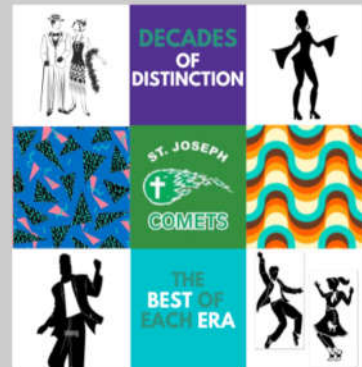
*Deacon Eric*

deaconeric@hotmail.com

PLEASE JOIN US FOR  
THE 9TH ANNUAL

**ST. JOSEPH'S**

**FEAST & RAFFLE**



SAVE  
THE  
DATE

**SATURDAY  
MARCH 18, 2023**

MORE INFORMATION TO COME. THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

## THANK YOU!

St. Monica Ladies Auxiliary sends out a sincere thank you to all who were involved in the Advent Celebration--Let Your Light Shine. Thank you to Dawn Lawless for her leadership and organization of the event and to all members who executed a beautiful evening of Faith, Fellowship, and Grace. Thanks also to our parish speakers--Anna Biewer and Lori Pung who shared how Jesus's light shine in their lives. Kudos to Anna and Chuck Biewer for providing a beautiful song. We'd like to offer special thank you to our speaker--Stephanie Smith, who showed us how to make Advent a time of preparation for Jesus's Light in our life.

A tip of the hat also to our table hostesses who provided beautiful tables and desserts to share. Thank you, most especially, to all the guests who joined us for the evening. We pray that the evening was a blessed start to Advent for you. Also, your donations to Safe Center will be appreciated by women in difficult times. It was a wonderful way to begin the Season of Advent. May the Light of Jesus shine through us all as we go through the Advent and Christmas Seasons.

**First Reconciliation Parent/Child Workshop**

Families with children in the school and parish religious education program that are preparing for their child's **First Reconciliation** are scheduled to meet on Thursday, December 15 from 6-7:30 p.m. in the school cafeteria.

**First Reconciliation Dates:**

Religious Ed Program: Wednesday, January 25, 2023 during regular class time, 6-7:30 p.m.

School 2nd grade class: Thursday, January 26, 2023 at 9:30 a.m.

Please contact Jen Nelson for questions at [dre.stjoseph@gmail.com](mailto:dre.stjoseph@gmail.com) or 989-224-8537.

# PEACE

**Doing your Year-end Tax Planning?**

As you plan your end-of-year contributions, please remember that we must receive your donate by December 31, 2022 (or it has to be postmarked by December 31, 2022) in order for us to include it as a 2022 donation or tax purposes.

**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.

**LITURGICAL MINISTERS****December 17/18**

<b>Altar Servers</b>	5:00 p.m.	Group 2
	8:00 a.m.	Volunteers
	10:00 a.m.	Group 1
	12:00 p.m.	Group 2

**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

<b>Lectors</b>	5:00 p.m.	Ann P.
	8:00 a.m.	Bob P.
	10:00 a.m.	Karen D.
	12:00 p.m.	Mary E.

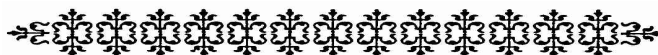
<b>Ushers</b>	5:00 p.m.	Jay H.	Group 5A
	8:00 a.m.	Mike B.	Group 8E
	10:00 a.m.	Cindy C.	Group 10B
	12:00 p.m.	Butch S.	Group 12B

**Collection Counters**

December 19 • Group 3

**Sanctuary/Day Chapel Cleaners**

On hiatus until after renovation

**STEWARDSHIP****For the weekend of December 5, 2022**

Adults (168) Envelopes/Gifts: .....	\$25,282.50
(Including online giving)	
Loose Cash: .....	\$579.25
Total: .....	\$25,861.75

**Other Gifts Received**

Education Trust Fund: .....	\$159.00
Building Fund: .....	\$258.00
Tuition Scholarship Fund: .....	\$36.00
Our weekly average since July 1, 2022 is \$17,692.35. If we continue to keep this average, we will not meet our budgeted goal.	

**THE CHILDREN'S COLLECTION**

The Children's Collection will be donated to:

**ST JOHNS BABY PANTRY**

**St. Joseph Catholic School  
LUNCH MENU****FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 12,  
2022**

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

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

Monday:	Tortilla chips with cheese and meat sauce, green beans, fruit, and milk.
Tuesday:	Chili with crackers, cinnamon rolls, fruit, and milk.
Wednesday:	Lasagna, bread sticks, fresh carrots, fruit, and milk.
Thursday:	Hot dog on a bun, french fries, fresh fruit, and milk.
Friday:	Chicken poppers, corn, fruit, and milk.

Lunches are \$3.25

Milk \$0.50

## The Giving Tree

Please remember that the gift you provide is often the only gift the person receives. In past years over 200 individuals from Hazel Findlay, Safe Center, Eureka House, and Forgotten Man Ministries have benefited from the generosity of St. Joseph parishioners. Due to our church renovation, donations will **ONLY** be accepted before and after **this** weekend's Masses.

**Please return monetary gifts for reach the forgotten to the parish office or place in the collection basket.**

The deadline for donations is **no later than Monday, December 12, 2022.**

If you can help with sorting or distribution, please call the church office.

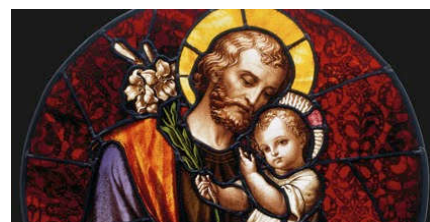
## Renovation Prayer

St. Joseph, patron of craftsmen, through your intercession may the Holy Spirit guide all who work to renovate our worship space.

May God provide them the grace to safely transform our historic faith home into a lasting, beautiful, and welcoming place of worship.

St. Joseph, patron of families and our parish, be with us as we undertake this journey together.

Amen



## Receiving Holy Eucharist on the tongue.

For those of you who wish to partake of Holy Communion on the tongue, Fr. Mike will be distributing Eucharist both ways (by hand and on the tongue). If you wish to receive on the tongue, please only go to Fr. Mike the only one distributing the Eucharist both ways.

*Thank-You*

## Do you feel called to serve your parish in a quiet, but important way?

We are in need of parishioners to visit our homebound serving as extraordinary Eucharistic Ministers. Extraordinary Eucharistic Ministers serve as an important link between our parishioners who gather together for Mass and our parish family members who can't join us for the Eucharistic Celebration. If you are interested in this very special ministry, please call the parish office.

## Large-Print Living Faith Daily Devotionals

A parishioner recently donated about 10 large print Living Faith daily devotionals. Please stop into the parish office to get your copy. Enjoy!



## Christmas Caroling

Knights of Columbus invite parish members of St. Joseph Catholic church to join them for Christmas Caroling at Hazel I. Findlay on Monday, December 12, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

Please arrive by 6:45 p.m. in the lobby and dress in holiday attire.

Songbooks will be provided.



## Stewardship Parish

*Reflection on Life in a Parish*

My parish is composed of people like me.

I help make it what it is.

It will be friendly, if I am.

It will be holy, if I am.

Its pews will be filled, if I help fill them.

It will do great work, if I work.

It will be prayer-ful

It will make generous gifts to many causes if I am a generous giver.

It will bring others into worship, if I invite and bring them.

It will be a parish of loyalty and love, of fearlessness and faith, of compassion, charity, and mercy, if I, who make it what it is, am filled with these same things.

Therefore, with the help of God, I now dedicate myself to the task of being all things that I want my parish to be.

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***Are You or Someone You Love Struggling with Same-Sex Attraction?***

Whether you experience same-sex attractions and are committed to following the Church’s teaching on chastity, or you have a family member or loved one who identifies as LGBT, you are not alone. Join our global Courage and EnCourage ministries.

**Courage:**

Courage is a group of Catholics who experience same-sex attractions and who are committed to helping one another to live chaste lives marked by prayer, fellowship and mutual support. Our members are guided by caring priest chaplains who offer reconciliation and direction for the spiritual life. Together they pursue the Five Goals of Courage:

1. To live chaste lives in accordance with the Roman Catholic Church’s teaching on homosexuality. (Chastity)
2. To dedicate our entire lives to Christ through service to others, spiritual reading, prayer, meditation, individual spiritual direction, frequent attendance at Mass, and the frequent reception of the sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Eucharist. (Prayer and Dedication)
3. To foster a spirit of fellowship in which we may share with one another our thoughts and experiences, and so ensure that no one will have to face the problems of homosexuality alone. (Fellowship)
4. To be mindful of the truth that chaste friendships are not only possible but necessary in a chaste Christian life; and to encourage one another in forming and sustaining these friendships. (Support)
5. To live lives that may serve as good examples to others. (Good Example/Role Model)

**Encourage:**

Is a group of family and friends of those who have loved ones struggling with same-sex attraction. It is a way to gain greater understanding of what your loved one is going through and how you can best support them.

There is currently a chapter of Courage and EnCourage in the Brighton area. If you are interested in either ministry, please call (517) 342-2440.



***Widows Rosary Group***  
*St. Mary Cathedral*  
*219 Seymour*  
*Lansing MI 48933*

A prayer group open strictly to women whose husbands have passed away. Widows Group gathers the 2nd Monday of each month from 10:30 - 11:00 a.m. in the Crypt. For more information regarding the Widows Rosary Group, please contact Kathryn R. at 517-321-8259.

**From Fr. Mike:**

**The Importance of Mass**

*If I’ve been away from Mass for a long time, or even once, can’t I just start over, and begin going to Mass again and start receiving Holy Communion?*

Start coming to Mass right away, but as in the case of any other mortal sin, ask God’s forgiveness immediately, but you must have all your mortal sins forgiven in the sacrament of Penance before you resume receiving Holy Communion again. Pope John Paul II wrote in *Dominicae cenae*, 24 February 1980, “But we must always take care that this great meeting with Christ in the Eucharist does not become a mere habit, and that we do not receive Him unworthily, that is to say, in the state of mortal sin. The practice of the virtue of penance and the sacrament of Penance are essential for sustaining in us and continually deepening that spirit of veneration which man owes to God Himself, and to His love so marvelously revealed.”



**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 the form found below. 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 by **Monday, December 19th** to be included in the memorial list.

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



- **Women's Retreat - Rescue and Response:**  
January 6-8, 2023
- **Men's Retreat - Rescue and Response:**  
January 24-26, 2023
- **Men's Retreat - Rescue and Response:**  
Jan. 20-22, 2023
- **Married Couples Weekend:**  
Feb. 10-12, 2023
- **Men's Retreat - Rescue and Response:**  
Feb. 10-12, 2023

More information and registration for any of these events can be found at [www.stfrancis.ws](http://www.stfrancis.ws) or call 517-669-8321.

## MARRIED COUPLES WEEKEND

### "Marriage" or "Matrimony": What's the Difference?

February 10-12, 2023  
St. Francis Retreat Center  
703 E Main Street, DeWitt  
(517) 669-8321

Married couples are encouraged to join us for a weekend away from the busyness of daily life to reconnect with their spouse.

The weekend includes a vow renewal ceremony and blessing of wedding rings, Mass, inspiring presentations, time to unwind, and fun cocktail receptions!

Check in at 5:00 p.m., Friday, departure at 11:00 a.m. Sunday

Registration Fee: \$325.00, with \$50.00 due at registration.  
[www.stfrancis.ws/weekend-retreats](http://www.stfrancis.ws/weekend-retreats)