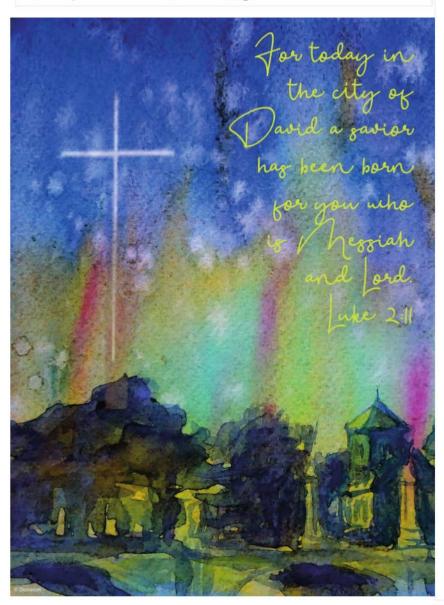
St. Foseph Catholic Church

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 • 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.

Praver Tree Parish Office: (989)-224-8994

BULLETIN DEADLINE Mondays at Noon for the following weekend. Send to stjosephchurchstjohns@gmail.com



THIS WEEK'S LITURGIES

Monday

December 26
Feast of Saint Stephen
Acts 6:8-10, 7:54-59/Matthew 10:17-22
No Mass

Tuesday • December 27 Feast of Saint John, Apostle and evangelist 1 John 1:1-4/John 20:1a and 2-8 No Mass

Wednesday • December 28 Feast of Holy Innocents, martyrs 1 John 1:5-2:2/Matthew 2:13-18 No Mass

Thursday • December 29 1 John 2:3-11/Luke 2:22-35 No Mass

Friday • December 30 Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14 or Colossians 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Matthew 2:13-15,19-23 No Mass

Saturday • December 31 1 John 2:18-21/John 1:1-18 5:00 p.m. Vigil Mass (in the Wilson Center Auditorium) †Tim Wiseman By: Charles & Lisa Wieber

Sunday • January 1 Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Numbers 6:22-27/Galatians 4:4-7/Luke 2:16-21 8:00 a.m. Mass (in the Wilson Center Auditorium) People of the parish 10:00 a.m. Mass (in the Wilson Center Auditorium) tLeon and Bertine Thelen By: Dan and LuAnn Cuthbert 12:00 p.m. Mass (in the Wilson Center Auditorium) tLaree Geller By Charles and Lisa Wieber

6:00 p.m. Mass in Spanish (in the Day Chapel) †Sofia Gonzalez TAKE NOTE8

There will no be Confessions or Masses December 26, 2022 through December 30, 2022. The Parish office* will also be closed at that time. *Collection counting will still take place on Tuesday, December 27, 2022.

IMPORTANT: MASS LOCATION

Please keep an eye on the church's Website (www.stjoecatholic.com) and Facebook page

for the Mass location in upcoming weeks.

We will let you know as soon as we can, but it may be short notice.



The Sanctuary Lamp will burn from December 25 - December 31, 2022 In Memory of Robert A. Petty

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 Stjosephchurchstjohns@gmail.com

*Please note: only immediate family members may add names to the bulletin prayer lists.

THE SACRAMENTS ARE CELEBRATED

2



WE ARE ALL Evangelizers

(and whatever else is on Deacon Eric's mind)

When Today is Not Really Today

As I write this, the Church is celebrating the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. As you read this, the Church is celebrating Christmas. (Ahh, the wonders of early Sunday bulletin column deadlines.)

And before I talk about Christmas (for the reader), I'd like to take one minute and reflect on today's (for the writer) feast honoring Our Lady, one of four feasts/memorials for Our Blessed Mother between December eighth and January first. For those who don't know today's (for the writer) feast, here's how Bishop Robert Barron describes it:

> Though Franciscan missionaries had been laboring in Mexico for twenty years, they had made little progress. But within ten years of the appearance of Our Lady of Guadalupe practically the entire Mexican people, nine million strong, had converted to Christi

anity. La Morena had proved a more effective evangelist than Peter, Paul, St. Patrick, and St. Francis Xavier combined! And with that great national conversion, the Aztec practice of human sacrifice came to an end. She had done battle with fallen spirits and had won a culture-changing victory for the God of love.

The challenge for us who honor her today is to join the same fight. We must announce to our culture today the truth of the God of Israel, the God of Jesus Christ, the God of nonviolence and forgiving love. And we ought, like La Morena, to be bearers of Jesus to a world that needs him more than ever.

Today (for the reader) we are celebrating the birth of Jesus and you could say that Mary played an important part in that as well (duh!). Last week, we talked here about Joseph's role, how he said "yes" to the angel of the Lord, not once, not twice, but three times. Mary, in her Fiat as recorded in the gospel of Luke, said "Yes" to put the whole infancy narrative in motion.

The gospel on the feast of St. Lucy (Dec. 13) was the story of two sons

DECEMBER 25, 2022

who were given chores by their father. One said "No" but saw the error of his ways and completed his task. The other said "Yes" but did not complete his task. Mary and Joseph were each assigned a role by God, said "Yes" and went on to fulfill their roles in salvation history. As we celebrate Jesus' birthday today and look forward to a new year in the coming days, why don't we make a spiritual resolution to listen more closely for our heavenly directives, to say "Yes" to them and then follow through as Joseph and Mary did.

And why don't we all say a prayer today for those who are grieving the loss of a loved one in the past year. This will be an especially difficult day for them and they will be in need of the Lord's strength and peace to help them through. I thank all of you who take the time each week to read this column and pray that the Holy Spirit will continue in the new year to guide me in presenting relevant material to my readers, while hopefully bringing a grin or two in the process. God bless you all.

Deacon Eric

deaconeric@hotmail.com



A Thank You from Fr. Mike:

As we celebrate our Lord's birth, we are often given reason to pause and cherish our blessings. This season is a great time to reflect on the goodness with which the Lord constantly fills our lives.

It is in that spirit that I would like to thank each of you for your presence in our faith community. Even if it's just simply attending Mass, your presence adds to the fullness of our community and

the depth of our worship. If the Lord is calling you to do something new in the community in the coming year and you'd like to mull it over with someone, give me or one of our parish staff a call. We'd be more than happy to talk to you.

I'd also like to thank all those who have been helping us "keep things together" during the renovation. A really big "thank you" to all our cantors, lectors, musicians, ushers and all those who have helped with Mass while we've been at the Wilson Center. Also, I like to thank those of you who have sent me cards and gifts over the past couple of weeks. I really do appreciate it. Reflecting on all of these things it is clear to me that I am richly blessed to be your pastor. I thank the Lord for you and pray for His continued blessings upon you and your loved ones! Merry Christmas! ~ Fr. Mike

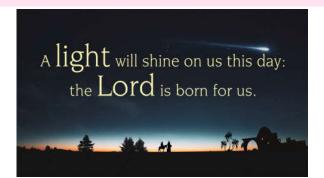
THE WORD OF GOD IS PROCLAIMED

K-9th Grade Religious Education Classes Celebrate the Season!

The K-9th grade Religious Education Program that meets on Wednesday evenings is learning to *celebrate the seasons* with special nights dedicated throughout the program year. We started with the All Saints Family Night and recently the Advent Night to help families dive into living out the liturgical year. The next night for celebrating the season will be Ash Wednesday, February 22, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. as we prepare for Lent and attend Mass, then March 22, 2023 we'll learn about the month dedicated to St. Joseph. Family nights are a new addition to the regular Wednesday classes that are taught by Catechists; Jen Brewbaker (K-2nd), Karen Densmore (3-5), and Ann Gifford (608), who dedicate their time and talent so generously.

Thank you for all the donations from parishioners to help make these events (and the program a success), and to the 8th and 9th grade teens who have been helping as well!

For more information regarding K-9th religious education classes, please contact Jen Nelson at dre.stjoseph@gmail.com or call (989) 224-8537.



Youth Group is now High School Catechesis!

This new program is more catechesis-based, focusing on forming our teens in their faith. They will establish an even better foundation before heading off into the world and to college or wherever the Lord may lead them.

We meet every Wednesday night in the basement of the church (during renovations) from 7:15– 8:30 p.m. All High Schoolers are welcome to join! Our first class after the Christmas break will be January 11.

For questions, contact Chris Groves, Youth Minister, at Youthminister.stjoseph@gmail.com

Miscellaneous Money Matters

Year-End Contribution Statements for 2022 will be mailed by the end of Janu-

ary. In compliance with the IRS, any donations postmarked after 12/31/22 or received in the office after 12/31/22 will be recorded as 2023 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 72 ½ 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, consider transferring them to St. Joe's as your donation. Contact your investment advisor and the parish office to make this transfer.

STEWARDSHIP

For the weekend of December 18, 2022

Adults (155) Envelopes/Gifts:	\$16,963.60
(Including online giving)	
Loose Cash:	\$514.00
Total:	\$17,477.60

Other Gifts Received

Education Trust Fund:	\$420.00
Building Fund:	\$287.00
Tuition Scholarship Fund:	\$147.00
Our weekly average since July 1, 2022 is	\$18,094.57. If we
continue to keep this average, we will no	ot meet our budgeted
goal.	U U

THE CHILDREN'S COLLECTION

The Children's Collection will be donated to:

ST JOHNS BABY PANTRY

BE A PART OF OUR FAITH COMMUNITY

4



WELCOME NEWLY BAPTIZED

Isaiah William Olsen

Son of Eric and Logan Olsen



EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

"And the Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us, and we saw His glory, the glory as of the Father's only Son." John 1:14

Jesus, the Word made Flesh, remains with us in the Holy Eucharist. Stop in to our Day Chapel to spend time with Him this Christmas Season.

Would you like more information about being a part of our Adoration team as a regular monthly adorer or sub? Text or call Rebecca 989-292-2072.

> Rest in Peace Our prayers and sympathies to the family and friends of Timothy Wiseman

CHRISTMAS ENCOUNTER

Christmas is a special time of year: mankind is transformed through acts of peace, joy, love, generosity, friendship and goodwill. We are stirred to the depths of our souls because Christmas is the decisive encounter between God and mankind; we are different as a people since the coming of Christ. Our "Christmas encounter" with God is not a seasonal event - we can encounter Him every day!

Regardless of your background or circumstances, this is your opportunity to learn how to keep the peace, love, and joy of Christmas throughout the year.

If you would like help getting started, or have questions, those of us at St. Joseph Parish are here for you. Contact the parish office or email rcia.stjosephparish@gmail.com.

LITURGICAL MINISTERS

December 31/January 1

Altar Servers	5:00 p.m.
	8:00 a.m.
	10:00 a.m.
	12:00 p.m.

Volunteers Volunteers Group 2 Volunteers

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

2/10/00/01/01	.,	
	5:00 p.m.	Group 1
	8:00 a.m.	Group 1
	10:00 a.m.	Group 1
	12:00 p.m.	Group 1
Lectors	5:00 p.m.	Diane A.
	8:00 a.m.	Trevor H.
	10:00 a.m.	Steve M.
	12:00 p.m.	Linda S.

Ushers

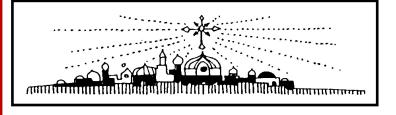
5:00 p.m.	Dave P.	Group 5C
8:00 a.m.	Tom C.	Group 8B
10:00 a.m.	Steve S.	Group 10D
12:00 p.m.	Ron D.	Group 12A

Collection Counters

Tuesday, December 27 • Group 4

Sanctuary/Day Chapel Cleaners

On hiatus until after renovation



The Giving Tree Ministry

would like to thank their helpers, members of the Knights of Columbus, and all the parishioners for being so generous this year with gifts for the giving tree. Because of you, many of those less fortunate will have a gift to open on Christmas day.



FRIENDSHIP IS OFFERED

The square pillars between the original part of the church and the 1981 addition have been transformed into elegant round columns.



Worship Space Renovation Update

Back in June we gave you this list of changes you'll see in our church. Check our progress against these photos.

- Light-colored porcelain tiles to replace the wood paneling on the walls New altar, ambo, and tabernacle
 - stand.
- Ivory and tan color scheme with accents of blue and metallic gold
- Special paint treatment with gold motifs on the wall behind the tabernacle
- Medium-brown woodwork and pews with additional spaces for wheelchairs and walkers
- A devotional alcove
- New frames for the Stations of the Cross
- Statues of North American saints for various corners and nooks
- Special lighting of the stained glass windows at the front of the extension
- New carpeting
- More space for gathering
- Weather-tolerant entry doors with windows

DECEMBER 25, 2022



The old back wall of the worship space was opened up and a new back wall constructed. This provides us with more gathering space at the main entrance.



The old south confessional will be a devotional alcove with icons, kneelers, and votive candles.





The new altar furniture will have insets of the same marble-look tile as the walls.

When will be worshiping in our own space again? If all goes as planned, within a few weeks. There will be some unfinished items (the pews won't be installed until early February, for instance), but the majority of the work will be done.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION SHARED

6

DECEMBER 25, 2022



